



HI-LINES

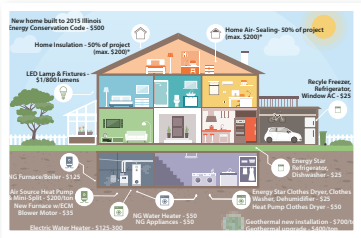
A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

CONTENTS | Elizabeth, Illinois | 800-858-5522 | www.jocarroll.com



20C Board of director election

Petitions available for 2019 director nominations.



20E 2019 efficiency incentives

Save energy and money with our incentive program.

Reader prize

Each month we print the name of a Jo-Carroll Energy member who is eligible to win a monthly \$25 readership prize. If your name is printed in this month's edition, and not a part of any article, contact Jo-Carroll Energy

Frequently asked questions

As a follow-up to last month's column regarding the rate change, I would like to address a few of the questions we receive most frequently.

Why are my fixed charges higher than adjacent investor owned utilities?

Jo-Carroll Energy serves rural communities and areas, consumer density is much less compared to our investor owned utility neighbors. Therefore, we have fewer accounts to spread our fixed costs across. Jo-Carroll Energy maintains more than 2,400 miles of energized electric lines and nearly 20,000 electric meters with a density of 8.4 members per mile, and more than 300 miles of natural gas pipelines and over 5,700 meters with a density of 18.5 members per mile. Much less density than our neighboring investor owned utilities, who average 35 to 40 consumers per mile.

What are some ways I can manage my bill and use?

Jo-Carroll Energy offers various bill payment programs including budget billing and levelized billing. A budget billing plan allows you to pay the same amount each month, based on your previous 12 months of service. Levelized billing uses a "rolling average." While the amount due will vary from month to month, this plan can help take the



CEO'S REPORT by Mike Casper

shock out of your energy bill during extremely cold or hot weather.

There are also steps members can take to lower their monthly energy costs by using energy more efficiently. With the helpful tools and resources Jo-Carroll Energy offers, using energy wisely is easier than you think. We can work together to use energy efficiently. You can find energy saving information on our website at jocarroll.com and at TogetherWeSave.com. Jo-Carroll Energy offers members a free, walk-through home energy assessment as well as full energy audits for a reasonable fee. For more information about these programs, contact our energy advisor John Scott at 800-858-5522, ext. 1339.

When will members reap the benefits from green energy initiatives and start to see a reduction in the cost of electricity?

Our wholesale power providers, Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) and Prairie Power Inc. (PPI), have a diversified portfolio of electric generation resources including agreements to purchase energy from local renewable resources, such as the recently announced solar array north of Thomson, Ill. and utility scale

continued on page 20C ▶

For your information

Your Board of Directors:

David Senn
Chairman
District 7

Russell Holesinger
Vice Chairman
District 8

Marcia Stanger
Secretary
District 3

Martin Werner
District 1

Joseph Mattingley
District 2

Dan Tindell
District 4

Patricia Smith
District 5

Thomas Lundy
District 6

Larry Carroll
District 9

Robert Kuhns
Treasurer
District 10

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday

Elizabeth
793 U.S. Route 20 West
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Savanna
103 Chicago Ave.
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Geneseo
1004 S. Chicago St.
7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1:30 to 4 p.m.

Services and Billing Questions:

(800) 858-5522
www.jocarroll.com

For emergencies and outages call:

(800) 858-5522

Resume of Minutes

December 6, 2018

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held at the cooperative's headquarters in Elizabeth, Illinois on Thursday Dec. 6, 2018 at 9 a.m.

A safety moment was provided by Director Carroll.

Presentation –

VP of Member Services Jennifer Meyer discussed Jo-Carroll Energy Food Pantry donations that were distributed to local community organizations for 2018. Meyer noted that all donations come from unclaimed capital credits and are redistributed to our members for the betterment of our communities.

Chairman's/AIEC AND NRECA Report

– Senn provided an update on renewable energy credits, cybersecurity, rural American economies and future solar projects.

APGA Report – Director Carroll provided an update on regulatory matters being followed by the American Public Gas Association (APGA).

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC)

Report – Director Mattingley reviewed highlights from the DPC board meeting and provided an overview on transmission and generation topics. President and CEO Mike Casper also commented on DPC Rate projections.

