ENERSTAR ELECTRIC CO-OP

HOME PAGE

JUNE 2019

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF ENERSTAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

INSIDE

EnerStar®
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

11597 Illinois Highway 1
Paris, IL 61944
800-635-4145
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

EnerStar sparks learning

Area fourth graders visit EnerStar

The safety of our members is very important to EnerStar Electric Cooperative. So throughout year, your locally-owned electric cooperative 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 the communities we serve 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 the communities we serve.

"Teaching electrical safety at a young age ensures those lessons and concepts will remain with the children as they mature into adults," said EnerStar's Angela Griffin. "Events like these are an important part of EnerStar's mission. It gives us a chance to showcase the cooperative's role in the community while educating our young on the proper way to handle an electrical emergency."

This year's event was attended by Marshall, Kansas, Paris Crestwood, Paris Wenz, Martinsville and Shiloh. The cooperative covers all transportation costs for the schools.

The main part of the program is the Live Line Demo presented by Daren Deverman, an employee of Corn Belt Energy, an electric cooperative in Bloomington, Ill. The display contains 7,200 volts of electricity and is constructed with the same poles, transformers and line hardware used by EnerStar. With the use of props such

Continued on page 20B

Continued from page 20A

as a fake squirrel, a hot dog and a balloon, Live Line Demo teaches the children about the many dangers of electricity and how to be safe around it.

The demonstration is followed by the personal testimony of EnerStar member Delmar Bell, a Paris farmer who was injured in a power line accident over 30 years ago. The accident caused Bell the loss of his arms. Bell explains that he participates in the event because, "I want young children to learn from my mistake. I never knew the slogan 'Look up and live.'"

The impact of Bell's personal testimony gets the students' attention. "The first part of the event, while it is educational, is fun and entertaining. But when Delmar speaks, the message drives home the serious nature of an electrical emergency," explained Griffin.

"We really appreciate Delmar attending each year," says Griffin. "I admire the fact that he took this tragedy and turned it into a positive experience. His message is more than that of electrical safety but teaches the children a lesson on perseverance."

Also participating in the event were Journeyman Lineman Keith Borchers and Apprentice Linemen Chase Graham and Austin Swango. In this fun session, they allowed the children to try on equipment, enjoy a pole climbing and bucket truck demonstration.

It was a great day and the weather was wonderful. Did a future line worker attend that day? Time will tell, but many students are excited by the idea!

Tips for maintaining an efficient HVAC system

Ah, summer. Cookouts, swimming pools, camping—it's the perfect time to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. And when it's time to come back indoors, there's nothing better than that cool blast you feel from your home's air conditioning unit.

Your heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system is essential to keeping your home comfortable during summer months, and if it breaks down, it's also the most expensive equipment to repair or replace. Luckily, there are simple steps you can take to lengthen the life of your HVAC system.

Change or clean filters. Dirty filters block airflow, which can greatly decrease the efficiency of your system. The Department of Energy recommends changing or cleaning filters every month or two during the cooling season. If your unit is in constant use or is subjected to dusty conditions or pet hair, consider checking filters more frequently.

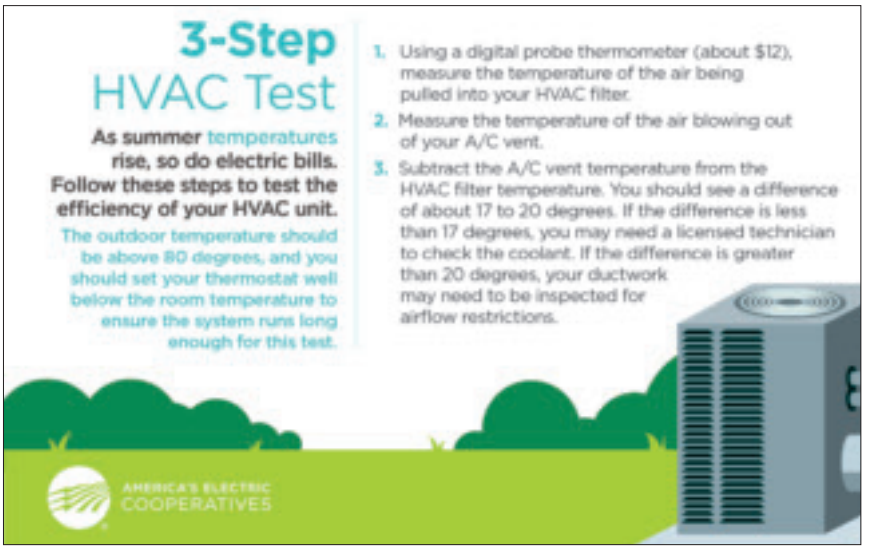
Clean the HVAC unit. Outdoor condenser coils can become clogged with pollen, dirt and small debris. Use a hose to spray the HVAC unit once each season to ensure maximum airflow. (Warning: Do not use a pressure washer to do this, as it can damage the equipment.)

