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www.enerstar.com

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

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Make The New Year A Time Of Reflection...

It's a great time to review what guides our cooperative



Your electric cooperative, EnerStar Power, is a not-for-profit cooperative business. As a member of the cooperative, you enjoy privileges that customers of other electric companies do not have. Electric cooperatives are special businesses because the members we serve own us. The New Year is a great time to review the seven cooperative principles that guide our business and reflect the best interests of our members.

Seven Cooperative Principles

1) *Voluntary & Open Membership*
- Our cooperative is a voluntary orga-

nization, open to all persons able to use our services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2) *Democratic Member Control* - EnerStar is a democratic organization owned by our members. Members serving as elected representatives of the board of directors are elected by the membership. Members have equal voting rights—one member, one vote.

3) *Members' Economic Participation* - Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of

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our cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, setting up reserves, and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4) Autonomy and Independence - EnerStar is an autonomous, self-help organization controlled by our members. If we enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by our members and maintain our cooperative autonomy.

5) Education, Training and Innovation - Our cooperative provides education and training for our members, elected representatives, officers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of our cooperative. We inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6) Concern for Community - While focusing on our members' needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by our members.

7) Cooperation Among Cooperatives - Our cooperative serves our members most effectively and strengthens the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and national structures.

History of Electric Cooperatives

It is worthy to note how electric cooperatives in Illinois were organized. During the 1930s, as our country was emerging from the throes of economic depression, electricity use was becoming widespread through-

out the cities. However, Americans who lived in rural areas were still in the dark because investor-owned utilities did not feel they could afford to invest in rural America. They simply felt that it would not be profitable to serve rural areas.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt saw the benefits electricity provided and wanted all Americans to share in the value it offered. Roosevelt signed federal legislation that offered the investor-owned electric companies low-interest loans to finance the construction of electric facilities in rural areas. To his surprise, the investor-owned electric companies still had no interest in serving rural areas, even though there was great interest by rural Americans to receive the benefits of electricity in their homes and on their farms.

So rural Americans took their future into their own hands. Local groups across the country came together and formed electric cooperatives. These were "grassroots" efforts with volunteers often going door-to-door to solicit interest and collecting memberships. The low-interest loans were leveraged with private dollars to build a system, based upon cooperative principles, that continues to enhance the quality of life of rural Americans. Rural cooperatives like EnerStar, then known as Edgar Electric Cooperative, are an excellent example of the power of community. When one person joins with many people, we can accomplish great things together.

The basic principles from which the cooperative was founded have not changed. These principles guide us today and into the future so that our organization will be even stronger for those who will inherit it from us.

Your EnerStar Directors:



Jeff Zimmerman
Oakland
District 1



Tom DeWitt
Brocton
District 2



Dale English
Paris
District 3



John Fell
Kansas
District 4



Carrol Drake
Paris
District 5



David Sprigg
Marshall
District 6



Gene Higginbotham
Martinsville
District 7



Don Baggs
Marshall
District 8



Danny Gard Jr.
West Union
District 9



Mission statement

EnerStar Power exists to reliably distribute affordable electricity to its member-owners while upholding our values of integrity, accountability, and commitment to our community.

Board Petition Period Continues Through January

The annual meeting of members is just around the corner, and the January 17, 2007, deadline to submit petitions is fast approaching. If you are interested in running for election to the EnerStar Board of Directors, pick up your petition now!

Nominating procedures and rules, first used at the 2005 Annual Meeting, state that all candidates are nominated by petition only. The bylaw changes in 2004 abolished the former practices of nominating committees and nominations from the floor.

Prior to receiving a petition, candidates should verify with cooperative personnel that they reside within an open Representative District. Petitions then require the signatures of 15 EnerStar members who live in the candidate's Voting District. All members signing petitions must have an original membership card on file and must be

currently receiving electricity from the cooperative.

Petitions first became available for pickup at EnerStar headquarters on December 1, 2006. Members can continue to pick up petitions through January 17, 2007, the day that completed petitions must be returned to the EnerStar office. The first day petitions may be turned in is January 2, 2007.

When petitions are submitted, candidates should provide a short biographical sketch, 250 words or less, to be published in the Official Notice that is sent to all cooperative members at the end of February. The biography will also be included in the March 2007 issue of this publication. The cooperative will also need a digital photo.

The role of director is a huge commitment – of time, energy and education – more than most members realize. A Board Election Packet

is available which provides considerable detail about what to consider before accepting the role as director.

To receive a packet or for questions regarding the petition process, contact EnerStar's Vicki Ewing at 217-466-7601 or email her at vewing@enerstar.com.

2007 Annual Meeting of Members

January 2, 2007 –

First day to turn in petition and candidate biography

January 17, 2007 – Last day to turn in petition and candidate biography

March 17, 2007 – 68th Annual Meeting of Members

Member News

VOTING

Three director positions are open for election at the forthcoming 68th Annual Meeting of Members. All positions are for three-year terms. If you have questions regarding in which voting and representative district you are located, contact an EnerStar Members Accounts Representative at 800-635-4145 during normal business hours.

Voting District A

Representative District 3, currently served by Dale English

The Townships of Buck, Paris, Hunter, and Stratton in Edgar County, Illinois.

Voting District B

Representative District 6, currently served by David Sprigg

The Townships of Westfield and Douglas in Clark County, Illinois; all that portion of the Township of Dolson lying north of the 2000th Road in Clark County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Wabash lying north of Interstate Highway 70 in Clark County, Illinois.

Voting District C

Representative District 8, currently served by Don Baggs

All that portion of the Township of Wabash lying south of Interstate Highway 70 in Clark County, Illinois.



Congratulations!

EnerStar Power member Pam Gordon received an honorable mention for her chocolate covered cherry cookies in last month's Illinois Country Living Bake-Off. Congratulations Pam, from all of us at EnerStar! (See her winning recipe at www.icl.coop.)



**Honorable
Mention**



Working For You

While the weather outside is frightful, linemen and other cooperative personnel are working to ensure your family's warmth and safety. Keeping your tree branches trimmed and away from electric lines year 'round means less time our workers must spend away from their warm homes.

For more information about tree trimming and right of way clearance, call your local electric cooperative.

**Office
Closing**

Our office
will be closed
December 29, 2006,
and
January 1, 2007
for the New Year's
holiday.

Do You Have Story Ideas? Call us!



EnerStar is looking for new ways to promote area communities and the service territory that it serves. Do you have an interesting story you would like to share? A unique activity or hobby? A unique business you would like to promote? Maybe you know of some interesting local history? If so, then tell us about it so we can tell others!

What stories would you like to see included in this magazine? If you have an idea of an appropriate story, call Angela Griffin at (217) 466-7603 and tell her about it. You can also e-mail her at agriffin@enerstar.com. Thanks!

EnerStar Employees Participate in Safety Training for Themselves and for the Community

Keeping our employees and our membership safe is a priority at EnerStar. One key part of our safety program is certifying employees in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid.

During a classroom session, employees watch videos of reenactments of ordinary people dealing with real life situations. After practicing life saving techniques on a lifelike mannequin, all employees in attendance take an exam in order to receive a certification card from the American Red Cross.

The training is offered annually to maintain certification. Training topics include bleeding, shock management, illness assessment, injury



assessment and choking. Another topic added in recent years includes the use of automated external defibrillators (AED). The cooperative has two AED units available at the cooperative.

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative (AIEC), the Springfield-based organization that represents electric and telephone cooperatives throughout Illinois, coordinates the CPR training.

While this type of training is vital to protect our employees, we also do it for the community. While on the job, EnerStar employees cover a five-county area daily, and they are trained to be the “eyes and ears” of the community. They are ready and willing to help should an emergency situation arise. It is just one more way we show concern for our community. We do it because we care.

Planned Outage Notification Call List

If you depend on life support equipment, contact EnerStar

EnerStar does its best to keep the power on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Yet despite our best efforts, outages do occur. For most members, this is an inconvenience, but for those who depend on electricity to power life support equipment, an outage can present a real challenge.

Most outages are weather-related but a few are planned in advance for maintenance and construction purposes. For instances of a planned outage, EnerStar maintains a *Planned Outage Call List* for those members with a verified medical necessity. These members receive notification in the event of a scheduled power outage.

If you or a relative depend on electrically powered life support equipment and would like to be put



on the call list for medical reasons, it is necessary for the member's doctor to send a letter to EnerStar indicating the need for electrically operated life support. The letter should include in-

formation regarding the person needing life support equipment, the type of equipment, and location information. It is the member's responsibility to keep all contact information updated with EnerStar.

It is important to stress that by being placed on the planned outage call list, EnerStar is in no way guaranteeing uninterrupted power supply. Members must make personal arrangements for both unplanned and planned outages.

If you or your business depends on uninterrupted power supply, the use of an electric generator is highly recommended and computers should have some sort of a battery back-up system.

To be placed on the Planned Outage Call List for medical reasons, contact Jennifer Martin at (800) 635-4145, extension 612.



EnerStar Can Help You Dispose of Used Oil

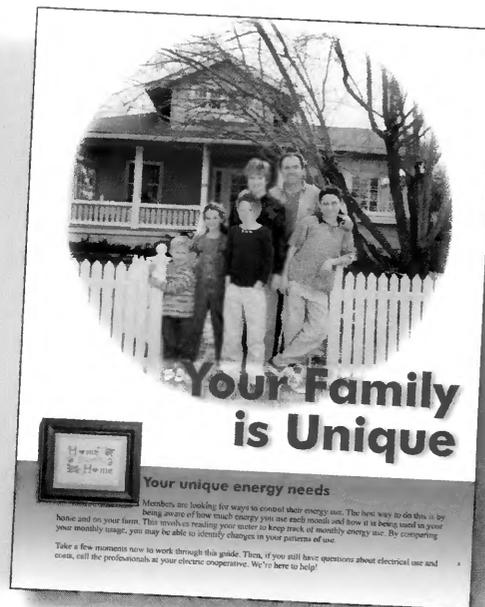
- EnerStar will collect used oil on the first Monday of each month or by appointment during normal business hours.
- Service available to residential members who are considered "do-it-yourselfers" for home and farm use.
- Drain the oil or transmission fluid into a suitable container. The container capacity should be no larger than 5 gallons. The cooperative can also accept oil in 30-50 gallon drums as long as the containers are properly sealed.
- Important to remember...Do not mix the oil with other liquids such as antifreeze, gasoline, paint thinner, brake fluid or water.

If you have questions about the program, contact EnerStar Mike Clark at 1-800-635-4145, extension 616 or e-mail him at mclark@enerstar.com.



Useful Booklet Available from EnerStar Power

Your Family Is Unique



Has your electric bill ever caught you off guard? Have you ever wondered how to estimate your energy usage and cost? If so, the booklet *Your Family is Unique* could be just what you've been looking for.

Your Family is Unique is an eight-page booklet that includes:

- Tips on how to save energy
- Plans for vacation and seasonal usage
- An appliance energy usage guide.
- A formula to estimate the cost of your family's energy usage
- "Did you know" facts about appliances, such as water pumps
- "Try this and save" tips for cheap household maintenance ideas that can save you money
- Answers to questions such as "Why is my electric bill higher than my neighbor's?" and "Is the meter accurate?"

"The *Your Family is Unique* publication has been around for years,

but it recently received a major renovation. It will continue to be a great tool for us to give to our members who are concerned about their electric usage," says Tim Haddix, Systems Energy and Energy Advisor at EnerStar Power. Updates to the book include newer household gadgets, such as cell phones and plasma televisions.

Some people aren't aware of just how much energy their family uses in a month. Things like phantom loads, appliances that consume small amounts of electricity even when turned off, and hot water usage are some of the surprising causes of high electric bills.

"Often times the member thinks the meter is inaccurate and that they can't possibly be using that much electricity. This publication helps them realize that they may be using more than they think," Haddix says.

To receive an updated *Your Family is Unique* booklet, contact Haddix at (800) 635-4145, extension 617, or visit the cooperative's Web site at www.enerstar.com.

Home Electrical Fire Protection

Home renovations add value, and they also present a prime opportunity for an investment to improve a home's electrical safety. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is urging consumers to install arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) during renovations to protect circuits throughout the home.

AFCIs are electrical safety devices designed to prevent fires caused by dangerous electrical arcs. Arc faults are one of the major causes of the 73,500 residential electrical fires that occur each year.

"Use of new AFCI technology could prevent 50 to 75 percent of these fires, saving hundreds of lives, reducing thousands of injuries and nearly \$1 billion in property damage annually," noted Anne Mayberry, ESFI program manager.

Arc faults do not necessarily create a sustained short circuit that causes a traditional circuit breaker to trip or a fuse to blow, but can result in hot spots in wiring that can lead to a fire. AFCIs recognize the unique signature of harmful arcs and shut off the circuit to prevent a fire hazard.

Arcs can occur along the circuit in residential electrical systems and at outlets and switches, behind walls. Hidden electrical fires can spread rapidly, delaying detection by smoke alarms, reducing the chances of survival. Conditions that trigger arc faults include:

- Damaged wires from nails driven into walls;
- Cracked insulation on wires due to aging or stress;
- Frayed wires at stress points;
- Loose or improper connections, faulty electrical equipment; and
- Overheated electrical wires.

ESFI recommends having AFCIs installed on all general purpose circuits throughout the home, particularly in older homes where arcing hazards could have developed over several years.

For additional electrical safety information, visit the Foundation's Web site at www.electrical-safety.org or call 703-841-3229.



Smart Thermostats Save You Money

Looking for ways to save on your heating bill. Setting back your home's thermostat for eight hours when the house is unoccupied can save you 1 percent for every degree. But who needs one more thing to remember in the morning rush? And do you really want to come home to a cold house?

Try installing a smart thermostat. Smart thermostats can be set to turn down the heat at the time everyone leaves and turn it back up shortly before everyone returns. They can also be programmed to turn the heat down at night when everyone is snug in their beds and back up before everyone wakes up. The schedule can be set up differently for weekdays and weekends and some smart thermostats even have a vacation mode.

For more information on this and other ways to save energy contact your local electric cooperative, your local home center, or your local HVAC dealer.



EnerStar Power Corp

11597 IL Hwy 1 • Paris, Illinois 61944 • 217-463-4145

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Winter Weather Woes

Be prepared for ice storms and prolonged outages

As much of Illinois saw in November, blasts of winter wind, moisture and fluctuating temperatures can result in severe freezing rain, sleet and ice storms. A heavy build-up of



Mike Clark,
EnerStar Power Line
Superintendent

ice on power lines can cause wires to snap and utility poles to topple. Falling ice-laden trees or limbs can bring down power lines, cause outages and threaten life and property.

EnerStar Power and Safe Electricity stress the importance of being prepared for these potentially dangerous storms and the power outages they may cause.

"When severe weather hits, it can cause extensive damage to our substations, power lines and other electrical equipment. Even with our crews working around the clock, this damage can take days to repair. If the damage will cause long outages, we

can call on other electric cooperatives for help. We'll do everything it takes to restore your power quickly," says Mike Clark, EnerStar Power Line Superintendent.

Be prepared and know what to do in case of a winter emergency and long-term power outages:

- Always keep a battery-powered radio or TV, flashlights and a supply of fresh batteries readily available.
- Know where to find extra blankets.
- Fill spare containers with water for washing, and keep a supply of bottled drinking water on hand.
- Keep a supply of foods that don't require cooking or refrigeration, along with a hand opener for canned food.
- Switch off lights and appliances to prevent overloading circuits and damaging appliances when power is restored. Leave one lamp or switch on to signal when your power returns.
- To prevent water pipes from freezing, keep faucets turned on slightly so water drips from the tap.
- Keep all grills outdoors to stay safe from carbon monoxide.

• Assemble a disaster supply kit ahead of time. Remember to include a first aid kit, prescription medicines and special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.

• Stay inside and dress warmly in layered clothing.

• Close off unneeded rooms.

• When using an alternate heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards and be sure to properly ventilate.

• If you use a standby generator, make sure it has a transfer safety switch or that your power is cut off at the breaker box before you operate it. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines or what's known as "back feed."

Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.

• When outside, treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized electric lines. Stay away, warn others to stay away and immediately contact your utility.

For more detailed information and electrical safety tips, visit the Safe Electricity Web site www.SafeElectricity.org.

Careful Winter Driving - Stay In The Car!

Car Accidents and Power Lines

Snow and ice on roadways can lead to dangerous situations. If an unfortunate situation should occur that would lead to your car hitting a power pole or bringing a power line down there are important steps that you can take to avoid further danger.

Instincts can help us to avoid danger but in some situations, our natural inclinations can lead to tragic results. If your car hits a power line or otherwise brings a power line down, getting out of the vehicle, with a few exceptions, is the wrong thing to do until the line has been de-energized.

"You are almost always better off to stay in the car, especially if the line is in contact with the vehicle," says Tim Haddix, EnerStar's System

Engineer and Energy Advisor. "If the power line is still energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path for the electricity and electrocution is the tragic result.

It's best to wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off."

Haddix stated that the only exception would be if fire or other danger, like the smell of gasoline, is present. In that case, the proper action is to jump from the vehicle-not step-with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Jump clear, without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Shuffle

or hop to safety keeping both feet together as you leave the area. The voltage will diminish the farther out it is from the source. Stepping from

one voltage level to another allows the body to become a path for that electricity. A power line that has landed on the ground can still possibly cause the area near your car to be energized.

Accidents and fires involving electricity cause more than a thousand deaths and tens of thousands of injuries each year.

The vast majority could be prevented if people understood the dangers and steps they can take to be safe around electricity.



Tim Haddix,
EnerStar's System
Engineer and
Energy Advisor

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Annual Meeting And Board Election Information

EnerStar Annual Meeting Just Around the Corner

Through the years, EnerStar Power, like many electric cooperatives, has promoted the fact that rural electric cooperatives are owned by, controlled by, and exist to benefit the membership. The annual meeting offers an excellent opportunity to take part in the business of your member-owned cooperative.

That opportunity is just around the corner at the cooperative's upcoming 68th Annual Meeting of Members. The meeting will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. Members will want to come early for their pancake and sausage breakfast served by EnerStar employees from 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

It is the democratic control that affords you, the member, the privilege of attending the annual meeting and participating in the director elections. A director is a member just like you. He or she represents your district and is

your voice in the cooperative.

The EnerStar service territory is divided into nine Representative Districts. Representative districts are then assigned to one of three Voting Districts. Although the Representative Districts range in size, they contain approximately equal number of members. A description and map of the Representative Districts and Voting Districts is available on page 16c.

Via first-class mail, around February 23, 2007, members will receive an envelope containing all necessary voting documentation for the EnerStar board elections. The following items will be included: Official Notice, Voting Ballot, Ballot Envelope, and a Return Envelope.

Official Notice – This is the official announcement of the meeting as required by the bylaws. The notice

★ continued on page 16b

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2007

Mark Your Calendar

**Crestwood School
Paris, Illinois**

**Member Breakfast 7-9:30 a.m.
Member Registration 7-10:00 a.m.
Meeting Begins 10:00 a.m.**





✦ continued from page 16a

includes the meeting date, time, and location. It also contains election information and voting instructions. Members should carefully read these instructions to ensure their ballot is completed correctly and not voided due to incorrect completion. The notice will also include a brief candidate biography. The candidates are solely responsible for the content provided in the candidate biographical information.

Voting Ballot – At the 2007 Annual meeting, three representative districts are up for election to complete three-year terms. Ballots are color coded by Voting District. To properly complete a ballot, members should mark an “X” in the box. The two lines of the “X” must cross inside the box. **Members must not color in the box or use a check mark when voting.** The Election Inspectors are required to void any ballot incorrectly completed. The completed ballot should be placed inside the Ballot Envelope and sealed. Election Inspectors will open the ballot envelopes and count the ballots at the Annual Meeting. The Election Inspectors Committee consists of EnerStar members who are not current EnerStar employees or directors. Members’ voting preferences will remain anonymous. Election results will be announced at the close of the meeting after all business properly brought before the meeting has concluded.

Ballot Envelope - This envelope is smaller than the return envelope with the words “Ballot Envelope” clearly stated on the front. Completed ballots should be sealed inside this envelope. The ballot envelope

should be placed in the return envelope and sealed.

Return Envelope – The return envelope is the larger of the two envelopes. For the convenience of our members, the return envelope will be stamped and self-addressed to the attention of the Election Inspectors. **Members are required to sign the back of the return envelope where indicated.** This certification verifies that the member personally voted the enclosed ballot. If the account is a joint membership,

only one member is required to certify the ballot.

Members may return their ballots one of two ways. Return envelopes with ballots enclosed can be mailed or hand-delivered to the EnerStar office and must be received by **Friday, March 16, 2007**. Ballots received after that date will be null

and void. Return envelopes may also be brought to the Annual Meeting on **Saturday, March 17, 2007**.

Members with questions regarding the voting procedures should contact EnerStar’s Vicki Ewing at (217) 466-7601 or Angela Griffin at (217) 466-7603.

Because there are certain rules regarding voting procedures for the Annual Meeting of Members, it is important to remind members of their voting rights and responsibilities. The following points explain who can and cannot vote in the director election and at the annual meeting. By knowing these points, you can be assured your vote counts at the meeting.

- If only one person signed the

membership application, then only that person is allowed to vote. The membership belongs to the person who signed the membership application. This is known as a Single Membership. With this membership, only one name is printed on the billing statement.

- If a husband and wife both signed the membership application, then either party may cast one vote for that membership. This is known

as a Joint Membership. With this membership, both names are printed on the billing statement. Sometimes, a membership was taken out before the member was married. In that case, the new spouse may not vote for the membership. A single membership can easily be converted to a Joint Membership. If you would like to make this change, contact the EnerStar office prior to February 1, 2007, for details.

EnerStar EnerStar Power Corp
11597 IL Hwy 1, Paris, IL 61944
Telephone: (217) 463-4145
www.enerstar.com
February 23, 2007

**Saturday
March 17, 2007**
Member Registration 7-10:00
Member Breakfast 7-9:30
Meeting Begins 10:00

TO: All Members of EnerStar Power Corp
FROM: John R. Fell, Secretary - Treasurer
SUBJECT: 2007 Notice of Annual Meeting of Members and Election for Director Districts

Notice is hereby given that the 68th Annual Meeting of EnerStar Power Corp will be held at Crestwood School, located at the east edge of Paris on Route 150, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 17, 2007.

Business to be conducted at this meeting includes the presentation of the fiscal reports, the election of three directors for three year terms, and the transaction of such other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Voting Instructions: We have enclosed your ballot for the 2007 election. Please follow these instructions to ensure that your ballots are valid and will be counted:

1. Mark your ballot by making an “X” in the box by the name of the one candidate of your choice. The two lines of the “X” must cross inside the box.
2. If you have a joint membership, the ballot may be voted by either member.
3. Place your marked ballot in the envelope labeled “Secret Ballot Envelope” and seal it.
4. Place the Secret Ballot Envelope in the Ballot Return Envelope in order for your ballot to be counted.
5. You must then sign the certification on the Ballot Return Envelope.
6. Seal and mail the return envelope, which needs no postage.
7. Return envelopes with ballots enclosed may be mailed or hand-delivered to the EnerStar office and must be received by Friday, March 16, 2007. Ballots received after that date will be null and void. Ballots may also be brought to the Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 17, 2007 at Crestwood School, Paris, IL.

Please do not use the Ballot Return Envelope for any purpose other than the return of your ballots. If you vote on behalf of more than one membership, each set of ballots must be returned in a separate Ballot Envelope and certified separately.

The ballots will be counted by the Election Inspectors and the election results announced at the Annual Meeting on March 17, 2007.

We have enclosed brief biographical sketches of the candidates running for the election.

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

INSERT THE SECRET BALLOT ENVELOPE INTO THIS RETURN ENVELOPE

Return envelopes with ballots enclosed can be mailed or hand-delivered to the EnerStar office and must be received by Friday, March 16, 2007.
Return envelopes may also be brought to the Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 17, 2007, at Crestwood School, Paris, Illinois.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that as a member of EnerStar Power Corp I have personally voted the enclosed ballot for the 2007 Director Election

FROM: _____
(Void if not signed by member, or at least one member if a shared membership is held.)

Your voting preference will remain anonymous.

DO NOT INCLUDE PAYMENTS OR OTHER CORRESPONDENCE IN THIS ENVELOPE.

Knowing How To Vote

- If you pay your landlord for the electrical usage at a location and the landlord's name is on the bill, you are not able to vote for that location. The membership belongs to the landlord, who would vote this membership.
- If you have power of attorney for a member, you may vote that membership as long as the form is on file

at the cooperative office.

If you have any further questions regarding your membership status, please contact the EnerStar office at (217) 463-4145 or (800) 635-4145 during normal business hours. We will be more than happy to assist you with any questions you may have regarding your account.

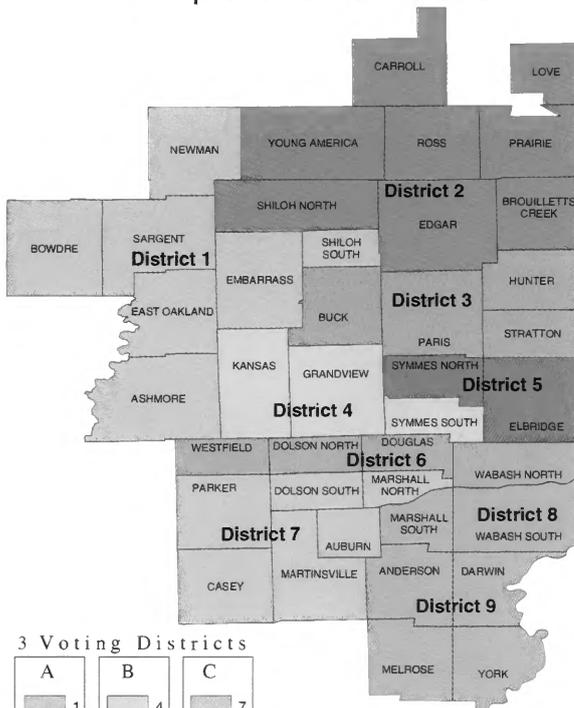
Remember, members can vote by mail, but ballots must be received in our office no later than Friday, March 16, 2007. Otherwise, bring your voting ballot with you to the Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, March 17, 2007!

Member News

VOTING

Three director positions are open for election at the forthcoming 68th Annual Meeting of Members. All positions are for three-year terms. If you have questions regarding in which voting and representative district you are located, contact an EnerStar Members Accounts Representative at 800-635-4145 during normal business hours.

Enerstar Power Corp 9 Representative Districts



Voting Districts A, B, and C each contain three Representative Districts in shades of red, green, and blue, respectively.



Voting District A Representative District 3 currently served by Dale English

The Townships of Buck, Paris, Hunter, and Stratton in Edgar County, Illinois.



Voting District B Representative District 6 currently served by David Sprigg

The Townships of Westfield and Douglas in Clark County, Illinois; all that portion of the Township of Dolson lying north of the 2000th Road in Clark County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Wabash lying north of Interstate Highway 70 in Clark County, Illinois.



Voting District C Representative District 8 currently served by Don Baggs

All that portion of the Township of Wabash lying south of Interstate Highway 70 in Clark County, Illinois.



December Ice Storm Hits Illinois

Below is recap of how EnerStar was spared during the December 1, 2006, ice storm and how the cooperative helped another cooperative in need.

Storm Causes Some Headaches for EnerStar

The employees of EnerStar Power breathed a collective sigh of relief on the morning of December 1. The cooperative was spared the ice and snow that left hundreds of thousands of people without power throughout Missouri and Illinois.

While not hit directly by the ice storm, EnerStar did experience outages that Friday morning. Ameren, which owns the transmission power lines that serve the cooperative's substations, was down resulting in power outages in the cooperative's southern area. Three EnerStar substations, known as the Marshall substation, the Ferrell substation and West Union substation, were left without power around 4:00 am. The outage affected approximately 2,180 members.

"Though the cause of the power outages was an Ameren transmission issue, Enerstar jumped right in to help them. We dispatched crews as a preventative measure to patrol the cooperative power lines. "That way, we knew that when Ameren did restore power, we would know where EnerStar had problems, if any," said Mike Clark, EnerStar's Line Superintendent.

Due to the severity of the ice storm on the western side of the state, most Ameren crews had already been dispatched throughout the state. When it became apparent Ameren would not restore power as quickly as anticipated, EnerStar employees began "backfeeding" the three substations.

"Backfeeding is where a substation experiencing an outage is physically tied to another substation with power," said Clark. "By feeding power from a different source, the cooperative can significantly reduce members' outage times long before the problem has been resolved. Otherwise, members would have to wait

it out." Power was restored to the three EnerStar substations by 11:00 a.m. and all individual outages were restored by the end of the work day

Mutual Aid Assistance Provided During Ice Storm

EnerStar sent two linemen to aid a sister co-op experiencing major outages due to the ice storm. Journeyman Linemen Keith Borchers and Scott Newlin aided Shelby Electric Cooperative in Shelbyville over six days.

Cooperation among cooperatives is one of the core principles that EnerStar Power was founded on. "Our linemen are very dedicated to keeping the lights on for our members, and they understand how important it is to have extra help during this kind of storm. Keith and Scott were happy to help fellow cooperative linemen get power restored to their members. And we're happy to



After the December 1st ice storm, conditions were brutal. A thick blanket of ice covered the power lines.

know that if a similar disaster strikes our area, other cooperatives will send crews to help us as well. It's just another benefit of being a cooperative," said Clark.



Journeyman Linemen Scott Newlin (left) and Keith Borchers (right) aided Shelby Electric in Shelbyville during the December 1st ice storm.

