



Egyptian Electric News

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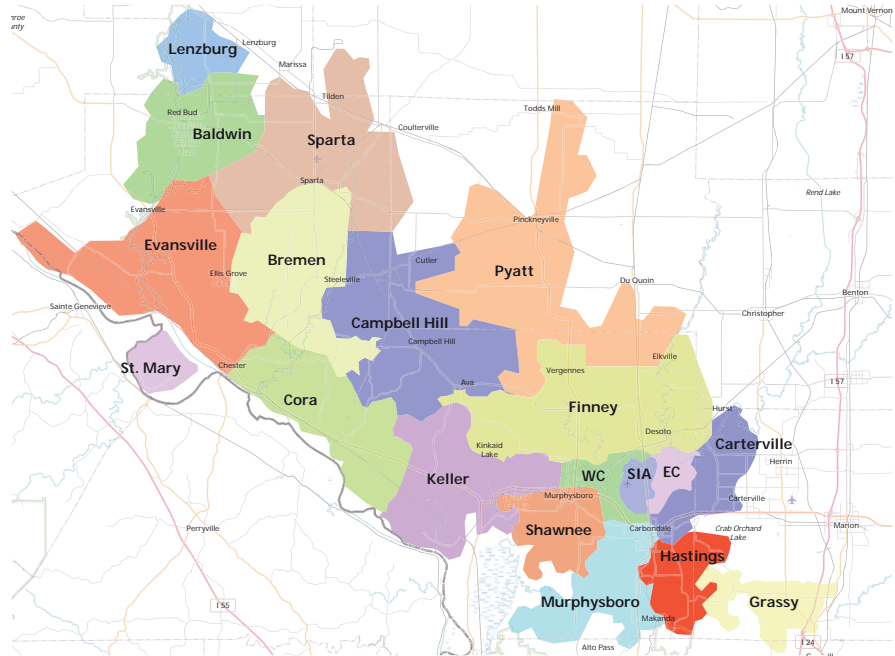
MARCH 2024

Vegetation maintenance helps EECA reduce power outages

As your electric service provider, it is our duty to keep lines maintained so that we can provide our members with the safest and most reliable electricity possible. One of the most impactful ways we can do that is to keep up with vegetation maintenance.

The strip of land underneath and around power lines is known as right-of-way (ROW), and ROW maintenance is the number one factor that affects outage occurrences and outage duration. Over the last 18 years, EECA has seen a direct correlation between our forestry crew's ROW maintenance efforts and a significant reduction in power outages.

Last year, EECA members experienced, on average, a total outage time of only **two hours and 7 minutes. That means the electricity was available 99.95% of the time.** This is great in comparison to state and national averages!



To keep up, our goal is to trim and mow the ROW on a four-year rotation. This year, EECA will be doing vegetation maintenance on our Baldwin, Lenzburg, Shawnee, Cora,

and Keller substations. (To help our members understand where we will be working, we've provided our substations map above.)

If your lines may be affected, you should receive an automated phone call prior to tree work in your area. If you have questions, we encourage you to read through our Tree Trimming FAQ's at eeca.coop → Engineering & Operations → Tree Trimming & ROW.

EECA Forestry Manager, Travis Deterding, is also available to answer questions about tree-trimming procedures. **Marcella Lindsay**

In addition to mowing and trimming on a four-year rotation, EECA applies herbicide to areas that have had mowing and trimming completed two years prior. This year, that work is occurring at our Murphysboro, West Carbondale, Pyatt, and Campbell Hill substations.



Egyptian Electric forestry personnel trim branches west of Carbondale.



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- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N Reed Station Pkwy in Carbondale and 1306 N Market in Sparta

A balanced team for reliability

The winningest basketball teams in history are ones that are consistent and have players with varying abilities. Some are better at shooting three-pointers; some are best at defense. Having a balanced mix of skills makes the team a powerhouse on the court. The way to keep electricity reliable is a bit like that, too.

The power team first requires a foundation of consistent sources that can be put in the game any time they're needed. Having enough "always available" fuel sources like natural gas and coal can ensure consistent power generation.

Just like a team needs different players for different situations, our power grid requires multiple sources to keep the grid running. Relying solely on one player to win every game is not an effective strategy — if they get injured, you'll likely lose. Similarly, using a single fuel source for electricity generation poses a significant risk to energy reliability. Natural disasters, geopolitical tensions or unforeseen disruptions can severely impact the supply chain of a particular fuel. A diverse mix of energy sources acts as a safeguard, ensuring that the grid remains operational even in the face of unexpected challenges.