Clear space around the HVAC unit. Dryer vents, falling leaves and grass left behind from the lawnmower can create buildup. Remove any debris around the HVAC unit. If you have foliage near the unit, trim it back at least 2 ft. around the condenser to increase airflow.

If you want to evaluate the efficiency of your HVAC system, check out the infographic for a quick test below.

You should also have your HVAC system periodically inspected by a professional. The frequency of inspections depends on the age of your unit, but the Department of Energy recommends scheduling tune-ups during the spring and fall, when contractors aren't as busy.

When HVAC equipment fails, it's inconvenient and uncomfortable—especially during the dog days of summer. Remember, your HVAC system runs best when it's regularly cleaned and serviced. With a little maintenance along the way, you can add years to your system's lifespan.



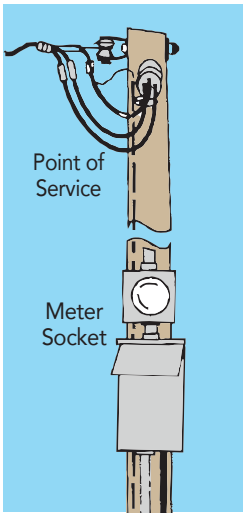
Understanding your home's electric service

What is mine? What belongs to the co-op?

At EnerStar Electric Cooperative, we take reliable electric service seriously. If you happen to experience a power outage, you can count on us to restore your power as quickly and safely as possible. It is also important to understand that we can only fix what belongs to the cooperative; that is, everything before the service point. Members are responsible for everything beyond.

So your question at this point is probably, "What is the service point?" In general, for the typical residential account, the cooperative is responsible for everything before the meter and the member is responsible for everything after. To better understand the "service point," check out the illustrations provided.

Your meter is on a pole near your home

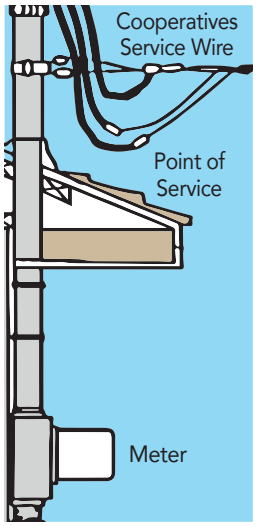


Meter on pole

The cooperative is responsible for the meter and the connection at the top of the pole. The member is responsible for the meter socket, meter loop, breaker box, the conduit and wire running up the pole, including the weatherhead, and the service wire running from the pole to the house. The cooperative can provide meter loop specifications if requested. EnerStar or an electrician should build the meter loop.

Your meter is attached to your home

When a meter socket and meter loop are located on the house, the wire to the top of the meter loop is the cooperative's responsibility, but the meter socket is not. A mast needs to be set before service can be connected. When power is buried to a meter, EnerStar is responsible for buried line up to the meter connections. The member is responsible for the meter socket and the wire to the breaker box. They are also responsible for the ground rod and the ground wire.



Meter attached to house

Your meter connects to a current transformer

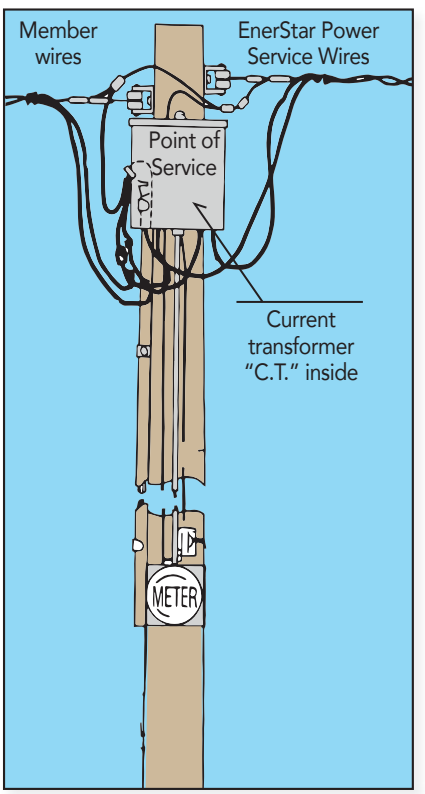
With a current transformer (CT) rated meter, the electric current is measured by passing the service wire through the CT, which then sends a portion of this current to the meter.

