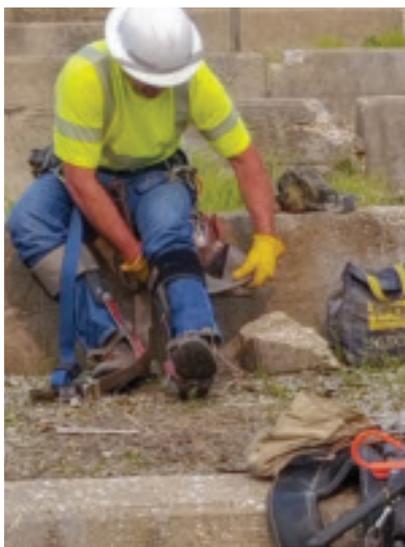


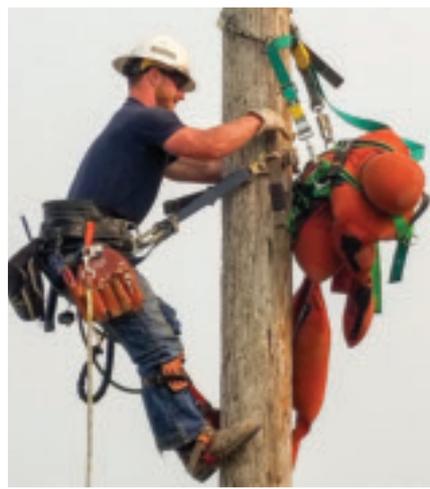
Pole top rescue training

Recently, our linemen received training from the Association of Illinois Electrical Cooperatives (AIEC) on rescuing a fellow lineman in the event they are injured and cannot get down the pole by themselves. This could result from electrical contact, heart attack, allergic reaction to bee sting or many other possible scenarios.

This training helps them determine how to protect themselves as well as helping their injured co-worker by releasing their safety harness, then safely lowering them to the ground. They train for this possibility but pray and hope that they never have to use these skills.



Cody Grainger, area serviceman, "gears up" before climbing the pole.



A 180-pound training dummy is hung from the pole to simulate an injured co-worker. Garrett Kestner, apprentice lineman, climbs the pole to reach it.



Eric Johnson, crew foreman, wraps a rope around the dummy, so the dummy can be safely lowered to the ground.



Considering solar installation?

Cooperative policy requires members to contact us for approval before installing a distributed generation system so we can ensure the interconnection and parallel operation is safe, reliable and properly metered. We must also study the feasibility of the installation and in some cases apply system upgrades in accordance with our Interconnection and Parallel Operation of Distributed Generation Policy. The policy and associated documents are used by the co-op regardless of the size of the generation system being interconnected.



Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

524 North Madison | P.O. Box 338
Carthage, IL 62321
www.wiec.net | 800/576-3125

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

BUSINESS OFFICE

217-357-3125

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

800-576-3125

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Kent Flesner** —
President, West Point
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- **Becky Dickinson** — Finance/
Accounting Manager

MAP LOCATION CONTEST

Every month we are printing four members' map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.



Shed some light on lightning

According to the National Severe Storms Laboratory, lightning can strike in the same place twice (or pretty darn close), contrary to folk wisdom.

Also, according to the storms laboratory and the National Weather Service:

- ⚡ It is not possible to have thunder without lightning; thunder is a direct result of lightning. However, it IS possible you might see lightning and not hear the thunder because it was too far away. Some people call this phenomenon “heat lightning” because it occurs most often in the summer.
- ⚡ Lightning can (3919-59) occur within the thunderstorm cloud (intra-cloud lightning) or between the cloud and the ground (cloud-to-ground lightning).
- ⚡ Lightning can have 100 million to 1 billion volts and contains billions of watts.
- ⚡ When lightning travels down a tree trunk, its heat turns water to steam. If

it gets under the bark into the surface moisture of the wood, the rapidly expanding steam can blast pieces of bark from the tree and the wood along the path is often killed.

