



## Season's Greetings

*From the Directors and Employees of  
Shelby Electric Cooperative,  
Shelby Energy Company and  
PWR-net Wireless Broadband Internet.*

### REAL LIFE REAL POWER



## Getting Real with Marla

**H**ave you completed your shopping and decorating? Are the presents wrapped and under the tree? Did you come in under budget?

Yeah, me neither; however, there is no need to pout or cry. There is still time to have a safe and efficient holiday season.

**No peeking!** This does not apply only to presents; it also applies to the kitchen. According to the Energy Education Council, opening the oven door can lower the internal temperature as much as 25 percent. Just in case you forget the last batch of cookies in the oven, like I tend to, make sure your smoke detectors are working.

**The stockings were hung by the chimney with care!** No wonder your feet are cold. Add winter socks to your gift-giving list. Look for socks that have wool in them and breathability qualities. Cotton socks absorb moisture,

which is not a very pleasant feeling in the winter.

**Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound!** If you do not have a fire burning in the fireplace, your fireplace flue should be closed to help prevent drafts and loss of heated air. St. Nick may have to use the door.

**Frosty the snowman knew the sun was hot that day!** Take advantage of that solar heat gain and throw open your blinds! Remember to close them when it gets dark.

*~Marla Eversole,  
Member Services Representative*

### I wish you a Merry Christmas with these 12 days of holiday suggestions:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 12 Drying-racks, drying laundry and dishes | 6 Games a-playing (board games or cards, not electronic) |
| 11 Pairs of pajamas keeping people cozy    | 5 Gifts of weather radios                                |
| 10 Lights turned off                       | 4 Caulked big gaps                                       |
| 9 LED light-strings decking the halls      | 3 Filters checked  |
| 8 Meals made from leftover turkey          | 2 Thermostats turned down                                |
| 7 Smart strips wrapped to give as gifts    | and the purchase of an Energy Star dishwasher!           |



## Festive and efficient holiday lighting

If you are looking to trim a Christmas tree and your holiday budget, the Energy Education Council has tips for you to cut costs, not festivity, this season.

You can cut some of the hassles of holiday lighting and save on energy costs by using LED lighting. LED lighting comes in a variety of shapes and colors. You can even get LED retrofit bulbs for strands you may currently have.

LED lights are more durable than traditional lights. They also last up to 100,000 hours indoors. Since LED lights do not get as hot as incandescent lights, they are not as dangerous, and you can string more strands together.

Some LED lighting is made for outdoor use, as is solar lighting, which is another efficient option. Solar lights are charged by the sun during the day and require no electricity. However, because solar lights involve new technology, they are more expensive than other decorative lights.

No matter what lights you choose to buy, look for the blue Energy Star label. Energy Star products use up



to 70 percent less energy and can last up to 10 times longer than other products.

How you use your holiday lighting can also help you save money. An important plan for both efficiency and safety is to shut off lights and decorations when you will not be around to enjoy them. A timer can do this for you.

Remember, the cleanest, greenest energy is the energy you do not use. Consider repurposing items around the house into decoration. You can also use garlands of popcorn, cranberries and gingerbread to help you decorate more efficiently.

For more tips on energy efficiency year round, visit [EnergyEdCouncil.org](http://EnergyEdCouncil.org).

**SHELBY** News

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**P.O. BOX 560**

**Shelbyville, IL 62565**

**Phone: 217-774-3986**

**Fax: 217-774-3330**

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**Office Hours:**

**7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**



**Shelby Electric  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Your cooperative offices will be closed on December 24th and 25th to celebrate Christmas. Offices will also be closed on January 1st to celebrate New Year's Day.



Energy Efficiency  
*Tip of the Month*

Did you know a computer can draw as much electricity as a new refrigerator?

Turn it off when not in use or switch on its energy-saving mode. Also, cell phone and mp3 player chargers as well as plasma TVs and entertainment centers pull power even when they're off. Unplug these and other appliances to save on your electric bill.

Find more ways to save at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com)

Source: Touchstone Energy • Cooperatives

## Linemen participate in 15th annual lineman's safety rodeo

Linemen from Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) participated in the 15th annual Lineman's Safety Rodeo sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Yes, we said Linemen's Safety Rodeo; however, no horses or bucking bulls were involved in this rodeo.

The Lineman's Safety Rodeo, held on the Hot Line Training Grounds at Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) in Springfield, coincided with a series of courses designed to help electric line personnel improve their work skills in safe and efficient ways. Each year at the rodeo, teams of linemen from Illinois electric cooperatives and municipalities participate in competitive events using skills that focus on agility, speed and accuracy. This year eight teams participated in the competition.

Line personnel competed in five team events and three individual events. Team events included Hurt Man Rescue, Egg Climb (linemen climb a 30-foot pole with a raw egg in their mouth), Transformer Change, Conductor Repair and a Mystery Event. Scores for each event use a 100-point scale and are based upon completion time and proper execution of the task including safe work practices. Deductions are made to a team or individual's overall performance score. Some examples are slipping when climbing poles, dropping tools or executing inappropriate procedures or methods.

