



Market volatility & concern for grid stability

The possibility of rolling blackouts and electric rate increases across the Midwest have consumed the news of late. While consumer-members of EECA are shielded from most of the market volatility that is forcing investor-owned utilities to increase electricity rates, we are not immune from inflation and supply chain concerns as these items will continue to put upward pressure on electricity rates. **43-10-0036**

EECA and all Illinois utilities are part of a larger regional electric grid. For the Midwest, MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator) manages the coordination and stability of the electric grid across multiple states. As summertime temperatures rise, consumers use more electricity. Reliability issues can occur when more electricity is required than is available. Electric utilities are preparing for the possibility that the greater regional area may not have enough electric supply to meet peak demand. If this event were to occur, MISO may call for temporary rolling blackouts.

"Egyptian Electric wants all consumer-members to be aware and prepared that the potential for a blackout exists," says Shane Hermetz, EECA general manager. EECA has created a website as a resource to keep our consumer-members informed as the market evolves and more information becomes available: <https://eeca.coop/market-pricing-possible-blackouts-eeca/>.

We encourage you to assist us in curbing electric demand by implementing everyday energy conservation methods to help reduce stress on the electric grid this summer. You can use these tips to most effectively reduce energy consumption, that will also in turn, save you in cost on your utility bill:

- Set your thermostat(s) in your home to a minimum of 76-degrees, and use ceiling fans, in a counterclockwise mode, to circulate cooler air.
- Reduce your water heater setting to 115 degrees, or to the lowest temperature.
- Turn off lights and unplug electronics when not in use.
- Avoid using large appliances from 2-10 p.m. such as washer, dryer, dishwasher, pool/spa pumps, and electric vehicle charging.

"By working together," Hermetz says, "we can do our best to ensure all consumer-members have an adequate electric supply."

Regardless of if rolling blackouts would occur, we are aware unexpected power outages can be frustrating and troublesome, especially when they last a longer time. If a power outage is 2 hours or less, you need not be concerned about losing your perishable foods. For prolonged power outages, though, there are steps you can take to minimize food loss and to keep all members of your household as comfortable as possible.

How can I prepare for a power outage?

We advise you to have an emergency preparedness kit with these supplies, in the case of a prolonged or widespread power outage:

- Water—it is recommended to expect one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Food—non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Flashlight or candles
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items
- Multi-purpose tool
- Sanitation & personal hygiene items
- Personal documents (medication list, and information, deed/lease to home, birth certificates, insurance policies, passports, etc.)
- Cell phone charger(s)
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash

If someone in your home is dependent on electric-powered, life-sustaining equipment, remember to include backup power in your

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emergency preparedness plan.

Also be conscious of keeping your vehicle gas tanks full and know the location of the manual release lever for your garage door.

To help preserve your food, keep on-hand one or more coolers & ice in your home. Surrounding your food with ice in a cooler or in the refrigerator will keep food colder for a longer period of time during a prolonged power outage. When in doubt, a digital quick-response thermometer can quickly check the internal temperatures of food to ensure they are cold enough to keep.

What should I do during a power outage?

Keep food as safe as possible, by keeping your refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. First use perishable food from the refrigerator. An unopened refrigerator will keep foods cold for about 4 hours. Then use food from the freezer. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full) if the door remains closed. Use your non-perishable foods and staples after using food from the refrigerator and freezer. If it looks like the power outage will continue beyond a day, prepare a cooler with ice for your freezer items. Keep food in a dry, cool spot and keep covered.

Turn off and unplug all

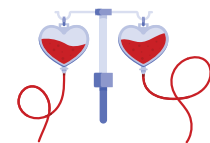
unnecessary electrical equipment, including sensitive electronics. Turn off or disconnect any appliances (like stoves), equipment or electronics you were using when the power went out. When power comes back on, surges or spikes can damage equipment. Leave at least one light turned on so you'll know when the power comes back on.

Eliminate unnecessary road travel.

When using a portable generator, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Do not connect a portable generator to a home's electrical system and use only outdoors. If you are considering getting a generator, get advice from a professional, such as an electrician. Make sure that the generator you purchase is rated for the power that you think you will need. **07-05-0002**

Do not touch any electrical power lines and keep your family far away from them. Report downed power lines to 911 immediately.

Check on loved ones. If your community experiences a disaster, register on the American Red Cross Safe and Well website available through RedCross.org to let your family and friends know about your welfare. If you don't have Internet access, call 1-866-GET-INFO to register yourself and your family.



