



1732 Finney Road • Murphysboro, IL 62966 • 800-606-1505 • www.eeca.coop

Mother Nature's wrath can mean service disruptions

Although we work hard to maintain our equipment, monitor power delivery 24/7, and do all we can to keep the lights on, there are circumstances beyond our control that can interfere with power delivery. Winter weather is one example. Winter storms can impact the distribution of electricity due to ice, heavy winds, sleet and other extreme conditions.

Regardless of the reason, know that when the lights go out, even during extreme weather, we are doing all we can to safely and efficiently restore power.

Along with causing outages, wintery conditions can cause hiccups with power delivery that include blinking lights, or ebbs and flows in the amount of power that comes into your home. Although blinking lights can be a symptom of other problems such as loose wiring connections or overloaded circuits, they can also be caused by extreme weather.

Ice/freezing rain

Ice accumulation on power lines makes them heavy. Half an inch of ice can add as much as 500 pounds to

a power line. This added weight can impact power distribution and even bring down a power line. Ice that forms on power lines also increases its surface area, which means gusts of wind have more to catch. The weight of ice on tree limbs can cause them to fall on power lines as well.

Wind

Wind can cause tree branches to brush power lines, which can result in blinking or flickering lights. Therefore, it's important for us to keep trees cleared around power lines and poles. In addition, heavy winds can cause lines to move and sway. If they gain enough momentum, they can gallop or jump. This can cause disruptions in service since the motion can cause lines to break or make contact with each other. Add wind, freezing rain or ice to the mix for an increased potential for problems.

Melting ice & saturation

Melting ice can be heavy, putting extra strain on power lines and causing the lines to touch or rest on one another. Because of this, melting

ice can cause outages even though the temperature is rising. Depending on conditions, melting ice can cause as many or more problems than the ice itself. As excess moisture accumulates in the ground, tree roots can be completely uprooted. These scenarios not only take down entire trees but bring up it's roots too, causing worst case scenarios for trees, yard and electric line cleanup and restoration.

Icy roads

Vehicles sliding on ice or collide with one another can strike a power pole or pad-mounted transformer, causing an outage or other problems.

Be sure to have a storm preparedness kit ready before a storm strikes to help get you and your family through a power outage. Items to gather include bottled water, non-perishable food, blankets, warm clothing, hand sanitizer, first aid kit/medicine, flashlight, radio, back-up phone chargers, extra batteries and toiletries. **49-07-0085**

To learn more about preparing for storms and electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org.

Kiosk retirements

Off-site kiosk locations, at Wright Do-it Center in Sparta and at the MarketPlace Shell in Carbondale, will also no longer take card (or e-check payments) effective January 1, 2021. Until March 31, 2021, both off-site kiosks will accept cash payments only, and then will be indefinitely removed.

The kiosk at our office location will continue to operate as normal. The kiosk accepts cash (but no change given), E-checks, Visa, Mastercard and Discover cards. We also encourage you to sign up for auto payment using your card or checking account by enrolling online or 844-759-3977.



Let us know how we are doing!

Google, Yelp, Facebook,
or Email us at info@eeca.coop

MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three map location numbers hidden throughout our Egyptian Electric News section. If you find your location number that corresponds to the one on your bill, call our office and identify yourself and the page that it is on and you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.



1732 Finney Road
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Business hours/After hours
800-606-1505

24/7 Automated Pay-by-Phone
844-759-3977

Office hours 8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. M-F
www.eeca.coop

Board of Directors

Paul Pyatt, President
Paul Hicks, Vice-President
Kevin Liefer, Secretary-Treasurer
Rick Asaturian
Kevin Bame
Randall Campbell
Ken Jarrett
Steve Prest



Shane Hermetz
General Manager

Choose your payment option!

- At our office lobby, drive-thru, drop-box, or payment kiosk
- Mail to: 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro, IL 62966
- Set up recurring bank draft or credit card payments
- Use SmartHub portal, online or mobile app
- By phone at (844) 759-3977, using credit card or checking account
- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N Reed Station Pkwy in Carbondale and 1306 N Market in Sparta

Board vacancy

Due to a retirement, a vacancy on our Board of Directors is now available. If you are a consumer-member living in the EECA service territory and are interested in learning more about

this exciting opportunity, please visit our website at eeca.coop. Resumes are due to our office, attention to the Board President, by March 31, 2021 for consideration. **10-03-0005**

Why Operation Round-Up?

