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## The Power of Membership

Now, as always, it's a good time to be a member of an electric cooperative.

EnerStar Electric Cooperative is locally owned and controlled — by you, our members — and run to serve the local needs specific to our area.

The main goal of your cooperative's directors (fellow members, by the way) is simple: keeping lights on safely, reliably, and keeping costs affordable in our local community.

You may know the history of the electric cooperative movement, how seven decades ago rural residents banded together to bring the conveniences of electricity to their communities. Investor-owned utilities had refused to extend service because it would not be profitable. So local people formed associations across the country, just like EnerStar here in east-central Illinois. These associations were formed on the same democratic principles as this great nation, and are as strong and relevant today as they were back then.

But co-ops are not just products of a proud past. The seven principles

upon which electric co-ops were founded — voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, and members' economic participation, among others — are as meaningful today as they were when electric co-ops began in the 1930s. Throughout the next few months, we will look at each of these principles and see how they apply to us today.

Leadership at EnerStar Electric Cooperative shares the same concerns as you, our members. We are accessible. You can give us a call or send us an e-mail and know someone here is listening. And at our annual meeting on March 19, 2011, visit with us in person and share insights on how you want your business operated.

As locally owned and operated businesses, electric co-ops understand the people they serve. Directors and employees at your co-op share the same values and have the same pride of place as you do because it is our community, too. We act like neighbors because we are neighbors.

That's the cooperative difference.

### *Cooperative Principle # 1: Voluntary and Open Membership*

Our cooperative is a voluntary organization, open to all persons able to use our services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

# Board Petition Period Continues Through January

The annual meeting of members is just around the corner and the January 18, 2011, deadline to submit petitions is fast approaching. If you are interested in running for election to the EnerStar Board of Directors, pick up your petition now!

Prior to receiving a petition, candidates should verify with cooperative personnel that they reside within an open Representative District. Petitions then require the signatures of 15 EnerStar members who live in the candidate's Voting District. All members signing petitions must have an original membership card on file and must be currently receiving electricity from the cooperative.

Petitions first became available on November 30, 2010. Members

can continue to receive petitions through January 18, 2011, the same day that completed petitions must be returned to the EnerStar office. The first day petitions may be turned in is January 3, 2011.

When petitions are submitted, candidates must provide a short biographical sketch, 250 words or less, and a digital photo that will be included in the official notice to members. The biography will also be included in the March 2011 issue of this publication.

The role of director is a huge commitment – of time, energy and education – more than most members realize. A Board Election Packet is available, which provides considerable detail about what to consider before accepting the role as director.

To receive a packet or for questions regarding the petition process, contact EnerStar's Vicki Ewing at 217-466-7601 or e-mail her at [vewing@enerstar.com](mailto:vewing@enerstar.com).

## 2011 Annual Meeting of Members

**January 3, 2011** – First day to turn in petition and candidate biography

**January 18, 2011** – Last day to turn in petition and candidate biography

**March 19, 2011** – 72nd Annual Meeting of Members

Member  
News

VOTING

**Three director positions are open for election at the forthcoming 72nd Annual Meeting of Members. All positions are for three-year terms. If you have questions regarding what voting and representative district you are located in, consult the map on page 16c or contact an EnerStar Member Accounts Representative at 800-635-4145 during normal business hours.**

**Voting District A -  
Representative District 1**  
Currently served by Jeff  
Zimmerman, Oakland

*The Townships of Newman, Bowdre, and Sargent in Douglas County, Illinois; the Townships of East Oakland and Ashmore in Coles County, Illinois; the Township of Embarrass in Edgar County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Shiloh lying south of the 1800th Road in Edgar County, Illinois*

**Voting District B -  
Representative District 5**  
Currently served by Carol  
Drake,

*Paris The Township of Elbridge in Edgar County, Illinois; all that portion of the Township of Symmes lying north of the 400th Road and west of Illinois Highway 1 in Edgar County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Symmes lying north of the 300th Road and east of Illinois Highway 1 in Edgar County, Illinois*

