



## Please join us in taking action

Every day we rely on electricity. We depend on the refrigerator to keep our food fresh, air conditioning and heating to keep us comfortable and, of course, lights on a daily basis. We also depend on electricity to re-charge our electronics. Whether it's a phone to keep in touch with relatives, a tablet for students' homework or the laptop on which we stream movies, these devices all have become integral to our daily routine.

At work, we rely on electricity to power our computers, phones, lights and productivity. Without this consistent, reliable and affordable power source, businesses would relocate, jobs would be lost and prices of goods and services would increase.

That's why Western Illinois Electrical Coop. is concerned about the latest proposed regulations on existing power plants from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Their intent is to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions or greenhouse gases from coal-burning power plants by eliminating coal from the energy portfolio. The EPA proposed regulations would use only natural gas, nuclear power, solar and wind to generate power. This regulation will adversely and disproportionately impact electric cooperatives and the power plants on which we rely. By eliminating coal from the mix, our power costs could increase and increase significantly.

Rural America depends on our most affordable and reliable fuel source – coal. Coal is available; it has been historically stable in price; and there is

technology available to make it lower in CO2 emissions. (553-5) Prairie Power Inc. (PPI), WIEC's wholesale power provider, has invested in the Prairie State Generating Campus. This new, state-of-the-art coal-fired plant provides electricity for PPI and its members. By moving from the old-style plants to this new efficient, clean plant, the greenhouse emissions in the total electricity delivered to WIEC members has been reduced by around 30%. We can balance environmental needs with affordability and reliability.

We need to tell the EPA that this regulation simply does not work for us. That is why we are asking WIEC members for their help. These regulations the EPA wants to place on existing power plants will have a huge impact on the members of WIEC and other cooperatives around the state. The EPA needs to understand this.

Your voice was heard last time. When the EPA drafted regulations limiting greenhouse gases from new power plants, the agency received more than

five hundred thousand emails opposing the regulation. The EPA took note of electric cooperatives, and our collective voice showed that co-op consumers were engaged.

Today we ask you once again, please join us. Visit [www.Action.coop](http://www.Action.coop) again and tell the EPA you cannot afford these new proposed regulations on existing coal-fired power plants.

Cooperatives are different from other electric utilities. We are owned by our members which makes them uniquely situated (6613-20) to help the EPA understand that these regulations will raise their monthly electric bill, which is something they cannot afford.

These regulations also will cost Americans jobs, which is something else we cannot afford. Having affordable, reliable electricity is essential to having a healthy economy in the Midwest.

These regulations will not work for rural Americans. Visit [www.Action.coop](http://www.Action.coop) and tell the EPA co-op consumers cannot afford this regulation.

RENEWABLE ENERGY    NUCLEAR POWER    NATURAL GAS    CLEAN COAL

America needs an  
**ALL OF THE ABOVE STRATEGY**  
 to keep electric bills affordable

**TELL THE EPA TO RECONSIDER ITS "ALL-BUT-ONE" APPROACH**

**ACTION.COOP**



**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 members' 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.

## Economic development closer to home

Now that you've read about what is happening concerning economic development in other parts of Illinois, we want you to know that good things are happening in our area of the state too. WIEC asked local supporters of economic development to share what is going on in Hancock and Henderson County.

Dear WIEC Members,

It is no secret that the economic prosperity of Hancock County has been on the decline. In most of the towns of our county we see more empty store fronts than occupied. People are leaving because they cannot find the goods and services they are looking for here. People do not want to start business here because no one is shopping here. It is a downward spiral that results in poor infrastructure, higher property taxes, and local businesses dying out from lack of revenue. This seems a harsh reality, but it is currently ours.

So what do we do about it? To start off, the county as a whole has taken the initiative to form the Hancock County Economic Development Corporation (HCEDC). It is a non-profit organization formed of both public and private investors. The first major act toward economic prosperity by the HCEDC has been to hire myself, Dustin Berg, as their Executive Director. It is my role to help facilitate economic growth in Hancock County. I do this through researching funding options and effective business practices, putting entrepreneurs in touch with contacts that can assist in business startup and expansion, and educating people on how to boost the economy of Hancock County. The HCEDC is currently investing in programs designed to educate students about work opportunities available in our area beyond the typical college track, and even going so far as teaching them how to start their own businesses.

Those are just a few of the things I'm doing. What can YOU do? That depends on who you are. If you are a business owner, stay informed and be ready to adapt to the changing market. The days of being able to make a good product and sell it out of a store front are over. You need to be able to market yourself and widen your audience. With 60% of all U.S. retail involving the internet somehow, whether by researching ahead of time or the actual purchase e-commerce is the best way to garner your businesses success. As for those of you in Hancock County thinking of starting a business, my advice is to go for it! (6728-17) There has never been a greater set of resources in place to help our budding entrepreneurs. With the support of the HCEDC, I am completing the tasks I listed above so I can best help you reach your goals.

What about those of you who don't own a business and aren't looking to start one? Maybe you just want to see Hancock County be more prosperous. There's only one way to make that happen: with your money! Buy local is the way to go! Every time you spend a dollar in a locally owned business, it is usually spent five more times before leaving our community. That sounds a lot better than waving good-bye to your dollar at Wal-mart or McDonald's. One practice we use in our family's home is to make two grocery lists. One is for local goods, the other is for things we can't get in Hancock County. It seems like a little extra work at first, but once it becomes

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part of your routine it's nothing. Another helpful practice is asking your local store about the things they don't have that you want. This will often end up in them ordering it for you. Store owners want to help us. We're all neighbors after all.