Prairie Power Inc. (PPI) Report – Director Kuhns provided an electric generation summary from the October PPI board meeting. In addition, Kuhns provided a slideshow of his recent visit to the Prairie State Power Generation Campus.

Board Policy 125 – This was referred to the Policy Committee for further review.

Governance Overview Topic – Director Holesinger explained “good governance” and the framework and the standards required to maintain good governance within the cooperative. Holesinger noted that the governance task force will continue to be current, proactive and involved.

CEO's Report – CFO Woods noted that the cooperative's operating margins for YTD were \$2,433,644 vs. the budgeted amount of \$2,342,806. The current equity of the cooperative is 23.12 percent.

Board Issues and Action Items – President and CEO Mike Casper provided a review of the recent cost of service study presented to the board, along with its conclusions. The study noted that Jo-Carroll Energy has not had a rate increase in nearly 5 years and highlighted where the Cooperative's

rates need to be in order to adequately recover costs, maintain the distribution system, and meet debt covenant requirements, while treating different types of services equitably based on their impact to the system. After reviewing the study, it was determined that rate increases would be necessary to meet projected costs. A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the 2019 operational and expense budget.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the 2019 rates for Jo-Carroll Energy.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve Rate Policy 707 as presented.

Discounted estate retirements were approved as presented.

2018 Capital Credits General Retirement was approved as presented. The cooperative retired approximately \$1.5 million in capital credits for 2018.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve a donation to Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) for the “Growing Our Talent” program. The donation is to be made from unclaimed capital credits.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the ratification of the Inside and Outside Bargaining Unit and Collective Bargaining Agreements.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the retainer renewal for Attorney John Cox.

No action was taken on the natural gas extension with IPEA. 2019 Board Meeting dates were selected.

External Relations Update – Chris Allendorf, Vice President of External Relations & General Counsel, provided an update on Northwest Illinois Economic Development's (NWILED) Manufacturing Day Tour, noting those who participated in the event and the programs that were presented to the students. Allendorf noted that the NWILED budget has been approved and they need director candidates.

Action items as a result of Executive Session – None.

Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

Frequently asked questions

continued from page 20A

renewable generation resources, which include the Quilt Block wind farm to the north across the Illinois-Wisconsin border. Although the price of power from these renewable resources is competitive with other non-renewable resources, the cost does not translate to an overall reduction in power costs. The positive is that since Jo-Carroll Energy is a cooperative member of DPC and PPI, this gives us a voice and a seat at the table, something we didn't have when purchasing power from an investor owned utility. Jo-Carroll

continuously works closely with DPC and PPI and their other member distribution cooperatives to provide a diverse portfolio of generation, including renewable resources, that are in the best interest to all of you, our member-owners, to maintain long-term, reliable, affordable, sustainable power for the future.

For additional responses to frequently asked questions, please visit our website at www.jocarroll.com/content/2019-rate-change1.

Petitions available for 2019 director nominations

Nomination petitions for the 2019 Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors are now available.

Your cooperative's directors are members and consumers just like you who live in and are a part of the communities we serve. Running for the board of directors and voting in elections are benefits of being a co-op member.

Three director posts are up for election in 2019. They include representatives for Districts 1, 2 and 4. Any Jo-Carroll Energy member residing in a district that is up for election – including the incumbent – may petition for nomination in that district.

Members interested in seeking election to the board may download a petition from the cooperative's website at jocarroll.com or pick up a form at any of Jo-Carroll's offices.

Petitions must be signed by at least 25 Jo-Carroll Energy members residing in the district for which the director is to be elected. Petitions must be filed at the cooperative's Elizabeth headquarters no later than Friday, April 12.

In order to qualify to have their name placed on the ballot, all nominees must participate in an orientation process provided by the attorney for the cooperative, assuring that all nominees fully understand the expectations and responsibilities of directors. These include, but are not limited to: time demands, educational expectations and fiduciary duties.

All eligible candidates will be listed on the cooperative's website and in Hi-Lines. Complete details on director qualifications and the nomination procedure can be found

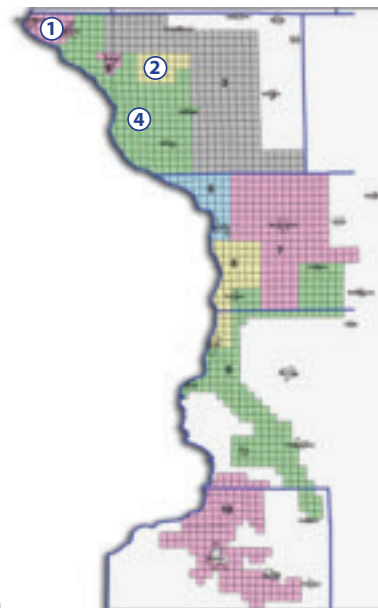
in Jo-Carroll Energy's bylaws posted at jocarroll.com. Anyone without internet access may request a copy by calling 800-858-5522.

