

World's most expensive dirt

Dust dollars off your energy bill by regularly changing air filters

The most expensive dirt in the world may lurk in your home's heating and cooling system. If neglected, dust collecting in the equipment's air filter could increase your energy bills hundreds of dollars every year and result in costly repair or replacement costs.

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

As you move around your home you drive dust into the air from carpets, drapes and furniture. Pets generate dust particles by shedding, grooming and tracking in dirt from outside.

Regardless of where it comes from, dust trapped in a heating and cooling system air filter leads to several problems, including:

- Reduced air flow in the home and up to 15 percent higher operating costs.
- Costly duct cleaning or replacement.
- Lowered system efficiency.

Every time a system with a dirty filter kicks on, the day of reckoning — total replacement — draws closer. To avoid this expense, change filters monthly when a system's in regular



use. Discuss cleaning the unit and ductwork with your heating and cooling service professional.

While most types of filters must be replaced, a few filters are reusable. They're available in a variety of types and efficiencies, rated by a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV). MERV, a method developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-

Conditioning Engineers, tests filter effectiveness. The higher the MERV number, the higher the filter's effectiveness at keeping dust out of your system.

To learn more about how to save energy around your home visit www.TogetherWeSave.com.

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

Shelby Energy
1-217-774-2311

24-hours-a-day

PWR-net & WildBlue Internet
1-877-994-2323

weekdays
(closed from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm)

Shelby Electric Cooperative
1-800-677-2612

1-217-774-3986

24-hours-a-day

Mark your calendar

Touchstone Energy® Balloon Fest on Lake Shelbyville October 7th - 9th

Shelby Electric Cooperative has teamed up with several other Illinois Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to bring in the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon Team to Lake Shelbyville. Come see 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 at the Spillway Dam off Route 16 in Shelbyville. Touchstone Energy Balloon Fest is being held in conjunction with Scarecrow Daze providing plenty to see and do Columbus Day weekend. Call the Shelbyville Tourism office for more details at 217-774-2244 or go online at www.shelbyelectric.coop. Follow the Balloon Team via their Face Book page www.facebook.com/CoopBalloon and check out the Cooperative's page www.facebook.com/YourCoop.



Balloon schedule of events

- Friday night, Oct. 7 at 5 p.m. Media Flight – Soccer Fields, Forest Park in Shelbyville. *(Best place to view balloons, Forest Park.)*
- Saturday morning, Oct. 8 at sunrise Sponsor/Task flight – balloons leave the park to fly over soccer fields attempting to hit a target on the field. *(Best place to view balloons, Forest Park)*
- Saturday night Glow and Cook-out, Spillway Dam off Route 16. The cookout will benefit the Shelby County Rescue Squad and is sponsored by the Shelbyville Moose Lodge 1294 and the Shelby Sports Club. Lake Area Volunteers will be selling soda, water and chips to raise money for its volunteer activities.
- Sunday morning, Oct. 9 at sunrise Sponsor/Task flight – balloons leave the park to fly over 9th Street beach attempting to hit a target on the field. *(Best place to view balloons, 9th Street beach area)*

Note: All scheduled balloon events and times are weather dependent and at the pilot's discretion.

P.O. BOX 560
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Office Hours:
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



OUTAGE REPORT

LINE OUTAGES

DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
8/1/2011	0.40	Lakewood	Planned work	51
8/3/2011	0.10	Taylorville	Trees	55
8/8/2011	0.15	Taylorville	Trees	108
8/11/2011	2.00	Velma	Unknown	211
8/13/2011	3.00	Yantisville	Storm	107
8/13/2011	2.40	Pana	Loose connection	51
8/17/2011	1.34	Velma	Broken conductor	211
8/17/2011	1.34	Velma	Broken conductor	82
8/23/2011	1.40	Yantisville	Storm	104
8/29/2011	1.00	Velma	Broken pole	53

Cooperatives team up at the 2011 FARM PROGRESS SHOW

In the true spirit of cooperation, Shelby Electric Cooperative and 13 other Illinois cooperatives participated in the 2011 Farm Progress Show by hosting a Touchstone Energy® booth at the event, held August 30, 31 and September 1 in Decatur, Illinois.

The booth focused on energy efficiency and how co-op members can save money by making energy-smart choices in their home. The centerpiece of the exhibit was the “Energy Efficiency Wall.” This 20-foot structure goes behind the scenes in building construction to show visitors what should and should not be done when building a home or updating an existing one.



Attendees could also look to the sky and see the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon fly the American flag each morning. The balloon was also scheduled to fly in the afternoons but windy weather kept the balloon from taking flight.

The cooperatives also provided a safety message at this year’s show by sponsoring Kyle Finley’s Live Line Safety Demonstration. Spectators were able to see firsthand how electricity works, the proper way to be safe around electricity and what to do if your car would come into contact with a power line.