Find It On The Web

In our last newsletter, we discussed “Cooperative Cooperation Among Cooperatives” being a founding principle observed by all cooperatives. A great site that demonstrates this alliance while providing valuable information for our members can be found at www.IECouncil.org. The site is packed full of energy-saving tips found under the Consumer Information section.

The Illinois Electric Council is a not-for-profit corporation guided by bylaws formulated by member organizations. Illinois Electric co-

operatives, investor-owned utilities and municipalities, with assistance from the University of Illinois, con-

tribute principal funding support for Council activities.

So check it out on the Web!

The screenshot shows the IEC Council website interface. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: IEC Home, Events, News, Consumer Information, Activities, About IEC, IEC Directory, Safety, and Contact Us. On the right, under the heading 'General Information', there are several links: Understanding Your Electric Bill, What is Energy Star?, What are Substations?, 4-H Electricity Exhibit Suggestions, and 4-H Judging Criteria. The background of the website features a large image of a power transmission tower against a dark sky.

Cooperative Takes Advantage Of Online Training

Maintaining our valuable assets is important to any business. And one of the cooperative's most important assets is its knowledgeable and highly trained staff. To keep up on current industry trends, employees can attend web conferences for training purposes.

“Web conferences have been a real benefit to the cooperative,” said Angela Griffin, EnerStar's Manager of Member Services. “The topics are often very relevant and timely because the conferences can be put together quickly.” She added that when those benefits are added to the fact that there is no travel time and it is not necessary for an employee to be out of the office, it is a win-win situation.

To attend a Web conference, employees do not even leave their desks. Videos and slides are on the employee's computer screen while the audio is provided via the telephone line. Participants can ask the moderators' questions either over the telephone or via an e-mail message.

Another unique option to Web conferencing is the polling option. “You can get immediate feedback about other co-ops' procedures or whether they intend to implement a program,” said Griffin. She added that she could also see which counterparts from other cooperatives attended in order to follow up with them later about a particular topic.

“It's amazing all the relevant topics available,” added Griffin. “And the topics benefit employees in all departments.” For example, in December, Griffin sat in on a Web conference to learn more about the booming ethanol industry. EnerStar Member Accounts employees, Susan Watson and Jennifer Martin, along with Office Manager Jane Brazelton, recently learned more about the cooperative's billing system during a Web conference. Topics



EnerStar's Angela Griffin attends a training session via a web conference.

include system design, emergency planning, employee benefits and much, much more.

Your local electric cooperative is committed to offering the best possible customer service and a reliable electric system. Training through Web conferences is just one more way we can accomplish that goal. We do it for you, the members.



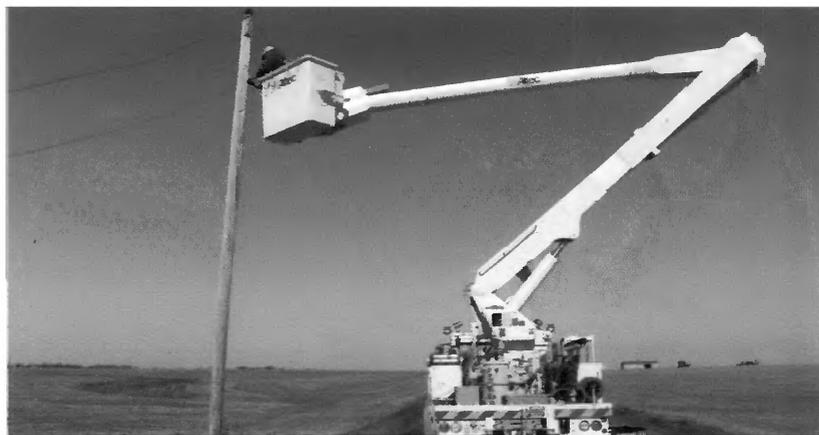
Line Upgrade Will Improve Reliability

EnerStar Power, your locally-owned and locally-controlled electric cooperative, is committed to maintaining a highly reliable electric system. At any one time, the cooperative may have several system improvement projects underway, like the line upgrade in the Kansas area that is currently under construction.

In an area north of Illinois Route 16 highway and just east of Kansas, EnerStar is improving system reliability in two ways. First, the cooperative created a half-mile "tie line" between the Paris substation and the Kansas substation.

"In the event of a major problem with the Kansas substation or the transmission line that feeds it, the new line can be used to back-feed a portion of the Kansas load," said Mike Clark. "We can feed power from either substation. If necessary, we can reduce outage times in this area."

In addition, six miles of new conductor and poles are being upgraded in the area. The poles and conductor being replaced are original lines, dating back to the 1940s. "This



will allow the cooperative to feed a new load, Crop Max near Kansas, from our Paris substation instead of the Kansas substation," said Clark. He added that the load on the Kansas substation has grown significantly with since the Mill Creek area has been developed and the new tie line will help relieve some of the "growing pains" in the area.

EnerStar Power serves over 5,200 member-owners over 1,520 miles of line. That's only about 3.5 accounts for each mile of line. And we are committed to making our electric system as reliable as possible.



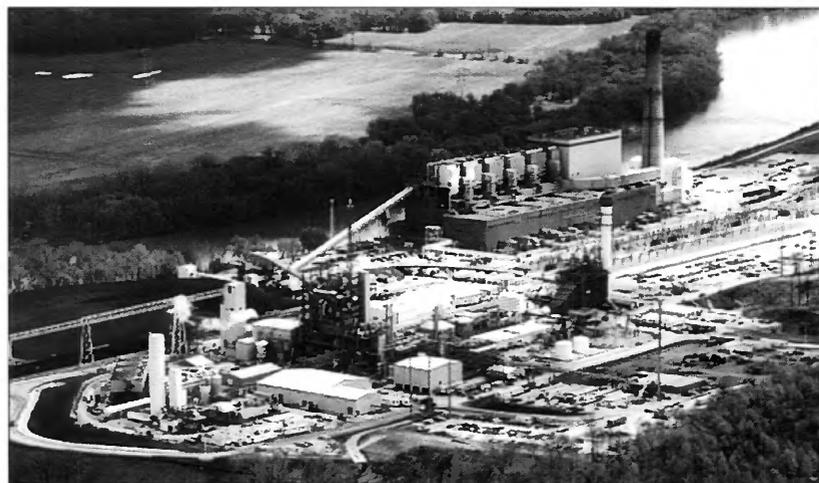
Journeymen Chad Cornwell (left) and Keith Borchers (right) set hardware on a new pole on the Kansas line.

WVPA Purchases Generation Along Wabash River Plant Operates On Gas Produced From Coal Gasification Process

Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA) has purchased one unit of the Wabash River Power Station in West Terre Haute, Indiana, from Duke Energy Indiana. The purchase includes the 192-megawatt gas turbine and 100-megawatt steam turbine. WVPA provides all wholesale power to EnerStar Power.

Unit 1 was one of the nation's first demonstrations of using coal gasification to produce electricity. The facility produces electricity using synthetic gas from an adjacent coal gasification plant that is owned by sgSolutions, a subsidiary of WVPA. When the synthetic gas is unavailable, the unit can also run on natural gas.

"Wabash Valley Power Association has enjoyed a long history



of partnerships with Duke Energy Indiana," said Wabash Valley CEO Rick Coons. "We see this acquisition as a continued growth of that

relationship, while also satisfying the growing energy needs of our membership."

★Continued on next page

★Continued from previous page

The purchase is part of WVPA's long-term strategy to own a larger percentage of its sources of electric generation. "By owning more of our generation, we can provide a more reliable source of electricity to our member cooperatives and provide more stable pricing," Coons added.

The sale must be approved by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice. These approvals are antici-

pated by mid-2007.

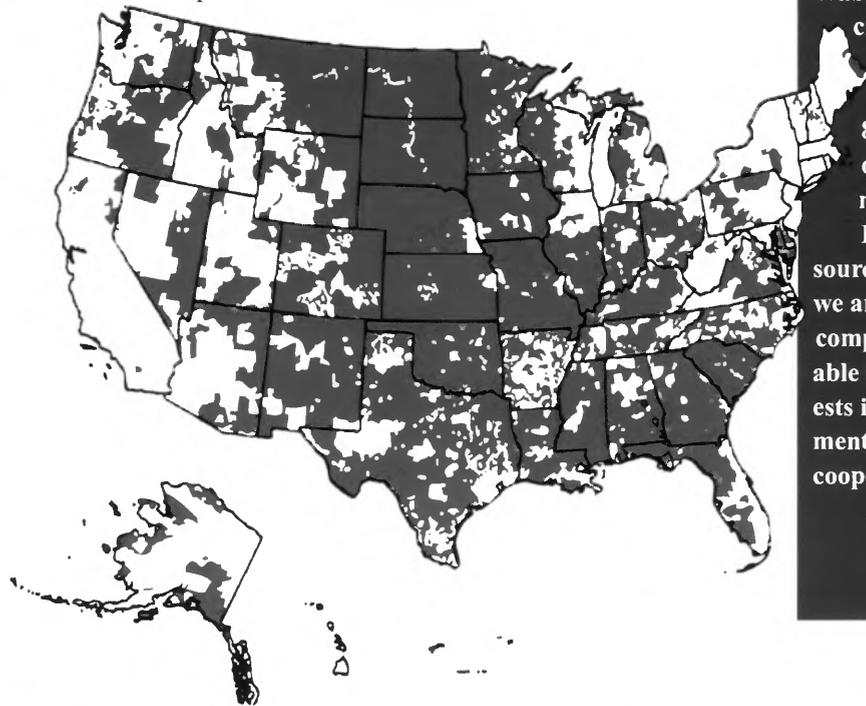
Wabash Valley Power Association is a generation and transmission cooperative based in Indianapolis that provides wholesale electricity to 28 distribution systems and their more than 800,000 retail customers in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Missouri. In achieving its corporate goal of low-cost wholesale supply for its members, Wabash Valley manages a diverse mix of power supply options, including both plant ownership and wholesale market purchases.

Co-ops Are Nation's Largest Network

America's electric cooperatives deliver electric power and energy solutions to more than 37 million members in 47 states every day.

Electric cooperatives like EnerStar Power are local, member-owned utilities. Local management and directors make cooperative

decisions. And when power outages occur, crews are dispatched from a local office. Together, electric cooperative service territories comprise the largest utility network in the nation, as shown on the map below in green.



Membership Is Ownership

EnerStar Power is a cooperatively-owned electric utility. That means the people who receive their electricity from us are more than just customers, they're member-owners.

As owners of the cooperative, you are entitled to the benefits that cooperatives offer, such as our not-for-profit business structure, local control and decision-making, strength in numbers and a democratically elected board of directors who are members themselves.

EnerStar serves more than 5,200 electric meters in east, central Illinois. We belong to Wabash Valley Power Association, a generation and transmission cooperative, which serves more than 800,000 members throughout the Midwest and 37 million across the country.

By pooling member resources locally and nationally, we are able to offer the stable, competitive rates. We are also able to represent member interests in local and state government, ensuring that the electric cooperative voice is heard.

Mission Statement

EnerStar Power exists to reliably distribute affordable electricity to its member-owners while upholding our values of integrity, accountability, and commitment to our community.



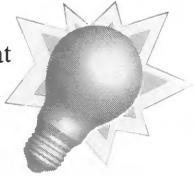
11597 IL Hwy 1 • Paris, Illinois 61944 • 217-463-4145 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M-F



Q & A Why Do My Lights Blink?

We know that blinking lights are annoying. The reason your lights blink is that something has happened to short circuit the power line. Special devices installed on the lines called reclosers, click off and then back on again quickly if the short circuit is temporary, like if a tree branch hits the line. That short interruption of power when the recloser shuts off is when your lights blink. If the recloser wasn't present on the line, your power would be off until the co-op could send out linemen to restore it.

So the next time you have to reset your digital clocks, remember that it means your co-op's electric system is operating properly, and that short blink saved you from a longer outage.



Winter Flooding More problems than just a wet basement

This time of year we are often focused on winter storms and frigid temperatures but flooding from winter weather can also create havoc.

EnerStar Power and Safe Electricity remind everyone to be alert to electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water, along with other potential hazards that create a serious danger of electrocution. Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carry safety risks.

Safety measures to keep in mind include:

- Never step into a flooded basement or other room if water may be in contact with electrical outlets, appliances or cords.
- Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can't reach your breaker box safely, call EnerStar at 800-635-4145 to shut off power at the meter.
- Never use electric appliances or touch electric wires, switches or fuses when you're wet or when you're standing in water.
- Keep electric tools and equipment



at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces.

- If an electrical appliance has been in contact with water, have a professional check it out before it is used.
- GFCIs are recommended for outlets near wet areas of the home such as kitchen, bath and laundry room as well as outdoor outlets. These outlets quickly cut off power when there's a problem.

For more information on electrical safety visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Common Energy Myth

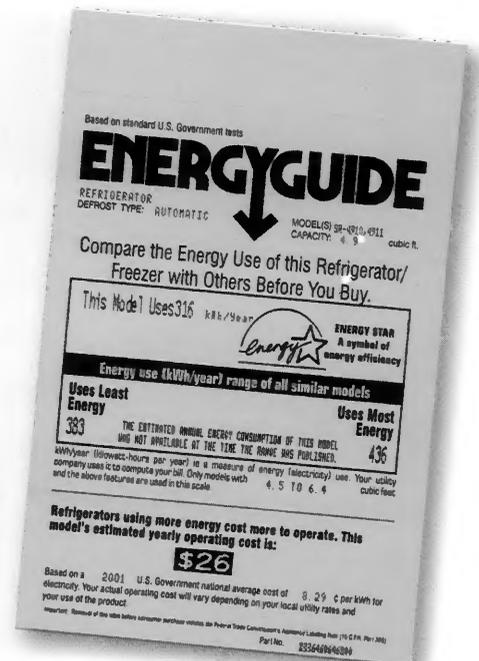
“A less expensive appliance is always a bargain.”

That is the myth, but the truth could be to the contrary. An inexpensively priced appliance saves you money at the time of purchase, but could end up costing you in the end.

Consider this example: an energy-efficient appliance might cost \$200 more than a less efficient model. But if it can result in a savings of

\$100 per year, the extra expense will pay for itself in just two years.

Use the Department of Energy's yellow “Energy Guide” label to compare appliance efficiencies. The label plainly illustrates where an appliances operating cost lies in comparison to similar models.



EnerStar[®] HomePage

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

www.enerstar.com

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Mark your calendars and join us for the

68th Annual Meeting of Members

**Saturday
March 17, 2007**

7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Enjoy a pancake and sausage breakfast served by EnerStar employees

7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Member Registration

10:00 a.m.

Business Session

EnerStar Power – locally owned and community focused!

Grand prize awards

**2 - \$100 &
1 - \$200
Energy Credits**

Plus Much More!

Many door awards and cash prizes!





Director candidate profiles

The biographical information for these candidates has been provided by the candidates who are solely responsible for the content.

Representative District 3

Candidate for Voting District A

Dale Edward English



Dale English, candidate for District 3, has farmed for the past 30 years in the Redmon area. A 1970 graduate of Paris High School, English received a B.S. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Illinois in 1974. After working for Farm Credit for three years, he returned to the family farm and grain elevator in 1977.

Dale has been a director of the Citizens National Bank for 18 years. He has been Supervisor of Buck Township for the past 13 years, and serves as treasurer and elder of the Redmon Christian Church.

As chairman of the Edgar County Ambulance Board, he is proud that we now have a paramedic in each ambulance—especially important in our rural areas. English has been active in the Edgar County Shrine Club since 1980 and served as club president in 1993.

“I would like to see the cooperative continue to focus on its main purpose of providing electricity to its members at the lowest possible cost.”

Dale and his wife, Jan, have been married 25 years and have two children and five grandchildren. They enjoy spending time with their family, golfing and traveling, when not farming.

Representative District 6

Candidate for Voting District B

David G. Sprigg



David and his family have resided in rural Clark County for the past 10 years. He grew up in central Missouri, graduating from Boonville High School in 1974. He then attended college at the University of Missouri and then Tarkio College. He received his B.A. in management and marketing. For the past 15 years, David has been engaged in commercial lending and business banking in the Wabash Valley area and is employed with Citizens Bank of Paris as Vice President of Business Banking.

David has been actively involved in the community for many years and currently serves on the board of directors for Enerstar in Paris and the local chapter of

the Emmaus Community. He has served in leadership at First Christian Church of Marshall for the past several years and continues to be actively involved in teaching and other ministries. Before moving to Marshall, David helped initiate an economic development group in Sullivan County called SUCCEED and served as its president.

David and his family strongly believe that we all must do our part, giving back to the community that gives us so much to be thankful for. It is for this reason that he would like to continue to serve the community as its District 6 representative for the Enerstar board.

In his free time, David enjoys fishing, boating and outdoor activities. He and his wife, Paula, have one son at home, Caleb.



Mission statement

EnerStar Power exists to reliably distribute affordable electricity to its member-owners while upholding our values of integrity, accountability, and commitment to our community.

Representative District 8

Candidate for Voting District C

Donald Baggs



Donald Baggs is the incumbent candidate for District 8, which is included in the C voting district. A life-long resident of Clark County, he resides on a small farm southeast of Marshall with Portia, his wife of 41 years.

Don retired from Cinergy's Wabash River Generating Station after nearly 36 years of service where he was involved in the generation and transmission of electricity. He believes this past experience has helped his decision making to better serve all of Enerstar's members by helping keeping rates as low as possible, improving system reliability and trying to reduce debt.

Don is currently the president of Marshall Fire and Ambulance Protection District, a member of Marshall Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite Valley of Danville, and Clark County Farm Bureau. He is also Enerstar's representative to the Wabash Valley Power Association and Clear Talk Board of Directors.

Since being elected he has attended classes and been certified by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) as a Credentialed Cooperative Director.

Don would like to thank the Enerstar employees and members for the help given and the trust shown in his ability to serve them.

Locally Owned and Operated

When you hear the word local, think of your electric cooperative, EnerStar Power. The fact that we are a locally owned company, owned by the members we serve, keeps us focused on your needs and local priorities.

Because electric co-ops are so closely linked to their communities, there are countless examples of activities that have the "co-op touch:" conducting safety programs at schools; donating books to local libraries; working with community organizations to get new businesses started; participating with civic groups in developing and improving community programs. The list goes on and on.

It is precisely because EnerStar is a local business, staffed by local professionals, which puts it in a good position to listen and respond to your needs. Helping consumers save energy, economic development, and



volunteerism indicate that EnerStar and its staff are more than just an electric utility. They are an integral part of the community. That's why electric co-ops will continue to do everything they can to improve the quality of life in your community.

EnerStar is a company that cares about the people it serves. Service

means not only making sure the electricity is flowing but also making sure that the community and its citizens are thriving and prospering. Service means helping friends and neighbors on a day-to-day basis. That is what it is all about, and that is the electric co-op tradition.



EnerStar Can Help You Dispose of Used Oil

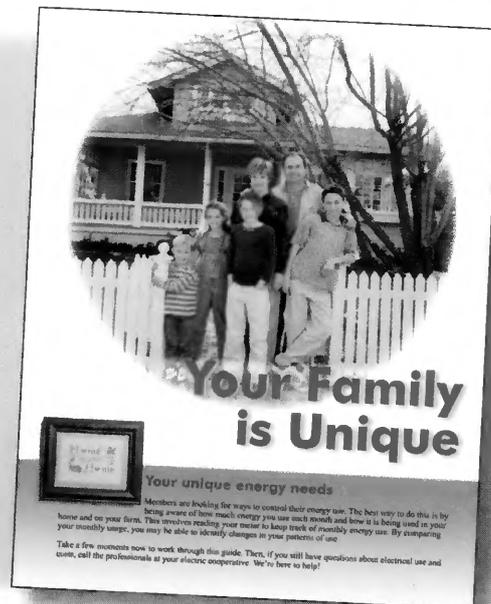
- EnerStar will collect used oil on the first Monday of each month or by appointment during normal business hours.
- Service available to residential members who are considered "do-it-yourselfers" for home and farm use.
- Drain the oil or transmission fluid into a suitable container. The container capacity should be no larger than 5 gallons. The cooperative can also accept oil in 30-50 gallon drums as long as the containers are properly sealed.
- Do not mix the oil with other liquids such as antifreeze, gasoline, paint thinner, brake fluid or water.

If you have questions about the program, contact EnerStar Mike Clark at 1-800-635-4145, extension 616 or e-mail him at mclark@enerstar.com.



Useful Booklet Available from EnerStar Power

Your Family Is Unique



Has your electric bill ever caught you off guard? Have you ever wondered how to estimate your energy usage and cost? If so, the booklet *Your Family is Unique* could be just what you've been looking for.

Your Family is Unique is an eight-page booklet that includes:

- Tips on how to save energy
- Plans for vacation and seasonal usage
- An appliance energy usage guide
- A formula to estimate the cost of your family's energy usage
- "Did you know" facts about appliances, such as water pumps
- "Try this and save" tips for cheap household maintenance ideas that can save you money
- Answers to questions such as "Why is my electric bill higher than my neighbor's?" and "Is the meter accurate?"

"The *Your Family is Unique* publication has been around for years, but it recently received a major

renovation. It will continue to be a great tool for us to give to our members who are concerned about their electric usage," says Tim Haddix, System Engineer and Energy Advisor at EnerStar Power. Updates to the book include newer household gadgets, such as cell phones and plasma televisions.

Some people aren't aware of just how much energy their family uses in a month. Things like phantom loads, appliances that consume small amounts of electricity even when turned off, and hot water usage are some of the surprising causes of high electric bills.

"Often times the member thinks the meter is inaccurate and that they can't possibly be using that much electricity. This publication helps them realize that they may be using more than they think," Haddix says.

To receive an updated *Your Family is Unique* booklet, contact Haddix at (800) 635-4145, extension 617, or visit the cooperative's Web site at www.enerstar.com.

Electricity Theft and Vandalism – Illegal and Unsafe

Meters are sealed for your protection

Theft involving electricity is a problem all electric utilities face. It is not isolated to rural areas or to big cities but a problem across the country. It has been estimated that electricity theft costs American utilities \$3 million a day. Since EnerStar is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative, electricity theft directly affects you.

But more important than the financial aspects of this problem, tampering with electric meters to divert power can lead to dangerous – even deadly – consequences. Energy is flowing through the meter. When a meter is tampered with by someone other than an electric utility professional, the result can be a fire, explosion or even electrocution. Please understand that it is extremely dangerous for anyone other than a trained EnerStar Power



employee or an authorized contractor of the cooperative to break a meter seal or reconnect a meter.

The cooperative takes the act of meter tampering seriously. It is illegal under Illinois law and violates electrical codes.

Keeping power safe and af-

fordable is a priority for EnerStar. That is why we routinely inspect cooperative meters and equipment, to ensure we are doing our best to protect you from the risks of electricity theft. That includes making sure all meters are properly sealed. We take a proactive approach to this serious problem, eliminating theft and reducing related costs.

You can also play a role in this process by immediately notifying us if you suspect someone is gaining access to our power supply without paying his or her fair share. If you have information related to electricity or materials theft, please call us at 1-217-463-4145 or toll free at 1-800-635-4145. Rest assured, we'll keep your name anonymous.

Because you share in the ownership of EnerStar, when people steal from the cooperative, they're stealing from you, too!

Energy Tax Credits Update

Effective December 20, 2006, President Bush signed a bill that extends federal tax credits for certain renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. The consumer energy-efficiency credits for tax years 2006 and 2007, however, were not extended in the recent law. Therefore, you have only one year of eligibility left to get federal income tax credits for specific energy-efficiency upgrades to your home. There is up to \$500 available per household for upgrading doors, windows, roofing, insulation and heating/cooling equipment.

Ronnie Kweiler, a spokeswoman for the Alliance to Save Energy, urges taking advantage of the credits while they are still available. When it comes to home improvements, it is wise to schedule your work as early as possible, to help avoid delays.

(Continued on page 16g)



(Continued from page 16f)

Electricity production

The 2006 legislation did extend the production tax credit through December 31, 2008, for electricity produced from wind power, geothermal power, biomass, landfill gas, small irrigation power, incremental hydropower, and trash combustion facilities. It also provides a similar one-year tax credit extension for new properties that produce geothermal power or make use of solar energy:

- Homeowners that purchase solar water heating, solar photovoltaic, or fuel cell systems
- Businesses that purchase fiber-optic lighting systems, solar energy systems or fuel cell power plants for new energy efficient homes
- Energy-efficiency improvements to commercial buildings

For more information on energy tax credits, or to see if a recent home

improvement or new construction is eligible, visit the following Web sites:

Alliance to Save Energy: www.ase.org. Visit the consumer section.

IRS for homeowners and builders: www.irs.gov. Visit the newsroom.

Tax Incentives Assistance: www.energytaxincentives.org

Source: NRECA, U.S. Department of Energy, Alliance to Save Energy

Co-ops Learn How To Work With FEMA On Disaster Assistance

A workshop was held by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) January 31 to help electric co-op officials better understand how to work with FEMA to obtain federal disaster assistance.

"Many of our co-ops were severely stressed during this winter's ice storms," said Duane Noland, President/CEO of the AIEC. "I was out of power myself for nearly five days. An ice storm like this is our version of a hurricane. But the electric co-op employees in Illinois and the co-op employees that came to help from other states did a heroic job of rebuilding miles and miles of line. Now our staff is working closely with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and together we hope this process for FEMA assistance continues to move forward."

Noland said the electric co-ops of Illinois maintain 34 percent of the state's electric distribution lines, but only serve 5 percent of the state's consumers. The financial burden of an ice storm can be devastating to member-owned electric co-ops, he said.

In January, Governor Rod Blagojevich asked President Bush for federal assistance for 26 counties hit hard by



Mike Clark (left) and Rita McClarey (center) attended a FEMA disaster assistance workshop hosted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) in Springfield. During the course they met with AIEC President/CEO Duane Noland (right).

the December ice storm. The Federal disaster declaration will help state and local governments, municipal-owned utilities and member-owned electric co-ops with storm-related costs.

Eleven Illinois electric co-ops were hit by the winter ice storm and suffered an estimated total \$8 million in damages. Overall the areas affected suffered an estimated \$19.5 million in damages.

"We're still dealing with the effects of the ice storm that knocked out power for up to a week in many areas," Gov. Blagojevich said. "In fact, in less than a year, communities across our state have dealt with tornadoes, thunderstorms, flooding and record snowfalls. I'm hoping the federal government takes all of this into account as they review our request."



Sealing Little Leaks Adds Up To Big Savings

There are probably a lot of tiny leaks in your home that are virtually invisible – except when it comes to your utility bill. You may not notice the air slipping through those leaks, except maybe on an extremely cold day like we had in early February, but they could suck up as much as 30 percent of your heating and cooling costs.

“These tiny leaks show up in a variety of places. You may find them between your walls and windows, around your light fixtures, or next to tub drains,” says Tim Haddix, System Engineer and Energy Advisor at EnerStar Power. “While none of them are very large, they add up to a big loss of air.” Haddix added that during the winter months these leaks allow your heated air to sneak out and bring cold outside air into the house and they’re often the cause of those drafts you can feel but can’t seem to find.



There are three steps involved in making your home more energy efficient – sealing it, insulating it and equipping it with the right appliances.

“The cost also goes beyond your monthly energy bills,” said Haddix. “Leaks in your home force your heating and cooling system to work harder than they should, which may lead to repairs or shorten their useful life.”

There are three steps involved in making your home more energy ef-

ficient – sealing it, insulating it and equipping it with the right appliances. Of the three, sealing is the most critical, because good insulation and top-quality equipment can’t compensate for drafts and air loss from poor sealing.

Common sources of leaks are places where electric and plumbing lines go through walls and ceilings; joints between floors, walls and ceilings; light fixtures mounted in the ceil-

ing; attic doors; chimneys; and warm air registers. Sealing those leaks is not particularly expensive or difficult. All you need is a little time and widely available products such as caulk, insulating foam and weatherstripping.

EnerStar Power reminds you that when the weather warms up again, it’s time to fix those leaks! Put it on your spring “to do” list!



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A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

www.enerstar.com

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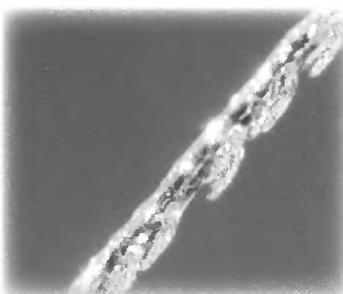
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Energy efficiency information



Ice on the power lines...it could have been a lot worse but it still caused headaches for EnerStar employees and members left without power.

February 14 Ice Storm Update

Did you know weather creates havoc on electric systems? We guessed you probably already knew that! This winter, it seems the television news and the newspaper headlines have been a constant reminder of how severe weather and heavy ice create problems for both the electric companies and their customers.

A February 14 winter storm that hit the EnerStar service area created some havoc for the cooperative but things could have been much worse. Blasts of winter wind, precipitation and fluctuating temperatures resulted in a mix of freezing rain, sleet and snow.

"It seems we had a little bit of everything but it could have been much worse," said Mike Clark, EnerStar Line Superintendent. Even before the storm began, EnerStar was warning members that the potential for extended outages was present and encouraged members to use extreme caution during the storm.

Clark explained that heavy build-up of ice on power lines can cause wires to snap and utility poles to topple. Falling ice-laden trees and limbs can bring down power lines and cause outages.

"A lot of credit needs to go to the EnerStar employees," Clark said. "Our outside line crews worked diligently throughout the night in the cold and wind to get the power on as quickly as possible for our members. And our office personnel did a great job too." He added that the employees really appreciated the many notes and words



It may look like the frozen tundra of Alaska but EnerStar Journeyman Linemen Dana Young (on ground) and Keith Borchers (in bucket) work diligently in extreme cold temperatures and high winds to restore power north of the Dudley area.

of encouragement received from cooperative members.

