


# MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Alan W. Wattles

## Across The President's Desk

### Power of co-op membership

***There are Seven Cooperative Principles that give all co-ops guidance.***

October is National Co-op Month. The time of year when the 29,000 plus co-ops in the U.S. take a few moments to ensure their employees, members and the general public truly understand the value of the cooperative business they own.

Cooperatives around the world, including Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc., operate according to the same core principles and values, adopted by the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA). Cooperatives trace the roots of these principles to the first modern cooperative founded in Rochdale, England in 1844.

All cooperative businesses have at their foundation these seven cooperative principles to follow:

1. **Voluntary and Open Membership**
2. **Democratic Member Control**
3. **Members' Economic Participation**
4. **Autonomy and Independence**
5. **Education, Training and Information**
6. **Cooperation Among Cooperatives**
7. **Concern for Community**

One of the ways co-ops demonstrate that they are different from

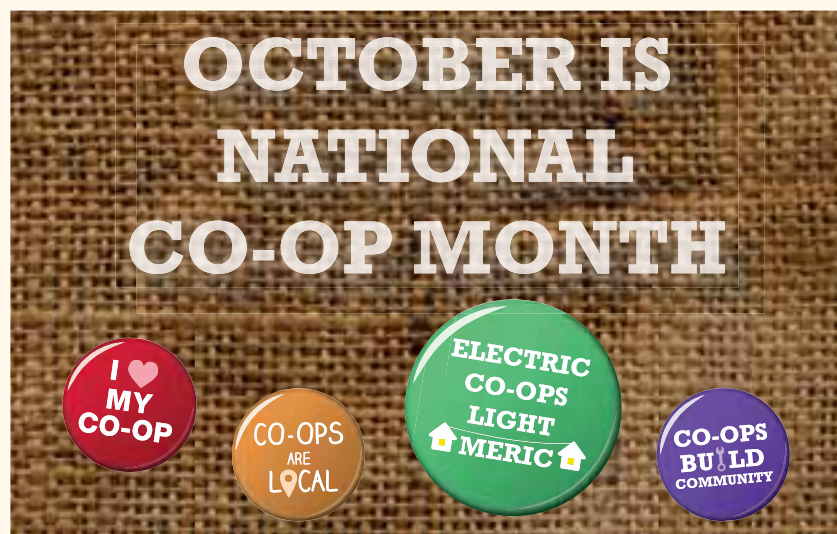
investor-owned businesses is by actually living the principles.

Principle 6: Cooperation Among Cooperatives, is our focus this month, and there are many examples that demonstrate how co-ops do this every day. In theory this sounds so simple, answering the question, "Can't we all just get along?" As it turns out, it's easier to get along when we focus on what our personal or organizational self-interest is - and find others who have a similar self-interest.

This is how Monroe County Electric Cooperative got started 77 years ago. Ordinary folks, with the guidance of the Monroe County Farm Bureau, realized they would

be better off working together if they wanted to bring electricity to their community. Once the co-op network was established, early co-op pioneers soon realized that if they work with "sister co-ops," they could gain control of their power supply. That is why cooperatives across the country formed over 60 generation and transmission cooperatives such as Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), your local generation and transmission cooperative.

So while we take special note of the value of our cooperative in October, we are delighted to be a part of our community delivering vital services to you all year long.



## Seven Cooperative Principles

1

### VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2

### DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3

### MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4

### AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.

5

### EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND INFORMATION

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs, and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, helps boost cooperative understanding.

6

### COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

By working together through local, national, regional, and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.

