



Egyptian Electric News

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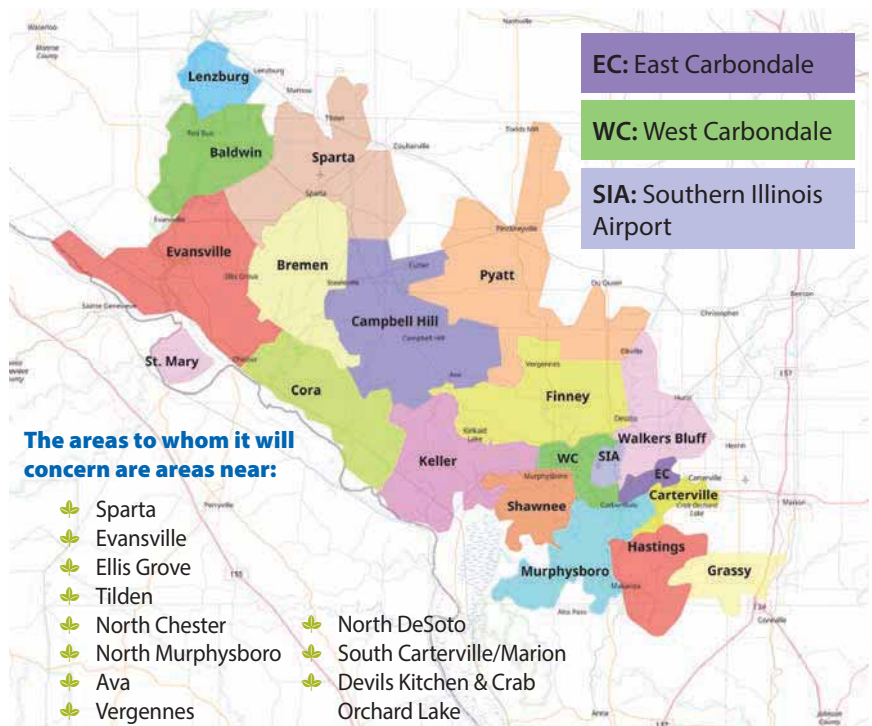
MARCH 2025

Vegetation maintenance helps EECA reduce power outages

As your electric service provider, it is our duty to keep lines maintained so that we can provide our members with the safest and most reliable electricity possible. One of the most impactful ways we can do that is to keep up with vegetation maintenance.

The strip of land underneath and around power lines is known as right-of-way (ROW), and ROW maintenance is the No. 1 factor that affects outage occurrences and outage duration. Over the last 19 years, EECA has seen a direct correlation between our forestry crew's ROW maintenance efforts and a significant reduction in power outages. When we are faced with extreme weather events, such as high wind or the recent January ice storm, having this maintenance program really shows its value.

To keep up, our goal is to trim and mow the ROW on a four-year rotation. This year, EECA will be doing vegetation maintenance on our Evansville, Finney, Grassy and Sparta substations.



(To help our members understand where we will be working, we've provided our substation map above.)

If your lines may be affected, you should receive an automated phone call prior to tree work in your area. If you have questions, we encourage you to read through our Tree Trimming FAQs on our Tree Trimming & ROW webpage.

EECA Forestry Manager Travis Deterding is also available to answer questions about tree-trimming procedures. In addition to mowing and trimming on a four-year rotation, EECA applies herbicide to areas that have had forestry work completed two years prior.

This year, that work is occurring throughout our Murphysboro, Carterville, Hastings and East Carbondale (EC) substation lines and feeders.





Egyptian Electric
Cooperative Association
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Murphysboro, IL 62966

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- By phone at 855-939-3675, using credit card or checking account
- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N. Reed Station Parkway and 1815 W. Main in Carbondale

EECA Rate Projections

What Members Can Expect in 2025

EECA wants to keep members informed about anticipated changes to their residential electric bills this year. By the end of 2025, we estimate an overall increase of 5.6% in members' bills, with additional adjustments expected in 2026.

Several factors are contributing to these increases, including the impacts of the recent ice storm, a rise in power supply costs, and substantial price hikes in materials due to anticipated tariffs.

Despite these challenges, we are maintaining stability in our residential energy and delivery rates, which will remain unchanged from 2023. However, adjustments to the demand, Power Cost Adjustment (PCA), and Demand Cost Adjustment (DCA) will be modified due to these rising costs. The cost adjustments are methods to address immediately the fluctuating changes in wholesale power (DCA) and the distribution & delivery costs (PCA).

Upcoming changes for February usage/March bills:

- The PCA will change from a -\$0.007/kilowatt-hour (kWh) credit to a -\$0.004/kWh credit.

Upcoming changes for March usage/April bills:

- The PCA will change from -0.004/kWh to -0.003/kWh.
- The DCA will change from \$0.005/kWh to \$0.006/kWh.
- There will be an increase in demand charges from \$0.10/kilowatt (kW) to \$0.25/kW.

