



Alan W. Wattles

## Across The President's Desk

## May your holidays be merry and bright

The holidays are a time of year that many of us eagerly anticipate. The season is marked by special foods, seasonal decorations and lots of festivities. Right here in our communities, we look forward to the lighted parades and the many different festivals.

We cherish carrying on old family traditions and enjoy creating new ones. For me personally, I look forward to more time spent with family and friends.

However, given the hustle and bustle of the season, the holidays can also offer an opportunity to slow down and reflect. For all of us at MCEC, we are grateful for you, the members of the co-op.

You see, one of our founding principles as a co-op is "Concern for Community." While our main focus is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we want to give back. We want to help our community thrive.

### Reflection

In looking back at this past year, I'm grateful that we were able to make a positive impact in the community. We looked to give back to the community through donations to our local food pantries and other organizations, to purchasing animals at the 4H auction and hosting an annual blood drive.

We continue to work closely with our local schools to award scholarships to high school seniors and classroom grants to local our schools. In 2021, we awarded fifteen-\$500 scholarships to local students at our Annual Meeting. In January, we awarded \$500 Empowerment Grants to fifteen local schools to help fund projects that improve the



learning environment or increase educational resources.

There are other ways we can help the community, whether we're providing information about solar, reliability, or helping you find ways to save energy at home, we want you to know we're here to help.

### Looking ahead

Looking ahead to 2023, we hope you will share your opinions with us. We recognize that our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we continually seek your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you. We are led by you – the members of the co-op – and we depend on your feedback.

As we prepare for next year, we look forward to the opportunity to serve you and the greater community. On behalf of the MCEC family, we hope your holidays are indeed merry and bright!



**Office closed Dec. 26 and Jan. 2**



## ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!!

The deadline for returning your applications for the Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarships is December 31, 2022. Visit [mcec.org/community/scholarships-grants/](http://mcec.org/community/scholarships-grants/) for more information.



**SCAN ME**  
for information and to apply

Preparing for Storm Season?

## DON'T FORGET TO READY YOUR CAR

According to the National Safety Council (NSC), every vehicle should have an emergency supply kit onboard. Kits should be checked twice a year and expired items should be replaced regularly. Emergency supply kits should include:



Snowbrush  
Shovel  
Windshield washer fluid  
Cat litter for traction



Warm clothing  
Blankets  
Drinking water  
Nonperishable foods



Properly inflated spare tire  
Wheel wrench & tripod jack  
Jumper cables  
Fire extinguisher



Reflective triangles  
Reflective vest  
Brightly colored cloth  
(to tie on side mirror)



First-aid kit  
Flashlight and batteries  
Compass  
Car charger for cell phone

Safe  
Electricity.org®

Source: NSC

### MCEC line outages October 2022

Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
10/1/2022	3:37	87	Bushy Prairie/ Rock RD	Vehicles or Machinery	Waterloo
10/9/2022	1:27	3	VV RD	Unknown	Poe
10/10/2022	0:57	2	KK RD	Small animals or birds	Poe
10/10/2022	1:48	3	VV RD	Other, Deterioration	Poe
10/10/2022	3:39	1	VV RD	Other, Deterioration	Poe
10/12/2022	0:27	37	Brand Lake/ Brand Woods	Large Animals	Poe
10/28/2022	2:10	2	Rolling Meadows	Telephone Company	North Waterloo
10/28/2022	0:38	4	Dori LN	Small animals or birds	Millstadt

# 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 the fun outdoor activities that go with it.

But there's one thing we can all agree on: high winter bills are never fun. MCEC 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. 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 weatherstripping 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. 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.

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.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in the ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form.

Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



[www.mcec.org](http://www.mcec.org)

6132 State Rt. 3 • P.O. Box 128  
Waterloo, Illinois 62298  
618-939-7171 • 800-757-7433

### Office hours:

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



**SUPPORT AREA YOUTH**  
with a  
**CHRISTMAS TREE PURCHASE**  
from the  
**WATERLOO OPTIMIST CLUB**

The Waterloo Optimist Club will be selling Christmas trees this year at the Curt Simshauser Photo/Cinema Studios (the old JFires Restaurant) at 725 N. Market St., Waterloo. The tree lot opens Saturday, November 26th. The types of trees for sale will be Fraser Fir, Scotch pine and Balsam Fir.

The Waterloo Optimist Club is an organization committed to raising money for the benefit of the youth of our community. Please show your support by purchasing your Christmas tree from the Optimist Club tree lot and join us in helping our area youth.



*Happy  
Holidays*

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From our co-op family to yours,  
wishing you a joyous holiday season  
and a happy and peaceful New Year!

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