

Connect to MEC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Holiday Silly

Scrooge's energy efficient holiday tips list might look like this one.

- Don't invite people over; visit others and use their electricity.
- Don't decorate your home or put up a tree.
- Have lunchmeat sandwiches instead of cooking a big meal.
- Give back any gifts that need plugged in or charged.



Holiday Smart

Small changes can ensure you can enjoy this time of year without causing big changes to your electric bill. Try these tips instead.

- Turn down the thermostat a bit, your guests will heat up the area anyway.
- Use LED lights to decorate and put outdoor lighting on a timer-sunset to bedtime.
- Don't preheat the oven unless you are baking and use the slow cooker, microwave or toaster oven when possible.
- Ask for and give energy-star rated appliances and electronics.

Little reasons your electric bill may rise in winter

Even if you don't have electric heating, your usage will probably increase this winter from what it was in the fall. There are many variables of course but here are some small, common reasons for the change.

- Non-electric heating systems require electricity to power blowers or pumps. As temperatures decrease, these circulation devices could run almost continuously.
- Early sunsets mean lights come on earlier too.
- Cool nights could mean snuggling up with an electric blanket, heating

pad or electric fireplace; or heating the garage to finish up that car repair.

- Using livestock tank heaters and engine heaters for vehicles and tractors.
- Holiday visitors will mean more hot water for showers, dishes and laundry.
- Your favorite Christmas cookies, that big turkey dinner, and your light display each adds a bit.
- Cold weather brings your family inside for movie nights. Did you get a new flat screen? Some models use quite a bit of electricity.

Together We Serve & Together We Save

Help us serve others and we'll help you save!

This is our third annual food drive. Help us make it more successful than ever by bringing a non-perishable food item to our office by December 21st. We'll donate it to the Menard County Food Pantry and in return give you a free LED light strand. (While supplies last, limit one per membership.)

The LED lights will help you save on your holiday bills this year. The strands feature 70 multi-colored lights. The strands are the same as the last two years and can connect to those strings. LED lights provide thousands of hours of illumination, won't fade and can save 75-95 percent over the costs of traditional strings.

Our office is located at 14300 State Hwy 97 in Petersburg, just one mile south of New Salem State Park. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



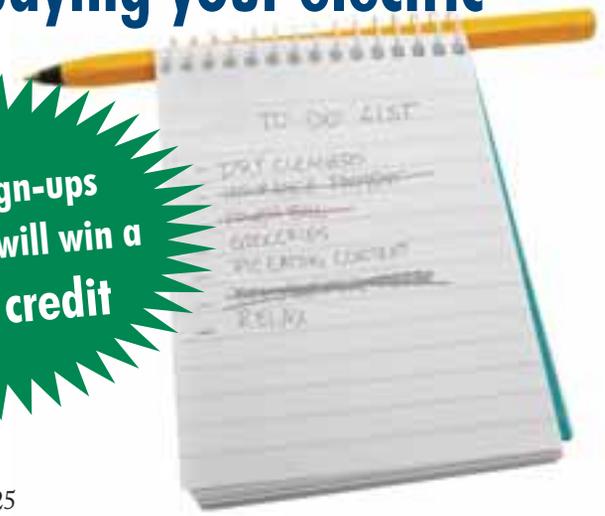
Making a list? Check off paying your electric bill...for good!

Sign up for Automatic Payment today

The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is here! Sign up now for automatic payment and mark paying your electric bill off your to-do list this holiday season—and for good!

All completed forms for new automatic payment accounts received in our office by December 28th will be placed in a drawing to win one of two \$25 bill credits to appear on the January 7th bill.

The net amount of your bill will be automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the 17th of each month, beginning in January (if received by December 28th).



Automatic Payment - one less thing to worry about

The net amount of your bill will be automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the 17th of each month. Just get us this form by the 28th of the month prior to when you wish payments to begin.

Mail with a voided check to Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675.

Name: _____ SS# _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone#: _____ Map Location # _____

Bank Name: _____

Bank Account # _____

Checking acct. Savings acct.

I, _____, authorize Menard Electric Cooperative (MEC) to draw monthly bank drafts through the automatic plan (ACH) on the account shown above for the payment of my electric bill in full and any other services I authorize. I understand that I may discontinue my participation at any time by notifying MEC in writing. Both Menard Electric Cooperative and the bank may terminate this agreement with 10 days written notice. I understand that MEC reserves the right to limit participation in this program to customers whose accounts are in good standing. I understand that the amount of my bill each month will be drafted on the 17th or next business day after. I understand that if funds are not available in my account for the draft to clear, there will be a charge posted to my MEC account, for NSF, and I will still be required to make full payment before the due date of the bill.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Want to Save Energy and Money? We Have Apps for That!

Remember the days when people kept in touch with far-flung family and friends by writing letters? I'm talking about tangible, handwritten notes on stationery, sent via the U.S. Postal Service with a stamp.