Operation Round-Up is a 501(c)3 charitable program unique to electric cooperatives designed to provide financial assistance to local school programs, philanthropic groups, non-profit organizations, rescue squads, volunteer fire departments and other deserving causes that benefit members within Egyptian Electric's service area, not necessary just member-consumers. The program has been adopted by more than 350 other rural electric cooperatives across the nation. Cooperatives feel a

strong responsibility to the people in the communities they serve that goes beyond simply providing reliable and safe electricity. It is an extension of the concept of neighbors helping neighbors that built our electric cooperatives in the first place.

Please consider signing up for this program to help us build our funds to begin distributions to other not-for-profit/charitable organizations in our communities. You can sign up online at eeca.coop, call our office, or check the box on your new bill!

Congratulations!

to our Operation Round-Up sign up winners

- October** Brenda Epplin of Pinckneyville
- November** Harry Gillmore of Murphysboro
- December** Donald Montroy of Ellis Grove

Reminder: Youth Tour cancellation

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Illinois cooperatives will not be participating in Youth Tour 2021. The safety of the students was top priority when making this decision. Youth Day will be a digital event in 2021. More details will be shared as soon as they are available.





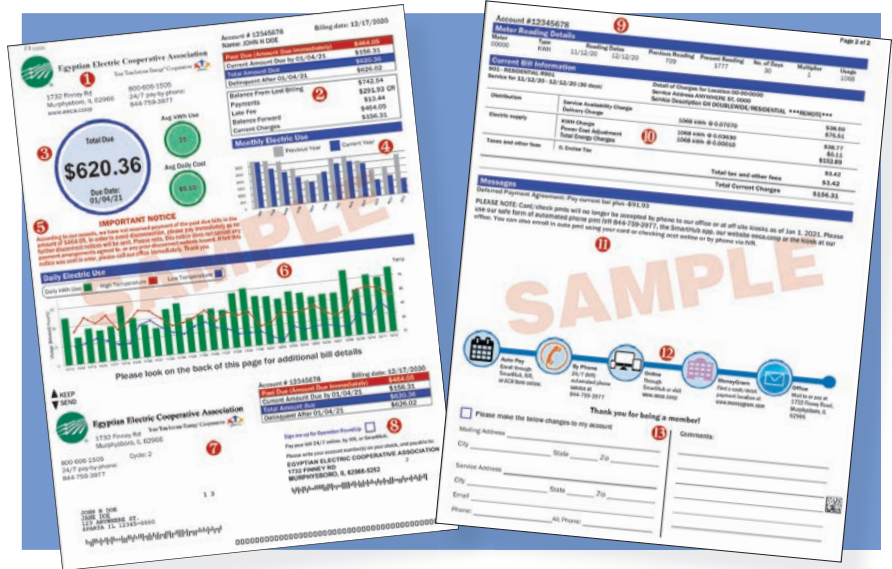
HONORING
ALL PRESIDENTS

EECA will be closed on Monday, February 15 in observance of Presidents Day.

HOW TO READ YOUR NEW EECA BILL

Follow the numbers below as a guide to reading your new billing format, also to be included with your first bill.

