


# MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



**OCTOBER IS  
NATIONAL  
CO-OP MONTH**

I ♥ MY  
CO-OP

CO-OPS  
ARE  
LOCAL

ELECTRIC  
CO-OPS  
LIGHT  
AMERIC

CO-OPS  
BUILD  
COMMUNITY

 America's Electric  
Cooperatives

## Monroe County Electric celebrates National Cooperative Month

October is National Cooperative Month, and Monroe County Electric Co-Operative – and all co-ops across the U.S. – are celebrating the benefits and values that cooperatives bring to their members and communities.

While co-ops operate in many industries and sectors of the economy,

seven cooperative principles set us apart from other businesses: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member's economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

“Today, people prefer options and alternatives to ‘big box’ businesses,” says Alan Wattles, Monroe County President/CEO. “The co-op business model is unique and rooted in our local communities. Co-ops help us build a more participatory, sustainable, and resilient economy.”

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

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Office hours: Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. • 800-757-7433

# Classroom Empowerment Grants

## A Commitment to Our Schools

**M**onroe 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.



(Valmeyer High School grant) *L to r; Science teacher, Nikki Folkerts with her students. On right side, Alan Wattles, President/CEO and Ross Mueller, board director.*

**To apply for grants, visit our web site at [www.mcec.org](http://www.mcec.org) to download the instructions and a grant application. Requests must be received by Friday, November 4th, 2016.**

**Empower Your School**



*Nikki Folkerts, Science teacher at Valmeyer High School, used a \$500 grant last year to help fund a water quality project for her Scientific Research & Design class. The students enjoyed using real science equipment used in the field to test the water at a nearby pond for things such as silica, carbon dioxide, pH, nitrates, phosphates, calcium, hardness and magnesium.*



# trick or treat

Kids already know that it's better to get a treat than a trick. When you look at your electric bill each month, which do you get ... a Snicker's bar or a sour lemon? If it's a lemon, log on at [www.togetherwesave.com](http://www.togetherwesave.com) and find out how little changes you make can add up to big savings.

By using the numerous suggestions from the site, such as sealing your home's cracks, adding insulation, and installing a programmable thermostat, when your next bill arrives you'll be snickering instead of puckering!

For more information about the [togetherwesave.com](http://www.togetherwesave.com) campaign, call your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative.

 **Monroe County Electric Co-Operative**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**

## MCEC line outages - August 2016

Date	Duration	# Out	Location	Cause Desc	Substation
08/03/16	2:11	19	Stringtown Rd	Lightning	Fults
08/06/16	2:06	6	Lunch Rd	Small animals or birds	Smithton
08/12/16	1:30	2	Maple Leaf Subdivision	Vehicles or machinery	New Athens
08/13/16	5:42	8	G Rd	Other, deterioration	Fults
08/13/16	0:34	16	C Rd	Small animals or birds	Waterloo
08/15/16	3:35	79	Pines Subdivision	Other, faulty equipment	Columbia
08/15/16	8:09	4	Kelling Dr	Other, deterioration	East Carondelet
08/15/16	1:03	12	Fountain Creek Ridge Ln	Unknown	Waterloo
08/15/16	5:29	34	JJ Rd	Trees, other	Waterloo
08/22/16	0:44	14	Kern Rd	Small animals or birds	Poe
08/29/16	2:57	48	Konarcik/Martini Rd	Vehicles or machinery	Waterloo
08/30/16	2:35	5	Mullins Rd	Maintenance	East Carondelet

## Why do we plan outages?

**H**ave you ever received notification from Monroe County Electric Co-Operative informing you of a planned outage? You may have wondered, what is a planned outage and why does my electric utility need to perform one?

Occasionally, the equipment we use to bring power to your home needs to be replaced, repaired or updated. When this happens, as a way to keep our crews and you safe, we plan an interruption to electric service.

We do our best to plan these outages during times when you will be least inconvenienced, so we often

perform planned outages during school and business hours. We also try to avoid planning these outages during winter or summer months. We understand these are peak times of the year when you depend on running your heating and cooling units the most.

While they may sound slightly inconvenient, planned outages are actually beneficial to you, our members. Regular system upgrades are necessary for optimal performance, and they increase reliability. Repairing and upgrading our equipment is also critical to

maintaining public safety. If older lines need to be replaced, we plan for it, repair or replace it, and that keeps everyone safe.

Planned outages also allow us to keep you informed of when and how long you will be without power. At Monroe County Electric, we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep you safe and to keep our system running smoothly. So, the next time you hear about a planned outage, know that it is one of the best ways we can provide you with quality electric service.



**IF IT'S NOT INSULATED, NEITHER ARE YOU.**

**REPLACE, NEVER REPAIR DAMAGED EXTENSION CORDS.**

Helping members use electricity safely, that's the power of your co-op membership.  
Learn more from the experts themselves at *TogetherWeSave.com*.