Today, thanks to laptops, smartphones, and tablet devices, e-mail, texting, and social media have changed the way we talk to each other. And while these advances can make us feel like we're "wired to the world" at all times, they can help us save energy, too.

As a member of Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, the branding program of the nation's electric cooperatives, we are proud to offer two free mobile apps: one from TogetherWeSave.com and the other

from our Co-op Connections® Card. The TogetherWeSave.com—Save Energy, Save Money app, tells you energy savings from switching light-bulbs and can evaluate energy guzzlers in your home—for example, what does it cost to run a dishwasher for an hour? Enter your ZIP code and select our name for specific kWh rates.

In addition, the app delivers Tip of the Day reminders on ways to make your home more energy efficient. Available at the iTunes store and for Android at Play.Google.com; search for: Together We Save.

Your Co-op Connections Card connects you to savings on prescriptions, restaurants, hotels, groceries, and lots of other services from national and



local retailers. The Co-op Connections Card app uses GPS technology to help you quickly locate stores and businesses offering discounts where you are. Available at www.Connections.Coop.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

LIHEAP

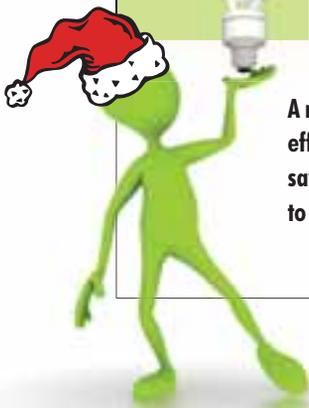
The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides payment directly to us on behalf of those who qualify based upon household 30-day gross monthly income.

Contact your local county's office for information:

Cass 217-243-9404
Logan 217-732-2159
Macon 217-428-0155
Mason 309-543-2594

Menard 217-632-3878
Sangamon 217-535-3120
Tazewell 309-266-9941

Beyond the BULB



A monthly tip to help you use electricity safely and efficiently. See safeelectricity.org and togetherwe-save.com for more ways to go "beyond the bulb" to keep your family using energy wisely every day.

Whether your holiday decorations lean more towards over the top or low key, keep these things in mind for safer and more efficient decorating. Use outdoor GFCI outlets or extension cords; don't pinch cords with staples, in windows or doors, or under heavy furniture; don't overload outlets; and inspect cords for damage. Buy LED strands for more energy efficient lighting and remember to turn off and unplug decorations before leaving the house or turning in for the night.

Board Meeting Report

For full minutes please visit our website at www.menard.com or contact our office.

Present were Manager Lynn Frasco, Attorney Charles Smith and Directors Gary Martin, Jerry Brooks, Michael Carls, Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Roy Seaney and Steven Worner.

Frasco advised he had contacted the Village of Manito to begin renewing their Franchise, which would expire soon.

He reported 409 credit card transactions last month.

Kyle Hill was hired to fill a vacant lineman position.

Prairie Power reps. scheduled to do I.T. Security Assessment for the co-op; go through the whole computer net-

work and security system.

Frasco was appointed to serve on the AIEC Unbundling Committee

Numerous requests received for 2013 new irrigation services.

Frasco discussed new Sugar Creek Wind Farm I Logan County near New Holland.

Co-op received check for \$585 from CFC as patronage capital.

Board voted to delete the language "sign up for the automatic payment plan and" from the Security Deposit Policy.

No action was taken on a proposed resolution Reaffirming Business Practices, Addressing Member Choice & Rate Design. Directors discussed having AIEC representatives present at

a meeting to discuss.

Martin called Board into Executive Session to discuss wage and salary issues.

Adoption Agreement for the 401K and RUS Plans with NRECA was adopted.

Year to date margins were \$982,083 compared to \$477,968 a year earlier. Equity as of the end of August was 34.18% and the number of members served was 10,569 compared to 10,528 a year ago. Net Utility Plant at the end of August was \$38,346,781 compared to \$36,370,823 last year. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of the RUS, FFB and NRUCFC.

Office
Closings

Christmas
Dec. 24th and 25th

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New Year's
Jan. 1st

Plan ahead for winter storms

Kee a flashlight, radio, blankets, water, food and batteries on hand.

Install a transfer safety switch to your generator or cut off power at your breaker box before operating to protect others from backfed power on our lines.

Never touch a fallen line--assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged and beware of lines covered by snow.

Don't use a gas or charcoal grill indoors due to carbon monoxide.



2013 Scholarships
Thomas H. Moore IEC
Memorial Scholarships

- 4 \$1,500 scholarships for a 4-year university
- 2 \$1,500 scholarships for students enrolling in a two-year Illinois community college
- 1 \$1,500 Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship to the son or daughter of a co-op employee
- 1 \$1,500 LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship to attend the AIEC lineworker school

To learn more or apply visit www.menard.com. You may also call the office or visit with your school guidance counselor.

New Employee

Menard Electric welcomes Kyle Hill as its newest employee. Kyle joined the co-op in October as a 4th Year Apprentice Lineman. He worked for Sheldon Electric in Missouri for 13 years.

