


# MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## MEMBER MEETINGS

Want to learn more about the upcoming rate changes?

**PLAN TO ATTEND ONE OF THREE MEMBER MEETINGS.**

**MARCH 11-13**  
**6:30pm**

Monroe County Electric Cooperative  
6132 State Route 3, Waterloo

For more information: Call the office at 618-939-7171

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

**TIME OF USE RATES**  
**RATE STRUCTURES**

*All MCEC members are encouraged to attend*

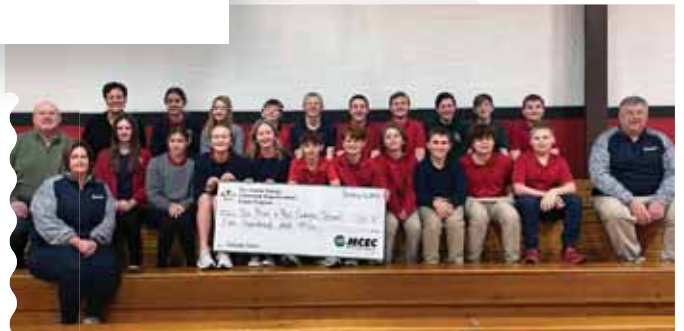


# Area schools and teachers benefit from MCEC grants

Monroe County Electric Cooperative (MCEC) awarded **15 - \$500 Touchstone Energy Empowerment grants** to area teachers/administrators who submitted applications. The applications were judged by cooperative employees from neighboring electric co-ops.

This is the 16th consecutive year that the cooperative has awarded school grants to area schools, and we had a record number of applications.

We want to congratulate all the area teachers on the grants and commend those who took the time to submit their application. The positive response not only highlights the enthusiasm within the teaching community but also indicates a desire for continuous improvement and development in education. It's a testament to the hard work and passion of the teachers in our communities.



## Touchstone Energy Empowerment grant recipients

**Richard Fitzgerald, Red Brick School**  
Gadget Builders

**Jennifer Neff, Immaculate Conception School**  
STEM Wednesdays

**Matt Lucash, Waterloo High School**  
Duck House Build

**Tony Meyer, New Athens CUSD #60**  
Bringing Big Ideas to Life

**Katie Cornish, Immaculate Conception School**  
Lighting Up Classrooms

**Beth Lyons, Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic School**  
Podcast

**Rhonda DeSpain, W.J. Zahnow Elementary**  
Zahnow Outdoor Classroom

**Kim Wright, Monroe County Christian School**  
Archery PE & Enrichment Program

**Allison Biffar, Rogers Elementary**  
Every Child Deserves a Voice

**Mrs. Rhonda Niemeier, St. John the Baptist Catholic School**  
911 – What's Your Emergency?

**Teresa Lynch, Smithton Elementary School**  
Snap circuits

**Kelly Obermeier, Millstadt Consolidated School**  
"Bee the Change"

**Angie Wirth, Ss Peter & Paul Catholic School**  
Electric Circuit LED Greeting Cards

**Anthony Thael, Freeburg High School**  
Environmental Catamaran

**Jenny Kehrer, Millstadt Consolidated School**  
Microscopes



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleaning. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Check the lint trap opening to ensure it's clean. Use a vacuum to remove any lint that's fallen inside the opening.

If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Over time, dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter, which can affect the performance of the motor.



## 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.

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.



www.mcec.org

6132 State Rt. 3 • P.O. Box 128  
Waterloo, Illinois 62298  
618-939-7171 • 800-757-7433

**Office hours:**  
Monday through Friday  
7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



### MCEC line outages January 2024

Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
01/06/24	1:25	7	Country Acres Ln	Unknown	E. Carondelet
01/09/24	2:29	118	Cedar Ridge Ln	Other, Birds or Animals	N. Waterloo
01/29/24	1:48	59	Floraville Rd/ Gilmore Lake	Other, Deterioration	N. Waterloo