



The Wire

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455

Operation Round-Up Program Provides Funds to Six Organizations



Mike Smith
President and CEO

The Operation Round-Up committee approved funds to local organizations totaling \$8,569 for the third quarter of 2016. Recipients include:



Bushnell ESDA - \$1,569
(Emergency Services Disaster Agency)
Handheld Radio & 20 Reflective Traffic Cones

Central Warren Fire Protection District - \$2,100
Thermal Imaging Camera



Western Illinois Regional Council Community Action Agency - \$2,100
Food Pantry



West Prairie Middle School - \$500
Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) Program



West Prairie High School - \$300
Do it RIGHT Program (PBIS Program)



Roseville Kids Place - \$2,000
Playground Equipment

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Six bucks isn't a lot of money—it's about what you would pay for a meal at a fast food restaurant. But \$6 equals the average amount folks who support our Operation Round-Up program give every year, all through spare change.

Members—people like you who receive electricity from the co-op—have their bills automatically rounded up to the next whole dollar amount. Let's say your bill is \$82.90. It would be rounded up to \$83, with a dime going to Operation Round-Up. The extra pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters then flow into a fund managed by a board of volunteer members that assists worthy local organizations who apply for the funds.

Sure, donating \$6 over the course of a year may seem like a little thing. But if you put all of that money together—well, things start to get exciting. Roughly 88% of the McDonough Power membership is chipping in to support Operation

Round-Up. Good thing, too, because the need has never been greater.

Since we launched Operation Round-Up in the latter part of 2015 we've given community groups and folks in need more than \$20,600. That's something we should all be proud of—your assistance is changing lives in our community. **6326AA13-750C**

If you're one of the members who makes Operation Round-Up possible, thank you. If you haven't heard about the program before and would like to make sure you're participating, check your most recent bill – it's a line item called Operation Round-Up. If you've previously opted out but would like to opt back in, call us at (309) 833-2101. Together, we can use a little pocket change to change our community.

For more details on the Operation Round-Up program visit us online at www.mcdonoughpower.com.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the average household owns 24 consumer electronics products, which are responsible for 12 percent of household electricity use. ENERGY STAR-certified audio/video equipment is up to 50 percent more efficient than conventional models.

Source: EnergyStar.gov

Member Prizes

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

Avoiding the energy rush

Time of use matters.

Did you know that *when* you use electricity often matters as much as how much electricity you consume?

It's no surprise that electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand, and electric co-ops must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy demands of their members during times of highest energy use, also known as "on-peak hours." Early-morning hours, when people often start their day, and evening hours, when people return to their homes after work, are common times for on-peak hours. **5425C5A-254B** To reduce peak energy demand and save money, many electric co-ops encourage electricity use during off-peak hours—when energy is less expensive to provide. Similar to saving money by attending a matinee, you can keep more money in your wallet simply by using electricity during an off-peak time period.

Using less on-peak power means lower costs for McDonough Power—and ultimately, lower rates for members.

By performing some of your daily chores, like running the dishwasher or doing laundry during off-peak hours, you can save on your utility bill. In a similar vein, plug electronic equipment, such as computers, printers, TVs and power tools into a power strip, then turn it off during peak hours. **Off-peak hours are from 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. daily Monday through Friday, and all day on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.**

You can also put technology to work for you. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings so your heating/cooling system syncs up with the off-peak rate periods. Use automatic timers to run hot tubs, pool pumps, water heaters and other appliances in the same way.

Saving energy can be simple. Remember, by shifting your energy use to off-peak times, you have the power to save the Cooperative money, which in turn reflects on your monthly energy bill.



Cooperative Cares - Coats for Kids Program

Did you know giving back to local communities is one of our founding principles? Since 2009 the cooperative has been working with schools in the co-op's service territory to locate children in need of a brand new, warm winter coat. **4214C3-1106C** The program is funded by sales of salvaged scrap metal items as well as a grant provided through the Sharing Success program of CoBank, one of the co-op's lenders. This year our Coats for Kids program provided 221 brand new winter coats to students at Macomb, Bushnell, Colchester, Table Grove, Alexis, Abingdon, Good Hope and Monmouth schools. In November, just before Thanksgiving, cooperative employees and directors delivered the coats to area schools with children in need.



Capturing energy from the Sun!

Prairie Power Inc. introduces Bright Options Solar

Who doesn't like to soak up some rays on a nice sunny day? Typically you think of swimming, boating, baseball, cook-outs and other outdoor activities on a nice sunny day; however, the sun's rays can also be used to generate electricity.

Prairie Power, Inc. (PPI), an electric generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Springfield, Illinois, recently announced plans to offer its 10 member distribution cooperatives the opportunity

for their member-consumers to purchase solar-generated electricity through the Bright Options Solar program. Bright Options Solar allows any member of McDonough Power Cooperative the opportunity to buy blocks of solar energy generated from two 500-kilowatt solar farms operated by PPI subsidiaries.

The Shelby Solar Farm is located in Shelbyville, Illinois and the Spoon River Solar Farm is located near Astoria, Illinois.

In the fall of 2015, both solar farms became operational. These two solar farms are harvesting energy from the sun to provide an opportunity for homeowners to receive some of their electricity from the sun.

"It's exciting to think we will be providing our members a means of participating in solar renewable energy without the risks, hassles and costs of having solar panels on their roofs," said Mike Smith McDonough Power President and CEO. **6228C7-150B**

Under Bright Options Solar, a member agrees to purchase blocks of solar-generated energy, at an added cost, through the member's participating electric cooperative. There are three purchasing options available, namely blocks of 200, 400 and 600 kilowatt-hours (kWh).

The added cost for a 200 kWh solar block is \$12 per month; the added cost for a 400 kWh solar block is \$24 per month; and the added cost for a 600 kWh solar block is \$36 per month. Bright Options Solar participants may begin purchases at any time with an automatic renewal at the beginning of each calendar year. The cost associated with each block of solar energy purchased will appear as a separate line item on the member's electric bill and is in addition to all other normally billed charges.

"If you are an environmentally minded consumer Bright Options Solar just might be what you have been waiting for to be a participant in renewable energy," said Smith.

Any member of McDonough Power is eligible to participate in the Bright Options Solar program. To learn more about Bright Options Solar visit www.mcdonoughpower.com or call (309) 833-2101.

PPI is the supplier of wholesale electricity and electric transmission services to 10 member-owned distribution cooperatives in Illinois, which includes McDonough Power. PPI also obtains wind-generated electricity from Pioneer Trail wind farm located just east of Paxton, Illinois; electricity from natural gas turbines located in Alsey, Illinois; and electricity generated by Prairie State Energy Campus, a state-of-the-art coal-fired plant, located near Marissa, Illinois.

How can I sign up for the program?

Complete the enrollment form below or call your local electric cooperative.

Bright Options Solar Enrollment Form

To enroll in the Bright Options Solar Program, please complete this form:

Account # _____

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email Address _____

Your Local Cooperative _____

Average Monthly Electric Usage in kWh _____

Number of 200 kWh Solar Blocks*

1 @ \$12/month 2 @ \$24/month 3 @ \$36/month

*Not to exceed your average monthly electric use

As part of the Bright Options Solar Program, Prairie Power, Inc. will retire the Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) associated with the kilowatt-hours purchased by you in the program.

I understand that by submitting this enrollment form, I will be enrolled in the Bright Options Solar Program and agree to have the purchase charges added to my monthly electric bill. I understand that I may cancel my participation at any time by providing 30 days notice to my participating cooperative.

Signature _____

Date _____