



WIEC observing National Co-op Month in October

WIEC is joining 30,000 cooperatives nationwide in October to celebrate National Co-op Month, which recognizes the many ways cooperatives are committed to strengthening the local communities they serve. “Co-ops Commit” is the theme for this year’s celebration, spotlighting the countless ways cooperatives meet the needs of their members and communities.

“Our cooperative delivers electricity to 3,600 member-owners in our service area of western Illinois,” says Tommie Long, WIEC Manager. “Delivering safe, reliable, affordable power is our top priority, but we are also invested in our communities because we are locally owned and operated.”

Revenue beyond what is required for expenses is either returned to our members as capital credits or reinvested as system improvements to make our system stronger and more reliable. (8620-56) When the board decides the cooperative’s financial health will allow, those capital credits are returned to the member-owners. WIEC members who were on our lines in 1982 will receive their capital credit checks in the mail later this month. Those dollars will circulate close to home, helping to strengthen our local economy.

WIEC has 16 local employees, with half being WIEC members themselves. Through the real estate, sales and payroll taxes, WIEC contributes to the tax base of our area, helping support schools, police and fire

protection, and other vital services. A recent economic impact study revealed that the total economic impact of WIEC employment and our annual operational expenditures pumps over \$2 million back into the local economy. These expenditures impact the bottom line of local businesses, including hospitals, banks, restaurants, retail stores, and auto repair shops.



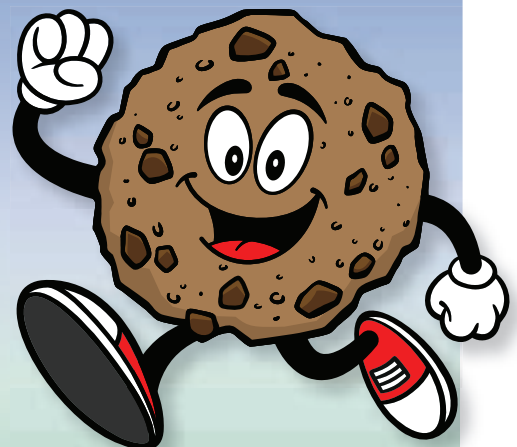
WIEC was founded on the belief that an electric cooperative could have a positive impact on the community in which we live. Our board and employees work hard on maintaining the principles of which we were established and keep our members’ best interests at the forefront of all we do.

October is Cooperative Month.

To celebrate, WIEC will have Cookie Day on October 25th.

Just come into our office, say hello and have a cookie!

Be sure to pick up your 2018 pocket calendar.





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.

Safe digging starts by calling 811

From planting shrubs to building a fence, many outdoor projects require digging. Before the shoveling begins, make sure to call 811 before you dig. It could prevent serious injury or even save your life. Even when digging down only a few inches, it's important to know what's there. Many utilities are buried just inches below the surface.

According to its website, the 811 "Call Before You Dig" number is a national line that was created to help prevent people from coming into contact with underground utility lines during digging projects.

- Call WIEC (800-576-3125) (8520-9) to locate any underground utility lines on either side of the meter. We ask for a 24-hour notice.

- Be sure to call JULIE at 8-1-1 or go to illinois1call.com and fill out an e-request. They will locate water, sewer, phone, gas, cable and other utility lines.

State law requires the person actually doing the digging to call JULIE with the following information at least two working days (excluding weekends and holidays) before the start of the project.



LIHEAP heating assistance money available

Call now for appointment

If you need financial assistance to pay your electric bill, you may be eligible to participate in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Applicants must call for an appointment and bring with them proof of income for the last 30 days, their most recent electric bill and Social Security Cards for all in the household.

For the 2017 heating season, the dates have changed. For households with residents over 60 years and receiving disability payments, appointments began on October 1. For families with children under 6, appointments begin on November 1. (7815-44) For the rest of the general public, appointments can be made after December 1.

Assistance is based on combined household income. If it is at or below the levels shown below, you may be eligible. Good faith effort to maintain electric service may also be required.



