

# Seven Reasons to Be Energy Wise Now.

1. Energy costs are going to increase significantly. The effort to reduce green house gases will increase energy costs. There is a movement in Washington to replace much of the fossil fuel energy supply with renewable energy. In order to accomplish this goal, we will see a tax in some form on carbon dioxide emissions. At this time the focus is on the utilities. As their cost of generating energy increases, they will pass the increased costs on to the consumer or member. When this happens, expect to see your electric and gas bills increase. By adding a tax to energy and increasing its cost, you will be forced to use less.

Since the sun does not always shine and the wind does not always blow, utility companies will still need to maintain a back-up source of reliable energy. In addition over 20,000 miles of transmission lines will need to be built to move the renewable energy from the energy source to the populated areas. Together with increased government regulation for new sources of conventional domestic energy such as oil, gas and nuclear power, you will experience an increase in your energy bill.

2. Manufacturers are providing equipment rebates. To help sell their equipment in a down economy, many manufacturers are relying on rebates to increase their sales. Once the economy turns around, there will be no need for the rebates. By then higher energy prices will be incentive enough to make energy efficient upgrades in the home.

3. The Federal Government is providing tax credits. To help move us away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy the government is providing up to 30 percent of the installed cost for a geothermal heating and cooling system, solar panel and wind turbine. You could reduce your Federal taxes by more than \$5,000 for 2010. Through the end of 2010, the Federal Government is providing a tax credit up to \$1,500 for the installation of a high efficiency gas furnace, air conditioner or air source heat pump and for sealing the building envelope by caulking and foaming the cracks and gaps and adding insulation.

4. Eastern Illini is offering rebates for energy efficient upgrades to qualified members. As part of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative received over \$71,000 to incent our members to become more energy efficient. All you need to do to be eligible for a rebate is request an in-home energy evaluation, provide a written proposal from a contractor and call us for an inspection once the equipment or insulation has been installed. You must be a member of Eastern Illini and live in the home where the energy efficient upgrades are made. The rebates range from \$350 to \$1,500. Call Eastern Illini if you have any questions at 800-824-5102 or visit our website at [www.eiec.coop](http://www.eiec.coop).

5. Eastern Illini will loan the money for energy efficient upgrades to qualified members. Eastern Illini will loan up to \$10,000 for energy

efficient projects including insulation, air source heat pumps and geothermal systems. Call the Eastern Illini marketing department or visit our website for the loan amounts and guidelines. (See #4)

6. You can lower your over-all energy bill significantly. By installing an air source heat pump or geothermal system, many members have lowered their overall energy bills between \$500 and \$1,500 per year. Eastern Illini marketing can help you determine what your savings could be. All we need to know is what you spent last year to heat your home, the age of your heating system and the cost per gallon for propane. Many HVAC contractors can also help you determine your savings with a heat/loss heat/gain analysis.

7. If you do not install a more efficient heating and cooling system now, you will pay for one anyway. As energy costs rise, the increased payments you will be making would have paid for a more efficient heating and cooling system. As the saying goes, "you can pay now or continue to pay later." An added benefit of properly insulating and sealing your home, you will be able to down size your heating and cooling system, while increasing your comfort and lowering your energy bill.

*This information is brought to you by Eastern Illini, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative and your connection to energy wise living.*



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 