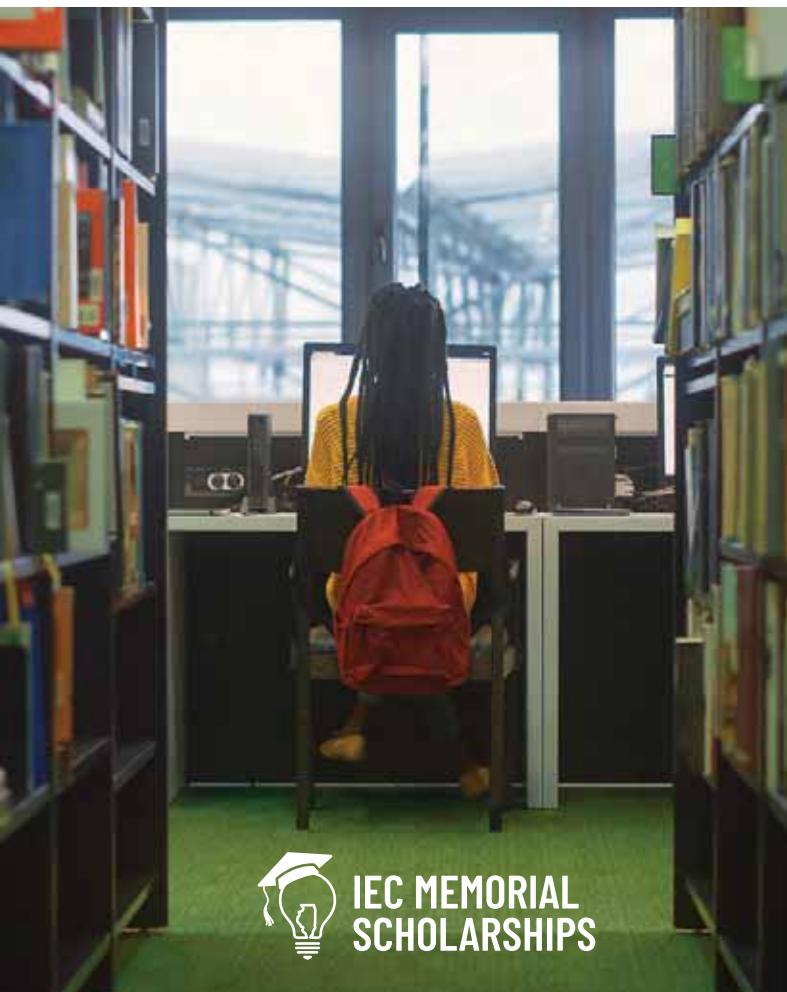




Connect

THANKFUL to have
been **BUILT** by and to
still **BELONG** to the
COMMUNITIES
we serve.



SCHOLARSHIPS

\$2,500 scholarships for students enrolling full-time in a 2-year or 4-year university, college or vocational/technical school are available through the Thomas H Moore Illinois Electric Cooperative's Memorial Scholarship program. Deadline is Dec. 31, 2024.

A \$2,500 LLCC Lineworker Program Scholarship is available through the LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworkers' Scholarship. Deadline is Apr. 30, 2025.

See details at www.menard.com/scholarships.

Check back in February to apply for another scholarship opportunity directly through Menard Electric.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.



Ready Your Home FOR WINTER

Prepare your home for winter now to ensure safety, efficiency and comfort. Here's a checklist you can use.



INSPECT HEATING SYSTEM:

- Have your heating system professionally serviced.
- Replace air filters if needed.
- Ensure vents and radiators are unblocked for efficient heat distribution.

TEST AND MAINTAIN SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS:

- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Test detectors to ensure they function properly.

PREPARE PIPES AND WATER SUPPLY:

- Insulate exposed pipes to prevent freezing.
- Drain and shut off outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- Know the location of water shut-off valve in case of emergency.

