

# MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Alan W. Wattles

## Across The President's Desk

Monroe County Electric Cooperative is proud to announce that Joshua Gerfen of Waterloo High School is one of 16 winners of this year's Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship. He is the child of Michael and Amy Gerfen of Waterloo. Joshua competed for the scholarship with 293 other students from across the state. The \$2,500 awards are given each year to 16 children of electric co-op members, employees or directors. A 17th scholarship is reserved for a student interested in lineworker's college and will be announced at a later date. Joshua will be recognized during the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting on July 31, 2025, in Springfield.

Candidates were judged on grade-point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay demonstrating their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

## IEC Scholarship Winner – Josh Gerfen!

Come this fall, Josh will attend University of Illinois and major in mechanical engineering. Josh has earned numerous awards and honors throughout his high school career, including earning the rank of Eagle Scout, being a semifinalist for the National Merit

Scholarship, being state scholar, being named Marching Band Bulldog of the Fall and many others.

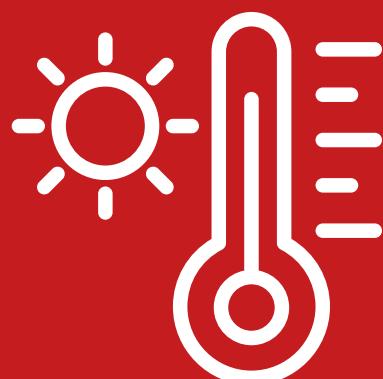
MCEC is honored to have a scholarship recipient and is excited to see how he will represent the community. Your future is BRIGHT!



*From left to right: President/CEO Alan Wattles, Josh Gerfen, Chairman George Obernagel, Director Mike Kovarik.*

## Safety Tip

If you work outdoors, hydration is key. Drink water every 15 minutes, even if you're not thirsty, to help prevent heat exhaustion. Take breaks in a shady or a cool area, and schedule heavy work for cooler times of day.



Safe Electricity.org®

# 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**

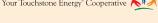


## MCEC line outages May 2025

Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
04/02/25	0:49	40	Stemler Rd/Country Estates Dr	Maintenance	Millstadt
04/02/25	0:49	3	Sleepy Ln	Trees, Other	Millstadt
04/04/25	2:01	2	LL Rd	Lightning	Poe
04/06/25	1:12	102	Covered Bridge/Konarcik Rd	Small Animals or Birds	Waterloo
04/08/25	1:38	2	Valmeyer Rd	Construction	Columbia
04/08/25	2:04	18	Kopp Rd	Maintenance	N. Waterloo
04/10/25	0:43	193	Baum/KK/Ahne Rd	Trees, Other	Waterloo
04/10/25	0:41	6	Doyle Rd	Lightning	Poe
04/10/25	0:29	83	Baum/KK/Ahne Rd	Trees, Other	Waterloo
04/15/25	0:46	4	S Rd	Trees, Other	Poe
04/19/25	0:26	46	LL Rd/Bickey/N Prairie Rd	Trees, Other	Poe
04/19/25	0:26	2	JJ Rd	Lightning	Waterloo
04/20/25	13:59	106	Fischer Rd/Bushy Prairie/Rock Rd	Wind, Not Trees	Waterloo
04/20/25	12:09	49	KK Rd	Trees, Other	Waterloo
04/20/25	9:45	7	JJ Rd	Wind, Not Trees	Waterloo
04/20/25	10:01	518	Rt 156/Hecker Hwy	Wind, Not Trees	Waterloo
04/20/25	5:12	540	Fults Area	Wind, Not Trees	Fults
04/20/25	5:15	1225	Waterloo South/Red Bud	Wind, Not Trees	Poe
04/20/25	15:37	3	Gilmore Lake Rd	Wind, Not Trees	Millstadt
04/20/25	20:29	1	Schwab Rd	Wind, Not Trees	Smithton
04/21/25	0:25	20	Rock Rd	Wind, Not Trees	Waterloo
04/25/25	0:55	6	B Rd	Lightning	Fountain



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**Office hours:** Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



## Smart ways to save energy this summer

### Don't sweat the heat

Summer heat can strain both your comfort and your budget. As temperatures soar and energy demand peaks in the late afternoon and evening, it's time to take steps to lower your energy consumption and stay cool without breaking the bank.

### Boost your home's energy efficiency

Start with an energy audit. We can't fix what we don't know about. Request a home energy audit from your local utility provider or a home energy auditor to identify where energy is being lost. Then, take action to reduce usage this summer.

### Tips to keep cool air in and hot air out

- Seal air leaks around pipes, doors, windows, cracks and openings with caulk or weather stripping.
- Schedule an HVAC system inspection with a professional to maintain performance. Check with your utility for rebates on energy-efficient replacements.
- Change your air filter regularly. A clogged air filter makes your HVAC system work harder.
- Switch to LED bulbs for increased efficiency.
- Install a smart or programmable thermostat for automatic temperature control. Check with your local utility for incentives and deals.

### Reduce energy costs with smart appliance use

- Run dryers, washers and dishwashers early in the morning or late in the evening.

- Wash full loads of laundry in cold water. It's the detergent, not hot water, that cleans the clothes.
- Clean the dryer's lint trap after every laundry load, and air-dry clothes when possible.
- Reduce heat-generating activities at home, like cooking during the hottest parts of the day or using heat-producing appliances.
- Use a microwave oven or countertop appliance instead of a conventional range or oven. Better yet, grill outside!

### Easy actions for big energy savings

- Change ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise to cool rooms and turn them off when you leave the room. Ceiling fans don't actually cool the air; they create a windchill effect on your skin by circulating air around you.
- Stay on the lowest floor of your home for naturally cooler air.
- Close blinds and shades on sunny days to block excess heat.
- Increase your thermostat by two degrees or more and set it to higher temperatures when you're away.
- Turn off and disconnect electronics that are not in use.
- Prepare no-heat meals like salads, wraps and dips.

Making small changes to reduce energy use can make a big impact. You'll keep cool, save money on your utility bill and help reduce energy demand.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of the warmer weather to reduce home energy use. Avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the energy used to power the oven or stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for additional air conditioning.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen and explore new ways to save energy!

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



# 5 Factors to Consider Before Installing Home Solar

**Find out your home's energy use**  
Look at your energy bill(s) to review kWh usage for the past 12 to 24 months and calculate the average monthly usage.

**1 Contact your electric utility**  
Because most residential systems are tied to the power grid, reach out about connection requirements, fees and possible incentives.

**2 Location, location, location**  
Start considering panel location. Assess the age, size and condition of your roof as well as available ground space.

**3 Get several quotes**  
There are costs other than equipment, such as permitting, installation and inspection. Make sure all costs are included in quotes.

**4 Do your homework**  
Ensure the company you are considering has installers who are specially trained and certified to install solar, among other factors.

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To learn more, visit [energy.gov](http://energy.gov) and search for "Homeowner's Guide to Going Solar." Use the drop-down titled "How Much Power Can I Generate with Solar" for information on PVWatts, a solar energy production and cost estimator.

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