

Words on the wire

Co-ops eye the changing future



Alisha Anker
General Manager

Dramatic changes are transforming all aspects of the electric energy industry. I'll mention three trends we are keeping a close eye on here at the co-op.

Interest in clean, green and renewable energy is at an all-time high as these choices are competing

with traditional energy choices. Once just a blip trendline on electric power production graphs, the renewables line is now prevalent in the mix, amounting to 20 percent of the total generation produced annually. To accommodate the intermittency of renewables, the electric grid is being transformed with equipment to stabilize any melt-down factors.

The prevalence of electric consumer "smart" technology for home and office appliances is increasing at alarming rates. In many parts of the country, some of the greatest opportunities are in clean energy innovations and the green energy sector in general.

Finally, the challenge and promise of electrifying the transportation industry, even in rural America, is in the foreseeable future. This new energy marketplace will ultimately allow consumers greater control over their energy use.

There's no denying it, electric utilities will have to make changes to the way energy is provided to accommodate these trends. Luckily, Menard Electric Co-op is uniquely positioned to meet these changing energy needs because we are a cooperative electric utility.

In addition to being my favorite month of the year, October is National Co-op Month, which is the perfect

time to highlight and celebrate the ways being an electric cooperative helps us work to serve you better.

Co-ops are community led

Our local governance and independence allows the long-term needs of our consumer-members to remain service-territory specific. Electric cooperatives belong to the communities they serve and are not beholden to stakeholders from afar. This heightened community focus allows our policies and practices to adapt to the evolving consumer expectations of our members. As an example, I've recently corresponded with a member interested in purchasing an electric vehicle. He rightfully inquired about rates for charging such a vehicle, which I gladly responded to as well as queued up for our Board's consideration. It is this closeness to the community that ensures a better response to our members' needs because we are led by the people we serve.

Co-ops are a catalyst for good

Co-ops engage their consumer-members to do things that might otherwise be impossible or difficult. For those who don't know the history

of Menard Electric, more than 82 years ago we brought power to this rural area of Central Illinois, where the investor-owned utilities did not find doing so economically feasible. In short, they said, "No," and to that I imagine our early members thought, "How rude, we'll do it ourselves," and they did. Today, that attitude still exists to a large extent with programs and incentives that our members benefit from. From technology additions to multiple bill pay options, the co-op is here to hear your ideas and respond for the betterment of the whole.

Co-ops are unique

The electric co-op business model is unique. Not unlike other types of cooperatives, it is pragmatic, mission-oriented and puts people first. The members' best interests are at heart, and we here at Menard are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities we serve—now and in the future.

So, please join me in celebrating your local cooperatives this October. Be it Menard Electric Cooperative or your water, telephone or grain co-op, we should all be proud to be working together for the common good.



**SAFE,
RELIABLE,
AFFORDABLE
ENERGY.**

**THEN. NOW.
ALWAYS.**

**We are proud to
power your life.**

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Co-op Corner

Are there energy vampires in your home?

By Michelle McNeal, Communications

October is the perfect time to talk about vampires. But put away the garlic, I'm not talking about the ones with fangs and wings, or even those with hotels in Transylvania (this reference will only make sense if you have young children!). I'm talking about energy vampires. These are devices that lurk in your home, sucking electricity all the time.

The EPA estimates that nearly 10 percent of a household's average electric use can be attributed to these vampires; and they say that percentage will continue to grow as we all add more electronic devices to our homes.

Are you brave enough to find the energy vampires in your home? Tonight, right before you head to bed, when all the lights in the house are turned off, take a look around. Do you see any digital clocks? You might notice

the microwave, stove, coffee pot, Blu-ray player and alarm clock. Now what about power indicator lights? You'll probably notice the modem, Wi-Fi router, gaming console and DVR player, among others.

Now, many of these items you won't want to unplug because it will be a big hassle to plug them in every time you use them. Just be aware of how many items use electricity even when they are "off." Click on your TV lately? Or say, "Alexa, play my music"? Anything with a remote control or voice activation is always "on."

As you learn more about what items might be using power all the time, consider what you might be able to unplug. Here are four common energy vampires you can easily vanquish.

