

Grow your savings: landscaping that cuts energy costs

At a glance

- The right trees — in the right places — provide shade, reduce heat absorption and even block winter winds.
- Smart landscaping can cut cooling costs by up to 25% and often pays for itself within eight years.
- Climate zone, tree type and mature height all matter when planning an energy-saving yard.

When most people think about saving energy, they picture insulation upgrades, efficient windows and appliance swaps. But your yard can play a major role, too. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a well-planned landscape can reduce air-conditioning costs by up to 25% and pays for itself in less than eight years. **4630-40**

Because landscaping results vary by region, keep in mind that the United States has four main climate zones: temperate, hot-arid, hot-humid and cool. Plant strategically for your zone.

Choose the right trees: deciduous or evergreen

- Deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves in the winter) block sunlight in the summer and allow light in during the colder months, helping to regulate indoor temperatures year-round.
- Evergreen trees provide consistent shade and can serve as windbreaks, which is especially helpful in cool climates.

Tip: In hot climates, choose native or drought-tolerant species. They require less water and are typically more resilient.

Placement matters

- **West and northwest sides:** Plant trees to block strong mid- to late-afternoon sun.
- **East and west windows:** Use deciduous trees to block summer sun but still allow winter light.
- **South side:** Tall trees planted at a distance equal to two to five times their mature height can shade your home without blocking winter sun.
- **West side:** Shorter trees and shrubs help shield against intense, low-angle afternoon sun.
- **Patios and driveways:** Shade these areas to reduce reflected heat.
- **Home perimeter:** Bushes can absorb sunlight and reduce heat transfer, but avoid dense plantings in humid climates, where airflow is important to prevent excess moisture.

Tip: Be mindful near solar panels. Avoid planting tall trees on the south side of panels to prevent shade during peak sun hours.



Plan for a tree's mature height

- Avoid planting trees that will grow taller than 15 feet near power lines.
- For taller species, plant at least 20 feet away — 45 feet is even better — to prevent safety hazards and avoid future pruning.

Call before you dig!

Before you plant anything, call 811 to check for underground utilities. This free service marks public lines, like electricity, water and gas, so you avoid costly and dangerous mistakes. Call several business days before you plan to dig.



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OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

BUSINESS OFFICE

217-357-3125

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

800-576-3125

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MAP LOCATION CONTEST

Every month we are printing four members' map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

Welcome new members

January
2026

Joyce Desotel
Makayla Grisham
Sheldon Grisham

Theresa Smith
& Craig Varner
6624-54

Vision Nauvoo1 LLC,
C/O Marc Kennedy
Kevin Youngmeyer

Office closed April 3, 2026

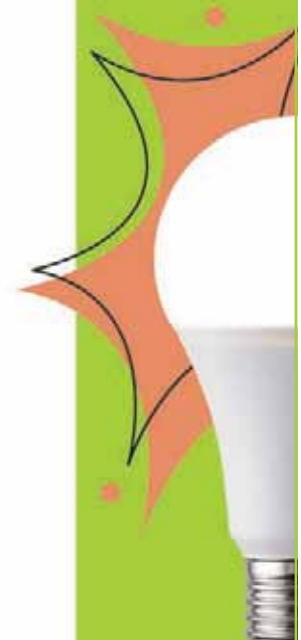
The WIEC office will be closed on Friday, April 3rd in observance of Good Friday.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As we prepare for the seasonal shift, remember to set your ceiling fan rotation accordingly. In winter months (or whenever your home heating system is running), fan blades should rotate clockwise, which produces an updraft that pushes warm air down. In summer months (or whenever your home cooling system is running), blades should rotate counterclockwise, which produces a downdraft or windchill effect that makes you feel cooler. When used correctly, ceiling fans can boost comfort and allow you to adjust the thermostat a few degrees for energy savings.

Source: energy.gov



Nominating Committee appointed

At the February WIEC board meeting, current board members appointed the following co-op members to serve on the 2026 Nominating Committee:

District No. 1 – Bradley Flatt, Media

District No. 2 – Spencer Berry, Nauvoo

District No. 3 – Harold Herdrich, Dallas City

District No. 4 – Steve Boyer, Carthage

District No. 5 – Austin Ufkes, Carthage

District No. 6 – Rodney Bruns and Brian Reavis,
both of Carthage

District No. 7 – Max Roskamp and Todd Beeler,
both of Sutter

Two committee members were appointed from the districts whose board members' terms expire this year. Other districts each have a single appointee. This committee will nominate at least one member from District No. 6 and at least one member from District No. 7 to represent those districts on the WIEC Board of Directors for a three-year term.

Landon Guymon from District No. 6 and Janet Spory from District No. 7 are the current board members.

