



## Give gifts that keep on giving

As you begin making this year's holiday gift list, consider the often overlooked but practical present: an energy efficient gift. While it may not be the usual book, shower gel or coffee mug, energy efficient gifts keep on giving. **13-13-0001**

According to Energystar.gov, the typical U.S. household spends more than \$2,000 a year on energy bills. Beyond the combined 42 percent of annual energy consumption spent on heating and cooling, the next biggest and fastest growing category is electronics, accounting for 21 percent.

To get you started, Safe Electricity compiled a list of energy-saving gift ideas.

### Around the house

- ★ LED light bulbs – Upgrading 15 incandescent light bulbs in your home to LEDs could save about \$50 per year
- ★ Smart power strips – This gadget decreases power to electronics when not in use
- ★ Surge protector or power strip with wireless remote – Allows the user to completely shut off power, including standby power, for up to six devices
- ★ Smart or programmable thermostat — most smart versions learn your habits to keep your home comfortable and save energy at the same time
- ★ Blankets and warm clothing – To use and wear indoors so the thermostat can be turned down a few degrees
- ★ Tablet or laptop – Takes less energy to run than a desktop computer
- ★ Rechargeable battery kit

- ★ Room occupancy sensors - Lights turn on when you enter a room and off when no one's there
- ★ Kitchen gadgets – An electric pressure cooker (expedites cooking), a slow cooker (uses less energy to cook) or a multipurpose version, such as an Instant Pot®, that offers several cooking features in one pot, such as pressure, slow, and steam cooking
- ★ Power tools – Look for the ENERGY STAR® label for the energy efficient tools

### For the energy conscious

- ★ Home electricity monitor – Gives real-time feedback on energy use and tracks energy stats
- ★ Low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators — These may not be at the top of someone's gift list, but they can reduce water consumption by 50 percent
- ★ Thermal leak detector – a device that uses infrared sensors to detect power-draining drafts in the home. Plugging leaks can save up to 20 percent in heating and cooling costs

### Because solar is cool

- ★ Solar backpack – Ability to charge a cell phone or other gadgets while walking outdoors
- ★ Solar-powered electronics – Items such as lights, battery chargers, wireless speakers and computer keyboards are a few examples
- ★ Solar-powered toys – A great way to teach kids about renewable energy
- ★ For that special someone (even if that someone is you)

- ★ ENERGY STAR® rated TV – These green versions are on average 27 percent more energy efficient than conventional models, saving energy in all usage modes: sleep, idle and on

For more energy efficiency tips, go to [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



*Solar backpack*



*Rechargeable battery*



*Warm clothing*



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- By phone, using credit card or checking account
- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N Reed Station Road in Carbondale and 1306 N Market Street in Sparta

## Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Fund

Twelve IEC memorial scholarships will be awarded this year.

Each scholarship is worth \$2,000. Deadline to apply for the first 11 scholarships is December 31, 2018.

★ **Six** scholarships are awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative.

★ **Four** 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.

★ **One** scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, is awarded

to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director.

★ **One** scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, is awarded to a student to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric

Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Ill. The deadline for the lineworker scholarship is April 30, 2019.

Information has been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available for completion. For more information, go to: <https://aiec.coop/iec-scholarship/?coop=EGT>



## Automated calls

In the coming months we will be implementing automated calls for some of our functions, such as planned outages, delinquent notifications, credit or debit cards expirations, and forestry maintenance. This will replace

some of our manual phone processes and mailing notifications. Automated calling will also improve efficiency and insure you receive information in a timely manner. Should you have any questions, please contact our office.

