



## Energy Efficiency

The winter of 2013 will go down as one of the coldest on record. We owe this all to a “Polar Vortex”. I am sure everyone, especially those of you who have all-electric homes, noticed its effect on your bill. During that time, I received many inquiries from our members asking what they could do to lower their bills. The dead of winter is not a good time for energy efficiency improvements. However, it is now spring and the time to do so.

**Stephen Fennington**

Your heating and cooling system is the largest user of electricity. If your system is over 25 years old you should consider replacing it. Geothermal is the most energy efficient electric system there is. It uses the earth’s natural storage capability for heating and cooling. It is roughly 300 percent efficient. You can also use your geothermal system to provide up to 50 percent of your hot water needs. In the summer, when the system is trying to get rid of the heat from indoors, the unit will transfer this heat to your hot water tank. The installation cost of geo-thermal is much greater than a conventional system. The Cooperative offers a rebate to our members for installing it. The Federal Government also offers a 30 percent tax credit until December 31, 2016.

If geothermal isn’t the right fit for you, the next best thing is a high efficiency air-source heat pump. It



**The Cooperative has “Kill A Watt” electricity monitors that we loan to our members.**

simply uses the difference between outdoor air temperatures and indoor air temperatures to heat and cool your home. On average it is 200 percent efficient.

The second largest user of electricity is your water heater. Most 50 gallon electric water heaters use approximately 400 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month. The Cooperative sells Marathon water heaters. They have a life-time warranty and are

guaranteed not to leak. They are extremely efficient and super insulated.

One of the biggest mistakes homeowners make is not having enough insulation in their attics. When compared to the cost of a new heating and cooling system, insulation is cheap. We recommend at least 12 inches of insulation, ideally 16 inches or better.

Energy star appliances can help you save money on your electric bill. For those of you who are concerned that your old refrigerator is using too much electricity or maybe you are questioning how much electricity your plug in heater uses, we can answer that for you. The Cooperative has “Kill A Watt” electricity monitors that we loan to our members. You plug the monitor into an outlet then plug the appliance into the monitor. Over a period of time the electricity monitor will tell you how many kWh that appliance uses.

Making your home more energy efficient can cost just a few dollars or thousands. For more tips to make the right decisions, visit the energy efficiency section on our website or give me call.

**By Chris Boyd**  
Director of  
Member Services



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# Help keep rates affordable

*The key to affordable rates is an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy*

By Duane Noland

Illinois' not-for-profit electric cooperatives work very hard to provide their members with electricity that is safe, reliable and affordable. Co-ops support an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy, one that incorporates coal, natural gas, nuclear and renewable energy to generate power. While this strategy was endorsed by President Obama in his January 2012 State of the Union Address, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was subsequently directed to issue-proposed rules that will virtually eliminate coal from this equation for new power plants — resulting in an "all-but-one" policy. And, expected follow-up proposed rules on existing power plants, if adopted, will likely result in substantially increased power costs for our homes and businesses.

The background is as follows: On January 8, 2014, the U.S. EPA formally published proposed rules that would set stringent limits on carbon emissions from new power plants and opened up a 60-day comment period for feedback. While electric cooperatives understand the environmental concern, these rules would rely on the use of carbon capture and storage technology, a technology that is both expensive and unproven at a power plant scale. This essentially eliminates coal as

a potential fuel source. Additionally, the rules on new power plants will trigger a legal requirement under the Clean Air Act to set new standards for existing plants as well, a measure that will have a direct economic impact on cooperatives and their member owners.

Electric co-ops are dedicated to a cleaner environment as part of their commitment to the communities they serve. Our member generation and transmission cooperatives currently produce power from a wide variety of sources including solar, landfill gas-to-energy, anaerobic digesters, hydro, wind and natural gas power projects. Having said that, the vast majority of our co-op power production remains coal-fired, traditionally the most cost-effective and reliable source. New EPA regulations eliminating coal from the mix will mean higher energy costs.

