

Harvesting the wind

You can tell it is harvest season again with all the farm implements on the country roads and in the fields. One local businessman is hoping to harvest something other than corn or beans. He wants to harvest the wind.

Brian Halbrook, owner of Halbrook's Auto Body, Paint & Towing, recently installed a 100-foot tower. Sitting on top of the tower is a 40-kilowatt wind turbine installed by Enertech.

The wind turbine, the first of this size in Shelby and surrounding counties, located on a commercial property, sits behind the auto body and paint shop and is very visible to those who enter or leave Shelbyville on West Route 16.

Halbrook said he has always wanted to put up a wind turbine at his shop, and with both state and federal incentives available, now was the time to act.

Shelby Electric Cooperative, which provides electricity to Halbrook's business, has had a lot of inquiries about renewable energy products, including wind and solar, but Halbrook's is the first commercial property the cooperative has metered with its net metering program.

"Net metering measures the amount of electricity generated. If a member generates more power than they use, the excess power will go out on the grid," explained cooperative spokesperson Kevin Bernson. "We have a separate meter on the wind turbine so we know how much he is producing and using. If more electricity is produced than used, Halbrook will get a credit on his next month's bill," said Bernson.

"I don't know if I'll harvest



enough wind to zero my meter; but if I can produce enough to cut back on the amount I use, that will obviously cut back on my electric bill," said Halbrook. "The calculation we ran showed a 7 – 10 year payback," added Halbrook.

The cooperative, as well as Halbrook, is eager to monitor how successful this wind project will be in generating electricity to offset Halbrook's power consumption. The cooperative hopes to track and post this project at their website www.shelbyelectric.coop.

Shelby Electric encourages and is supportive of renewable energy projects but also wants members to make sure they do their homework, ask a lot of questions and be careful of "get your energy for free" schemes that are out there.

Halbrook has always looked at ways to run a safe and energy efficient business. In 2006 he worked with Shelby Electric during the building of his new business. During the process he was encouraged to contact the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) team to utilize their free technical assistance services to assist with his new building's design.

The building envelope, lighting and HVAC energy saving measures were evaluated and recommendations were suggested. He didn't use all of SEDAC's suggestions but those he did implement netted him a savings of \$1,200 in annual cost savings on his electricity and natural gas usage.

Now Halbrook hopes to save some green by harvesting the wind.



WEATHERIZATION WORKSHOP

You have the power to stop letting money slip through the cracks of your home!

Thursday November 4, 2010
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Shelby Electric Cooperative Headquarters
Route 128 & North Sixth Street (across from Shelbyville High School)
Shelbyville, Illinois

Join us for a workshop with Keith Williams

Keith Williams is the owner of Building Services & Consultant LLC, providing home performance evaluations and assessments for existing residential homes for over six years. He has more than 20 years experience as an insulation contractor specializing in existing residential buildings. Keith developed the Illinois low-income weatherization program's air sealing and dense pack sidewall training and certification standards. He is a qualified Wisconsin Home Performance Specialist, Certified Home Energy Rater and Outreach Specialist, providing classroom and in-field home performance evaluation trainings.

Learn how to evaluate your current insulation, locate your home's air leaks and decipher the materials needed for air-sealing and insulating your home.

Please call 800-677-2612 to help us plan for seating.

NOW AVAILABLE:

The POWER of Green

6-gallon, stackable recycling container with handle

Shelby Electric has them available for \$10 each at both the main headquarters on Route 128 & North Sixth Street and our PWR-net office on East Route 16.

Keep tabs on the Power of Green recycling program on the cooperative's facebook page www.facebook.com/YourCoop.



P.O. BOX 560
Shelbyville, IL 62565
Phone: 217-774-3986
Fax: 217-774-3330
www.shelbyelectric.coop
twitter.com/YourCoop
facebook.com/YourCoop

Office Hours:
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



OUTAGE REPORT

LINE OUTAGES

DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
8/1/2010	0.10	Wenonah	Broken conductor	249
8/4/2010	3.30	Lakewood	Trees	231
8/10/2010	1.00	Lakewood	Planned work	93
8/14/2010	1.30	Neoga	Trees	94
8/17/2010	0.44	Yantisville	Broken conductor	52
8/18/2010	1.05	Shelbyville	Trees	66
8/21/2010	2.00	Wenonah	Lightning	63
8/25/2010	1.15	Elwin	Trees	70
8/27/2010	1.10	Airport	Planned work	65

Recycling facts and benefits

Everyone today has heard of how important it is to recycle, but what exactly is recycling and how beneficial is it to the environment and us?

