


# The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## President's Comments



**Dustin Tripp**  
President/CEO

## Renewable Energy Resource Trust Fund (RERTF) Program

Recently, your Cooperative connected the first member-owned, residential wind turbine to the Cooperative's distribution system. This connection allows the wind turbine to deliver excess energy to the distribution system at times when the turbine generates more energy than the residence is consuming at any point in time.

The deployment of renewable energy technologies, especially in the residential scale, can prove to be very cost prohibitive. As many of you already know, Southern Illinois does not have the extensive renewable resources that are experienced in many areas of the country. Southern Illinois does not experience the consistent wind speeds or sun hours to allow maximum energy production from renewable technologies such as wind turbines and solar panels.

Your Cooperative has established a Renewable Energy Resource Trust Fund in order to provide members with an opportunity to voluntarily assist with the feasibility of qualified, renewable energy projects that deliver energy into the distribution system. Beginning with your May invoices, the pay stub at the bottom of your invoice will include a section that allows members to voluntarily contribute any amount of money to the Renewable Energy Resource Trust Fund. When the Cooperative receives an invoice stub in which the member has elected to participate in the Renewable Energy Resource Trust Fund, the Cooperative will deposit the amount of

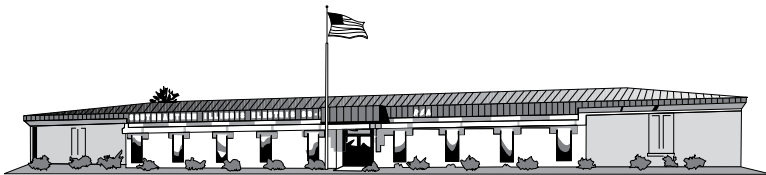
the voluntary contribution into a separate account for the trust fund.

The Cooperative will monitor the amount of voluntary contributions made by members into the trust fund and will disburse funds from the trust to qualified, renewable energy projects based upon the amount of energy, as measured by kWh, delivered into the Cooperative's distribution system. The funds will be distributed on a per kWh basis each month. Therefore each qualified renewable energy project will receive the same per kWh energy premium. This method will allow a fair and equitable manner in which to disburse these funds.

In order for a generating facility to qualify for disbursement of funds under this program, the generating facility must be member-owned and rely on an energy source that is naturally regenerated over a short time and derived directly from the sun, indirectly from the sun, or from moving water or other natural movements and mechanisms of the environment. The list of qualified renewable energy technologies include, but is not limited to, solar systems, photovoltaic systems, wind turbines, hydroelectric, biomass or biomass-based waste products, including landfill gas systems. The decision as to whether or not a facility qualifies as a renewable energy project for disbursement of funds under this program will be determined by the Cooperative.

See you next month and as always, "We'll keep the lights on for you."

READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:  
Jason Nall, Marion, IL



# Copper Theft: Gain A Buck, Lose A Life

**P**eople who think stealing electric wire is a quick way to earn some easy money should think again. The value of metal is not worth losing a life.

Copper theft has reached an epidemic level that is not only affecting the United States, but is international and creating immense global havoc. According to the U.S. Department of Energy the theft of copper costs the national economy around \$1 billion per year. The increase in copper theft has disrupted the flow of electricity, created electrical hazards, slowed down construction projects, and knocked out irrigation networks across the United States.

Additionally, when thieves cut locks or chain link fencing surrounding an electric substation they leave a highly dangerous area exposed for inquisitive children and animals.

Stealing material from an electric substation or utility pole can cause not only serious injuries and death, but extensive outages, fires and explosions – consequences that impact innocent people. The minimum damage that can occur is an outage, which may affect thousands of individuals.

Hemmer stated that deaths and damages related to copper theft are completely unnecessary and could happen anywhere.

People must be aware of this kind of theft and that tampering with electric power facilities can result in extremely dangerous situations. Always alert your utility provider when you see or suspect suspicious activity.

Safe Electricity offers these tips to help safeguard against electrical dangers and prevent copper theft: Never enter or touch equipment inside a substation; stay away from



*“...deaths and damages related to copper theft are completely unnecessary and could happen anywhere.”*

power lines and anything touching a power line.

If you notice anything unusual with electric facilities, such as an open substation gate, open equipment, hanging wire, etc. contact your electric utility immediately.

If you see anyone around electric substations or electric facilities other than utility personnel or contractors, call the police.

Install motion-sensor lights on

the outside of your house and business to deter possible thieves.

Store tools and wire cutters in a secure location, and never leave them out while away.

If you work in construction, do not leave any wires unattended or leave loose wire at the job site, especially overnight.

Consider hiring a night security guard.

Help spread the word about the deadly consequences that can result from trying to steal copper.

Copper theft is not harmless. Dealing with any metal and electricity is a dangerous combination, especially when it is done without permission or training. Copper theft places the thief and others in danger.

# Before You Buy A Water Heater Of Another Brand... **Save your energy!**



## **Plastic Tank**

- *Can't rust or corrode*
- *No smelly anode rod*
- *Stronger than steel*

## **Lifetime Tank Warranty**

- *Warranted not to leak "for as long as you own your home"*

## **Envirofoam Insulation**

- *The most energy efficient & environmentally friendly*

## **Plastic Jacket**

- *No nicks, dents or scratches*

## **Reliability**

- *Six years Parts & Labor*

# **Marathon<sup>®</sup>**

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative is now offering Marathon Water Heaters for sale at its Eldorado Headquarters. Please call 618-273-2611 for more information.

**SouthEastern's  
Office will  
be closed  
on Monday,  
May 30<sup>th</sup> for  
Memorial Day**

## **POWER OUTAGE**

### **If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions**

1. Check the fuses or circuit breakers in your service panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole, check the main breaker panel just below the meter socket. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all of your wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears to be okay, reset the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 1-877-399-8405. This phone number is monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.
5. Your phone call will be handled by SouthEastern's automated outage reporting system and will be identified automatically through ANI (Automatic Number Identification). An outage record will then be generated

for your location. Please note that the phone number from which you place the call will be the number used to generate the record. If the system fails to recognize your phone number, members having touch-tone phones may simply enter their seven-digit phone number (without area code) in order to report the outage. Members not having touch-tone phones will be asked to leave a message. It is important you leave your name, phone number and location of the outage. Retrieving messages and entering them into the system is time consuming; therefore, please leave only a message that will help in restoration of electric service. Do not remain on the line for an operator because a live operator is not there to respond. In order to keep a current listing of all numbers, it is important that you notify the Cooperative of any changes in your telephone number.

6. Handling outage calls electronically allows you to report power failures very quickly. Once your outage has been reported, it will be dispatched to repair personnel who will restore your outage as soon as possible. Calling back repeatedly will not shorten the length of the outage, but may hinder the efforts of other members who are trying to report outages.

**OUTAGE CALLS ONLY 1-877-399-8405**

### **SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

585 Highway 142 South • P.O. Box 251 • Eldorado, Illinois 62930  
618-273-2611 or 800-833-2611 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F