

MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

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Patriotism in action

According to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, patriotism is "the love for or devotion to one's country." Perhaps no other day of the year evokes such a sense of patriotism than Independence Day. With flags rippling in the wind—red, white and blue bunting adorning porches and store fronts and local parades and marching bands on display, it's easy to feel a swell of pride for our country.

Arguably, another, perhaps deeper form of patriotism is active engagement in public and civic life. Involvement in your town promotes a richer community life and ensures that institutions thrive, and communities remain vibrant and inviting places to live work and play. Besides being enjoyable, your participation in community events and activities, together with your friends, neighbors and co-workers makes a difference. Simple things like supporting a bake sale or attending a local high school event signals to the young people in your community that you care and support them, and that the community itself is worth sustaining.

In fact, there are civic engagement opportunities through Monroe County Electric Cooperative (MCEC). You may recall that one of our most important cooperative principles is that of democratic participation. If you pay your bill, you are a member of the co-op with an opportunity to provide input through

voting during our annual meeting.

Monroe County Electric Cooperative (MCEC), like other types of co-ops, originated to serve a need that was not being met by traditional for-profit electric companies. While providing reliable electricity is our top priority, we are exploring other needs that might not be met otherwise. We make decisions based on long-term thinking – what decisions will benefit the larger community in which we operate? One of the best ways you can engage with your co-op is by casting your vote when it's time to elect board members. These are folks just like you, from our community, who provide guidance to co-op leadership on a myriad of issues and decisions both short term and long term.

MCEC recently engaged one of its most important community activities – the Annual Meeting of Members. This event is held annually in the spirit of one of our most valued cooperative principles – Democratic Participation. If you are reading this article, you are probably a member of the co-op with an opportunity to provide input by voting during our Annual Meeting. One of the best ways you can engage with MCEC is by participating in the elections of Board members and revisions of the Co-op's Bylaws.

Perhaps you haven't voted in the past because you didn't think you were

qualified to weigh in on a topic, or maybe you simply didn't have time to vote. But you do have an opinion on the issues that affect our community and MCEC wants your perspective.

Everyone has valuable experience that informs their decision-making process. Diverse perspectives benefit the whole community. You may have a different view than your neighbor, but together, those perspectives provide a more balanced view of the community. You could be bringing new information that hadn't been previously considered. We seek more members participating in the process, because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

Democracy is not a spectator sport; it takes active civic engagement by citizens to thrive. This Independence Day, I hope you will embrace the local celebrations and actively participate in your community – and vote at every opportunity!

By Anne Prince, NRECA



Defining degree days

By Abby Berry, NRECA

Weather can have a major impact on energy bills, and when the outdoor temperatures become extreme, your heating and cooling equipment works harder to keep your home comfortable.

Did you know the energy experts at Monroe County Electric Co-Operative use degree days to anticipate heating and cooling needs for you, our consumer-members?

Never heard of a degree day? Don't worry, you're not alone. Let's look at what degree days are and why they're important for electric utilities.

Degree days measure how cold or warm a location is by comparing the average of the high and low (mean) of the outdoor temperatures recorded in that location to the standard U.S. temperature, which is 65 F. The assumption is that we don't need heating or cooling to be comfortable when this is the outdoor temperature.

So, the more extreme the outdoor

temperatures, the higher the number of degree days. And the higher the number of degree days, the higher the amount of energy used for space heating and cooling. Summer is in full swing, so let's look at cooling degree days.

Cooling degree days are a measurement of how hot the temperature was on a given day or during a period of days. With summer temperatures rising, you'll likely require more cooling for your home or business, which results in more cooling degree days. Variations in electric bills often follow closely with degree days, which is why electric utilities use this data to anticipate future energy demand.

Degree days are tracked for a variety of reasons. Farmers can better plan the planting of crops and timing for pest control, and weather experts can better assess climate patterns.