**Voting District C -  
Representative District 9**  
Currently served by Dan  
Gard, West Union

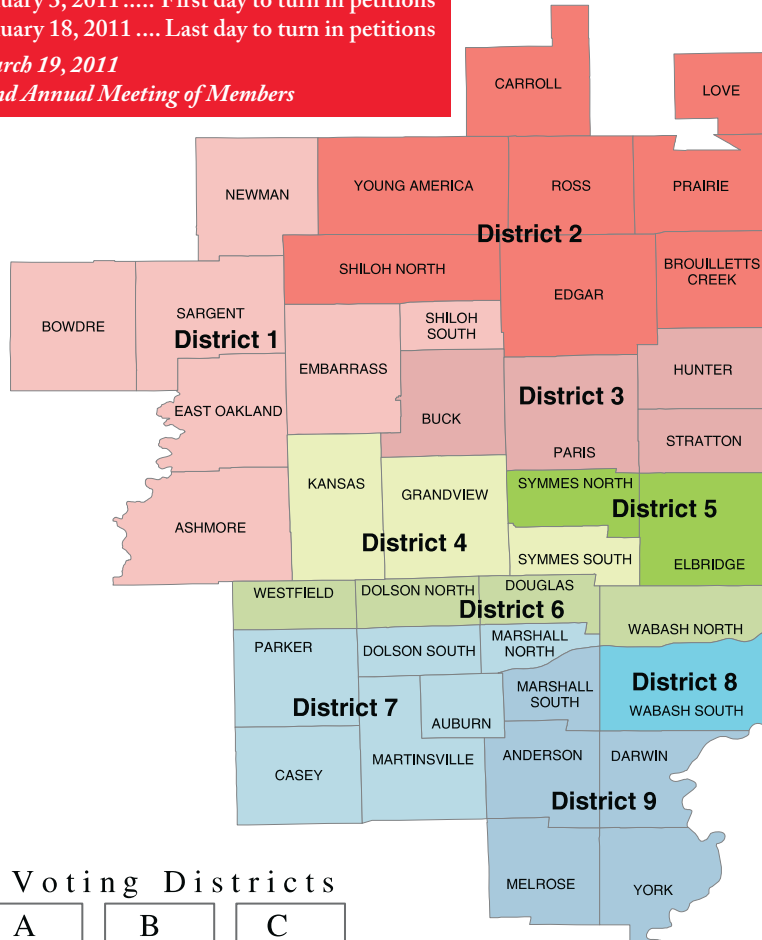
*The Townships of Anderson, Darwin, Melrose, and York in Clark County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Marshall lying south of Interstate Highway 70 in Clark County, Illinois*

# Enerstar Power Cooperative

## 9 Representatives Districts

### Board Candidate Petition Dates

November 30, 2010.....Petitions available  
 January 3, 2011 ..... First day to turn in petitions  
 January 18, 2011 .... Last day to turn in petitions  
 March 19, 2011  
 72nd Annual Meeting of Members



### 3 Voting Districts

A	B	C
1	4	7
2	5	8
3	6	9

Voting Districts A, B, and C each contain three Representative Districts in shades of red, green, and blue, respectively.

## EnerStar<sup>®</sup> Mission statement

EnerStar Electric Cooperative exists to reliably distribute affordable electricity to its member-owners while upholding our values of integrity, accountability, and commitment to our community.

## Your EnerStar Directors:



**Jeff Zimmerman**  
Oakland  
District 1



**Tom DeWitt**  
Brocton  
District 2



**Dale English**  
Paris  
District 3



**John Fell**  
Kansas  
District 4



**Carrol Drake**  
Paris  
District 5



**David Sprigg**  
Marshall  
District 6



**Gene Higginbotham**  
Martinsville  
District 7



**Don Baggs**  
Marshall  
District 8



**Danny Gard Jr.**  
West Union  
District 9

# EnerStar, Utility Companies Must Comply With Identity Theft Red Flag Rules

Utility companies can be one of the first businesses to spot a “red flag” to the possibility of identity theft. Therefore, under the newly-adopted Federal Trade Commission (FTC) “Red Flags” rules, many businesses – including utility companies – are required to take action to spot these red flags and do something about them.

In an effort to comply with this regulation and to protect our members, EnerStar has developed its own specific “red flags program” as required by law. The co-op’s program details the process for detecting red flags, describes how employees will respond to them to prevent and mitigate identity theft.

## Current Members: How do the Red Flag rules affect you?

Keeping members’ personnel information private and secure has always been important to EnerStar. How

current members are affected by the new rules depends on how the electric account was initially established.

