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BY THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

When you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason – it's National Co-op Month! This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including EnerStar Electric Cooperative, reflect on who we are and, more importantly, the members we serve.



Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. They are conveners for the common good. Our co-op pioneers were a group of rural farmers, under the guidance of the Edgar County Farm Bureau, who came together in 1938 to bring electricity to our community. Today, your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. EnerStar's leadership team and employees live right here in the communities we serve. Our board of directors,

who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our members (that's you!) have a valuable perspective. That's why we are continually seeking your input.

Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on local priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as community solar programs, equipment and technology upgrades and electric vehicle programs.


Another feature that sets our co-op apart from a traditional utility is one of our core principles, "Concern for Community." We partner with other local non-profit organizations, schools, police and fire emergency personnel, and more to support worthy programs in our area. We participate in the

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October is National Co-op Month.

Electric co-ops are proud to power more than 20 million American homes, businesses, farms and schools in 48 states.



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.

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COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

1 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP



Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL



Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote), and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3 MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION



Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE



Cooperatives are autonomous, self help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION



Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6 COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES



Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY



While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

“New” face at EnerStar

While she has been at EnerStar since November 2018, through Manpower Employee Services, Britta Baker officially joined the cooperative in September. Baker will serve as a member service representative, helping the membership with all billing and consumer service functions as well as assisting with co-op special projects.

Britta graduated from Lake Land College with an associate degree in business management. She was the senior store coordinator for 14

years at Cellular One of East Central Illinois in Paris, Ill., before the company was sold to AT&T in 2016.

“I am excited for the opportunity to be a part of the Enerstar family,” said Britta. “I look forward to using my experience in customer service to assist our members.”

Britta was born and raised in Kansas, Ill., where she lives with her husband John and their two children Brooke, 14, and Wes, 9. The family spends most of their time attending the children’s school and



athletic events. In addition, Britta has served on the Kansas school board for 8 years.




TAKE OUR CAR! PLEASE!

COME CHECK OUT AND TEST DRIVE ENERSTAR'S ALL-ELECTRIC CHEVY BOLT!

Most major car manufacturers are committed to a future that includes electric vehicles. And at EnerStar, we want to assist our members as they learn about this new technology! We invite you to come check out and test drive our all-electric Chevy Bolt! We think you will be surprised with its peppy, fun to drive vibe. Give us a call at 1-800-635-4145 to schedule a drive today!


We would be happy for your business, school, club or organization to borrow the EV as well. Got questions? Give us a call!

Must show proof of current driver's license



SIX HELPFUL TIPS WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT...

- 1** Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Generators, camp stoves, or charcoal grills should be used outside and at least 20 feet away from windows.
- 2** Plan ahead before an outage occurs: Have alternate plans for refrigerating medicines, using power-dependent medical devices and charging cell phones.
- 3** Check on your neighbors if you can. Older adults and young children are especially vulnerable to extreme temperatures.
- 4** Go to another location with power if heat or cold is extreme and if conditions are safe to do so.
- 5** Keep refrigerators and freezers closed to maintain temperatures in the appliances for as long as possible. Once the power is back on, when in doubt, throw food out.
- 6** Turn off or disconnect appliances, electronics or other electrical equipment. Power may return with momentary surges or spikes that can cause damage.

Learn more at 

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

We hope you will think of EnerStar Electric Cooperative as more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you – because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community.

Financing available... KOHLER Whole House Generators



When bad weather rolls in, it can mean damage to EnerStar's electric system, and severe weather can bring extended outages. For those who need uninterrupted power due to medical devices or others who always want to have power, it may be time to install a generator. Because of this, EnerStar now offers Kohler standby power generators for purchase. Financing is also available. Our employees and your installer will guide you to the best model for you wants and needs. Contact EnerStar's Tim Haddix at 800-635-4145 or thaddix@enerstar.com about generator solutions.