A diverse energy mix also enhances grid flexibility by accommodating the intermittent nature of renewable energy sources like solar and wind. Think of solar power like a team's inconsistent three-point shooter. It's awesome when the sun is shining bright, but what if it's nighttime or a cloudy day? That's where the other players, like wind, hydro, nuclear, natural gas and coal, can step up and keep the team scoring. **Faisel Ahmad**

A diverse set of energy sources is essential, but that's not the only thing we need to have reliable electricity — or a winning team. Basketball teams are always trying out new plays or training rookies to create a versatile lineup. Similarly, electric cooperatives are constantly innovating to maintain reliability for tomorrow, but creating new ways to make our power sources more efficient and reliable takes time, money and advances in technology that aren't necessarily ready yet.

As we continue to work on the innovations of tomorrow, the key to keeping our electricity reliable right now is ensuring a diverse "team" of fuels. Each one brings something special to the table, and together, they make sure we have the power we need, whenever we need it.





Electric vehicle (EV) FAQs

At Egyptian Electric Cooperative (EECA), we want to be your source of power and information. Given the rising popularity of electric vehicles and the frequent inquiries we receive about them, we have put together this information to help answer any questions you might have. If you still have questions, please visit our EV webpage or give us a call!

Why is EECA communicating about electric vehicles?

Consumer interest in electric vehicles (EVs) is growing rapidly, and EECA wants to provide information so that our members can make informed decisions when considering an EV purchase, as well as their individual available service size for at-home charging needs.

Why is EECA involved in EV infrastructure issues?

All electric utilities are planning now how to best ensure they have the necessary electric infrastructure in place to meet future EV charging needs without jeopardizing the ability to keep reliable power flowing to our local homes and businesses. As your local energy provider, EECA is best suited to advise our consumer-members and local businesses on planning for the future. We're also actively applying for grants to expand infrastructure locally, and we've already been awarded funding!

Can I charge my EV using an existing outlet or do I need a special outlet?

All EVs come with a 110-volt-compatible (Level 1) charging unit, which can be plugged into any standard household outlet. An eight-hour overnight charge will enable an all-electric EV to travel around 36 to 40 miles a day. If you typically drive longer distances or are in a hurry, a Level 2 charger takes about half the time and provides about 180 miles of range over an eight-hour charging period. A Level 2 charger must be installed by a licensed electrician and requires specialized charging needs.

Does the outside temperature affect the range of an EV?

Outside temperatures, particularly colder weather, can impact the range of an EV. Unlike a gas-powered vehicle, where the heat is mostly coming from the engine, an EV must produce cabin heat and manage an optimal battery temperature with energy that comes from the battery, which can reduce battery range.

Will an EV meet my daily driving needs?

If you are like most Americans and drive an average of 30 miles a day, an EV can meet your daily needs. Technologies continue to improve, and range is dependent on the year, make, and model.

What kind of incentives are available for EVs?

Although EECA doesn't have consumer-member incentives today, there are a variety of tax credits, rebates and other incentives available for EV purchases. Visit afdc.energy.gov/laws/electric-vehicles-for-tax-credit to learn about federal incentives available through the Clean Vehicle Credit program. State of Illinois incentives can also be found on the site.

Should I let my co-op know if I purchase an EV?

Yes, please! If you purchase an EV, let us know so we can better serve you. As more EECA consumer-members buy EVs, it's helpful to know where they're located in our area so we can ensure we have the necessary infrastructure in place to meet charging needs and ensure reliable power. **John Walker**



Whether you're ready to make an EV purchase or wondering if an EV can meet your daily driving needs, we're here to help you make an informed decision. Give us a call at 800-606-1505 or visit our website and read through all of our EV resources.



>> Scan here to visit our electric vehicle webpage. >>

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OPERATION



Congratulations to our three (2023 4Q) Egyptian Electric Cooperative Operation Round Up recipients! Specialized Equine Services received \$1,000 to support therapeutic riding programs for all, regardless of income. \$500 was given to St. Francis Care to support their outstanding efforts in animal care and adoption, and another \$500 was given to 724 Ministries to contribute to their weekly community meal initiative in Murphysboro.



To register to contribute to our charitable fund, visit eeca.coop/roundup, or to apply for funds, visit eeca.coop/applytoroundup today!



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