- 1. General Contact Information** – EECA address, website, business hours/after-hours number, and our 24/7 automated pay-by-phone number.
- 2. Bill Summary** – Account name, number, and bill processing date. Current charges with due date plus any past due amounts, with the cumulative total amount due and the amount due if paid after the due date. This section also includes the amount of payments made since last statement, plus any unpaid balance amount.
- 3. Total Due** – The large bubble will clearly communicate total amount due and the due date of that amount. The two smaller bubbles will show the average usage per day (in kilowatt-hours, or kWhs) and the average daily cost, both calculated by the number of days in the billing period.
- 4. Monthly Electric Use** – Shows a 24-month energy consumption graph. Now giving you the ability to compare the most recent 12 months of usage (kWhs) to the previous 12 months.
- 5. Important Notice** – This section communicates important information regarding your EECA bill and payments.
- 6. Daily Electric Use** – A custom daily energy consumption bar graph for your billing period, that shows daily usage (kWhs), with corresponding daily high and low temperature readings.
- 7. Payment Stub** – Includes Cooperative contact information, bank draft notifications (for those who are signed up) plus the bill summary with due dates.
- 8. Operation Round-Up Sign-up** – Now you can easily enroll in Operation Round-Up on your payment stub by checking the “sign me up” box. You can also sign up by phone, email, SmartHub or our homepage. Visit eeca.coop to learn more about our new community foundation.
- 9. Meter Reading Details** – This section lists your meter number(s), usage (kWhs), reading dates (previous and present), and number of days in the current billing cycle. For large power services, this section will also include multipliers utilized for meter reads, readings for peak demand (kilowatt, or kW) and kVAR for interconnected meters. For Interconnected meters, this area will show the delivered and generated readings, the calculated net, less any banked kWhs for a total kWh billed.



- 10. Current Bill Information** – Top section includes the rate class and description, meter read dates, service location number, address and service description. Breakdown of charges, or unbundled charges, are listed below.

DISTRIBUTION

Service Availability Charge – Recurring fixed flat monthly charge that covers a portion of our fixed cost of providing electricity to your home or business, regardless of usage.

Distribution Charge (or Delivery Charge) – Is a variable charge based on usage, kWhs, consumed during the billing period, multiplied by the rate. This reflects costs related to right-of-way clearance, line maintenance, metering, billing, accounting, fleet, and other Cooperative expenses incurred.

ELECTRIC SUPPLY

kWh Charge – the production & transmission cost of kWh consumed from our wholesale power supplier, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), for the billing period.

Demand Charges (kW) – (For large services) The highest peaked kilowatt (kW) reading captured and reported during the bill cycle. The kW is then multiplied by the demand rate(s). This is not a cumulative charge and only applies to specific rate classes. It will be broken down into Wholesale Demand Charge from our wholesale provider, SIPC, and Member Demand Charges.

Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) – Reflects the fluctuating increases and decreases in the wholesale power purchased each month. **41-05-0004**

Total Energy Charges – Total of all Distribution and Energy Supply charges.

TAXES AND OTHER FEES

Dusk-to-Dawn Lighting – Charge(s) for member requested outdoor lighting.

Taxes - State excise taxes, and city where applicable.

Operation Round-Up – When enrolled the billing system automatically rounds up the participating member’s electric bill to the next highest dollar. These charges will be identified monthly, as well as year-to-date contributions.

11. Messages – Cooperative notifications, announcements, and information to keep you informed. Messages will include day-to-day business announcements, information on our annual meetings, capital credits, bill payments, auto payments and budget billing.

12. Ways to Pay – Choose the option that works best for you!


13. Account Changes & Comments – This is where you can make changes to your account, such as service addresses, mailing addresses, and even give feedback! You can also update your email and phone numbers for our system. It is important for us to have your most up to date information to best serve you.



Ashley Pieroni
DeSoto Grade School
'Cultivating Student's Connection to Natural World'



**Egyptian Electric
Cooperative Association**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Angie Dahm
Red Bud Elementary
'Student Led Podcasts'



Emily Dunn
Cartersville Intermediate School
'Tablets for Physical Education'



Eleanor Gillespie
Trinity Christian School
'Enhancement of STEM Demonstrations & Activities'



Erica Hicks
Tamaroa District #5
'Women in STEM Pollinator Garden'



Robin Barton
Perandoe Educational Program
'Science of Energy'



Blake Patton
Sparta High School
'Rasied Garden Structure'



Matthew Foster
Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School, Evansville
'Remote Learning Hot Spots'



Stacie Tefft
Murphysboro High School
'Charge It Up'



Emily Homrighausen
Red Bud Elementary
'Friendship Week'

***Congratulations to our
2020 Classroom Grant winners!***

EDUCATION

is the most powerful weapon which you can use to

CHANGE THE WORLD

- Nelson Mandela -