Clark explained that winter storm outages are very difficult to repair quickly. While the cooperative did not

continued on page 16b



continued from page 16a

have many outages, the outages the co-op had were difficult to get to. "Many of the rural roads in the areas EnerStar serves were covered with ice and snow," said Clark. "Travel was dangerous and even EnerStar's large trucks were having trouble getting through the snow."

Clark was very thankful for the county road commissioners and members who helped the cooperative during the storm. "Sometimes it was the road commissioners having to plow the roads again so we could get down them. Sometimes it was members using tractors to pull our trucks out," said Clark. "We want everyone to know that we really appreciate everything and everyone who helped out."

Clark believes EnerStar's right-of-way clearing activities over the

last couple of years played an important role in reducing the number of outages during the storm. "Heavy ice often causes tree limbs to hang over the line, and the result is a power outage," said Clark. "Trees growing too close to power lines are the primary cause of short circuits and blinking lights. Add snow and ice into the equation and those tree limbs are likely to knock power out completely. This may not only cause a power outage for you but may affect hundreds of members on down the line from you." He emphasized members should take advantage of the cooperative's Trade-a-Tree program to replace trees growing under power lines.

EnerStar stresses the importance of being prepared for extended power outages. Having the right supplies

and knowing how to stay warm safely are keys to weathering a storm emergency whenever an extended outage occurs. For more information on getting your family prepared, read the story below.

Safety during an extended outage is critical. You should treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized electric lines. Stay away, warn others to stay away and contact the cooperative immediately.

If you use a generator during an extended outage, it is critical that you make sure your generator is properly installed. Improper installation or use could be dangerous to you and threaten the lives of your family, friends, neighbors and electric utility crews trying to restore service. See pages 16f and 16g for more information on generator safety.

Be Prepared for Extended Outages

Through rain and wind and snow and ice, EnerStar Power strives to keep the power on for every home and business in our community. But sometimes, weather conditions can cause our members to lose power.

Although EnerStar works as quickly as possible to get the lights back on, there are some steps you can take before, during and after an outage to make it easier to cope. The key is being prepared. Be sure to plan for these fundamental needs. Check these areas to see if you're prepared:

Light - Secure flashlights, battery-powered lanterns and extra batteries. Avoid light sources that require a flame or fire.

Water - If you depend on a well, you'll need to fill bathtubs or other large containers for household use,

like flushing toilets. Fill clean pitchers or jugs for drinking water.

Food - Nonperishable foods that don't need cooking are ideal, like canned soup, peanut butter, bread and crackers. Don't forget a manual can opener! If there's room, fill plastic containers, such as clean milk jugs, with water beforehand and put inside your refrigerator and freezer. The jugs take the space of air that warms quickly and also provide cooling.

Heat - Have blankets, sleeping bags and extra clothes, including hats. If you have a fireplace, make sure that kindling and a good supply of wood is available. Be extremely careful when using alternate heating sources. Some are not approved for indoor use and could be a fire or carbon monoxide hazard. Make sure your fire extinguisher is charged and working and that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly.

Information - Get a portable AM/FM radio with extra batteries for local information and a NOAA Weather Radio for weather warnings. A wind-up or battery powered alarm clock might come in handy too. Cordless phones don't work without power, so have at least one wired phone available. Remember to charge your cell phone in case phone lines go out.

Medical - Have a contingency plan in place for patients who have a medical necessity for electricity. This includes backup power, extra medical supplies or an alternate location until the outage is over. Make sure supplies of prescription drugs are adequate and have a first-aid kit.

Standby Power - If you connect a generator to your home's wiring system, it is critical that it be properly installed. Feedback from an improperly installed system can electrocute anyone coming in contact with wires your generator has energized. For more information on generator safety, see pages 16f and 16g of this publication.

**To report an outage,
call 1-800-635-4145**



New Rates Announced - Effective May 1, 2007

At the recently held March 2007 annual meeting, a new cooperative rate structure was announced. The cooperative is returning to an industry-standard rate structure that includes a facility charge and a declining rate block.

The new rates will be in effect with the May 2007 billing statements. To the right is a highlight of the rates most used by the cooperative membership.

For more information on the rate schedules, visit the Member Services section at www.enerstar.com or contact the cooperative's billing department at 1-800-635-4145 during normal business hours. More information on the new rate designs will be published in next month's center section.

Residential Rate – RES01

This rate is required for all single-phase accounts that are not otherwise eligible for Rate RES1E or RES03.

Facility Charge: \$26.00

Energy Charge:	
0 kwh to 250 kwh	14.00 cents per kwh
251 kwh to 750 kwh	11.00 cents per kwh
751 kwh to 5000 kwh	9.00 cents per kwh
5001 kwh and above	8.75 cents per kwh

Residential All Electric Heat Rate - RES1E

This rate is only available to single phase residential accounts using electricity as the primary heat source.

Facility Charge: \$26.00

Energy Charge:	
0 kwh to 250 kwh	14.00 cents per kwh
251 kwh to 750 kwh	11.00 cents per kwh
751 kwh to 5000 kwh	9.00 cents per kwh
5001 kwh and above	8.75 cents per kwh

Discount: 3/4 cent discount over 1000 kwh; for billing months November through April

Seasonal Rate - RES03

This rate is available to all single-phase accounts that have little or no monthly usage.

Facility Charge: \$21.00

Energy Charge:	
0 kwh to 750 kwh	14.50 cents per kwh
over 751 kwh	12.50 cents per kwh

What is a Facility Charge?

At the recently held 2007 annual meeting, EnerStar announced the results of its cost of service study and a complete redesign of its electric rates. The cooperative is returning to an industry-standard rate structure that includes a facility charge for basic service and a declining rate block. The new rates will be effective with the May 2007 billing statements, which will represent your April usage.

So what exactly is a facility charge? A facility charge is the basic cost to provide electric service to your home. It is the cost of building and maintaining all the electrical equipment at a meter location. It helps cover costs like poles, wire, monitoring equipment, transformers, fuses, voltage regulators, meters, insulators, relay switches and breakers.

Peter Kollinger, EnerStar's CEO & President, explained the cooperative's cost per month is about \$42 for each residential meter. This number is based on the results of a 2006 cost of

service study completed by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Most electric cooperatives do not recoup all of their basic service costs in the facility charge. Most recoup some of these costs in their energy sales. Kollinger stated under the new rate structure beginning in May, the facility charge for residential customers will be \$26 per month and for seasonal accounts it will be \$21 per month.

Kollinger explained many things affect the facility charge, one of the most crucial being the number of customers per mile of line, known as member density.

"EnerStar Power has one of the lowest densities of all the electric cooperatives in Illinois. Only three co-ops have fewer members per mile of line. Our members own a very rural electric cooperative with only 3.5 members per mile of line," said Kollinger. Typically, an investor owned utility has over 40 customers per mile of line. "Facility charges are

going to be higher when fewer customers share the costs," he stated.

Lower density means facilities, such as transformers, cannot be shared among users. "A majority of the EnerStar members need their own transformer and pole," said Kollinger. "In town, one pole and transformer may serve five or more customers." Both of these factors can increase the costs.

The May billing statements will have a slightly different design. The current month information will itemize the facility charge and detail the kilowatt-hour pricing by rate block. After reviewing the new statement, should you have questions, contact the cooperative's billing department during normal business hours at 1-800-635-4145.

Our priority is delivering reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost. EnerStar Power, as a not-for-profit co-op, is focused on holding down rate increases to the minimum needed to maintain a reliable system.

Imagination LiBrary Rolls Into EDGAR county

Free Monthly BOOK Gift for All children under 5

Albert Einstein made an interesting statement when he said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge."

What if you could give a child a gift that was one-part imagination and one-part knowledge? Wouldn't it be the best of both worlds?

The Altrusa Club in Paris is hoping to do just that with the gift of a free monthly book to all children under the age of 5 in Edgar County. And what is interesting is that they are doing it with help from the world-famous country singer Dolly Parton!

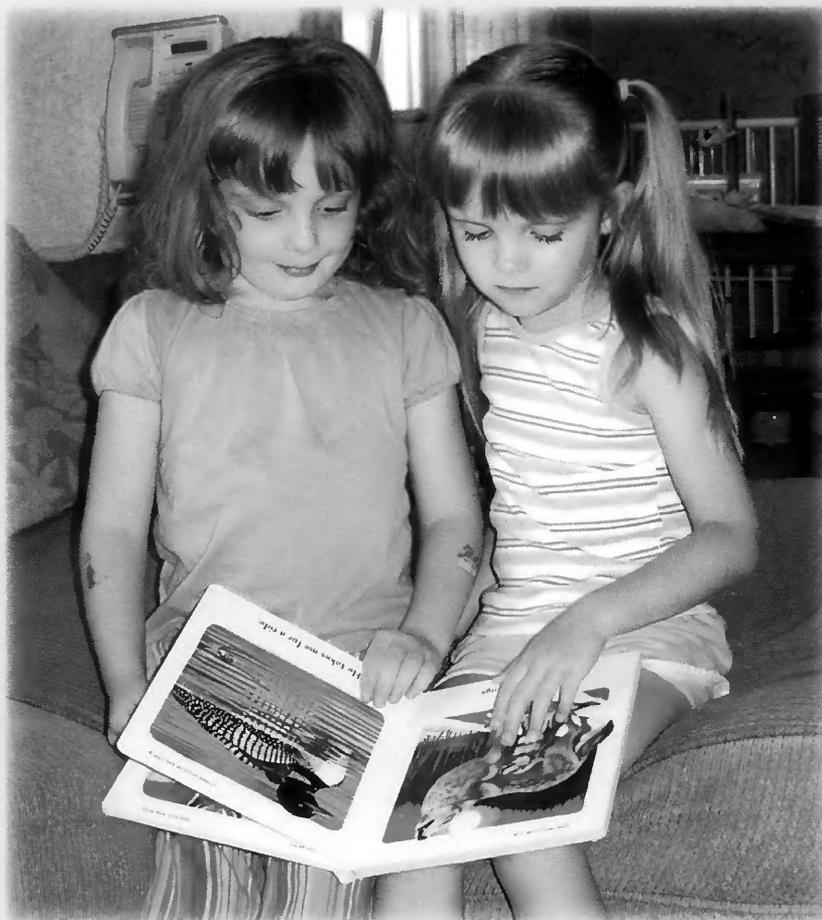


**Imagination LiBrary
comes to Life**

In 1996, Dolly Parton launched an exciting effort to benefit the children of her home county in east Tennessee. She wanted to foster a love of reading among the area's preschool children and their families. She hoped the children would be excited about books and feel the magic that books can create.

She decided to mail a brand new, age appropriate book each month to every child under 5 in Sevier County, Tennessee. With the arrival of every child's first book, the classic *The Little Engine That Could*, children could experience the joy of finding their very own book in their mailbox. The final book, *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come*, arrives at the age of 5.

The program was such a success that many local communities around the country requested an Imagination Library for their children.



Linden Hess (left) and Alayna Whitkanack read a children's book given to them by the Imagination Library. Both girls recently "graduated" from the program but enjoyed many wonderful books while participating!



**Imagination LiBrary
comes to EDGAR
county**

In 2002, the Altrusa Club of Paris stepped in and agreed to serve as the Imagination Library coordinators in Edgar County. Altrusa is an international community service organization of executives and professionals that focuses on literacy. The

Paris club is one of the oldest and was organized on February 11, 1925.

Last year, the Imagination Library provided 6,872 free books by mail to 778 preschool children in Edgar County. Since the program began in Edgar County, the total number of books distributed is 28,500 with more than 1,200 county children having received books.

Nationally, 640 communities in 43 states are affiliated with the

program, and more than 340,000 children receive books each month. Edgar County was the 35th community nationwide and the first in Illinois to participate in the program.

Assisting Altrusa with the program's logistics is the Human Resources Center in Paris. Both organizations work closely with the Dollywood Foundation of Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

You might be thinking, what's the catch? Where is the hidden cost? Well, there isn't one! It is a simply a gift designed to promote the appreciation of reading for all children!



Here's how it works:

All you need to do is sign up your child to participate by either by calling the Human Resources Center at 217-465-4118, extension 246, or by visiting www.imaginationlibrary.com on the Web. Every child under the age of 5 in Edgar County is eligible to enroll to receive a free book by mail every month. The books are hard-covered and age appropriate. There are no financial requirements to participate.

The results of a recent survey of local participating families in the Imagination Library were extremely positive and showed that families are enthusiastic about the program.

One parent wrote, "My daughter really enjoys reading books together. She gets excited to have a book from the mailbox." This is a common response to the program and is a significant factor in its success!

Reading in the home helps prepare children for school, helps them develop language skills, and helps develop a lifelong love of books while they enjoy cuddle time with family members.

Imagination Library is made possible through community support and donations. It receives funding from the United Way of Edgar County as well as donations from businesses, clubs, associations and many individuals. The cost of mailing one year of books is about \$30 per child. The program is budgeted to be around \$18,000 for 2007. This is a great investment in the future of our children!

If you would like to sponsor a child, your tax-deductible contribution should be made payable to Human Resources Center and mailed to Imagination Library, c/o Human Resources Center, PO Box 1118, Paris, Illinois, 61944.

For more information about Imagination Library, call 217-465-4118, ext. 246, or visit www.imaginationlibrary.com. The Web site is also a valuable resource for those wishing to start an Imagination Library in their own community.



The Imagination Library seeks to foster a love of reading and learning; regard for the diversity of people, their roles, culture and environment; promotion of self-esteem and confidence; and appreciation of art and aesthetics. Each series of books should contain certain characteristics specific to their age appropriateness including:

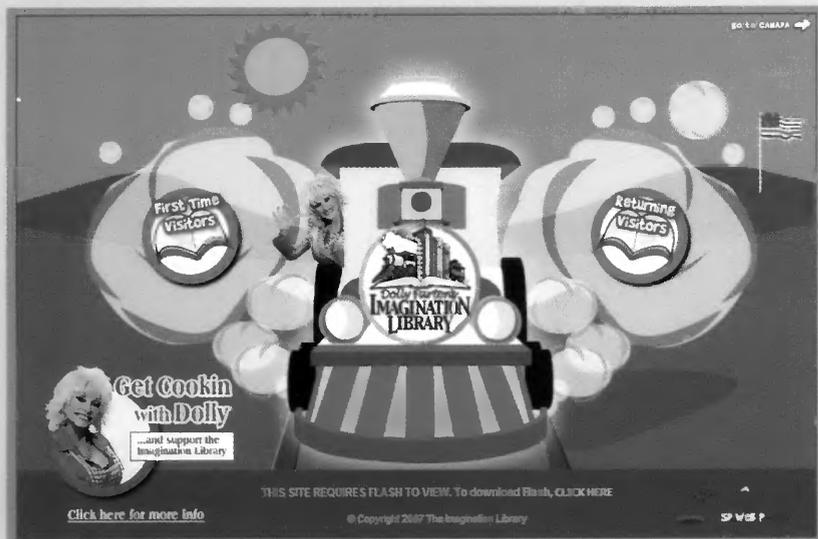
Year One: Vision - bright, big, colorful; Touch - board pages; Rhyme and rhythm; Simple - easy to use; Minimal text - point and say; Playful sound; Nurture - attachment- lullaby themes.

Year Two: Build upon year one concepts. Repetition and predictability - generate language; Motor skills; "Self-help" activities - things children can do, things familiar in their daily life; Use of real photo illustration; Body awareness; Nursery rhymes; Colors, letters, numbers.

Year Three: Wordless books - build your own story (reader or child); Values and character; Issues - fear, conflict, love, safety; Colors, letters, numbers; Nursery rhymes.

Year Four: More complex stories - hero, complication, resolution; Diversity of others - faces, environment - OK to be different; Jokes, play, humor, fun; Nursery rhymes and poetry.

Year Five: Riddles and jokes; School preparation and readiness; Use rebus (pictures used for words); Science - non-fiction; Folk tales; Thank you, appreciation; Rhymes and poetry.





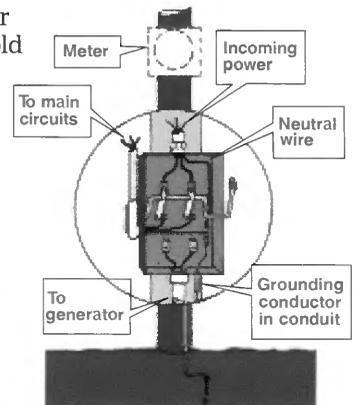
How to operate a portable generator *safely*

You can use a portable generator to supply electricity to your appliances if an emergency exists during a power outage. But if used improperly they can kill you and the people who are restoring power to your building. They also can damage the appliances you connect.

Generator sizes vary. Common units can be from 8 to 14 horsepower and capable of handling from 4,000 to 8,400 watts (including starting surge requirements). Prices may range from \$800 to \$3,000.

Connecting a generator to the main electrical supply for your house requires the services of a qualified, licensed electrician. Installing the connection and switch (as explained below) can cost \$600 to \$1,000.

Before connecting the generator to your household circuit, notify your electric cooperative.



Typical Double Pole, Double Throw Transfer Switch Installation for 120/240 V, Single-Phase Service

WARNING

If you connect a portable electric generator to the main electrical supply coming into the house, the electrical generator could feed back into your electric cooperative's system and electrocute workers who are repairing the electrical lines.

To avoid back-feeding of electricity into utility systems, you must have a qualified, licensed electrician install a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch (see illustration) between the generator and utility power in compliance with all state and local electrical codes. (A minimum of 10-gauge wiring must be used.)

Your generator might not be large enough to handle the load of all the lights, appliances, TV, etc. at one time. To prevent dangerous overloading, calculate wattage requirements correctly (see chart below).

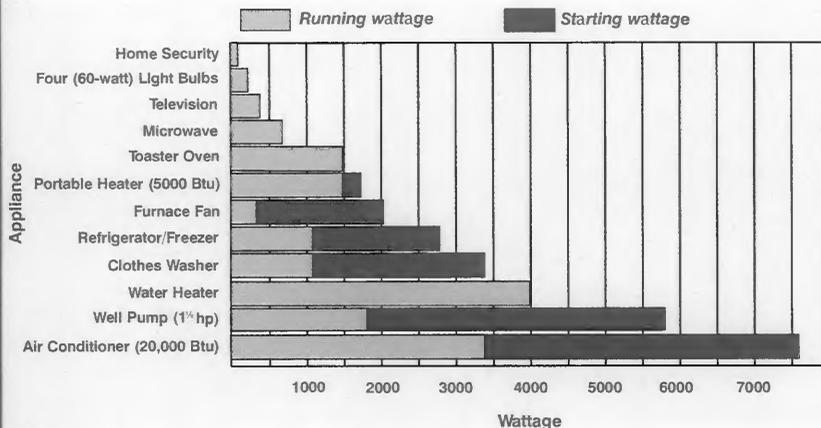
DETERMINING WATTAGE REQUIREMENTS

Never exceed the rated capacity of your generator. Overloading can cause serious damage to the generator or appliances. Before operating a generator, list all of the appliances that are going to operate at the same

time. Then determine the starting wattage requirements and the running wattage requirements. The starting load lasts only for a few seconds, but is very important when figuring your total wattage to be

used. Your generator must be rated to handle the total wattage.

Ratings shown here are samples. Wattage requirements vary with different brands of appliances. Be sure to check the name plate on the appliances you plan to use. Always start your largest electric motor first, then plug in other items one at a time.





If you do this

This could happen

Unless you prevent it

1. Attempt to connect generator directly to the electrical system of any building.
 2. Fail to ground the generator's electrical system adequately.
 3. Operate generator in rain, wet, icy or flooded conditions.
 4. Use worn damaged, undersized or ungrounded extension cords.
 5. Attempt to fill the fuel tank while the engine is running.
 6. Fail to ventilate generator by operating in an enclosed area.
 7. Tamper with factory set engine speed settings.
1. You can kill or injure a person repairing service lines. The electricity you generate will back feed through the building's electrical system to the outside utility feed lines. Attempting to connect to the incoming utility service could result in electrocution.
If your electric cooperative's line crew is restoring electrical service while your generator is connected to the incoming utility service, you could start a fire or seriously damage your building.
 2. Entire generator could become electrically charged and cause electrocution.
 3. Water conducts electricity. If water comes in contact with electricity to the generator's frame and other surfaces, it will cause an electrical shock to anyone touching them.
 4. Contact with worn or damaged extension cords could cause electrocution. Undersize extension cords could overheat wires or attached items, resulting in fire. Use of ungrounded cordsets could prevent operation of circuit breakers and result in electrical shock.
 5. Gasoline and gasoline vapors can become ignited by coming in contact with hot components such as the muffler, engine exhaust gases or from an electrical spark.
 6. Obstructing ventilation causes overheating and possible ignition of the materials. You will produce toxic carbon monoxide exhaust fumes from the engine. Breathing exhaust fumes will cause serious injury or death.
 7. Tampering with the engine speed adjustment could result in overheating of attachments and could cause a fire.
1. A qualified, licensed electrician must install a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch to connect the generator to a building's electrical system. This is required by the National Electrical Code. Connection must meet local ordinances. A minimum of 10-gauge wiring must be used.
 2. Make sure that the unit is connected to an appropriate electrical ground, in accordance with the National Electric Code. Follow instructions supplied with the generator.
 3. Operate generator in a clean, dry, well ventilated area. Make sure your hands are dry.
 4. Inspect extension cords before use and replace with new if required. Use proper size (wire gauge) cordset for application. Follow instructions supplied with your unit. Always use electrically grounded cordsets.
 5. Turn engine off and allow it to cool before adding fuel. Make sure there's a fire extinguisher in the immediate area certified to handle gasoline or fuel fires.
 6. Operate generator in a clean, dry, well ventilated area. Keep objects away from unit during operation. Do not operate unit in a confined area, such as garages, basements, storage sheds, etc., which lack a steady exchange of air. Never operate unit in a location occupied by humans or animals. Keep children, pets and others away from where it's operating.
 7. Never attempt to "speed-up" the engine to obtain more performance. Both the output voltage and frequency will be thrown out of standard by this practice, endangering you and the attachments.

For more information or questions about generator safety, contact Enerstar's
Tim Haddix at 1-800-635-4145, extension 617, or e-mail him at thaddix@enerstar.com



11597 IL Hwy 1 • Paris, Illinois 61944 217-463-4145 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M-F

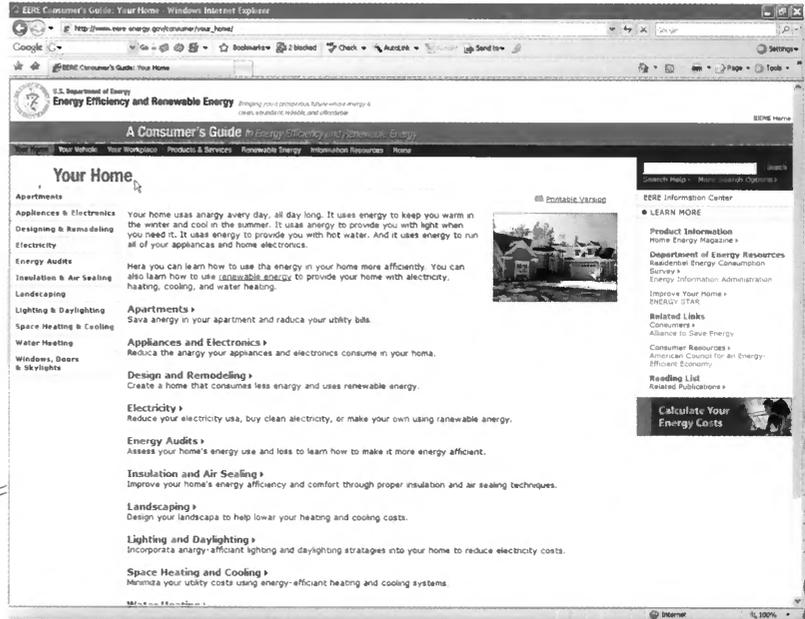
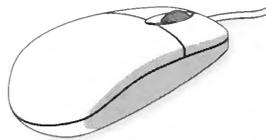


Find It On The Web Energy Efficiency Information

For beneficial energy efficiency information for your home, visit the U.S. Department of Energy Web site at www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/yourhome.

Your home uses energy every day, all day long. It uses energy to keep you warm in the winter and cool in the summer. It uses energy to provide you with light when you need it. It uses energy to provide you with hot water. And it uses energy to run all of your appliances and home electronics.

This site offers several opportunities to learn how to use the energy in your home more efficiently.



Mission statement

EnerStar Power exists to reliably distribute affordable electricity to its member-owners while upholding our values of integrity, accountability, and commitment to our community.

Annual Meeting News

Highlights and news from the 68th Annual Meeting of Members held on March 17, 2007, will be published in the May 2007 issue of this publication. Submission deadlines for this issue fell before the annual meeting date.



EnerStar Power will be closed Friday, April 6 to observe Good Friday.



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Recap from EnerStar's 68th Annual Meeting of Members



During the meeting, three incumbent directors were reelected. They include left to right, David Sprigg of Marshall, Dale English of Paris and Don Baggs of Marshall.

EnerStar Power members learned of the co-op's new rate structure and its commitment to reliability improvements during the co-op's 68th Annual Meeting of Members held Saturday, March 17, at Crestwood School in Paris.

President/CEO Peter Kollinger told members that the co-op completed the rate study discussed at last year's meeting. As predicted, a rate adjustment is now necessary for the co-op. The new rates, effective with the May 2007 billing statement, will return to an industry-standard rate structure and will include a facility charge and declining rate blocks.

Kollinger explained that a facility charge covers the cost of getting electricity to the member's home, but does not cover the electricity used by that member. "Facility charges tend to be higher for electric cooperatives due to our low density, which in our case is 3.5 members per mile of line. We are one of the most rural electric cooperatives in Illinois," he said.

In contrast, an investor-owned utility may have more than 40 customers per mile of line sharing the costs of the poles, line, transformers, etc. The actual cost of providing service to EnerStar members is \$42 per member per month. Most electric cooperatives

continued on page 16b



As is tradition, EnerStar members enjoy a sausage and pancake breakfast before the meeting begins.

EnerStar employee Greg Hollingsworth serves up pancakes to members.

do not recoup all of their basic costs through a facility charge. The co-op's board of directors has determined that the new facility charge will be \$26 for residential rate.

The board created new rates on a declining basis, meaning the more electricity a member uses, the less they will pay per kilowatt hour (kwh).

"With our new rate structure we strive to be fair and equitable to all rate classes. These changes may impact you differently throughout the year," said Kollinger. "Members using

less than 500 kwhs each month will see a greater increase than those accounts using more kwhs. The most increase any member should see is \$30."

The new rates are as follows: 0-250 kwh – 14 cents per kwh; 251-750 kwh – 11 cents per kwh; 751-5000 kwh – 9 cents per kwh; 5001 kwh and above – 8.75 cents per kwh. Members who use electricity as their primary heating source will see a ¾ cent discount for usage over 1000 kwh during the months of November through April when heat sources are generally on.

"We encourage you to call our office personnel to review your last year's usage and compare our old rates to the new rates," Kollinger said. He listed wholesale power costs as the main reason for rate increases. "Although we must raise our price to cover the costs of doing business, we are committed to ensuring this occurrence has the smallest possible impact on you," he said.

In other news, Kollinger told members that the co-op's right-of-way clearing activities have lowered the annual outage time for members. The February ice storm would have caused a much greater number of outages and longer outage times if trees had not been cleared near lines. He encouraged members to call the office to report any situations where trees need to be trimmed and to ask how they can receive a free replacement tree through the cooperative's "Trade-a-Tree" program.

The co-op has also continued to increase its equity to nearly 27 percent, an increase of 10 percent since 2001. Capital credits of \$171,173 from 1954-1960 were returned to members last May through a general refund. In addition, capital credits of \$152,757 were refunded through estate retirements.

During director elections held at the meeting, Dale English of Paris, David Sprigg of Marshall and Donald Baggs of Marshall were re-elected to three-year terms on the board.



Board President Tom DeWitt addresses the membership during the business meeting.



The annual meeting is a great opportunity for members to meet with fellow members who serve on the cooperative's board of directors.

At left: Director Gene Higginbotham meets with EnerStar member Donna Craig.

Below: Director Don Baggs, right, talks with a member.



Thank-you!

We would like to thank the following vendors who donated door prizes to the 68th Annual Meeting of Members.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Benjamin's Office Connection
 Brownstown Electric
 Cintas Corporation
 Citizens National Bank of Paris
 Clear Talk Communications
 Computer Wares
 Dewitt Advertising
 D-I Supply
 Drake Scruggs
 Dueco, Inc.
 Edgar County Bank & Trust
 Farm Credit Services
 First Bank & Trust
 First Neighbor Bank, NA
 Fred Biggs Supply Company
 Heningman Oil

Hoof N Paw
 Hughes Supply (Elasco)
 Lanman Oil
 Murphy Farm Seeds
 Nu-Gas
 Paris First Bank/Branch of State
 Bank of Chrisman
 Reed City Power Line Supply
 State Farm Insurance -
 Terry Elston, Agent
 T & R Electric
 Weir's Florist



New Rates Announced - Effective May 1, 2007

At the recently held March 2007 annual meeting, a new cooperative rate structure was announced. The cooperative is returning to an industry-standard rate structure that includes a facility charge and a declining rate block.

The new rates will be in effect with the May 2007 billing statements. In the colored boxes, we have highlighted the rates most used by the cooperative membership.

