



Egyptian Electric News

1732 Finney Road • Murphysboro, IL 62966 • 800-606-1505 • eeca.coop

APRIL 2026



Celebrating Our EECA Lineworkers!

April 13 is Lineworker Appreciation Day

We often see comments on our Facebook page and consistently in our member survey offering high praise for our lineworkers and recognizing that they work in some of the most challenging conditions. We take great pride in these messages and are grateful to our members for sharing them. EECA is fortunate to have a talented and dedicated group of lineworkers, and each April we are proud to spotlight them and the work they do.

When outages occur, no matter the time, our lineworkers jump into action. They leave family dinners, work late into the night, and brave difficult weather conditions to make sure we have power. That readiness comes not only from a sense of duty, but also from rigorous training, years of experience, and a shared commitment to serving others.

EECA has said before that we have the best in the business, and we mean it. Our lineworkers consistently rank among the top performers at our statewide organization's annual Lineworker Safety Rodeo, where they are recognized for both their skill and their commitment to safety.

Beyond their expertise, our lineworkers embody the cooperative spirit that is at the heart of EECA. Sometimes that means going beyond our own service territory through mutual aid, helping restore power for other cooperatives and their communities. Likewise, when storms impact EECA's area, lineworkers from other co-ops step in to assist.

This teamwork strengthens all cooperatives and ensures our members have the power they need when it matters most.

Our lineworkers take pride in calling southern Illinois home and care deeply about the communities they serve. They understand that electricity is more than a convenience, it's essential for homes, schools, farms, businesses, and emergency services.

On April 13, 2026, we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day, but their hard work deserves recognition every day. To our EECA lineworkers, we appreciate your dedication and everything you do to keep our communities powered!

Our EECA lineworkers:

- Aaron Richards
- Andy Ahner
- Brian Alexander
- Cody Lee
- Darin Prange
- Hunter Lodge
- Jared Bastien
- Matt McElroy
- Mike Smith
- Philip Ellis
- Robbie Knop
- Rod Smith
- Ronnie Gill
- Tim McBride
- Tyler Atchison
- Zach Doan
- Dylan McClarren
- Tyler Hawk (Forestry)
- Owen Bradley (Forestry)



Egyptian Electric
Cooperative Association
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1732 Finney Road
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Business hours/After hours
800-606-1505

24/7 Automated Pay-by-Phone
855-939-3675

Office hours 8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. M-F
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- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N. Reed Station Parkway and 1815 W. Main in Carbondale

Employee News

Since the start of 2026, we've had several promotions within EECA that we are proud to share!



Matt McElroy has been promoted to Meter Tester/Journeyman Lineman. In this role, he will be responsible for maintaining our metering equipment and voltage regulators, programming reclosers, testing substation equipment, and overseeing our SCADA system.



Robbie Knop has been promoted to Maintenance Lineman. In this role, he will be responsible for day-to-day service needs for members in Randolph and Perry counties.



Aaron Richards has been promoted to Line Foreman, where he will lead a crew of lineworkers in building new service, upgrading existing service, and completing any other type of linework that requires a crew.



Dylan McClerren has been promoted to Apprentice Lineman, beginning a three-year on-the-job training program to develop the skills needed to become a journeyman lineman.



Tyler Hawk has been promoted to Line Clearance Foreman, where he will lead the forestry crew in tree removal and trimming to maintain annual vegetation management and help prevent potential outages.



MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three member names hidden throughout our Egyptian Electric News section. If you find your name, call our office and identify yourself and the page that it is on and you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

Update on EECA's Electric Rates

In January 2026, previous Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) and Delivery Cost Adjustment (DCA) amounts through 2025 were rolled into our base rate to account for rising costs across our industry, and the PCA and DCA were decreased.

These two charges may always fluctuate monthly but being able to adjust them helps the Cooperative account for costs that fall outside of our budget due to changes in the energy market. Factors influencing market costs include inflation, tariff policy, fluctuating costs of material, and fuel surcharges tied to global events.

We started the year with a PCA set at \$.001/kWh. For February usage/March bills, we lowered the

PCA (giving members a credit) from \$.001/kWh to \$ -.0005/kWh. This equates to \$1.50 savings per every 1,000 kWh used.