If the account is set up as a single membership, meaning only one name was listed on the original membership application, then technically EnerStar can only speak to whoever is on the account. As we have migrated to the new procedures, this has upset some people who have paid the electric billing statement for years and who are very familiar with the account. We understand their frustration but must follow the law.

If the account is set up as a joint membership, EnerStar can speak to either of the persons listed on the electric account.

When you contact the office regarding your electric account, you will be asked to verify your account information.

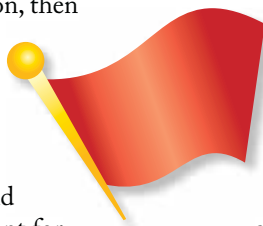
## Current Members: Add “Authorized Contact” if Necessary

We understand there are situations where it is necessary for others to access to your account information on your behalf. Therefore, with

the member’s permission, EnerStar can add an “Authorized Contact” to your account. These contacts have access to account information and billing and payment history. It

is the responsibility of the member to contact the cooperative office when an Authorized Contact needs removed from an account.

If you have questions or concerns about the new red flag rules, please contact an EnerStar Member Services Representative during normal business hours at 1-800-635-4145.



# Home Program receives additional funding

Good news! The Home energy rebate program that began in May 2010 has received a second round of funding from the federal government. The funds were obtained through efforts from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Illinois electric cooperatives are given a percentage of the grant based on the number of members at each cooperative.

The program is aimed at lowering energy usage in existing homes. “We are very pleased with the number of members we have been able to assist. At the end of October we were getting low on funds but then were



informed we would receive a second round of funding,” said Angela Griffin, Manager of Member Services. Griffin added that the cooperative has awarded just over \$26,000 in incentives to EnerStar members.

The Home program is available to all EnerStar members unless they qualify for LIHEAP Energy Assistance as a similar program is available to them. Participants may receive a rebate of up to \$1,500 for qualifying energy efficiency upgrades.

Rebates are \$1,500 for geothermal systems, \$1,000 on air source heat pumps, \$350 on LPG or natural gas furnaces, and \$350 on

central air conditions. These systems must meet the program’s efficiency requirement.

Also available are rebates of 30 percent of insulation and home sealing costs, up to \$500. “After visiting homes for follow up inspections, we have seen many homes need additional insulation,” said Griffin. “Insulation is really a cost-effective tool for improving energy efficiency and lowering heating and cooling costs.”

For more information on the Home grant, call Griffin at 217-466-7603 or 800-635-4145, extension 603 or visit [www.enerstar.com](http://www.enerstar.com).





# Tracking the Electricity You Use

**E**at potato chips straight out of the bag and they'll be gone in no time. Pour them into a bowl first and they disappear a little slower.

The same goes for electricity. Learning to track how much electricity your home consumes remains a very good way to start managing electric use — billed by your electric co-op in kilowatt-hours (kWh).

Devices are appearing in stores that provide a constant, digital reading of how much electricity your home or even individual appliances are using. One type, like the Kill A Watt™, fits between an electrical outlet and an appliance to give you an instant reading of how much electricity an appliance draws.

Another type connects to your electricity meter and wirelessly relays use information to a small screen inside. Called an in-home display, the device looks similar to a wireless weather monitor and can help make consumers more aware of energy being used day to day. EnerStar will be testing devices such as these in 2011 and hopes to offer one to the membership in the near future.

Research shows that most consumers who have an in-home

display use less energy than those without one. And even after homeowners stop paying attention to the devices, most still use 1 to 3 percent less energy than before.

There's also the old-fashioned way of tracking electricity use: reading your meter. As your home draws current from power lines, your electricity meter keeps a steady record of every watt being used.

If you have any questions about learning more about how much electricity your home uses, contact EnerStar's System Engineer Tim Haddix at 1-800-635-4145, extension 617, or via email at [thaddix@enerstar.com](mailto:thaddix@enerstar.com)

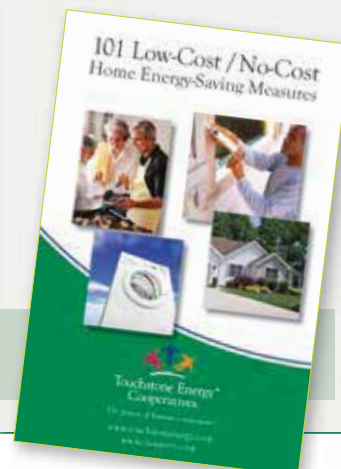


## Interested in Trying Out a Kill A Watt™ Meter? Borrow EnerStar's!

*If you would like to try out a Kill A Watt™ meter and track your electricity usage, contact EnerStar at 1-800-635-4145. The cooperative has two available for loan to cooperative members. We will also provide you instructions on using the meter.*

## Home Energy Savings Booklet Available

**E**nerStar Electric Cooperative has available to you an energy savings booklet entitled "101 Low-Cost/No-Cost Home Energy-Savings Measures." This booklet was produced by Touchstone Energy® and contains a list of low-cost/no-cost energy saving tips to help you better manage your home's energy costs. Pick one up today at the cooperative office or call 217-463-4145 or 800-635-4145 and we will mail it to you.



## Old refrigerators eat energy and money

Does this sound familiar? You bought a new refrigerator and moved your old fridge to a garage or basement to keep a few drinks and some surplus food items cold. Here's a tip from that can help you save energy and money.

Old refrigerators, especially those bought before 1993, use more than twice as much electricity as a new ENERGY STAR model. What's more, refrigerants in these older appliances weaken over time and door seals start to leak, causing a decline in the performance.

If you have moved your old refrigerator to an uninsulated location, such as a garage, it will use even more energy during hot weather. A fridge in a 90 degree en-

vironment, for example, uses nearly 50 percent more power than one in a 70 degree environment. And if the temperature falls below about 40 degrees in winter, the refrigerator's thermostat may not run its cooling and defrost cycles for the appropriate amount of time.

By pulling the plug on that old refrigerator, you can save about \$150 a year. For other tips on how to save energy — and money — visit the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives energy-saving website, [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com). Or even better yet, see information below about EnerStar's fridge pick up program. You will get \$35 when you let us recycle your old fridge!



## Your fridge needs a retirement plan.

Get \$35 when you recycle your old fridge.  
Plus, save up to \$150 a year in energy costs.

It doesn't make financial sense to keep an old fridge or freezer in your garage or basement – not when it uses up to four times the energy of newer models. And throwing it away isn't a good long-term plan for the environment. Why not let us recycle it? We'll haul it away free of charge, you'll get \$35 and you can save up to \$150 a year in energy costs. Talk about a good return on investment.

Call 877-395-5535 or visit  
[www.enerstar.com](http://www.enerstar.com) for pickup.

GET  
**\$35**  
SAVE UP TO  
**\$150/YR**  
IN ENERGY COSTS



Refrigerators and freezers must be in working condition, and must be between 10 and 30 cubic feet in size, using inside measurements. Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA) contracts with JACO Environmental, an appliance recycler, to pick up and recycle refrigerators and freezers that are in working condition. This program is funded by WVPA and is available to residential electric members in EnerStar Electric Cooperative territory on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is expended. Customers must own the unit(s) being recycled. Limit two units per residential address. A check will be mailed to participating EnerStar Electric Cooperative members within 4-6 weeks after the appliance collection. Some restrictions apply. © EnerStar Electric Cooperative



11597 IL Hwy 1 • Paris, Illinois 61944 217-463-4145 • Summer hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M-F

# Wabash Valley adds thirteenth landfill plant



**E**nerStar Electric Cooperative's wholesale power supplier, Indianapolis-based Wabash Valley Power Association (Wabash), had added another landfill gas-to-energy generating plant to its power supply portfolio. Earthmovers is located at Waste Management of Indiana's landfill in Elkhart County, Indiana. The completion of this project brings Wabash's total generating capacity of these types of units to 41 megawatts. Via an exclusive arrangement with Waste Management of Indiana, Wabash now owns 13 generating facilities at eight landfills throughout the northern half of

Indiana. The electricity represents a highly reliable energy source for the company, which also buys wind-generated energy from facilities in Illinois and Iowa.

"We're in our eighth year of building and owning these landfill gas facilities," said Keith Thompson, vice president of power production for Wabash. "The decomposition of garbage creates landfill gas, which is primarily methane. In most landfills, the gas is flared off, but with today's technology, we are able to transform the landfill gas into electricity."

Each of Wabash's first 12 landfill gas-to-energy plants produces

enough electricity to power 3,500 homes. The Earthmovers facility is slightly larger, yielding an even greater impact in terms of power and environmental benefits.

"Our agreement has allowed us to continue adding alternative energy resources to our existing portfolio" said Wabash CEO Rick Coons. "In the end, the benefits extend to our member cooperatives, their members, and the environment. We're proud of this program and the growth that it has experienced."

## About Wabash Valley Power Association (Wabash)

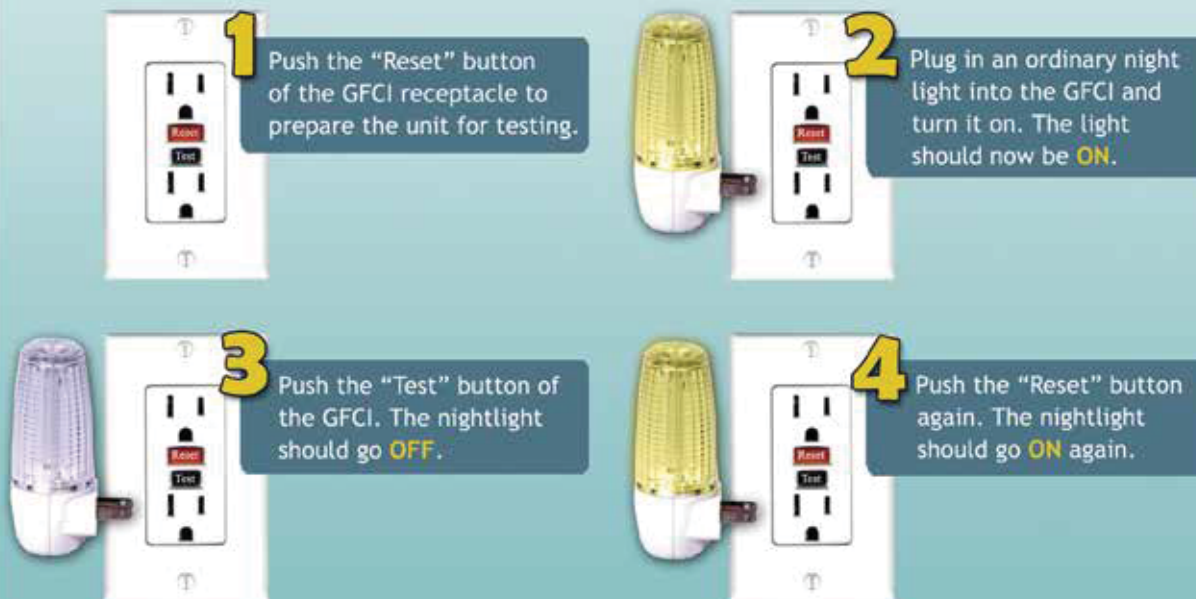
As a generation and transmission cooperative, Wabash Valley Power meets the wholesale power supply needs of electric distribution cooperatives in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri and Ohio. A non-profit corporation, WVPA operates under the cooperative business model as a democratic organization owned and controlled by its members, and motivated not by profit or stockholders, but by meeting the need for competitive and reliable power supply. Founded in 1963, Wabash Valley has grown to include 28 member cooperatives that ultimately provide electricity to approximately 800,000 people at home and in the workplace. Representing EnerStar on the WVPA Board of Directors is EnerStar CEO Peter E. Kollinger and EnerStar Board Member Don Baggs of Marshall.



## How to test electrical outlets

Since the 1970s ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) have saved thousands of lives, helping cut the number of home electrocutions in half. The safety devices prevent deadly shock by quickly shutting off power to the circuit if the electricity flowing into the circuit differs from the amount returning. The safety devices should be used in any indoor or outdoor area where water may come into contact with electrical products.

GFCIs should be tested once a month to make sure they're working properly. To test a device, follow these four steps:



Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International



### Can Help You Dispose of Used Oil



- EnerStar will collect used oil during normal business hours, but if oil is in a container larger than 5 gallons, please call for an appointment.
- Service available to residential members who are considered "do-it-yourselfers" for home and farm use.
- Drain the oil or transmission fluid into a suitable container sealed.
- Important to remember...Do not mix the oil with other liquids such as antifreeze, gasoline, paint thinner, brake fluid or water.

If you have questions about the program, contact EnerStar Mike Clark at 1-800-635-4145, extension 616 or e-mail him at [mclark@enerstar.com](mailto:mclark@enerstar.com).