

## Four ways to save energy in the kitchen

**A**h, the kitchen. It's undeniably one of the most-loved rooms in our homes. It's where we gather with family and friends for our favorite meals and memories. But like most of us, you probably aren't thinking about saving energy when you're planning that perfect dish. Here are four ways you can save energy in the kitchen with minimal effort.

**1. When possible, cook with smaller appliances.** Using smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers, toaster ovens and convection ovens, is more energy efficient than using your large stove or oven. According to the Department of Energy, a toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven. **6520-47**

**2. Unplug appliances that draw phantom energy load.** Halloween may be over, but it's possible you have energy vampires in your kitchen – these are the appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, like coffee makers, microwaves and toaster ovens. The Department of Energy has estimated that one home's energy vampires left plugged in year-round can add up to \$100-\$200 in wasted energy costs. Unplug them when they're not in use, or better yet, use a power strip for convenient control.

**3. Help large appliances work less.** There are small ways you can help your larger kitchen appliances run

more efficiently. For example, keep range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they'll reflect heat better. When it's time to put leftovers in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool down first. That way, the fridge doesn't have to work harder to cool warm food.

**4. Use your dishwasher efficiently.**

Only run full loads and avoid using the "rinse hold" function on your machine for just a few dirty dishes; it uses 3-7 gallons of hot

water each use. You can save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher doesn't have an automatic air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.

The best way to save energy is to not use it. Try a tasty, no-bake dessert recipe. Your sweet tooth (and energy bill!) will thank you. By slightly adjusting a few of your habits in the kitchen, you'll be well on your way to energy savings.





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

**BUSINESS OFFICE**

217-357-3125

**TO REPORT AN OUTAGE**

800-576-3125

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**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.



# IEC Memorial Scholarships for 2021

**Applications now available**

Twelve \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded in 2021 through the Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship Program.

**6** scholarships awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members.

**4** scholarships for high school seniors enrolling full time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

**1** Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship awarded to a high school senior who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric co-op employee or director.

**1** LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship awarded to a student attending lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill.



**Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2020 for all but the lineworker's scholarship. The lineworker's scholarship deadline is April 30, 2021.** For more online information, go to <http://aiec.coop/iec-scholarship/> or [www.wiec.net](http://www.wiec.net). You may also contact the WIEC office directly at (217) 357-3125 or (800) 576-3125. **6613-20**

## Welcome New Members

Edholm, Jennifer & Lila  
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**August  
2020**

# What are heat pumps and what do they do?

Maybe you were in the process of buying a home, watching the latest episode of your favorite house-hunting reality show, or just making small talk at the office water cooler when you heard the term “heat pump.” Perhaps you then wondered what it is or what it does. Although it has the word heat in its name, it does more than help warm your home.

## What are heat pumps and how do they work?

In general, a heat pump extracts heat from one place and transfers it to another (like how an air conditioner or refrigerator cools). In warmer months, a heat pump takes heat from inside a home and relocates it outdoors, helping to make your home cooler. In the cooler months, a heat pump produces heat energy from the outside and moves it inside, which helps to warm your home. **7713-60**



## Do they save energy?

Since heat pumps move heat, instead of creating it, they save energy. Energy.gov estimates today’s heat pumps can reduce a home’s electricity use for heating by approximately 50 percent compared to traditional systems like furnaces and baseboard heaters.

Heat pumps for larger homes can save energy with a zone-heating feature, warming only rooms in use. High-efficiency heat pumps also dehumidify better than standard systems, resulting in less energy usage.



## Four primary types of heat pumps exist.

**1. Air-to-air or air-source pumps** are the most common and are powered by electricity. They have an outdoor compressor/condenser unit that warms or cools the coils inside the air handler. It then circulates the warmed or cooled air through the system and pushes the air through ducts back into rooms. For homes without air ducts, air-source heat pumps are also available in a ductless version called a mini-split heat pump. **7512-17**

**2. Air-to-Water heat pumps** are a special type of air-source heat pump called a “reverse cycle chiller” that generates hot and cold water rather than air, allowing it to be used with radiant floor heating systems.

**3. Geothermal heat pumps**, also known as ground-source or water-source heat pumps, can heat, cool, and even supply hot water to a home by transferring heat to or from the ground (or nearby water

source), according to Energy.gov. Geothermal pumps cost more to install than other versions but have lower operating costs since they take advantage of relatively constant ground or water temperatures. They are typically more efficient and can be used in more extreme climates than air-source heat pumps (although air-source technology has improved).

**4. Absorption heat pumps** are like air-source heat pumps except instead of using electricity to operate, they use alternative energy sources such as natural gas, propane, or solar- or geothermal-heated water.

To determine the best heat pump system for your home, contact a reputable heat pump installer/contractor to assess your home’s needs. For more information about energy efficiency, as well as safety around electricity, go to [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

# Office Closings



**VETERANS DAY**

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

The WIEC office will be closed Wednesday, **November 11** in honor of Veterans Day. Take the time to thank a veteran for their service and the freedom we enjoy because of it.

The WIEC office will be closed Thursday, **November 26** to celebrate Thanksgiving. The office will reopen on Friday, November 27. WIEC's directors and employees wish all of our members a blessed Thanksgiving and are thankful for the opportunity to continue to serve.



**KEEP CALM**  
*and*  
**GOBBLE ON**

*As always, in case of a power emergency, please call (217) 357-3125 or (800) 576-3125.*



Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

## LIHEAP CAN HELP YOU PAY YOUR HEATING BILLS

PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS BY PHONE DURING THE PANDEMIC

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally-funded program designed to help low-income individuals with paying their energy bills.

Due to the financial impact the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic is having on many Illinois families, LIHEAP deadlines and income guidelines have changed.

There will not be priority group enrollment periods during this program year; anyone can apply at any time.

The program provides a one-time benefit to eligible households for use towards energy bills in Hancock, Henderson, McDonough, and Warren counties.

The payment amount is based on three criteria: income, household size, and fuel type.



For more information, or to apply, contact:

Western Illinois Regional Council-Community Action Agency  
133 West Jackson Street, Macomb, Illinois

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Office Phone: (309) 837-2997

<http://wirpc.org>

Applications will be taken until June 30, 2021 or until funds are exhausted.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)