Recycling is the process of turning one product's useful parts into a new product; and this is done to conserve on the consumption of resources, energy and space used in landfills.

A plastic bottle

By recycling a plastic bottle, it not only saves anywhere from 100 to 1,000 years in the landfill, but also saves the environment from the emissions in producing new bottles as well as the oil used to produce that bottle.

Ton of plastic

For every ton of plastic recycled, we save the equivalent of two people's energy use for a year which is the amount of water used by a person in two month's time and almost 2,000 pounds of oil.

Taking a moment

Taking just a moment to put your newspaper, soda can and glass spa-

The POWER of Green

ghetti jar in the recycling bin will save everyone years in environmental harm from production of new materials, overcrowded landfills and the depletion of our natural resources.

4,000 years

When we do not recycle our glass or aluminum, we cost the earth in power, water, oil and landfill usage. Glass takes up to 4,000 years to decompose in a landfill yet can be recycled indefinitely.

Earn money

Recycling can be done at home as well as in conjunction with city programs. Many scrap yards pay for scrap metal, including the soda and soup cans we use every day.

Be creative

Many useful items can be made from our everyday trash; the cardboard tubes left over from paper tow-

els and toilet paper can make useful storage containers for our extra extension cords and prevents a tangled mess in the Christmas lights.

Baby food jars can become snow globes for the kids to make and give as gifts. Old Christmas cards can become new handmade cards and a glass or plastic bottle along with some clear oil and food coloring and a few other common household items can become a groovy lava lamp!

The possibilities are endless and instructions can be found in books and on the Internet.

If you're going to throw these out, don't just throw them in the waste basket, put them in a recycling bin.

Today the most common products in city's recycling programs are paper products, cardboard, plastic, glass and aluminum. To learn more about Shelby Electric's Power of Green recycling program and hours of operation, visit www.shelbyelectric.coop or its page on facebook www.facebook.com/YourCoop.

Mark your calendar

Touchstone Energy Balloon Fest on Lake Shelbyville October 8th - 10th

Shelby Electric Cooperative and 11 other Illinois Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have teamed up to bring in the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon Team to Lake Shelbyville. See the hot air balloon pilots from Chicago, Iowa, Missouri and Central Illinois fly Lake Shelbyville with flights Friday night, Saturday and Sunday mornings and enjoy a nightglow Saturday night (weather permitting). The Saturday

nightglow will be held on the dam off Route 16 in Shelbyville. Touchstone Energy Balloon Fest is being held in conjunction with Scarecrow Daze in Shelbyville. There will be plenty to see and do Columbus Day weekend. Call the Shelbyville Tourism office for more details at 217-774-2244 or go online to www.shelbyelectric.coop. Follow the balloon team via their Facebook page www.facebook.com/CoopBalloon

and check out the Cooperative's page www.facebook.com/YourCoop.



Spooktacular IV at Shelby Electric Cooperative's HQ..... October 22nd & 23rd



For the fourth straight year the employees of Shelby Electric Cooperative invites you and your family for a safe trick-or-treat haunting experience. There will be a fright-filled, haunted maze and a friendly section for young children and for those faint of heart. There will be special treats for all who dare to come to Shelbyville and visit

Spooktacular IV Friday, October 22 and Saturday, October 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. This community event will be at the cooperative's headquarters on Route 128 & North Sixth Street (across from Shelbyville High School). More information is available at www.shelbyelectric.coop and www.facebook.com/YourCoop.

REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

Thermostats: To adjust or not adjust?

Keeping your home hot or cold — depending on the season — accounts for a big chunk of your annual budget. In fact, the average U.S. homeowner spends \$2,500 a year on home energy with 56 percent, or \$1,400, going toward heating and cooling costs.

Not surprisingly, savings can add up in a hurry when heating and cooling systems are tweaked for maximum efficiency. Trim your energy bills in winter by setting the thermostat at 68 degrees Fahrenheit while occupants are awake and back a few degrees when sleeping or away from home.