1) Chargers: Unplug them – they are using small amounts of electricity

even when you aren't charging anything.

2) Gaming consoles: Turn them off, disable automatic updates, and check your settings for energy efficiency features.

3) Televisions: Turn off the "instant-on" feature – be aware you'll have to wait a few seconds for the television to warm up each time.

4) DVRs: You might be able to turn it off when it isn't in use – but consider if you have it set to automatically record shows.

Keep in mind that these vampires generally make up a small part of your overall energy use. The biggest source of energy use in many homes is the heating and cooling system. If you'd like to investigate your energy use, contact me at the office to go over your daily or hourly use patterns.



WHO POWERS YOU?

Inspired by someone making a difference in your community?
Tell their story and they could win a cash prize.

Visit whopowersyou.com/enter between 10/1/18 and 11/4/18 and submit a photo of your nominee. Then tell us why that person inspires you and how they make a difference in your co-op community.

\$5,000 GRAND PRIZE
\$2,000 | **\$1,500** | **\$500**
 SECOND PLACE | THIRD PLACE | HONORABLE MENTION



VISIT WHOPOWERSYOU.COM FOR FULL CONTEST RULES

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Help us find these inactive members

Earlier this year your board of directors authorized a general retirement of capital credits earned in 1994 and a portion of 1995. If you were an active member during those years, you received a bill credit or a check.

Members who no longer receive service from us were mailed a check. We used the last known address on our system, but were unable to locate those members listed below. This list can also be found on our website (you can

find previous listings as well).

If you have contact with any of the names listed here, please tell them to give Michelle at the office a call at 800-872-1203. If the member listed is deceased, the executor of his/her estate should call. See www.menard.com for more details.

Capital credits are the margins we earn that are allocated back to you each year because we are a non-profit and member-owned cooperative.

