

The Wire

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455



Mike Smith
President and CEO

**McDonough Power
Cooperative**

ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

**The Crossing - Macomb
1600 W. JACKSON STREET**

**REGISTRATION, MEAL &
ENTERTAINMENT
5:00 - 6:15 PM**

BUSINESS MEETING BEGINS AT 6:30

**JOIN US FOR DINNER,
ENTERTAINMENT AND PRIZES!**



**OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
JULY 4 FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Member Prizes

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.



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61455-0352

24 hour pay-by-phone
844-405-1145

www.mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays

Find us on Facebook:
@McDonoughPower

Find us on X:
@McDonoughPower

DIRECTORS

Walt Lewis, Chairman
David Lueck, Vice Chairman
Mike Cox, Treasurer
Steve Hall, Secretary
Courtney Chandler
Bob Dwyer
Ryan Litchfield
Jeff Moore
Bryson Bedwell
John D. McMillan, Attorney

All Co-op Electric
Outages 309-837-1400

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The power of human connections



How to keep your devices charged when you're off the grid

Quick tips

- Bring power banks and a solar charger for backup power in the wilderness.
- Keep chargers in your car to recharge while you're on the road.
- Use airplane mode, dim screen brightness or simply turn off your phone to save battery life.
- Make sure you pack flashlights and extra batteries.

Spending time outdoors is important. It's also important to stay connected while you're camping, hiking or on the water so you can track weather conditions and handle emergencies.

Without easy access to outlets, keeping your electronics charged requires planning. Here are ways to extend battery life and stay powered up and safe outdoors.

Charge before you go

Fully charge your phone, camera, GPS and other devices before you hit the road. Don't forget extra batteries for flashlights or headlamps.

Keep chargers in your car but only charge devices while the engine is running to avoid draining the car battery. Hide cords and chargers from view if you leave your car unattended.

Pack smart

When you're camping, everything you pack needs to be worth its weight in gold, or at least double as a backup battery. Bring lightweight power banks and multi-use gear like solar lanterns with USB ports. Emergency radios and portable speakers often offer charging jacks, too.

Optimize battery life

Switch to airplane mode to prevent your phone from searching for a cell signal. This

also helps you fully unplug without the distraction of text messages or Instagram notifications. **7217A2-112B**

Turn off Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and GPS when not in use. Dim screen brightness or enable power saving mode — or simply turn your phone off when not in use. Save your battery for essential tasks such as navigation or emergencies.

Choose campsites with power

Look for campgrounds with electric hookups to make charging simple and stress-free. Bring an outdoor-rated extension cord to charge multiple devices at once.

Harness alternative energy

Flexible solar panel chargers are perfect for sunny days outdoors. Hook one up directly to your phone or power bank. For overcast conditions, hand-crank chargers can offer enough power for an emergency phone call, while wind, water and fire-powered options provide additional back up.

Protect your devices

Keeping your devices safe and functional is just as important as keeping them charged.

- Use waterproof cases to guard against rain or spills.
- Avoid extreme temperatures, as batteries drain faster in hot or cold weather. During cold weather, keep electronics close to your body for prolonged battery life.
- Store devices securely to prevent damage from falls or dirt exposure.

With these tips, you'll stay safe and connected while you recharge in the great outdoors, ready for any adventure!

Who owns what?

Understanding electric equipment responsibilities

As July rolls in with longer days and rising temperatures, it also brings the increased potential for severe weather. Summer storms can arrive quickly and hit hard, sometimes causing significant damage to essential electric equipment throughout our community.

McDonough Power Cooperative is always prepared to respond swiftly to outages and restore power safely, but it is also important for homeowners to understand which parts of the electric system are their responsibility and which are maintained by us at the co-op. Understanding these key differences can help speed up repairs and ensure everyone stays safe when the weather turns rough.

McDonough Power is responsible for maintaining and repairing the equipment and lines that run to your home, including utility poles, distribution power lines, electric meters and pad-mounted transformers.

McDonough Power members are responsible for the equipment located between the electric meter and your home or business, including any underground service lines that lead into the structure and the service panel. Members are also responsible for the weatherhead and service mast located outside the home.

If any equipment that you (the homeowner) are responsible for is damaged, please call a licensed electrician to conduct the repairs. A professional has the experience and know-how to assess and manage these types of repairs.

When severe weather damages electrical equipment, it's important to note that any necessary repairs to the homeowner's equipment must be conducted before McDonough Power crews can restore power to your home or business. By understanding the equipment you are responsible for, the repair and restoration process will be smoother and faster.

Our community takes great pride in the beautiful trees and landscaping that contribute to the natural beauty where we live, however, regular trimming is

essential to ensure reliable electric service and minimize damage from severe weather. McDonough Power regularly trims trees throughout our service territory to improve service reliability. If you spot a tree limb that is obstructing a distribution power line outside your home, please call us so we can trim those limbs and maintain those lines.

