

Students Represent EnerStar as Youth to Washington



Phillip Gorrell and Shelbie Kile, both of Marshall, represented EnerStar Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C. during the annual “Youth to Washington” Tour, June 9-16. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois since the late 1950s, is an introduction to our democratic form of government and cooperatives for rural youth.

The students met with Congressman John Shimkus, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, and were among 69 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The Illinois students joined more than 1,730 young leaders from across the country, a record high for the “Youth to Washington” Tour. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II



Shelbie Kile (left) and Phillip Gorrell (right) visit with Congressman John Shimkus in Washington, D.C.

Memorial, memorials to Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington and Roosevelt, the National Archives, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Newseum, and several other historical sites.

High school sophomores and juniors who receive electricity at their primary residence from

EnerStar are eligible to participate in the annual program. To learn more about the “Youth to Washington” Tour, contact EnerStar’s Angela Griffin at 800-635-4145 and visit www.youthtour.coop or www.facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington. Congratulations Phillip and Shelbie!

COOPERATIVE HEADQUARTERS
EnerStar Electric Cooperative
11597 Illinois Highway 1
Paris, IL 61944

TELEPHONE
800-635-4145
PAY BY PHONE
888-999-4201

OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Serving the Illinois counties of Edgar, Clark, Vermilion, Douglas and Coles.

Here comes the sun!

New solar array at co-op office will soon power homes

A dawning sun soon will energize more of central Illinois – and the Midwest.

Construction crews this spring began installing a new solar array, a collection of solar panels that use the sun's energy to create electricity, at the EnerStar Electric Cooperative headquarters in Paris. The array is one of three new solar arrays being constructed as part of Co-op Solar, a new community solar program that will be available later this year for members of EnerStar and other electric cooperatives that receive wholesale electricity from Wabash Valley Power.

"Community solar programs have been gaining interest across the United States as a great way to take advantage of solar energy without requiring homeowners to spend a lot of money to install and maintain hardware themselves," said Mike Clark, President and CEO of EnerStar. "Often, people

are interested in solar power, but are turned off by the complexity of installing and maintaining solar panels or maybe their land is not conducive to the large installation footprint. We handle these difficulties so they can participate."

"One of the great benefits of co-op solar is that everyone can participate. Even if you rent your home," said Angela Griffin, EnerStar's Manager of Marketing and Member Services. "And we will have choices to fit everyone's budget for those interested in participating."

In all, a half-dozen solar arrays in Indiana, Illinois and Missouri will create electricity for Co-op Solar. Those participating in the solar

program get the benefit of solar arrays across the Midwest. "It may be cloudy here in east central Illinois but it may be sunny in Missouri where one of our other solar arrays is located. That is a benefit to our solar program," said Clark. Co-op Solar has the potential to generate up to 1.7 MW of solar energy

Co-op Solar will launch later this year. It will be optional for members of EnerStar who want to participate.

"We are excited to offer this voluntary renewable energy option because it is the easiest and quickest way to get into solar," said Griffin. "And as soon as Wabash gives us the okay, we will get that information out to the membership." She added that the co-op will offer member meetings throughout the service area, hopefully starting in early September, for interested members. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on September 27 to officially launch Co-op Solar.



About Wabash Valley Power

Known for its deliberately different approach to powering the Midwest, Wabash Valley Power is a not-for-profit generation and transmission electric cooperative that provides wholesale electricity to 23 locally

owned electric distribution cooperatives in Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri. Founded in 1963, it has grown to become the 15th largest generation and transmission cooperative in the nation.

Wabash Valley Power is a founding member of the National Renewable Cooperative Organization (NRCO) and the company's CEO, Jay Bartlett is the current President of NRCO.

To learn more, visit WVPA.com.



Elizabeth Kannmacher wins IEC Memorial Scholarship

Elizabeth Kannmacher of Martinsville High School is one of ten winners of this year's Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship. She is the daughter of Elizabeth and Mark Kannmacher of Martinsville.