- ⚡ Lightning is hotter than the surface of the sun, and it can reach temperatures around 50,000 degrees F.
- ⚡ People are struck by lightning in one of five ways: by a direct strike, by a side flash or from a streamer; or via ground current or conduction (metal). Metal does not attract lightning, but provides a path for the lightning to follow.

A thunderstorm is considered severe if it produces hail at least 1 inch in diameter or has wind gusts of at least 58 miles per hour, according to the American Red Cross. Heavy rain from thunderstorms can cause flash flooding and high winds can damage homes and blow down trees and utility poles, causing widespread power outages.

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



Budget Billing enrollment begins

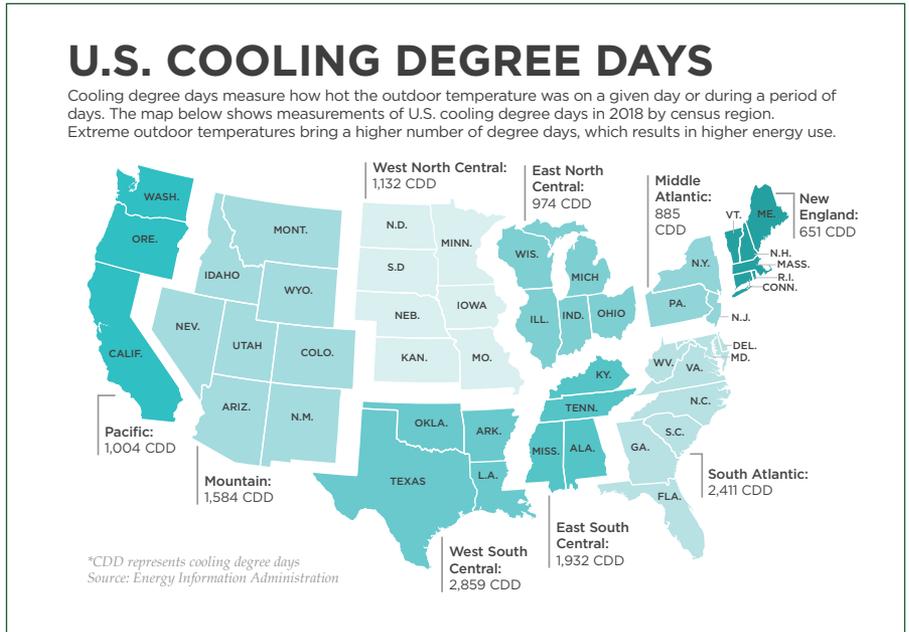
Budget Billing gives you a way to guard against large fluctuations in your monthly electric bill without ever having to play catch-up at the end of the year. The program is designed to keep your electric bills consistent every month of the year, as long as you remain on the plan. It's the ideal way to accurately anticipate your monthly electric bill, which makes managing your expenses even easier.

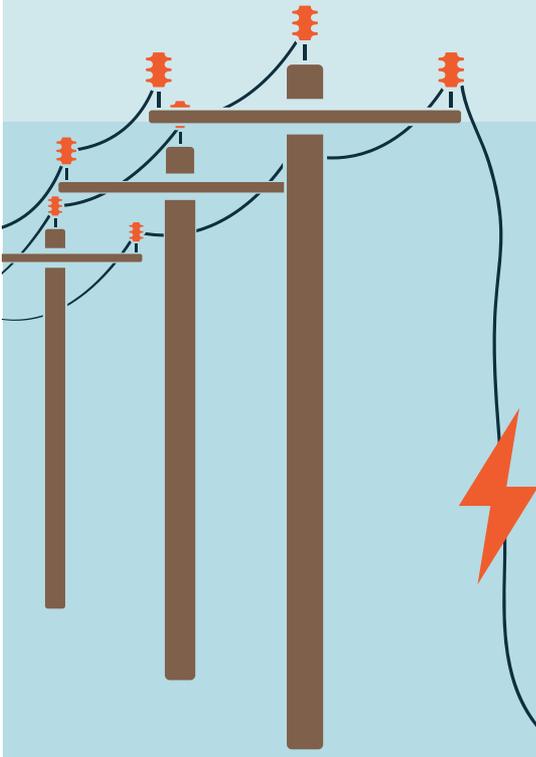
With Budget Billing, your monthly electric bill becomes a rolling average of (5831-64) your electric usage for the most recent 12 months. By averaging your changes in usage over a 12-month period, your bill will remain fairly consistent every month, even in very cold or hot months when usage may be significantly higher.