For more information on the rate schedules, visit the Member Services section at www.enerstar.com or contact the cooperative's billing department at 1-800-635-4145 during normal business hours.

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So what exactly is a facility charge? A facility charge is the basic cost to provide electric service to your home. It is the cost of building and maintaining all the electrical equipment at a meter location. It helps cover costs like poles, wire, monitoring equipment, transformers, fuses, voltage regulators, meters, insulators, relay switches and breakers.

Peter Kollinger, EnerStar's CEO & President, explained the cooperative's cost per month is about \$42 for each residential meter. This number is based on the results of a 2006 cost of

service study completed by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Most electric cooperatives do not recoup all of their basic service costs in the facility charge. Most recoup some of these costs in their energy sales. Kollinger stated under the new rate structure beginning in May, the facility charge for residential customers will be \$26 per month and for seasonal accounts it will be \$21 per month.

Kollinger explained many things affect the facility charge, one of the most crucial being the number of customers per mile of line, known as member density.

"EnerStar Power has one of the lowest densities of all the electric cooperatives in Illinois. Only three co-ops have fewer members per mile of line. Our members own a very rural electric cooperative with only 3.5 members per mile of line," said Kollinger. Typically, an investor owned utility has over 40 customers per mile of line. "Facility charges are

going to be higher when fewer customers share the costs," he stated.

Lower density means facilities, such as transformers, cannot be shared among users. "A majority of the EnerStar members need their own transformer and pole," said Kollinger. "In town, one pole and transformer may serve five or more customers." Both of these factors can increase the costs.

In addition to the new rates, the May billing statements will have a slightly different design. The current month information will itemize the facility charge and detail the kilowatt-hour pricing by rate block. After reviewing the new statement, should you have questions, contact the cooperative's billing department during normal business hours at 1-800-635-4145.

Our priority is delivering reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost. EnerStar Power, as a not-for-profit co-op, is focused on holding down rate increases to the minimum needed to maintain a reliable system.

Illinois Electric Council 4-H Youth Education Program Revitalized

*Clark County 4-Hers benefit at event hosted by EnerStar Power
and Clark County Extension*



Both parents and children enjoyed the electricity school. Here a fellow student assists one of his buddies with the electricity project.

Below: EnerStar Journeyman Lineman Keith Borchers conducted a 4-H Electricity school recently for Clark County 4-Hers.



For many years, the Illinois Electric Council (IEC), of which EnerStar Power is a member, has worked with 4-H clubs and schools to provide electricity education. In 2003, the IEC's 4-H committee revitalized its workshop and training initiatives to provide updated educational offerings for our youth. The program provides for more hands-on training with several new workshops.

After determining the needs with the help of the University of Illinois Extension Service, "electricity kits" were developed for each of the levels of instruction. The four levels of instruction include Magnetism, Beginning DC Electricity, DC Beyond the Basics and AC Electrical Wiring Basics.

Vendors such as Springfield Electric and Lowe's Hardware provided substantial savings in the purchase of the materials. Assembly of the kits was very labor intensive. The process in-

cluded 800 pieces of wood, cut in different shapes and sizes. Some 200 AC switch boxes and 400 DC switches were attached to the boards. That doesn't include the thousands of clips and pre-cut wire pieces needed for the assembly process. University of Illinois students in the AG-Mech Club helped assemble many of the parts and then the kits were put into 20 Rubbermaid tubs to delivery to each of the five Extension Regional Offices.

EnerStar Power and Clark County Extension Service Join Forces

The Clark County Extension Service and EnerStar Power recently took advantage of the IEC's electricity kits and sponsored a 4-H Electricity School on March 8, 2007. Several Clark County 4-Hers attended the "school" along with their parents.

For the first event, Journeyman Lineman Keith Borchers of

EnerStar Power taught the students how to build a basic circuit from the Exploring Electricity – DC Electric Circuits lesson plan. The program was designed to provide more hands-on training regarding electricity projects.

The Illinois Electric Council is a not-for-profit corporation guided by bylaws formulated by member organizations including major investor-owned utilities, electric cooperatives, and electric municipalities operating in Illinois, and the University of Illinois. Other organizations and companies participate through affiliate membership and program partnership. The IEC's mission is to provide an electric industry forum to discuss mutual issues, share information and develop educational programs to promote safe and efficient use of electricity.



Julie, Inc. Launches 811 “Call Before You Dig” Number to Help Save Lives and Protect Underground Infrastructure

JULIE, Inc., also known as the Illinois One-Call System, recently announced the launch of a new national 811 “Call Before You Dig” number to help prevent homeowners and professional excavators from damaging underground utility lines while digging and causing injury or service outages.

“Knowing where utility lines are buried before each digging project helps protect those who dig from injury, expense and penalties,” said Mark Frost, Executive Director of JULIE, Inc. “One easy phone call to 811 will get the approximate location of underground utility lines marked for free.”

In addition to JULIE’s existing telephone number 1-800-892-0123, 811 is a new FCC designated national N-11 number that will assist excavators with reaching the one-call center. This quick and efficient one-call service will notify the appropriate member utilities, who then send locators or locate technicians to the requested site to mark underground lines for free.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

“Safe digging is no accident. Regardless of the project size or depth, always call 811 before you dig,” Frost continued. “Call center representatives at JULIE are available to receive and process calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”

Safety Tips

Today, more member utility companies that supply power, gas, water

and telecommunications are delivering these services underground. The following are a few safety tips when planning outdoor projects:

- Call JULIE (simply call 811 or 1-800-892-0123) before you dig;
- Wait the required amount of time (two working days);
- Respect the marks; and
- Dig with care.

Types of Outdoor Projects

For homeowners or contractors considering any improvements or repairs, following a few precautions can help avoid a painful and costly accident. Common examples of homeowner projects that require a call to JULIE before digging include putting up a fence; installing a swing set, a mail box post or water feature such as a pool, pond or fountain; building a deck or room addition; preparing a new garden area; or planting trees, bushes or shrubs.



JULIE, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation that serves as a notification service for underground facility owners, taking information about planned excavations and distributing this information to its membership. It is then the responsibility of each facility owner to mark the location of their underground facilities at the excavation site.

JULIE neither owns nor marks any underground facilities. Established in 1974, JULIE represents more than 1,700 utility members. For a copy of JULIE’s Homeowner’s Guide with additional safety tips, including the meaning of the different color flags and marks used by each utility locator type, visit www.illinois1call.com.

Find It On The Web **Electrical Safety**

Since May is National Electrical Safety Month, it is appropriate that our Find it on the Web link is all about what else...electrical safety! The Electrical Safety Foundation International's goal is to reduce electrically related deaths and injuries through public education that keeps electrical safety at the forefront in people's minds, and to give the general public, school children and the workforce tips and tools to prevent deadly electrical accidents.

Their Web site provides a wealth of information divided into six relevant sections: Home Safety, Workplace Safety, Educators, Hot Topics, Media and the ESFI Library.

To learn about electrical safety, find it on the Web by visiting www.electrical-safety.org.



Youth Day



Representative Roger Eddy met with two students representing EnerStar Power Corp during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, March 28, in Springfield. Students had an opportunity to view state government in action, meet with Secretary of State Jesse White and tour the State Capitol, Illinois Supreme Court, Old State

Capital and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

From left are Chaperone Angela Griffin, Rep. Eddy, Nathan Crews of Marshall and Kate Smith of Hume.

The day was sponsored by the Illinois electric and telephone co-ops and is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government.

OFFICE CLOSING

Our office will be closed Monday, May 28, 2007, for Memorial Day.





May is National Electrical Safety Month

Did you know that May is Electrical Safety Month?

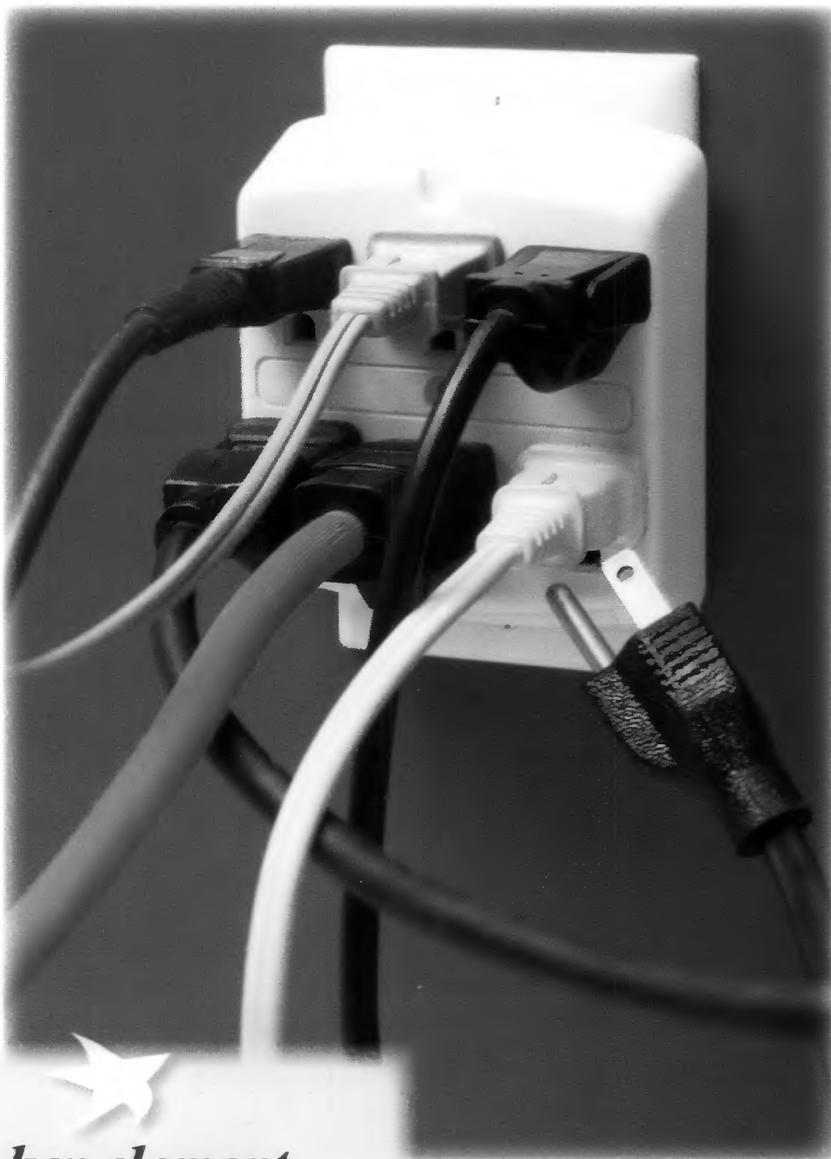
The Electric Safety Foundation International (ESFI) sponsors and promotes National Electrical Safety Month. EnerStar Power, in partnership with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, is a contributor to the foundation's electrical safety efforts.

Electrical safety is always on the minds of our cooperative employees, especially employees in our operations department who work with electricity every day. Whether they are new to the job or have years of experience, they maintain a healthy respect for it. They know that one wrong move or momentary lapse in concentration could result in severe injury, even death.

Our employees take every precaution to ensure their own safety and yours. When the job requires it, they always wear their personal protective equipment—hardhat, fall restraint devices and rubber gloves—and attend safety classes regularly. Our employees understand the importance of electrical safety, but what about you, the member? Do you give much thought to electrical safety?

You should.

According to the latest statistics from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), approximately three people die each day in residential electrical-related fires and accidental electrocutions in the home. The key element to electrical safety is aware-



*The key element
to electrical safety
is awareness.*

ness. At EnerStar Power, we feel it is important to educate our members on how to use electricity safely and wisely. That's why we publish electri-

cal safety articles in The EnerStar Home Page.

You can do your part as well by promoting electrical safety at home. EnerStar Power has a wealth of electrical safety information we would be happy to share with you and your family. Let's focus on electrical safety for May—and at all times of the year. After all, electrical safety is 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



11597 IL Hwy 1 • Paris, Illinois 61944 217-463-4145 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M-F

EnerStar[®] HomePage

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

www.enerstar.com

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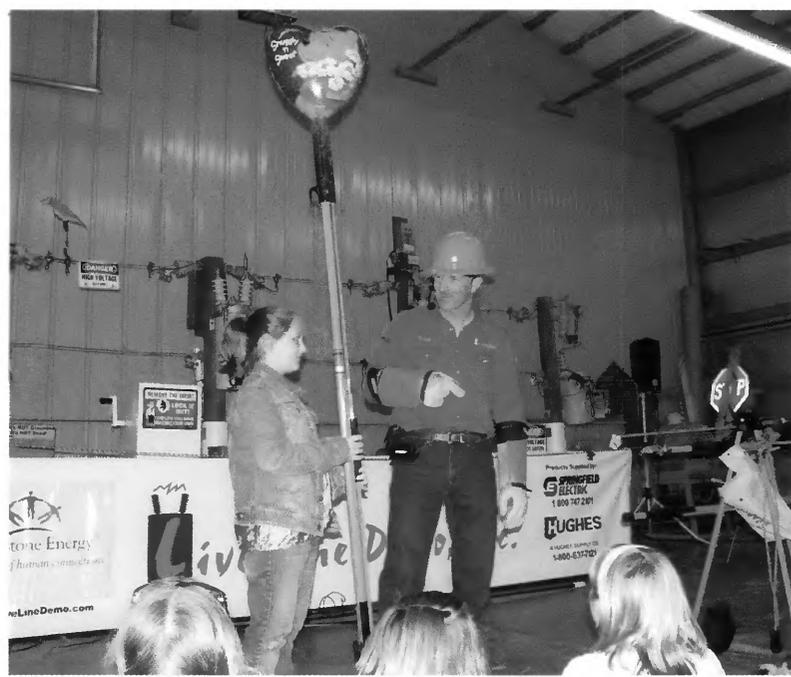
Simple ways to keep cool all summer

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Are motion-sensing switches a solution for you?



Safety Day Teaches 4th Graders About Electricity



Kyle Finley performed a live line demonstration to show students how electricity works and how to stay safe around it.

The safety of our members is important to EnerStar, so throughout the year, EnerStar does its part to promote consumer education about how electricity works and how to prevent electrical accidents. We consider it part of our responsibility to our communities to make sure people of all ages respect electricity and know how to be careful around it.

A perfect place to spread the word is with the youth in our community. Teaching electrical safety at a young age ensures those lessons and concepts will remain with the children as they

mature into adults. That is why for the sixth consecutive year, EnerStar Power sponsored the 4th Grade Safety Day in late April. The event is a prelude to the cooperative's observance of Electric Safety Month in May.

"Events like these are an important part of EnerStar's mission," said Angela Griffin, Manager of Member Services. "It gives us a chance to showcase the cooperative's role in the community while educating our young on how to handle an electrical emergency."

continued on page 16b



EnerStar employee Troy Lewis demonstrates pole climbing techniques while Archie Eslinger assists a student with a lineman tool belt.



being safe around electricity.” Griffin added that many thank you notes from the students reference the valuable lesson they learned from Bell.

Brooke, one of the students who wrote to EnerStar, said, “I did not know electricity was so dangerous. I learned that 120 volts is in the wall outlet. I learned to stay in the car if you run into an electricity pole and look up before you climb a tree or if you cut down a tree. I learned a lot and thank you for inviting us.”

Following Bell’s discussion, the students also had the opportunity to witness the important role of the utility lineman. They watched Journeyman Lineman Troy Lewis climb a utility pole and lift the bucket in a utility truck. Lewis and fellow Journeyman Lineman Archie Eslinger told the children about their job and why it is important, and allowed the children to try on their gear. The children were amazed that the equip-

The first part of the program is a demonstration presented by Kyle Finley, owner of Live Line Demo, Inc. A former Journey Lineman, Finley teaches the students how electricity travels through wires. The display

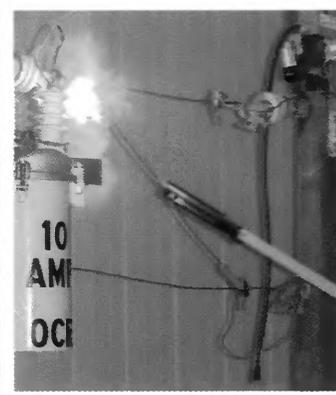
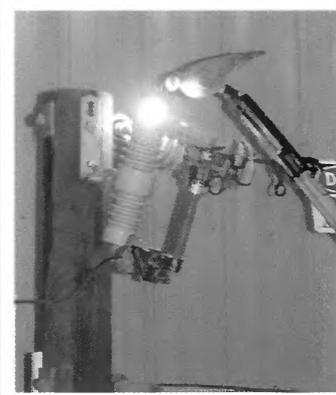


EnerStar member Delmar Bell speaks to the students about his electrical accident and reminds them of the slogan, “Look up and live.”

contains 7,200 volts of electricity and is constructed with the same poles, transformers and line hardware used by EnerStar. But he takes his lesson further as he teaches the children what happens if a kite hits a power line or a truck backs into a utility pole. With the use of props such as a fake squirrel, a hot dog and a balloon, Finley teaches the children about the many dangers of electricity and how to be safe around it.

The Live Line Demo is followed with the testimonial of EnerStar member Delmar Bell, a Paris farmer and EnerStar member, who was injured in a power line accident more than 20 years ago. The accident caused Bell the loss of his arms. He spoke to the students because, “I want young children to learn from my mistakes. I never knew the slogan ‘Look up and live.’” Bell says he has learned from Finley’s presentation and expressed it is very important for EnerStar to host these kinds of safety programs.

“We really appreciate Delmar taking time out of his busy schedule to attend the Safety Day each year,” says Griffin. “I admire the fact that he can take a tragedy and turn it into a positive experience. His message really drives home the importance of

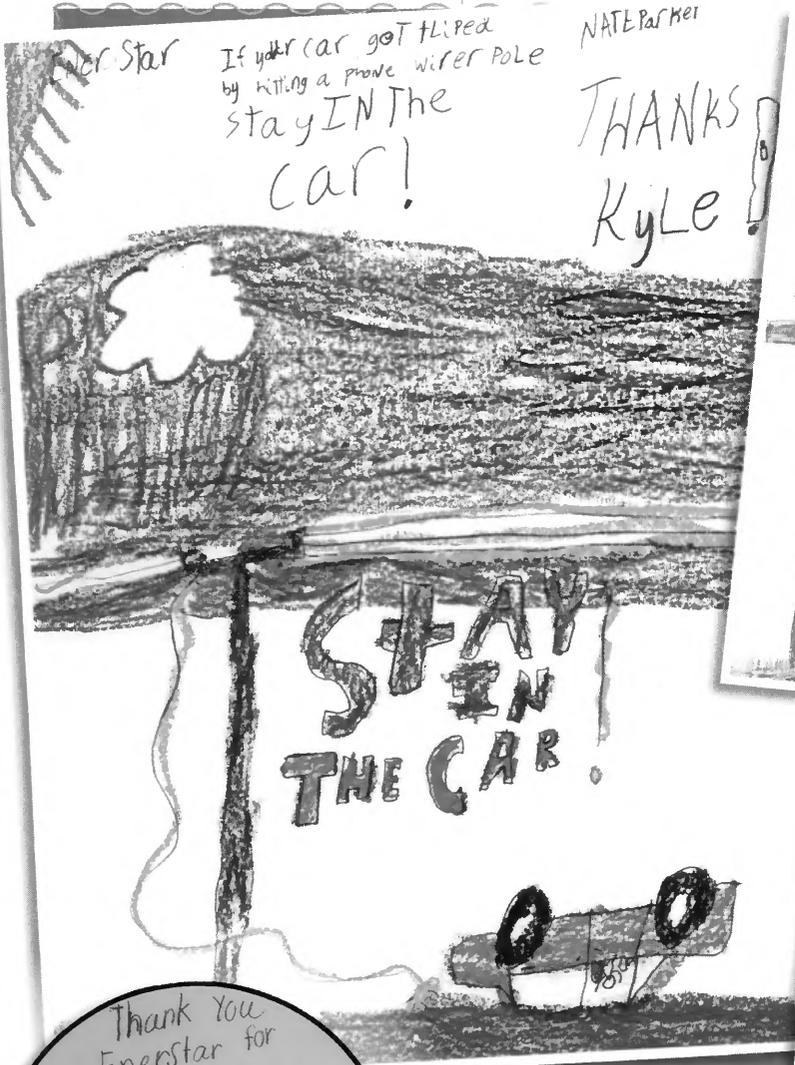


With the use of props such as hot dogs and fake birds, students are taught the message of how to stay safe around electricity.

ment was so heavy, especially the 20-pound tool belt. Students and teachers rave about what a fun and rewarding experience they have at the Safety Day. "Electrifying, enlightening, enjoyable and educational. Your program was all

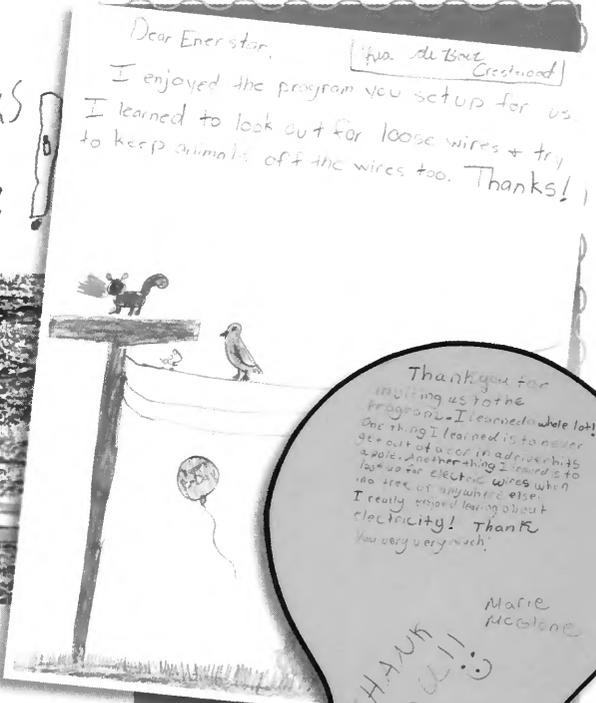
of these. Thanks for inviting us to participate in the Safety Day," wrote the 4th grade classes of Mrs. Hickox and Mrs. Margason from Marshall, Illinois. Overall, the event was a huge success as many students learned

the importance of safety around electricity and more about the local electric cooperative. EnerStar and its employees are proud of what they accomplish each year. "It's a neat program when kids have fun learning," concluded Griffin.



Dear Star
If your car got flipped
by hitting a power wiper pole
stay IN THE
car!

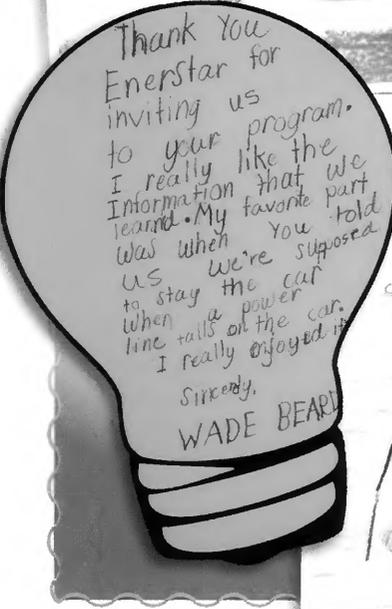
NATE Parker
THANKS
Kyle



Dear Enerstar,
I enjoyed the program you setup for us
I learned to look out for loose wires + try
to keep animals off the wires too. Thanks!

Thank you for
inviting us to the
program. I learned a whole lot!
One thing I learned is to never
get out of your car in a power line
area. Another thing I learned is to
look for electric wires when
we are at a fair or else.
I really enjoyed learning about
electricity! Thank
you very much.

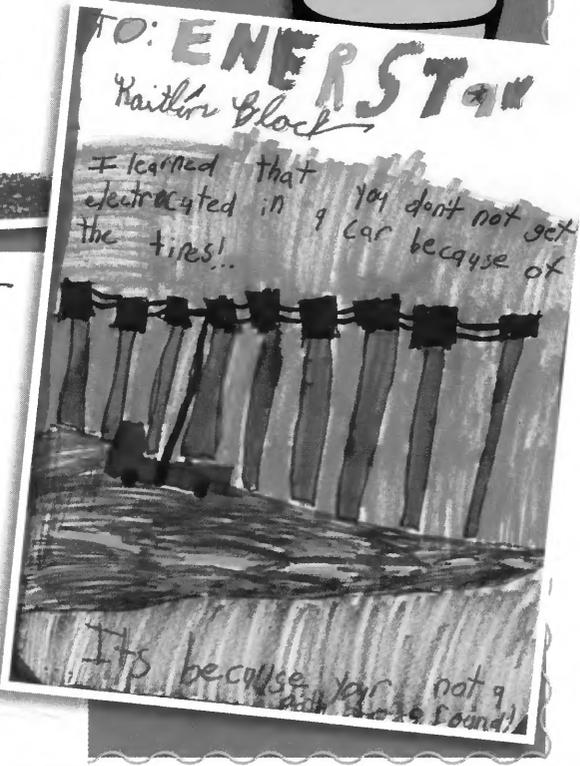
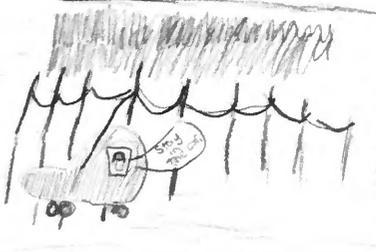
MARIE
McCLONE
THANK
YOU!!



Thank You
Enerstar for
inviting us
to your program.
I really like the
information that we
learned. My favorite part
was when you told
us we're supposed
to stay in the car
when a power
line falls on the car.
I really enjoyed it.
Sincerely,
WADE BEARD

THANK You Enerstar
From: Brooke Sutton

I learned when you are in a
car, when by a electricity pole you
should stay in the car.



TO: ENERSTAR
Kaitlin Block

I learned that
you don't get out
of the car because of
the tires!

It's because you
are not a
car.

New Bill Format Debuted in May

When you opened your billing statement in May, you might have noticed a slightly different billing format. Here are a few highlights to help you understand your electric billing statement.

1 Member Information and Billing Address

If the account is held by a single membership, only one name will appear in this section. However, if it is a joint membership, both names will appear. This area also includes the billing address that can be different than the service address.

2 Important Information

This area contains important information regarding happenings at the electric cooperative. To the left of this area is the cooperative contact information.

3 Account Number

This is your EnerStar electric account number. Please refer to this number when calling or e-mailing our office. You will need this number if you use the cooperative's online billing service.

4 Meter Number

This is your meter number. You will need this number if you use the cooperative's online billing service.

5 Bill Date

The bill date is the date that the current statement was issued. This determines the due date of the billing statement.

6 Location Phone and Cell Phone

It is recommended that you provide the cooperative with a telephone number for your account. If you ever need to call in a power outage, this

will expedite your call through the use of our automated telephone outage power service. At the request of some members, an area for your cell phone number is also provided but it is not necessary.

7 Service Location

This is the physical address where service is located. It may vary from the billing address.

8 Map Number

This location number represents a unique point on the cooperative's mapping system to identifying the line and pole location.

9 Activity Since Last Bill

This area includes important information about any balance forward amounts, payments posted and other adjustments to the billing statement.

10 Facility Charge

This charge is a monthly charge based on the cost of maintaining the service lines and meter at the meter location and other operational expenses of the cooperative. The facility charge is determined by the electric rate.

11 Energy Charge

These charges are the measurement of the amount of electricity supplied during the billing cycle and it is expressed as kilowatt-hours or kwh. Ten 100-watt bulbs burning for one hour will consume 1,000-watt hours (10 X 100) or 1 kilowatt-hour.

12 Power Cost Adjustment

The power cost adjustment allows the cooperative to adjust for minor fluctuations in the wholesale cost of power. These adjustments reflect changes in fuel costs, generation mix and market prices for electricity. This

adjustment can be reflected in either a positive or a negative (credit) amount.

13 Rental Outdoor Lighting

If applicable, this area would reflect any rental outdoor lighting at the account location.

14 Total Current Charges

This amount would be the total of all debits and credits during the current billing cycle.

15 Total Amount Due

This amount would be the Total Current Charges plus any Balance Forward amounts.

16 Due Date and Late Payment

This box summarizes the due date and the total amount. A late fee is assessed if payments are not received by the due date and a past due notice is automatically generated.

17 Billing Statement Stub

The area below the perforated line should be returned with your payment. This will expedite your payment and ensure proper credit.

18 Rate

This area states the type of electric rate for this account. For more information on the electric rates, contact the cooperative office or visit www.enerstar.com.

19 Bill Type

This will tell you if the billing statement was generated from an actual reading or an estimated reading.

20 Kilowatt Meter Reading

Besides having your meter number, this area contains meter readings and consumption information. An important reference would be the usage one year ago.

21 Change of Address or Telephone Notification

If a change of address or telephone number is necessary, members should complete this area when returning the billing statement stub. A signature is required by the member of record.



Mission statement

EnerStar Power exists to reliably distribute affordable electricity to its member-owners while upholding our values of integrity, accountability, and commitment to our community.



EnerStar Power Corp.
 11597 IL Hwy 1
 Paris IL 61944-8447
 A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday - Friday
 (217) 463-4145 or (800) 635-4145
 www.enerstar.com

* Statement is due and payable upon receipt.
 * Call our office if you fail to receive a bill. Failure to receive a bill DOES NOT avoid payment.
 * When calling the office, please use your name, address, and account number as listed on this statement.
 * If service is interrupted, check your fuses or circuit breakers. Check to see if your neighbor is also out of power. Promptly report any trouble on co-op lines.
 * 24-hour NIGHT DROP is available for your convenience.