I hope these words have left you with a stirring to do your part to help Hancock County thrive. If you're looking for help with starting or expanding your small business, contact me at 217-357-3811 or [executivedirector@growhancock.com](mailto:executivedirector@growhancock.com). If you'd like to invest in the HCEDC, you can download an investment form at [www.growhancock.com](http://www.growhancock.com). For more tips on buying local check out the Hancock County Economic Development Corporation on Facebook.

Thank You for Your Time,

Dustin Berg  
Executive Director  
Hancock County Economic  
Development Corporation

*Dustin Berg is the Executive Director for the Hancock County Economic Development Corporation. He is from Basco, IL and was raised in Hancock County. After graduating from Southeastern High School, Dustin went on to Western Illinois University, received a B.A. in philosophy, and studied rural development at the graduate level. While attending WIU, he served as a planning commissioner for the City of Macomb, IL and as the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the Macomb Food Co-op.*



• Henderson County Economic Development, Inc.  
• P.O. Box 239  
• Stronghurst, IL 61480  
• (309-924-1361)

• To bring you up to date in  
• Henderson County the EDC has been  
• busy working on providing potable  
• water to all of our citizens if possible.  
• We started the Henderson County  
• Water Coalition six years ago and to  
• date we have annexed Dallas Rural  
• Water District in all but 3 of the 11  
• townships, which those 3 are located  
• in the Northern part of Henderson  
• County. Our goal is to have all the  
• townships with a water supplier within  
• the next two to five years. Currently  
• two major lines will be built from  
• Lomax, where the current supply wells  
• are located, to Oquawka where the  
• city of Galesburg has installed their  
• main water supply facility. The City of  
• Galesburg has agreed to supply water  
• to Dallas Rural Water for a bulk rate,  
• which will help in the actual installa-  
• tion cost.

• Highway 34 is progressing from  
• Burlington, Iowa to Monmouth,  
• Illinois. This project has taken several  
• years of constant communication with  
• our legislators and state departments  
• to get where we are today. Currently  
• the contractors are building over six  
• miles of four lane road which runs  
• south of West Central School. We  
• still have twenty miles, part being in  
• Warren County, left to complete the  
• mission. When I said it has taken sev-  
• eral years of constant communication  
• I for one have been a member on the  
• Hwy 34 Coalition for approx. twenty  
• years.

• We have one, if not the largest,  
• inland granary in the world, which is  
• owned by CGB. This granary was built  
• by two brothers known as the Twomey  
• Brothers who started with two trucks.

They are our largest employer in our County. Along with them we also have two additional river terminals plus their two gives us four river terminals altogether.

At one time not too long ago the County had two different railroad entities, one being Santa Fe and the other Burlington Northern. One is serving the south half and the other serving the north half. They have since merged into Burlington Northern.

In order to develop a community some of the most important elements are utilities such as potable water, a major four lane highway, possible river access and rail for transport, which we foresee great growth being able to offer these tools.

The EDC has also spent a large amount of time building on to our website, which is [www.hendersoncountyedc.com](http://www.hendersoncountyedc.com). We feel by having a tool such as our website we will be able to better communicate to the world. This goal has taken us 14 years and it is constantly being worked on.

One of our goals is to make Henderson County one of the most appealing spots to start and build a business no matter what kind.

Tom Doran, LUTCF, CBC  
President

*Thomas E. Doran,  
President,  
Henderson  
County Economic  
Development Corp.*



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**Facebook**

<http://www.facebook.com/westernillinoiselectricalcoop>

**TRUTH BE TOLD,  
YOUR ELECTRICITY COMES  
FROM PEOPLE POWER.**

Thankfully, there's one energy source that co-op members can always depend on – the hard-working dedication and efficiency of your electric co-op linemen. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at

**TOGETHERWESAVE.COM**



**Visit our website: [www.wiec.net](http://www.wiec.net)**



**Energy Efficiency**  
*Tip of the Month*

When it's hot outside, appliances and lighting can actually heat up our homes more than we thi-nk. To save energy, minimize the activities that generate additional heat, such as burning open flames, continuously running a computer, or **(5818-43-3)** using hot-hair devices like curling irons. This will ultimately keep your house cooler.

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy*

## Welcome New Members

Michael & Lora Azinger,  
Montrose, Ia  
Brad L. Bess, Warsaw  
Michael E & Amanda J. Boley,  
Nauvoo  
Matt Clover & Cortney Reed,  
Stronghurst  
Linda M Ferguson, Hamilton

Tyler Greenslaugh, Nauvoo  
Amanda M Herrera, Carthage  
Jammie Herring, Niota  
Angie Hill, LaHarpe  
Ryan & Adrienne Jacquot,  
Carthage  
Chris B Johnson, Blandinsville  
Chris & Jessica Koltzenburg,  
Sutter

Matthew & Dana McIntire,  
Stronghurst  
Chris Markey, Lomax  
Hobart Murphy, Niota  
Chad Phelps, Blandinsville  
The Barnlot Welding & Repair  
by Ryan Settles, Bowen