

# WIEC NEWS

P.O. Box 338 ■ Carthage, Illinois 62321 ■ [www.wiec.net](http://www.wiec.net) ■ 800/576-3125

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Funding still available in the HomeE Program

Last month in the WIEC News, WIEC members were told about the new HomeE program. This program gives the homeowner rebates for becoming energy efficient. After a home energy audit is performed, (at a greatly reduced price of \$25) homeowners are given a list of suggestions about how they can make their home become more comfortable, less drafty and maybe reduce your heating and air conditioning bill.

If the audit reveals that more caulking, weatherizing or insulation is needed to eliminate drafts in the home, members can receive 30 percent of the project costs up to \$500. If an old water heater was written up in the audit as an energy hog, replacing it with a new heat pump water heater can earn a rebate of \$250.

Maybe replacing an old, energy-wasting HVAC unit with a new geothermal heating and cool-



ing system is suggested. If a member chooses to have their existing HVAC replaced with geothermal, they are eligible for a \$1500 rebate. This money is in addition to the \$1,000 rebate that WIEC offers, our ERC loan program, WIEC's special 6.5 cent per (9510-22) kilowatt rate and the federal tax credits. That's a lot of savings.

Please remember these points:

- Home must be member's primary residence and owned by the member.

- Home must be served by WIEC
- Maximum rebate per residence is \$1,500
- Rebates will be approved for only one piece of heating or cooling equipment
- Minimum SEER requirements must be met on HVAC and water heaters

The first step is to call the WIEC office and set up a HomeE Energy Audit. Don't delay, as the program will end when the money is gone.



Call toll free 800-576-3125



**Western Illinois**  
**ELECTRICAL COOP.**

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

524 North Madison | P.O. Box 338  
Carthage, IL 62321  
www.wiec.net | 800/576-3125

### 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

### 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.

## Budget billing sign-up draws near

**Deadline is July 26**

**H**ave you noticed that the price of everything changes almost daily? At the beginning of the month, it's hard to figure out how to budget your money for the month. Sign up for WIEC's Budget Billing and you can take away the seasonal highs and lows of your electric bill and you'll know how to budget for your electricity each month.

WIEC can average your payments for the upcoming 12 months, based on your last 12 months usage. Your electric bills can be the same amount for 11 months, providing your usage

remains consistent to the last 12 months. The 12th payment is catch-up month, where the amount due is the actual balance remaining, or there is no payment due if there is a credit balance. This credit can be rolled over and applied to next year.

The deadline for enrolling in WIEC's Budget Billing is July 26. If you are interested in receiving more information, please check out our website at [www.wiec.net](http://www.wiec.net) under the (8515-4) program tab. Members can also call or e-mail ([billing@wieg.net](mailto:billing@wieg.net)) our office can give you more information.



## Hancock County 4-H BBQ



\*4-H Fair exhibits  
\*Live Auction  
\*General Awards  
\*Fashion Revue

**Wednesday, July 14, 2010  
5:00—7:00 pm**

**U of I Extension - 550 N Madison, Carthage**

**\$5.00 (Advanced) - \$6.00 (at Door)**

**\*Drive-Thru pick up available in front of WIEC\***

**Menu:**  
Pork Chop Sandwich  
Or 2 Hot Dogs  
Green Beans  
Applesauce  
Chips  
Drink (Dine-in only)

**Advance Tickets available from your local 4-H'er,  
at Menn's Firestone, or at the Hancock Co. Extension Office  
or call 217.357.2150**



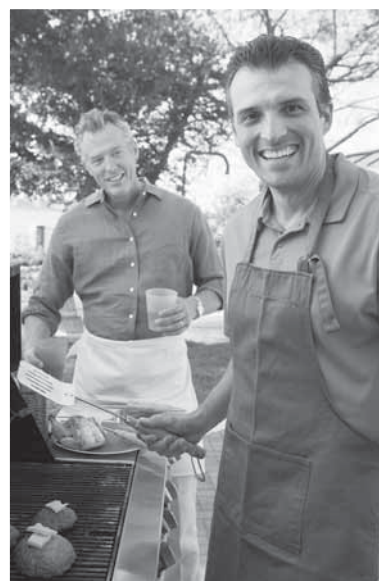
# 10 hot tips for green summer cooking

By John Bruce

**K**ee your cool this summer when preparing meals. You can save money and reduce your carbon footprint with these 10 easy tips for going green when cooking summer meals (and year round, for that matter).