We've seen this "all-but-one" policy before in our country's recent history. Concerned about natural gas supplies, Congress passed the Fuel Use Act in 1978 which prohibited burning natural gas to generate electricity. As a result, co-ops invested heavily in coal-based generating plants in the late 1970s and early 1980s to meet growing demand for baseload power. Nine years

later Congress repealed that Act.

Cooperatives nationwide have investigated the carbon capture and storage technology (CCS) as a way to reduce carbon emissions. However, as it stands today, it is not economically feasible. A 2012 Congressional Budget Office report estimated CCS would increase the cost of producing electricity from coal-based plants by 75 percent.

In a cooperative there are no stockholders to share the burden of cost increases. While we greatly respect EPA's objectives, any cost increases our not-for-profit co-ops incur must be passed on directly to the member-owners.

The EPA is required to take public comments, and I urge you to let the U.S. EPA know that you support a reasonable "all-of-the-above" energy policy to keep electricity affordable. Please visit [www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop) to share your comments and learn more about U.S. EPA's proposal. This grassroots effort is critical in keeping electricity reliable and affordable in the future for all of us. It only takes 1 minute to make your voice heard — and to make a difference.

**Lelia Viola Saltzman**  
*Former Illinois State Senator N. Duane Noland is the President/CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, Springfield and a member of Shelby Electric Cooperative.*

**Please encourage the EPA to reconsider its "all-but-coal" approach by filling out your information and signing below, then return this cutout with your next electric bill payment. If you have access to a computer and internet, you can submit your information online at [action.coop](http://action.coop). It only takes a few minutes. Thank you.**

## WE NEED YOUR HELP TO KEEP ELECTRIC BILLS AFFORDABLE.

PLEASE PRINT

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

STREET (OR P.O. BOX) MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE PHONE ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS

I AM A MEMBER OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

I authorize America's Electric Cooperatives to communicate on my behalf regarding America's electricity challenges.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, including our privacy policy, please visit

**WWW.ACTION.COOP**



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# 2014 Nominating Committee to meet May 8

Members to serve on the 2013-2014 Nominating Committee were appointed by Carole J. Kelley, President of the Board of Directors, at the 2013 annual meeting of the members held August 8, 2013. The committee will meet at the cooperative headquarters, 7420 U.S. Highway 51 South, Dongola, Illinois, at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 8, to consider nominees for election to the board of directors at the 2014 annual meeting of members.

The following committee members were appointed to the 2013-2014 Nominating Committee to represent their respective counties:

### ALEXANDER COUNTY

- **Delegate:** Tim J. Pierce, 27753 State Highway 3, Thebes, IL 62990
- **Alternate:** Robert Porter, 66 Eastwood Drive, McClure, IL 62957

### JOHNSON COUNTY

- **Delegate:** Betty Casey, 6855 State Route 146W, Buncombe, IL 62912
- **Alternate:** Linda M. Wood, 4145 Indian Point Road, Vienna, IL 62995

### MASSAC COUNTY

- **Delegate:** Joe S. Sharp, 4230 Briarwood Road, Grand Chain, IL 62941

- **Alternate:** Randy Wilke, 1389 Karnak Road, Karnak, IL 62956

### PULASKI COUNTY

- **Delegate:** Danny J. Thurston, 819 Sandusky Road, Pulaski, IL 62976
- **Alternate:** Julie Oliver, 100 Fellowship Lane, Grand Chain, IL 62941

### UNION COUNTY

- **Delegate:** Glenn Russell Heisner, 3605 Nash Road, Anna, IL 62906
- **Alternate:** Bruce Mosby, 1215 Bauer Road, Jonesboro, IL 62952

The by-laws of the cooperative provide the nominations to the board of directors may be made by: (1) nominating committee, (2) petition received not less than 25 days prior to the actual meeting, signed by 15 or more active members, or (3) an active member from the floor at the annual meeting. The three year terms of the directors are expired alternately so that each year elections are held for a portion of the board. At the 2014 annual meeting, elections will be held for a director from each of these three counties: Alexander, Johnson and Massac.

## Would you like to be a board of director for SIEC?

**There are three ways to be nominated:**

- (1) by the nominating committee
- (2) by a petition received not less than 25 days prior to the annual meeting on Aug. 7, signed by 15 or more active members (call Cathy Belcher at 800-762-1400 for details and to receive a petition)
- (3) by an active member from the floor at the annual meeting

## Online Payment Urgent Alert

Our online payment system will be shut down until Monday, May 5 at 8 a.m., because our former online e-bill solution is being replaced. All current users must re-register their payment information through our new, user-friendly payment site called SmartHub (on or after May 5), which is found on our website [siec.coop](http://siec.coop). Click our Secure Payment Center option and you will be prompted to register. We apologize for any inconvenience. We hope you now enjoy a quicker way to pay your bill online with SmartHub, where you can also view daily electricity usage. You can also download the SmartHub app for free on iTunes or the Android app store if you like to pay your bills from your smart phone.

*Louise Mathis*





## New SIEC Employee Rik Hicks

Welcome Forestry Apprentice Rik Hicks! Rik lives on a farm in Jonesboro and graduated from SIU last fall with a major in Agricultural Systems. He had the fullback position (#44) for SIU's football team. Rik enjoys fishing, hunting, riding 4-wheelers and working out.

When asked why he wanted to work for SIEC, Rik explained, "I have always wanted to work for the co-op. I grew up seeing the linemen all around and watching them work. I heard this place is like a big family with a lot of team work. I felt I could fit in well." Rik began employment with SIEC on March 17, 2014.

### Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Board of Directors

Carole J. Kelley (President) ..... Johnson Co.  
 William E. Littrell (Vice President)..... Union Co.  
 Larry A. Douglas (Secretary-Treasurer) ... Massac Co.  
 G. Robert Inman ..... Pulaski Co.  
 David Martin ..... Massac Co.  
 Bob L. McIntosh ..... Pulaski Co.  
 Scott Miller ..... Alexander Co.  
 Richard D. Moss ..... Alexander Co.  
 Scott L. Ury ..... Union Co.

Ronald E. Osman (Attorney)

General Manager Chris L. Bennett

Editor Jerri Schaefer

**For Outages Call:**  
**800-762-1400 \* 618-827-3555**



## Shop Local

Shop Co-op Connection Card discount providers

**Thebes Historical Courthouse** (CCC Discount: Free tour plus 10% off all merchandise)

Thebes was the Alexander County seat from 1845 to 1860. The Thebes courthouse was completed in 1848 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. It is rumored that Abraham Lincoln campaigned here during the Lincoln/Douglas debates. Experience this piece of history for yourself this Memorial Day weekend. Celebrations, entertainment, food, quilt raffle, etc. Saturday-24th/Sunday-25th, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. "Like" its Facebook page.

## 2014 Red Cross & SIEC Blood Drives

Get a \$10 electric bill credit by giving blood at one of the following SIEC sponsored blood drives with the American Red Cross.



5/27/14	Cross Road United Methodist Church in Ullin	(1 – 6 p.m.)
6/9/14	First Baptist Church of Metropolis	(10 a.m. – 6 p.m.)
7/29/14	Coad Chevrolet in Anna	(10 a.m. – 6 p.m.)

### OFFICE CLOSING • OFFICE CLOSING

## Memorial Day, Monday, May 26

## Member prize



In this issue of the JAMUP, we printed the names of three SIEC members who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit toward their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section and it's not part of the story, call Jerri with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.

### Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

7420 U.S. Highway 51 South • P.O. Box 100 • Dongola, Illinois 62926  
 618-827-3555 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m. • Web address: [www.siec.coop](http://www.siec.coop)

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