

The SOUTHEASTERN *light*

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

President's Comments



Dustin Tripp
President/CEO

We're thankful for your membership

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect and be grateful. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for your membership in our electric cooperative. This space is normally utilized to provide updates on industry developments and report on the progress of ongoing initiatives. However, during this season of giving thanks, it's also important to let you and other consumer-members of SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative know just what an impact you have on our co-op and the greater community, likely in ways you may not even realize.

When you attend co-op events, alert us to problems and provide suggestions to our employees, you help us improve operations and achieve a higher level of service for the membership. Because we are locally governed by members of our community, we are able to get a firsthand perspective on community priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions to benefit the membership.

As part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is "Concern for Community." While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, we view our role in the community as a catalyst for good.

We work closely with our local schools to provide safety demonstrations, grants and scholarships. Your cooperative also participates in an annual Youth Tour



where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong engagement to experience democracy in action. The trip is inspirational for many students, and we are both humbled and honored to be a part of this leadership development journey. Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you! You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

On a more personal note, we appreciate the countless acts of kindness our lineworkers and other employees receive when they are working in severe weather and dangerous conditions. Our employees are thankful for your patience and consideration when we are trying to restore power during challenging conditions and situations. This has been especially true this year, given the numerous severe storms our region has encountered.

With Veterans Day approaching as well, we certainly want to extend our gratitude to our veterans who served our great nation and our active duty military who continue to do so, that allow all of us to continue to enjoy the many freedoms that we have. We can never thank them and their families enough for the sacrifices they have made and continue to make.

See you next month, and as always, "We'll keep the lights on for you."

READERSHIP
PRIZE WINNER:
Denis Gwaltney
Hurst, IL

Don't let energy slip through the ceiling: A quick guide to insulation

Upgrading your attic insulation is one of the easiest and most effective ways to lower your energy bills, make your home more comfortable and boost energy efficiency year-round. Homeowners with older homes can save as much as 15% on energy costs by improving attic insulation.

Step 1: Seal air leaks

Before adding insulation, take care of air leaks. Common trouble spots include:

- Recessed lighting
- Chimneys
- Attic hatches or pull-down stairs
- Pipes, ductwork and wiring

Seal these gaps with caulk, expanding foam or weatherstripping. This helps keep warm air in during winter and hot air out during summer.

Step 2: Understand R-values

R-value measures how well insulation resists heat flow based on its type, thickness and density — the higher the number, the better. How much you need depends on your climate:

- Mild climates: R-30 to R-38 (10-14 inches)
- Cold climates: R-49 or higher (16-18 inches)

Quick check: If you can see the ceiling joists, you probably need more insulation.

You don't need to remove existing insulation unless it's wet, moldy or contaminated. Otherwise, it's safe to leave in place and add new insulation on top.

Step 3: Pick the right type

There are two main types of attic insulation:

Batt or roll insulation:

- Easier to install for DIYers.
- Must be cut precisely to avoid gaps, especially around obstructions like pipes and vents.

Blown-in or loose fill insulation:

- Installed with a machine that blows insulation into place.
- Fills gaps more evenly; great for hard-to-reach areas.
- Blown-in cellulose is the top pick for attics due to its high R-value, good coverage and air-sealing benefits.

Step 4: Plan for storage

It's tempting to use the attic for storage, especially for those holiday decorations, but if you're looking to maximize efficiency, store them elsewhere.



If you store items in your attic, don't flatten the insulation. Build a raised platform high enough to keep insulation at the recommended depth.

Step 5: Check old wiring

If your home is older, inspect attic wiring before insulating. Cracked or brittle wire insulation can be a fire hazard — have a professional electrician replace it if needed.

Step 6: Insulate the attic hatch

Whether you have an attic hatch or a dropdown ladder, this opening can leak lots of air if it's not sealed properly.

For standard hatches:

- Add insulation to match your attic's R-value.
- Upgrade to a pre-insulated panel or $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch plywood.
- Install weatherstripping and a dam to prevent loose-fill from spilling.

For dropdown ladders:

- Add an insulated cover box in the attic.
- Seal the frame with foam or weatherstripping.
- Be sure to leave room for the folded ladder.

You'll feel the difference

A well-insulated attic means lower energy bills and a more comfortable home, whether it's blazing hot or freezing cold outside. Start by sealing leaks, checking your R-value needs and picking the right insulation for your space — your future self (and wallet) will thank you!

Efficiency tips

It's tempting to use the attic for storage, especially for those holiday decorations, but if you're looking to maximize efficiency, store them elsewhere. If you store items in your attic, don't flatten the insulation. Build a raised platform high enough to keep insulation at the recommended depth.

Veterans, we honor you!

“As we express our gratitude,
we must never forget that the highest
appreciation is not to utter words,
but to live by them.”

John Fitzgerald Kennedy



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POWER OUTAGE

If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions

1. Check the fuses or circuit breakers in your service panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole, check the main breaker panel just below the meter socket. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all of your wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears to be okay, reset the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 1-877-399-8405. This phone number is monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.
5. Your phone call will be handled by SouthEastern's automated outage reporting system and will be identified automatically through ANI (Automatic Number Identification). An outage record will then be generated for your location. Please note that the phone number

from which you place the call will be the number used to generate the record. If the system fails to recognize your phone number, members having touch-tone phones may simply enter their seven-digit phone number (without area code) in order to report the outage. Members not having touch-tone phones will be asked to leave a message. It is important you leave your name, phone number and location of the outage. Retrieving messages and entering them into the system is time consuming; therefore, please leave only a message that will help in restoration of electric service. Do not remain on the line for an operator because a live operator is not there to respond. In order to keep a current listing of all numbers, it is important that you notify the Cooperative of any changes in your telephone number.

6. Handling outage calls electronically allows you to report power failures very quickly. Once your outage has been reported, it will be dispatched to repair personnel who will restore your outage as soon as possible. Calling back repeatedly will not shorten the length of the outage, but may hinder the efforts of other members who are trying to report outages.

OUTAGE CALLS ONLY 1-877-399-8405

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc.

100 Cooperative Way • Carrier Mills, IL 62917-2275
618-273-2611 or 800-833-2611 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F

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SouthEasternIllinoisElectric