


WIEC NEWS

P.O. Box 338 ■ Carthage, Illinois 62321 ■ www.wiec.net ■ 800/576-3125

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Students meet with state Legislators

Four students win trip to Springfield

Senator John Sullivan and Representative Norine Hammond met with four students representing Western Illinois Electrical Coop. during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, March 28, in Springfield. Going on the trip from Illini West were: Addison Ufkes, daughter of Brent and Angie Ufkes and Caroline Hartweg, daughter of John and Linda Hartweg all of Carthage. Representing Warsaw High School were Ashley Barlow, daughter of Robert and Shonnie Barlow of Nauvoo and Kyra Koehler daughter of Tony and Beth Koehler, Warsaw.

Students had an opportunity to visit with their legislators and also met with Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon and Sec. of State Jesse White. They also toured the State Capitol, Illinois Supreme (5816-56) Court, the Old Capital Building, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

The day was sponsored by the Illinois electric and telephone co-ops and is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. These students won this trip by entering the Youth to Washington Web Quiz offered by Western Illinois Electrical Coop.



(l-r) are Caroline Hartweg, Addison Ufkes, Kyra Koehler and Ashley Barlow.



Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

**DURING OFFICE HOURS,
OR AFTER HOURS
TO REPORT OUTAGE**

217-357-3125
800-576-3125

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MAP LOCATION CONTEST

Every month we are printing four member's map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

Groups from Adams and Western join together for Prairie State tour

On March 20, a group of employees and directors from Adams Electric Cooperative and Western Illinois Electrical Coop. went together on a tour of the Prairie State Energy Campus located in Washington County, Illinois. (6729-6) While on the tour, the group learned about the state of the art methods being used to produce energy from one of the cleanest coal plants of its kind in the country. Participants also learned about the adjacent coal mine which should provide power to the plant for the next thirty years.

During the bus ride, the employees and directors from both groups had a chance get to know each other and share similarities of both cooperatives.

The trip was hosted by Prairie Power, Inc., the generation cooperative for both Adams and Western. Prairie Power President and CEO Jay Bartlett chaperoned the tour and answered many questions from the group.



To tour the Prairie State plant, the group had to wear hard hats and safety goggles

Using less energy to keep things clean

our ENERGY STAR-qualified clothes washer or dishwasher operates very efficiently. That's likely one of the reasons why you bought it. But there are simple ways to further reduce how much electricity each of these appliances consumes. Selecting a lower water temperature—a cold wash/cold rinse setting, for example—on your washing machine will save energy dollars. You can also choose a lower water level for smaller loads, trimming water use. Some ENERGY STAR clothes washers even boast extra energy-cutting features such as pre-soak and “suds saver.”

Much of the energy used by your dishwasher—as much as 80 percent—goes for heating water. An ENERGY STAR-qualified dishwasher (**6622-19**) with a booster heater allows you to set the temperature on your home's water heater at a lower 120 degrees.

In addition, many ENERGY STAR dishwashers offer efficiency settings, such as “energy-saving” and “short-wash” cycles that shave both energy and water consumption. Most models come equipped with an air-drying option that helps lower electric bills.

For other tips on how to save energy — and money — go to www.TogetherWeSave.com
Source: Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Don't sweat it this summer

Stay cool with geothermal

WIEC has known for over 30 years that geothermal heating and air conditioning has been a smart decision when replacing or installing a HVAC system. It's clean, dependable and super-efficient. Evidently, some of our members know this too, as WIEC has over 380 members that have installed geothermal heating and cooling in their homes and businesses.

WIEC offers the following incentives to members who install geothermal on our lines:

- ✓ special rates (*7 1/2 cent per kilowatt hour - all year long*)
- ✓ rebates (*\$1,000 for initial unit*)
- ✓ loan programs (*up to \$15,000 for 5 years at a 5% rate*)
- ✓ trenching available (*we work with your installer to do the trenching at \$1 per foot-plus labor*).

Don't sweat through another Illinois summer, consider geothermal.



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Smart home landscaping can lower your electric bills. Trees on the east and west sides of your home provide shade—and reduce your cooling costs—during hot summer months.

Shade for your air conditioner can save 10 percent of your cooling costs. And by adding vegetation to the north side of your home, you can reduce winter winds that trigger higher heating costs. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

*** Before digging, don't forget to call JULIE (at 8-1-1) and WIEC. ***

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

Welcome New Members

Walter Beach, Pekin, IL
Ben W & Clara Gerhardt Trust,
Dallas City
Jay Fillman, Mazon, IL
David C Fortado, Nauvoo
Morrison Farms, Burnside
Doug Palmer, Blandinsville

Steve & Leigh Ann Pfeiferling,
Hamilton
Michael A Shadden, Stronghurst
Debra S Spiker, Stronghurst
Samantha Stotlar, Niota
Chris Wood, Bowen

Stay safe on the water if a storm hits

As warm weather arrives, many people heed the call of the sea, or at least the lake, and rush to get their boats in the water. But an unexpected change in the weather can turn your maritime romp into a dangerous situation. Follow these guidelines for staying safe if you're caught in rough seas:

- Wear your life jacket at all times.
- Get below deck, and remain there if possible.
- Stay away from metal objects that are not grounded in the boat's protection system.
- Don't touch more than one grounded (5517-27) object at a time, or you could become the shortcut for electrical surges passing through the protection system.



**WIEC's office will
be closed May 28th
in observance of
Memorial Day.**