



Mike Smith
President and CEO

**Our office will be closed
Nov. 27 & 28
for Thanksgiving.**

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.

Reflecting on progress, planning for the future

As we close another year, I want to pause and express gratitude — for you, the members of McDonough Power Cooperative — for your continued trust and support. Our cooperative was built on the promise of people coming together to improve the quality of life in their communities, and that promise still guides everything we do today.

Each decision, whether it's about delivering reliable electricity, innovating for the future or advocating for smart energy policies that impact our local community, comes back to one simple question: How will this benefit the members we serve?

This past year has been marked by meaningful progress, both in strengthening our local system and in working at the national level to influence energy policies that directly affect reliability, affordability and resilience. While the details of federal regulations can feel distant, they shape our daily operations here at home. **7328A7-600B**

Over the past year, electric cooperatives across the country came together for advocacy efforts on the EPA's Power Plant Rule. As originally written, the rule would have forced a rapid shift away from always-available power generation resources, threatening the accessibility of a diverse fuel supply that keeps electricity reliable. Renewable energy sources are an essential and growing part of our energy future, but we also know that the demand for electricity is rising rapidly, and natural gas, coal and nuclear remain essential for ensuring power is available around the clock. As we collaborated and engaged with policymakers, we pressed for a more balanced approach to generating power — one that supports clean energy innovation while still recognizing the role of traditional

resources. Our efforts are helping to shape a more workable path forward that better protects reliability and keeps costs in check for McDonough Power members.

Another area of ongoing progress came through advocacy work on federal permitting reform. For too long, outdated rules and lengthy delays have stood in the way of building critical infrastructure, including new transmission lines and generation projects. Modernizing this process is essential if we are going to strengthen the electric grid and keep pace with growing demand. This year, electric co-ops helped move the needle on permitting reform, advocating for policies that make the process faster, more predictable and more efficient. Investments we make in infrastructure will reach communities sooner, improving reliability and preparing us for the future.

We're also seeing progress with bipartisan support of the FEMA Act of 2025, which would speed up the disaster recovery process for electric cooperatives and the communities they serve. Severe storms are a fact of life, and their impact on the electric system can be devastating.

FEMA is a crucial partner for electric co-ops in efforts to restore power after disaster strikes, but currently, the federal reimbursement process after a major storm is slow and full of red tape. If passed, the bill would make FEMA a stronger, more responsive agency to help strengthen rural resilience, protect taxpayer dollars and ensure essential services are restored as quickly as possible after a natural disaster.

Achievements like these are not just wins in Washington — they are wins for McDonough Power members like you.

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Spread holiday cheer — Donate to Project Santa!

McDonough Power Cooperative is proud to support WIRC's Project Santa program, helping bring holiday joy to children in need throughout our community.

We're collecting **new, unwrapped toys for kids of all ages** now through **Dec. 11**. Donations can be dropped off in our lobby during regular business hours. **739B9-670B**

Join us in making the season a little brighter — every toy makes a difference!



**Our office will be closed Dec. 25-26 for
Christmas and Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.**

**Happy Holidays from all of us at McDonough
Power Cooperative!**

Continued from 18A

In addition to our advocacy efforts, we're taking proactive steps to meet the evolving needs of our communities by investing in new technologies and programs that enhance service for our members. With advanced monitoring systems and AI-driven tools, we will be able to identify potential power delivery issues before they occur. Our new software system, launched in November, will further strengthen our operations and expand the services we're able to offer in the coming year.

As we look ahead to a new year, I see both challenges and opportunities on the

horizon. The energy industry is undergoing significant change driven by the rising need for more electricity, new tools and technologies, and federal energy policies.

The path forward requires innovative thinking and member-focused solutions. I'm confident that with the dedication of McDonough Power employees and the continued support of our members, we are well positioned to adapt and meet challenges head-on. Through it all, our promise to you remains steadfast: reliable power for today — and tomorrow. **5330B2-254A**



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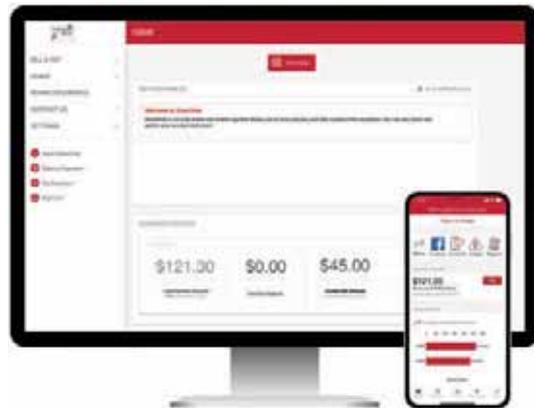
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You can find instructions for how to register and activate features on our SmartHub support page at mcdonoughpower.com/smarthub.

ATTENTION: DEBIT & CREDIT CARD AUTO PAY MEMBERS

If you are currently registered for Auto Pay using a debit or credit card you will be required to re-register for Auto Pay in our new SmartHub billing and payment system.

If you use Bank Draft (ACH payments) you will NOT be required to re-register for Auto Pay.



NEED ASSISTANCE?

If you have any questions or issues, you may contact us by sending an email to memberservices@mcdonoughpower.com or calling (309) 833-2101. Visit our SmartHub support page at mcdonoughpower.com/smarthub for more information.

Visit mcdonoughpower.com/smarthub for more information.

Apply now!

CO-OP SCHOLARSHIPS POWER YOUR FUTURE!

McDonough Power Cooperative is proud to support the next generation through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program, which awards 17 scholarships worth **\$3,000 each.**

Scholarships are available for high school seniors, as well as one scholarship for those pursuing a career in electric linework. Learn more and apply at

mcdonoughpower.com/community/scholarships.

Application deadline: Dec. 31, 2025



(The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2026.)

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

To maximize your fireplace's efficiency, always keep the damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. An open damper is like an open window, allowing warm indoor air to escape and cold air to enter. Consider installing a fireplace insert, which improves heat output by circulating warm air into the room rather than letting it escape up the chimney. Also, burn only seasoned hardwood to ensure a hotter, cleaner burn. Regularly clean and inspect your chimney to maintain safe and efficient operation.

Source: energy.gov

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Look out for the "energy-saving device" scam. Whether sold on social media platforms or through random emails, consumers have fallen victim to scams where these products claim to reduce or even eliminate energy bills. These products are advertised as devices that will "balance" or "clean" the power in your home, thus saving you money. There is no such device that can simply be plugged in to lower energy use. 4110D8-1100C