If charts and data aren't your forte, no problem. Here are a few tips to

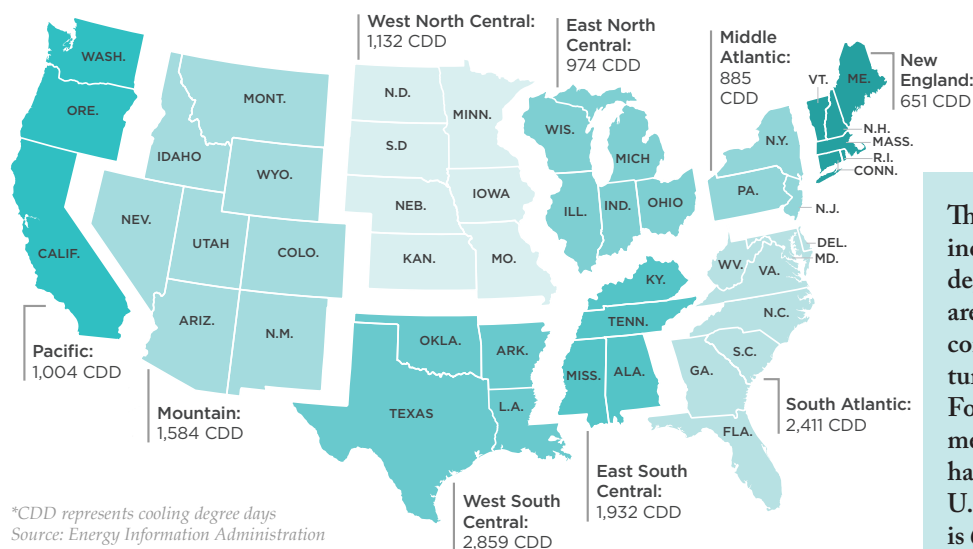
help you save on energy bills this summer:

- Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your cooling costs will be. The Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78 F when you're home and a higher setting for when you're away.
- Turn off ceiling fans when you leave a room.
- Close window coverings, like curtains and blinds, during the day to block sunlight.
- Use caulk and weather stripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows.

If you have questions about your energy use or to learn more ways to save, give us a call or stop by our office. We are here to help.

U.S. COOLING DEGREE DAYS

Cooling degree days measure how hot the outdoor temperature was on a given day or during a period of days. The map below shows measurements of U.S. cooling degree days in 2018 by census region. Extreme outdoor temperatures bring a higher number of degree days, which results in higher energy use.



The map shown here includes data for cooling degree days (CDD), which are used to measure and compare outdoor temperatures over periods of time. For example, a day with a mean temperature of 80 F has 15 CDD (because the U.S. standard temperature is 65 F). If the next day has a mean temperature of 83 F, it has 18 CDD. So, the total for those two days is 33 CDD.

Meet the Employees



Allan Masterson
Director of Member Services

Tell us about yourself.

I've been married to my wife Peg for 37 years. We have one son, Seth, who is 23 years old. I have two older sisters and two younger brothers, all in Illinois. I was born in Red Bud, Ill. and lived there until 1970. We moved to Vienna, Ill. and lived there for 10 years. After college and several other moves, I ended back in Red Bud and have lived there my whole married life.

When I was a child, I wanted to be:

A professional basketball or football player. But I was too short for basketball and too skinny for football. I also lacked any athletic ability.



If I could have any meal to eat, it would include:

Anything with a lot of fresh vegetables and fruit with it.

Describe the best vacation you ever took.

Just about every time we travel to Destin, Fla. I enjoy the climate and the ocean down there. I've also had some awesome float trips down on the Current River in Missouri.

Do you have a collection of something?

I collect dust.

What was your favorite thing to play as a child?

My two brothers and I used to play Star Trek in our barns pretending they were big spaceships. I also liked riding my bike and fishing.

What do you see yourself doing after you retire?

We would like to travel and see more of the United States. I've also wanted to go to Rome, the Holy Land and my grandfather's native country, Scotland. I would also like to do volunteer work for different organizations.



