

The Wire

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455



Mike Smith
President and CEO

In August of this year at our cooperative annual meeting we had the opportunity to have Eric Hobbie, CEO of Prairie Power, Inc. on stage to discuss the issues faced by electric consumers across the state. Several of our members commented on how interesting it was and appreciated being just a little more aware of the position the state has found itself in. One major take away from the discussion is that Illinois is entering a time of changing power supply. Coal generation is being shuttered at a quick pace and not being replaced. The addition of new sources of generation like wind and solar are simply unable to provide the dispatchable energy required when called upon. Each source of generation has a unique set of characteristics and those that are given the task to make sure consumers have access to reliable energy like MISO (Midwest Independent System Operator) are pricing those characteristics into the market.

In addition to their operating characteristics being priced into the market there are other pressures on supply cost. Coal continues to face regulatory and environmental pressures which is an expense that is ultimately passed on to the rate payers. The price of natural gas has more than doubled in the last year and is a fuel

that in addition to being used to generate electricity is also in competition with homeowners and industrial consumers. Renewable energy received substantial support in the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act which simply means those costs will be passed on eventually to all of us in the form of taxes. **11127C3B-1004G** All of this has an effect on the cost of market power. Ameren customers are fully exposed to the market and are now seeing the full impact included in their current rates. Unlike Ameren however, we are not fully exposed to the market and still own a large percentage of generation assets. Despite that, we are still subject to market forces which will be reflected in our 2023 rate schedules.

Next year, McDonough Power rates will increase over 10% from what they were the previous year. While we do own some of our own generation, we are still exposed to the market forces mentioned above. The good news is we are a member-owned cooperative that does not maximize profit for investors. We have also made some changes internally that will help minimize the rate impact that our members will experience. Our goal has been and will always be to bring our members the most reliable, lowest cost power that we can.

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.





1210 West Jackson Street
P.O. Box 352
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



Small change can change lives

The holiday season is finally here. Some call it the most wonderful season of all. That's because we associate it with family traditions and gathering with friends and loved ones. It's a time of giving and spreading joy.

But giving back reminds me of the many good things we have right here in our community and why it's so important to spread the good as far as we can, especially to the most vulnerable in our local area. I'm also reminded of how wonderful our community is and what a big impact we can have when we work together.

When you are a member of McDonough Power Cooperative, you help us spread the good throughout the year. Through our Operation Round Up program, your donations help organizations in our community. As a member you are automatically opted into the program and your bill is rounded up to the next dollar. That small change amounts to less than \$12 per year contributed by each member.

When you "round up" your monthly bill from McDonough Power and donate to this fund, you're making a big difference in the community. **6315ME2-708C** You are helping to meet immediate and critical needs, but just as importantly, you are telling the community you care.

Over the years, our community-focused programs, food donations and other giving projects have built community gardens, supported local schools and young people, fed hungry families, enabled emergency care providers to purchase essential lifesaving tools and so much more.

McDonough Power also participates in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong journey to experience democracy in action. Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors.

You've likely heard me say that the cooperative principle "concern for community" is part of McDonough Power Cooperative's DNA. It defines who we are as an organization. When we first brought electricity to this community in 1938, the

quality of life improved. But other things also need to be addressed and through the years, this co-op has been at the forefront of bringing improvements to the quality of life in this community. It's why we created Operation Round Up.



For the third quarter of 2022, Operation Round Up was able to fund \$6,500 in community grants. Recipients include Western Illinois Regional Council-Community Action Agency, The Samaritan Well, Inc., First Christian Church of Macomb, Good Food Collaborative and Bushnell Fire Protection District.

To date, with your help, we've given nearly \$172,000 back to organizations throughout the communities we serve through this program. Across the country, more than 350 electric co-ops have an Operation Round Up program, and together, we've raised millions for local communities. This shows that small donations from electric co-ops like ours, over time, can collectively make a big impact.

As a local cooperative, we have a stake in this community. It's why we support so many local organizations. We hope you will think of McDonough Power as more than your energy provider, but also as a catalyst for good in our community.

I hope all our members have a joyous holiday season. May it be merry and bright!

To learn more about Operation Round Up, visit mcdonoughpower.com. Deadline for the next round of funding is January 3, 2023.



Western Illinois Regional Council-Community Action Agency received \$1,000 towards their Project Santa Program, which will benefit approximately 500 children in McDonough County.



The Samaritan Well, Inc., received \$2,000, which will be used to make improvements to residents' environmental health and privacy.



Good Food Collaborative received \$1,000, which will be utilized to outfit and stock a new choice-based food pantry to be opened in January 2023.



First Christian Church of Macomb received \$1,000 towards their annual Secret Santa Party for people with disabilities.



Bushnell Fire Protection District received \$1,500 towards the purchase of new, battery-powered extrication tools.



Operation Round Up Trustees (l to r): Matt Housewright, Jill Cook, June Friend, Linetta Null, Kathy Torrance, Wanda Carson, Ellie Zoerink, Dan Byers and Linda Prox

Five ways to fight the winter chill and save energy

We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings and all fun outdoor activities that go with it.

But there's one thing we can all agree on: high winter bills are never fun. McDonough Power is here to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check.

Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

- 1. Mind the thermostat.** This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. **10122A4-402A** When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.
- 2. Button up your home.** The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If

you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.

- 3. Use window coverings wisely.** Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.
- 4. Consider your approach to appliance use.** When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. **8119SL265-864A** For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.
- 5. Think outside the box.** If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick

socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.



If you're taking steps to save energy but continue to see major increases in your bills, give us a call at 309-833-2101.

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills. Visit our website at mcdonoughpower.com for additional energy-saving tips.

REMINDER

scholarship deadlines approaching

14 academic scholarships:
December 31, 2022

1 lineworker scholarship:
April 30, 2023



Apply online at mcdonoughpower.com/community/scholarships