Even better, turning your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours can save approximately five to 15 percent a year on your heating bill — about 1 percent for each degree. Savings may be even greater for homes in milder climates.

The location of your thermostat can greatly affect its performance and efficiency. Place thermostats away from direct sunlight, drafts, doorways, skylights and windows. Read the manufacturer's instructions to prevent "ghost readings" or unnecessary furnace or air conditioner cycling.

Installing a programmable thermostat can take the thought

out of saving energy. Your heating and cooling system will ramp up or switch off according to a preset time of day or even day of the week. Most models let you manually override the schedule without affecting the rest of the daily or weekly program.

Programmable thermostats are generally not recommended for heat pumps. In cooling mode, a heat pump operates like an air conditioner, so turning up the thermostat will save energy and money. But when a heat pump works in its heating mode, setting back the thermostat can cause the unit to operate inefficiently, thereby canceling out any savings achieved by lowering the temperature. Maintaining a moderate setting is the most cost-effective practice.

To automatically manage electric resistance systems, such as electric baseboard heating, steam heating, or radiant floor heating, you will need to purchase a programmable thermostat specifically designed for the task. Of course, when shopping for a programmable thermostat, always look for the ENERGY STAR® label.

More information on what may be right for your home can be found at www.energystar.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

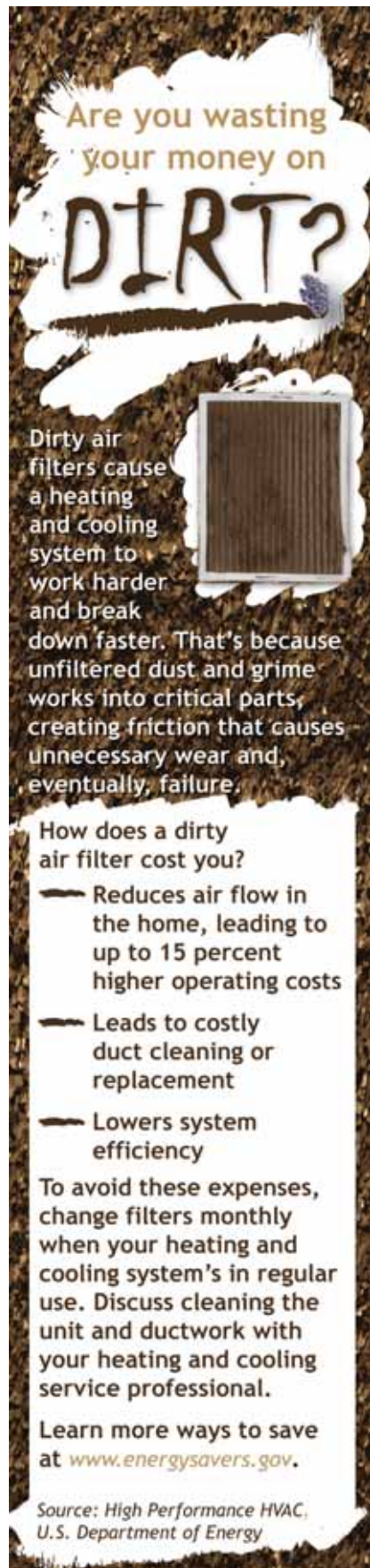


SAVE ENERGY. SAVE MONEY.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
TOGETHERWESAVE.COM
°C 17 19 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29
°F 72 74 76

What is the temperature in your home? Ask for your magnet thermometer at Shelby Electric Cooperative, North Route 128, Shelbyville.

ONE per member while supplies last.

 Shelby Electric Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Are you wasting your money on DIRT?

Dirty air filters cause a heating and cooling system to work harder and break down faster. That's because unfiltered dust and grime works into critical parts, creating friction that causes unnecessary wear and, eventually, failure.

How does a dirty air filter cost you?

- Reduces air flow in the home, leading to up to 15 percent higher operating costs
- Leads to costly duct cleaning or replacement
- Lowers system efficiency

To avoid these expenses, change filters monthly when your heating and cooling system's in regular use. Discuss cleaning the unit and ductwork with your heating and cooling service professional.

Learn more ways to save at www.energysavers.gov.

Source: High Performance HVAC, U.S. Department of Energy