2 WRE OF FLUCTUATING ELECTRIC BILLS????APRIL IS OUR BUDGET BILLING SIGN UP MONTH.CALL YOUR ENERSTAR CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE AT 217-463-4145 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

1 242 1 AV 0.293
 SAM GOODMAN
 2345 N 2200TH ST
 CHRISMAN IL 61924-1234

4 242
 C-1 P-4

ANY UNPAID BALANCE FORWARD MAY SUBJECT YOUR ACCOUNT TO DISCONNECTION

3 ACCOUNT NUMBER 299299	4 METER NUMBER 22222222	5 BILL DATE 04/27/2007	6 LOCATION PHONE (217) 269-9999
7 SERVICE ADDRESS 12345 N 2200TH ST	8 MAP NUMBER B9-P00.1	CYCLE 04	CELL PHONE
ACTIVITY SINCE LAST BILL		CURRENT BILL INFORMATION	
PREVIOUS BALANCE	\$ 164.57	BALANCE PRIOR TO BILLING	\$ 0.00
PAYMENT	\$ -164.57	FACILITY CHARGE	\$ 26.00
OTHER ADJUSTMENTS	\$ 0.00	ENERGY CHARGES	\$ 35.00
BALANCE PRIOR TO THIS BILLING	\$ 0.00	250 KWH @ 0.1400	\$ 55.00
		500 KWH @ 0.1100	\$ 42.30
		470 KWH @ 0.0900	\$ 0.00
		POWER COST ADJUSTMENT	\$ 10.00
		RENTAL OUTDOOR LIGHTING	\$ 3.90
		TAXES	\$ 172.20
		TOTAL CURRENT CHARGES	\$ 172.20
		TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	\$ 172.20
BILLING PERIOD DATES 03/27/2007 TO 04/25/2007	RATE RESIDENTIAL/SINGLE PH		
# OF DAYS IN BILLING PERIOD 29	BILL TYPE REGULAR		
METER NBR 22222222	KWH METER READING FROM 14630 TO 15850	MULT. 1	USAGE 1220
			USAGE 1 YEAR AGO 902
		Due Date 05/14	Net Due \$172.20
		Past Due After 05/14	Amount With Penalty \$180.81

Online Bill Payment Available - Visit www.enerstar.com

Please detach and return bottom portion with payment

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

LOCATION PHONE NUMBER OTHER PHONE NUMBER

MEMBER'S SIGNATURE (REQUIRED TO CHANGE ADDRESS)

Account #	Past Due After	With Penalty	Amount Due
299299	05/14/2007	\$180.81	\$172.20

SAM GOODMAN
 12345 N 2200TH ST
 CHRISMAN IL 61924-1234

ENERSTAR POWER CORP.
 11597 IL HWY 1
 PARIS IL 61944-8447

Handle Food Safely When Grilling Outdoors

One of America's favorite summer pastimes is grilling, and it's not just for summer any more. Americans are discovering the art of grilling in milder climates, using handmade brick ovens or ceramic grills that heat up quickly and stay hotter longer.

But most grill enthusiasts still favor large gas grills, or simple yet effective charcoal grills, and usually during the spring and summer.

No matter the season or type of grill you use, grilling food starts with proper food handling. Below are a few simple guidelines for grilling food safely this coming spring and summer:

- **Wash away harmful bacteria** – Avoid providing a hotbed for bacteria. Unwashed hands are a prime cause of food borne illness, also known as food poisoning, as are unwashed perishable foods such as meat, seafood and peeled or cut fruits and vegetables.
- **Keep foods cold** – Keep all perishable foods cold. If you'll be meeting up with friends away from your backyard grill, it's best to transport all perishables including raw meat, poultry and seafood in an insulated cooler kept cold with ice or frozen gel packs. Throw away any perishable leftovers that have been out of a refrigerator or cooler for more than two hours, one hour if the



temperature is above 90 degrees F. Keep coolers out of direct sunlight and avoid opening them frequently, allowing the cold air to escape.

- **Marinate safely** – Marinated meats should be stored immediately in a refrigerator or cooler, not on the kitchen counter or outside next to the grill. As long as a marinade is stored in a cool environment, it can remain there for several hours or days. Do not use marinade from the raw meat/marinade mixture as a sauce on the cooked meat, unless you first cook the sauce to a boil, destroying harmful bacteria.
- **Grilling shortcuts** – Pre-cooking food partially indoors before put-

ting it on a pre-heated grill will give you quick results when your friends are hungry, or your grill is slow or small. Conversely, flame-grill meat for a smoky, char-grilled flavor then bake in an oven until it's cooked properly.

- **Cook thoroughly and use a meat thermometer** – It's best to cook food to the safe minimum internal temperature to destroy harmful bacteria. On the grill, meat and poultry will brown quickly, but the inside might be cooked partially. To be sure the food has reached a safe minimum internal temperature use a meat thermometer.

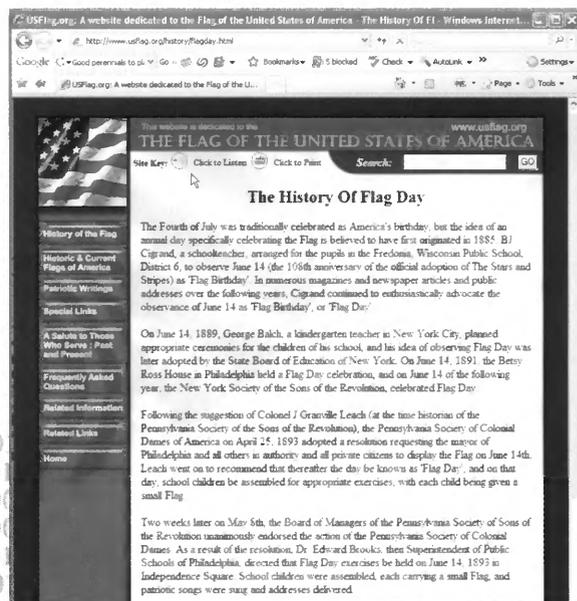
Here are some safe minimum internal temperatures (F):

- Chicken breasts: 165 degrees
- Beef hamburgers: 160 degrees
- Beef, veal and lamb (steaks, roasts and chops):
Medium rare: 145 degrees
Medium: 160 degrees
- All Pork: 160 degrees

Fortunately, most people seldom get sick from contaminated food, and consumers can feel safe knowing that with proper refrigeration and thorough cooking, harmful food-borne illnesses can be avoided all together.

Find It On The Web Flag Day

When Flag Day arrives June 14, there inevitably will be references to "Old Glory." Though this is the unofficial nickname for the American flag, it was actually coined in 1831 by Capt. William Driver, a shipmaster from Salem, Mass., according to the U.S. Flag Day Foundation. As he was leaving port on one of his many voyages aboard the Charles Doggett, friends presented him with a flag of 24 stars. Unfurling the banner for the first time, he reportedly exclaimed, "Old Glory!" To learn more about Old Glory and Flag Day on June 14, visit www.usflag.org/history/flagday.html and find it on the Web!



Air Conditioners are More Efficient than Ever

Air conditioners consume a lot of electricity, and are the largest summer utility expense for many families. Fortunately, recent design improvements have reduced the consumption of this hungry appliance. Two of the most important improvements are the two-stage compressor and multi-speed condenser fan.

During the hottest weather, you may need the full capacity of your air conditioner to keep your home comfortable. During this full-time operation, standard air conditioners run at their maximum efficiency. But during moderate weather, old-fashioned air

conditioners will cycle on and off to keep from over-cooling your home. This stop-and-go operation is inherently inefficient, since a lot of energy is wasted during the start-up and shut-down part of each cycle.

Air-conditioning units with a two-stage compressor and a multi-speed outdoor condenser fan operate at lower capacity during moderate weather. This results in longer cycles and improved efficiency. It also allows your system to remove more humidity from the air. When the weather is truly hot, they step up to full-speed operation to assure your comfort.

Variable-capacity air conditioners are all more efficient than older units, but they work in different ways:

- Some two-stage systems have two small compressors side-by-side. The first compressor operates alone during moderate weather. The second compressor kicks in only when needed during hot weather.
- The two-piston compressors run in one-piston mode during moderate weather and two-piston mode during hot weather.
- The multi-speed compressors actually turn at two different speeds to match the cooling load.

You can't avoid the heat of summer, but with a variable-capacity air conditioner, you can reduce the cost of cooling your home. You can learn more about air conditioners at the Energy Star® Web site: www.energystar.gov

Source: Chris Dorsi is a nationally recognized expert on energy-efficiency. For more free energy-saving tips, visit the Saturn Resource Management Web site at www.srmi.biz.



Easy Summer Cooling Tips

If your home is too hot in the summer, there are many ways you can help keep heat out of your house. Planting trees, for instance, is one of the best ways to diffuse the hot summer sun before it enters your home. But a surprising amount of heat comes from inside your home.

The biggest sources of internal heat gain are lights and appliances. Reducing their use will save electricity and keep your home cooler. In humid climates, moisture that is released by cooking, bathing and other activities will also make it harder for air conditioners to cool your home. A drier home feels more comfortable.

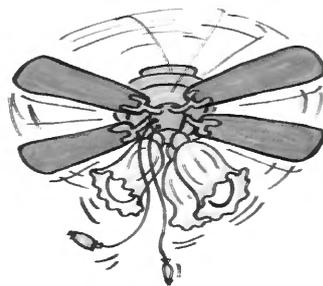
Here are some easy ways to keep cool in the summer:

- Replace standard incandescent light bulbs with compact fluores-

cent light bulbs. The electricity used by standard bulbs produces 10 percent light and 90 percent heat. Also, compact fluorescent lights are cheaper to operate.

- Schedule heat-producing chores like baking or doing the laundry after the hottest part of the day.
- Install an insulating jacket on your water heater.
- Use kitchen and bathroom fans to remove heat and moisture during and after cooking and bathing.
- When replacing appliances, buy those with the Energy Star® label. These appliances conserve energy and release less unwanted heat.
- If you are home during the day, use a room fan to create a cooling breeze.

- If you live in an area where evenings are cool, don't forget about the cheapest cooling method of all. Open your doors and windows, or run window fans. This will move cool evening air through your home for almost no cost.



Source: Chris Dorsi is a nationally recognized expert on energy efficiency. For more free energy-saving tips, visit the Saturn Resource Management Web site at www.srmi.biz.

Energy Saving Light Switches

Turn off the lights when you leave the room." If you have kids, you have probably said that hundreds of times and still, the lights are left on. A solution may be available - motion-sensing switches for lights.

A motion sensor turns the lights on when it senses something moving and turns them off a few minutes after the movement stops, eliminating the need to remind the kids to turn off the lights when they are not in the room.

Try replacing the regular switch with a motion-sensing switch in rooms, like the bathroom or the laundry room, where lights are often left on, but are usually needed for only a few minutes. There are motion-sensor inserts that screw into incandescent lamps, and motion-sensing switches to replace existing light switches. There are also motion-sensing light fixtures, a safe, efficient alternative to leaving outdoor lights on all night.

For more information about saving money on lighting, visit www.energystar.gov, call EnerStar Power at 217-463-4145 or visit their Web site at www.enerstar.com.

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University of Illinois Extension

Who are they? What do they do?

With a tradition that goes back more than 90 years, University of Illinois Extension is an outreach effort of the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. Seventy-seven Extension Units serve all of the 102 Illinois counties. Through community educational programs and resources, they "put knowledge to work" by applying research findings from the university to everyday living.

The resources and educational programs offered by local Extension Units are based on the needs of each community. Their commitment is to provide educational programs that help people make their lives better, healthier, safer and more profitable. This goal is accomplished through hands-on workshops, field days, on-line tutorials and other formats based on the subject matter and audience. Once you begin to educate yourself with all the Extension has to offer, you will see that there is something for everyone.



Jessie Crews, Youth Development Director of the Clark County Extension Unit, and Stacy Henn, Youth Development Director of the Edgar County Extension Unit, both agreed that the success of their programs comes from working with dedicated local volunteers to address their communities' most pressing needs. The programs offered are as diverse as the people they serve but fit into four broad program areas: 4-H Youth Development; Horticulture, Agriculture and Natural Resources; Nutrition, Family and Consumer Sciences; and Community and Economic Development.

★ *Continued on 16b*



each year. The Extension Master Gardener program trains local volunteers who donate their hours back to the community by assisting with horticulture programs.

The Edgar County Unit also offers the Master Gardner program and hold several farm safety programs throughout the county.

Nutrition, Family and Consumer Science

The Nutrition and Wellness programs teach safe and healthy living and eating habits. Programs include

★ Continued from 16a

4-H Youth Development

The goal of the 4-H program is to teach young people skills for living. It was the first publicly funded youth program in the country. Using a learn-by-doing method, young people learn about citizenship, leadership, cooking, arts and crafts, mechanics, technology, horticulture, agriculture and more.

The 4-H program is open to all youth ages 8-18. The Cloverbud program is available for children 5-7. Youth meet regularly with their local 4-H clubs and complete a variety of 4-H projects.

Programs offered by the Clark County Extension Unit reached 1,400 youth last year and more than 290 youth are currently in the Community Club 4-H program. Meanwhile, 1,500 youth were served by the Edgar County Extension and more than 250 youth participate in the club program. Both Extension Units offer summer day camps in smaller, outlying communities throughout the counties they serve and many programs are offered at area schools.

An example of other youth programs at the Edgar County Unit are workshops in areas such as wood-working, visual arts or candy making in the fall, so that by Christmas, the completed projects make great homemade gifts. The Clark County Unit offers programs such as 4-H

Funshops, which highlights specific projects, or Generation Workshops, where children and parents (or grandparents) complete a project together.

Horticulture, Agriculture and Natural Resources

Everyone from the farmer to the backyard gardener can look to the Extension service for advice and training.

In Clark County, an Agriculture Committee sponsors the Extension and Martinsville FFA Plots and Outlook Meeting, the Ag Expo, Agronomy Night, and other marketing and educational programs



food safety, eating healthy, baking bread, gardening basics, canning food and more.

The Edgar County Unit, in conjunction with the Paris Community Hospital, holds a "Women Matters" night each year. More than 150 wom-

A little history...

In 1862, a Land Grant University was established in each state to provide higher education in agriculture and home economics for the working class. The University of Illinois was designated as the Land Grant School in Illinois.

In 1887, Agricultural Experiment Stations were established at each Land Grant University, recognizing agricultural research as one of the Land Grant University's functions.

Universities needed a way to disseminate the research findings from the Experiment Stations to the general public. The universities began delivering their findings through demonstrations.

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 provided the partnership of state, county and federal governments to support Extension functions by each Land Grant University. The Cooperative Extension program was established through the USDA and Land Grant Universities to educate the community, increase farm productivity and improve rural life.



en attend the program to learn about today's hot topics that matter most to women. The Edgar County unit also presents nutritional training at many schools, clubs and organizations.

Programs in Clark County help families learn how to do a better job of managing their money, communicating with their children and preventing diet-related diseases. Programs such as "Dining with Diabetes," and "Fall Into Christ-

to make the most of their county's tourism potential and attract and retain businesses and industries that are vital to the community by adding a Community Economic Program Director. The Extension is involved in the leadership of many on-going projects such as the Clark County Trails Coalition, AL-Trans and Clark County Now.

The highlights mentioned above really only scratch the surface of



mas" are offered each year. Approximately 215 households and 600 individuals in Marshall and Martinsville receive University of Illinois Extension information each month through the Food Pantries.

Community and Economic Development

In general, the Extension's mission is to help improve the quality of life in every community. A somewhat recent addition to the Clark County Extension program is

what the University of Illinois Extension Service has to offer. The majority of the classes are free and informal. However, in some instances, there may be a slight fee for materials or a meal. And in some instances, continuing education credits are available. Registration is required for all programs.

"The strength of the University of Illinois Extension programs has always been our dedicated volunteers," said Crews. "Our volunteers

★ *Continued on 16d*

Edgar County 4-H Fair Schedule

Friday, July 20, 2007

1 p.m.	Sewing and Textiles Check-in/Judging
3 p.m.	Public Presentations Contest.
3 p.m.	Clothing & Textiles Fashion Review
6 p.m.	Small Pets Show

Saturday, July 21, 2007

9 a.m.	Horse and Pony Show
10 a.m.	Tractor Driving Competition
1:30 p.m.	Aerospace Check-in and Judging
3 p.m.	Personal Development Projects Check-in/Judging.
3:30 p.m.	Community Involvement and Global Awareness Projects Check-in/Judging
4:00 p.m.	Communications Projects Check-in/Judging.
4 p.m. until 7 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open
5 p.m.	Dog Show

Sunday, July 22, 2007

1:30 p.m.	Exhibit Hall open until 6 p.m.
1:30 p.m.	Bicycle Projects Check-in/Judging
2 p.m.	Rocket Launch
2:30 p.m.	Human Development Projects Check-in/Judging
3 p.m.	Interior Design Projects Check-in/Judging
3:30 p.m.	Visual Arts Projects Check-in/Judging

Monday, July 23, 2007

8 a.m.	Exhibit Hall open until 7 p.m.
8:30 a.m.	Food & Nutrition Judging
8:30 a.m.	Plants and Soils Projects Check-in/Judging.
9 a.m.	Animal Sciences/Veterinary Science Projects Check-in/Judging
10 a.m.	Breeding Sheep and Market Lamb Show
11 a.m.	Natural Resources & Environment Projects Check-in/Judging.
1 p.m.	Dairy Goat and Meat Goat Show
1:30 p.m.	Mechanics and Technology Check-in/Judging
2 p.m.	Pie Check-in/Judging
4 p.m.	Cake Decorating & Candymaking Check-in/Judging
6 p.m.	Foods Auction

Tuesday, July 24, 2007 Exhibit Hall open 8-7

8 a.m.	Swine Show
9 a.m.	Dairy Cattle Show (at the Edgar County Fairgrounds)
2 p.m.	Llama Show
5 p.m.	Beef Show
5 p.m.	Poultry Show

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

8 a.m.	Exhibit Hall open until 8 p.m.
8 a.m.	Rabbit Show
1 p.m.	Master Showmanship Contest
6 p.m.	Livestock Auction
6 p.m.	General Projects Released



Clark County 4-H Schedule

Tuesday, July 17	
9 a.m.	Clothing Judging
Saturday, July 21	
8:30 a.m.	General Project Registration
8:30 a.m.	Set-up Marshall Fairgrounds – Livestock barns
9 a.m.	General Project Judging Rocket Launch – Immediately following General Project Judging
11 a.m.	Cloverbud Exhibit
12:30 p.m.	Dog and Cat Show
Sunday, July 22	
2–7 p.m.	General Project Building open for project viewing
5-8:30 p.m.	Livestock Exhibits Check-In
9 p.m.	Livestock Ethics Meeting for livestock exhibitors
Monday, July 23	
9 a.m.	Horse Show
9:30 a.m.	Garden Tractor & Farm Tractor Driving Contests
10:30 p.m.	Bicycle Rodeo
1:30 p.m.	Rabbit Show
6:30 p.m.	4-H Family Fun Night
Tuesday, July 24	
8 a.m.	Swine Show
12:00 p.m.	Foods Show
1 p.m.	Sheep Show
	Goat Show ~ immediately following Sheep Show
6:30 p.m.	Dress Revue, Awards Program, Food Auction
Wednesday, July 25	
8 a.m.	Poultry Show
8:30 a.m.	Dairy & Beef Show
10:30 a.m.	State Fair Delegate Meeting
11:00 a.m.	General Projects Released
6:30 p.m.	Livestock Auction

★ *Continued from 16c* help us to determine the needs of the community, and then plan and implement programs to educate youth and adults.” Crews emphasized that volunteers who assist Extension are their lifeline and impact communities in many ways every day.

The support of the University of Illinois is also critical to the success of the program. “If we get a question we can’t answer locally, we can generally get an answer within a day or two through the staff at the University of Illinois,” explains Crews. “The Extension is able to draw on expertise from all Land Grant Universities and find accurate information quickly.

“But we cannot promote any product over another. All of our information is non-biased and research based,” adds Henn. “The extension aims to connect research with local practice.”

Both women explained that the programs are open to everyone regardless of their county of residence. The public is free to attend programs offered outside their county or state.

According to the University of Illinois Extension’s Web site, more than 2.5 million residents take part in Extension programs each year, including nearly 300,000 who participate in 4-H programs.

To take advantage of these programs and see a calendar of events, visit the University of Illinois Extension Web site at www.extension.uiuc.edu or contact your local Extension Service.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION



Find It On The Web

Contact your local University of Illinois Extension Office:

Edgar County
210 W. Washington Street, Paris
Telephone: 217-465-8585
Web site: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/edgar>

Clark County Unit
15493 N State Highway1, Marshall
Telephone: 217-826-5422
Web site: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/clark>

Coles County Office
707 Windsor Road, Suite A
Telephone: 217-345-7034
Web site: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/coles>

Douglas County Office
122 S Walnut St, Arthur
Telephone: 217-543-3755
Web site: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/moultriedouglas>

Vermilion County
12190 U.S. Route 150, Oakwood
Telephone: 217-442-8615
Web site: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/vermilion>



Mission statement

EnerStar Power exists to reliably distribute affordable electricity to its member-owners while upholding our values of integrity, accountability, and commitment to our community.

How to Cope with Sticker-Shock at the Gas Pump

After gasoline prices spiked last year and consumers enjoyed a brief period of stabilization, motorists are feeling the bite of increases at the pump again. According to the U.S. Department of Energy and other energy experts in government and the private sector, gasoline will continue its upward price climb, even if this summer's storms don't cause major disruption in oil supplies, refinery operations and delivery to service stations.

Worldwide demand is now part of this picture. China's thirst for oil products is going up twice as fast as our own demand in the U.S.

It's not a good idea to rush to the pump and fill up in a panic, even if you think prices will continue to go up. Instead, conserve gas and fill up when you must.

If you're concerned about rising gas prices over the long haul, consider investing in a new car. If you do a lot of driving in city or stop-and-go traffic, gas-electric hybrid models by manufacturers like Honda, Toyota, Lexus and Ford will save you money on gas and your taxes,



thanks to tax incentives passed by Congress in the 2005 energy bill.

But if a new car purchase isn't feasible, here are some tips for making gas money stretch for the car that's already in the driveway:

- Keep tires inflated to recommended tire pressures.
- When it's time for new tires, choose a low-rolling resistance tire comparable in quality to the ones you already use.
- Avoid letting your engine run idle.
- Get regular oil changes, air filter changes and engine tune-ups.
- Consider carpooling or alternate means of transportation like biking, walking or public transportation.

*Our office
will be closed*

July 4th

*to celebrate
Independence Day*



Thanks to the military personnel who have fought for all of us, the star-spangled banner yet waves O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

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FYI: Member News

Facility Charges, Electric Rates and Billing Statements

With the May billing statements, EnerStar members got their first look the cooperative's redesigned electric rates and new billing format. The cooperative has received a few member calls with questions about all the "new stuff." Last month we showed you a sample of the new bill and explained in detail all of the components. But let's take a moment to review the most frequently asked questions from our members.

What is the facility charge?

A facility charge is the basic cost of service if no energy flowed through the meter. It is the cost of building and maintaining all the electrical equipment at a meter location. It helps cover costs like poles, wire, monitoring equipment, transformers, fuses, voltage regulators, meters, insulators, relay switches and breakers. These costs have always been covered in the electric rates but have not been broken out as a "facility charge" since 2000.

How is the facility charge determined?

Facility charges are based on the results of a recent cost of service

study conducted by the engineering department of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. The study found that the actual costs for a residential meter is about \$42 per month. Most electric cooperatives do not recoup all of their basic service costs in the facility charge, but recoup some of these costs in their energy sales. Therefore, the Board and management of the cooperative determined that the facility charge would be \$26 per month for residential accounts.

While there are many factors that affect facility charges, one of the most crucial is the number of customers per mile of line, known as member density. EnerStar has one of the lowest densities of all the electric cooperatives in Illinois, with only two co-ops having fewer members per mile of line. Our members own a very rural electric cooperative with only 3.5 members per mile of line! To give a point of reference, an investor owned utility averages between 30 to 40 customers per mile of line and municipally-owned utilities have close to 80 customers per mile. Lower density means facilities, such as poles and transform-

ers, cannot be shared among users, thus, our facility costs and maintenance of the those facilities obviously tends to be greater.

Why was a rate change necessary?

The cooperative board of directors and management, after much consideration and study, felt a complete redesign of the cooperative's electric rates was necessary. With these changes, the cooperative is returning to an industry-standard rate structure that includes a facility charge for basic service and a declining rate block. These rate schedules are similar in structure to the cooperative's rate structure prior to 2000.

Was the new billing statement necessary because of the new rates?

The new rates didn't make it necessary for the new billing statement formats. But since changes were necessary due to the new rate structure, it was a great time to make general improvements to the billing statements. Hopefully, members will find the new information helpful and the old information more understandable.

Drive Up – Don't Get Out!

In a hurry? EnerStar's convenient drop box is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Located on the east side of the EnerStar parking lot.



Your Body is Telling You to Cool It

To keep cool during the summer, pay attention to your body's signals. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), if you ignore symptoms that warn you to cool down, heat cramps can lead to heat exhaustion or deadly heatstroke.

People most at risk are babies and children, elderly and obese people, and those taking certain medications. None of us are immune, however.

According to the NIH, heat illness shows itself innocently enough. If you experience profuse sweating, fatigue or thirst and muscle cramps, rest in a cool place, drink fluids and massage your muscles until they relax. If you ignore those symptoms, they will be followed by signs of heat exhaustion – headache, dizziness and light-headedness, weakness, nausea and vomiting and dark urine. Finally, if left untreated, full-blown heatstroke can develop. Symptoms of heatstroke are fever (temperature above 104° F), irrational behavior, extreme confusion, hot and dry skin, rapid and shallow breathing, seizures and unconsciousness.

How to help with heat illness
If you observe someone suffering from the symptoms of heat illness, the NIH advises:

- Have the person lie down in a cool place, with feet elevated about 12 inches.
- Apply cool, wet cloths (or cool water directly) to a person's skin, especially the neck, armpits and groin. Use a fan to lower body temperature.
- If alert, give the person beverages to sip, or make a salted drink by adding a teaspoon of salt to a quart of water. Administer a half-cup every 15 minutes. Cool water will do if salt isn't available.
- If the person shows signs of shock (bluish lips and fingernails and decreased alertness), starts having seizures, or loses consciousness, call 911 and follow the operator's instructions.

Stay cool and hydrated

Prevention is the best cure. Wear light-colored, breathable clothing. This works for everybody from babies to grandparents. Avoid using creams or ointments – except sunscreen – on babies because they block pores, encouraging heat rash.



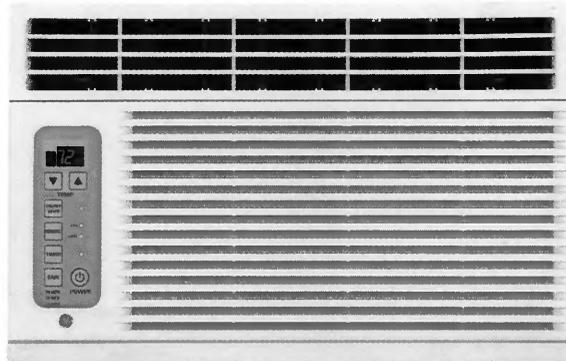
It is important to keep your body hydrated. Children need to drink eight ounces of fluid every 20 minutes when they're playing in the sun, so scheduled breaks are helpful.

Adults should drink more fluids on hot, humid days, too. As the temperature rises, consume additional water if you're sweating. During exercise, consume an extra one or two cups of water. Some adults need two to three cups an hour or more if they are sweating heavily or exercising longer, according to the Mayo Clinic. And don't forget that your risk increases if you consume alcohol. Caffeinated drinks also dehydrate. So don't forget the water!

Is Your Room Air Conditioner the Right Size?

Many people buy an air conditioner that is too large, thinking it will provide better cooling. However, an oversized air conditioner is actually less effective - and wastes energy at the same time. Air conditioners remove both heat and humidity from the air. If the unit is too large, it will cool the room quickly, but only remove some of the humidity. This leaves the room with a damp, clammy feeling. A properly sized unit will remove humidity effectively as it cools.

To figure out which size unit is best for your cooling needs visit www.energystar.gov and click on products, then Room AC for a link to an easy to use chart. And when purchasing, look for an Energy Star model: it will use at least 10 percent less energy than a conventional model.



For more information see www.energystar.gov



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Help Your Pool Run More Efficiently

If you have a swimming pool or spa, you may have already learned they can be expensive to operate. The largest expense for most pool or spa owners is for heating the water to a comfortable temperature. However, the cost of operating circulating and filtration pumps can be considerable too.

“Pool and spa pumps use electrical energy to move water,” says Tim Haddix, EnerStar’s Energy Advisor. “An electric motor turns a pump, and the pump pushes water through pipes, filters and valves. Some of that energy can be wasted if the motor is oversized, if the piping is too small, or if dirty filters restrict the flow of water.”

Haddix explained that modern high-efficiency motors can consume



up to 20 percent less electricity than the standard motors used in most pools or spas. If you need to replace

an existing motor, be sure to specify a high-efficiency motor. Motor and pump size are important, too, since it is cheaper to run a smaller motor for a longer period of time than to run a motor that is too large for short cycles. Be sure to size any replacement motors or pumps according to the smallest specification allowed by the pool or spa manufacturer.

Filtration motors run only part of the time and are controlled by a timer that turns the motor on and off only as needed to keep the water clean. “You can save a substantial amount of electricity by reducing the time that your circulating motors operate,” said Haddix. He advised reducing this run time and observing the water quality of your pool or spa for a few days. You may discover that you don’t need to run the filter motors all the time. The less the motor runs, the more you’ll save.