1. Cook outdoors when possible to reduce the load on your air conditioner. Try a solar cooker or oven. Solar cookers and ovens are by far the most energy-efficient cooking appliances. They require no fuel, reduce unwanted summer heat in your home by taking cooking outside, and can accommodate any food a slow cooker can. Some solar ovens can reach 500 degrees. To learn more, visit [www.solar-cooking.org](http://www.solar-cooking.org).
2. Toaster ovens, convection ovens and slow cookers get the job done with less energy than conventional stovetops or ovens, especially when preparing smaller meals. Go to [allrecipes.com](http://allrecipes.com) for some great slow cooker recipes.
3. Use as small a pan, as little water and as little pre-heating time as possible.
4. Bake in glass or ceramic ovenware instead of metal. You can turn the temperature down by 25 degrees, and foods will cook in the same amount of time.
5. Avoid thawing food in the microwave. Thawing food in the fridge is far more energy efficient, contributes to the fridge's cooling and is safer than thawing food on the countertop or in the sink.

6. Don't open the door and peek in the oven. Use the oven window instead!
7. Clean burner pans (the pans under the burners that catch grease) regularly. They'll more effectively reflect heat to the cookware. Dirty burner pans absorb heat and reduce efficiency.
8. Use flat-bottom cookware that rests evenly on the surface of electric coil burners, solid-disk elements, or radiant elements under smooth-top ceramic glass.
9. Use residual heat. Turn the stove or oven off before cooking is done to allow cooking to continue while reducing energy use. An electric burner element can be turned off two minutes before removing the cookware, since it remains hot. Ovens can be turned off 20 minutes before cooking's done.
10. Consider substituting one or more stovetop burners with an induction cooker. The typical efficiency of an induction cooker is 84 percent, gas stovetops are 40 percent efficient, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. What's more, induction cook-



ers (which require magnetic cookware such as cast iron or enameled steel) produce as much heat as gas and are less costly to operate than a conventional electric burner. Visit [www.theinductionsite.com](http://www.theinductionsite.com) to learn more.

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Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, Solar Cookers International, American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy

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*John Bruce is a freelance writer based in South Carolina. He writes on energy efficiency for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

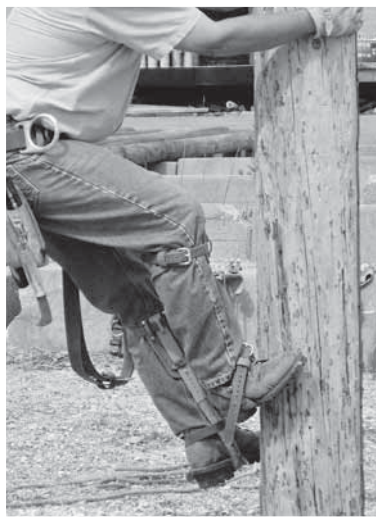


If you are interested in ways to reduce your energy usage, stop by the WIEC office and pick up "101 low-Cost/No-Cost Energy" booklet. It's free and it jam-packed with easy ways to save on your energy costs.



# Post No Bills: Attaching Signs to Utility Poles Presents Safety Hazards

It is yard sale season. It may seem innocent enough, putting yard sale signs, balloons or other items on utility poles to catch people's attention and advertise your sale. Staples, nails, and tacks used to hang signs — as well as the signs themselves — pose serious safety hazards to Western Illinois Electrical Coop linemen who must climb poles when either restoring power following storms or while performing routine maintenance to ensure system reliability. To work on the electrical lines, a lineman uses a bucket truck or climbs up the pole using special steel spikes, called gaffs that attach around his boots. These gaffs dig into the pole and give the lineman a solid hold on the pole as he works with the electrical lines. The lineman's livelihood and (3811-60) his life depend on his being able to keep those gaffs in the pole. If he should lose



his hold on the pole, he could fall, seriously hurting himself.

Posters or other objects (birdhouses, balloons, flags, and even basketball nets) can create dangerous obstacles. Also, the nails and tacks left behind from signs can keep our linemen's boots from getting a solid hold or puncture safety clothing, making linemen vulnerable to slipping or even electrocution.



## Welcome New Members

Maleia Brockett, Lomax  
Christopher & Rebekah Coventon,  
Bowen

Dillon Darbyshire, Carthage  
Todd F & Jina M Hardy, Basco  
Mark & Michelle Hitz, Bowen

Michael Inman, Plymouth  
Joseph Ivy, Hamilton  
Roberta Klingler, Carthage  
Christie Newlan, Niota  
Michelle Scheetz & Jeremy Reynolds,  
Carthage  
Kathleen J. Scott, Dallas City  
South East Wireless, Danville IA  
Peter Wilson, Hamilton



Energy Efficiency

*Tip of the Month*



During summer months when air conditioners work hardest, do energy-intensive tasks (3911-24) such as laundry and dish washing during off-peak energy demand hours, usually in the early morning or later evening.

*Source: Alliance to Save Energy*