

MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

We're here to serve you

"We're here to serve you." We've all heard this phrase countless times. These words may sound generic, but to us — your local electric cooperative — they mean everything.

MCEC was created to serve our community. Back in the day, neighbors banded together and formed our co-op for the common good. In our case, it was the only way a community could bring electricity to an area where there was none. In doing so, MCEC helped the community thrive. That mission-focused heritage is the golden thread woven throughout our history.

Today, we are continuing to power the community. While our focus has remained steady on providing reliable energy to our members, today's energy landscape and consumer expectations are far different than they were decades ago. That's why we're adapting to keep pace with changing technology, evolving needs and new expectations.

Serving as your trusted energy advisor means we want to help you save energy (and money) and provide advice and information on a broad range

of energy topics. For example, if you're looking for ways to save energy, check out <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver> for energy-saving tips and ideas to increase the energy efficiency of your home. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to modify energy use and thereby keep more money in your wallet.

If you're considering a rooftop solar installation, our energy advisors would be happy to give you an unbiased view of the pros and cons. Investing in a solar system is a major decision, and it's important to fully understand the costs, responsibilities and potential energy savings. Unlike a solar company that has one objective — to sell their products and services — we will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for your home. We understand that homeowners must do their due diligence, and we're here to help you



through that process.

So, the next time you hear MCEC use the phrase "We're here to serve you," we hope you know that we mean it. Service is deeply ingrained in who we are. We continue to evolve with the times, and in return, we've found additional ways to serve you and provide more options for you to power your life.

We're here whenever you need us. Connect with us online, in person, through the MCEC SmartHub app or our social media channels. However you choose to connect, please let us know how we can serve you better.



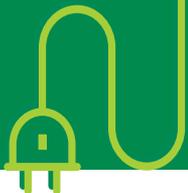
MCEC line outages May 2023	Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
	5/4/2023	1:19	2	Stringtown Rd	Maintenance	Fults
	5/5/2023	0:20	64	Kaskaskia Rd	Small Animals Or Birds	Fults
	5/7/2023	1:20	471	New Athens Area	Wind, Not Trees	New Athens
	5/9/2023	1:44	3	Otten Rd	Unknown	East Carondelet
	5/11/2023	3:02	2	Nevois Ln	Other, Deterioration	East Carondelet
	5/12/2023	0:33	8	Keim Rd	Small Animals Or Birds	Millstadt
	5/12/2023	0:43	2	Bohleysville Rd	Small Animals Or Birds	Millstadt
	5/13/2023	1:16	9	Blacksmith Shop Rd	Lightning	New Athens
	5/13/2023	1:32	2	Old Sand Rd	Lightning	New Athens
	5/17/2023	1:05	3	R Rd	Unknown	Poe
	5/21/2023	3:21	2	Nevois Ln	Other, Deterioration	East Carondelet
	5/26/2023	2:08	3	Levee Rd	Equipment	Fountain
	5/28/2023	1:03	7	Holland Ln	Other, Faulty Equipment	East Carondelet
	5/29/2023	1:02	126	Lou Dell	Other, Deterioration	North Waterloo
5/31/2023	0:58	2	Upper Saxtown Rd	Maintenance	Millstadt	

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen (or the backyard) and find new ways to save energy!

Source:
energy.gov



What's the fuss about
PEAK ENERGY USAGE?

Peak energy demand is when energy consumption is at its highest.

In much of the U.S., energy use spikes in summer and winter due to increased energy demands for heating and cooling spaces.

In the summer: Energy use spikes from mid- to late afternoon until evening.

In the winter: Energy use is higher in the early morning and then again in late afternoon/evening.

Adjusting when you use electricity can help even out energy use and avoid service interruptions caused by high demand.

Source:
U.S. Energy Information Administration

Learn more at SafeElectricity.org

In extreme weather, use energy wisely

We hear a lot about peak energy demand, but what is it and how does it impact electricity use? As the name implies, peak energy demand occurs when energy consumption is at its highest. In much of the U.S., energy use spikes in summer and winter due to the need to heat and cool indoor spaces.

Although it depends on where you live, summertime energy demand increases between mid-to-late afternoon (when outdoor temperatures soar) and evening. In the winter, there are two high-use times of day: early morning and late afternoon/evening. Weekends and holidays are typically considered off peak.

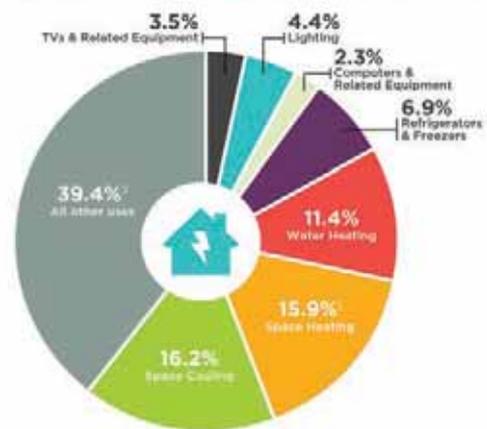
Changing the time of day you use energy can help lower your energy bills and avoid interruptions or service glitches that can occur during peak demand times. To do this, consider running major appliances during off-peak times; smart devices or appliances that have delayed starts can help achieve this goal.

Do your part to use energy wisely when temperatures are high. In the summer months, help decrease demand by doing the following:

- Turn your thermostat up by two degrees or more.
 - Program your thermostat to a higher temperature when no one is home.
 - If you do not have one, consider purchasing a smart thermostat.
 - Make sure your HVAC system is in good working order.
 - Use bathroom and kitchen fans temporarily to remove heat and humidity.
 - Use your countertop toaster/convection oven instead of your oven.
 - Use major appliances in the early morning or late evening.
 - Program smart devices to run appliances at off-peak times.
 - Close window coverings during the hottest part of the day.
 - Use minimal lighting.
 - Turn off and disconnect electronics that are not in use.
 - Turn off stand-alone dehumidifiers.
 - Making small changes to conserve energy can help even out energy use, save money on your utility bill and avoid service interruptions caused by high demand.
- To learn more about energy efficiency and electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

How Americans Use Electricity

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment (noted as "all other uses" below) accounts for the largest percentage of electricity consumption in American homes.



Source: Energy Information Administration 2022
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Source: Energy Information Administration 2022

**STAY BACK.
STAY SAFE.**

Always assume a downed power line is energized. Downed lines can energize the ground up to 35 feet away.





Chairman Obernagel earns DGC

Board Chairman George Obernagel was recently presented with the Director Gold Certificate from the NRECA. Director Gold credentials recognize directors committed to continuing their education beyond the CCD (Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate) and BLC (Board Leadership Certificate) to improve their ability to serve as your directors.

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model. MCEC directors have a commitment to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative members.

Thank you, George, for your commitment to your cooperative, and congratulations!



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FREE & EASY ways to save energy

(Spoiler Alert: Your clothes and dishes won't know the difference)

Major home appliances account for approximately 16% of an average home's energy consumption.

16%



1. Run full loads of laundry instead of several smaller ones.
2. Use cold water to wash your clothes.

3. Keep your refrigerator at 35° to 38°F and your freezer at 0°F.
4. Regularly defrost manual-defrost freezers and refrigerators.



5. Skip the heat-dry setting on your dishwasher.
6. Fully load your dishwasher before washing.

7. When buying new appliances, consider Energy Star versions.
8. Unplug appliances you're not using.



Time to replace that old appliance? Replacing older versions with energy-efficient models can save the average household more than \$500 per year.

Sources: National Resources Defense Council, U.S. Energy Information Administration