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

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Get Away From it All at Wright's Getaway!



Located on the outskirts of the small town of Grandview on a beautiful wooded acre sits Wright's Getaway. Its name reflects its essence as a perfect place for those seeking solitude on a country lane.

EnerStar members, Jim and Joy Wright, own the unique getaway spot for travelers. "On one of our vacations we developed the idea on how travelers might enjoy a home away from home," said Jim. "We wanted more of a relaxing place rather than the typical hotel chain experience."

But they decided if they were going to do it, they would take it a step further. "Our getaway offers our guests a whole

house to enjoy," said Jim. "They can be a family and entertain their guests." He emphasized the fact that the house was not a "bed and breakfast" where you share facilities with others, but a house "all to their own."

Planning of their getaway took about a year because the Wright's wanted to make sure they did it right the first time. They envisioned a cathedral ceiling and open floor plan with lots of storage. They wanted to make sure the house was handicapped accessible. Construction finally began in 2004 and first guests arrived in January 2005. The Wright's constructed most of the house

continued on page 16b



themselves with some help from friends and area contractors when necessary.

The getaway has a country, laid-back feeling about it. "We took advantage of our natural, country setting and decorated with country charm and antiques," said Joy. "We wanted the place to have a relaxed, comfortable feeling."

But do not let the images of country charm entice you into thinking that Wright's Getaway is about roughing it. Most definitely not! Jim and Joy added many modern touches like leather couches and a gas fireplace in the sitting area, a selection of family videos to be used with the televisions and DVD players, and even a 5' x 6' Jacuzzi.

One of the biggest assets of the getaway is the fully equipped kitchen and dining area that seats eight. "The kitchen has a microwave, coffee-maker, mixer, crockpot, toaster, dishwasher, stove, refrigerator," said Joy. "And of course, cookware for eight. We have tried to think of everything guests might need from their own kitchen." Immediately outside is an outdoor deck with a gas grill and a lounge area.

Joy happily accommodates special requests for stocking the kitchen with food and drinks before the guests arrive. "We have been able to accommodate grocery requests so when our guests arrive, they can relax and enjoy, and not have to run to the store to stock up." Joy's special kitchen touches include a fruit basket and chocolates when the guests arrive.

It really is the Wrights' little special touches that make the getaway so inviting. Robes and a rainfall showerhead in the bathroom. Board games and books for the kids. Birdfeeders and landscaping designed to attract wildlife.

Jim and Joy are constantly considering new ways to make the getaway even more inviting. Landscaping plans include a child's wooden swing, fruit trees, and vegetable and herb gardens. They also have plans for a water garden that will incorporate an old water pump found on the property during excavation. A new circle drive will accommodate their guests with campers and boats that visit nearby Mill Creek Lake in Clark County.



The getaway can accommodate at least seven people. Visitors have come from all over the United States. Guests have used the getaway for their own vacation or while visiting relatives in the area. It is a great central meeting location for family reunions. It has been used for wedding events such as bridal showers, rehearsal dinners, out-of-town guests

and honeymoons. It is a great alternative for the business traveler who doesn't want to stay in a hotel room. And the getaway has even been used for one-day retreats like jewelry and scrap-booking parties, baby showers and spa parties.

"We welcome everyone from the couple looking for a romantic getaway, to the family seeking a home away

Jim and Joy are constantly considering new ways to make the getaway even more inviting.





from home, to the organization seeking a comfortable place to host that special event," said Joy. "We offer a serene country atmosphere with modern con-

venience. Come pamper yourself in our home away from home!"

For more information on Wright's Getaway, contact Jim and

Joy Wright at 217-946-4209 or visit their Web site at www.wrightsgrandviewgetaway.com for reservations.

Corner of Cline Orchard and Coach Road 4955 N. 600th Road Grandview, Illinois

"From the guest book"

Since the getaway first opened, guests were invited to write in a journal about their experiences and what they liked about visiting the facility.

You have done a marvelous job making this a very comfortable and relaxing place to stay. It was a perfect place to stay for a few days with our granddaughters while visiting relatives in the area. We are amazed at the detail you have gone to make our stay enjoyable and stress free. We certainly recommend this getaway.

We really enjoyed staying here instead of a hotel. It was very peaceful and relaxing. Your special touches - the gift basket and bottled water in the fridge - were wonderful surprises! Thank you very much. Good luck and God Bless!





Did You Realize We're a Leader in "Green" Energy?

Most members don't spend a lot of time thinking about how electricity gets to their homes and businesses. In fact, you may not think about us at all, except when you're paying your monthly bill.

So it isn't surprising that many people are unaware of how electric power co-ops like ours bring innovations to our members. It was that way when we first energized our power lines, and it's still that way today. Back in the 1930s and 1940s, co-ops used the newest technology to bring this amazing thing called electricity to American's small towns and rural areas.

Today, co-ops are leading the way in putting "green" technologies to work for our members. In fact, you'd probably be surprised to know about some of the renewable power projects our co-op is involved with through our wholesale power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Association.



The control panel located at the Envirowatts Twin Bridges facility, a landfill gas generation plant.

The newest is a wind generation project that uses four wind turbines located in farmland near Bloomington, Ill. Together, those turbines will generate about 25,000 megawatt-hours of wind-generated electricity each year at prices that are competitive to other sources.

We're involved in a facility in West Terre Haute, Ind. that turns a waste product called petroleum coke that's generated during the refining process into synthetic natural gas. That gas is then burned in a highly efficient process to generate electricity. The facility, called sgSolutions, has gained national attention for its success with the innovative technology.

Transforming waste into energy is also behind eight landfill gas gen-

eration plants, each of which can produce approximately 3.2 megawatts of electricity. The methane gas that results from decomposing garbage is piped from vents to large Caterpillar engines, where it is burned to generate electricity.

A similar approach is being tested at a large dairy farm in Indiana, where cattle wastes are being fed into what's known as an anaerobic digester. It captures the methane from the waste, and then burns it to generate

electricity. Both methods also reduce the offensive smell associated with methane, so they help the landfills and large farms to be better neighbors.

Those projects aren't being dreamed up in a university laboratory somewhere – they're actually in use, generating electricity for co-op members like you. Take pride in the fact that you're a member of an electric cooperative, because you're helping America move to renewable, environmentally friendlier sources of power.



Agiwind Wind Farm Tiskilwa, IL

It is a site to see! The photos do not give justice to the height of these wind units where Wabash Valley Power purchases 8.4 MW of wind power from Agriwind in Tiskilwa, Ill.



On the Wabash River in nearby West Terre Haute, sgSolutions, a subsidiary of Wabash Valley Power, uses a waste product called petroleum coke to generate a synthetic natural gas. The gas is then burned in a highly efficient process to generate electricity. The facility has gained national attention for its success with the innovative technology.

Youth to Washington



Smith and Crews are shown with other students in Johnson's district. Smith is located third from left, Congressman Johnson is beside her, and Crews is located at the far right.

Nathan Crews of Marshall and Kate Smith of Hume represented EnerStar Power in Washington, D.C., during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour, June 8-15. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, began in the late 1950s to introduce

rural youths to our democratic form of government and cooperatives.

The students met with Senator Dick Durbin and Congressman Tim Johnson and were among 57 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited the White House, Arlington

National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, the Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, George Washington's estate at Mt. Vernon and a number of other historical sites.

Missed an Issue?

Visit www.enerstar.com for back issues of EnerStar HomePage. Click on the newsletter section of our web site for issues beginning in January 2004. You will need Adobe Acrobat to view the file. Adobe can be downloaded free at www.adobe.com.





Okay, the power's out. Now what? *Outage reporting tips to speed restoration*

A pop-up storm. A squirrel. A car accident. Malfunctioning equipment. Any of these things, or sometimes a combination of any of them, can cause a power outage. EnerStar does what it can to prevent power outages but sometimes they cannot be avoided. When the power does go out, you may be inconvenienced, frustrated or concerned. We agree. That is why we do everything in our power to correct the problem and restore power as soon as possible.

With your help, we can restore your power in the quickest manner possible and make sure everyone is safe during an outage. Here are a few tips to help you when an outage occurs:

■ Your safety is always first!

First and foremost, always keep a safe distance from downed or damaged electrical equipment. Assume every wire is energized. Call EnerStar Power and keep everyone away from the area. Let our trained professionals handle the situation.

■ Gather relevant information that might help speed restoration

Check the fuses or breakers in your home. Check the breakers below the meter if the meter is located on a yard pole. Then call your neighbors and see if their power is out. This will help you determine if you are the only one experiencing the power outage or if it is more widespread.

Call EnerStar Power at (800) 635-4145 to report the outage. If you have no specific information on the possible cause of the outage, all you need to do is leave your telephone number in the automated phone system. This information is routed to our member service representatives and our line crews are dispatched immediately.

During widespread outages, our automated outage system does an excellent job of processing call data to help analyze the situation.

If you have information on the specific cause of the problem or the location of damage such as a tree on the wires, please stay on the line to speak with a member service representative. They will take the information and deploy line personnel for the fastest possible restoration.

■ Your help and understanding is appreciated

During outages, members often become our extra eyes and ears. We appreciate your help finding the cause of outages. And, of course, we appreciate your patience as we do our best to safely and quickly restore your power.

Do We Have Your Current Telephone Number?

When reporting power outages, the cooperative's automated outage reporting system is the easiest way to report your outage and help the cooperative restore your power as soon as possible.

Please look at your newly redesigned billing statements and verify that the cooperative has your current telephone number. If not, you may either write your telephone number in the address correction area on the portion of the billing statement you return with your payment or call the office at 800-635-4145 to update your account.



Include Home Energy Savings in Summer Vacation Plans

For members going on vacation this summer, EnerStar Power wants to help you make sure your home's energy use takes a vacation as well. Simple tips can save consumers money while they are away. A few simple items to add to your "Vacation To Do" list, can reduce your energy usage.

Air Conditioning

Set the thermostat to 85 degrees. If it is a programmable thermostat, use the "hold" or the "vacation" setting to keep it at that temperature.

Electronics

Computers, CD/DVD players, TVs and VCRs – these and other electronic appliances use electricity, even when they are not turned on. Unplug them before leaving.

Lighting

Consumers can improve their energy

savings, and their home's security, by using timers to operate lights each night. And by installing compact fluorescent bulbs, or CFLs, in those lamps, consumers will be saving more energy, up to 66 percent less in each lamp, and the bulb will last approximately 10 times longer than a regular incandescent bulb.



Water Heating

Turn the water heater's temperature down to the lowest setting. Many water heaters have a "vacation" setting for this purpose. Leave a reminder to turn it back up upon returning home.

- Waterbed owners should unplug the heater, or at least lower the temperature 10 degrees.
- Pool owners should shorten the operating time for the pool filter and automatic cleaning sweep (if applicable). A pool cover can save energy too. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, up to 70 percent of pool heat loss is by evaporation.

Refrigerator

Adjust the refrigerator control to a warmer setting. If going on an extended trip, consider emptying the fridge and turning it off. Remember to leave the door open to prevent mildew.

Because of our dedicated personnel, a light comes on when you flip a switch.



Look around your community. You may have ball field lights because your local cooperative installed them. Maybe an electrical safety presentation was presented by your local electric cooperative. Or, your local electric cooperative donated Discovery Channel Get Charged! Kits to the middle schools. Why? Because we're your Touchstone Energy cooperative, and we're looking out for you.

EnerStar[®]

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

Q&A

What Is



Touchstone Energy?

Touchstone Energy is an alliance of more than 630 cooperatives in 45 states that collectively deliver power and energy solutions and high standards of service to more than 22 million members every day. Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve their members with four core values — integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. These core values emphasize the significance of each electric cooperative's local presence and unique ties to its community, yet offers the resources of a nationwide network to bring added value and benefit to its members.

Easy Ways To Increase Your Hot Water Heater's Efficiency

Your hot water heater is the third largest energy user in the home, accounting for 15 to 25 percent of your utility bill. There are several easy, inexpensive ways to reduce that cost.

One way to save money on your water heating is to turn down the thermostat to 115 degrees. That temperature is sufficient for most households and it can also keep you from scalding yourself in the bathtub.

Low-flow showerheads are easy to install. If you have teenagers, who tend to take loooooong showers, you'll save a bundle.

Cold-water clothes washing is another easy change that can dramatically lower your water heating cost.

To keep your water heater heating efficiently, drain a quart of water from the tank every month or two to remove sediment that can interfere with heat transfer in the tank.

Another simple tip is to insulate the water heater. Newer water heaters are well insulated, but if yours is warm to the touch, it might benefit from insulation. Water heater blankets are available at most hardware stores and home centers for \$10 to \$20 and when installed properly will pay for themselves in about one year.

For more energy saving tips contact your local electric co-op or visit www.eere.energy.gov/consumerinfo/factsheets/eewtrhtr.html.

EnerStar[®]

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 



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EnerStar collects oil first Monday of each month

Area United Way Campaigns Kick Off

Efforts Benefit Communities in Clark and Edgar Counties



Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in Edgar county both benefit from United Way funds. Pictured above are Girl Scouts learning about the history of the girl scout organization.

It's that time of the year again when the United Way kicks off their fundraising campaign. You've probably heard about the United Way but do you understand the impact that it has in your community?

United Way of America is a national network of more than 1,300 locally governed organizations that work to create lasting positive changes in communities and people's lives. Building on more than a century of service, a United Way organization encourages communities to identify the underlying causes of their most significant local issues. It then de-

velops strategies, gathers financial and human resources to address them, and measures the results.

Each individual United Way office sets its own mission and goals. Focus areas are determined locally due to the diversity of the communities. What might be a need in one community may not necessarily be a need in another.

But there are some common goals that most United Ways work toward such as helping youth succeed, improving access to health care, promoting self-sufficiency and strengthening

continued on page 16b



families. It really comes down to whatever is necessary to build a strong, healthy community.

All of this is accomplished in collaboration with diverse partners. Depending on the issue and how the community chooses to address it, United Ways work with schools, government agencies, businesses, organized labor, financial institutions, community development corporations, voluntary and neighborhood associations, the religious community and others.

Beyond local collaborations, the national United Way office partners with major corporations, including the National Football League, to help local United Ways build awareness and meet their community and financial goals.

There are some interesting facts about the United Way movement:

- United Ways mobilize one of the largest volunteer networks in the country. United Ways rallied 1.06 million people in direct service to United Way in the following capacities: board members, loaned executives, Day of Caring volunteers, campaign coordinators, planned giving volunteers and other direct service volunteers.
- In 2005-06, the United Way system raised \$3.98 billion in current year support (an increase of 2.9 percent over 2004-2005), making it the nation's largest private charity.

Local Benefits

In east central Illinois, we are fortunate to benefit from two outstanding United Way agencies: United Way of the Wabash Valley and the United Way of Edgar County.

Serving Clark County - United Way of the Wabash Valley

Although serving mostly Indiana counties, the United Way of the Wabash Valley (UWWV), headquartered in Terre Haute, also serves Clark County in Illinois.

United Way of the Wabash Valley is aiming high with their 2007 fundraising effort by seeking to raise \$2.3



The University of Illinois Extension Service holds summer day camps called Camp Clover throughout the county. These camps are sponsored by United Way funds.

million before the end of the year. That's \$100,000 more than last year's goal. Some of those funds go directly to benefit United Way agencies that serve Clark County residents.

Agencies currently providing services to Clark County residents include organizations such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boy Scouts, Catholic Charities, Marshall Area Youth Network, Terre Haute Boys and Girls Club, United Cerebral Palsy, Wabash Senior Citizens, Terre Haute Family YMCA and the West Terre Haute Community Center. While not all of these agencies are headquartered in Clark County, county residents do receive direct benefits from these agencies.

Besides the campaign, UWWV conducts many community development programs year round such as the "Success by Six" initiative and the "Born Learning" campaign. Both of these campaigns are designed to provide local support for improv-

ing early learning, child care, parent education, health, literary and family resource center programs.

It will be a big day on September 7, 2007, when the results of the 2007 Pilot Campaign will be announced and the fall campaign will officially launch.

The pilot program generates great momentum for the fall campaign, serving as a "jump start" to a successful campaign. The pilot campaign consists of 21 corporations, including TRW in Marshall, that are committed to the United Way mission. These companies make corporate donations but also hold fundraisers and other events geared towards the success of the goal.

"Last year, 42 percent of all money raised by the United Way of the Wabash Valley came from its pilot campaign, said Jim Bertoli, Executive Director of the UWWV. "That's how vital our pilot campaign is to us," Bertoli said.



Mission statement

EnerStar Power exists to reliably distribute affordable electricity to its member-owners while upholding our values of integrity, accountability, and commitment to our community.

Bertoli and this year's campaign chair, Pat Ralston encourage Clark County residents who wish to donate to the Wabash Valley United Way to visit their Valley United Way Web site at www.uww.org. "We are confident that the caring people of our communities will come through and help us attain this goal and help thousands of people in need," said Ralston.

Serving Edgar County – The United Way of Edgar County

The United Way of Edgar County (UWEC) is unique in the fact that the campaign is run entirely by volunteers. There is no paid staff. Therefore, more of the United Way dollars donated stay in the community from which they are donated.

The local volunteers who serve on the United Way board of directors or on the campaign committee gear up in early summer for the fall fundraising campaign. This year's campaign will "kick off" on August 31, 2007, at a home Paris High School football game. Other events around the county are being organized as well.

The United Way Edgar County has yet to announce their campaign goal for the 2007 season, but it is anticipated to be in the range of \$100,000. Keith Smith of Cargill and Tom Hebermehl of Pearman Pharmacy will serve as campaign co-chairs. More than 40 local volunteers participate in the fundraising program.

Current Board President Amy Flori emphasized that the fund distribution of the United Way of Edgar County follows the patterns of most United Ways.



The Marshall Area Youth Network, a United Way agency, is a community collaboration where educators and community youth organizations can work together on issues concerning youth and families. Pictured above (to the right/left) are B.A.C. (Boys are Cool) participants. Other MAYN offerings include G.A.P. (Girls are Powerful) and a mentoring programs.

Areas of emphasis include: meeting basic needs, family development, family stability, health, senior, youth recreation and character development.

Angela Griffin, an EnerStar employee who has served on the United Way campaign for over 15 years and has been involved with many of the United Way agencies, emphasized that this is a countywide program. "Our United Way agencies benefit residents throughout Edgar County," said Griffin. "Good examples of this are University of Illinois Extension 4-H Day Camps held in Paris, Kansas and Chrisman or the Compassionate Food Ministry that provides food to over 450 families a month that live throughout the county."

Other United Way agencies include Faith in Action, Edgar County

Senior Center, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Community Nurse, Human Resources Center, Salvation Army, Edgar County Homeless Shelter, Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Paris Community YMCA. Several youth sports programs also benefit from United Way funding.

Flori and Griffin both emphasized they would like to see United Way events throughout the year such as the "Born Learning" campaign to increase the public's awareness of the impact of United Way.

Anyone wishing to donate to or volunteer for the Edgar County United Way is encouraged to call Keith Smith at 465-5331 or Tom Hebermehl at 465-8455. Donations may also be mailed directly to P.O. Box 400, Paris, Ill. 61944.



History of the United Way

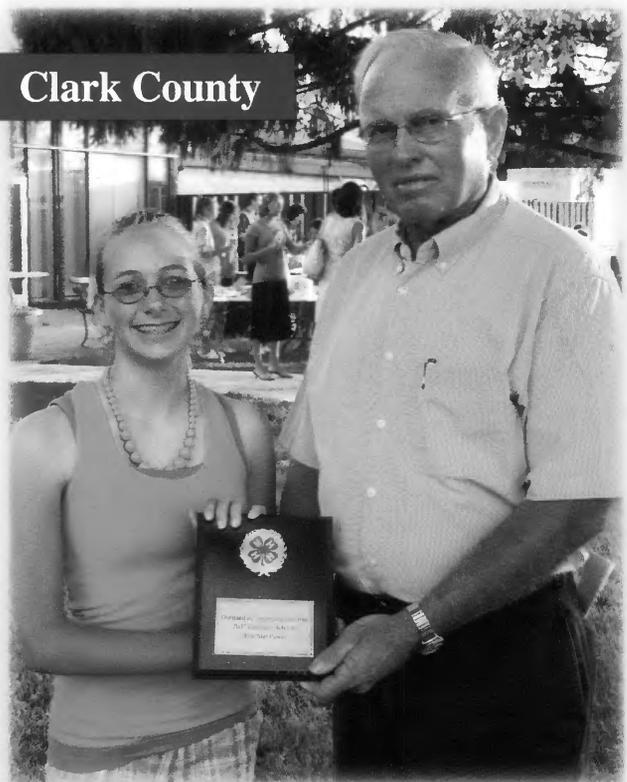
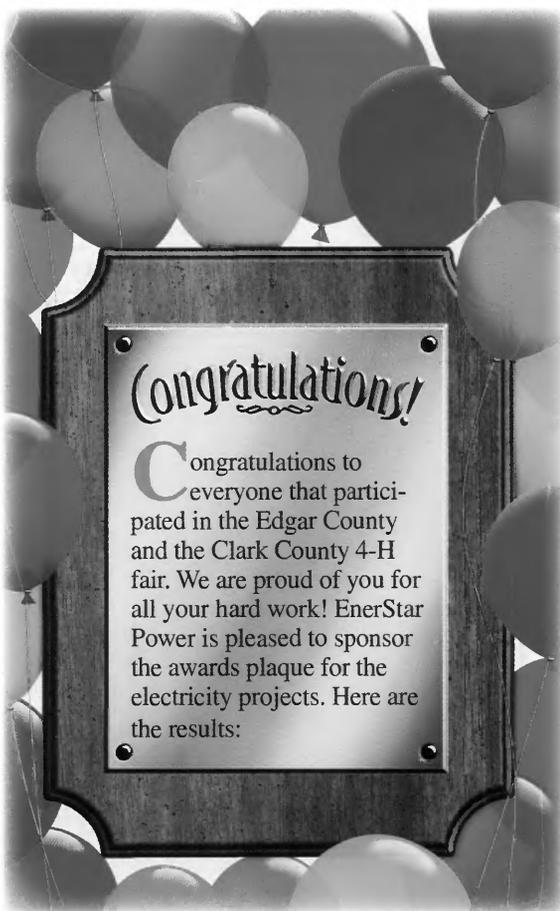
In 1887, a Denver priest, two ministers and a rabbi recognized the need for cooperative action to address their city's welfare problems. The Rev. Myron W. Reed, Msgr. William J. O'Ryan, Dean H. Martyn Hart and Rabbi William S. Friedman put their heads together to plan the first

united campaign for 10 health and welfare agencies. They created an organization to serve as an agent to collect funds for local charities, as well as to coordinate relief services, counsel and refer clients to cooperating agencies, and make emergency assistance grants in cases that could not be referred. That year, Denver

raised \$21,700 and created a movement that would spread throughout the country to become the United Way. Over 118 years later, United Way is still focused on mobilizing the caring power of communities and making a difference in people's lives.



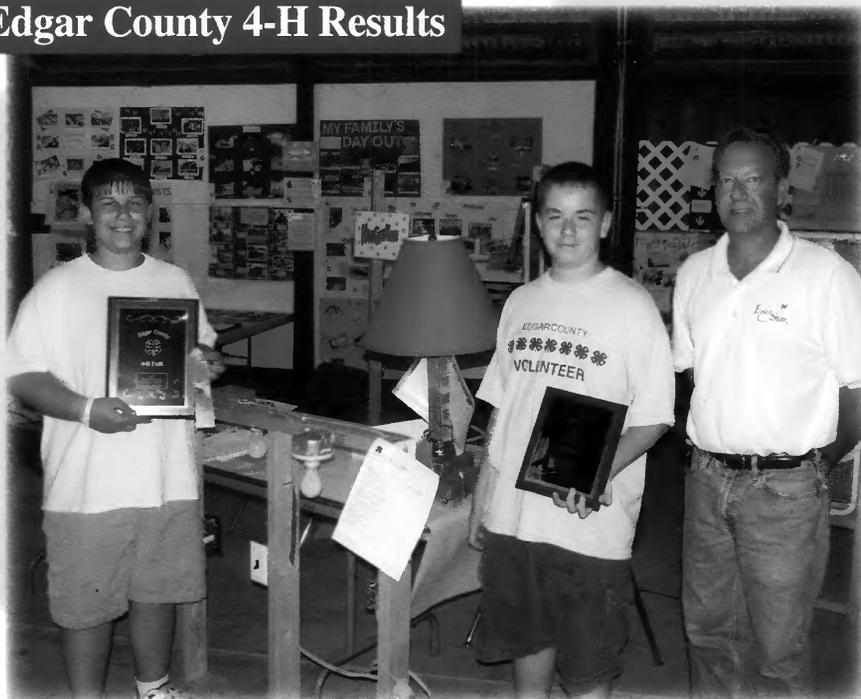
4-H Electricity Projects



Clark County

Denise Wallace, daughter of David and Darlena Wallace, was the grand champion at the Clark County 4-H Fair. She is pictured with EnerStar board member Gene Higginbotham. Denise belongs to the Clarksville Co-eds 4-H Club.

Edgar County 4-H Results



Pictured from left to right are Aaron Mood, son of Scott and Mindy Mood, Tyler Bouslog, son of Ron and Cindy Bouslog, and Tim Haddix, representing EnerStar Power. At the Edgar County fair, Aaron received the Grand Champion award while Tyler received the Reserve Champion award. Both boys belong to the Stratton 4-H Club.

Electric Co-op Statewide Holds Annual Meeting

More than 300 locally elected Illinois electric cooperative board members and managers, including representatives of EnerStar Power, met July 26-27 in Springfield to celebrate 66 years of cooperation at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' (AIEC) annual meeting. Co-op leaders discussed rural issues like future power supply, energy conservation, international rural electrification assistance and rural broadband service.

AIEC Board President Robert Inman of Grand Chain said, "Above all, we as directors try to look forward to tomorrow and provide our members services they will need at an economical rate. Today cooperatives across the state not only provide electricity, but often Internet, telephone, or water as well. Who knows what services co-op members will need in the future? But our co-ops will be there to provide them."

Inman said that although energy efficiency improvements are occurring, a substantial growth in energy demand in the future is unavoidable. "Current supply options are comprised of fossil fuels, nuclear, and renewables like solar, wind, biomass and geothermal," he said. "In the next half-century the world is going to need a lot more energy at economically and environmentally acceptable costs, if the reasonable aspirations of an expanding population are to be met."

AIEC President/CEO Duane Noland told members of the newest members of the AIEC, Rock Energy Cooperative and Dairyland Power Cooperative, both in Wisconsin. Rock Energy and Jo-Carroll Energy each bought portions of Alliant Energy's territory in Illinois earlier this year.

Noland reminded the co-op leaders of the strength of cooperation during natural disasters. Several electric co-ops were hit hard by multiple storms including two back-to-back ice storms. Co-op crews from across the state and neighboring states answered the call for help. "Our hats are off to all the co-op employees who answered the call and proved once again that cooperation among cooperatives is still alive and well," said Noland.

The cost of energy was the most important topic Noland addressed.



AIEC President/CEO Duane Noland, speaking to more than 300 locally elected Illinois electric cooperative leaders, said, "This past year has been phenomenal. We've weathered tremendous storms, acquired investor-owned utility territory, and aided our sister co-op in the Dominican Republic." At the AIEC annual meeting, held in Springfield last week, co-op leaders also discussed the changes in Illinois' utility industry, future power supply issues and rural broadband service.

"Cooperatives have the opportunity to lead the utility industry in addressing these issues through rate restructuring, policy changes, education about energy conservation and using new technologies such as smart metering. Cooperatives have always had the foresight and vision to act, not because doing so is mandated by state or federal laws and regulations, but because it is the right thing to do for the members."

During the meeting the co-op leaders honored State Representative Jim Watson (R-Jacksonville) and State Senator John M. Sullivan (D-Quincy) with the Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award.

Illinois Farm Bureau President Philip Nelson told the rural leaders that many critical issues are facing agriculture and rural Illinois. "We need to work together to get some common sense back in the process," said Nelson. He listed biofuel expansion, long-wall mining, the national Farm Bill, and state budget and taxation issues as just some of the tough issues that must be addressed.

"Biofuel expansion is just one

area where Illinois can be a leader if we do things right," said Nelson. He added that basic rail and water transportation infrastructure issues as well as the concerns of the livestock industry needed to be addressed as the biofuels industry expands.

After the meeting, the AIEC board of directors reorganized. Re-elected officers include Chairman Inman, Vice Chairman Douglas Darby of Geneseo, Secretary Stan Prox of Macomb and Treasurer Darrell Shumard of Stewardson.

Based in Springfield, the AIEC provides legal, engineering, communications, safety training, legislative and other services to 27 electric cooperatives. AIEC member cooperatives serve more than 255,000 farms, homes and businesses in 90 counties, with 56,744 miles of line. AIEC is a member of Touchstone Energy®, an alliance of more than 640 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country, committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

“Labor” Safely on Labor Day

For many people, Labor Day is a day of rest. For others, it's a day to catch-up on outdoor home projects before the season changes. Faulty extension cords are often a source of injury when working outside, as well as metal ladders coming into contact with an electrical source. EnerStar Power encourages you to follow these tips below, so you can “labor” safely on Labor Day.

