



October is National Cooperative Month The Cooperative Difference

Monroe County Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit cooperative business. As a cooperative member, you enjoy privileges that customers of other electric companies do not have. Electric cooperatives are special businesses because the members we serve are the ones that own the cooperative. Below are the seven cooperative principles that guide our business and reflect the best interests of our members.

1) Voluntary & Open Membership

Our cooperative is a voluntary organization, open to all persons able to use our services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2) Democratic Member Control

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative is a democratic organization owned by our members. Members serving as elected representatives of the board of directors are elected by the membership. Members have equal voting rights—one member, one vote.

3) Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of our cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, setting up reserves, and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4) Autonomy and Independence

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative is an autonomous, self-help organization controlled

by our members. If we enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, we do so on terms that ensure democratic control by our members and maintain our cooperative autonomy.

5) Education, Training and Innovation

Our cooperative provides education and training for our members, elected representatives and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of our cooperative. We inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6) Concern for Community

While focusing on our members' needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by our members.

7) Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Our cooperative serves our members most effectively and strengthens the cooperative movement by working together through local, regional and national structures.



**Come visit us
at Member
Appreciation Day,
Saturday, October
6th from 9:00 a.m.
till 1:00 p.m.**

Monroe County Electric Cooperative is offering Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants for schools located within the Cooperative's territory.

We know adequate funding for many school systems has been a challenge. We are committed to the communities we serve and want to provide assistance to them.

Ten Classroom Empowerment Grants of \$500 are being offered to public and private K-12 schools to help them with projects that will improve educational opportunities for students.

Empower



Your School



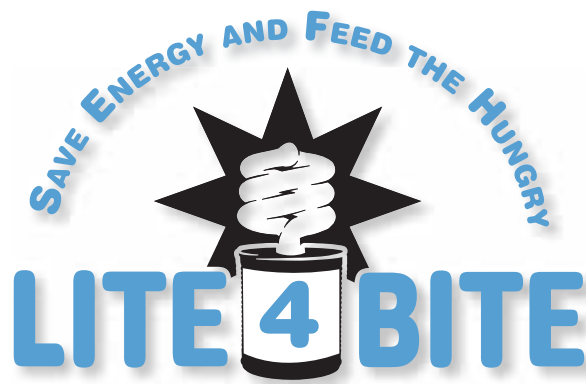
Mrs. Jan Wiggs, second grade teacher at Freeburg Elementary School used a \$500 grant last year to help fund her NEO Project. A NEO is an individual, wireless computer that can be utilized for student self-selected Accelerated Reader testing, practicing basic math facts and keyboarding skills, build vocabulary and enhance the writing process. Powered by the Renaissance Responder through the school's network, the students can take the NEO to their desks and work independently or collaboratively on a wide variety of projects.

To apply for grants, visit our Web site at www.mcec.org to download instructions and a grant application.

Requests must be received by Friday, November 2nd.

Classroom Empowerment Grants

A Commitment to Our Schools



October has been designated National Cooperative Month since 1930. As part of our commitment to community, Monroe County Electric Cooperative (MCEC) is once again celebrating by promoting energy efficiency, while collecting food for our local communities.

In October and November (or until supplies last), members will receive one free compact fluorescent light

(CFL), up to a maximum of four CFL's for each commercially canned or packaged food item you bring in to the MCEC office in Waterloo.

"Because of the economy, the need for food in our community is growing every week. We appreciate any donation, whether it is food or money," explains Dianna Wegener of Western Egyptian Food Pantry in Waterloo.

Please help MCEC assist our local food pantries by stopping in to the Co-op office and donating to our food drive! You are helping your neighbors in need, while saving energy in your homes. In Waterloo, the Western Egyptian Food Pantry serves over 200 people in our community each month. Donations will be delivered by the Co-op in early December.

MCEC Line Outages - August 2012

Date	Duration	# Out	Location	Cause Desc	Sub
08/04/12	2:01	26	JJ Rd	Trees, Other	Waterloo
08/04/12	1:56	53	Kaskaskia & G Rd	Trees, Other	Waterloo
08/04/12	1:48	112	LL Rd	Trees, Other	Poe
08/04/12	3:39	45	Rt 3	Other, Deterioration	Poe
08/06/12	0:22	9	Edgewood Acres	Other, Deterioration	Smithton
08/08/12	3:01	10	Urbana Rd	Trees, Other	Smithton
08/16/12	1:13	42	Griggs Rd	Trees, Other	Poe
08/18/12	0:22	757	East Carondelet Area	Power Supplier	East Carondelet
08/18/12	0:22	924	Waterloo Area	Power Supplier	Waterloo
08/18/12	0:21	1096	Red Bud Area	Power Supplier	Poe
08/18/12	0:16	608	North Waterloo Area	Power Supplier	N. Waterloo
08/18/12	0:14	526	Fults Area	Power Supplier	Fults
08/29/12	4:06	36	Bottom Rd	Vehicles Or Machinery	Columbia

Masterson recognized for Home Weatherization Program participation

The Chairman of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) annually recognizes cooperative directors or staff for outstanding effort in the rural electric program. This year's winners were the local cooperative staff that promoted and administered HomeE, the energy assessment program that helped many of their cooperatives' member-owners reduce their electric bills by making their homes more energy efficient. The \$2.5 million federal stimulus grant received by the AIEC, allowed cooperative staff to perform 3,441 heating and

cooling, insulation and weatherization home assessments in just 16 months. This effort resulted in the reduction of 397,622 therms of natural gas; 889,426 gallons of propane gas; 1,628,462 kwh of electricity; and eliminated nearly 7,000 metric tons of CO₂. The economic impact of the project resulted in \$24 million of completed projects.

Allan Masterson, Director of Member Services for your electric cooperative, was recognized for



his hard work and dedication for participating in the HomeE energy efficiency program.

Make sure Halloween is a treat



There is no trick or treat about it – electrical accidents happen when precautions are not taken to prevent tragedies. During this time of year when yards can be filled with ghosts and goblins make sure all of your costumed critters as well as your home are kept safe. Safe Electricity urges everyone to follow simple safety guidelines for a season full of sweet treats.

- Before use, check each light for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs. Replace damaged strings.
- Always unplug light strings while replacing bulbs.
- Avoid running cords around sidewalks and other walkways outdoors and indoors that could risk tripping or entangling trick-or-treaters. Don't hide cords under carpeting or rugs, or behind curtains or blinds.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to

trees, house walls or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples or plastic ties to hold light strings in place. Never nail or tack cords in place!

- Use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use and UL (Underwriters Laboratory) approved.
- Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them.
- Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.
- Keep electric objects away from flammable objects, such as hay bales, cornstalks and fabric costumes. The heat from lights and other electrical decorations could potentially cause a fire.

For more information visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

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