## St. Jude's donations



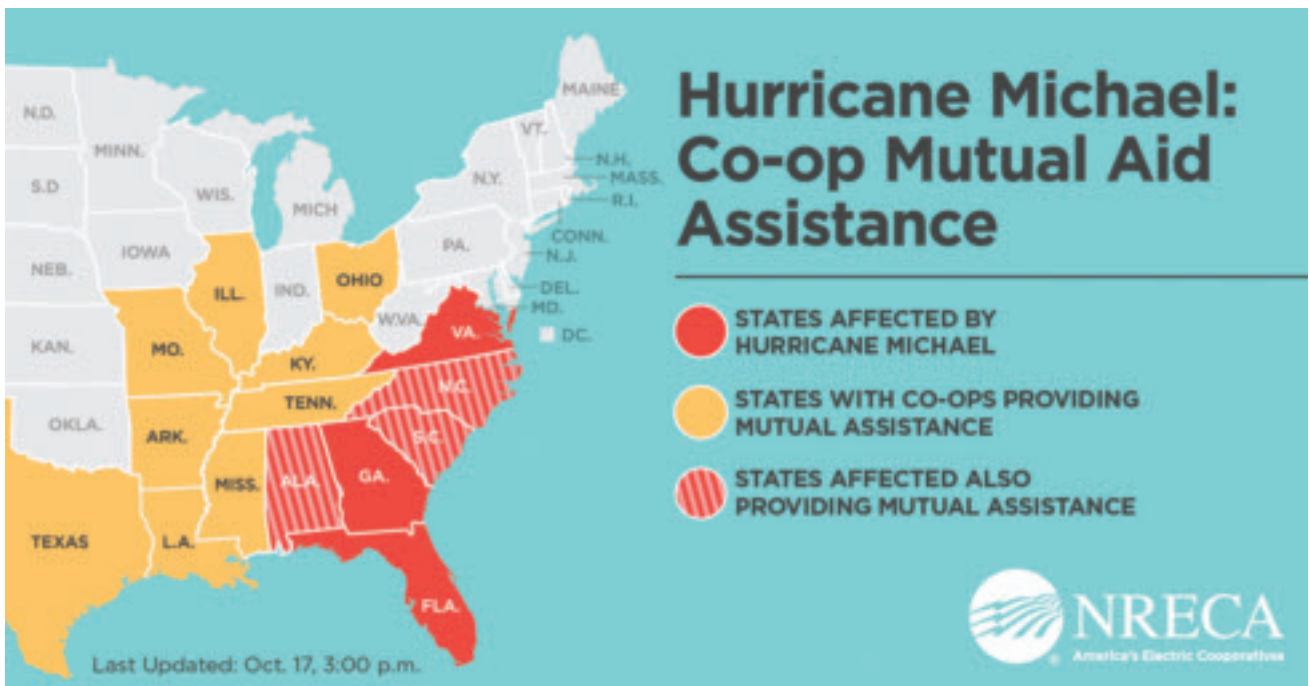
Mike Smith, one of our Line Foremen, rounded up and recycled copper scraps from the retired facilities and in August donated \$934.50 to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital! This makes a total of \$2,053.80 in donations this year going to cancer research!



*Tim McBride, Darin Prange, Rodney Smith and Tyler Atchison*

## Hurricane Michael response

On Oct. 10, Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association (EECA) sent four linemen once again to South River EMC in Dunn, N.C. anticipating the arrival of Hurricane Michael's landfall near the panhandle in Florida. EECA linemen Tim McBride, Darin Prange, Rod Smith and Tyler Atchison responded to the request. EECA and co-ops from surrounding states became involved in the power restoration where they were needed. This was the second time South River EMC requested help from Illinois in one month. Our response crew began at South River EMC, then to Piedmont Electric in North Carolina and was enroute to Florida, but with no places to stay, they returned home and back to work on Tuesday, Oct. 16.



## MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three map location numbers hidden throughout our Egyptian Electric News section. If you find your location number, that corresponds to the one on your bill, call our office and identify yourself and the page that it is on and you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.



## LIHEAP

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) heat and electric assistance is a one-time benefit payment per heating season that is intended to help pay a portion of a household's heat and electric costs. The benefit amount depends on household size, income, and energy costs. In most cases, the benefit is applied as a credit directly to the household's Egyptian Electric account.

Qualifications are based on income and household size if your household's combined income is at or below the levels shown on this chart, you could be eligible:

To apply for assistance, you'll need to complete a Home Energy Plus application with your local Community Action Agency (CAA). We urge you to contact your local office as soon as possible if you believe you may qualify for the LIHEAP assistance.

Jackson/Perry/Randolph/Monroe Counties... 618/965-3458  
 St. Clair County..... 618/277-6790  
 Washington County..... 618/532-7338  
 Williamson/Franklin Counties..... 618/937-3581  
 Union/Johnson Counties..... 618/634-2201

### Illinois LIHEAP Income Guidelines for the 2018–2019 Heating Season

Household Size	30 - Day Household Income
1	\$1,518
2	\$2,058
3	\$2,598
4	\$3,138
5	\$3,678
6	\$4,218
7	\$4,578
8	\$5,298

## Idle Services Removal

*Brad Austin, EECA Engineering Manager*

Over the years, we have built service to locations and many of those end up idle for long periods of time. Every electric cooperative has idle services, so what is the big issue?

- EECA finances most of our plant investments over 30 years. This means we continue to pay for the principal and interest on that debt, record depreciation of those facilities on the books, and incur other costs associated with those services while they provide no offsetting revenues.
- When Mother Nature damages idle lines, services and facilities, additional dollars are used to invest in rebuilding or repairing these idle services that are producing no revenue.
- Because idle services are generally de-energized, safety hazards can occur that may go unnoticed over time. These hazards can potentially pose a danger to the public. As we come across these potential safety hazards, we strive to immediately rectify them.

The EECA board of directors established Policy 517, Removal of Idle Services, to address them in November 2009. We have retired idle services in the past, some with successful contacts made, but some infrastructure remains in the field. EECA has historically tried to minimize the number of idle services in our distribution system by contacting the landowner to remove those facilities. Despite our best efforts in the past,

idle services create unnecessary expenses that end up costing all our active members.

Over the coming months, EECA will be retiring the older idle services. An attempt will be made to contact the landowner to let them know our plan to remove the idle service. There will be no charge to the landowner for removal of the idle service. If the landowner requests the service left in place, they will be required to pay a monthly facility charge per EECA Policy 517, equivalent to the service availability charge, currently \$38.50 per month. **56-09-0034**

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets, like TVs, gaming consoles, chargers and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet, even when they're not in use.

*Source: energy.gov*