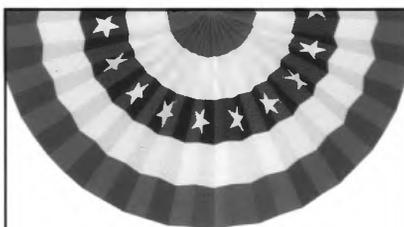


Extension cords and power tools:

- Check power tools and electrical cords to make sure they are in good condition. Power tools should be designed for outdoor use.
- Extension cords should be designed for outdoor use. They are thicker, more durable and have features for preventing moisture damage.
- Use three-wire extension cords with three-pronged plugs.
- Look for the amperage rating of the extension cord to make sure it will meet the power demand of the tool.
- Do not plug one extension cord into another. Use the proper length for the job.
- Never leave an open extension cord that is plugged into an outlet. Unplug the cord when you are finished using it.

Ladders:

- Use fiberglass or wood ladders when working around overhead power lines or electrical sources. Metal ladders conduct electricity and can be fatal if the ladder comes into contact with electricity.
- If you must use metal, carefully check the location of all overhead wires to avoid contact.
- Lower the ladder when carrying it or moving it.
- Never work on a windy day, as a gust of wind could shift the ladder into an overhead wire.
- When placing the ladder on the ground, make sure the distance to the nearest overhead wire is at least twice the length of the ladder.
- Make sure the ladder is placed on solid, level ground to prevent sliding.



Office Closing **LABOR DAY**

EnerStar offices
will be closed
Monday, September 3.



When you say
“jump,”
we say
“how high.”

Why?

Because at your local electric cooperative,
we work for you, the owners.

EnerStar

Find It On
The Web

Be an Energy Hog Buster!

With efficiency education a growing priority, the Illinois Electric Council (IEC), of which EnerStar Power is a member, is pleased to announce its partnership in the national "Energy Hog" Campaign. The Alliance to Save Energy's collaboration with the Ad Council raises awareness of the benefits of energy efficiency and conservation through the use of a dastardly spokessvillain - the energy wasting Energy Hog.

The Energy Hog illustrates the acts of wasting energy and is designed to have broad appeal to youth audiences, ages eight to thirteen years old, as well as adults who pay the energy bills and are decision makers for home efficiency improvements. On the main landing page, you can choose either the adult or the youth site. And even for adults, the youth site is interesting and fun.

The Energy Hog Web site, which is aimed at children, also includes

ENERGYHOG.org

Saving Energy Saves Money.

▶ SAVING ENERGY ▶ ENERGY CHECKLIST ▶ ENERGY AUDIT ▶ EDUCATORS ▶ MORE

Your energy bill is one bill that you CAN control. In 2005, the average household spent almost \$1,900 on home energy bills. You can save 10% - 50% each year by making smart energy choices.

Use this site to get rid of the Energy Hogs in your home, and start saving money and energy.

Did you know? Energy Efficiency Facts

An overwhelming majority of consumers - 92 percent - agree that business, government, and consumers have an equal responsibility to reduce energy use - Alliance to Save Energy, 2003 Consumer Market Research.

Consumers garner information on saving energy and reducing energy bills from a variety of sources - 45

resources for parents and teachers, as well as Internet versions of the Energy Hog ads. The Web site's main attractions are the Energy Hog Training Camp and its five training games,

where children can train to become Energy Hog Busters and learn fun ways to use energy more efficiently.

You can find the Energy Hog on the web at www.energyhog.org!

Because of our dedicated personnel, a light comes on when you flip a switch.



Look around your community. You may have ball field lights because your local cooperative installed them. Maybe an electrical safety presentation was presented by your local electric cooperative. Or, your local electric cooperative donated Discovery Channel Get Charged! Kits to the middle schools. Why? Because we're your Touchstone Energy cooperative, and we're looking out for you.

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Harvest Safety: Look Up and Live

National Farm Safety and Health Week Sept. 16 – 22

The rush to harvest can yield higher numbers of electrocution, shock and burn injuries. Nationwide, an average of 64 agricultural workers are electrocuted and hundreds more injured in farm electrical accidents each year. Safe Electricity and EnerStar Power urge farm workers to avoid tragic accidents by taking note of farm activities that take place around power lines.

“Equipment contacting overhead power lines is the leading cause of farm electrocution accidents in the Midwest,” says Bob Aherin, University of Illinois Agricultural Safety Specialist.

Many types of farm equipment can come in contact with overhead power lines, creating a direct path for electricity. Tractors with front-end loaders, portable grain augers, fold-up cultivators, and equipment with antennas can easily become electrical hazards and must be operated with care.

“Everyone who works on the farm should know the location of power lines and keep farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them – below, to the side and above power lines,” says Tim Haddix, EnerStar’s System Engineer and Energy Advisor. “Ensuring proper clearance can save lives.”

Here are some safety considerations for farm workers:

- Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level - under 14 feet - before moving or transporting; use care when raising them.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas.
- Always use a spotter or someone to help make certain that contact is not made with a line when moving large equipment or high loads.
- Do not use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.
- As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, and hay also conduct electricity.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.
- Apply decals to all equipment that may pose electrical hazards and explain decals to workers who use the equipment.
- Inspect farm equipment for transport height and determine clearance with any power lines under

which the equipment must pass.

- If you have a standby power system, review its location, operation and importance with all workers.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

“It’s also important for operators of farm equipment or vehicles to know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line,” Haddix says. “It’s almost always best to stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.”

If you must leave the vehicle due to fire danger, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Continue to hop or shuffle to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Many electrocutions happen when the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

For more information on farm and other electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

EnerStar Can Help You Dispose of Used Oil



- EnerStar will collect used oil on the first Monday of each month or by appointment during normal business hours.
- Service available to residential members who are considered “do-it-yourselfers” for home and farm use.
- Drain the oil or transmission fluid into a suitable container. The container capacity should be no larger than 5 gallons. The cooperative can also accept oil in 30-50 gallon drums as long as the containers are properly sealed.

- Do not mix the oil with other liquids such as antifreeze, gasoline, paint thinner, brake fluid or water.

If you have questions about the program, contact EnerStar’s Mike Clark at 1-800-635-4145, extension 616 or e-mail him at mclark@enerstar.com.



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www.enerstar.com

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Learn how co-ops serve America.

Garold Farthing 16e

EnerStar honors former director

Why Do My Lights Blink? 16e

Learn why your blinking lights mean a properly functioning electrical system.

Preventing, Escaping and Putting Out Fires 16g

October is National Fire Prevention Month. Learn these tips to keep your family safe.

Halloween Lighting Safety 16h

Don't be haunted by electrical hazards this October.

Safety Matters

Safe Electricity helps us get the word out about safety

As a cooperative, EnerStar Power is very concerned about your safety. We want to educate our members and this community on how to stay safe around electricity. That is why we publish articles frequently in this magazine about electric safety and offer brochures in our office. We also host events like the fourth grade Safety Day, the Live Line Demo and participate in Farm Safety Days.

One of the Web sites you'll often see us reference in our safety articles is safeelectricity.org. Safe Electricity is a public awareness program created by the Illinois Electric Council and sponsored by many big utility companies, including the electric cooperatives of Illinois.

More than 1,000 people are killed and tens of thousands injured each year in electrical accidents and fires. Most of those accidents could have been prevented if people knew



Call your local utility and report the location of any downed power line. Don't try to clear away trees or limbs if power lines are under or wrapped around them.

the danger of electricity and how they could stay safe. Safe Electricity is striving to give people that knowledge.

Safe Electricity educates the general public about electrical safety through press releases, radio and television advertising and by sponsoring a Live Line Demo and tent at events such as the Illinois State Fair and Farm Progress Show.

► *Continued on next page*



► *Continued from previous page*

The Web site, safeelectricity.org, also contains a great deal of information in both English and Spanish, with special materials available for agriculture workers, contractors, teachers and kids. Visitors to the Web site can enter Electric Safety World and Electric Universe to find games and activities for all ages, even adults. Or you can watch a Live Line Demo and read safety tips.

The bottom line is, we're concerned about your safety and we want to provide you with the knowledge and resources you need to keep safe around electricity. Safe Electricity is one valuable tool we use to do that. Visit www.safeelectricity.org today.



Everyone who works on the farm should know the location of power lines and keep farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them – below, to the side and above power lines. Always use a spotter or someone to help make certain that contact is not made with a line when moving large equipment or high loads.

Additional Safety Tips



Be careful if there's flooding in or around your home. Don't touch or use electrical appliances if you are wet or standing in water. You could be seriously hurt.



Make sure kitchen, bath, laundry and outdoor outlets are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI). Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them. In the event of a short, a GFCI will shut off the circuit instantaneously.



If a power line falls across your vehicle, stay in the vehicle until the utility arrives and cuts power to the line.



Mission statement

EnerStar Power exists to reliably distribute affordable electricity to its member-owners while upholding our values of integrity, accountability, and commitment to our community.

Prepare Your Home Now for a Safe, Energy-Efficient Winter

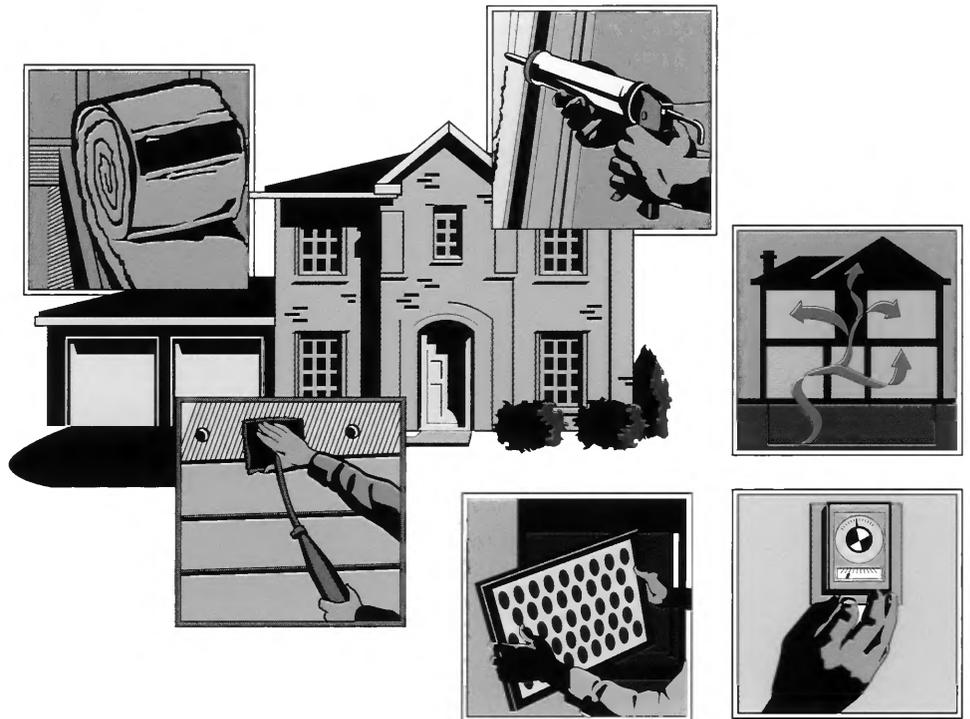
Before winter arrives with its higher home heating bills, EnerStar Power and the Safe Electricity program encourage people to take steps now to improve both home energy efficiency and safety during the home heating season.

"Most winterizing steps can pay for themselves relatively quickly with heating bill savings," says Molly Hall, Executive Director of the Illinois Electric Council (IEC). "Weather stripping and caulking are inexpensive and among the simplest, most effective ways to boost efficiency and cut energy costs year round."

"As you take steps to winterize your home, you can also inspect for electrical hazards and eliminate electrical fire and shock risks," adds Jay Solomon, University of Illinois Extension Engineering Educator. "For example, as you check around outlets and other places where air can leak, also check for overloaded outlets and cover plates that are warm to the touch."

Use these tips to help cut costs and improve home safety:

- Make sure attics and flooring above unheated spaces, such as crawl space and garage, are appropriately insulated.
- Find air leaks in homes by moistening fingertips and running them around doors or window frames to feel a draft, or holding up a tissue to see if it waves. Check around fixtures that penetrate walls, such as exhaust fans and electrical outlets, and look for gaps near dryer vents, chimneys and faucet pipes. Seal them all with caulking or weather-stripping.
- Replace screens with storm windows and doors. Double-paned glass plays an important role in reducing heat loss. Double-pane win-



dows with low-e coating can reduce heating bills by 34 percent in cold climates compared to uncoated, single-pane windows. If you have older or leaky windows that you cannot replace, consider temporary fixes, such as plastic film kits that create the effect of an interior storm window.

- If you are shopping for new windows, glass doors or skylights, look for the ENERGY STAR. Today's high-efficiency windows are 40 percent more energy efficient than standard windows and can cut heating and cooling costs by 15 percent.
- Consider replacing your furnace if it is more than 30 years old. Furnaces that old are usually less than 50 percent energy efficient.
- Install an automatic thermostat. An easy-to-install clock thermostat can automatically raise and lower home temperatures for energy savings day and night.

While you winterize, use this electrical safety checklist:

- Check outlets and make sure they are not overloaded. Have a professional replace worn and outdated circuitry, and add enough outlets for appliances and electronics.
- Examine electrical cords for cracks, frays and damaged plugs, and don't run them under rugs, furniture or behind baseboards.
- Check that light bulbs are proper wattage and securely screwed in light fixtures.
- Make sure ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are installed in outlets in wet locations such as bathrooms, kitchen and laundry rooms. Test and reset them monthly.
- Test your smoke detector batteries. Replace them if they are more than six months old.

For more information visit www.SafeElectricity.org.



Celebrate Cooperative Month

Co-ops Generate Billions in Income While Supporting Community Causes like Education and the Environment, Study Finds

Cooperative businesses generate hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions in income for their communities while also supporting local causes ranging from education to the environment, according to a series of case studies compiled to help mark October as National Co-op Month.

The 20-plus pages of case studies, put together by the National Co-op Month Planning Committee, show that co-ops take a back seat to no other sector when it comes to making economic and charitable contributions to their communities.

Nearly 3,000 farmer cooperatives, for example, account for as many as 300,000 jobs nationwide and a total payroll of more than \$8 billion. Some 270 local, consumer-owned telecommunications cooperatives employ an average of 47 people each and generate more than \$2 billion in revenues annually.

In Minnesota alone, cooperatives of all types generate more than \$10 billion in economic activity annually. In New York, credit unions alone generate \$4 billion annually.

But that's not all co-ops do. They also have a strong commitment to the communities in which their members live and work. Every day, in every sector, through cash contributions and volunteerism, co-ops support local causes ranging from education to the environment.

It is no coincidence that co-ops show a special loyalty to their communities. As member-controlled enterprises, co-ops are run largely by the people who live and work in the

communities they serve.

Cooperatives serve 120 million members, or four in 10 Americans. They operate in virtually every industry and range in size from small storefronts to Fortune 500 companies.

Despite this diversity, co-ops have some things in common. They are owned and democratically controlled by the people who use their services or buy their goods. They are

motivated by service to their members, not by profit.

"Community is not just where we work; it's why we work," Manager of Member Services Angela Griffin said. "Cooperatives are motivated to serve their members, not outside investors. Doing that means we must also serve the communities in which our members live, work and play."



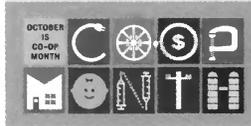
Touching *Lives.*

Member-owned cooperative businesses touch the lives of virtually all Americans every day.

We provide almost every product and service imaginable, from the coffee you drink in the morning to the news you watch at night.

And we do it with a difference.

Since we are owned by our customers, you know you are getting a good deal and that more of the money you spend stays in your community.



Cooperatives.

Owned by Our Members,
Committed to Our Communities.

EnerStar Honors Former Director Garold Farthing

The Enerstar family was recently saddened to learn of the death of former longtime director Garold W. Farthing of Hindsboro. Garold passed away August 6, 2007, at Sarah Bush Hospital in Mattoon.

Garold was born October 17, 1913, in Bonnie, the son of Raymond Earl and Elizabeth Mitchell. His wife, Lois Marie Gaede Farthing, preceded him in death in 2001.

Garold leaves behind three daughters—Janet Bruce of Hindsboro, Joan Schaffner of Champaign and Barbara Gilhaus of Downs; two sons—Bill and Gary Farthing of Oakland; three brothers—Ken Farthing of Mt Vernon, Lloyd Farthing of Texas and Don Farthing of Illinois; one half-sister—Colleen Rightnowar of Bonnie; 15 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and three great-great grandchildren. An infant daughter, three brothers, two sisters, and a grandchild preceded him in death.

According to Garold's children, he was involved in a variety of occupations and many life activities, too numerous to mention all of them here. He was a farmer and raised turkeys; he was a school bus driver in Oakland-Hindsboro and a rural substitute postal carrier in Hindsboro for 29 years. He was an original director of the Oakland Fire Protection District. He served as a Douglas County Republican precinct committeeman. He was a member in the Oakland Lions Club for over 50 years. And he belonged to the Ob-long Rovers Camping Club and the



Friendly Campers Club.

In addition, Garold served on the Enerstar Board of Directors for 40 years, where he represented members in the Oakland-Hindsboro service territory.

In 1962 when Garold first became a director, then Edgar Electric Co-operative Association was only 24 years old! Garold helped direct the co-op through the many changes and challenges of the next 40 years—always with the goal of giving members reliable electric service at the lowest possible prices. Garold could always be counted on for his individualistic stance; he was not afraid to speak his mind or to

vote what he believed.

This life of service and dedication Garold exemplified is often characteristic of the members of the Enerstar Board. Directors are frequently called upon to spend countless hours studying issues, meeting with members and attending meetings. These strong individuals do this for their friends, families and communities—to guarantee an electric system that is sound and sure for generations to come and to guard and protect the standard of living in their beloved rural land.

We pay tribute to Garold and the men like him who serve well and serve gladly. Thank you!



Why Do My Lights Blink?

We know that blinking lights are annoying. The reason your lights blink is that something has happened to short circuit the power line. Special devices installed on the lines called reclosers, click off and then back on again quickly if the short circuit is temporary, like if a tree branch hits the line. That short

interruption of power when the recloser shuts off is when your lights blink. If the recloser wasn't present on the line, your power would be off until the co-op could send out linemen to restore it.

So the next time you have to reset your digital clocks, remember that it means your co-op's electric system is operating properly, and that short blink saved you from a longer outage.



EnerStar Can Help You Dispose of Used Oil

- EnerStar will collect used oil on the first Monday of each month or by appointment during normal business hours.
- Service available to residential members who are considered “do-it-yourselfers” for home and farm use.
- Drain the oil or transmission fluid into a suitable container. The container capacity should be no larger than 5 gallons. The cooperative can also accept oil in 30-50 gallon drums as long as the containers are properly sealed.
- Important to remember...Do not mix the oil with other liquids such as antifreeze, gasoline, paint thinner, brake fluid or water.

If you have questions about the program, contact EnerStar Mike Clark at 1-800-635-4145, extension 616 or e-mail him at mclark@enerstar.com.



At EnerStar Power, our members are of the utmost importance to us. That's why we want to help our members save something that's important to them—their electricity. By doing simple things like turning off the lights when no one's in the room to installing energy efficient appliances, all of our members can manage their electricity use. Because that's the way it should be.



Touchstone Energy[®]

The power of human connections

Preventing, Escaping and Putting Out Fires

In honor of October as National Fire Prevention Month, your electric cooperative offers advice from Safe Electricity and Underwriter's Laboratory on preventing electrical fires, forming escape plans and using fire extinguishers.

Preventing Electrical Fires

Safe Electricity says that fires are among the leading causes of accidental death in the United States today. Nationally, it is estimated that nearly one-third of residential fires are related to electrical distribution, or appliances and equipment. These electrical fires cause hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries, and translate into more than a billion dollars in property damage each year.

- Don't place cords underneath rugs and furniture and do not run cords behind baseboards, curtains or in high-traffic areas.
- Replace cords that show wear and expose wires. Inspect them often.
- Do not use light bulbs with wattage that is too high for the fixture.
- To prevent overheating, allow air space around heat-producing appliances such as TVs, plug-in radios, stereo sets, computers and powerful lamps.
- Don't use extension cords on a permanent basis.
- Check for loose wall receptacles, wires and lighting fixtures. Immediately shut off, then have a professional replace light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that spark or flicker.
- Call an electrician if your electrical system is overloaded. Dimming lights, slow-heating appliances, frequently blown fuses are all signs.



For more fire prevention information, visit the Web site www.SafeElectricity.org or www.homesafetycouncil.org.

Escaping a Fire

Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) offers the following tips for smoke alarms and escape routes.

Experts report that consumers may cut their risk of dying in a home fire in half simply by having a smoke alarm in their homes.

- When you purchase a smoke alarm, look for the UL Mark on the product as well as on the packaging.
- Install at least one smoke alarm on each floor of the house or residence and outside all sleeping areas.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions exactly.
- Install fresh batteries in your smoke alarms at least once a year.
- Don't allow anyone to disconnect or "borrow" the batteries from your smoke alarms.
- If a smoke alarm's warning alarm sounds, don't panic. Stay close to the floor and get out of the building. Before opening any doors, check the temperature. If the door feels hot to the touch,

don't open it, then use an alternate exit.

- Practice escape routes with your family and set up a central meeting place for all family members outside the home.

For more smoke alarm and escape information visit www.ul.com or view the June Safety and Health column on this magazine's Web site at www.icl.coop.

Using a Fire Extinguisher

Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) Web site offers the following tips for selecting and using a fire extinguisher:

- Select a multi-purpose extinguisher with the UL Mark that can be used on all types of home fires (wood, cloth, paper, flammable liquids such as gasoline, oil, grease, oil-based paint and energized electrical equipment including wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers and appliances).
- Know how the extinguisher works before you need to use it. When there's a fire, there is no time to find the instruction booklet or study instructions printed on the extinguisher.
- To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word **PASS**: Pull the pin, hold the extinguisher away from you and release the locking mechanism. Aim low, pointing the extinguisher at the base of the fire. Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly. Sweep the nozzle from side to side. Stand at least six feet away from the fire and have your back to a door so you can escape easily.



11597 IL Hwy 1 • Paris, Illinois 61944 217-463-4145 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M-F



Boo-tiful Lighting Safety Tips

Don't let electrical hazards haunt your house this Halloween. While decorating for fall festivities, Safe Electricity and EnerStar Power advise checking electric lights and decorations for potential dangers that could cause fires and injuries.

"Spooky, dark and flashing lights, fog machines, and other electric displays add to the ambiance of your Halloween haunts, but they also can create the added dangers of electrical shocks, fires and burns," warns Safe Electricity Director, Molly Hall. "Avoid real Halloween scares and take some simple steps to avoid potential safety hazards."

Before decorating indoors or outside this fall, take a moment to review safety tips to avoid risk of electric shock or fire:

- Use only lights that have been safety tested and approved by Underwriters Laboratory (UL). Look for the UL label on the box and on each string.
- Before plugging in the lights, check each string for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs. Replace damaged strings.

- Make sure extension cords are in good condition. Use only UL-approved cords rated to carry the electrical load you will connect to them.
 - Keep electric cords out of high-traffic areas. Do not run cords across sidewalks, decks or other walkways that could trip trick-or-treaters. Indoors, don't stretch them across a room where people can trip over them. Likewise, don't hide them under rugs or carpets.
 - Keep all flammable materials away from lights.
 - Don't staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords
 - Do not attach cords or lights to metal objects.
 - Outdoors, use only lights and cords rated for outdoor use.
 - Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them.
 - Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.
- "Whether decorating or using extension cords in general, read the label on both the cord and the ap-

pliances that are plugged into it to make sure the cord can handle the load," Hall says. "If it can't, use a higher-rated cord or unplug some appliances. Remember that extension cords are meant for temporary, not permanent, use.

For more information, visit the SafeElectricity.org Web site. Safe Electricity is an electrical safety public awareness program created and supported by a coalition of organizations, including the University of Illinois, Midwest rural electric cooperatives and investor-owned electric utilities, and other entities committed to promoting electrical safety.



Outdoor Lighting From Enerstar

From dusk to dawn, for security, safety and confidence, outdoor lighting costs just pennies a day.

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800-635-4145
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- Cooperative provides maintenance
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Seven 2008 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available



EnerStar Power President/CEO Peter Kollinger has announced that for the thirteenth consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships to high school seniors.

Seven scholarships of \$1,250 each will be awarded in 2008 to eligible high school seniors through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Four scholarships will be awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee. The sixth and seventh scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or

daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

"We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with this scholarship," says Kollinger. "EnerStar Power and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one."

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay that demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

For more information contact Angela Griffin at EnerStar Power at 217-463-4145 ext. 603 or ask your high school guidance counselor.

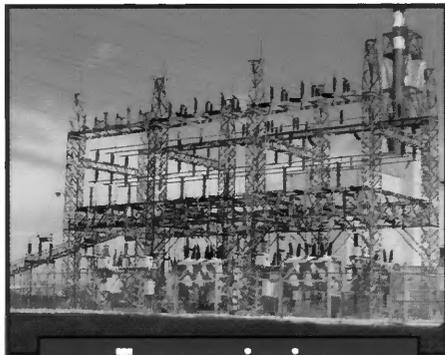
The Grid

AND HOW IT WORKS

The Grid Structure



Power Plant



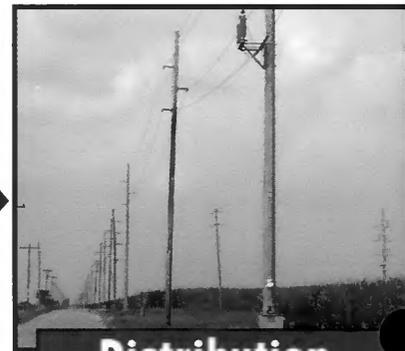
Transmission Substation



Transmission Lines



Distribution Substation



Distribution Lines

Most of the time, electricity is probably taken for granted. Making a pot of coffee seems like such a simple task yet we often forget about the massive structure that makes that cup of coffee possible.

“The Grid” is a network of power plants, transmission lines, substations and distribution lines covering the entire United States and parts of Canada. It is broken down into regional grids that are interconnected at transmission substations across the country so power companies can buy and sell electricity from each other.

Energy comes from many sources including burning coal, natural gas or oil, water, nuclear reactions, wind, methane from landfills, animal waste, the sun, and geothermal. Most electricity is generated at power plants.

The electricity generated at a power plant travels to a transmission substation where it is boosted to extremely high voltages (69,000-765,000 volts). Voltage must be increased so that the electric current has the “push” it needs to travel long distances and reduce losses along the way.

The electricity is carried on thick wires called transmission lines, held high above the ground on tall transmission towers, to distribution substations. EnerStar Power has eight distribution substations over a five county service territory.

Once the electricity reaches a distribution substation, electricity is stepped down by transformers to lower voltages (7,200-12,470 volts) so it can be sent safely through the distribution system.

Electricity leaves the substations on distribution lines attached to power poles. Most of these poles are wooden.

Distribution lines carry electricity to distribution transformers. Distribution transformers are the gray cylinders located at the top of power poles.

The transformer steps down the electricity once again (to 120-240 volts) for ordinary residential use and arrives at your home through an overhead weatherhead or an underground entrance. Just before the wires enter the exterior wall, the electricity passes through your meter which calculates your specific usage.

Technically, a power plant on one side of the United States could light a home on the other side of the United States. However, power plants are strategically located so that the cost to ship fuel to the power plant and

the cost to push electricity long distances over transmission lines is kept to a minimum.

EnerStar Power does not operate a power plant. We purchase power from Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA), headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana, and distribute it to your home. WVPA, which is a “generation and transmission cooperative,” provides power through a variety of traditional sources. They are also a leader in alternative energy sources. Several “green” projects include wind generation located near Bloomington, Illinois, and a power plant that uses a waste product called petroleum coke located near Terre Haute, Indiana. WVPA also transforms waste at a landfill gas generation plant and captures methane at a large dairy farm to generate electricity. WVPA also purchases electricity from the power grid.

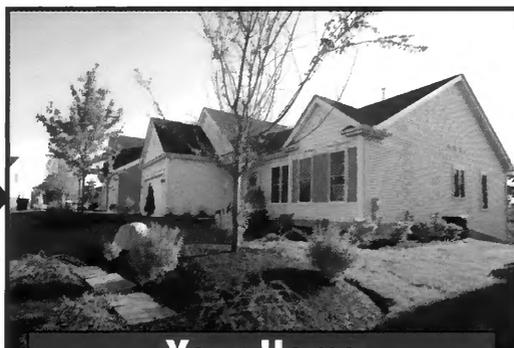
The kilowatts used by your lamp might have come from any of the power plants releasing power into the grid. The demand for electricity and the supply on the grid must always match.

The grid is the largest machine ever built by humans. At times, the grid struggles to meet the increasing demands of today’s digital world. Careful consideration is being put toward grid improvements. Each day, it becomes even more important to use energy efficiently.

Now, the next time you make a pot of coffee, you’ll know a little more about “the grid” working behind the scenes. You’ll understand what makes that one cup of coffee possible. Consider how often you use electricity and take steps to use it more efficiently. The more aware you are of using energy, hopefully, the less likely you will be to take it for granted.



Distribution Transformer



Your Home



Your Coffee Maker



You asked for it, you got it—

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- ★ One-time bill payments with credit cards, debit cards or electronic checks
- ★ Recurring monthly bill payments with credit cards, debit cards or bank draft
- ★ Review up to 36 months of past consumption history and the days of service
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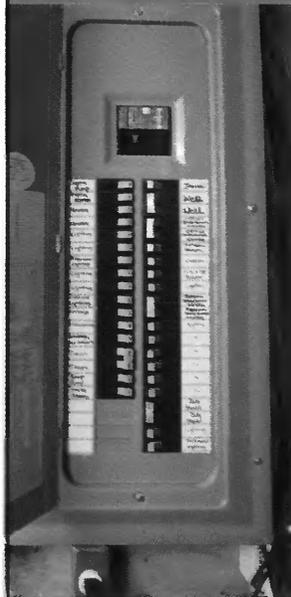


Mission statement

EnerStar Power exists to reliably distribute affordable electricity to its member-owners while upholding our values of integrity, accountability, and commitment to our community.

