



Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

## Attention: More HomE rebate funds available for energy saving projects!



Alan W. Wattles

### Across The President's Desk

The HomE Energy Rebate program kicked off last year and members were able to take advantage of federal stimulus funds earmarked for energy efficient upgrades.

The program started with a “walk-through” energy audit that identified key areas where the member would get the most “bang for their buck” in efficiency upgrades.

There were over 70 energy audits completed and out of those, 55 projects were done. A total of \$40,049 was given away to those members doing projects that were part of that stimulus package and an additional \$19,000 was given away in cooperative rebates.

Projects qualifying for the program included geothermal heating/cooling equipment, air source heat

pumps (SEER 16 or above), high efficient gas furnaces, 95 percent high-efficient air conditioners (SEER 16), insulation/air sealing projects and heat pump water heaters.

The cost of the energy audit is \$25. Other recommendations are made to the member on how to save energy in the home.

A second round of funding has been approved and we are resuming the program until these funds are gone. Call us for more information at 939-7171 or email us at [mcec@htc.net](mailto:mcec@htc.net).



*Rich Hollis of Columbia is presented with a check for \$1,500 from Allan Masterson. His rebate is for a new 16 SEER heat pump installation.*



# Tank or Tankless?

## The FACTS About Tankless Water Heaters

The discussion of energy efficiency often leads to a discussion of tank vs. tankless water heaters. As you can imagine, there are pros and cons with each. Tankless heaters are about the size of a briefcase and heat water rapidly. In other words, they don't store hot water, but make it as it passes through the heat exchanger. This is what leads to many claims of savings. But what are the facts? Here is the REAL story.

<b>CLAIM:</b> <b>Huge Dollar Savings</b>	<b>FACTS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tankless heaters can cost much more than standard tank-type heaters</li><li>• Installation requires larger wire or more wiring<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• #2 copper wire vs. #10 copper for a standard tank heater</li><li>• Some models require three 40 amp circuits with #8 wire</li></ul></li><li>• Tankless heaters may require an upgrade to the electric service</li><li>• Tankless heaters have a significant increase on demand during peak periods which can increase co-op wholesale costs and thereby consumer rates</li><li>• Tankless heaters do not have standby tank losses, but a highly insulated tank water heater such as Marathon only have standby losses of \$20-30 per year</li></ul>
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<b>CLAIM:</b> <b>Last Longer</b>	<b>FACTS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tankless heaters need very pure water or they may prematurely fail</li><li>• Mineral deposits can reduce flow rates and efficiency in tankless heaters</li><li>• Mineral deposit failure is not covered by most tankless warranties</li><li>• Tankless heaters have specialized parts not readily available</li></ul>
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<b>CLAIM:</b> <b>Endless Supply of Hot Water</b>	<b>FACTS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "If you try running those while one is showering and another is brushing their teeth, not good."</li><li>• "It's very hard to keep the temp stable during a shower. It's up and down, you either freeze or burn when you first turn on the water. My tip is, let your water run for about 5 min. and maybe you won't look like a lobster."</li><li>• "My son and I installed this in my 3600 sq. ft. home--rather difficult to run 3 240 volt lines from breaker box to unit and a couple hundred bucks for wire, breakers, etc. Took us several hours. Unit does great, but we can't run our showers full speed, and only one person can shower at a time, and not when washing machine is filling up!"</li></ul>
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The high cost of purchase, installing and maintaining a tankless heater far outweigh the modest energy savings. With climate change concerns, new power plants will be scarce, preserving the capacity we have is imperative. And on top of that, a tankless heater will not deliver all the hot water you need, when you want it!

## High School Juniors:

# Win a trip to Washington, D.C.!!!

In June of each year, the electric and telephone cooperatives in Illinois and across the United States sponsor groups of young people to Washington, D.C. on the "Youth to Washington" program. During a full week in the nation's capital, these students get an up-close look at democracy in action and get to meet with their Congressional delegation and staff.

Past participants will tell you it is the trip of a lifetime. It's an experience they never will forget; full of fun, new friends, non-stop touring and yes, they actually learn some-

thing too. Most students come back with an even deeper respect for our country, our form of government, and their opportunities.

Since 1957, hundreds of future leaders have been introduced to government and the legislative process through this program. Many alumni of the program have gone on to leadership positions in our communities and government.

The "Youth to Washington" Tour is recognized as one of the best youth tours of Washington, D.C. The tour is well organized with good chaperones. Participants will see

monuments and memorials and visit historical places.

Call our office for more details at 939-7171 or 1-800-757-7433.