PREPARE YOUR HOME'S EXTERIOR:

- Clear gutters and downspouts to prevent ice dams.
- Trim trees away from the house to avoid damage.
- Ensure downspouts extend away from the foundation.
- Service and store equipment such as lawnmowers and trimmers.
- Gather winter tools such as snow shovels and ice melt.

INCREASE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY:

- Seal gaps at windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to circulate warm air.
- Lower your thermostat a few degrees to save on heating costs.

Learn more at:



Play it safe when using portable generators

- Position generators at least 25 feet outside the home in a dry area, away from doors, windows and vents that can allow CO to enter the home. Never operate in a home or attached garage.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords, but don't overload it. Follow manufacturer's instructions for maximum load.
- Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times.
- Shut off the generator before refueling, or a fire could start — have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby, just in case.



- Perform regular maintenance between uses.
- **DO NOT** plug a generator directly to a home outlet unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed. If a generator is connected to a home's wiring

without a transfer switch, power can backfeed along power lines and electrocute utility lineworkers making repairs.

Have a permanent standby generator?

- We need to know! You or your installing contractor must submit the online Backup Generator Application at www.menard.com/generators.
- Remember, any backup generation connected to your electric system must have an automatic transfer switch. Without the switch, the backup generation could feed back onto our lines, putting our linemen and others at risk of electrocution.

Budget Billing

Budget Billing averages the last 12 months of usage and determines a monthly budget amount. We bill that same amount each month for 11 months and on the 12th month settle up the account with a credit or additional balance due depending on actual electricity used for the year. E-mail info@menard.com or call 800-872-1203 with your account number for more information.

Our office will be closed:

Nov. 11 for Veterans Day

Nov. 28-29 for Thanksgiving

Have you followed our new Facebook page?

Have you missed seeing us in your Facebook feed? You may need to find us and follow us again! We had to start a new page in September. Either follow the link from our website, www.menard.com, or search Facebook for Menard Electric Co-op — www.facebook.com/MenardElectricCoop and like and follow us again so that you can stay up to date!



CO-OP'S VOTE

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

WWW.VOTE.COOP

Election Day is November 5.

LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) could help pay your electric, gas and propane energy bills. Contact your local agency to confirm income eligibility requirements and application timelines.

MCS Community Services-Cass/Morgan County, 217-243-9404

Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois-Logan/Mason/Menard County, 217-732-2159

Sangamon County, 217-535-3120

Tazwood Community Services-Tazewell County, 309-266-9941

Board highlights

Aug. 27, 2024

- All Directors, General Manager & Attorney present.
- Reviewed 2023 KRTA.
- Reviewed Annual Meeting expenses well under budget.
- Reviewed Facebook page [follow our new page Menard Electric Co-op].
- General Manager Alisha Anker reviewed July monthly & YTD financial trends. Operating margins \$2,240,011 compared to \$2,665,547 last year; equity at 41.37%; 12-mo TIER 2.47 & DSC 1.95.

For full minutes visit menard.com
or contact the office.

- Anker reviewed operations report w/156 incidents, longest duration of an outage 566 min affecting 2 members due to downed pole in wind storm; largest # affected by single outage 584 due to substation fuse failure.
- President Warren Goetsch appointed Delegate to Region V mtg. Goetsch appointed Delegate & Anker Alternate to CFC Annual Mtg.
- Anker reported proposed Ameren Brightline Project.
- Next mtg 9/24/24 @ 8 am.

Reporting outages

Quickly report outages through our MyMEC App. It also allows us to send notifications of outage restoration updates and provides a link to our secure account portal.



Tips for a Safe and Efficient Holiday Season

This holiday season, keep energy savings and electrical safety in mind.

SAVE ENERGY

- Use smaller appliances like slow cookers instead of the oven.
- Lower the thermostat when hosting friends and family.
- Decorate with energy-saving LED lights.

PRIORITIZE SAFETY

- Never leave unattended candles burning.
- Ensure all smoke alarms are working.
- When decorating, inspect all light strands and cords for damage.

