



Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 338 ■ Carthage, Illinois 62321 ■ www.wiec.net ■ 800-576-3125

NEWS



The future of reliable electricity

As our country's economy continues to grow, so too does the demand for reliable electricity. Data centers, new manufacturing facilities and our daily lives are requiring more and more electricity. In fact, U.S. power consumption is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, and the demand for electricity in the U.S. is expected to at least double by 2050.

Meanwhile, our supply of electricity is already decreasing as always-available power plants are being prematurely shut down. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation has warned that 19 states could see rolling blackouts during times of high electrical usage over the next five years. We all know what happens when supply can't meet demand — prices go up, and the lights go off.

As we prepare for this rising demand, Western Illinois Electrical Coop. is planning ahead to ensure local families and businesses have access to an affordable, reliable supply of electricity. **7815-11**

Meeting the challenge

To meet these challenges, WIEC is utilizing a balanced mix of always-available energy sources as a safeguard to maintain a reliable energy supply. We're also investing in innovative technologies to bolster grid resilience and enhance data management to improve operational efficiency, expedite outage response times and minimize service disruptions.

As electricity demand in the U.S. continues to rise, upgrading and building new infrastructure will be critical. That's why Western Illinois Electrical Coop. is collaborating with other electric co-ops by pooling resources and expertise on projects that advance technology, security, infrastructure and innovative energy sources to meet the increasing needs of our communities.

As a co-op, this collaborative approach is a core strength of WIEC and enables us to deliver affordable energy to

local families and businesses. Our priority is ensuring energy solutions are tailored to the unique needs of our community to help it thrive now and in the future. **8519-51**

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. was built by the community it serves, providing essential services that drive growth and pave the way for an energy future that prioritizes reliable electricity at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Taking steps to help your home heating system run more efficiently can reduce energy use and lower your winter bills. Check to see if any air vents around your home are blocked by furniture, curtains or other items. Obstructed vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and can increase pressure in the ductwork, causing cracks and leaks to form. If necessary, consider purchasing a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture or other obstructions.

Source: energy.gov



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Carthage, IL 62321
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OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

BUSINESS OFFICE

217-357-3125

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

800-576-3125

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Mark Burling** —
President, **Carthage**
- **Dustin Walker** —
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Director, **Carthage**

MANAGEMENT TEAM

- **Todd Grotts** — General Manager
- **Ryan Biery** — Manager
of Operations
- **Wendi Whitaker** — Finance and
Accounting Manager

MAP LOCATION CONTEST

Every month we are printing four members' map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

Balancing electricity supply and demand

Electricity is essential for nearly every aspect of daily life — so essential that we rarely think about how it's produced and delivered to our homes. You might be surprised to learn that behind the scenes, a network of experts is working daily (and even by the minute) to anticipate how much electricity you need before you even use it.

We're all connected to the electric grid, so ensuring the right amount of electricity for all involves a complex process of forecasting energy demand, planning for capacity and securing enough supply to meet Americans' needs.

Powerful sources

First, electricity must be generated at a power plant using either traditional sources, such as coal, natural gas or nuclear energy, or from renewable sources, such as solar, wind or hydropower.

At Western Illinois Electrical Coop., we work closely with Prairie Power, Inc., our wholesale power partner, to secure enough electricity for our communities, using a diverse mix of energy sources to generate the power we deliver to your home or business. By maintaining a diverse energy mix — Western Illinois Electrical Coop. has options to ensure reliable power at a competitive cost.

On a larger scale, across the country, electricity supply and demand are managed through a market that includes long-term planning agreements, where electricity is bought and sold just like other common goods and services. Because WIEC works with our wholesale power partner, which is also a cooperative, we are able to pool resources and expertise to deliver affordable power to our local communities. **9511-72**

Electricity supply changes throughout the day, because demand fluctuates based on consumers' needs. For example, WIEC knows that we need to ensure more electricity in the mornings when you're starting your day, and in the evenings, when you're cooking dinner, running appliances and watching TV. Demand also increases when weather

patterns change, such as extremely warm or cold temperatures.

Managing supply and demand across the grid

Across the country, other electric utilities are managing the same task of balancing supply and demand, which is why we have a larger network of key players in place to ensure enough power is delivered across the grid.

In most cases, the amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to specific areas are coordinated and monitored by regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs). In other areas, individual electric utilities perform these tasks.

RTOs, ISOs and electric utilities act as air traffic controllers for the electric grid. They forecast when you, your neighbors and communities across a large region will need more power. These organizations take measured steps to ensure there's enough supply to meet demand.