Elizabeth competed for the scholarship with 242 other students from across the state. The \$2,000 awards are given each year to nine sons and daughters of electric co-op members, employees or directors. A tenth scholarship is reserved for a student interested in lineworker's college at Lincoln Land Community College and will be announced at a later date.

Candidates are judged on grade-point average, college entrance exam scores, school and

civic activities, and a short essay demonstrating their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

"The employees and the board members of Enerstar Electric Cooperative have always been involved in our local schools. We live here too and have a vested interest in the future of our children and the communities that we serve. This scholarship is just one small way we can help make a difference," said Angela Griffin, EnerStar's Manager of Marketing and Member Services.

Griffin encourages current high school seniors who receive electricity at their primary residence to watch future publications regarding the upcoming scholarship application process. She anticipates



the information will be released in October. Application deadline is January 1, 2018.

Get to know your co-op accounting department

If you are walking through the co-op office and hear fingers tapping on the number keys or the sound of paper shooting out of a desktop calculator, you are most likely near one of the accounting office doors. Often working diligently under a deadline, these employees get everything done from processing account payables to gathering

financial data that your board of directors will review at their month-end meeting.

Rita McClarey, has served as the cooperative's manager of finance and accounting since 1996. While there are normal daily and monthly deadlines that she must meet, her position is unique in the fact that it spans from the smallest detail to

the largest throughout the month.

"Sometimes I may be expensing a small bolt out of inventory that a lineman has used. The next day, I may be working on a 5-year financial forecast that really drives our cooperative business," said McClarey. "Because we are such a small co-op, there really is a lot of variety to my job."

Julie Wineinger joined the cooperative in December 2012 as an accountant. She had been an EnerStar member for many years before she began her co-op employment, but the human side of the business really changed her perspective about the cooperative.

"Our employees work hard and their safety is a top priority at the co-op," said Julie. "Before, I obviously knew employees were out repairing storm damage, but I hadn't really considered the dedication that the job requires."

These accountants are quietly and diligently working behind the scenes to keep the co-op running smoothly and efficiently. They are an important spoke in the wheel at our cooperative!



EnerStar employees Julie Wineinger and Rita McClarey

Become an Air Evac Lifeteam Member through EnerStar Electric Cooperative

EnerStar and AirEvac Lifeteam have partnered to offer our residential members the opportunity to join the Air Evac Lifeteam Membership program through an affordable billing plan. Members have the option to choose the convenience of paying a monthly fee or an annual fee. Each plan is offered at a discounted rate through your Cooperative.

Option 1: A monthly fee is \$5.00 per month per household which can be billed on your monthly EnerStar statement.

Option 2: AirEvac also offers annual and multi-year payment options. The fees for the entire household are as follows:

- Platinum (25 Year) Membership - \$1,125
- 10-Year Membership - \$575
- 5-Year Membership - \$300
- 3-Year Membership - \$185
- 1-Year Membership - \$65



Join Air-Evac Lifeteam through your Cooperative today and choose which option best suits your needs.



Now is a great time to sign up for budget billing

Members wanting to eliminate the fluctuations of their monthly electric bills are encouraged to sign up for EnerStar's Budget Billing program!

Accounts with at least 12 months of consumption history and with account balances paid in full are eligible.

- Monthly budget bills are reevaluated in April, August and December based on the account's consumption history. If necessary, the monthly

amount will be adjusted accordingly.

- There is no "catch up" month. When reevaluating the account, any under-collected amounts and overpaid amounts are "rolled over" into the next 12 months.
- Monthly budget bills must be paid before the disconnect date. If payment is not received, the account will be removed from the budget plan.

- If an account is removed from budget billing for any reason, any balance on the account is due immediately.

- Budget Billing is automatically renewed, unless terminated by either the member or the cooperative.

Think you might be interested in EnerStar's Budget Billing program? If so contact a Member Accounts Representative at 1-800-635-4145 or via email at billing@enerstar.com.