

WIEC NEWS

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

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

What's the cooperative difference? *WIEC pays back capital credits*

Every October since 1930, not-for-profit cooperatives of all kinds have celebrated Cooperative Month. During this time, it makes sense to highlight the qualities that make electric cooperatives different from other types of utilities and businesses.

For starters, electric co-ops are owned by those they serve. That's why those who receive electric service from us are called members, not customers. Without members, there would be no Western Illinois Electrical Coop. for the past 72 years.

Members maintain democratic control of our co-op, which means they elect fellow members to represent them on the board of directors every June at our annual meeting. As a bonus, co-op members receive special benefits through programs like our Geothermal Heat Rate, Home Rebate programs, ERC Loan Program,

Youth to Washington contest, IEC Memorial Scholarships and a host of others. (673-33) We also return margins or profits to our members in the form of capital credits.

At the August board meeting, the WIEC board decided that your cooperative will be returning capital credits to members who were on our lines in 1974. The total amount of this retirement will be over \$69,000. The checks should be in the mail by mid-November.

One principle that sets us apart from other businesses is our concern for community. As a cooperative, we have a special responsibility to support the areas in which our members live and work. From sponsoring our Annual Safety Fair for area

5th graders to funding the electrical safety shows at the Farm Safety Day, WIEC shows concern for our community. When the City of Carthage needed the funding to build the infrastructure for the new Memorial Hospital east of Carthage, WIEC applied for and

received the loans and grant monies to aid the city in this project. When repaid, this grant money will be held by WIEC to establish a revolving loan fund for use to spur economic development in our area. WIEC

shows concern for the communities we serve.

We give our members a voice, and we are local — living and working alongside those we serve. That's the cooperative difference.

Capital credits to be returned to members who were on our lines in 1974.



If your home is more than 10 years old, it likely needs more insulation. How much depends on a variety of factors, most importantly where you live. For example, insulation for a home in the Northeast will have a higher R-value rating than a home in Southern California. Check out www.simplyinsulate.com to find out more.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Rob Gronewold** —
President, Carthage
- **Jay Morrison** —
Vice President, Niota
- **Janet Spory** —
Secretary/Treasurer, Sutter
- **William R. Newton** —
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- **Calvin Baumann** —
Director, Basco
- **Mike Ford** — Director, Lomax

STAFF

- **Paul Dion** — Manager
- **Tommie Long** —
Manager of Operations
- **Becky Dickinson** —
Office Manager

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.

WIEC participates in safety demonstration



Live Line Display given by Jo-Carroll Cooperative.

Last August, a group of concerned, hardworking volunteers, including farm broadcaster Max Armstrong, held a Farm Safety Day at Sullivan and Son's, south of Carthage. WIEC along with Hancock Co. 9-1-1, Air Evac Lifeteam, and various local organizations participated in safety demonstrations. Although the day had displays geared to first responders and EMT's, farm safety was also an important topic. Many farmers were on hand to listen to what was said.

To give a demonstration about electrical safety, WIEC contracted Jo-Carroll Energy of Elizabeth Ill., to bring their Live Line Display. Jesse Skekeleton of Jo-Carroll and (7814-11) Ken Macken of the Association of Electrical Cooperatives, Springfield, show the attendees real live situations where electricity finds the path to ground.

One safety rule that Skekeleton stressed is that no one can be faster than electricity. No one can outrun or out jump it. He also stressed the fact that machinery, such as augers, grain elevators and antennas are taller and bigger in recent years. However, the height of most electric lines hasn't changed.

Auger contact with overhead power lines is the leading cause of farm electrocution accidents in the

Midwest. Harvest season is one of the busiest times of the year for farmers – and among the most dangerous. By participating in Farm Safety Day, WIEC hopes that EMTs, first responders, farmers and all who attended will slow down, look up and stay safe.

One of the demonstrations was to show how quickly someone could be buried in a grain wagon or grain bin. This man was buried up to his chest in grain in a matter of seconds when the auger was turned on.



Augers like this pose a danger if not kept away from electrical lines.