Any overgrown limbs or vegetation around the service line is the homeowner's responsibility, and in these cases,

please call a professional tree trimming service to assist. **4321D3-550C**

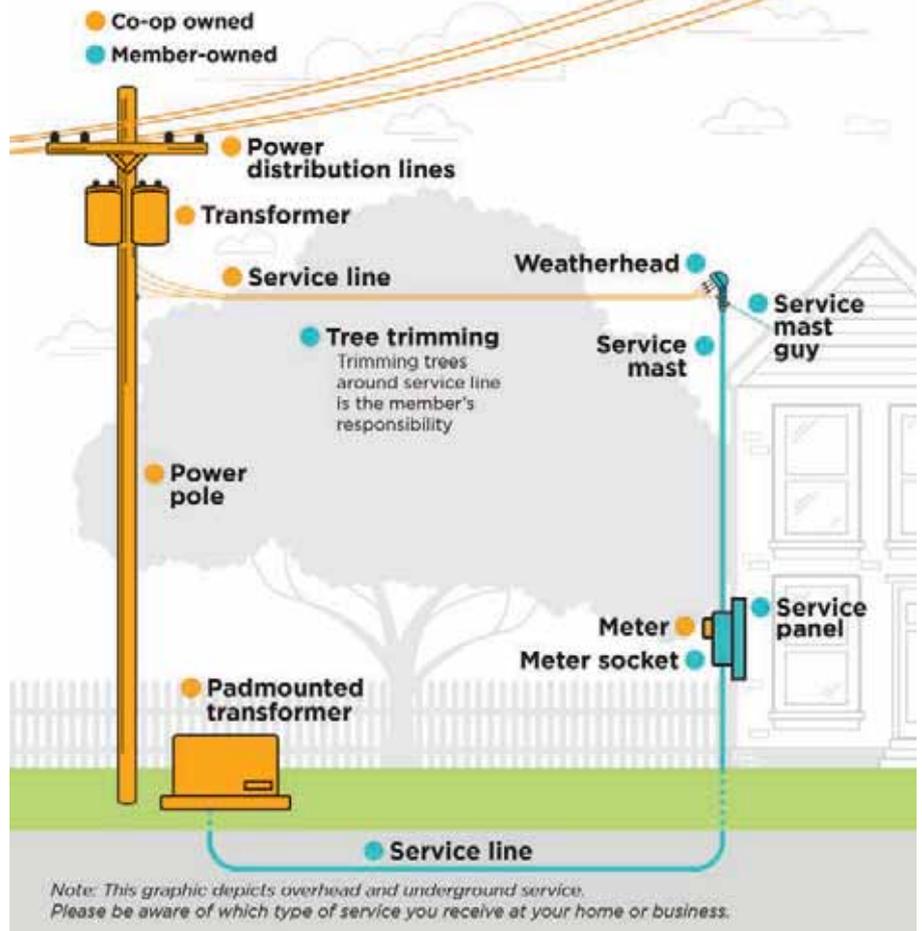
By working together to understand the essential equipment that powers daily life, we can all be better prepared to start the repair and restoration process if severe weather impacts our community.

If you have any questions about your electrical equipment, we're here to help. Please contact McDonough Power Cooperative at (309) 833-2101 or email us at memberservices@mcdonoughpower.com.

Who Owns What?

Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.





Nominating Committee Report

In accordance with the Bylaws, the Nominating Committee met on June 5, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Sports Corner @ 124 in Macomb, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was to nominate candidates for election to the Board of Directors at McDonough Power Cooperative's upcoming Annual Meeting of Members, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 13, 2025.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Terry Thompson	Scott Schwerer	Jim Grant
Brian Waller	Ray Watters	David Livermore

After careful consideration, the committee selected the following individuals as nominees for Director positions, each to serve a three-year term and to be elected at the annual meeting:

District #1:	District #3	District #7
Michael Cox	Walter Lewis	Steve Hall

Please note: Additional nominations may be made by petition. Any group of 15 or more members may submit a nomination. Further details can be found at mcdonoughpower.com/home/board-of-directors/. **6423A1-226B**

Terry Thompson
Chairman, Nominating Committee

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat such as clothes dryers and dishwashers during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening will reduce indoor heat gain during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and ultimately keep your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.

Source: energy.gov



Capital Credit Updates for 2025

As a member-owned electric cooperative, we're committed to keeping you informed about important changes that affect your membership. This year, we've made a couple of updates to how capital credits are handled:

- 1. Separate Allocations** – Each year, if McDonough Power Cooperative earns margins—essentially revenue over and above expenses—we allocate those margins back to our members based on the amount of electricity each member purchased. This is called a **capital credit allocation**, and it represents your share of the co-op's margins for that year.

Starting this year, these allocations will be split into two categories: **6326WW6-750B**

- Margins from our **generation and transmission cooperative (G&T)**
- Margins from our **local electric cooperative operations (COOP)**

This change provides greater clarity and reflects the difference between **cash and non-cash margins**.

G&T margins are currently non-cash, meaning they represent earnings on paper but not funds the co-op has actually received. Because of that, it wouldn't be financially responsible to retire those margins until they are paid out to us.

- 2. Retirements as Bill Credits** – When capital credits are retired for active members, the amount will now be **automatically applied as a credit on your electric bill** instead of being issued as a separate check. This reduces the costs of printing and mailing individual checks—**saving the cooperative money, which ultimately benefits all members**.

Members who **no longer have an active account** will still receive a check by mail. To ensure you receive any future capital credit retirements, please be sure to **keep your mailing address up to date** with us.

If you have questions about your capital credits or these updates, we're here to help! Contact us at (309) 833-2101.