


MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Alan W. Wattles

Across The President's Desk

As you receive this month's ICL magazine, we'll be deep in preparations for our annual meeting. The Co-op Echoes serves as the official meeting notice, featuring a tear-off postcard on the back cover for registration. Set for June 8th, 2024, at the MCEC headquarters, here's the schedule for the day:

- Registration begins: 7:30 a.m.
- Children's activities: 7:30 a.m.
- Breakfast by Roy-El Catering: 7:30 a.m.
- Drawing of scholarship winners: 9:45 a.m.
- Business meeting begins with invocation: 10 a.m.

We'll continue the tradition of serving breakfast and hosting activities for the kids, including the petting zoo, inflatables, balloon animals and the beloved Clydesdale horse. Bring your family and enjoy the morning with us. Breakfast will feature pancakes, scrambled eggs and bacon to kickstart your day, along with coffee, milk and water. The AIEC, our statewide association, will provide music to create a lively atmosphere. Just before the business meeting, we'll draw scholarships for local high school seniors, awarding 15 \$500 scholarships to member high school seniors, aiding them in their college endeavors.

Annual Meeting of Members June 8, 2024

The business meeting entails reviewing and approving the previous year's minutes, the financial report for 2023, and reports from the chairman of the board and president/CEO. Additionally, it's the time for electing directors to the board for a 3-year term. This year, Suzanne Knake will join as a new director, succeeding Larry Kraft, a dedicated board member for 30 years who is retiring. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Larry for his unwavering service to MCEC.

During my report, I'll delve into the past year's performance and discuss MCEC's future direction regarding rates and structures. With SIPC, our power supplier, implementing rate structure changes in 2024 and planning further adjustments in 2025, we see an opportunity to introduce incentive plans for our members, aiding in managing their monthly electric bills. Embracing new rate designs will increase MCEC's monthly load factor, reducing power costs from SIPC and alleviating future rate pressures. Additionally, I'll address the energy sector's future for MCEC and SIPC, highlighting challenges that are on the horizon and their implications.

Join us on Saturday, June 8th, for a complimentary breakfast, and engage in your coop's annual business meeting.

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

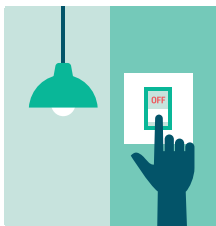


CHANGE YOUR HABITS

To Save Money on Your Energy Bill



Whether you are looking for free or low-cost ways to save energy or need to make a major purchase that will help pay for itself over time due to energy savings, here are some ways to make a difference.



No-Cost

- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Program your programmable thermostat.
- Use sunlight for heat in the winter.
- Fully load dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers.
- Use window coverings to keep out cold or heat.
- Turn off electronics when not in use.



Low-Cost

- Use smart strips that turn off power to unused items.
- Make sure your HVAC system is serviced regularly and filters are changed as often as recommended.
- Purchase an insulating blanket made for hot water heaters.
- Find and fill air leaks in your home.
- Caulk between window/door frames and walls.
- Install a smart thermostat.



Major Purchases

- Upgrade to a high-efficiency HVAC system.
- Purchase energy-efficient appliances.
- Insulate attics, exterior walls, basements and crawl spaces.
- Purchase a clothes dryer with a moisture sensor.
- Purchase a water-saving dishwasher or washing machine.
- Replace old windows with energy-efficient versions.

Learn more at: SafeElectricity.org

← IMPORTANT →

Meter tampering

Recently, we've encountered situations where well-meaning individuals attempting DIY projects at home have been temporarily disconnecting their meters without notifying us. While we appreciate resourcefulness, this action is actually considered tampering.

When our system sees a meter has lost power, it immediately sends an outage notification to our Outage Management System. This sets our outage protocols in motion, and

a lineman is dispatched. On multiple occasions, our linemen have been en route to what we think is a legitimate outage when the meter is “restored”, which our system also recognizes. This causes unnecessary disruptions for our crews and employees in addition to lost time and resources.

Meter tampering is not only illegal, but it's also incredibly dangerous. If you ever find yourself in a situation where you need to be temporarily disconnected, please give us a call.

DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Meter tampering is not only illegal, but also incredibly dangerous!

- ⊘ **Never break a meter seal.**
- ⊘ **Never open a meter base.**
- ⊘ **Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner**



MCEC line outages April 2023	Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
	04/01/24	0:04	384	Fults Area	Maintenance	Fults
	04/02/24	1:43	43	Douglas Rd	Wind, Not Trees	Smithton
	04/03/24	1:16	2	Heartland Oaks	Other, Faulty Equipment	Smithton
	04/04/24	0:16	2	KK Rd	Maintenance	Waterloo
	04/05/24	2:26	2	LL Rd	Other, Deterioration	Poe
	04/13/24	1:15	44	LL Rd / Maecystown Area	Other, Faulty Equipment	Waterloo
	04/14/24	2:35	2	Old Orchard Ln	Equipment	Waterloo
	04/18/24	2:11	8	Mule Rd	Trees, Other	E. Carondelet
	04/21/24	0:45	4	Crook Dr	Small Animals Or Birds	Poe
	04/21/24	2:05	2	Kevin St	Other, Deterioration	N. Waterloo
	04/22/24	3:13	1	Mule Rd	Equipment	E. Carondelet
	04/24/24	2:36	4	Kelling Dr	Maintenance	Millstadt
	04/27/24	1:26	11	Kaiser Rd	Other, Deterioration	New Athens
	04/27/24	1:26	5	Bluff Rd	Lightning	Fontain



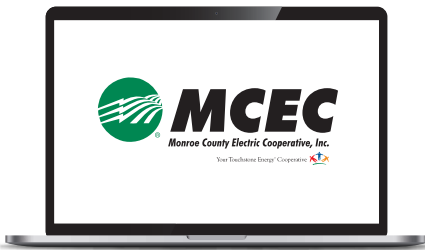
Text notification for outages!

Now is a great time to register with SmartHub to receive text message notification for outages. The service allows us to keep members better informed by sending outage alerts, status updates, restoration notifications and other important information, all by text.

Registered members will also be able to report an outage by text message, simply by texting the word **OUT** from the registered phone number to 1-833-573-0435. Reporting an outage via text is available to members who only have one meter.

From your PC:

1. Sign into SmartHub.
2. Under notifications — click “manage contacts” — add your contact.
3. Under notifications — click “manage notifications” — under “service” — opt in for the notifications you would like to receive.



From your app:

1. Sign into SmartHub.
2. Click “more” (bottom right).
3. Contact methods.
4. Click on the phone and add phone number.
5. Go back to settings — click “manage notifications.”
6. Click “service” and enroll in text alerts.
7. Please call our office during business hours if you need assistance.



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.