The first Nominating Committee meeting was scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 9, at the WIEC office in Carthage.



Vegetation management

In order to help maintain reliable electric service, WIEC has contracted with IFP Land Services LLC (IFP) to handle brush and tree management needs again this year. They will handle spraying, trimming, cutting and removal of trees and brush. **7522-30**

We plan to have crews performing routine brush spraying this spring and summer in Appanoose, Bear Creek, Dallas City, Durham, Montebello, Pontoosuc, Prairie, Rock Creek, Sonora and Wythe townships, all in Hancock County.

Fallen trees and limbs account for many power outages, momentary flickers and blinks. Brush spraying and tree trimming are necessary to provide the continuous service WIEC members deserve and expect. Due to the advanced printing of this issue of the WIEC News, these plans are subject to change. If you have questions, please contact the office at 217-357-3125 or 800-576-3125.

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)



Cash those capital credit checks...

Please take one more look to assure you've cashed any capital credit retirement checks from the Fall of 2025. If you haven't taken care of that yet, now's the time! **7618-6**

In addition, if you happen to have current address or phone information for someone appearing on this list of uncashed checks, please contact our office to aid in our efforts to return as many dollars to WIEC members as possible. Thank you.

Adams Emma	Day Lewis	Gordon Garland	Johnson Dorman G	Moore Tom	Shirey Eli
Altgilbers Cris	Dejaynes Sam	Gordy Dennis F	Jones Irene	Morrell Bryan	Shoemate James
Ament Donald Lee	Delaney Jim	Grafton Trucking	Jones Joseph	Morris David L	Shumate Michael L
Asher Malissa	Delguzzi Virginia	Graham Erma	Jones Karl Blaine	Mosley Kathy J	Shutwell Robert E
AT & SF Railway Co	Dietrich Kay	Graham Services	Kaltenbach Eric	Mustard Richard	Simpson Dave W
Barker Glen D	Dively Daniel R	Gray Martha L	Kay Brian A	Naumann Rona	Sloan Charlotte
Barns Warren P	Dooley Tommas M	Gray Sharon G	Kelley Jennifer K	Neally Danny	Sloop William R
Bavery Michael T	Douglas Gene	Green Jerry	Kelly Larry	Neff Gayle	Smothers Jackie A
Bawden Kyle	Dowdall Patrick	Greenig Troy	Kelly Scott W	Neill Cattle Farm	Spangler Helen
Bennett Harry J	Dowell Benny L	Griffiths Danny J	Kershner Brad S	Neill Ida	Sparrow Brent
Bess-Melcher Malinda L	Dowell Sidney L	Griswold Aaron	Kettelkamp Steven J	Nell Gerald M	Speer Eric
Blue Carol E	Drummond Ronald K	Gronewold Max	Knutson Clark D	Newton William Jr	Spieß Dale
Blue Diana	Durkee Kristin L	Gruetzenbach Hans	Koestner Heir S	Nichols Kevin	Spraggins Nancy S
Blum Dale A	Dusza Donald E	Haase Mary Lynn	Kraft Michael D	Nicholson Patrick	Stamp Linda L
Bode Ronald L	Eagen Vivian M	Haberichter Kenton J	Krow James R	Niedziela Arthur	Steck Brothers
Bolton Judith	Eaves Kelly J	Hackemack Glenda J	Kunz Irene	Northup Roland H	Stevenson Michael
Bowman Phillip T Jr	Eaves Kelly J	Hackett Joyce A	Kunz Jay	Ole Miss Cabin Assoc	Stewart Shannon
Boyer Judy	Ebbert Richard P	Hamman Kathryn D	Labonte Scott	Osbon Buddy L	Stoneking Harry
Boyles John L	Eimer Matthew J	Hamman Steve	Lambert Charles	Overton Donald	Sunny Knoll Farms Inc
Bradley & Gregory	Elledge David R	Hammel Jeffrey B	Larson Donald	Parker A G	Sutliff Steven
Brandom Lorraina B	Ellenberg Edward	Hanks Leo E	Larson Eric E	Parrish Mark L	Swan William
Bray Gary W	Ellis Robert	Hanson Mark E	Laue Kathryn E	Peacock David W	Switzer Les Jr