MCEC Line Outages - May 2019

Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
5/3/2019	1:57	2	Lake Forest Dr	Vehicles Or Machinery	Waterloo
5/9/2019	1:46	203	Gilmore Lake Area	Lightning	Millstadt
5/11/2019	2:24	8	Bremser Rd	Vehicles Or Machinery	Millstadt
5/15/2019	2:29	20	Grant Rd	Lightning	Fults
5/18/2019	5:04	14	Clover Leaf School Rd	Unknown	East Carondelet
5/21/2019	4:23	16	C Rd	Trees, Other	Waterloo
5/21/2019	1:41	26	Lou Dell Subdivision	Trees, Other	North Waterloo
5/23/2019	2:15	8	Mule Rd	Trees, Other	East Carondelet
5/29/2019	5:59	210	Imbs Station Rd	Trees, Other	East Carondelet
5/29/2019	6:30	7	Holland Ln	Unknown	East Carondelet



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Office hours: Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Are you an all-electric account?

Make sure you're on the right rate

If your home is “all-electric,” meaning that at a minimum, your main heating source is electric as well as your water heater, make sure the rate on your bill is listed as “16,” our all electric heating rate. Rate 16 discounts the kilowatts used during the months of September through May for accounts that fall under these conditions.

Check your electric bill on the second page at the top next to “**Rate schedule/bill type**” for the rate your account is on. If you think you're on the wrong rate, please call us at 939-7171, ext. 115.

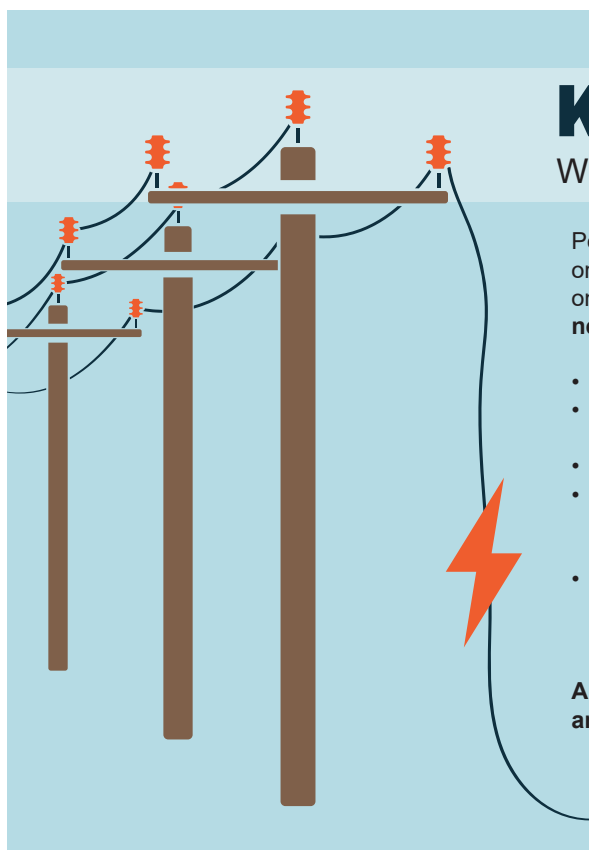
Between the months of September-May, rate 16 breaks down into three rate blocks: 0-800, 801-4000 and 4000+ kilowatt hours. The rate drops in the 2nd block which is 8.65 cents per kilowatt hour.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When it's warm out, avoid using the oven. Try cooking on the stove, using the microwave or grilling outside instead.

Source: energy.gov



KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SEE A DOWNED POWER LINE

Power lines can come down for a few reasons: severe weather or damage due to a car accident are two of the more common ones. **When lines do go down there are precautions you need to take to stay safe:**

- **Call 9-1-1** to report fallen or downed power lines.
- Know that power lines **do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.**
- Stay at least **10 feet away** from the line.
- If the line is down because a vehicle has struck it, **remain in the vehicle** until emergency crews say it is safe to exit.
- **If there is a fire** or you smell gasoline, hop out without touching the vehicle at the same time and **DO NOT WALK**, but hop away to safety.

Always treat a downed power line as live and never touch any wire that is down. Learn more at:

