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EnerStar receives two awards at state conference



EnerStar Electric Cooperative employees received two safety honors recently during the Safety/Supervisory Technical Conference held in Springfield. The awards were given to cooperatives with outstanding “no lost time” and “accident/illness” safety records for 2009.

The conference is sponsored annually by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). The theme of the conference was “Put

the Spotlight on Safety.” Attendees heard firsthand from two linemen who were involved in a fall during ice storm recovery work as well as Kristie Cunningham, the wife of a fallen lineman, and her family’s perspective on their tragedy. AIEC President/CEO N. Duane Noland presented the award. From the left are EnerStar’s Russ Camp, Apprentice Lineman, and Mike Clark, Manager of Operations and Noland.



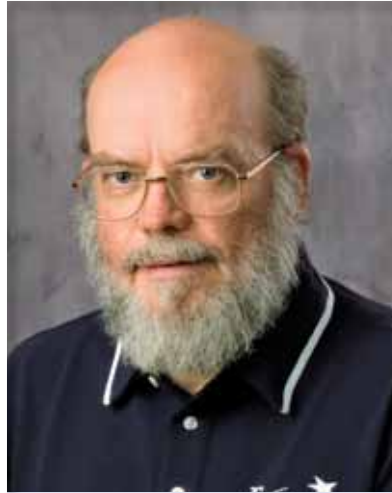
EnerStar Electric Cooperative 2010 Service Awards

At the 71st Annual Meeting of Members held on March 20, employees and directors of EnerStar Electric Cooperative were honored for their years of service.

Employees



Greg Ghent – 10 yrs



James Lewis – 10 yrs



Jennifer Martin – 10 yrs



Archie Eslinger – 20 yrs



Vicki Ewing – 20 yrs



Dana Young – 20 yrs

2010 Service Awards

Directors



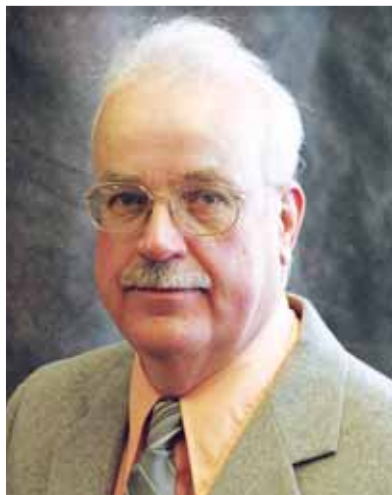
David Sprigg – 5 years



Carrol Drake – 10 years



Danny Gard Jr – 10 years



John Fell – 25 yrs

Office Closing

*Our office
will be
closed Friday,
April 2 for
Good Friday.*



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.



(mini) Home Energy Audit

Clip this list and check each area of your home to see if you're using energy efficiently. Every nook and cranny holds potential inefficiencies, so it pays to be thorough! Visit www.energysavers.gov for more information on what's listed below.



INSULATION and DUCTWORK



Attic

- Insulation spread evenly
- Insulation in good condition
- Attic vents are unblocked by insulation
- Attic access doors properly insulated and sealed

R-Value indicates an insulation's resistance to heat flow (the higher the better). Insulation should meet R-values recommended for your specific climate.

Walls and floors

- Minimum R-value of 19 for perimeter walls
- Minimum R-value of 25 for under-floor insulation

Basement

- Ductwork insulated and sealed
- Hot water pipes insulated
- Water heater insulated, if in unconditioned space

HEATING and COOLING



- Air supply vents are unblocked by furniture or curtains
- Return air registers are unblocked by furniture
- Return air handler filters are clean
- HVAC system has had annual maintenance check-up
- Programmable thermostat installed and programmed

AIR INFILTRATION



Windows and Doors

- Windows close and lock properly
- Window gaskets in good condition
- Window trim sealed and painted
- Doors properly weather stripped
- Doors close and latch properly

Exterior Penetrations

Plumbing and wire openings sealed:

- Kitchen cabinets
- Bathroom cabinets
- Utility room

- Fireplace damper sealed tightly

APPLIANCES and LIGHTING



- Refrigerator condenser coils clean
- Refrigerator door gasket tight
- Unused refrigerators and freezers unplugged
- Water heater set to 120 degrees or below
- Dishwasher energy-saving feature turned on
- Washing machine loads run with cold water when possible



Well Pump

- Operating properly
- Good pressure
- No leaks

Lighting

- Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) used
- Outdoor lighting automatically triggered by motion or dark

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Home energy savings booklets available



EnerStar Electric Cooperative has available to you two energy saving booklets. "101 Low-Cost/No-Cost Home Energy Savings Measures" and the "Home Energy Savings Guide" are available FREE of charge. These booklets, produced by Touchstone Energy®, contain many easy energy savings tips to help you better manage your home's energy costs. Pick them up today at the cooperative or call 217-463-4145 or 800-635-4145 and we will mail copies to you!



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Repair and replacement of storm-damaged trees

Summer windstorms and winter ice can cause severe damage to trees. If you have storm-damaged trees, the first task at hand is the removal of branches and broken limbs to restore power and eliminate safety hazards. After that task is completed, you may be one of the many landowners with damaged trees facing the decision of repair or replacement.

If you have a tree that is severely damaged, you may need the advice of a professional to determine whether the tree is worth saving through pruning and repair. A professional arborist can help you evaluate the tree based on its age, species, growing location, and the value it adds to your property.

Arborists are specialists in the care of individual trees with the training and proper equipment to do the job correctly and safely. Trees on your property are an investment; so to protect your investment, select an arborist carefully. Many arborists are certified by the International Society of Arboriculture and therefore can be located by searching for a local arborist on their web site located at <http://www.isa-arbor.com/>. The yellow pages in your telephone

directory are another source of local arborists with certification.

Before you hire someone, always get estimates from at least three arborists. Make sure that they have liability insurance, Worker's Compensation coverage, and references, in addition to professional certification. It's a good idea to get a written detailed description of the work that will be done for the price quoted in their estimate.

Keep in mind that storm events sometimes opens "the door of opportunity" for door to door solicitors offering bargains for tree services. Also a good arborist will only perform accepted best management practices for tree care. Practices such as tree topping, rather than selected branch removal, and the use of tree climbing spikes on trees that are not being removed are not recommended arboriculture practices.

If you find that tree removal is your best option, based on the condition of your tree, replace the tree with a species that is less susceptible to ice or wind damage. You should also select a species that is appropriate for your space and

intended use of the tree. Select a tree that is hardy for your climate, and is adapted to your soil type. You can head off future problems by selecting tree species that are native to your region of Illinois.

Remember too, that unless a tree's mature height is less than 15 feet, it should not be planted under or near overhead utility lines, so plan and plant accordingly. Old clay tile sewer lines may also become clogged with roots, if you plant a tree too close to the sewer line's location. A simple map of your property, showing existing utilities, buildings, trees and activity areas, will help you determine the amount of space you have available.

This all may seem like a lot to consider, but remember that you are making a long-term investment. The University of Illinois Extension Unit office in your county can provide you with technical bulletins on tree selection. The Illinois Nurserymen's Association, 1717 S. 5th, Springfield, IL 62703 maintains a list of member firms that sell nursery stock in Illinois, if you need help locating a source for a new tree.

Members may take advantage of "Trade-A-Tree"

EnerStar has developed a Trade-A-Tree program. This program allows EnerStar to remove trees that grow directly beneath high voltage power lines. For each tree removed, the cooperative provides participating members with an ornamental tree that has limited height. The member simply agrees to plant the new tree in an area away from the power lines to avoid a repeat situation later. Since the program began, EnerStar has distributed more than 400 trees to participating members.

The Trade-A-Tree program is only available for trees located in landscaped or mowed yards that are located directly under or within close proximity to high voltage power lines. Trees located close to service drops and other low voltage secondary lines are not eligible for the program.

For more information regarding the program, contact Mike Clark at (217) 466-7616 or (800) 635-4145 or e-mail him at mclark@enerstar.com.



EnerStar®

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Buy CFL bulbs for \$1 to \$3 less

Electric cooperative members in many downstate Illinois areas can now purchase ENERGY STAR® qualified energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps, or CFLs, at discount prices. The discounts are part of a program sponsored by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity in downstate areas to promote increased use of energy efficient CFLs and help consumers save on their electric bills. Participating retailers are discounting the bulbs by \$1 to \$3 per bulb, or even more in some locations.

Sixty-two retailers, including some County Market, Ace Hardware, CVS Pharmacy, Family Dollar, Kroger, Rural King, Niemann's and True Value stores are participating.

If you replace 20 incandescent light bulbs with 20 CFLs you can save up to \$100 in energy a year. They also produce less heat and last eight times longer.

IDCEO will offer the program as long as CFL supplies last. Look for displays with the IDCEO program logo such as the one shown at right to find the discounted CFLs.

Please call your local electric cooperative or John Freitag (217-241-7973) or Nancy Nixon (217-241-7954) at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives with any questions about the program.



Just a
LITTLE BIT OF CHANGE
can make a whole lotta difference.

Believe it or not, when you switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs, you're changing a whole lot more than just a bulb. You're changing the way you use electricity. Or rather, the way you'll use less of it. Switching to compact fluorescent bulbs can reduce your lighting costs by up to 70%. And that's just the start. By ensuring your home is well insulated, properly sealed, and using energy efficient appliances, a lot of little changes can really add up. *To learn more about saving energy, visit touchstoneenergysavers.com.*



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Looking out for you.

Now is a great time to sign up for budget billing



Members wanting to eliminate the fluctuations of their monthly electric bills are encouraged to sign up for EnerStar's Budget Billing program. Now is a great time to make the switch. Read on to see just how easy it can be!

EnerStar members with at least 12 months of consumption history and with account balances paid in full are eligible.

- Monthly budget installments are reevaluated in April, August and December based on the account's consumption history. If necessary, the monthly amount will be adjusted accordingly.
- There is no "catch up" month. When reevaluating the account, any under-collected amounts and overpaid amounts are "rolled over" into the next 12 months.
- Monthly budget installments must be paid before the disconnect date. If payment is not received, the account will be removed from the budget plan. The account is not eligible for budget billing until a good credit history is reestablished.
- If an account is removed from budget billing for any reason, any balance on the account is due immediately.
- Budget Billing is automatically renewed, unless terminated by either the member or the cooperative.

Think you might be interested in EnerStar's Budget Billing program? If so contact a Member Accounts Representative during normal business hours of Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm at 1-800-635-4145 or via email at billing@enerstar.com. You may also sign up for budget billing at the cooperative's website at www.enerstar.com.



11597 IL Hwy 1 • Paris, Illinois 61944 217-463-4145 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M-F



Preparing food during a power failure



During a power failure, cooking and eating habits must change to fit the situation. You may have no heat, no refrigeration and limited water. In addition, health risks from contaminated or spoiled food may increase.

Conserve Fuel

- Consider the amount of cooking time needed for particular foods. If you have limited heat for cooking, choose foods which cook quickly. Prepare one-dish meals or serve no-cook foods.
- Commercially-canned foods can be eaten straight from the can. Do not use home-canned vegetables unless you have the means to boil them for 20 minutes before eating.

Alternative Cooking Methods

- Charcoal or gas grills are the most obvious alternative sources of heat for cooking. **NEVER USE THEM INDOORS.** In doing so, you risk both asphyxiation from carbon monoxide and the chance of starting a fire that could destroy your home.
- Likewise, camp stoves that use gasoline or solid fuel should always be used outdoors.

- Wood can be used for cooking in many situations. You can cook in a fireplace if the chimney is sound. Don't start a fire in a fireplace that has a broken chimney. Be sure the damper is open.
- If you're cooking on a wood stove, make sure the stovepipe has not been damaged.
- If you have to build a fire outside, build it away from buildings, never in a carport. Sparks can easily start a house fire.
- Never use gasoline to get a wood or charcoal fire started.
- Make sure any fire is well contained. A metal drum or stones around the fire bed are good precautions. A charcoal grill is a good place in which to build a wood fire. Be sure to put out the fire when you are through with it.
- Small electrical appliances, such as electric skillets, electric woks, hot plates or coffee makers, can be used to prepare meals if you have access to an electrical generator.
- Devices using candle warmers, such as fondue pots or chafing dishes, may be used if no other heat sources are available.



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.