Time is running out for claiming energy efficiency tax credits

By Magen Howard

Only two months remain to tackle home improvement projects if you want to take advantage of energy efficiency tax credits authorized under the federal stimulus bill. Measures that qualify include replacing windows, doors, or roofs with materials that reduce your home's heat loss or gain; adding insulation; replacing certain air conditioners; and installing air-source heat pumps, hot-water boilers, and biomass stoves.

"We want to make sure our members know about these tax credits and can take advantage of them before they expire on Dec. 31, 2010," stresses WIEC Manager, Paul M. Dion "This is an incredible opportunity for folks to invest in residential energy efficiency and see energy bill savings right away."

You can recover 30 percent up to \$1,500 — of costs associated with buying and installing heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and biomass stoves. Installation costs are not covered for windows, doors,

roofing, and insulation.

ENERGY STAR, a joint program of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, provides guidelines on what qualifies for the tax credit at www.energystar.gov/taxcredits. Tax credits are especially beneficial as they directly reduce, dollar for dollar, any taxes you owe.

"These are tough times, and we know it's important for our members to keep their monthly electric bills as low as possible," explains Dion. "Making home energy efficiency upgrades offers a great way to save energy and money, and these tax credits can help make that a reality."

If you're interested in renewable energy, the government also offers a renewable energy tax credit that expires Dec. 31, 2016. That credit covers 30 percent of the cost of materials and installation for solar panels, solar water heaters, and geothermal heat pumps, for both new and existing homes.

Be sure to keep your receipts and your Manufacturer's Certification

Statement (a signed statement from the manufacturer certifying that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit) for your records. Then claim the credit on your 2010 taxes using IRS Form 5695.

Some electric cooperatives and state government offices offer additional subsidies or rebates to consumers who want to make their homes more energy efficient. WIEC still has HomeE program rebates available along with the \$1,000 rebate and special rates for financing. For a list of state and local energy efficiency assistance available, visit the Database for State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency, a project funded by DOE, at www.dsireusa.org.

Source: ENERGY STAR, Database for State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency
Magen Howard writes on consumer and cooperative affairs 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. Megan McKay-Noe contributed to this article.

Still haven't decided about geothermal?

What are you waiting for?

For our members who are still unsure if now is the best time to install a geothermal heating and cooling system, what are you waiting for?

WIEC has four great reasons to go geothermal now:

1. Rebates through the HomeE program may still be available. Call our office for more details or go

to our website www.wiec.net. This program pays rebates of \$1,500 for installation of (7516-43) geothermal.

2. WIEC offers a rebate of \$1,000. This can be applied to trenching, new electric water heater or can be paid directly to the member.

3. WIEC offers loans (5 year term at a 5 percent rate) to members

with approved credit. The payments are added to your current electric bill so you have just one payment. How simple is that?

4. Federal Tax credits are available for energy efficiency tax credits. See article above for more details.

Low Income Energy Assistance

General public to call after November 1

If you need financial assistance to pay your electric bill, you may be eligible to participate in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Applicants must call for an appointment and bring with them proof of income for the last 30 days, their most recent electric bill and Social Security Cards for all in the household.

Assistance is based on combined household income. If it is at or below the levels shown below, you may be eligible. Good faith effort to maintain electric service may (8623-14) also be required.

Household size	30 Day Income
1	\$1,354
2	\$1,821
3	\$2,289

(add \$467 for each additional house member)

For more details, contact the following:

Members in Hancock, Henderson and McDonough Counties:
Western Illinois Regional Council
223 S. Randolph
Macomb IL 61455
(309) 837- 2997

Members in Adams County:
Two Rivers Regional Council
1891 Maine St. Suite 4
Quincy, IL 62301
(217) 224-8171

In addition, members may also find help from The Salvation Army, their Township supervisors, the Veteran's Administration and area churches.

Welcome New Members

Carrie Carroll, Carthage
Andrew B Chockley & Lauren E Gittings, Lomax
Gerald Graham, Cromwell, MN
John D. Knowles, Niota
Mary C. Shinkle, Carthage
Andrew & Kristi Thompson, Carthage
Earnest A & Penny S. Ward, Gladstone

Member Appreciation Day

Help us celebrate October as Cooperative Month

October 25th • 9-3 p.m. at the Cooperative Office
Cookies, cider and coffee will be served

All registered
members will
receive a free gift.