This type of installation was common many years ago. Members who have experienced equipment failure due to the age of the equipment and want to upgrade to a meter loop can receive a $100 upgrade credit. Call the office for details.

Your meter connects from your home to a pad-mounted transformer

In this situation, the cooperative is responsible for the pad-mounted transformer and the underground line running to the meter. The member is responsible for the meter base. The meter base must be purchased from the cooperative.

These examples illustrate the most common residential services. In some cases, the set-up may look different. If you are unsure of what is your responsibility and what belongs to the cooperative, please contact Tim Haddix at 1-800-635-4145, extension 617 or thaddix@enerstar.com.



Pole top disconnect

Energy Efficiency Grants Available through EnerStar and Wabash Valley Power

Your energy efficiency updates could bring more than savings

The energy efficiency updates you're planning for your home in 2019 will help save you money, but you could also qualify for a rebate, depending on the projects you have planned.

To see more, including rebates for your business, visit www.PowerMoves.com.

Geothermal Heat Pump (with Electric Backup)

- Closed loop ≥ 19.0 EER / ≥ 4.0 COP
- Open loop ≥ 23 EER / ≥ 4.5 COP
- Condenser and coil must be replaced and installed as a matched set

CLOSED LOOP, REPLACING: *electric resistance, fossil fuel, or into new construction*	**$1,500**
OPEN LOOP, REPLACING: *electric resistance, fossil fuel, or into new construction*	**$1,500**

Air Source Heat Pump - Split System (with Electric Backup) (Ducted)

- ≥ 16 SEER
- ≥ 9.0 HSPF
- Electric backup only
- Condenser and coil must be replaced and installed as a matched set
- New system must heat and cool entire home

REPLACING ELECTRIC RESISTANCE: *electric furnace, ceiling cable, baseboard*	**$750**
REPLACING FOSSIL FUEL: *propane or fuel oil*	**$750**
REPLACING EXISTING AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP	**$250**

Ductless Air Source Heat Pump (with Electric Backup) (Mini Split)

- ≥ 20 SEER
- ≥ 10.0 HSPF
- Electric backup only
- Condenser and coil must be replaced and installed as a matched set

REPLACING ELECTRIC RESISTANCE: *electric furnace, ceiling cable, baseboard*	**$300**
REPLACING FOSSIL FUEL: *propane or fuel oil*	**$300**
REPLACING EXISTING AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP	**$300**

Natural Gas, Propane, and Fuel Oil with Heat Pump – Split System (Ducted)

- ≥ 16 SEER
- ≥ 9.0 HSPF
- ≥ 90 ≥ AFUE
- Condenser and coil must be replaced and installed as a matched set
- New system must heat and cool entire home

REPLACING ELECTRIC RESISTANCE: *electric furnace, ceiling cable, baseboard*	**$500**
REPLACING FOSSIL FUEL AND CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING	**$500**

Heat Pump Water Heater

- Minimum UEF of 2.0.

REPLACING ELECTRIC RESISTANCE TANK	**$400**
NEW CONSTRUCTION	**$400**

Variable Speed Pool Pump

- ENERGY STAR®

REPLACING EXISTING SINGLE STAGE POOL PUMP	**$250**

Purchase receipts are required for all rebate applications.

AHRI Certificates required for all geothermal, air source heat pump, and heat pump water heater rebate applications.

Heat loss/heat gain calculations required for geothermal and air source heat pumps.

Failure to provide requested information may result in forfeiture of rebate.

All installations are subject to verification and/or inspection.

For full requirements, see applications.

Rebate program ends Dec. 31, 2019, and is subject to change without notice.

Looking for more information or have questions?

Visit PowerMoves.com or call your local electric cooperative's Energy Advisor for more information.

POWER MOVES®