Cooperative members from across the state, who presented their Co-op Connections Card, were given a nice gift for visiting the exhibit.

Record crowds of young and old were in attendance for this year’s show and many visited the Touchstone Energy booth.



As The Power of Green recycling program enters its second year, many area people and businesses have enjoyed having a place to take recyclables. The cooperative’s recycling program celebrated one year of service in July. During that time we’ve been able to increase items we can take, so please note below the acceptable and the unacceptable items.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- ALUMINUM — Beverage cans, foil pans, roasters
- OFFICE PAPER (if shredded, must be bagged) — **Examples of acceptable office paper:** Computer Print-Out, Letterhead Paper, Copy or Typing Paper, Carbonless (NCR) Paper, Index or Business Cards, Adding Machine Paper, Notebook Paper, Invoices, Colored Paper, Post-it Notes, Blue Prints, Envelopes, Fax Paper, File Folders, etc.
- CARDBOARD (Corrugated and Chipboard) — **Examples of Chipboard:** Cereal boxes, Kleenex boxes, Toilet paper/Paper towel rolls, Staple boxes, etc.
- PLASTICS #1 - 7 — Jugs, bottles, containers
- MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS
- TIN/STEEL CANS

All material should be clean, dry and flattened

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Plastic wrapping or packaging
- Hazardous waste (motor oil, pesticide containers, paint)
- Food-soiled boxes
- Plastic cutlery
- Toys
- Gift wrap, ribbons, and bows
- Single-use paper products
- Medical waste
- Scrap metal or wood
- Styrofoam
- Non-Acceptable Office Paper — Carbon Paper, Plastics, Photographs, Candy Wrappers, Tissue/Toilet Paper, Tissue and Kraft (Brown) Packaging Paper, Microfiche, & Construction Paper

The recycling bins are located at the cooperative’s PWR-net & WildBlue Internet building on East Route 16 in Shelbyville. If you have questions or need further information about the Power of Green please call 1-877-994-2323.

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Tuesday 8 a.m. – noon
Thursday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturday..... 8 a.m. – noon

Recycling Fact

What do you do with your Illinois Country Living when you’re done reading it? Tear out the recipes? File it so you can reference articles in the future? Recycle it? Whatever you do – don’t throw it away! Shelby Electric’s Power of Green program has collected over 42 tons of recyclable waste since July of 2010, and a lot of that weight has come from newspapers and magazines!



REAL LIFE REAL POWER

Getting real with Marla



Are those cobwebs part of your Halloween decorations? Do you want to hear the pitter-patter of little feet ... in your walls, ceiling and cabinets? What scary clues is your house trying to give you?






There is a general consensus among energy auditors that cobwebs are a clue. First, you might see the cobwebs blowing with the slightest of air movement, which will indicate places that air is infiltrating your home. Secondly, spiders are not dummies. They spin their webs where they think their lunch will enter the house. If a bug can crawl into your house through a tiny gap or crack, the winter wind will barge in without a welcome also.

Mice are on the prowl for a cozy home to move into this time of year. A typical mouse only needs a hole or gap of about ¼ inch in diameter to enter your house. A mama mouse may have five to ten litters of five or six babies a year. Rather than let your home become a mouse daycare, it may be easier to not let them gain entrance. Steel wool mixed with caulking makes a good mouse-block. Look for cracks in the foundation, gaps around pipe or wire entrances and make sure your doors and windows are well sealed.

Have you noticed darkened carpet along the baseboard? This might be

a product of poor cleaning but not always! It could be that air is moving through the carpet and the carpet is acting as a filter. This also happens with fiberglass insulation. Dirty insulation is a sign of air leakage. Seal the leaks with caulk or spray foam designated for the specific conditions.

As you are inspecting your home and insulation, you may wonder if you need to add insulation. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends that you add insulation when:

-  You have an older home. Only 20 percent of homes built before 1980 are well insulated.
-  You are uncomfortably cold in winter or hot in summer.
-  You build on to your home or install new siding or roofing.
-  You pay high energy bills.
-  You are bothered by noise from outside – insulation muffles sound.

Hopefully, these tips will help you make your home and energy bills less scary in the months ahead.

– Marla Eversole,
Member Services Representative



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When buying a new appliance, check the black and yellow EnergyGuide label. This label provides an estimate of the product's energy consumption and efficiency. It also shows the highest and lowest energy efficiency estimates of similar models. Most major appliances such as refrigerators, dishwashers and clothes dryers are required to have these labels.

Source U.S. Department of Energy

Cooperatives and Jobs



Cooperative businesses are run by those who live and work in the community keeping jobs at home.

Lots of businesses talk about growing their communities. For cooperatives, it's not just talk. It's what we're all about.

We're in it for the long haul ... strengthening communities through jobs, service and community involvement.

Maybe that's why we're more trusted than businesses owned by Wall Street investors.

Cooperatives

Owned by Our Members,
Committed to Our Communities