Q&A

What Do I Do When My Power Goes Out?



First, check your breakers. Then check with your neighbors to see if they have service. And finally, call the cooperative to report the outage. We don't always know that you're out of power. When you call, give your location number or account number (located on your electric bill). We recommend you keep that number handy by your phone with our number. If you have heard or seen something that might help us pinpoint what caused the outage, let us know. And please be patient. If you get a busy signal on the phone, try again. And if your power is out for an extended period of time, please know that we are working hard to restore it as soon as possible.

Investing in a 401(k) to Pay Off the Mortgage

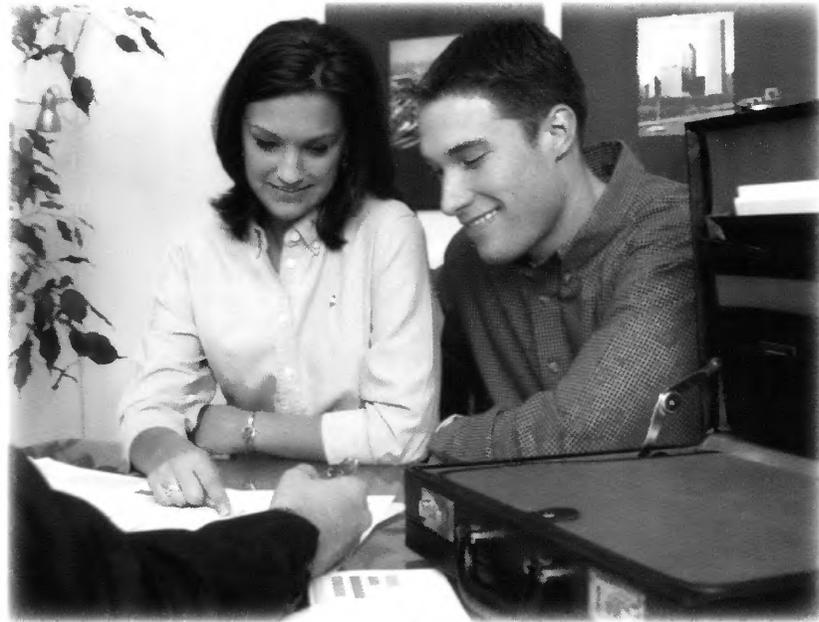
What makes more savings sense: Making extra payments to pay off your home mortgage early or placing that money in a retirement plan, like a 401(k)?

Generally, homeowners think that if they have the money, it is better to pay off their mortgage early rather than invest the extra money in a 401(k) retirement plan. However, a recent study suggests that you may be able to do both at the same time.

Economists looked at a typical American head of household in the 25 percent tax bracket with a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage at 6 percent. They then examined two possible investment strategies described below:

Strategy 1: The homeowner annually makes 13 monthly mortgage payments instead of 12, paying off the 30-year mortgage in 25 years.

Strategy 2: The homeowner puts the amount of an extra annual mortgage payment into a 401(k), investing in fairly conservative instruments like money market funds. He or she then withdraws a lump sum after 25 years,



incurs the income taxes, and pays off the mortgage.

Based on these two investment strategies, approximately 40 percent of the cases studied revealed that putting money in a retirement plan was more

cost effective than using the cash to make an extra mortgage payment. The end result, paying off the mortgage early, was basically the same. But, keep in mind, those who employed the second strategy by investing in a 401(k) came out ahead. How much money was saved by investing in the 401(k) – about \$400 a year.

That may not sound like much. However, the study's findings were based on 401(k) investments that, on average, return about 5.5 percent per year. Stocks, on the other hand, have historically provided average annual returns of nearly 11 percent. What this means is that if homeowners are willing to invest more aggressively in stocks, they could gain much more than a \$400 annual edge.

If you are a homeowner, taking a good hard look at this alternative could be worth something to you. Getting the guidance of a financial advisor to help you make those tough choices is always a good idea.

Joshua A. Brockwell is a senior investment communications specialist on retirement issues at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Happy
THANKSGIVING

*The EnerStar office
will be closed on
Thursday, November 22, 2007, and
Friday, November 23, 2007,
in observance of the
Thanksgiving holiday.*



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How to Head Off Winter's Chills

November makes most of us think of a piping-hot Thanksgiving dinner with our families. But there's another side to the 11th month that we don't enjoy quite as much: those chilly drafts and cold spots in our homes that make us reach for sweaters or turn up the thermostats.

Drafts and other air leaks, known as air infiltration, do more than make homes uncomfortable. They increase energy usage by making heating and cooling systems work harder to keep the home at a constant temperature. Plus, leaks can increase the likelihood of indoor pollutants that can impact your family's health.



Before the weather gets even colder, now is the time to seal your home.

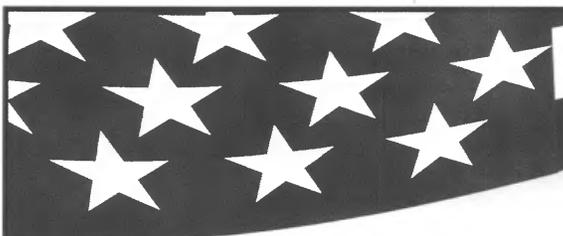
Before the weather gets even colder, now is the time to seal your home. While most people are aware that air can leak through windows and doors, the places that create real problems are much harder to see but are less costly to fix and usually offer a bigger return on investment. Common sources of leaks are places where electric and plumbing lines go through walls and ceilings; joints

between floors, walls and ceilings; light fixtures mounted in the ceiling; attic doors; chimneys; and warm air registers. It may not seem like a lot of air could escape through those places, but added together, they can create significant losses – in some cases, it is the equivalent to leaving a window open all winter!

Products for sealing those areas are readily available, and are not all

that expensive. You can do much of the work with caulk, insulating foam and weather stripping.

Call EnerStar Power for free information and tips, including a do-it-yourself guide to home sealing. It's just one more way that we provide free advice when you want it and help when you need it. For further information, visit www.energyadvisor.coop.

**IN HONOR OF
OUR VETERANS**

*Our office will be closed Monday, November 12, 2007
in honor of Veterans Day.*

Members May Take Advantage of "Trade-A-Tree"

The same trees that beautify your landscape and provide shade for your home can also cause problems for your electric service. Trees growing too close to power lines are the primary cause of momentary short circuits and flickering lights. Add a thunderstorm or snow and ice into the equation and those tree limbs are likely to knock power lines out completely.

In an effort to protect your family and property and to avoid power outages, EnerStar offers free right-of-way tree trimming and clean up as part of a comprehensive community plan. But sometimes, high maintenance trees create a situation that calls for more intense measures. Trees growing under power lines

should be removed for the safety of everyone.

Therefore, EnerStar developed the Trade-A-Tree program. This program allows EnerStar to remove trees that grow directly beneath high voltage power lines. For each tree removed, the cooperative provides participating members with an ornamental tree that has limited height. Trees will be available the first week of April. The member simply agrees to plant the new tree in an area away from the power lines to avoid a repeat situation later. Since the program began, EnerStar has distributed more than 400 trees to participating members.

The Trade-A-Tree program is only available for trees located in

landscaped or mowed yards that are located directly under or within close proximity to high voltage power lines. Trees located close to service drops and other low voltage secondary lines are not eligible for the program.

Though some members may be inconvenienced by the temporary loss of a yard tree, the cooperative is hopeful the long-term advantages of a safer and more reliable service will convince members to participate in the Trade-A-Tree program.

For more information regarding the program, contact Mike Clark at (217) 466-7616 or e-mail him at mclark@enerstar.com.

Last Chance for Tax Credit

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 provides valuable federal tax credits for Cooperative members who make certain energy efficient upgrades to their homes. Additional benefits will include lower home energy bills, increased indoor comfort and reduced air pollution. Not to mention a reduced federal tax bill for 2006 or 2007 up to \$500.

What is a tax credit?

A tax credit is a claim on your federal income tax form at the end of the year. The credit increases the tax refund you receive or decreases the amount of taxes you have to pay. A tax credit is more valuable than a similar size tax deduction. A tax credit reduces your federal income tax by 100% of the amount of credit.

Who is eligible for the tax credits?

Anyone who installs the eligible improvements in or on their principle residence in the United States.

What energy-efficient home improvements are eligible?

Insulation, exterior doors, or pigmented metal roofs: 10% of the total cost, up to \$500. Duct sealing

and weather stripping or foam sealants may also qualify for the credit, depending on the IRS rules.

Central air conditioners, heat pumps or water heaters: up to \$300 towards the full purchase price.

Furnaces or boilers: up to \$150 towards the full purchase price, and/or \$50 for a furnace with an efficient air-circulating fan.

Exterior windows (including skylights): 10% of the total cost, up to \$200.

What equipment specifications are needed for the tax credit?

Windows, doors and insulation must meet the requirements of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) a model energy code for buildings. In some cases this may be higher than the Energy Star code.

Metal roofs must have pigmented coatings that meet Energy Star requirements.

Heating and cooling equipment must meet stringent efficiency standards and not all Energy Star products will qualify. **Central air conditioners** must have a seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) minimum of 15 and an energy efficiency ratio (EER) minimum of 12.5. Elec-

tric heat pumps must be 15 SEER and 13 EER with a heating seasonal performance factor (HSPF) of at least 9. **Geothermal heat pumps** must meet current Energy Star criteria. For a closed-loop system, a 14.1 EER and a coefficient of performance (COP) of at least 3.3. In addition the geothermal heat pumps must include a desuperheater, which helps heat water or an integrated water heating system. **Natural gas, propane or oil burning water heaters** must have an energy factor (EF) of at least 0.80. Only some tankless water heaters meet this standard.

When are the tax credits available?

The home improvement tax credits apply for improvements "placed in service" from January 1, 2006, through December 31, 2007. "Placed in service" means installed not purchased.

Could the tax credits for homeowner be extended beyond 2007?

The tax credits for the individual homeowner will not be extended beyond 2007 according to a bill signed by President Bush on December 20, 2006.



At your co-op, we belong to a family. It's a family of more than 600 cooperatives—
who all work together to provide a reliable source of electricity for you.
Together, we'll always be looking out for you, your family and your community.

EnerStar[®]

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

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www.enerstar.com

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*Happy holidays from
your Touchstone Energy
cooperative's family
to yours.*



Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 



Holiday Office Closings

Our office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 24 and 25 for Christmas and Monday and Tuesday, December 31 and January 1 for the New Year.



Annual Meeting Just Around the Corner

Petitions Available for Board Elections

EnerStar's 69th Annual Meeting is just around the corner! Therefore, cooperative members have the opportunity to run in the upcoming board of directors election. Members who are eligible candidates and can commit the time and energy to the member-owned corporation may want to consider this opportunity.

The role of director is a huge commitment – of time, energy and education – more than most members realize. Thankfully, there are members who are willing to serve in this important capacity. Decisions made can affect the membership into the next generation.

EnerStar has three 3-year director seats open for election in 2008. These districts include Voting District A/Representative District 1, Voting District B/Representa-

tive District 5, and Voting District C/Representative District 9. For a detailed district description, see the legal descriptions below and the map on page 16C.

Members interested in running for the cooperative board should contact the cooperative office to verify eligibility and receive a petition information packet. The packet includes all the necessary information one would need to learn more about the cooperative and the role of the director.

Board petitions require the signatures of 15 EnerStar members who live in the candidate's Voting District. All members signing petitions must have an original membership card on file and must be currently receiving electricity from the cooperative. Candidates will also need to check with cooperative personnel to

make certain they reside within the correct Representative District.

Petition packets can be obtained at the EnerStar headquarters in Paris beginning November 28, 2007. They may also be obtained via mail or e-mail by calling the cooperative office at 217-463-4145 during normal business hours.

Petitions may be turned in to the cooperative office from January 2, 2008, to January 15, 2008. Candidates should also provide a short biographical sketch, 250 words or less, and a photo to be published with the Annual Meeting Notice. Candidates should also make plans to attend the 2008 Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, March 15, in the Crestwood School gym in Paris.

Member
News

VOTING

Three director positions are open for election at the forthcoming 69th Annual Meeting of Members. All positions are for three-year terms. If you have questions regarding what voting and representative district you are located in, consult the map on page 16c or contact an EnerStar Member Accounts Representative at 800-635-4145 during normal business hours.

Voting District A
Representative District 1,
currently served by
Jeff Zimmermann

The Townships of Newman, Bowdre, and Sargent in Douglas County, Illinois; the Townships of East Oakland and Ashmore in Coles County, Illinois; the Township of Embarrass in Edgar County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Shiloh lying south of the 1800th Road in Edgar County, Illinois

Voting District B
Representative District 5,
currently served by
Carrol Drake

The Township of Elbridge in Edgar County, Illinois; all that portion of the Township of Symmes lying north of the 400th Road and west of Illinois Highway 1 in Edgar County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Symmes lying north of the 300th Road and east of Illinois Highway 1 in Edgar County, Illinois

Voting District C
Representative District 9,
currently served by
Danny Gard Jr.

The Townships of Anderson, Darwin, Melrose, and York in Clark County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Marshall lying south of Interstate Highway 70 in Clark County, Illinois

Enerstar Power Corp

9 Representative Districts

Board Candidate Petition Dates

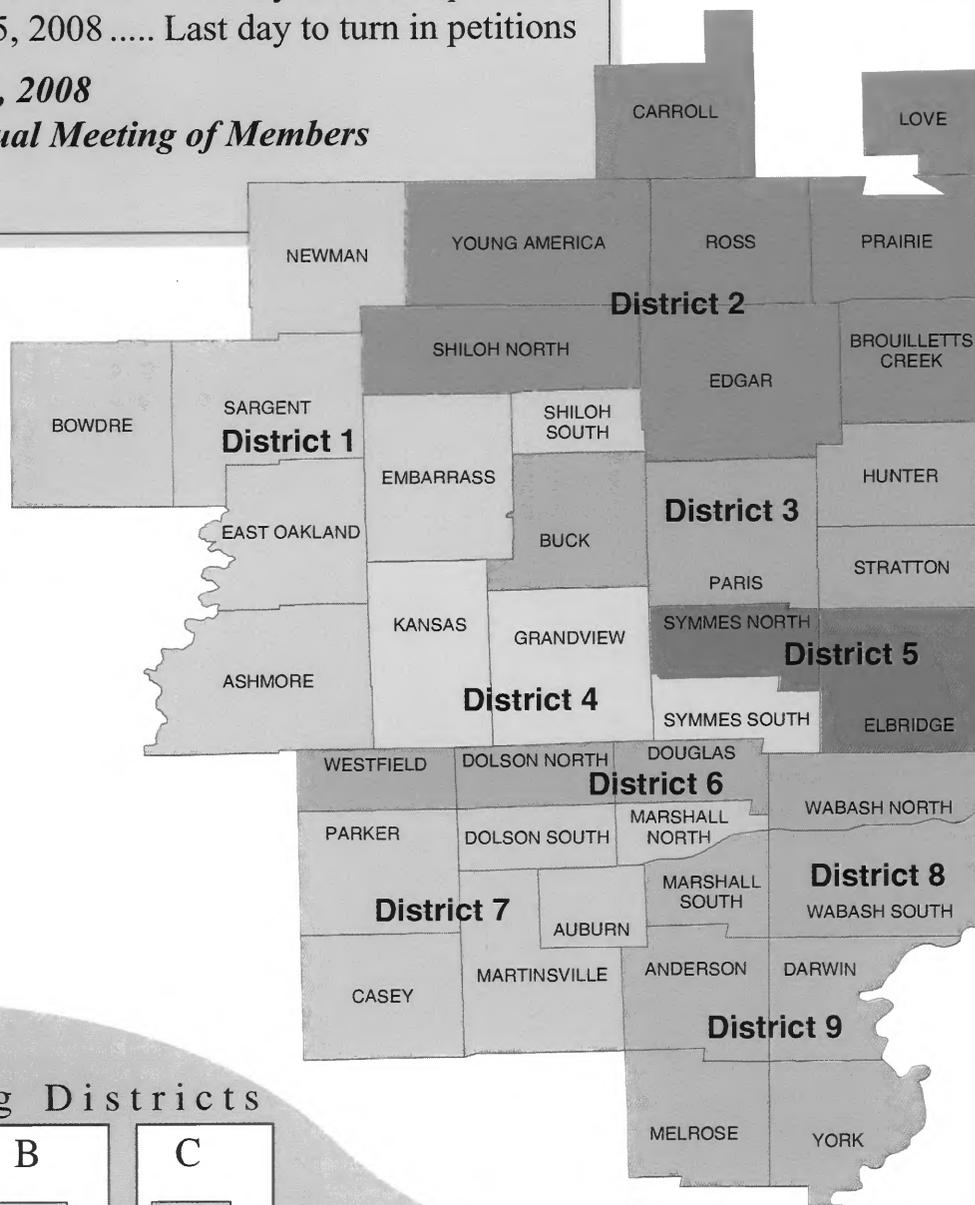
November 28, 2007..... Petitions available

January 2, 2008 First day to turn in petitions

January 15, 2008 Last day to turn in petitions

March 15, 2008

69th Annual Meeting of Members



3 Voting Districts

A	B	C
1	4	7
2	5	8
3	6	9

Voting Districts A, B, and C each contain three Representative Districts in shades of red, green, and blue, respectively.



To Direct Or Not To Direct....

*Things to consider regarding the
EnerStar Board of Directors*

New directors are often amazed at the body of knowledge the electric industry encompasses. If a new director is not already familiar with the utility business, it can take several years to gain the knowledge and experience necessary to be a truly proficient director. The role of director is a huge commitment—of time, energy, and education—more than most members may realize! If you are interested in becoming a director candidate, you may wish to ask yourself if you:

- Have the willingness to devote significant time and effort to board meetings and important committee meetings
- Have the desire to keep abreast of cooperative and industry trends and help identify development opportunities
- Have the ability and time to study and understand detailed reports and background materials
- Have the ability to think, speak, and act independently, but thoughtfully
- Are supportive of the cooperative's goals and objectives as set by the board and management
- Are personally committed to the community and have a rapport with outside organizations, members, and the public
- Are a leader and are experienced and respected by your peers
- Are a good communicator and an enthusiastic and effective spokesman
- Are sensitive to possible conflicts of interest and have a clear respect for confidentiality

Minimum Requirements/Responsibilities for EnerStar Directors

- Must be a current member of the cooperative, receiving electric service from EnerStar Power at your primary residence. Directors pay the same rate for electric service and follow the same policies as all other members.
- Must not be an employee or close relative of an employee; must not be a spouse of a current director
- Must attend all regular board meetings, normally scheduled for the last Tuesday of each month; special board meetings as called; the EnerStar Annual Meeting; committee meetings, regional and national meetings
- Must obtain training in the industry at every opportunity and stay abreast of current developments
- Must exercise due care and diligence and devote the necessary time and effort to the duties of a director to oversee the cooperative's business and affairs
- Must be loyal to the cooperative, acting at all times in good faith for its best interests, unaffected by any personal interest that is in conflict with the best interest of the cooperative
- Must adhere to all applicable requirements of law, the cooperative's articles and bylaws, board policies, contracts, and the cooperative's duly made decisions

Your EnerStar Directors:



Jeff Zimmerman
Oakland
District 1



Tom DeWitt
Brocton
District 2



Dale English
Paris
District 3



John Fell
Kansas
District 4



Carrol Drake
Paris
District 5



David Sprigg
Marshall
District 6



Gene Higginbotham
Martinsville
District 7



Don Baggs
Marshall
District 8



Danny Gard Jr.
West Union
District 9

EnerStar Honors Former Cooperative Manager Maurice Johnson

The EnerStar family was recently saddened to learn of the death of former long-time cooperative manager Maurice C. Johnson. Maurice passed away October 13, 2007. Maurice was retired after nearly 32 years as manager of what was then known as Edgar Electric Cooperative Association.

Maurice was born February 5, 1921, in Clinton, Indiana, the son of Chris and Dora (Fouts) Johnson. The family later moved to Dana, Indiana where Maurice attended and graduated from Dana High School in 1939. He married Doris Parks of Dana, Indiana on January 17, 1942, in Indianapolis, and she survives.

In 1942, Maurice traveled to Hawaii and worked in civil service for the U.S. Navy at Pearl Harbor until the end of the war. While in Pearl Harbor, he earned the credential of Licensed Electrician. In 1946, upon his return to the states, Maurice attended Indiana Central College in Indianapolis. In 1948, he graduated from Indiana Central and transferred to Purdue University. In 1950, he graduated with honors from Purdue with a bachelor's of science in electrical engineering and a minor in law.

Upon graduating from the university, Maurice accepted a position in Rockville, Indiana as an engineer with the Parke County Rural Electric Membership Cooperative. In 1954, Maurice moved to Paris, Illinois and accepted the position of manager of the Edgar Electric Cooperative. He retired in 1986



Maurice C. Johnson Sr.

February 5, 1921 - October 13, 2007

after having served as manager of the cooperative for nearly 32 years. During his tenure, Maurice participated and served on many state boards, organizations and committees. He was well known and widely recognized for his advocacy and avid interest in the advancement of rural electrification.

Maurice was a member of the Presbyterian Churches of Rockville, Ind. and Paris, Ill., and served as a deacon during his years in Rockville. He was also active in many local clubs and organizations, including Paris Lodge #268 Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, Danville Scottish Rite Consistory, Ansar

Shrine Temple, and Edgar County Shrine Club, as well as an active member of the Edgar County and Indiana Farm Bureaus. He was also a member of Rotary International of Paris, Paris BPOE and Sycamore Hills Golf Club.

Over the years, Maurice enjoyed a wide association of good friends and colleagues. He loved to play cards, was an avid bowler in his younger years, and for the past 40-plus years spent many happy days on the golf course. He also derived a great amount of pleasure in his hands-on management of his agricultural interests in both Illinois and Indiana.

Maurice, along with Doris, spent many an evening taking a drive to check the crops and to see if it had rained.

In addition to his loving wife of more than 65 years, Maurice is survived by a son, Maurice C. (Wilma) Johnson Jr. of Paris, Ill. and a daughter, Linda Johnson Heeren of Danville, Ill.; three grandchildren who each thought their grandpa was very special: Maurice C. "Chris" Johnson III of Indianapolis, Ind., Brian Johnson of Lafayette, Ind., and Dana (Nate) Rupczynski of Mundelein, Ill.; a nephew; and several great-nieces and great-nephews.



Low Income Energy Assistance Available

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to assist eligible households pay for winter energy services. The amount of the payment is determined by income, household size, fuel type and geographic location.

An overdue bill or cut-off notice is not required. You do not have to own your home or pay energy bills directly to be eligible for assistance. Emergency assistance may be available if your household is disconnected from an energy source needed for heating and/or if a delivered-fuel supplier has refused to deliver and the tank contains 10 percent or less.

In east-central Illinois, monies from the LIHEAP program are administered through the Embarrass River Basin Agency (ERBA). Assistance for reconnection will only

be provided to households that have made a good faith effort to maintain their energy services or can pay a portion of the amount owed for reconnection.

ERBA accepts applications for assistance by appointment on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

When applying for assistance, you need the following information: (1) Proof of gross income from all household members for the 30-day period prior to application date; (2) A copy of your current heat and electric bills;

(3) Proof of Social Security numbers for all household members; (4) If a member of your household received TANF or AABD, you must bring their "Medical Eligibility Card;" (5) If you rent your home, proof of your rental agreement, which must state

your monthly rent amount, may be necessary.

If you are eligible, ERBA will make the appropriate payments to your energy provider(s) on your behalf or, in some cases, directly to you.

If you think you might be eligible for assistance, you should contact ERBA directly. Representatives can be reached at 217-465-4911 in Edgar County or 217-932-5272 in Clark County.

Below are the income eligibility guidelines for the LIHEAP program.

Income Eligibility: 30-day period to application

Family Size	30 day gross
1	\$1,276
2	\$1,711
3	\$2,146
4	\$2,581
5	\$3,016
6	\$3,451
7	\$3,886
8	\$4,321

* For each additional family member, add \$408



Clearing ROW Means Better Service For You

Whether it is lightning strikes or a blanket of ice on the power lines, the EnerStar electrical system is designed and maintained to withstand these forces. One way the cooperative prepares for severe weather is through an aggressive vegetation management program. While that may sound impressive, vegetation management is just fancy words for the cooperative's tree trimming and spraying activities.

"Vegetation management is an important part of EnerStar's goal to deliver power that is safe, reliable, and environmentally responsible," says Line Superintendent Mike Clark. "By preparing ahead of the winds and rains, we can reduce outages caused by branches falling on lines, trees interfering with voltage

levels, or brush in right-of-way areas making access to equipment difficult." He explained that trees touching power lines actually drain electricity from the electrical system. In severe cases, this can cause the cooperative's line-protection devices to take a circuit out of service and your lights to go out.

EnerStar has been aggressively tackling tree-related outages for the last couple of years. In November and December, efforts focused on



This machine can cut down and chip an 8-inch by 30-foot tree in a matter of minutes.

right-of-way clearing. Clearing rights-of-way allows EnerStar line workers to get necessary equipment into the power lines for pole changes

▶ Continued on page 16h

Students Encouraged To Apply for 2007 IEC Memorial Scholarships

For the twelfth consecutive year, EnerStar Power and the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships to high school seniors. Five scholarships in 2007 will be awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. Each of the scholarships will be worth \$1,250.

High school seniors pursuing a college education in the state of Illinois are eligible to participate in the program. Three of the five scholarships will be awarded to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative member. A fourth award will go to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative director or employee. A fifth scholarship will be reserved for use at a two-year Illinois community college, and sons and daughters of electric cooperative members, employees and direc-



tors are all eligible. The deadline for applications to be returned to the cooperative is January 1, 2007.

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay, which demonstrates their knowledge of

electric cooperatives.

For further information on the IEC Memorial Scholarship Program, contact Griffin at 217-466-7603 or by e-mail at agriffin@enerstar.com, or ask your high school guidance counselor.

We hear you
loud and clear



At EnerStar, we listen
to what you have to say.

Whether you are a big or small consumer, we are committed to providing you with affordable, reliable power using state-of-the-art technology and service.

We are part of our community because co-op employees not only work here - we live here too. We are your neighbors and friends.

You have a voice with us.



11597 IL Hwy 1 • Paris, Illinois 61944 217-463-4145 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M-F

Keep Holiday Celebrations Bright and Safe!

“Don’t let electrical accidents darken your holiday celebrations,” says Molly Hall, director of the Safe Electricity program. “As you prepare for special holiday and family celebrations, look for and eliminate potential threats posed by holiday lighting, decorating and entertaining.”

Cooking

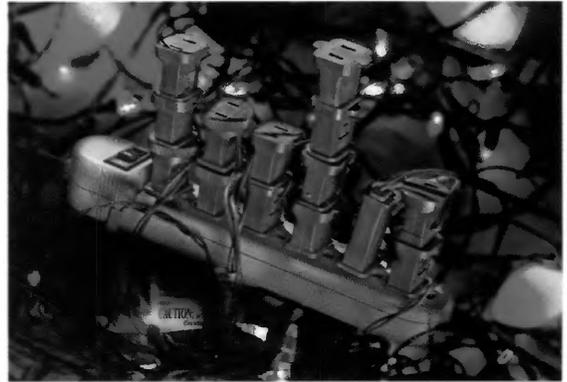
According to the National Fire Protection Association, cooking has been the leading cause of home fires since 1990. Safe Electricity offers these tips to avoid shocks and fires in the kitchen year round:

- Inspect all small appliances and electric cords to make sure they are in good repair, and read operating instructions before use.
- Never plug more than one high-wattage appliance into a single outlet.
- Stay focused and attentive to baking, brewing and simmering foods.
- Keep cooking areas clean and free of grease.
- Make sure a working fire extinguisher is on hand, and know how to operate it.
- Make sure that the outlets near sinks are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI’s) to prevent shocks.

Lighting and Decorating

“Before decorating for the holidays, take some simple steps to avoid potential safety hazards,” says Manager of Member Services Angela Griffin. “We’ve all read about tragedies resulting from holiday lighting mishaps. Safeguard yourself and your home so that you’re not among those.”

- Only use lights that have been safely tested and have the UL label.
- Check each light string for broken sockets, frayed cords or faulty plugs.
- Always unplug lights when replacing a bulb.
- Don’t string together more than three standard-size sets of lights.
- Place fresh-cut trees away from heat sources and water frequently.
- Do not overload outlets. If necessary, use surge protector strips that have circuit breakers to prevent overloads when multiple outlets are needed.
- Keep electric cords away of high-traffic areas. Do not run



- them through doorways, staple, nail or tack cords to the wall or hide them under rugs or carpets.
- Outdoors, use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use. Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with GFCIs. Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don’t have them.
- Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.

For more information visit the Web site www.SafeElectricity.org.

Clearing ROW

► Continued from page 16f

and maintenance.

With the use of a rubber-tracked loader and a brush attachment, EnerStar crews can quickly and efficiently clear a power line in a matter of hours compared to what used to take days by more conventional means. Once an area has been cleared, a carpet of chips

is all that remains.

“Ultimately through this program, our goal is more reliable service to our members,” concludes Clark. For more information about EnerStar’s vegetation management program, visit www.enerstar.com or contact Clark at (217) 466-7616.



▲ EnerStar’s Galen Satterfield (left) and Mike Huddleston have been clearing rights-of-way to improve system reliability.