

Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

October is National Co-op Month

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 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:

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Members' Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training and Information
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community

As a member of Norris Electric, you have the power, a voice and control in how your electric co-op is run; in what's best for the community; and in the decisions that allow us to provide affordable electricity for your home.

Membership represents a vested interest – everyone is more engaged




and attentive to something they feel a responsibility for. Touchstone Energy co-ops work to engage their members in all the issues surrounding the co-op. When members are engaged and informed they become advocates for their co-ops, not just consumers.

Members are the reason cooperatives exist. When members embrace the idea that they have more than a

passing interest in their co-op, and that they actually are the owners, with an ability to help guide it, that is the power of co-op membership.


The best part about being a member of a Touchstone Energy cooperative: It's your Touchstone Energy cooperative. Power to the people, for the people, from the people.



HEY MEMBERS!

...**Did you know** you can get a text or email to alert you that your electric bill is due? Did you know you can get a text or email when we have received your payment? We can also text or email you if your payment is past due to avoid disconnection. Call the office and we can get you set up!! 877-783-8765

P.S. We can also email your bill.



Norris Electric's office will be closed Monday, October 10 in observance of Columbus Day.

ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW: HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY

Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.



If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 ft. before exiting.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.

Great discounts when you use your Co-op Connection Card!



Highlights for the month of October:

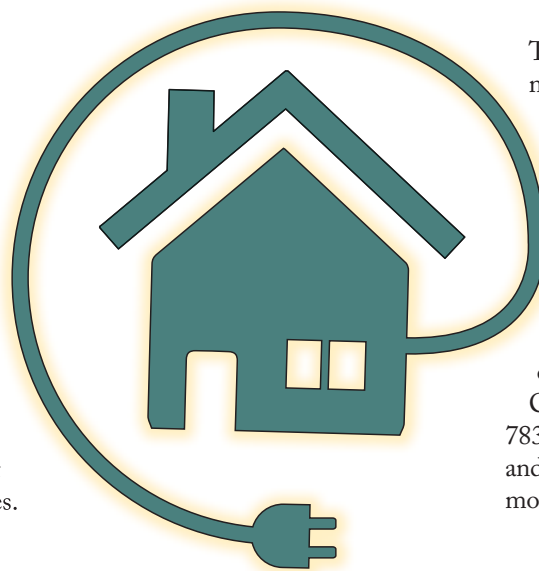
Advantage Home Health, Olney, IL	FREE blood pressure check, FREE accu-check, FREE pulse check
Bailey's Travel, Robinson, IL	\$50 off any vacation package or cruise and FREE luggage tag with any sale
Bidwell Candies & More, Mattoon, IL	\$5.00 off \$20 purchase
Marion Eye Center & Optical, Carmi, IL	20% off complete eye glasses and frames, 15% off Blade Free Lasik. Not valid with any other coupon, discount, vision plan or insurance.
CRNAC, Lawrenceville, IL	10% discount on residential home exclusion for wildlife on the following: Non-profit organizations, Veterans and retired persons.
Domino's Pizza, Effingham, IL	FREE order of breadsticks with the purchase of a large pizza at regular price.

As a Norris Electric Member, make sure to use your free Co-op Connections Card for discounts and valuable offers at local businesses and national retailers for those everyday purchases and gifts. Go online to search for local and national deals by zip code or by category at www.connections.coop.

Need a New Card? Contact us at 1-877-783-8765

Residential electric heat rate available

Did you know Norris offers an electric heat rate? The rate is available to residential members of the cooperative for uses where electricity is the sole source of all space heating energy. The heat source must be for the whole house and permanently installed. Types of electric heat which qualify include geothermal heat pumps, air source heat pumps, and electric furnaces.



The only obligation is the member must continue the electric heat rate for 12 month increments.

The electric heat rate offers a lower rate in the winter months that more than offsets the slightly higher summer rate when compared to our standard rate.

Call our office today at 877-783-8765 for a rate comparison and see if you can start saving money on your electric bill!

Safe Electricity provides tips on how to protect homes from energy vampires

Energy vampires can be lurking around one's home in unexpected places: televisions, computers, and microwaves. An array of electronic devices, often referred to as energy vampires, continue to consume energy even when not in use. While in standby mode, these energy vampires are quietly sucking energy from homes and money from wallets.

"We don't think about sophisticated electronics consuming energy when not in use," says Molly Hall, executive director of the Safe Electricity program. Hall explains that even when electronic devices do not appear to be in use, they can still waste energy and money.

There are many other household appliances that are constantly using energy in addition to televisions, computers, and microwaves. These include: DVD players, cable boxes with DVR, cell phone chargers, printers, and game consoles.

Here are a few money saving tips from Safe Electricity to help put a stop to energy vampires:

- Unplug all electronics that are not in use.
- Avoid electronics with extra features that are not needed as these might use more energy.
- Make sure to check the label of a product before purchasing. According to energy.gov, Energy Star products draw less power while in standby mode than the average devices.

"Power strips and smart strips are great ways to minimize the loss of energy," Hall advises.

A power strip can be used to plug in multiple electronic devices, and the power can be cut off from these devices with a simple flip of a switch. Power strips can be put to use in a spare room where electronics are not



Safe Electricity

used very often or in an area where there is a large concentration of electronics like in an office.

Smart strips are set apart from power strips because of the automated ways that they conserve energy. According to EnergyStar.gov, there are three main types of smart power strips:

- Timer-equipped power strips are controlled by programmable timers, so all electronics plugged into the strip can be shut off at a designated time.
- Occupancy sensing power strips detect active use of a device and shut down after a specific period of time if unused.

- Current sensing power strips have the ability to cut or add power to peripheral devices when the strip senses the main (control) device is powered off or on.

For more tips on energy efficiency and electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Don't let vampires suck the life out of your energy efficiency efforts! Unplugging unused electronics - otherwise known as 'energy vampires' - can save you as much as 10 percent on your electric bill.

Source: energy.gov