



CLASSROOM EMPOWERMENT GRANTS (2026-27)





APPLY FOR ONE OF (10) TEN GRANTS OF

\$500



SCAN HERE

Tell a Teacher! EECA is accepting applications for Classroom Grants for 2026-27

Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association (EECA) is once again accepting applications for the annual Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants for the 2026-27 school year.

Teachers, do you have a project or initiative you'd love to bring to life but need extra funding to make it happen? These \$500 grants are designed to support the above and beyond ideas inspired by those who work with our children in our schools. Commitment to community is one of our Touchstone Energy principles, and supporting local educators is one of the most meaningful ways EECA invests in the communities it serves.

Each year, EECA awards ten \$500 grants to teachers/educators ready to spark creativity, curiosity, and hands-on learning in their classrooms. These grants are all about empowering students and bringing innovative ideas to life, and are different from our Student Support Grants, which aim to meet basic student needs.

Curious what kinds of ideas these grants have funded in the past? Check out a few inspiring projects from last year's winners:



■ April Bartnick, Murphysboro Middle School

She used her grant to support science lessons on solar energy by providing materials for students to build hands-on projects, such as solar ovens and miniature solar-powered cars.



■ Nina Maether, Saint Andrew School, Murphysboro

She used their grant to purchase two vertical garden towers. In this picture they are celebrating their first harvest of fresh salad greens that they were able to share with the school cafeteria.



■ Jessica Carsrud, Giant City School, Carbondale

Funding supported the "Engineering in Action" program, where K-8 students explore physics and engineering concepts through hands-on KEVA Plank projects, including building bridges and marble roller coasters.

Rules continued on 18C ▶



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
www.eeca.coop

Board of Directors

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Choose your payment option!

- At our office lobby, drive-thru, drop-box, or payment kiosk
- Mail to: 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro, IL 62966
- Set up recurring bank draft or credit card payments
- Use SmartHub portal, online or mobile app
- By phone at 855-939-3675, using credit card or checking account
- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N. Reed Station Parkway and 1815 W. Main in Carbondale



Celebrate Coop Month with EECA!

When you contact EECA, you're talking to neighbors who attend your church, whose kids go to school with your kids, and whose power goes out when yours does. We're proud to be part of the communities we serve, and we're committed to providing you with the best service possible!

Proudly serving members since 1938.

Additional PCA/DCA Credit

Over the last six years, we have seen unlikely and unpredictable outcomes associated with costs, tariffs, interest rates and scarcity of materials. This has affected every aspect of our lives.

Since the beginning of this year, EECA has maintained strong positive margins, and overall costs have leveled. In January 2026, our Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) began to gradually decrease, and has continued to be reflected as a credit per kWh on your EECA monthly bill.

What has happened: On your September bill (August usage), the PCA was decreased from $-\$0.002/\text{kWh}$ by an additional $-\$0.003/\text{kWh}$ from the August bill (July usage), and read as a credit of $-\$0.005/\text{kWh}$.

What to expect next: When consumer-members receive their October bill (September usage), they will again see an additional $-\$0.003/\text{kWh}$ credit, bringing the PCA to $-\$0.008/\text{kWh}$.

Margaret V Pierce

Between both credits, every 1,000 kWh billed, is an additional \$6 CREDIT. Since January, the combined impact of these changes through October will result in a 2.9% decrease for the average consumer-member.

Unfortunately, we do not know what the future holds beyond October for any additional increases or decreases in the PCA. As of today, though, we are not anticipating permanently modifying these changes into our rate structure moving into 2027.

Please remember that as a not-for-profit electric cooperative, any margins at the end of each year will be allocated back to the membership and paid back in future years.

We continue to adapt to evolving circumstances and will continue to keep you informed along the way!

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.



2026-27 Classroom Empowerment Grant Official Rules (Continued from 18A)

APPLICATION PROCESS

Submit the completed Grant Application Form (pg 6), **and** a double-spaced typewritten request that includes the following:

1. A description of the project, what the project will accomplish, and why it should be selected for funding.
2. The estimated cost of the project based on researched and provided data.
3. An explanation of why funds are necessary for the completion of the project.
4. If other funding options have been pursued, the status of those requests.
5. When the project will be completed.
6. The number of students impacted by the project.
7. How the goals of the project will be measured, and what would determine the project to be a success.
8. How the project ties to our Touchstone Energy core values: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

Photos and supporting data are optional, but strongly encouraged. For questions on the program, contact Roni Croxell at 800-606-1505 or rcroxell@eeca.coop.