## MCEC Line Outages - December 2010

Time Off	Duration	Location	Cause Desc	Sub
12/06/10	3:17	Kaiser Rd	Other, Deterioration	New Athens
12/06/10	0:53	C Rd	Maintenance	Waterloo
12/10/10	1:29	Kropp Rd	Vehicles Or Machinery	Millstadt
12/10/10	2:32	Kropp Rd	Vehicles Or Machinery	Millstadt
12/11/10	5:18	Schiermeier Rd	Unknown	Smithton
12/12/10	1:17	Lou Dell Subdivision	Other, Faulty Equipment	N. Waterloo
12/12/10	2:27	Cortner Dr	Other, Deterioration	Smithton
12/12/10	1:08	Ames Rd	Vehicles Or Machinery	Poe
12/31/10	2:56	IL Route 163	Wind, Not Trees	E. Carondelet
12/31/10	2:03	B Rd	Trees, Other	Waterloo
12/31/10	3:12	IL Route 163	Wind, Not Trees	E. Carondelet

### Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

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Office hours: Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • 800-757-7433

# Energy saving and safety tips for tenants and renters

**T**oday, whether you rent or own, almost everyone is searching for ways to reduce their energy costs. Although the landlord or management company is ultimately responsible for a building's energy efficiency and safety, there are many simple safety and energy conservation measures that anyone can take.

"Many people don't realize the power they have to reduce energy usage and lower costs while improving comfort," says Molly Hall, Safe Electricity Executive Director. "Taking steps to improve efficiency also offers the opportunity to check for safety hazards and reinforce safety measures."

According to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, more than 33 million properties are occupied by renters in the U.S. Safe Electricity encourages tenants to take simple steps to make their housing both safe and efficient.

In today's world of growing technology usage, power for electronics is an increasingly larger portion of the electric bill. These include computers, audio equipment, televisions, DVD players and VCRs. Consider plugging all your entertainment equipment into a power strip which, when switched off, will eliminate any standby draw from these devices. This also has the added benefit of protecting your equipment from possible power surges.

For computers, keep them in "sleep" mode when not in use or turn off completely. Contrary to popular beliefs, turning a computer on and off is not harmful. Depending on how you use these electronics, they could add up to about 20 percent of your energy bill.

Using new lighting technologies can reduce lighting energy use in homes by 50 to 75 percent. Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) are the most common energy efficient bulbs on the market. They only use

about one-quarter of the electricity compared to standard incandescent bulbs. During daylight hours, take advantage of natural light instead of artificial light. You will feel better and you will save money too. You can also save money by installing timers to reduce the amount of time your lights are on.

Leaky or dripping hot water faucets can waste as much as 48 gallons of hot water a week! Have them fixed quickly. You can also reduce hot water use by asking your landlord to install a low-flow showerhead if your current one uses more than three gallons per minute.

A few low-cost or no-cost tips for energy conservation:

- Set refrigerator temperature to 36-39F (2-3C)
- Set freezer to 0-5 F (-18 to -15C)
- Turn off water while shaving and brushing teeth
- Do not preheat your oven except for baking
- Cover pots/pans when cooking
- In the summer, open windows and use a fan for air circulation instead of air conditioning.
- In the winter, turn down the thermostat 10 degrees at night and keep curtains open on the sunny side of your apartment during the day.
- Maximize day lighting

When living on your own, you are ultimately responsible for your own safety. It's important to know and follow electricity safety measures.

Never use extension cords as permanent wiring. They should only be used with portable appliances and plugged directly into an approved receptacle, power tap or multi-plug adapter. Remember that all extension cords need to be in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage. Use three-pronged exten-

sion cords and outlets for appliances with three-pronged plugs.

Older wiring in apartments and homes may not be able to handle the increased electrical demand of modern day appliances and electronics. If use of an appliance frequently causes power to trip off, or if its power cord or the outlet feels hot, the appliance should be disconnected immediately. Make sure that this condition is reported to your landlord as soon as possible so that it may be properly repaired. Keep these simple safety tips in mind – a benefit to you and your landlord:

- Pull electrical plugs out of the wall socket only by the plug and never by the cord.
- Make sure cords are in good condition, that they are not frayed or cracked.
- Cords should not have any furniture resting on them.
- If an outlet has loose-fitting plugs, contact the landlord/superintendent to have it replaced. Outlets with bad contact can overheat leading to fires.
- Have any broken wall plates replaced.
- Never cut the third prong (safety/ground connection) off of electric plugs. That third prong is to protect you if the outlets are properly grounded.
- Use light bulbs with the correct wattage for lamps. If no indication is on the product, do not use a bulb with more than 60 watts.
- Make sure outlets around sinks and tubs are GFCI equipped before use.

