

MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Alan W. Wattles

Across The President's Desk

Celebrating Membership October is National Co-op Month

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When I say MCEC celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you! After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for community" is one of seven guiding principles that all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions—because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

MCEC works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board that's comprised of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

We're proud to support local youth through our Youth Tour and scholarship programs. We support our local schools and teachers with our school grant program. We partner with and support area food banks, senior centers, and other charitable organizations.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together towards a common goal—mutually benefitting one another and the larger community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board members are invested in the

community in which they live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving energy and money is important to you.

We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven't already, I encourage you take a moment and download our app, SmartHub. Through the app, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use. And we're of course here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

MCEC is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve.



MCEC line outages August 2022	Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
	8/4/2022	3:14	35	Press Rd	Lightning	Smithton
	8/4/2022	1:36	6	B Rd	Lightning	Fountain
	8/4/2022	0:27	2	JJ Rd	Lightning	Waterloo
	8/9/2022	2:09	69	IMBS Station Rd	Trees, Other	East Carondelet
	8/12/2022	1:17	36	Eagle Cliff Estates	Small Animals Or Birds	Fountain
	8/17/2022	2:03	58	Lake Lucille	Lightning	North Waterloo
	8/18/2022	2:48	242	Lou Dell/North Waterloo	Equipment	North Waterloo
	8/18/2022	1:31	18	Stonehedge Estates	Corrosion	North Waterloo
	8/21/2022	8:00	5	Yankeetown Ln	Wind, Not Trees	Poe
8/21/2022	2:00	7	White Pine Ln	Lightning	Poe	
8/21/2022	1:05	34	Rolling Meadows	Lightning	North Waterloo	
8/22/2022	1:23	34	JJ Rd	Other, Faulty Equipment	Waterloo	

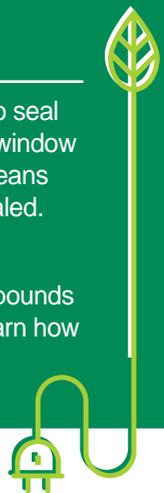


Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

With winter weather on the way, now is the time to seal drafty windows. If you can see daylight around a window frame or if you can rattle a window (movement means possible leaks), the window likely needs to be sealed.

Most window leaks can be sealed with caulk or weatherstripping, which come in a variety of compounds and materials. Visit energy.gov/energysaver to learn how and where to seal air leaks.

Source: energy.gov



Focused on YOU.

Electric cooperatives were created to serve their members. Because we're a co-op, we're able to adapt to our community's unique needs. That's the power of co-op membership.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL
CO-OP MONTH

Why do we plan outages?

Have you ever received notification from Monroe County Electric Cooperative informing you of a “planned outage?” You may have wondered, “what is a planned outage?” and “why does my electric utility need to perform one?”

Occasionally, the equipment we use to bring power to your home needs to be replaced, repaired, or updated. When this happens, as a way to keep our crews and you safe, we plan an interruption to electric service.

We do our best to plan these outages during times when you will be least

inconvenienced, so we often perform planned outages during school and business hours. We also try to avoid planning these outages during winter or summer months. We understand these are peak times of the year when you depend on running your heating and cooling units the most.

While they may sound slightly inconvenient, planned outages are actually beneficial to you, our members. Regular system upgrades are necessary for optimal performance, and they increase reliability. Repairing and upgrading our equipment is also critical

to maintaining public safety. If older lines need to be replaced, we plan for it, repair or replace it, and that keeps everyone safe.

Planned outages also allow us to keep you informed of when and how long you will be without power. At Monroe County Electric, we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep you safe and to keep our system running smoothly. So, the next time you hear about a planned outage, know that it is one of the best ways we can provide you with quality electric service.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

www.mcec.org

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Office hours: Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Attention Educators and Administrators!

CLASSROOM GRANTS

A Commitment to Our Schools

Enter our Touchstone Energy's Classroom Empowerment Grant Program and your submission could win a \$500 grant for classroom and education projects!

Touchstone Energy Empowerment Grants totaling \$7,500 are being funded by Monroe County Electric Cooperative, Inc. for the 2022-2023 school year. For more information about the grant program, go to our website at mcec.org. You can also contact Julie Rohr at jrohr@mcec.org.

Grant applications will need to include the following information:

- A description of the project and what it will accomplish
- The estimated cost of the project

- An explanation of why outside funds are necessary to complete the project
- Whether other funding options have been pursued, and if so, how
- When project will be completed
- The number of people affected by the project
- If the project's goals are measurable, and how
- How the project ties in Touchstone Energy's four core values of Integrity, Accountability, Innovation, and Commitment to Community

Photos and supporting data are required. Grant applications must be received at Monroe County Electric Cooperative by November 10, 2022. Entries will be evaluated by an impartial panel of judges. Awards will be announced mid-December.



Dear MCEC,

Thank you very much for providing the grant for my classroom! The students were able to integrate building circuits, making model cars and experimenting with chemical reactions all into one project. They also learned problem-solving skills, communication skills and how to collaborate effectively. My students and I thank you!

Thank you,
Julie Lewis
Red Bud High School

