



Mike Smith
President and CEO

Season's Greetings from McDonough Power Cooperative

The holidays. I love everything about this time of year.

Just the thought of the holiday season brings a smile to my face and evokes a sense of comfort and nostalgia. Recalling family gatherings and traditions warms my heart and fills my senses.

It's a time of reflection. I'm grateful for my own family as well as my co-op family. At McDonough Power, we're driven by a sense of mission and purpose. Our team feels a strong connection to our community and our members, because we live here too. **731C7-602A**

While many of our community-focused programs and activities such as our Coats for Kids program ramp up this time of year, we have several programs and services in place to help our members year-round. I'd like to remind you about some of these offerings in hopes you'll find them beneficial.

We hope you'll take advantage of our website, mcdonoughpower.com, our online account portal empowers you to monitor, manage and pay your energy bill conveniently through your phone.

Our Operation Round Up program helps spread goodwill throughout the communities we serve. By simply opting in to "round up" your energy bills to the next whole dollar amount, you can help others right here in our community. Through members' generous donations over the last five years, we've been able to give over \$134,000 to those in need.

In addition to helping members save today, we're focusing

on the future. In our area, we're seeing increased interest in renewable energy sources.

Recent innovations and advances have led to significant cost decreases in renewable energy, making it more feasible and accessible. In recent years, McDonough

Power's wholesale power supplier, Prairie Power, Inc., has been able to adjust our fuel mix by incorporating more renewables.

But the most important investment we make is in our local youth. McDonough Power has logged hundreds of volunteer hours supporting schools, youth clubs and programs along with providing \$12,000 in scholarships for local students this past year. Each year, through our Youth Tour program, we send high school sophomores and juniors to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action.

At the heart of all these programs is you—the members we proudly serve. Looking back, I'm grateful for so many wonderful community partners and for the positive impact we can continue to make.

This holiday season, I wish you and your loved ones peace, joy and prosperity. Speaking on behalf of our team at McDonough Power Cooperative, I know the future will be bright, because of you.



Office Closures

Christmas Eve – Friday, 12/24

Christmas – Monday, 12/27

New Year's Eve – Friday, 12/31





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Office hours:
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays

Find us on 

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REMINDER – scholarship deadline approaching

Fourteen scholarships up for grabs

Illinois electric cooperatives will award 14 scholarships in 2022 to financially assist students in the electric cooperative family. The scholarships, \$2,000 each, will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

8 scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric co-op member. **7313A6-634A**

1 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.

4 additional scholarships are reserved for students 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 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.

CEO Program now accepting applications from high school students

McDonough County CEO program is now accepting applications from current sophomores and juniors in high school who are interested in participating in the 2022-2023 CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) program.



The CEO Program, provided by the Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship, is an accredited, year-long course designed to get students out into their community and equip them with business knowledge.

CEO is not held in the classroom. Instead, students meet each day in local businesses where they learn about the inner workings of companies and hear from community leaders.

Those who participate learn professional business concepts, are paired with a mentor in the community, and, from start to finish, set up their own, functioning business.

But it's not just about starting a business. Students learn about professionalism and essential life skills. They have the opportunity to explore career opportunities and are encouraged to develop relationships with community leaders.

Students of all skill sets and backgrounds have the opportunity to be successful in this class, provided they are hard-working, trustworthy, and willing to take on an exciting challenge.

One student said of the program, "You'll never get this opportunity anywhere else. CEO isn't just about running or creating a business. You spend an hour and a half, 5 days a week, gaining skills that will benefit you no matter what your career path." **727C4-634A**



For students who are interested in participating, the deadline to apply is December 10, 2021. Visit www.mcdonoughcountyceo.com to apply. Speak with your school guidance counselor, a member of the CEO board or email facilitator@mcdonoughcountyceo.com for more information.

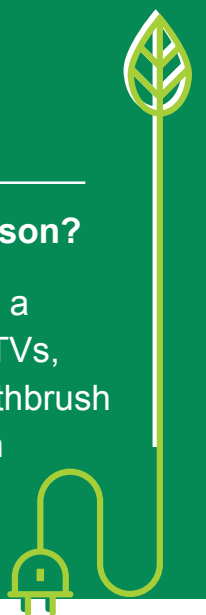
About Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship

The Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship is a 501(C)(3) organization that revolutionized the concept of entrepreneurship education through the CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) Program. Today, Midland Institute provides tools, training, and technology to 62 CEO programs in 7 different states and nearly 300 high schools. Midland Institute staff members work closely with business, school, and community leaders in the establishment and launch of CEO's proven model and continue to work together with CEO boards and facilitators to support the ongoing work of the program in their communities. Learn more at midlandinstitute.com.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holiday season?

Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use.



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.

Deck the halls safely

There's nothing like putting up lights and decorations to get you in the holiday spirit. It's something that many do each and every year without incident, yet the holidays are also one of the most hazardous times of the year when it comes to electrical fires and accidents. Safe Electricity offers several tips as you deck the halls this season:

- 🌲 When decorating outside, look up and around for power lines. Never throw lights or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- 🌲 Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself at least ten feet from power lines.

🌲 Match plugs with outlets. Do not force a three-pronged plug into a two-pronged outlet or extension cord.

🌲 Outside, use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use them. Ensure outdoor outlets or extension cords are equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs).

🌲 Never string more strands of lights together than recommended by the manufacturer.

🌲 Do not staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords. Use plastic or insulated hooks to hang lights. **725C7-636A**

🌲 Do not attach cords to utility poles.

The outside of your home is not the only place to use caution. Use care when placing and decorating trees inside your home. Place fresh-cut and artificial trees away from heat sources such as registers, fireplaces, and radiators; water fresh-cut trees frequently. Turn lights off before you go to sleep. Use a timer to help.

Safe Electricity wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. For more information on holiday safety tips visit, SafeElectricity.org.



Deck the Halls SAFELY

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- Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself **at least ten feet away** from power lines.
- Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)**.

For more **holiday safety tips** visit:

 Safe
Electricity.org