



MONROE COUNTY
ELECTRIC
CO-OPERATIVE, INC.
WATERLOO, ILLINOIS
618-939-7171
800-757-7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Alan W. Wattles

Across the President's desk

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative launches "Super Energy Saving" kids school program

Monroe County Electric Cooperative (MCEC) has launched a program, which offers further proof that being a member of an electric cooperative has its advantages. CFL Charlie, Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives' energy efficiency mascot, is ready to head into classrooms this spring and help educate kids about co-ops, energy efficiency, renewable energy and electric safety.

The Super Energy Saving Kid Classroom Kits, designed for grades 1 – 5, are packed with materials that will teach kids how to become "Super Energy Savers" at home, such as take-home checklists that walk kids and

(Continued on 16b ▶)



Ss. Peter & Paul ▲

Left to right: Allan Masterson, Director of Member Services; Kim Huels, Second Grade Teacher; second grade students; Judy Harberl, Second Grade Teacher.



Zahnow Elementary ▲

Left to right: Mary Gardner, Principal, Zahnow Elementary School; second grade students; Allan Masterson, Director of Member Services, Monroe County Electric Cooperative.



▲ Valmeyer Elementary

Left to right: Allan Masterson, Director of Member Services; Linda Rittig & Beth Andres, Second Grade Teachers; Teena Riechmann, Principal.

■ **“Super Energy Saving” kids school program (continued from 16a)**

parents through their homes identifying energy-saving practices; Super Energy Saver certificates signed by CFL Charlie; activity sheets and folders, and CFL Charlie switch plate covers that remind kids to turn off lights when not in use.

Monroe County Electric Cooperative (MCEC) is implementing this program in conjunction with many other Touchstone Energy cooperatives, in an effort to better serve our member-owners nationwide.

“These Super Energy Saving Kid Classroom Kits create an even greater sense of membership and reinforces MCEC’s longstanding commitment to the community,” said Alan W. Wattles, President/CEO.

Touchstone Energy is a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to customers large and small. More than 670 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 46 states are delivering energy and energy solutions to approximately 22 million customers every day. Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve their members with integrity, accountability, innovation and longstanding commitment to communities.

For more information: Contact Allan Masterson at 939-7171 or 1-800-757-7433.



▲ **Red Bud Elementary**
Left to right in back: Second Grade Teachers, Lea Shubert, Patti Liefer, and Amy Howell along with 2nd grade students; Allan Masterson, Monroe County Electric Cooperative.



▲ **Red Bud Lutheran**
Left to right in back; Deitt Schneider, Principal; Rebecca Liefer, Second Grade Teacher; Allan Masterson, Monroe County Electric Cooperative; second grade students in front.



▲ **Trinity Lutheran**
In middle; Second Grade Teacher, Roxanne Taggatz; second grade students; Allan Masterson, Monroe County Electric Cooperative.



▲ **St. John’s Catholic School**
Left to right in back; Ms. Kris Hill, Principal; Leslie Grohmann, Second Grade Teacher; second grade students; Allan Masterson, Monroe County Electric Cooperative.

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

6132 State Rt. 3, P.O. Box 128, Waterloo, Illinois 62298 • 618-939-7171
Office hours: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. • 800-757-7433

Co-op presents “Live Line Electric Demonstration” to Waterloo Firemen and EMS

Monroe County Electric Cooperative linemen, Bob Gross and Steve Drennan performed a “Live Line Electrical Safety Demonstration” for the Waterloo Fire Department and for the Monroe County Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

The demonstration showed local firefighters and other emergency personnel situations that they may come across in the future and what to be careful of.

On an actual 7200 volt line, different objects were brought into contact with the line to show what happens when high voltage finds a path to ground.

In the demonstration, contact to the line is made with a bird model, tree branch, mylar balloon, a pool skimmer metal rod and a small scale truck. To simulate what happens to human skin, a hot dog was placed against the line and the result is immediate smoke and flames.

All during the demonstration, Bob and Steve shared important lessons on being aware of your surroundings in emergency situations where electric lines are existing. There was also discussion about the recent ice storms and serious situations that they both had faced.

The cooperative would like to thank the Waterloo Fire Department and the EMS for the opportunity to present the Live Line Electrical Safety Demonstration.

If any civic organization, business or school would like to see the demonstration, please contact Allan Masterson, Director of Member Services, at 939-7171, extension 115.



Tracking the electricity you use

Eat potato chips straight out of the bag and they'll be gone in no time. Pour them into a bowl first and they disappear a little slower.

The same goes for electricity. Learning to track how much electricity your home consumes remains good way to start managing electric use — billed by your electric co-op in kilowatt-hours (kWh).

Devices are appearing in stores that provide a constant, digital reading of how much electricity your home or even individual appliances are using. One type, like the Kill A Watt™, fits between an electrical outlet and an appliance to give you an instant reading of how much electricity an appliance draws.

Another type connects to your electricity meter and wirelessly relays use information to a small screen inside. Called an in-home display, the device looks similar to a wireless weather monitor and can help make consumers more aware of energy being used day to day. Research conducted by the Arlington, VA-based Cooperative Research Network (CRN), the research arm of Arling-



Interested in Trying Out a Kill A Watt™ Meter? Borrow Ours!

If you would like to try out a Kill A Watt™ meter and track your electricity usage, contact MCEC at 1-800-757-7433. The cooperative has two available for loan to cooperative members. We will also provide you instructions on using the meter.

ton, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, shows that most consumers who have an in-home display use less energy than those without one. And even after homeowners stop paying attention to the devices, most still use 1 to 3 percent less energy than before.

“The question of whether in-home displays catch on and become permanent fixtures in the American home is still open,” explains Brian Sloboda, program manager with CRN. “However, for anyone wanting to take a proactive approach to

understanding electric consumption, the in-home display may be worth exploring. You could use the knowledge that an in-house display provides to change the way you use electricity in your home and save some money.”

There's also the old-fashioned way of tracking electricity use: reading your meter. As your home draws current from power lines, your electricity meter keeps a steady record of every watt being used. Many meters today are digital, replacing the older — though still reliable — design that uses spinning disks and dials.

Digital versions make tracking energy use a breeze: jot down the number you see, and check it again in a month. The difference between the two represents the amount of electricity that has been used for that month, or a typical billing period. Check it more frequently to get an idea of how you use electricity in a given week, or even day by day.

If you have any questions about reading your meter or learning more about how much electricity your home uses, please contact Allan Masterson at 939-7171 or via email at mcec@htc.net

Sources: Cooperative Research Network, U.S. Department of Energy

Home energy savings booklet available

Monroe Electric Cooperative has available to you an energy savings booklet entitled “101 Low-Cost/No-Cost Home Energy-Savings Measures.” This booklet was produced by Touchstone Energy® and contains a list of low-cost/no-cost energy saving tips to help you better manage your home's energy costs. Pick one up today at the cooperative office or call 939-7171 or 800-757-7433 and we will mail it to you.