Applications may be submitted:

- By email to rcroxell@eeca.coop (in one PDF document)
- By mail to Egyptian Electric Cooperative, 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro, IL 62966
- By fax to 888-554-8181, Attn: Roni Croxell
- Or dropped off at our office drive-thru or outdoor dropbox.

WHO MAY APPLY

Teachers, administrators, and/or qualified employees of K-12 public or private schools within the Egyptian Electric Cooperative (EECA) service territory footprint can apply.

Applications are not limited to public schools, but public schools within our territory are **Carbondale, Carterville, Chester, Coulterville, DeSoto, DuQuoin, Elverado, Marissa, Murphysboro, Pinckneyville, Red Bud, Sparta, Steeleville, and Trico.**

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Qualifying projects are those that improve the learning environment for students and/or increase educational resources for the school.

Applicants and schools are eligible to apply every year, even if the applicant has been a previous

recipient. Please note that the school or district does NOT have to receive electric service from Egyptian Electric Cooperative to qualify.

SELECTION PROCESS

An impartial judging panel will score the applications based on which projects best demonstrate improving the learning environment and/or increasing educational resources for the school. Decision of the judging panel is final.

IMPORTANT DATES

All completed applications must be received by the office of EECA, by **Friday, Nov. 6, 2026**. The winners will be notified no later than Dec. 5. Funded projects must be completed by the end of the 2027 spring semester. **Richard J Bess**

The Classroom Empowerment Grant application can be found on page 6 of this magazine or at eeca.coop.

EECA returning \$1.3M in Capital Credits to Members

Active members who had service with EECA in 1996, 1997, 1998 or 1999 should have received their capital credit returns as a bill credit on their October electric bill. If your capital credit return was over \$500, it will be sent to you as a check in the mail. If you had service during those years and have questions, please contact our office at 800-606-1505.

JOIN EGYPTIAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE FOR OUR MEMBER APPRECIATION

ELECTRONICS & PAPER SHRED RECYCLE DAY

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING & ON-SITE PAPER SHREDDING



SATURDAY, OCT 17
8 AM - 12 PM
EECA HEADQUARTERS
1732 FINNEY ROAD, MURPHYSBORO



DOCUMENTS

For on-site shredding, confidential documents such as tax returns, receipts, insurance papers, and empty manila folders will be accepted. Paper clips, staples, and plastic binder clips attached to documents are also accepted.

ELECTRONICS



Not Accepted:

<i>Radios Stereos</i>	<i>Fans</i>
<i>Cameras</i>	<i>VHS tapes</i>
<i>Answering machines</i>	<i>Washers & dryers</i>
<i>Copy machines</i>	<i>Stoves</i>
<i>Typewriters</i>	<i>Freezers</i>
<i>Calculators</i>	<i>Water heaters</i>
<i>Other phones</i>	<i>Refrigerators</i>
<i>Power tools</i>	<i>Humidifiers</i>
<i>Clocks</i>	<i>Dehumidifiers</i>
<i>Microwaves</i>	<i>Smoke detectors</i>
<i>Blenders (without glass)</i>	<i>Lamps</i>
<i>Coffeemakers</i>	<i>Lightbulbs</i>
<i>Toasters</i>	<i>Vacuum cleaners</i>
	<i>CDs/DVDs</i>



Accepted:

Computers (desktop, laptop, tablets)
Monitors (CRT & flat screen)
Printers/Scanners
Fax Machines
Keyboards & Mice
Televisions
Cords & Cables
Cable & Satellite Receivers
VCR & DVD Players
Digital Converter Boxes
Portable Digital Music Players
Video Game Players
Small-Scale Servers
Cell Phones

This event is open to the public, but to show our appreciation for EECA members, they will receive donuts as they drive through.



**Egyptian Electric
Cooperative Association**