Election process

If more than one candidate files for the director position in a district, an election by ballot will be held for that district. This year, the cooperative is using a hybrid voting method that will allow members to either vote by mail or online. Jo-Carroll Energy is working with Survey & Ballot Systems to conduct the election.

Ballots and voting instructions will be mailed to each member residing in a district where there are two or more candidates. Members may vote for one director for the district in which they reside – or in which the member is entitled to vote. Each member may vote once online or by mail, whichever they choose. Watch the April Hi-Lines for more information about the ballot and voting process.

If only one candidate files in a district, election is by a motion of acclamation at the annual meeting. Ballots are not mailed. The 2019 annual meeting will be held on June 12 at the West Carroll Middle School in Mount Carroll.





Three easy DIY projects to save energy

Winter weather can have a big impact on your energy bills, hitting your pockets a little harder than you would have liked. Now that spring is just around the corner, it's the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this! There are several easy ways to save energy, but if you're willing to take a hands-on approach, here are three projects you can do now to start saving.

Make the most of your water heater.

Let's start with one of the easiest projects: insulating your water heater. Insulating a water heater that's warm to the touch can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating bills. It should also be noted that if your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated. But if your water heater is warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation.

You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$20. You'll also need two people for this project. Before you start, turn off the water heater. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and tape it to temporarily keep it in place. If necessary, use a marker to note the areas where the controls are so you can cut them out. Once the blanket is positioned correctly, tape it permanently in place, then turn the water heater back on. If you have an electric water heater, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees, which can cause overheating.

Seal air leaks with caulk.

The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. There are

many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible and won't shrink or crack.

Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush or solvent. The area should be dry before you apply the new caulk.

Apply the caulk in one continuous stream, and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterwards, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

Weather strip exterior doors.

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Weather stripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need.

When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general "wear and tear" for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

Before applying the new weather stripping, clean the molding with water and soap, then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, then cut the weather stripping to fit each section. Make sure the weather stripping fits snugly against both surfaces so it compresses when the door is closed.

By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy (and money!) while increasing the comfort level of your home. And you can impress your family and friends with your savvy energy-saving skills.

2019 energy efficiency incentives now available!

Being energy efficient puts dollars in your pocket by lowering your energy bill and it also can qualify you for additional savings through our incentive program.

Our 2019 program includes incentives for both our electric and natural gas members.

Eligible electric members can qualify for rebates on: electric clothes washers and dryers, dehumidifiers, dishwashers and refrigerators. Recycling incentives are available for refrigerators, freezers and window air conditioners. Other incentives include occupancy sensors, LED light fixtures and electric HVAC, both air source and geothermal.

