



Egyptian Electric warns against deceptive claims by solar installation companies

Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association (EECA) is issuing a cautionary alert to its consumer-members (those who receive electricity from EECA) and the public regarding the deceptive tactics of out-of-state solar installers falsely claiming to be partnered with EECA.

"Unfortunately, this is an ongoing national issue of solar companies falsely representing themselves and utilities, and this causes harm to our reputable local installers who are operating honestly," said Brad Austin, EECA's Engineering and Operations Manager.

Consumer-members have reported that salespeople are going door-to-door claiming association with EECA and making unrealistic promises, such as no bills, in their sales contracts. The companies have also exaggerated that EECA's rates have and will experience significant annual increases, contrary to historical evidence and with no accurate way of predicting the future of rates.

"Over the past 10 years, our residential rates have only risen by about 1.65% annually to keep up with inflation. However, out-of-town

companies are sweeping through the area and presenting to our consumer-members that we will experience an increase of 4-6% each year in the future," explained Austin. "We've seen these deceptive sales tactics that inflate our annual increases that incorrectly communicate a member's projected payback timeframe and lock them into a high-interest loan under false savings expectations."

EECA urges its consumer-members and the public to exercise caution when selecting a solar contractor. It is crucial to research reputable local contractors, obtain multiple bids, and verify experience and references. EECA also advises consumer-members to thoroughly review contract details, including maintenance plans and expectations. It's also important to note that consumer-members will not reap the benefits of their solar installation until an interconnection agreement is initiated between the consumer-member and cooperative, so we urge you to contact us first before signing any contracts.

For consumer-members considering solar, EECA offers a list of considerations on its website to help navigate the process safely and effectively at eeca.coop. If you're a member considering solar, it's recommended to reach out to EECA first for unbiased advice and assistance. **Larry Edgerton**

Please note that while EECA does work with solar companies to best serve its members who choose to install solar, EECA **does not** endorse or refer companies to solicit its consumer-members.

If a consumer-member is given the impression that EECA is partnering or contracted with a solar company, this is a scam, and EECA should be notified. If you feel you have been a victim of fraud, contact the Illinois Attorney General's office at 618-529-6400.

SCAN HERE
to learn more
about going solar
with EECA.





Egyptian Electric
Cooperative Association
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1732 Finney Road
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Business hours/After hours
800-606-1505

24/7 Automated Pay-by-Phone
844-759-3977

Office hours 8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. M-F
www.eeca.coop

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- At our office lobby, drive-thru, drop-box, or payment kiosk
- Mail to: 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro, IL 62966
- Set up recurring bank draft or credit card payments
- Use SmartHub portal, online or mobile app
- By phone at 844-759-3977, using credit card or checking account
- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N. Reed Station Parkway and 1815 W. Main in Carbondale

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Ceiling fans create a windchill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning costs.

Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: energy.gov



Blood Drive

Tuesday, June 11, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
1732 Finney Drive, Murphysboro



Register at redcross.org.

MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three member names hidden throughout our Egyptian Electric News section. If you find your name, call our office and identify yourself and the page that it is on and you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

The Power of Operation Round Up

Through the collective generosity of EECA's consumer-members, the simple act of rounding up your monthly bill to the nearest whole dollar has been supporting organizations doing some of the most important charitable work in our

part of southern Illinois. Through Operation Round Up, in the first quarter of 2024 alone, EECA has been able to present checks to four not-for-profit (NFP) organizations. **The recipients of the Operation Round Up funds for Q1 2024 are:**



HOPEWELL BAPTIST CHURCH, CARBONDALE Annual Backpack to School Drive — \$1,000

Thousands of children across southern Illinois are provided new backpacks and all their needed school supplies because of volunteers who collect donations year-round. Pictured is the supply closet with supplies stacked as high as the ceiling.



S.P.I.N., MURPHYSBORO NFP community services & clothes pantry/facility renovations from flood — \$750

Damage from a flood prevented SPIN from operating their heavily-utilized clothes and household goods pantry, soup kitchen, and other needed services for the community. However, as of May 2024, they are back open and serving hundreds of people in need in Jackson County!



FAMILY OUTREACH CENTER, MURPHYSBORO community hygiene kits & adult diapers — \$750

Hygiene kits like these with all of the essentials are the most popular item at the Family Outreach Center. On average, the organization gives out more than 120 of these a month!



CENTERSTONE, CARBONDALE NFP specializing in mental health & substance abuse disorders — \$750

Centerstone intends to allocate a segment of the funding to provide "fidget kits" for children accessing services. These kits offer a focal point during counseling sessions, aiding children in processing challenging emotions and are given to take home to offer comfort and distraction.

These organizations represent the diverse range of causes supported by Operation Round Up, showcasing its impact on various facets of community life.

It's inspiring to see how a small contribution, when multiplied by the power of community, can make a big impact. With every member's participation, Operation Round Up has the potential to unlock even greater possibilities for our communities!

Marian Timmermann

Together, through Operation Round Up, we are not just rounding up bills; we are rounding up support, compassion and empowerment for southern Illinois. Thank you to all the generous members who continue to make a difference through this remarkable program. If you are interested in signing up, please visit our website at the QR code.





2023 Annual Meeting Scholarship Winners

Annual Meeting Scholarships Now Available!

The 2024 EECA Annual Meeting Scholarship Applications are available from now until July 5, 2024. Application is open to any full-time, or soon to be full-time, college enrolled students who are members or dependents/children of member-consumers, of EECA (receiving electricity from EECA).

See the scholarship application & eligibility on page 6 of the magazine.

We will again be giving away ten \$1,000 scholarships to be drawn following our EECA Annual Meeting of the Members at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at our office location at 1732 Finney Road in Murphysboro! Official rules and eligibility are below:

Eligibility

1. The applicant must be a member in good standing of EECA or is the dependent of a member of the Cooperative who is in good standing and must have been a member for one year prior to July 11, 2024.
2. The applicant must be enrolled, or have applied for enrollment,

in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited 2 or 4-year college, university or vocational school for the Fall 2024 term.

3. Application must be signed by the applicant and parent or legal guardian (if a dependent). Proof of college registration for Fall 2024 should be included with the application. **Aaron T. Wise**
4. Verification of enrollment could include a payment installment, copy of school schedule or equivalent proof. If proof of college registration is not provided with the application, winners will have until July 25, 2024, to produce verification of enrollment, or scholarship award will be passed on to alternate recipient.
5. Applications and proof of enrollment must be returned to EECA by 4 p.m., July 5, 2024. Applications will be accepted by mail, fax, email or by dropping off in our after-hours drop box.
6. Prior annual meeting scholarship applicants are eligible.

Prior scholarship recipients are ineligible.

7. The Annual Meeting will begin at 6 p.m. Scholarship drawings will take place live following the business meeting. Scholarship funds will be sent directly to scholarship winners in the mail.

For questions regarding the scholarships, please contact Brooke at 800-606-1505 or bguthman@eeca.coop.

SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL MEETING THURSDAY, JULY 11 - 6 PM