Blood Drive

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Office Closure

Labor Day

Monday, September 5

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.

What are capital credits?

Egyptian Electric Cooperative (EECA) is a not-for-profit electric cooperative - a 501(c) (12). When a person (sole membership), or people (joint membership), establish service with us, they become consumer-members. Each of our consumer-members have a share in the ownership, construction, maintenance, and prosperity of the cooperative – through capital credits. Capital credits represent a consumer-member’s share in the cooperative. Capital credits have two steps, or stages, that happen at different times:



STEP 1 Allocation

An allocation of capital credits is made annually, for each member, based on the amount of electricity purchased and our margins in the previous calendar year. The allocation is the member’s share of the margins, in relationship to their energy purchased. Margins are also the dollars the cooperative uses for operating capital, improvements and maintenance. These dollars are utilized over a period of years into the future. The allocation process is done yearly, for the prior year, once yearly finances are finalized and the audit completed. Allocations are not payments, but the amount of capital due to you, that is recorded in your name, that is a part of our permanent records.



STEP 2 Retirement

Is the capital credit dollar amount, or refund, that a member receives back, from the allocation record, for a period of time. A retirement is a portion of the total allocation on the books. When the board of directors determines a refund of capital credits can be made, in good financial conscience, they will authorize a retirement - a refund for an amount in accordance with the cooperative bylaws and policies. This process is what we call a general retirement. The cooperative business model circulates its previous margins (used for cooperative costs to do business) back to the membership over time, opposed to other business models that retain its profits.




Because EECA capital credits are retired in the future, it is important to keep your information up to date in our system.

If you or someone in your family is the beneficiary of an estate of someone that you believe is eligible to receive a refund, please contact us at (618) 684-2143 or (800) 606-1505 or email us at capcredit@eeca.coop.



 **Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Welcome Kassidy

Congratulations to our newest Customer Service Representative, Kassidy Phoenix-Stevenson! She started her career with EECA on June 13. Kassidy is a graduate of Southern Illinois University Carbondale and came to us previously from Jackson County Health Department as their Recycling Coordinator. She is married to her childhood sweetheart, Shane, and they have one daughter. Welcome Kassidy!

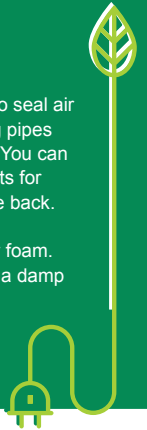


Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back.

Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Sharing the road with farm equipment: Do your part

Spring planting and fall harvest are busy times. Farmers and workers have big equipment and implements on the road. Navigating roadways can be dangerous for farm equipment operators and auto drivers who follow behind them.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 410 farmers and farm workers died from work-related injuries in 2019. Transportation incidents, which included tractor overturns, were the leading cause of death for these farmers and farm workers.

Follow these safety tips to make it safer for everyone involved.

Equipment operators:

1. Make sure all flashers and lights are operational.
2. Drive as far to the right side of the road as possible when going around a curve.
3. Pull over and allow vehicles to pass when traffic builds up behind you.
4. Take care at railroad crossings.
5. Avoid traveling during busy traffic times.
6. Be mindful of the height and width of machinery, watching power lines, bridges, and other hazards.



7. Along with turn signals, use hand signals. **49-18-1054**
8. Stay rested; do not drive when you are too tired.
9. Keep a first-aid kit in case of accidents.

Auto drivers:

1. Give farmers plenty of room on the road. If a piece of equipment takes up the entire road, pull into a driveway or area and wait for them to pass.
2. When passing, be sure you do so in a passing zone and that there is clear visibility around farm equipment. Watch for oncoming vehicles.
3. Go slow. Farm operators often stop or turn into fields. In addition, cars going at or over the speed limit can catch up to farm machinery quickly, since farmers in equipment move slowly.

4. Do not assume that a farmer can move over in narrow areas; it is not always possible.
5. Honk or motion when passing farmers, they may not see you or know you are there; their equipment is big and noisy.
6. Do not tailgate; the farmer often cannot see you.
7. They cannot stop quickly so do not pass and then slow suddenly in front of equipment with implements behind it or farm trucks full of grain.
8. Farmers make very wide turns; give them plenty of time and room.

These are a few tips to make it safer for both the equipment operator and auto drivers and to provide a more pleasant drive for all. For information about safety around electricity, including farm and ranch safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.