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Get your home winter-ready: Simple ways to save energy this season

As temperatures begin to drop across Southern Illinois, many of us will start spending more time indoors, and our heating systems will begin working harder to keep our homes comfortable.

Before the coldest weather arrives, now is a good time to look around your home and identify a few simple ways to use energy more efficiently. The good news is that improving your home's efficiency doesn't always require a major investment. In many cases, small improvements and simple changes in our daily routines can make a meaningful difference.

Start with the simple things

One of the best places to start is by checking your home for drafts. Small gaps around windows and exterior doors can allow cold air in and heated air out. Inexpensive weatherstripping or caulk can help seal those areas and keep more of the warm air you're paying for inside your home.

It's also worth checking some of the areas that are easy to overlook, such as attic access points and fireplace dampers. If you have a fireplace, make sure the damper is closed when it's not in use.

Your heating system deserves some attention as well. Check your furnace filter regularly and replace or clean it according to the manufacturer's recommendations. A dirty filter can restrict airflow and cause your system to work harder than necessary. While you're at it, make sure furniture, rugs and curtains aren't blocking your vents or registers.

These are relatively small improvements, but they can help your home use energy more efficiently throughout the winter.



Make energy savings part of your routine

Some of the easiest ways to reduce energy use don't cost anything at all.

During the winter, consider setting your thermostat to the lowest comfortable temperature for your household. If no one will be home for several hours, lowering the temperature a few degrees can help avoid heating an empty house.

You can also take advantage of the sun's natural warmth. Open curtains and blinds on sunny windows during the day, then close them in the evening to help reduce heat loss through the glass.

There are opportunities to save beyond heating, too. Wait until you have a full load before running the dishwasher or washing machine, wash clothes in cold

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READERSHIP
PRIZE WINNER:
Joyce Slankard
Metropolis, IL

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water when appropriate and turn off lights in rooms that aren't being used.

Individually, these changes may seem small. But when they become part of your regular routine, they can add up over time.

Working together to reduce peak demand

Another important part of managing energy use is considering when we use electricity.

There are certain periods when electricity demand across the system is especially high. The cost of supplying power during these peak periods can ultimately lead to higher costs for our members.

That's where Peak Power Rewards comes in.

Peak Power Rewards gives participating SEIEC members an opportunity to earn bill credits by voluntarily reducing their electricity use during designated peak events.

When a peak event is approaching, participating members are notified in advance. From there, how you choose to reduce your energy use is up to you. You

might adjust your thermostat a few degrees, wait until the event is over to do laundry or run the dishwasher, or temporarily reduce the use of other large electrical appliances.

The concept is simple: When many members make small adjustments at the same time, together we can make a much larger impact.

It's a great example of one of the advantages of being part of an electric cooperative: members working together for the benefit of the entire membership.

A little preparation can go a long way

Take a little time this fall to look around your home. Seal a drafty window or door, check your furnace filter and consider a few energy-saving habits that make sense for your household.

Small improvements are often the easiest place to start, and many of them can continue helping you save energy well beyond the winter months.

To learn more about Peak Power Rewards and how you can participate, visit seiec.com/peakpower/.

POWERING YOUR FUTURE



20 SCHOLARSHIPS • \$3,000 EACH

We believe the key to a brighter future lies in empowering the next generation. That's why electric cooperatives across Illinois are committed to investing in youth through scholarships that honor the legacy of our cooperative family while fueling the dreams and goals of tomorrow's leaders.

The electric cooperatives of Illinois will award 20 scholarships of \$3,000 each to outstanding students as part of the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Scholarships available:

- **Twelve scholarships** will be awarded to high school seniors whose parent(s) are members of an Illinois electric cooperative.
- **The Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship** will be awarded to a student whose parent is an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director, honoring a legacy of service within the cooperative family.

- **Six scholarships** will be awarded to students enrolling full-time at an Illinois community college whose parent(s) are electric cooperative members.
- **The LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship** supports students pursuing a career in linework through enrollment in the lineworker program at Lincoln Land Community College. Eligible applicants include children of cooperative members, relatives of employees or directors, and individuals who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces or National Guard.

The general scholarship application deadline is Dec. 31, 2026, and the lineworker scholarship application is due by April 30, 2027. For more information, visit aiec.coop.

Veterans, we honor you!

“As we express our gratitude,
we must never forget that the highest
appreciation is not to utter words,
but to live by them.”

John Fitzgerald Kennedy



South Eastern Illinois
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 





VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Our office will be closed on Wednesday, November 11th in observance of Veterans Day.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Our office will be closed on Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

POWER OUTAGE

If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions

1. Check the fuses or circuit breakers in your service panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole, check the main breaker panel just below the meter socket. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all of your wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears to be okay, reset the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 1-877-399-8405. This phone number is monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.
5. Your phone call will be handled by SouthEastern's automated outage reporting system and will be identified automatically through ANI (Automatic Number Identification). An outage record will then be generated for your location. Please note that the phone number

from which you place the call will be the number used to generate the record. If the system fails to recognize your phone number, members having touch-tone phones may simply enter their seven-digit phone number (without area code) in order to report the outage. Members not having touch-tone phones will be asked to leave a message. It is important you leave your name, phone number and location of the outage. Retrieving messages and entering them into the system is time consuming; therefore, please leave only a message that will help in restoration of electric service. Do not remain on the line for an operator because a live operator is not there to respond. In order to keep a current listing of all numbers, it is important that you notify the Cooperative of any changes in your telephone number.

6. Handling outage calls electronically allows you to report power failures very quickly. Once your outage has been reported, it will be dispatched to repair personnel who will restore your outage as soon as possible. Calling back repeatedly will not shorten the length of the outage, but may hinder the efforts of other members who are trying to report outages.

OUTAGE CALLS ONLY 1-877-399-8405

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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618-273-2611 or 800-833-2611 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F

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