Brown Betty	Energy Transport	Harman Grain & Cattle	Lewis Genevieve	Peitz Donna L	Taber Donita J
Brown Kenneth W	Estabrook R B	Harman James R	Limkeman Delbert W	Phillips Gets Chow Co	Tanner J E
Brown Nancy	Evans John L	Harman Richard	Limkeman Dorothy	Pierce Jason T	Taylor John
Brown Vickie	Evans Sara J	Harman Ronald	Lingelbach Ralph E	Pilkington Leland G	Teel Kimerly K
Browning Leon	Everhardus Sally	Harris Steve	Logan Robert	Plummer James P Jr	Thomas Tom L
Brunenn Tony	Everly Elgin L	Harrison Delores	Lomax Welding Inc	Powelson Ronnie	Timmerman Barbara
Buckert Bros	Fairchild Ben	Harrison Leo C	Lowe William R	Prairie Farms Dairy Inc	Jean
Buckert Ruth Estate	Farquhar Roger	Hart Patricia J	M & K Farms	Prairie Winds Motel	Tripp Shirley A
Buege Ronald L	Farrington Lisa	Hartney Farms	Mabe Pearl	Prunty Dennis L	Trott Donald C
Burford Chi Un	Faul Ralph L	Hartweg Brad	Maloney Maureen T	Purtle Leona	Troutman Janice
Burns Peggy	Feller Lynn	Haskins A Blake	Manton Kevin D	Quackenbush Marjorie	Turley William B
Califf Bill	Ferguson Jeff	Hastings Clifford L	Markey Deanna	Randoph Melva	Vanausdall Ann
Cameron David M	Ferguson Terry	Hauptert Joe	Markey Gail W	Rea Carl	Vandusen Daniel L
Campbell John S	Fink Trent D	Hayner Angela J	Markey Ronald	Recker Cathy	Vanniewaal Pl B Htg
Cannon Mark	Fisher-Tenpenny Donna	Heavin Melani	Markley Trisha	Reed Angela	Vanwinkle Brenda
Carel Robin G	Flack Misty	Heuser Keith E	Marlin Renee	Reed Geane M	Walker Thomas S
Carnes Donald R Sr	Flatten Susan	Hibbard Carol	Marshall Clarabelle	Reichelt Thomas	Walters Alfred
Carnes William	Flemming Robert	Hiland Rodney	Martens Ronald	Rhodes Eric	Walton Ruth E Estate
Carter Michael L	Ford Sandra J	Hill Daril L	Martin Denise	Richards Dick	Warsaw Gun Club
Chandler Carrie S	Foresman Anna L	Hilton Maxine	Mason Myron	Richey Anson L	Waterman Conda
Chaney Patricia A	Forquer Tammi	Hoskins Jerry D	Mason Raymond D	Ritchey Marla K	Waterman Harold L
Chaney William E	Forrester Roxann	Hubbard Duane	McChesney Edith	Roelfs Daren J	Watkins William D
Cheesman Enterprises	Fortado David C	Huff Island Hunt & Fish	McClellan Leon	Ross Virginia	Wear Doris I
Clampitt Luan	Fortado Jean	Huffman Charles W	McCombs Martin W	Rowland Margaret	Wear Ronald
Clark Barbara	Foster Michael	Huls Jeremy	McCoy Wesley R	Russell Lloyd J	West Mark A
Classen Ruthie J	Frueh Marsha J	Hummel Rosalie M	McElroy Doris K	Sams Douglas G	Whitaker Dorothy
Clayburn Craig	Fullers Hydroponics	Huser Gregory A	McIntyre Rodney	Sanchez Roberto	Whitson Margaret
Clemenson Scott A	Gabel Daniel	Huston Alfred	McKoon Shawn R	Sanning Dave	Wilkey Amy S
Cochran Lloyd J	Galbraith Danny	Hutson Chad	McManis David L	Scheetz Leroy	Wilson Thomas
Comstock Larry D	Gates Neeley J	Hutson Patricia	Medina Gerardo	Scheetz R J	Witter Carol J
Connor Jenny	Geissler Donald	Hutson Stanley J	Meeks Stacy	Scheetz Robin	Wittman Edna M
Cooper Barbara	Geissler William F	Independence ATA 219	Meier Rochne E	Scheetz Thomas J	Wollbrink Edward
Countryman Renee	Gerdes George E	Ingram Tonya L	Merritt Jonathan	Schmelzle Mark	Womack Penny S
Cox Stacy	Gibson Mike	Irish Martha	Mewes Dale	Schnedler Dolores	Woodworth Pam
Cramberg Connie G	Gillum Loren Jr	Jerred Roy	Midlane Bert J	Schoonover Russell L	Wuestenfeld Dave
Cratsenberg Robert E	Gilpin Charles H	John Justice J	Miller Rolland	Schuermann Caroline	Yarolem Timothy A
Davis Bryan S	Gilpin Fred L	Johnson Betty	Mohler Leslie A	Schulte Travis	Zabel Clarence E
Day Darin	Gilpin Lynsey	Johnson Carol J	Monnier Becky	Schwan John E	Zart Ann J