***We anticipate another adjustment (if necessary) for the August usage/September bills when the PCA will change to -0.001/kWh.*

For 2025, this equates to an anticipated total of a \$0.007/kWh increase across the PCA and DCA combined. Therefore, every 1,000 kWhs equals \$7.00. For the average consumer of 1,200 kWh/month, that is \$8.40 additional per month, by late summer.

These adjustments are necessary to keep up with rising costs across our industry and ensure we can continue delivering reliable service. We remain committed to transparency and will share updates as we navigate these challenges together.

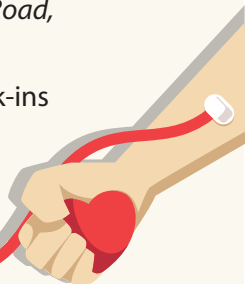
Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, April 15
from 10 a.m-3 p.m.

EECA Headquarters, 1732 Finney Road,
Murphysboro.

Appointments appreciated; walk-ins
welcome.

Make an appointment at
redcrossblood.org.



EECA Classroom Empowerment Grants Bring New Books to Local Classrooms

EECA is proud to support local educators through our annual Classroom Empowerment Grants. In December 2024, we awarded ten \$500 grants to help teachers create meaningful and engaging learning experiences for their students. This year, several of the projects focused on bringing new and popular books into local classrooms, aiming to inspire connection and a lifelong passion for reading. **Tammy Siegel**

Mindy Allen James, a high school English teacher at Marissa Jr./Sr. High School, used her 2024 grant to update her classroom library with 60 newly released novels and graphic novels. By encouraging independent reading, she hopes to improve her students' reading scores, as research shows this can significantly enhance vocabulary and overall reading skills. She shared photos of her students already enjoying the new additions!



Ms. Allen James' students enjoy the 60 new books purchased through the EECA Classroom Empowerment Grant. Project: Engaging Novels

Kimberly Howard, a junior high English teacher at DeSoto Grade School (DGS), used her classroom grant to purchase 105 new books for her students. By taking advantage of some end-of-year sales, she was able to stretch the grant further, bringing in a wide variety of titles her students are excited to read. In the photo below, members of the DGS Beta Club and 6th grade students proudly display the books that now fill their classroom shelves. Ms. Howard hopes these additions will spark a lifelong passion for reading by offering stories relevant to her students' lives.

We are thrilled to see the positive impact these grants have on local classrooms and students. Supporting teachers like Ms. Allen James and Ms. Howard



DGS students pose with boxes of newly delivered books for their classroom library. Project: Unlocking Potential

as they inspire the next generation of readers is what our grant program is all about! Stay tuned for details on the 2025-26 Classroom Empowerment Grant program — applications will open in September 2025!

Employee News

Please join us in welcoming **Sam Zettler** of Tamaroa, Ill., to the Egyptian Electric



Cooperative team as an Engineer Tech! Sam graduated from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in December 2024 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. During his time at SIU, he collaborated with us on his senior research project, and we're thrilled to now have him officially on board. Sam grew up on a cattle farm and continues to stay involved in the family operation. In his free time, he enjoys working on his farm and attending old-style tractor shows, including the annual Threshermen Show in Pinckneyville. Welcome to the team, Sam!

We're excited to celebrate **Lora Wolters'** (of Steeleville) five-year anniversary with



Egyptian Electric Cooperative! As one of our Operations Coordinators, she plays a vital role in keeping our operations running smoothly. From dispatching linemen during outages to verifying work orders, she ensures every step is completed properly and accounted for.

Cynthia L Stamm Her dedication and attention to detail make a big impact on our team and the members we serve. Lora started her career with EECA on Feb. 18, 2020, and we're incredibly thankful for her hard work and commitment over the past five years. Thank you, Lora, for all that you do!

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OPERATION



Congratulations to our three 2024 Q4 Operation Round Up Recipients!



Jackson County 4-H Wranglers received \$1,000 to improve their arena's lighting, ensuring safer practices and events. This club, designed for children passionate about horses, empowers youth by teaching responsibility and leadership skills, and involving them in decision-making.



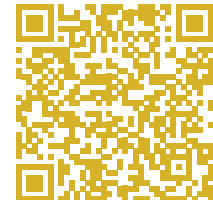
724 Ministries received \$1,000 to support their free weekly community dinner initiative in downtown Murphysboro, which is open to all. Community dinners are held every Sunday from 4–6 p.m. at 724 Walnut St., Murphysboro.



Hopewell Baptist Church received \$2,000 to purchase backpacks and school supplies for their annual back-to-school drive, which helps thousands of children and families across southern Illinois. The drive takes place on the first Saturday in August at 400 E. Main Street in Carbondale.

To register to contribute to our charitable fund, visit eeca.coop/roundup, or to apply for funds, visit eeca.coop/applytoroundup today!

Operation Round Up is now accepting donations through PayPal.



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.