7

### CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.

## MCEC line outages - August 2015

Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
08/03/15	0:40	58	Kaskaskia Rd	Small Animals Or Birds	Waterloo
08/09/15	1:20	2	Moore St	Lightning	N. Waterloo
08/09/15	5:42	6	B Rd	Lightning	Fountain
08/09/15	1:27	4	IL Rt 163	Lightning	East Carondelet
08/09/15	1:42	12	IL Rt 163	Lightning	East Carondelet
08/10/15	0:57	3	VV Rd	Lightning	Poe
08/14/15	2:44	5	Algonquin Forest Subdv	Other, Deterioration	Millstadt
08/14/15	7:47	25	Algonquin Forest Subdv	Other, Deterioration	Millstadt
08/19/15	1:48	522	Fults Area	Lightning	Fults
08/19/15	1:48	962	Waterloo Area	Lightning	Waterloo
08/19/15	1:43	1106	Red Bud Area	Lightning	Poe
08/21/15	1:56	13	Apple Blossom Ln	Large Animals	East Carondelet
08/24/15	0:22	118	Gall Rd/Cedar Ridge Ln	Maintenance	N. Waterloo

# Empower Your School

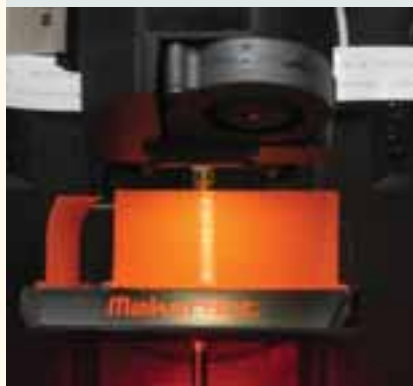
**M**onroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc. is again offering Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants for grade schools located within the Cooperative's territory.

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. Commitment to Community is one of our Touchstone Energy core principles.

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. Eligible schools are those within our cooperative service area.

To apply for grants, visit our Web site at [www.mcec.org](http://www.mcec.org) to download instructions and a grant application.

Requests must be received by Friday, November 6th.



*Annette Rau, Technology Teacher at Waterloo Junior High, used a \$500 grant last year to help fund a 3D printer. Ms. Rau's eighth grade students set out to improve the independence of one handicapped child by designing a milk carton holder that would make it easier for him to drink lunchtime milk.*

## Classroom Empowerment Grants A Commitment to Our Schools

### 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 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • 800-757-7433

# Draft dodgers: Weather stripping your home

By Amber Bentley

There is no doubt about it; the cold weather is on its way. Not only is it important to make sure that your heating unit is working properly, but you should check your home to make sure that none of that heat is escaping.

When the weather turns colder, drafts around windows and doors are constantly letting in cool air. Most people will immediately want to raise their thermostat even higher; however, that will cause you to use more energy when you don't necessarily need to. The best solution is to weather strip your home. This is typically an easy fix that will eliminate energy waste and help you save on your monthly electric bill.

Sometimes drafts are obvious, and other times the openings are much smaller. Here are two quick ways to find out if heat is escaping from your home. For doors, look for daylight between the door and its frame, if you see even a hint of light in between the two, you need to weather strip that area. For windows, place a piece of paper between

the sash and the seal then close it. If you can remove the piece of paper from the window without ripping it, you need to weather strip that area as well.

The great thing about all of this is that weather stripping is easy! There is an assortment of materials available to you (like rubber, foam, metal, etc.) and they are all inexpensive. Once you have purchased what you need, keep the following in mind before you begin weather stripping: be sure the surface is dry and clean, measure the area more than once for best accuracy, and apply so that strips compress both sides of the window or door.

## To weather strip windows:

- Place the stripping between the frame and the sash.
- Be sure that it compresses the window when shut.
- Check to make sure that the stripping does not interfere with the moving of the window.

## To weather strip doors:

- Choose the proper sweeps and thresholds for your door.
- Weather-strip the entire door jamb.
- Make sure the stripping meets tightly at both corners.
- Use a thickness that allows for a tight press between the door and the ground, but one that does not make the door difficult to shut.

Roughly half of the energy that your home uses comes from heating and cooling. So the next time you feel an uncomfortable draft in your home, do not immediately crank up the heat. Check to find out where the draft is coming from and properly weather strip the area. This will ultimately save you more energy and more money in the end.

*Amber Bentley writes on energy efficiency issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Fall is here, and that means colder months will be here before we know it. Is your home prepared for the drafts that may enter? Tight-fitting insulating drapes or shades are a perfect way to keep the heat in and the cold out.