

INSIDE

18B

Planned outages

Outage notification

SmartHub

18C

Extreme weather

18D

Lineworker scholarship

Bryce Walsh promotion

Office closure



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

11597 Illinois Highway 1
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Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



JANUARY 2026

Youth to Washington

APPLY TODAY TO REPRESENT ENERSTAR IN D.C.

For more than 60 years, the electric cooperatives of Illinois have given tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to learn from today's public officials, and EnerStar is on the hunt for two outstanding students to represent our co-op at **Youth Tour** this year. EnerStar's **Youth Tour** is actually two separate events: **Youth Day** in Springfield and the Youth to Washington trip.



YOUTH TO WASHINGTON – JUNE 15-22, 2026

Those individuals selected will also travel by charter bus for an all-expense, week-long tour of Washington, D.C. where they will create lasting memories and visit all the Washington must-see sites including Gettysburg, George Washington's Mt Vernon, Smithsonian museums, Arlington Cemetery, and much more!



YOUTH DAY IN SPRINGFIELD – MARCH 25, 2026

Each year, nearly 300 outstanding students get an up-close, first-hand look at democracy in action when they meet their elected representatives during Illinois Electric Cooperatives Youth Day.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should be high school freshmen, sophomores or juniors during the 2025-2026 school year. In addition, the students must reside in the EnerStar service territory and receive their electricity from EnerStar.

Visit www.enerstar.com to find the application in the Community Section.

Planned outage notification call list

If you depend on life support equipment, contact EnerStar

EnerStar does its best to keep the power on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Yet despite our best efforts, outages do occur. For most members, this is an inconvenience, but for those who depend on electricity to power life support equipment, an outage can present a real challenge. To protect yourself, be prepared by installing a generator or having some other form of backup plan.

While most outages are weather-related, a few are planned in advance for maintenance and construction purposes. In instances of a planned outage, EnerStar maintains a Planned Outage Call List for those



members with a verified medical necessity. These members receive notification in the event of a scheduled power outage.

If you or a relative depend on electrically powered life support equipment and would like to be put on the call list for medical reasons, it is necessary for the member's doctor to send a letter to EnerStar

indicating the need for electrically operated life support. The letter should include information regarding the person needing life support equipment, the type of equipment, and location information. It is the member's responsibility to keep all contact information updated with EnerStar.

If your business depends on uninterrupted power supply, the use of an electric generator is highly recommended, and computers should have some sort of a battery back-up system.

It is important to stress that by being placed on the planned outage call list, **EnerStar is in no way guaranteeing uninterrupted power supply.** Members must make personal arrangements for both unplanned and planned outages.

To apply for the Planned Outage Call List, send an email to EnerStar's Kayla Foos at kfoos@enerstar.com or call her at (800) 635-4145.

Why we plan outages

Sometimes, you may hear that EnerStar will be having a "planned outage." Ever wondered why?

Occasionally, the equipment we use to bring power to your home needs to be repaired or replaced. When this happens, as a way to keep our crews and you safe, we plan a power interruption.

"We do our best to plan these outages during times when you will be least inconvenienced," said EnerStar's Manager of Engineering and Operations Greg Hollingsworth.

Hollingsworth explained that while it may be inconvenient, planned outages are actually beneficial. "Regular system maintenance is critical for many reasons. Yes, power reliability is one issue to avoid after-hour outages but there is also the issue of public safety and the safety of our employees," he said.

Here at EnerStar, we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep you safe and to keep our system running smoothly. So the next time you hear about a planned outage, know that it is one of the best ways we can provide you with quality electric service.



Best way to be notified for all EnerStar news -

Sign up for SmartHub!



Visit www.enerstar.com or download our free, secure mobile app!



How extreme winter weather impacts reliability

When outdoor temperatures drop, our electricity use increases. That's because we're doing more activities inside, and our heating systems are running longer and more often to counteract colder outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same times – in the morning and early evenings – and that equals strain on our electric grid.

At EnerStar Electric Cooperative, we work closely with our generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative, Wabash Valley Power, in resource and infrastructure planning to ensure you have the power you need whenever you flip a switch, but the electric grid is much larger than just us.

In winter months, when even more electricity is being used simultaneously across the country, it is possible for electricity demand to exceed supply, especially if an unexpected event like a sudden snow or ice storm or equipment malfunction occurs. If this happens, which is rare, the grid operator for our region of the country may call for rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the grid, and EnerStar will keep you informed about the situation.

EnerStar and Wabash take proactive steps to create a resilient portion of the grid and ensure electric reliability in extreme weather, including regular system maintenance, grid modernization efforts and disaster

response planning, but it takes everyone to keep the grid reliable.

To help keep the heat on for you, your family and your neighbors, here are a few things you can do to relieve pressure on the grid (and save a little money along the way):

- Select the lowest comfortable thermostat setting and turn it down several degrees whenever possible. Your heating system must run longer to make up the difference between the thermostat temp and the outdoor temp.
 - ✓ **PRO TIP:** Seal air leaks around windows and exterior doors with caulk and weatherstripping. Air leaks and drafts force your heating system to work harder than necessary.
- Stagger your use of major appliances such as dishwashers, ovens and dryers.
 - ✓ **PRO TIP:** Start the dishwasher before you go to bed and use smaller countertop appliances like slow cookers and air fryers to save energy.
- Ensure that your heating system is optimized for efficiency with regular maintenance and proper insulation.

✓ **PRO TIP:** Ensure your furnace filter isn't clogged or dirty. Replace it as needed.

■ When possible, use cold water to reduce water heating costs.

✓ **PRO TIP:** Setting your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees can help you save energy and reduce mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

■ Unplug devices when not in use to eliminate unnecessary energy use. Even when turned off, electronics in standby mode consume energy.

✓ **PRO TIP:** Plug devices into a power strip so you can turn them all off at once with the push of a button.

As we face the challenges posed by winter weather, understanding its impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply. By adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme cold, not only can you save money on your electric bills, but you can also contribute to the resilience of the power grid, keeping our local community warm and connected.



Powering the Future: \$3000 Lineworker Scholarship

The LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship is designed for those ready to light up the world by pursuing a career in linework and are enrolled or plan to enroll at Lincoln Land Community College's lineworker program. This scholarship supports students of co-op members, relatives of employees or directors, and those who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces or National Guard.

The application deadline is April 30, 2026. For more information or to apply, visit the community section at www.enerstar.com.



**IEC MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIPS**

Congratulations!



BRYCE WALSH

FORESTRY JOURNEYMAN

EnerStar

A big CONGRATS to EnerStar's Bryce Walsh for meeting all requirements to become a forestry journeyman! He was required to complete a minimum of 4,000 hours in the field of forestry and then successfully complete his journeyman test.

Bryce began his career in 2019, working for vegetation management contractors on both distribution and transmission lines across east-central Illinois. He joined the cooperative in July 2024.

Thanks, Bryce, for your dedication to the cooperative!



2026
HAPPY NEW YEAR

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
DEC. 31 AND JAN. 1
TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR.