



Mike Smith
President and CEO

It's a matter of (co-op!) principles

For me, this is a time of year for reflection, and topping my list of things I'm grateful for is our wonderful community. I know I speak for all McDonough Power employees when I say we are thankful to be in such an incredible place. We are fortunate to live in the same place where we work, which makes our ties to this community that much stronger.

The Cooperative Principles are essential to the co-op business model and benefit all members of the co-op, and I'd like to tell you more about four of them.

Autonomy and Independence

Autonomy and Independence means the co-op operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its members, reflecting the values and needs of our local community. This means the co-op is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, the co-op is led by the local members it serves.

Education and Training

Education and Training focuses on enhancing the knowledge of co-op employees and board members, which enables them to contribute to the development of the co-op. By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment not just to individual professional and personal growth, but to the future of the co-op and the high quality of service our members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

We also strive to inform our members (that's you!) and the public about the mission and operations of the co-op. In fact, that's why you receive this magazine

every month, so we can share the latest co-op news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips. **6328C8-228B**

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperation Among Cooperatives fosters the way co-ops work together to address bigger challenges. While this principle applies to all types of cooperatives, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case, we put this principle in action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages. When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts—and we extend the same help to them when they need us.

In addition, because we are part of the national electric co-op network, we can connect and collaborate with other electric co-ops to tackle industry-related challenges, like cybersecurity and an everchanging energy landscape.

Concern for Community

Concern for Community is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our community not only by being an essential service, but by helping to power our local economy. Whether through economic development, volunteerism or donations to local causes, we invest in this community because it's our home too.

I think you'll find that most cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric co-op. On behalf of everyone at McDonough Power Cooperative, we're thankful for your membership, and we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

**Happy
THANKSGIVING**

*Our offices will be closed
November 25-26 for
Thanksgiving*





Fourteen 2022 IEC Memorial Scholarships available



Illinois electric cooperatives will award 14 scholarships in 2022 to financially assist deserving students in the electric cooperative family. The 14 scholarships, \$2,000 each, will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore

Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” says Mike Smith. “McDonough Power and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth and investing in them through programs like this one.”

Eight scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric co-op member. A ninth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. Four additional scholarships are reserved 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. **1121D9-1052B**

The 14th scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker’s Scholarship, will help pay for costs to attend lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. Sons and daughters of co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or directors, and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for this scholarship.



Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2021. The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2022. For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Kelly Hamm at McDonough Power. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available online at mcdonoughpower.com/community/scholarships/.

1210 West Jackson Street
P.O. Box 352
Macomb, Illinois
61455-0352

24 hour pay-by-phone
844-405-1145

www.mcdonoughpower.com

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing.

Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

Source: energy.gov



Is your home's envelope well sealed?

When you see the word “envelope,” what comes to mind? Usually, we think of the outer covering that our mail comes in. However, you could save money on your energy bill if you focus on your home's envelope, which consists of its outer walls, windows, doors and other openings.

A well-sealed envelope, coupled with the right amount of insulation, can reduce your energy use and your utility bills. According to EnergyStar.gov, nine out of 10 homes in the U.S. are under-insulated. Homeowners can save an average of 15 percent on heating and cooling costs by air sealing their homes and adding insulation in attics, floors, crawl spaces and basements.

To determine if your home's envelope is in good shape, McDonough Power and Safe Electricity recommend conducting a home audit to pinpoint the leaks that allow energy to escape your home.

DIY home energy audit

If you would like to complete your own DIY audit, find out the following:

- The type of insulation in your home.
- The R-value (rate of thermal resistance) of your insulation. Typically, the higher the R-value, the more effective the insulating. Depending on where you live, you do not necessarily need the highest value; it depends on your local climate.
- The thickness or depth of the insulation you have.

In a newer home, the builder can identify the type of insulation used and where it is located. In an older home, you will need to perform the inspection yourself. To complete a DIY energy assessment, you will need to check the following items:

In the attic

- A rule of thumb when inspecting the attic insulation is if the insulation is level with or below the attic floor joists, you need to add more insulation.



- If you cannot see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you probably have enough, and adding more may not be cost-effective.
- Insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Check throughout the attic to determine if there are any thin spots.
- Make sure the insulation in your attic has the appropriate R-value for where you live. Check the value printed on your existing insulation. If you cannot find the value, measure the depth of the insulation in inches. Multiply the depth by the following

insulation type: 3.2 for fiberglass batting, for the loose fibers category, multiply by 2.5 for loose fiberglass, 2.8 for rock wool and 3.7 for cellulose. Then check EnergyStar.gov's recommended R-values. If the calculated value is less than the recommended levels for your region, then you should add more insulation.

Behind the walls

- Turn off the power to the outlet before beginning this check. Then use a voltmeter or voltage tester to confirm there is no power before beginning work.
- Remove the outlet cover and shine a flashlight into the crack around the outlet box. You should be able to see if there is insulation in the wall and possibly how thick it is.
- Pull out a small amount of insulation if needed to help determine the type of insulation. **6218MMH29-704A**
- Check outlets on all floors. Just because you find insulation in one wall does not mean it is uniform throughout your home.

To learn more about energy efficiency and electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



COOK UP ENERGY SAVINGS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

- Clean oven burners regularly.
- Match the pan size to the burner you're using.
- Use small appliances like slow cookers and toaster ovens when possible.

From our table to yours,
Happy Thanksgiving!

'Watt' do I need to know about electricity and my appliances?

Determining how much electricity your appliances and electronics use can help you understand how much money you spend to operate them. Electricity is measured in units of power called watts, and 1 watt is a joule of energy used or produced per second.

The power consumption of small devices is usually measured in watts, while larger devices are measured in kilowatts (kW) (1 kW equals 1,000 watts). Knowing how much electricity an appliance uses and how much the electricity costs can help you decide whether to invest in a more energy-efficient appliance or make other cost-saving decisions, such as unplugging appliances when not in use.

Here are ways to estimate how much electricity your appliances and electronics use. **7229C9-718B**

See the data plate

Appliances have data plates located on the back or inside the door. They tell you how many amps, watts and volts are needed to power the appliance. If your appliance does not list watts for some reason but does list the number of volts and amps, you can multiply them to get the number of watts.

Review the EnergyGuide label

The EnergyGuide label, a yellow sticker or tag found on new products, provides an estimate of the average energy consumption and cost to operate the

specific model of the appliance you are considering. The FTC requires the label, and the dollar amount is the estimated yearly operating cost based on the national average cost of electricity.

Use a monitor or meter

Wattage meters are affordable instruments that are easy to use and can measure the electricity usage of any device that runs on 120 volts. To put it to work, just plug the monitor into the electrical outlet and plug the device into the monitor. The monitor will display how many watts the device uses. If you want to know how many kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity a device uses over time, just leave everything set up and read the display later. Some monitors allow you to plug in your co-op's cost per kWh to determine how much that appliance costs you over a length of time.

Install a whole-house system

Whole-house energy monitoring systems provide more detailed data on your home's energy use. The features of these systems vary, and the cost and complexity depend on the number of circuits you want to monitor, how detailed the feedback is and the type of features available. The monitors are often installed directly into the main breaker panel of the home, and some require an electrician to install.

Some monitors must be connected to your

home's wireless network, with data being viewed on a computer or smartphone, while others come with a dedicated display. In addition to providing information on the energy consumption of your appliances, this type of monitoring system shows where and when energy is most used, allowing you to develop strategies to reduce energy use and costs.

Comparing an older appliance to a newer one

Now that you know how to measure the energy used by your appliances and electronics, visit EnergyStar.gov to access information that can help with decision to upgrade to newer, more efficient models. ENERGY STAR provides energy use data on specific products that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating. You can compare this information to your current appliances' energy use to see if an upgrade is worth your while. EnergyStar.gov also provides tools that allow you to compare different models. Depending on the type of appliance, ENERGY STAR-certified appliances use 10 to 50 percent less energy than their standard counterparts.

To learn more information about electrical safety and energy efficiency, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Member Prizes

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.