Abelita, Gil, Peoria	Cornwell, Kenneth, Pekin	Hackney, George & Marjorie, Manito	Nardulli, Joyce, Springfield
Ahlers, Ronald & Amy, Tallula	Deane, Sheri, Springfield	Hall, Gerald, Jacksonville	Neill, Kathy, Macomb
Allen, James & Natalie, Middletown	Dee Farm, Elkhart	Hallor, Frank Jr & Kimberly, Canton	Neumann, Frieda, Wataga
Allen, Laurie, Springfield	Dees, Tracy, Springfield	Hamm, Michael, Mount Auburn	Noory, George & Lisa, Chesterfield MO
Anders, Clarence & Rosalyn, Springfield	Dennis, Lucinda, Monett MO	Harvey, Chad, Easton	Nuechterlein, Peggy, Petersburg
Anders, Steve & Ronda, Springfield	Dennison, Don, Springfield	Hawkins, Vern & Angela, Springfield	Parrish, Steven & Nora, Winter Haven FL
Anderson, Ruth & Harry, Springfield	Dennison, Gregory, Riverton	Hayes, Donna, Topeka	Pawelczak, Michael & Michele, Middletown
Baity, Victor, Manito	Dews, Fred, Lincoln	Hayes, William Jr & Dorothy, Congerville	Peters, Naomi, Eureka
Ball, Gary & Dena Jo, Jacksonville	Dey, Lawrence, Manito	Heid, Kenneth, Loami	Phillips, Connie Jo, Manito
Banister, Don & Frances, Sherman	Dick, Marjory, Mason City	Herron, Glenn & Janette, Manito	Prater, Emmett, Havana
Bartlett, Cherri, Springfield	Dodson, James, Fairview Hts	Higgins, Arminta, Springfield	Pratt, Vickie, Havana
Bauser, Cathleen, Franklin	Donnan, David & Fern, Lincoln	Hill, Rex, Jacksonville	Price, Edith, Petersburg
Beard, Traci, Tallula	Dowling, Leola, Lincoln	Hilliard, Deairatry & Paul, Havana	Prior, Rick & Ruby, Springfield
Beauchamp, Keith, Osceola IA	Downs, Darrell, Williamsville	Hinkle, Edward & Kelly, Middleton, WI	Proctor, John, Sherman
Behrends Bros., Towanda	Dyson, Samuel Sr, Chandlerville	Homer, Gladys, South Jacksonville	Roberson, Wayne, Howell, MI
Bernotas, Mary Ellen, Decatur	Edgar, Stephanie, Topeka	Hufker, Michael, Tallula	Robertson, Brian & Lora, Forest City
Blue, Spruce, Washington	Edge, Raymond & Rosa, Chandlerville	Hughes, Daniel, Mason City	Rogers, Ronald, Athens
Bollman, Don, Cantrall	Edwards, Kevin & Amy, Murrayville	Ivanovich, George, Yates City	Rolland, Clarence & Barbara, Virginia
Booher, Frank, Swango CO	Edwards, Robert, Pleasant Plains	Jones, Coy & Betty, Hardinburg IN	Rone, Zella, Mount Sterling
Bowman, Joyce, Farmington	Elliot, Darren & Mitzi, Virden	Kearns, N Nadine, South Jacksonville FL	Row, Susie & Marshal, Havana
Braman, Helen, Wheatland MO	Elkins, Larry & Cheri, Sherman	Keil, Bradley & Jan, Topeka	Ryherd, Larry & Dorothy, Springfield
Bree, Kathy, Lincoln	Evans, David, Oakford	Kelly, Charlotte, Easton	Sams, Carol, North Pekin
Brettin, Larry, Auburn	Eyrse, David, Lincoln	Kluzek, Stanley Jr, Lubbock TX	Sandidge, Robert, Athens
Broadhacker, Mike & Janet, Maroa	Faucou, Scott, Springfield	Knoles, Anna Mae, Mason City	Sanges, Kevin & Elma, Springfield
Brooks, James & Theresa, Mason City	Finch, Raymond, Chandlerville	Lair, Timothy, Forest City	Sanner, Kelly, Port Richey FL
Brown, Mark & Sarah, Arenzville	Fisher, Constance, Pekin	Lamaster, Donald & Joann, Greenview	Sapp, Edward, Athens
Bumgardner, Emory, Atlanta	Fleck, Joseph & Donna, Springfield	Lange, Linda, Williamsville	Sarff, Jay, Havana
Burgess, Robert & Shirley, Green Valley	Foster, Erma, Bartonville	Large, Julie & Stephen Edward Irving III, Beardstown	Schaefer, Todd, Manito
Burton, David, Pleasant Plains	Foster, Kim, Chatham	Lasley, Suzanne, Topeka	Schierbeck, June & Eldon, Havana
Busen, Monte, Taylorville	Fowler, Stephen, Athens	Lawson, Lawrence & Patricia, Mission TX	Sharer, Jennifer, Mount Auburn
Bussen, Gregory & Shelly, Sherman	Frank & West Env Eng Inc, Springfield	Levengood, Jeffrey, Petersburg	Shaw, Stephen, Springfield
Capranica, Gilbert & Angela, Springfield	Frederick, Keith, Lake Villa	Lumpkin, Patricia, Manito	Sherren, Albert & Evelyn, Virginia
Carver, Michael & Kimberly, Chatham	Frohn, Steve & Regina, Schaumburg	McCool, Michael & Sheryl, Mason City	Sherren, Roger & Kristy, Forest City
Charles, Robert, Middletown	Gabriel, Clint, Buffalo	McHenry, Edward & Joan, Springfield	Sickles, Samuel JR, Peoria
Charles, Robert & Stephanie, Middletown	Galassi, Michael, Riverton	McKinney, Michael, Carlock	Siehr, Charles & Karen, Springfield
Coil, Bernard & Norma, Beardstown	Gerdes, Vicki, Petersburg	Milby, Wesley & Eunice, Springfield	Sieving, Lori, Virginia
Cook, David & Dawn, Rochester	Gerdes, W Doug, Chandlerville	Moushon, Gloria, Dawson	Smith, Arthur & Elnor, Mechanicsburg
Cornwell, James & Vicki, Necedah, WI	Gerdes, Wayne & Dixie, Elizabethton TN	Mussat, Kathy, Jacksonville	Smith, Brandi, Topeka
	Ginther, Elmer & Jean, Payson AZ		Smith, Everett, Jr, Kilbourne
	Goodman, Buck Sr & Pamela, Springfield		Smith, Robert & Mary, Creve Coeur
	Gray, J E & Betty, West Monroe LA		Snow, Mary, Rockford
	Grubbs, Dale, Havana		

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Board highlights

For full minutes visit www.menard.com or contact the office.