Household size	30 Day Income
1	\$1,508
2	\$2,030

(add \$522 for each additional house member)

For more details, contact the following:

Members in Hancock, Henderson and McDonough Counties:

Western Illinois Regional Council
223 S. Randolph
Macomb, IL 61455
(309) 837-2997

Members in Adams County:

Two Rivers Regional Council
1891 Maine St. Suite 4
Quincy, IL 62301
(217) 224-8171

Easy steps to great efficiency

While saving on your electric bill

Do you want to save money and electricity but have limited time, money and patience? According to the Department of Energy, a “typical American family” spends nearly \$2,000 per year on home energy bills. That’s a lot.

Here are some easy ways to save money on your electric bill without a substantial commitment of time or money.

- **Seal up your house to stop any air leakages. Think of it as dollars flying out of your house and into the air.**
 - ▶ Install weather stripping to make sure doors and window close tightly.
 - ▶ Seal gaps around dryer vents and kitchen fans.
 - ▶ Install outlet seals for outlets on outside wall.
- **Replace old incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs. The LED bulbs of today are much improved over the pig-tailed compact florescent (CFL) bulbs of the past.**
 - ▶ LEDs are more expensive, but are super-efficient and can last longer, 10 times longer than incandescent.
 - ▶ Installing LED bulbs are easy and can be one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bills. According to the Department of Energy, by replacing your home’s five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with models that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating, you can save \$75 each year.
- **Give your water heater a “blankie.”**
 - ▶ Installing a blanket around your water heater could reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent and save you about 7 to 16 percent in water heating costs, according to the Department of

Energy. For a small investment of about \$30, you can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets and install them in about one (673-18) hour.

- ▶ On a safety note, the Department of Energy recommends that you not set the thermostat above 130 degrees Fahrenheit on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket; the higher temperature setting could cause the wiring to overheat.
- **Perform a check up on your HVAC system. Doesn’t it make sense to make sure your home’s heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system is performing the best it can?**
 - ▶ Change or clean your HVAC filter. Air filters prevent dust and allergens from clogging your HVAC system. 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; lowered system efficiency; and costly duct cleaning or replacement.
 - ▶ Many HVAC professionals recommend cleaning the system filters monthly.

- ▶ By simply changing the filters on your HVAC system, it can make it run more efficiently, keeping your house cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.
- **A programmable thermostat is a great way to save on your energy dollars.**
 - ▶ It enables you to fine tune the temperature during particular hours of the day.
 - ▶ Many models allow you to differentiate between weekday and weekend schedules, and internet-connected thermostats can learn your schedule and make adjustments automatically.
 - ▶ Some newer models, such as Google’s Nest or Lennix’s iComfort have apps that can be controlled from a smart phone, iPad or other device.
- **Grandma was right – use common sense.**
 - ▶ Turn off the lights when you leave the room.
 - ▶ Using curtains or blinds to let sunshine warm the room when it’s cold outside or block the sun during the summer can save electricity.
 - ▶ Take shorter showers.



If you are interested in more ways to reduce your energy usage, stop by the WIEC office and pick up “101 Low-Cost/No-Cost Energy” booklet. It’s free and it’s jam-packed with easy ways to save on your energy bill.

October

is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.



Cybersecurity Tip

Create long passwords that only you will remember and change them every six months. Remember, a strong password is at least 12 characters long.

Welcome New Members

Carol Brower, Hamilton
Jeremy Bundy, LaHarpe
Patrick & Cheri Callaway,
Stockport, IA
Flippin Furniture by Greg &
Tammy Huls, Basco
Trey Geissler, Warsaw
Gary N. Jackson, Carthage
Brandon Lambert, Carthage
Patricia Marshall, Dallas City
Glen Dale Ralph, Nauvoo
Pete Ryan, Mt Airy, MD
Shaun Staub, Niota



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

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Fall/Winter Energy Tip: When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees for 8 hours, and save around 10 percent a year on your heating and cooling bills. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature – set it and forget it!

Source: U.S. Department of Energy