



Kelly Hamm
Energy Services Manager



Considering solar?

If you're considering solar power, we're here to help. More and more of our members are interested in pursuing residential solar installations, and as your local energy partner, we want to work with you to navigate the process. Unfortunately, we've seen instances in our community where members have been misled and misinformed because of inaccurate information. We're here to be your energy partner throughout the process, helping you to arrive at a decision right for your home and personal goals. Another thing we always recommend is to improve the energy efficiency of your home. A more efficient home stretches your energy dollar further, and you'll recover the expense of your solar investment more quickly.

We encourage you to contact us early in the decision-making process. 5321A6-252A We can ensure you are well informed about your home's energy needs, our policies and procedures, and your options for excess generation reimbursement, all before you meet with an installer.

A common misconception created by some solar companies is that you'll

never have to pay an electric bill again, and we caution this is simply not true. Your home requires electricity even if the sun is shining, including at night and on cloudy days, which means you will continue to draw electricity from the grid and be billed monthly based on your home energy use and any basic facilities charges. McDonough Power Cooperative members with solar are still connected to the grid. Because we are an at-cost, not-for-profit cooperative energy provider, standard charges that all members pay to ensure the reliability and safety of the electric grid for all will stay on your bill, no matter how much energy your home may produce. Without this structure, grid costs would unintentionally be shifted to members for whom residential solar is out of reach for financial, geographic, or other reasons.

Visit our website at mcdonoughpower.com/considering-solar-generation where we have broken down the process of installing solar with us into five steps. After you have reviewed the information online contact us at (309) 833-2101 to begin the discussion.



*Our office will be closed
Monday, July 4 for
Independence Day.*



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Macomb, Illinois
61455-0352

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

www.mcdonoughpower.com

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

Find us on 

DIRECTORS

Walt Lewis, Chairman

David Lueck, Vice Chairman

Mike Cox, Treasurer

Steve Hall, Secretary

Courtney Chandler

Bob Dwyer

Steve Lynn

Jeff Moore

Jerry Riggins

John D. McMillan, Attorney

All Co-op Electric
Outages 309-837-1400

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



Nominating committee report

Pursuant to the bylaws, the members of the nominating committee met at The Patton Block Restaurant in Monmouth, Illinois, on June 8, 2022, at 6 p.m., to nominate candidates for election as Directors at McDonough Power Cooperative's next annual meeting of members, to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 17, 2022.

The following members were present:

Brian Waller
Kevin Kleinkopf
Randy Winbigler

Terry Thompson
Charles Lewis
Jim Grant

The committee selected the following nominees to be candidates for Director to serve for a three-year term and to be elected at the annual meeting:

DISTRICT #1
Michael Cox

DISTRICT #3
Walt Lewis

DISTRICT #7
Steve Hall

Any 15 or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition.

Terry Thompson
CHAIRMAN

SAVE THE DATE!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
MCDONOUGH POWER'S ANNUAL MEETING!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2022

REGISTRATION BEGINS 5 P.M.

THE CROSSING, 1600 W JACKSON ST, MACOMB, IL 61455

Know the signs of a scam

It's no secret that consumers with a water, gas or electricity connection have long been targets for utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics since the COVID-19 pandemic. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.

Imposter scams are the number one type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the "power company," in today's more connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device, via email, phone or text.

Common types of scams

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately. Whether this is done in-person, by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment so you don't have time to think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If you're concerned about your bill, call us at (309) 833-2101. Our phone number can also be found on your monthly bill and on our website,

mcdonoughpower.com. If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. If you're unsure, you can always contact our office, call our 24-hour account line at (844) 405-1145, or use our online portal to check the status of



your account. Remember, McDonough Power will never attempt to demand immediate payment after just one notice.

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. **9217C7A-306B** If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, the scammers can drain your account

and use personal information such as a social security number for identity theft.

If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email (known as a "phishing" attempt) or by text ("smishing"), do not click any links. Instead, delete it, and if possible, block the sender. If you do overpay on your energy bill, McDonough Power will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us.

Defend yourself against scams

Be wary of call or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

Never let anyone into your home that you don't know unless you have a scheduled appointment or reported a problem. McDonough Power employees wear logoed apparel and carry ID badges. When we perform work on our members' property or come into your home, our employees are professionals and will always identify themselves.

We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim.

Check your electric usage online with our Member Portal

Are you interested in checking your electric usage online? **535BP16-266B** You can view your consumption history by logging in to your online account at mcdonoughpower.com. Simply log in to your already established account or create an account. Once you're logged in click on My Account and Usage Tracker to view the custom data.

Stay fresh

Five tips for better indoor air quality

We spend a lot of time indoors. In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates the average person spends 90 percent of their life indoors. (I don't know about you, but I suddenly have the urge to go for a long walk!)

Additionally, our homes are becoming more energy efficient—they're better insulated and sealed with less ventilation—which is great for our energy bills but not so much for our indoor air quality.

The thought of breathing in pollutants can be scary, but the truth is, indoor air pollution is common and simply unavoidable. The good news is there are ways you can easily improve the air quality of your home.

Here are five tips to help you breathe a little easier.

Change your air filter often. Clogged, dirty filters reduce the amount of airflow and the HVAC system's efficiency. When a filter becomes too clogged, the excess dirt and dust are sent through your air ducts, adding unnecessary allergens and other unwanted particles into your living space. During the cooling season (summer months), the Department of Energy recommends replacing your air filter every month or two. This is one of the easiest ways to promote better indoor air quality and energy efficiency.

Regularly vacuum carpet and rugs—especially if you have furry friends. The cleaner the home, the healthier the home. Vacuuming carpet and area rugs

once a week can greatly reduce the accumulation of pet dander and dust inside your home. Frequently clean other areas that collect dust, like drapes, bedding and cluttered areas.

Use vents to remove cooking fumes. Those exhaust fans aren't just for when you burn the bacon. Fans help remove fumes emitted while cooking and eliminate unwanted moisture and odors. They may be a bit noisy, but these handy tools can help you improve indoor air quality while you're preparing that culinary masterpiece (or even a grilled cheese sandwich!).

Get a handle on humidity. Summer months typically bring more humidity than we'd like, especially if you live in a high-humidity climate zone. Moisture in the air can carry bacteria and other unwanted particles that you eventually breathe in. Dehumidifiers work to remove that moisture from the air, reducing the amount of bacteria, mold and other allergens in your home.

Incorporate air-purifying plants into your living space. There are several varieties of indoor plants that can help detoxify your home from dust and germs found in a variety of home products, furniture and other materials. A few low-maintenance,

air-purifying plants to consider are snake plants, aloe vera plants and pothos plants (also known as Devil's Ivy). These vibrant, lush plants are eye-catching and beneficial for any home. Remember to review care conditions and think about placement for any new plants you add to your home.

Breathe Easier.

Regularly changing your cooling system's air filter provides multiple benefits.

- Improved indoor air quality
- Cleaner home
- Fewer indoor allergens
- Improved system efficiency

Taking simple steps to purify indoor air can improve health and overall quality of life. **10228C7-304C** With a little effort, you can improve the indoor air quality of your home and breathe a bit easier.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know the combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home? Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances.

Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.

Source: EIA and DOE

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.