July 24, 2018

- Present were Directors D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Gary Martin, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Dennis Ryan, Roy Seaney & Steven Worner, Manager of Accounting & Information Systems Chris Hinton, Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles Smith. Director Jodine Tate absent.
- Anker: Reviewed CFC Key Ratio Trend Analysis Summary.
- Anker: Advised received request from Direct Energy to act as an Aggregator representing ICG Illinois, LLC for demand response.
- Anker: Reviewed proposed Switching Arrangement Agreement between PPI, Ameren IL & MEC; will look into further & consider next month.
- Anker: Reviewed balance sheet, budget, rebates, safety, reliability, operations, irrigations, IT security reports, capital credits & member newsletter.
- Anker: Discussed CoBank programs: Mason County Fairgrounds Horse Show Ring energized; presentations to Marbold Farmstead & Theatre in the Park given, no date set for Logan County Fair; member participated in No Barriers Program.
- Anker: Gave June financial report. Year to date margins \$1,522,093 compared to \$1,895,601 last year. End of June equity 40.21%. Served 10,897 members accounts. Net utility plant \$48,607,774 compared to \$46,776,298 last year. Co-op meets requirements of RUS, FFB, NRCFC & CoBank.
- Goetsch: Discussed AIEC Annual Meeting schedule; no monthly mtg held.
- Martin: Reviewed June Energy Charge for Prairie Power Inc.; no monthly mtg held.
- Goetsch: Reported on Bylaw/ Policy Committee review of Bylaw Section 4.05 & Policy Bundle 5. Board approved Section 4.05 changes, which were a result of Bylaw changes made at Annual Meeting. Discussed & approved Three Phase Service Policy revisions. Metering Equipment Policy changes discussed; will be considered next month along with other policies in bundle; another Committee Mtg scheduled.
- Board entered into Executive Session; reconvened; motion carried to confirm & ratify action taken.
- Next Board Meeting is August 28. NRECA 977.1 Equity Management & Boardroom Decision Making class is July 25. Strategic Planning Session is December 4-5.

Help us find these inactive members

Continued from page 20C

Sonnemaker, Richard, Bella Vista AR
 Spencer, David, Manito
 Starman, Milton & Elta, Manito
 Stilson, Jeff, Havana
 Stoehr, David, Green Valley
 Strophe, James, Pekin
 Stufflebeam, James, Springfield
 Suter, Lora & Mayes, Mary, Plainfield
 Svendsen, Thomas, Pekin
 Taylor, Kimberly, Springfield
 Thomas, James & Geraldine, Bath
 Thomas, Phillip, Chandlerville
 Thompson, O Deane, Harvard
 Thompson, Mark & Jennifer, Kilbourne
 Toohill, Daniel, Lincoln
 Tribbett, Alta & Lee, Apopka FL
 Turner, William, Athens
 Walasek, William, Williamsville
 Westchester Farm Mgmt Inc, Champaign
 Wester, Lynda, Chandlerville
 Weston, Bradley & Jennifer, Green Valley
 Whitcomb, David, Greenview
 Willett, Daniel, Easton
 Wilson, Sherry, Summersville, MO
 Windell, Stacy, Concord
 Worthington, Mike, Easton
 Yancey, Timothy & Rebecca, Jerome PA
 Yuscus, Tony, Springfield
 Zaffiri, James, Springfield
 Zellers, Douglas, Petersburg
 Zoellner, Troy & Lori, Springfield
 Zubeck, John, Hot Springs Village AR

LIHEAP

We urge you to contact your local office as soon as possible if you believe you may qualify for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Qualifications are based on income and household size.

Cass County.....	217-243-9404
Logan, Mason & Menard Counties.....	217-732-2159
Macon County	217-428-2193
Sangamon County	217-535-3120
Tazewell County.....	309-694-4391



Christmas Angel Tree Planned

Our Christmas Committee is planning to sponsor an angel tree for members' kids this Christmas. Be sure to check out next month's issue for details, and stay tuned to www.menard.com and facebook.com/menardelectric for updates.