

POWER OF MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERS FIRST



You are a member of Western Illinois Electrical Coop. (WIEC). This cooperative belongs to you, the member. Your membership gives you a voice on how our co-op is run by allowing members to nominate candidates to run and later vote for who will serve on our Board of Directors. The Directors take into consideration the membership (4823-15) as they set policies on issues that impact the

member's best interests as well as their wallets.

Members know they can trust WIEC because it was created not to make profits, but to deliver on the promise of providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity. These four values are the foundation of WIEC's service to its members—innovation,

Your membership gives you a voice.

commitment to community, accountability and integrity. These values represent

the cooperative difference and how our co-op earns the trust of members, every day.

Members first. Every day. That's the power of co-op membership.



Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

524 North Madison | P.O. Box 338
Carthage, IL 62321
www.wiec.net | 800/576-3125

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

BUSINESS OFFICE

217-357-3125

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

800-576-3125

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Rob Gronewold** —
President, Carthage
- **Jay Morrison** —
Vice President, Burnside
- **Janet Spory** —
Secretary/Treasurer, Sutter
- **William Newton** —
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer,
Burnside
- **Mark Burling** —
Director, Carthage
- **Kent Flesner** —
Director, West Point
- **Kim Gullberg** —
Director, Stronghurst

STAFF

- **Tommie Long** — Manager
- **Todd Grotts** — Manager
of Operations
- **Becky Dickinson** — Office
Manager

MAP LOCATION CONTEST

Every month we are printing four members' map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month



Warmer weather is on the way! Use energy efficient window treatments or coverings, like blinds, shades and films, to reduce heat gain in your home. These devices not only improve the look of your home but also reduce energy costs.

Source: U.S Department of Energy

Facility Charge and Formulary Rate Plan Adder Update

After a review of WIEC's year-end 2016 financial information, the WIEC Board of Directors approved adjusting the facility charge on member's monthly bill to include the formulary rate plan (FRP) adder of \$5 per service. This \$5 adder has been in effect since April 1, 2016 and will continue until March 31, 2017.

As of April 1, 2017, the approved change to the facility charge will take effect and the FRP adder will be set to zero.

The WIEC Board of Directors will continue to monitor the financial health of the cooperative each year to determine what steps are necessary to maintain the appropriate levels of margins required by our lenders.

Welcome New Members

Greg Flesner, Bowen
Amy Graham, Carthage
Greg Hoener Jr., Sutter
Daniel & Celeste Kearney,
Gladstone
Jordan Quesenberry, Niota

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget to spring forward on **March 12!** Set your clocks ahead by one hour.



Like us on
Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/westernillinoiselectricalcoop>

Director Nomination And Election Process

In accordance with Article IV, Section 4, of your cooperative's by-laws, a nominating committee must be appointed between 30 and 120 days prior to the Annual Meeting of Members (June 22, 2017).

Directors shall be elected by and from the membership by ballot and shall serve for a term of three years, or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. The terms of directors for Districts #6 and #7 will expire this year.

District No. 6, currently represented by Robert Gronewold, is Augusta, St. Mary's, Hancock, and Harmony Townships in Hancock County, Illinois.

District No. 7, currently represented by Janet Spory, is Wythe, Wilcox, Rocky Run, and Walker Townships in Hancock County, Illinois.

The nominating committee must post a list of nominations at the cooperative office at least 20 days before



the annual meeting. Any 15 cooperative members may act together and nominate another member by petition. These nominations will be posted with those made by the nominating committee. Nominations made by petition at least 10 days before the annual meeting will be included

on the official ballot. Later (3818-56) nominations by petition shall be treated as nominations from the floor. The chairman shall call for additional nominations from the floor. No member may nominate more than one candidate.

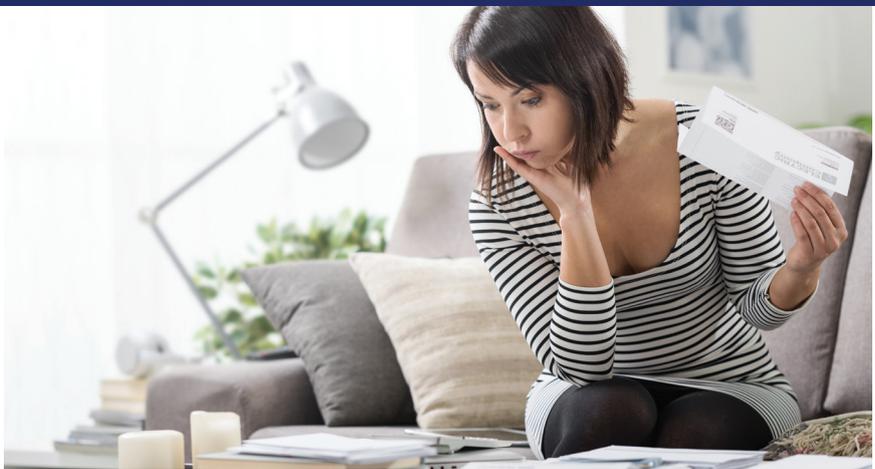
FAQ

What are these charges on my bill - Formulary Rate Plan Adder and the Facility charge? Are they new?

Answer: No, these bill components are not new.

A facility charge is the cost of providing basic service to serve each account. This includes maintaining the wires, poles and equipment, the costs of maintaining an office and other "fixed" costs. These costs are shared by all members, whether an account uses 10,000 kWh or none. The current facility charge for Rate 1 is \$33.00

The formulary rate plan adder has been on WIEC bills since April 2015. This is an adder necessary to insure that WIEC will meet the appropriate level of margins required by our lenders. As a not-for-profit



cooperative, WIEC does not design its rates to make a (10529-65) profit. Our purpose is to provide reliable service at-cost for our members. It

was implemented in April 2015 and modified in April 2016. It is currently at \$5.00 per service.



A change for the better

By Anne Prince

It's the little things

When it comes to energy efficiency in the home, sometimes small changes can make a big impact. A small, unglamorous task like changing the filters on your HVAC system makes your unit run more efficiently – keeping your house cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. It also saves money. And the savings gained from having your system run more efficiently can be applied to more fun or entertaining pursuits that your family can enjoy together.

The lowdown on dirt

As you move around your home, you drive dust into the air from carpets, furniture and drapes. Regardless of where it comes from, dust and dirt trapped in a system's air filter leads to several problems, including:

Reduced air flow in the home and up to 15 percent higher operating costs

Costly duct cleaning or replacement
Lowered system efficiency

Making the switch

Now, that you know the facts, it's time to get busy changing or cleaning the air filter in your heating/cooling system. Many HVAC professionals recommend that you clean or change the filter on your air conditioner or furnace monthly. It's simple and easy, and in many cases, it only takes a few minutes.

Filters are available in a variety of types and efficiencies, rated by a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV). MERV, a method developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, tests filter effectiveness. The higher the MERV number, the higher the filter's effectiveness at keeping dust out of your system. While most types of filters must be replaced, some filters are reusable. And don't forget about the winter months. Your heating system needs to work as efficiently as possible to keep you warm (and your loved one feeling

snuggly), and a clean air filter helps it do just that.

Heating and cooling professionals recommend turning your system off before changing the air filter. Make sure that the arrow on the filter – which indicates the direction of the airflow – is pointing toward the blower motor. When (3611-59) you've made the change, turn your system back on.

A teachable moment

Beyond saving money and improving the air quality in your home, changing your air filter is a great opportunity to teach your family more about energy efficiency. Consider getting everyone involved, and the entire family will learn how simple changes can make a big difference.