The SEC team of Matt Clark, Brian Chevalier and Jamie Sharp



*Pictured are (l-r) Apprentice Lineman Jamie Sharp and Linemen Brian Chevalier and Matt Clark from Shelby Electric Cooperative, who participated in the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's 15th Lineman's Safety Rodeo held in Springfield, Illinois. Team SEC placed third overall.*

finished in third place in overall team scores. In team events, your cooperative's team placed first in the Egg Climb, second in the Hurt Man Rescue and third in the Transformer Change.

As well as having success in team events the cooperative linemen also placed well in individual events. Brian Chevalier received first in the Egg Climb and second in the Hurt Man Rescue. Jamie Sharp took second place in the Egg Climb.

Shelby Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy® — an alliance of more than 735 local,

consumer-owned electric utilities around the country. Shelby Electric is committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. The cooperative serves more than 9,918 meters over 2,244 miles of line in parts of Christian, Cumberland, Effingham, Fayette, Macon, Montgomery, Moultrie, Sangamon and Shelby counties. For more information visit [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop). Follow the cooperative on facebook, [facebook.com/YourCoop](https://www.facebook.com/YourCoop).

### Shelby Energy

1-217-774-2311

24-hours-a-day

### PWR-net & WildBlue Internet

1-877-994-2323

weekdays

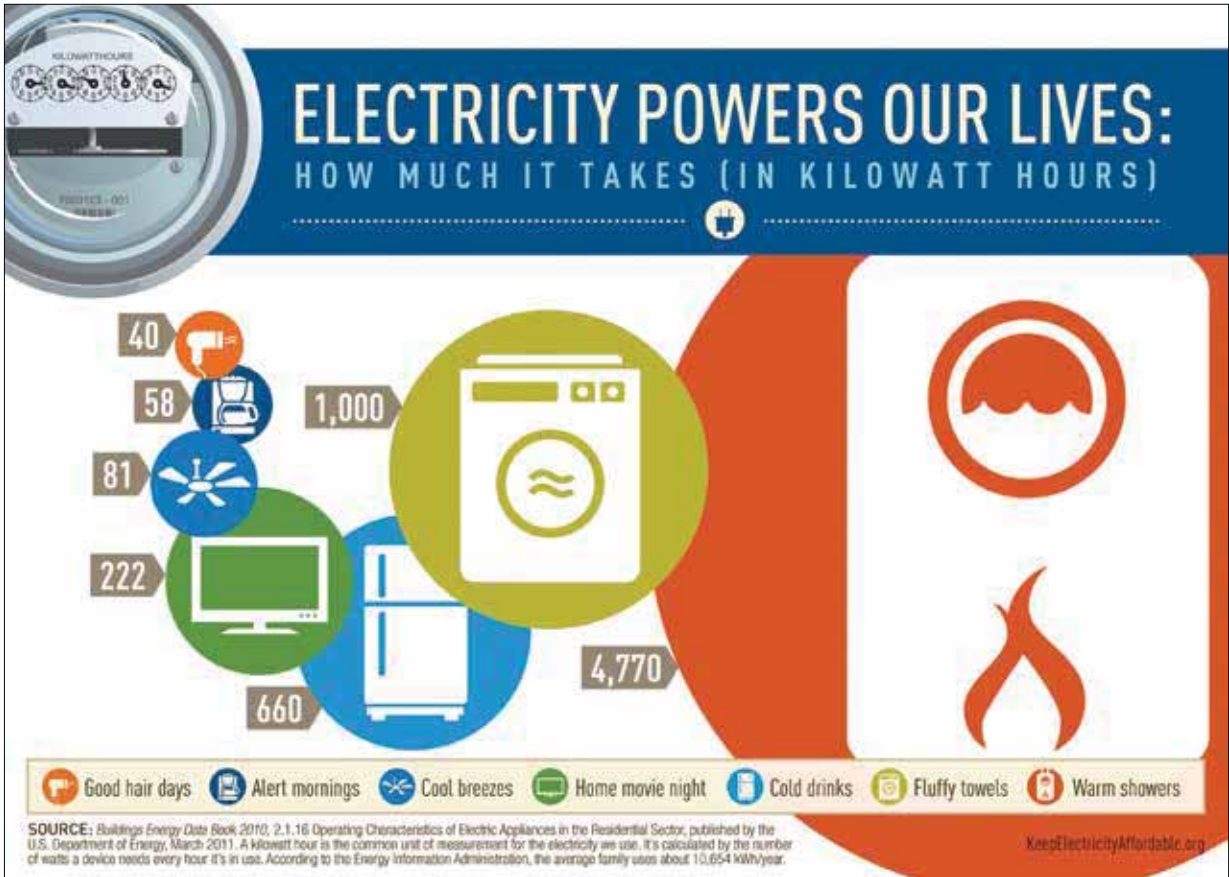
(closed from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

### Shelby Electric Cooperative

1-800-677-2612

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**REMINDER: December 31, 2012 is the deadline for the seven IEC Memorial Scholarships. Visit [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) for more information or call us toll-free at 1-800-677-2612.**

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