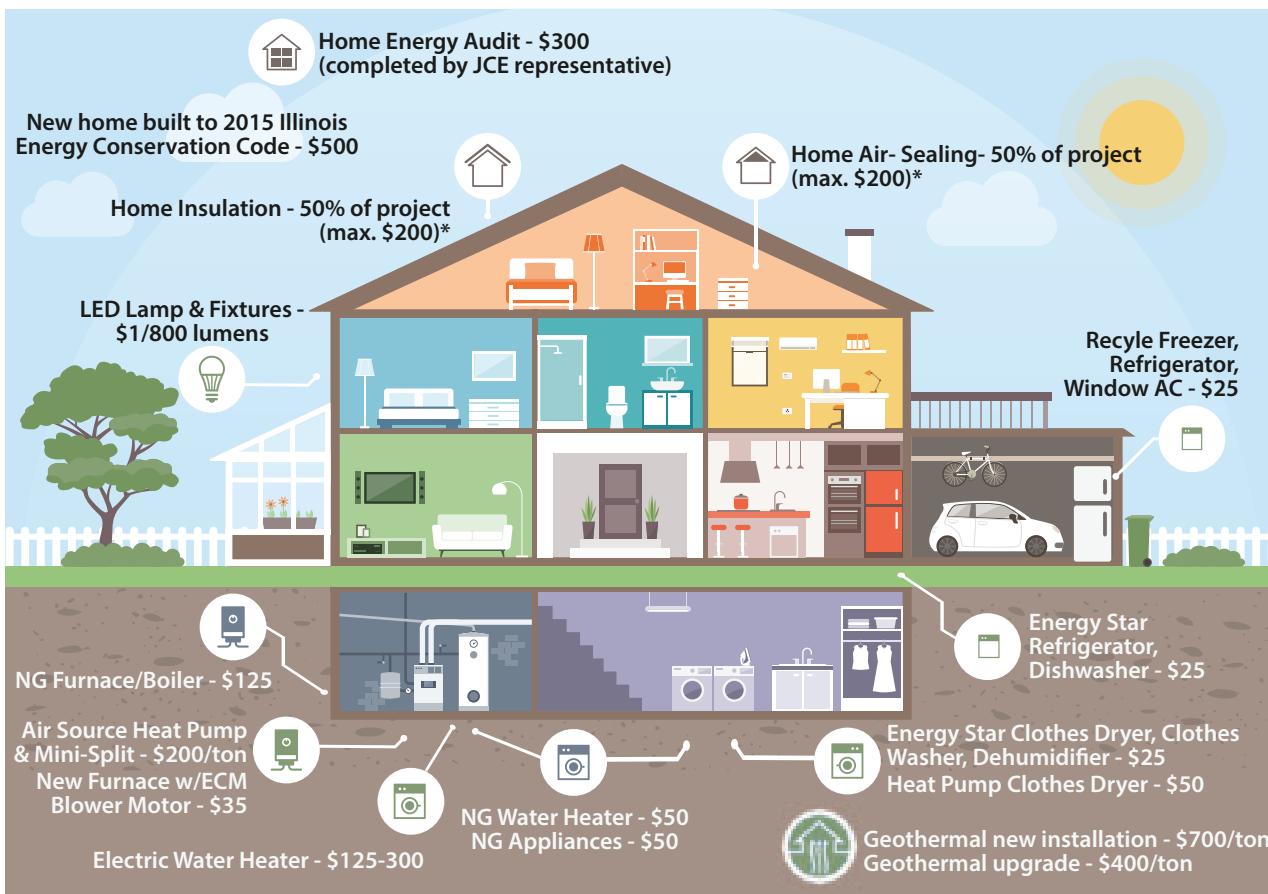
Natural gas members will find incentives for natural gas HVAC, natural gas water heaters, and appliances, pool heaters and hot tubs. Natural gas members may also qualify for fuel switching incentives when switching the fuel source from propane, fuel oil or electricity provided by another utility.

Air sealing and insulation incentives are available also.



To qualify, members must:

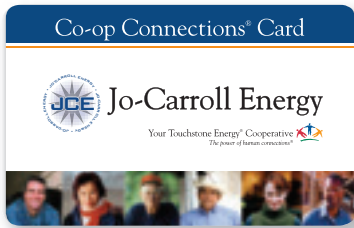
- Purchase and install a qualified energy efficient product in 2019.
- Submit required documentation as soon as possible (and within six months of purchase) as funds are limited.
- Submit forms and documentation by Jan. 2, 2020.
- Incentives are in place through Dec. 31, 2019 or until funds are depleted. Forms and complete information are available online at jocarroll.com or by visiting one of our offices in Elizabeth, Savanna or Geneseo.



● Electric rebates & incentives

● Natural Gas rebates & incentives

*Requires home energy audit by JCE's energy auditor prior to starting project.



Discover all the local ways to save by being a co-op member

Apple River: Peaceful Pines Guesthouse

Atkinson: Inspired Life Yoga Studio

Clinton: Alternative Wellness and Chiropractic Center, CGI Insulation

Dubuque: Anytime Fitness

Elizabeth: Jug's Main Street Tap, Vincent Earth Moving, Jansen Heating, Apple River State Bank, The View Motel, Cajun Jack's

Fulton: Cuttin Loose With Style, River City Fence Company, Susan's Calico Creations