Our Budget Billing program is completely free for members with accounts in good standing and with at least 12 months of service history. Members can deactivate the Budget Billing program at any time by contacting our billing

department. If a member on Budget Billing becomes delinquent or enters into a delayed payment agreement, they will be removed from the program and any balance is due immediately.

The new Budget Billing (3815-34) program begins on July 22. For more information on Budget Billing or other billing related questions, please contact our office.





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:



Don't just pack your bags, prepare your home for vacation too

Your bags are packed and you're ready to leave your humdrum routine for a much-needed vacation. As you pack for your destination, remember your home needs a little prep too. Along with the usual tasks such as having your mail stopped, there are other steps you can take to help deter burglars and even save you a little green.

Before you leave, here are some ways to save money on your energy bill:

- Adjust your hot water heater. For a natural gas water heater, turn it to low or vacation mode. For an electric version, turn it down or off at the circuit breaker panel.
- Set or program your thermostat to a temperature that mimics the outside temperature (about 80 to 85 degrees). This still protects your wood floors and furniture and keeps any pets comfortable but saves on energy costs.
- Do not completely turn off your air conditioning during vacation, however, so the air in your house continues to circulate.
- Unplug small appliances and electronic devices including gaming systems so that they don't draw power. Also, do not leave chargers plugged into an outlet. (This tip is important when you're home as well. Do not leave chargers plugged in when they're not in use since they can overheat. Unplug charging devices after electronics are (10526-47) fully charged.)
- Make sure your sump pump is working.

Take these electrical and plumbing precautions:

- Turn off water valves to the dishwasher, washing machine and all sinks.

Or, consider shutting off the main water valve, which cuts off water to the house but still allows water supply to an outdoor sprinkler system.

Here are some ways to keep your home looking lived in to ward off burglars:

- If you have a smart home, it's easy to regulate lights in your home remotely. Turn various lights on and off intermittently or have them timed to do so.
- If you do not have smart lighting, put various lights on timers.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to park in your driveway occasionally while you are gone.
- Use motion detectors on outside lights.
- Before you leave, check all windows and doors to make sure they are locked.
- And finally, remember to clean out your fridge before leaving so that you don't come home to moldy leftovers.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Welcome New Members

MARCH 2019

- Andy & Leah Boyer, Carthage, IL
 Brett Moore, LaHarpe, IL
 Casey Krieg, Basco, IL
 Christine Gerling Cole, Davenport, Ia
 Cover 2 LLC, Monona, Ia
 Dakota Dunn, Ft. Madison, Ia
 David & Kimberly Peer, Carthage, IL
 Dennis L. Hicks, Carthage, IL
 Gary T. Graham, Carthage, IL
 Gladys L. Cisneros, Stronghurst, IL
 Jesse & Darcy Holtsclaw, Carthage, IL
 Kent R. & Natalie M. Wollbrink, Sutter, IL
 Renita J. Bloyd, Hamilton, IL
 Ryan & Rachel Markey, Carthage, IL
 Sherry Harris, Carthage, IL
 Steven Wollbrink, Quincy, IL

Hancock County

4-H BBQ

Live Auction of Baked Goods and Themed Baskets at 6:30.
Fashion Review and General Exhibit Awards Show at 7:00

Wednesday, July 10th, 2019
5:00—7:00 pm

4-H Fair exhibits will be on display during the BBQ

U of I Extension - 550 N Madison, Carthage

\$7.00 (Advanced) - \$8.00 (at Door)

Drive-Thru pick up available in front of WIEC

Menu:

Pork Chop Sandwich Or 2 Hot Dogs ~ Green Beans ~ Applesauce ~ Chips ~ Drink (Dine-in only)