Looking ahead

As the energy sector undergoes rapid change, it's important for all consumers to understand the basics of electricity supply and demand.

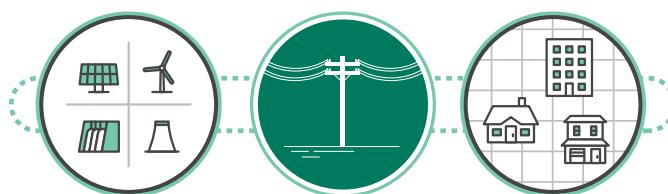
Electricity use in the U.S. is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, with the demand for electricity expected to at least double by 2050. At the same time, energy policies are pushing the early retirement of always-available generation sources, which will undoubtedly compromise reliable electricity.

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. remains committed to providing affordable, reliable energy to the members we serve. That's why we are preparing now for increased demand and other challenges that could compromise our local electric supply.

Managing the balancing act of electricity supply and demand is a complex job, which is why we have a network of utilities, power plant operators and energy traffic managers in place to direct the electricity we need and keep the electric grid balanced.

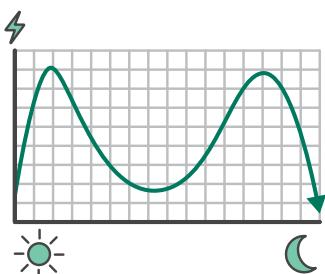
A Balancing Act: ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Behind the scenes, a network of people and facilities work together to ensure you have electricity when you flip the switch.



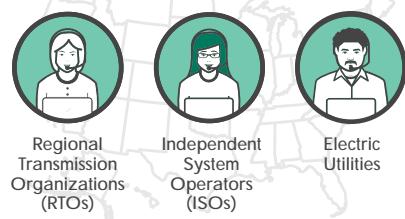
Electricity is generated at a power plant, then sent across the grid to homes, schools and businesses.

The *amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to where it's needed* are typically coordinated and monitored by regional grid operators that essentially act as energy traffic managers.



As electricity demand varies throughout the day, grid operators, power plant operators and electric utilities work to forecast, plan and purchase enough electricity for everyone.

Regional Grid Operators



Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs)



Independent System Operators (ISOs)



Electric Utilities

Ensuring communities have the exact amount of electricity they need is a challenging task, but behind the scenes, a network of industry experts make it happen every day.



Factors that Impact Electricity Supply and Demand



- Demand Surges
- Extreme Temperatures
- Infrastructure Costs and Availability
- Supply Chain Challenges
- Fuel Costs
- Federal and State Regulations



Youth Day, Springfield — March 5, 2025

Youth Tour, Washington, D.C. — June 16 through 23, 2025

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. continues to encourage high school students to learn more about government and their role in it by sponsoring the Youth Day (Springfield, Ill.) and Youth Tour (Washington, D.C.) events. These events give high school students an up-close look at both their state and federal governments and how they operate. **8520-18-1**

This contest is a great way for a high school sophomore, junior or senior to win an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. Western Illinois Electrical Coop. will award one son or daughter of a WIEC member an eight-day trip to our nation's capital that includes transportation, meals and hotel accommodations.

The WIEC winner will join about 50 other Illinois high school students in Washington during the week of June 16, 2025. During their time in D.C., students will learn about American and rural electric history, in addition to how the federal government operates. In past years, students met with representatives in the House and Senate, visited Arlington National Cemetery and Gettysburg, the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, Mt. Vernon, the World War II Memorial, the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Museum, and even danced the night away on a river boat cruise on the Potomac River.

Here's how it works. WIEC will award the top six entrants an all-expense-paid trip to Springfield, Ill.,

as part of the Youth Day/Springfield event, to visit the Illinois State Capitol on March 5, 2025. The group will get to see their state government in action, up close and personal. One of these six students will then be awarded a trip to Washington, D.C., later in the year.

To enter the contest, students just need to complete a simple application. The application can be found on our website at www.wiec.net, or you may contact our office directly at 217-357-3125 or 800-576-3125 to have us send you one another way. **The deadline to apply is Feb. 7, 2025.** With only a small investment of time, a student could win the trip of a lifetime!

**The WIEC office is closed January 1st to celebrate New Year's Day.
We will reopen January 2nd.**

H appy N ew Y ear

from the WIEC Board of Directors and employees.

Welcome new members

October
2024

AI Properties LLC c/o Jonah Aitchison
Laura D Beach
Michael D Dale
Adam Fisher
Casey and Cherece Hall
Briana Murray
Kreg Pringle
Tucker J Wilson