Galena: United Country Heartland Realty- Angela Stodden, Cindy's Classic Catering, Cloran Mansion Bed & Breakfast, Country Inn & Suites, Dream Catcher, Fever River Outfitters, Gale-na IL Vacation Rentals, Grant Hills Motel, Great American Popcorn Company, Hellman Guest House Bed & Breakfast, Illinois Bank and Trust, Karl Stodden Construction, Law Office of Mark Helman, LeFevre Inn & Resort, Market House Restaurant, Renew Salon, Stoney Creek Inn, Dillon's HM

Geneseo: All In Stiches, Artists in Motion, B&B Equipment Store, Vision Source, Maple Grove Framing & Gallery, Maple Leaf Medical Services, Pegasus Fine Gifts, Snap Fitness Geneseo, Underground Graphics, Alexis' Doggie Spa, One Way Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

Miles: Trenkamp Electric

Mt. Carroll: Flower Fan-A-See, Healthy Touch Massage & Salon, Kunes Country Auto Group, Schneider House Furniture and Floor Covering, Sievert's Steaks-N-Stuff

Sabula: River City Heating

Savanna: Neat Repeats Thrift Store, Outback Dee-zign Salon & Spa, The Answer Fitness, The Answer Physical Therapy, Manny's Pizza

Stockton: Glad Rags Resale Boutique, Ink & Paper

Thomson: Executive Inn

Warren: Gray Unlimited Restoration, Shawn Saunders Insulation Specialist

For discounts near you,
Visit: www.connections.coop





Would your home pass an electrical inspection?

If you're getting ready to sell your home or just wondering how electrically sound it is, there are some general guidelines out there to assess the condition of your home's wiring and electrical bones. Although it varies depending on where you live, most local codes follow the National Electric Code (NEC).

The NEC is an industry-specific, jargon-filled document that outlines required practices for all aspects of residential and commercial electrical installation. Don't worry, you don't have to google it and read it from cover to cover, but know that your local code could vary. Local code always wins out when there are variances, so be sure to check with your qualified electrician or local building department (start with your city or town) for specific code requirements.

Electrical malfunction is dangerous. U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 45,210 reported U.S. home structure fires involving electrical failure or malfunction per year from 2010 to 2014, according to the National Fire Protection Agency. The home fires resulted in 420 deaths, 1,370 injuries and an annual \$1.4 billion in direct property damage.

In general, the graphic shows some all-house guidelines that an inspector would look for; remember they may or may not align with your local electrical code but they are NEC-mandated.


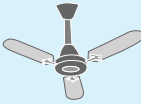
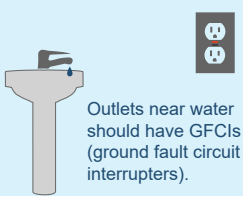

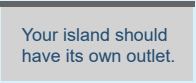
There are also hallway, staircase and garage code requirements, as well as those for the electrical service panel and wiring. Check with your qualified electrician or the city or town where you live for specific code requirements in all areas of your home.

For more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Home Electrical Inspection:

Pass or Fail?

Would your home pass an electrical inspection? Local electrical codes vary, so check with your qualified electrician, but here are **five things your home should have**:

-  Wiring should be sound (not overcrowded or knob-and-tube wiring used in old homes).
-  Ceiling fixtures should be controlled by a wall switch and not just a pull chain.
-  Outlets near water should have GFCIs (ground fault circuit interrupters).
-  Your refrigerator, microwave and garbage disposal should each have its own circuit.
-  Your island should have its own outlet.

Learn more at

SafeElectricity.org



Sand Prairie
 Connecting our members to the world.
 A service of Jo-Carroll Energy

FIBER



Status of Fiber Communities

as of press deadline

ELIZABETH

E1-E4 all with
 Fiber Installation
 Available

GALENA

G0 Fiber Installation Available
 G8 Sign-up Phase @ 13%
 G17 Sign-up Phase @ 46%

GALENA TERRITORY

GT10 Pre-Construction

GT6 Sign-up Phase @ 31%

GT5 Sign-Up Phase @ 15%

All other GT
 polygons @
 Interest Phase

MOUNT CARROLL

All polygons
 @ Interest Phase

SAVANNA

All polygons
 @ Interest Phase

APPLE CANYON LAKE

CYN6 Pre-Construction phase, set to begin Spring
 2019; all other CYN polygons @ Interest Phase

Tell us you want fiber in your neighborhood!



connectSP.com/iwantfiber

Visit the fiber communities page on connectsp.com to track progress.