

WIEC NEWS

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

WANTED

High School Sophomore, Junior or Senior
to Enter

Youth to Washington Contest

Student must be willing to:



Travel



Make New Friends



Have FUN!

Reward: All expense paid trip to Washington DC

If you or someone you know fits this description, you are encouraged to enter the Youth to Washington Contest.

This contest is a great way for a high school sophomore, junior or senior to win an all-expense paid trip to Washington DC. Western Illinois Electrical Coop. will award one son or daughter of a WIEC member an all-expense paid eight-day trip to our nation's capital. To enter the contest, students must complete a Web quiz that consists of multiple-choice, short answer and short essay questions.

The WIEC winner will join about 50 other Illinois high school students in Washington during the week of June 13, 2014. During the time in D.C., students will learn about American and rural electric history, as well as state and federal government. In past years, students met with representatives in the House and Senate, visited Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, Mt. Vernon, World War II Memorial, the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Museum, and even danced the night away on a river boat cruise

on the Potomac River.

As part of the contest, WIEC will award the top six entrants an all-expense paid trip to Springfield, IL as part of the Youth Day in Springfield to visit the Illinois State Capitol on April 2, 2014 and see state government in action. (5714-3) One of those six students will be awarded the trip to Washington, D.C.

For entry information: visit our website at wiec.net, contact Becky Dickinson at Western Illinois Electrical Coop. or see your high school guidance counselor.



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

BUSINESS OFFICE

217-357-3125

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

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.

Are You Prepared?

It's that time of year where weather conditions are ripe for ice and wind, which can create a disastrous situation for power lines. Take time now to prepare your family and your home for any extended outages that may occur this winter:

- Establish an alternative heat source and stockpile fuel in case your primary heat source is cut off. Kerosene heaters and woodburning fireplaces are popular heating alternatives.
- Purchase a food thermometer to test the temperature of refrigerated/frozen foods during extended outages.
- Keep charged cell phone batteries or portable phone chargers on hand.
- Review the process for manually operating an electric garage door.
- Know the location of your fire extinguishers and check to make sure they are usable.
- Make sure you have a battery-operated radio and plenty of fresh batteries.
- Familiarize yourself with your main electrical panel; You may be required to turn off the main breaker or have to reset circuit breakers. Know how to shut off your water and gas valves. If you have advanced notice of a major winter storm approaching, we encourage you to take these precautions:
- Locate your disaster preparedness kit (learn more at ready.gov)
- Charge your cell phone(s).
- Stock up on fuel for your generator or alternative heating source.
- Make sure flashlights and emergency radios have fresh batteries.
- Turn your refrigerator to its coldest setting and leave the door closed in case your power goes out.
- Purchase necessary food items and additional medication if time allows; Stock up on extra diapers and formula for infants.
- Fill up your vehicle's gas tank if time allows.
- Stock up on cash and coins as ATMs may not be functional during extended outages.

Quick Tip:

First thing to do if power should go out

When a member's power goes out, one of the first things we ask them to do is to check their breakers or fuses to make sure they are okay. By doing this, it can be determined if the problem is on the member's side of the meter (and their responsibility to take care of) or on WIEC's side (and our responsibility). If the problem is on WIEC's side, call our office to report the outage, and we will come out and take care of it.

Thanks to the AMR digital meters, there is an easier way to determine where the problem may be. If power should go out, just go out to the meter and see if the digital display is there. If there is a display, that indicates that the problem is probably on the member's side of the meter. Then check the breakers under the meter or the breakers or fuses in the house or building.

However, if there is NO display, the problem is WIEC's so we will come out and take care of it.

For power outages, always call 1-800-576-3125.



**NO DISPLAY?
Call WIEC!**

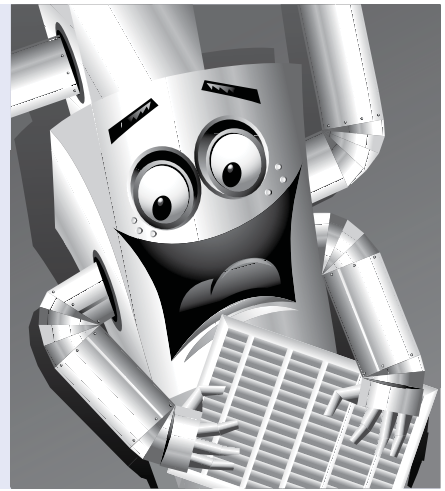


Check here for a display. If there is a display, Check your breakers and fuses - CALL WIEC

Is it time to replace your furnace?

If your heating and cooling system is 15-20 years old and is experiencing problems, it may be time to consider installing a new, efficient ENERGY STAR® system.

There are details that should be considered so you can make an informed decision. What size of a system do I need? How do I pick a contractor? What type of system is best for me and my house? WIEC has a booklet that points out what you need (5519-4) to consider. Stop by our office and pick up a copy of "Questions to ask when replacing your HVAC".



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Heat rises. And when it slips past your ceiling, it melts snow on the rooftop.
It's an easy way to tell if you need new insulation.
Find out what you can do at TogetherWeSave.com.

GUESS WHICH HOUSE HAS BETTER INSULATION IN THE ATTIC.



Geothermal: Energy from the Ground Up

By Magen Howard

Geothermal energy—created from Earth’s natural heat—has been used by many cultures for thousands of years to cook and bathe. But modern technology has unlocked new ways to harness geothermal potential: producing electricity using hot water and steam locked below the surface; and heating and cooling buildings.

America leads the world in geothermal power production, with about 3,080 megawatts of capacity from more than 70 power plants, according to

...the top 10 feet of earth remains a relatively constant 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit temperature year-round...

the Geothermal Energy Association, the national trade association for geothermal development companies. Western states boast the most geothermal energy.

How it Works

Geothermal heat pumps rely on energy of the ground—the top 10 feet of earth remains a relatively constant 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit temperature year-round—to move heat into and out of a building,

providing winter heating and summer cooling. Also called ground-source heat pumps, these appliances come in

two types: a groundwater (open-loop) system uses well (6612-63) water; an earth-coupled (closed-loop) model moves a water and antifreeze solution through underground pipes to disperse heat.

While geothermal heat pumps generally operate more efficiently than their air-source cousins, they are more expensive to up-front. A federal tax credit equal to 30 percent of the cost for materials and installation, with no limit on total project expenses, applies to geothermal heat pumps through Dec. 31, 2016.

A full list of geothermal heat pump requirements, along with a product list, can be found at www.energystar.gov/taxcredits.

Welcome New Members

Bergmeier Farms, By Cindi Hamma, Nauvoo
Virgil S. & Carol J. High, Manchester, IA
Nathan Knapp, Gladstone
K 2 Towers, LLC. By Steven Bittel, Sagamore Hills, OH
Mattie Minder, Niota
Corey Moorer, Bay Minette, AL
Cherie J Parrish, Niota
David Sticha, Marengo IL
Rod Tate, LaHarpe
Jason E & Holly M. Unzicker, Danville, IA
Mark & Carol Zumdom, Nauvoo

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:

- WIEC offers a rebate of \$1,000. This can be applied to trenching, new electric water heater or can be applied right to your electric bill.
- WIEC offers loans (5 year term at a 5% rate) to members with approved credit. The payments are (5816-56) added to your current electric bill so you have just one payment. How simple is that?
- Federal Tax credits are available for energy efficiency tax credits.
- Kilowatts used for geothermal heating and cooling are just 7 ½ cents instead of 12 ¾ cents regular rate.