We expect the DCA to remain stable at \$.0005/kWh. However, if the war in Iran continues into the summer or fall, electric utilities across the country may begin seeing fuel surcharges on the deliveries of materials used to maintain the electric grid. **Dennis D Rodewald**

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, EECA does not operate to generate profits. Any adjustments we make to the PCA or DCA are strictly to recover the cost of providing safe and reliable electric service.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Don't fall victim to power outage scams. When widespread outages occur, scammers may target affected utility customers. They can contact you via call, text or email, urging you to act quickly and provide personal information to restore service. Always communicate with your utility through official channels, such as their website, mobile app or phone number listed on your bill. Your safety and personal information are worth taking a moment to pause and verify unknown senders.


Source: [ftc.org](https://www.ftc.gov)



Red Cross Blood Drive
Tuesday, April 14
10 a.m-3 p.m.
EECA Headquarters,
1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro.
 Appointments appreciated,
 but walk-ins are welcome.
Make an appointment at redcrossblood.org.

Safety Tip

Do not use electric yard tools when the ground is damp or wet. If you have cordless yard tools that run on battery power, charge the batteries safely and follow all manufacturer's instructions. Store yard tools out of children's reach.



Safe Electricity.org



Spring into Energy Savings!

April in southern Illinois is the perfect time to shake off winter, give your home some TLC, and refresh your energy habits. A few small changes around your home can add up to meaningful energy savings while keeping your home comfortable as temperatures swing from chilly mornings to warm afternoons.

Start with spring maintenance: Swap out dirty air filters and schedule an HVAC inspection. A well-maintained system runs efficiently, lasts longer, and helps prevent costly breakdowns when summer heat arrives. Spring

is the ideal time for these checkups because technicians' schedules fill quickly once summer hits.

Refresh your energy habits with these simple steps:

- **Ceiling fans:** Set blades counterclockwise in warmer months to feel cooler, allowing you to raise the thermostat a few degrees. In cooler months, reverse them clockwise to push warm air down.
- **Adjust your thermostat:** Even two or three degrees can reduce energy use

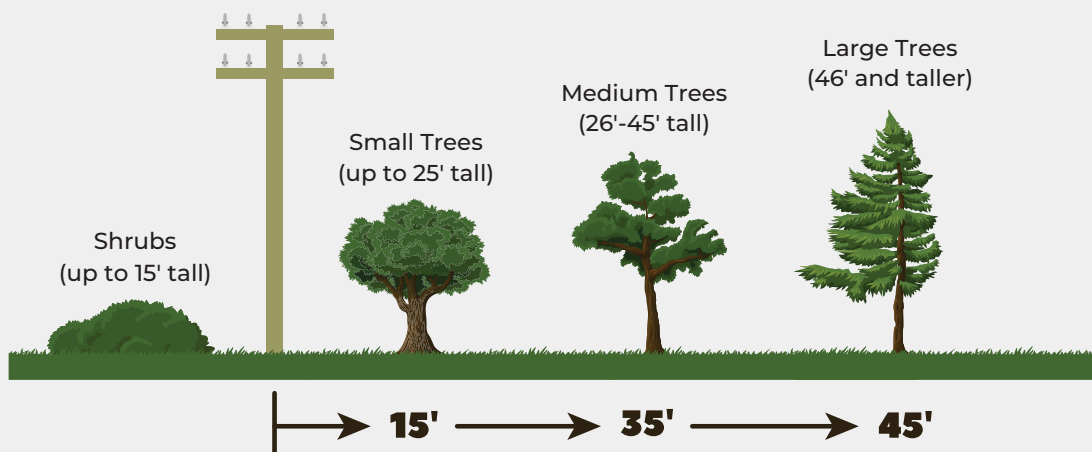
while keeping your home comfortable. **Doreen M Lewis**

- **Seal air leaks:** Use caulk, weatherstripping, or foam to keep conditioned air inside.
- **Switch to LEDs and unplug unused devices:** Both save energy without sacrificing comfort.
- **Run full loads and shorten showers:** These habits save water and reduce the energy needed to heat it.

A little effort this spring can pay off all year long!

Plant the **RIGHT TREE** in the **RIGHT PLACE**

The larger the tree, the farther it should be from a power line. Avoid planting beneath power lines, near poles or close to electrical equipment.



Remember, know what's below by calling 8-1-1 before you dig.

Learn more at: 