

COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

A monthly newsletter connecting our members with their cooperative.

November 2026

Optimize Your HVAC System Before Winter Hits

AS NOVEMBER SETTLES IN and temperatures begin to drop, your HVAC system will soon become one of the hardest-working appliances in your home. Before your system undergoes all that extra work this winter, now is a great time to ensure it is optimized and ready to go.

Start with something simple. One of the easiest and most effective measures you can take is checking filters. A clogged or dirty filter makes it harder for air to move through your system, which can cause it to work longer and harder than necessary. Check filters regularly and replace them according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Vents matter too. Take a look around your home to make sure furniture, curtains, rugs and other household items are not blocking any supply or return vents.

Before your HVAC system becomes one of the hardest-working appliances in your home this winter, now is a great time to ensure it is optimized and ready to get you through the cold winter days and nights.

If you have a heat pump, your outdoor unit also deserves extra attention this time of year. Falling leaves, limbs and other debris can collect around the unit and restrict airflow, so keep the area around your outdoor unit clear. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning recommendations. If you have a traditional central air conditioning system, your outdoor unit will likely remain idle during winter months, but it is still good practice to keep it clear of debris.

Do not overlook what you cannot see. With forced-air systems, ductwork plays an essential role in delivering heated air throughout your home. Leaks, gaps or disconnected sections can

allow conditioned air to escape before it reaches the rooms where you need it. If you have noticed rooms that never seem to get comfortable or unusually high energy use, ask an HVAC professional to inspect your ductwork.

Fall is also an ideal time for a professional tune-up. A technician can inspect your heating system, identify potential problems and make sure it is operating safely and efficiently before the coldest weather arrives. Regular professional maintenance can also help extend the life of your equipment.

Finally, take more control of your energy use by proactively managing your thermostat. There is no reason to heat an empty house. Lowering the temperature when you are asleep or away can help reduce energy use. Better yet, a program-

mable or smart thermostat can make those adjustments automatically, taking one more thing off your to-do list.

Your home heating system has an important job this winter. Give it a little extra attention this fall to help the system operate more efficiently, reduce unnecessary energy use and potentially prevent an inconvenient breakdown on a cold winter night.

At Wayne-White Electric Cooperative, we offer incentive rebates to help members accomplish some of these energy saving measures. We have a Smart Thermostat program that pays you just to sign up for the program!

We also have rebates that provide money back if you have your HVAC system tuned up to prepare for winter, or if you have to replace your system and install a new air source or dual fuel heat pump, mini-split heat pump, or geothermal heat pump.

Learn more about these programs, and how you can apply to get money back on these incentive rebate programs by checking out our website at www.waynewhitecoop.com 

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Nov 2 - Bills Generated
- Nov 3 - Bills Out in Mail
- Nov 11 - Office Closed
- Nov 12 - Enfield Open
- Nov 16 - Bills Due!
- Nov 24 - Board Meeting
- Nov 24 - Enfield Open
- Nov 26-27 - Office Closed

CONTACT US

Wayne-White Electric Cooperative

Phone: (618) 842-2196

Toll Free: (888) 871-7695

Fax: (618) 842-4497

Pay-by-Phone: (855) 937-1939

www.waynewhitecoop.com

Mailing Address

PO Drawer E, Fairfield, IL 62837

Physical Address

1501 W. Main St., Fairfield, IL 62837

Office Hours

Monday - Friday

7 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Board of Directors

Directors are voted on at each Annual Meeting by the membership. If the election is not contested, the director running will be elected by acclamation.

Chairman

Bryan Williams.....District 5

Vice Chairman

Ken Lamont District 4

Secretary

Richard Talbert.....District 8

Treasurer

Richard Rubenacker District 7

Directors

Larry Hosselton District 1

Blaine Norton.....District 2

Ryan Duckworth District 3

David Hunsinger District 6

Noel Edmison.....District 9

Contact your Board of Directors by emailing:
directors@wwcec.com



Don't Forget!

Clocks should fall back an hour on Sunday, November 1, 2026, as Daylight Saving Time begins.

Preparing for the Big Hunt

Safety Tips to Know Before You Go

AS HUNTING SEASON

APPROACHES, excitement builds for time outdoors. But before you head into the woods, make sure electrical safety is part of your preparation checklist.

Before you climb that tree stand, look out for power lines.

Power lines and utility equipment are often out of sight -- and out of mind -- especially in wooded or rural areas. Ignoring them can lead to serious injuries or even death.

Never install a tree stand near a power line or on a utility

pole. Electricity can arc through the air up to ten feet from high-voltage lines. This means you do not even have to touch a wire to be at risk of electrocution.

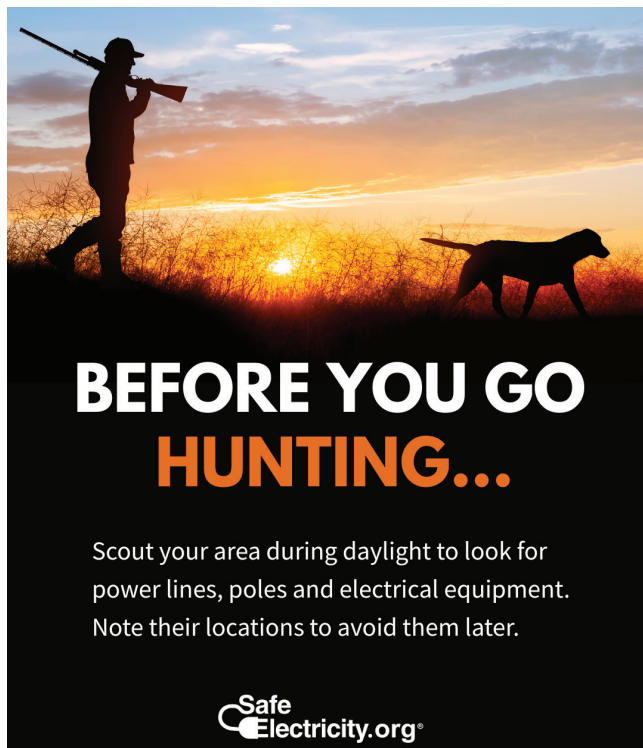
Never shoot near or toward power lines, utility poles, transformers or substations. Stray bullets or pellets could damage equipment, possibly interrupting electric service. Even more concerning, they could drop a power line to the ground, causing a hazardous scenario: those who get within fifty feet of a downed line could be shocked or electrocuted.

Keep these tips in mind to stay safe:

Scout the area. Before hunting, scout your area during daylight. Look for power lines, poles and electrical equipment. Note their locations to avoid them later.

Power safely. If you are using a portable electrical generator, do not use it inside a cabin or RV, or in a confined area. Make sure it is used outside with plenty of ventilation.

Avoid aiming toward power lines or equipment. A stray bullet could knock



Safe
Electricity.org

down a line, interrupt power or create a deadly hazard.

Keep your distance. Stay at least ten feet away from overhead lines, poles and other electrical infrastructure when setting up or taking down tree stands.

Never climb a utility pole. Even if it looks like the perfect vantage point, do not do it. Poles carry high-voltage lines, climbing them can be deadly.

Do not use utility poles for support. Tree stands or blinds should never be attached to or supported by power poles or electrical equipment.

Watch for downed lines. Stay at least fifty feet away from downed power lines or damaged electrical equipment. Call 911 or your utility immediately.

Whether you are a seasoned hunter or heading out for the first time, staying aware of your surroundings could save your life.

For more tips on staying safe around electricity this hunting season and always, visit www.SafeElectricity.org

Pay the Same Amount Each Month on Budget Billing

Know What Your Bill will be Each Month with our Budget Billing Option

WHAT IS BUDGET BILLING? It is a program designed to level out the fluctuation in your monthly electric bills. You pay the average of your past year of usage, easing the burden in the hot summers and cold winters when usage (and bills!) is typically higher.

To ease the burden around Christmas time, we use an 11-month average in hopes of giving you a credit when we “catch up” in December before starting your budget billing over again in January.

For example, if the total you paid in electric bills last year was \$2,000, we would divide that by 11 months to make your monthly budget bill payment \$182. Instead of paying \$216 worth of usage when it is hot in the summer, you would pay \$182. When it is nice in the spring and your usage bill is

only \$132, you still pay \$182.

If you like to make out your monthly budget ahead of time, budget billing can help you easily keep track of what you owe each month on your electric bill. Instead of playing the guessing game each month, you will know what to expect.

Your bill will also show you where you stand with your actual usage so you can see if you have a credit or are falling behind. Typically, in late summer, we will review your budget amount to make sure it is on track to be even or ahead at the end of the year. The positive amount under Current Account Balance shows they are currently behind on the sample bill below.

Once you receive your electric bill in December 2026, you can contact our office

to be set up on budget billing for 2027 if you are interested. You do have to have at least a year of electric service with us for us to be able to determine what your monthly budget bill amount should be for the next year of billing.

If you decide mid-year that budget billing is not for you, you can sign a removal form to be taken off budget billing. You would then be ineligible for budget billing for a 12-month period if you wished to sign up again in the future. Other requirements include paying your bill on time each month, as you are subject to removal from the program for late payments.

Contact us at (618) 842-2196 in December for more info or to sign up for budget billing for 2027. 



Important Messages

Capital Credits are being paid back to those that had electric service in 2007 on the current bill. If you had service with us then, you will likely see a credit on your bill for your capital credit payout this year under the Current Service Detail box.

To learn more about Capital Credits and how they work, visit our website at: www.waynewhitecoop.com

Website: www.waynewhitecoop.com
Phone: (618) 842-2196
Outages: (888) 871-7695
Hours: 7:00am - 4:00pm M-F

Member Name **WAYNE-WHITE**
Account # **1234567**

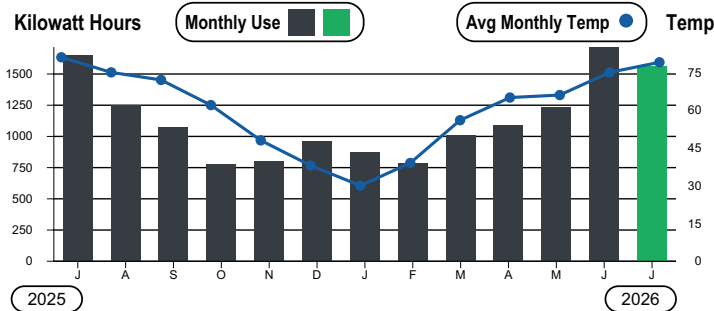
Billing Date:	07/31/2026
Current Bill Due Date:	08/15/2026
Previous Balance	\$180.00
Payment Received	-\$180.00
Total Balance Forward	\$0.00
Budget Amount Due	\$180.00
Current Account Balance	\$314.96



Account Number: 1234567

Service Address: 1501 W MAIN STREET

Service	Meter #	Rate	Reading Dates From	To	Readings Previous	Present	Multiplier	Usage	Demand Usage
Electric	123456789	1	07/01/2026	08/01/2026	54900	56461	1	1,561	8.000



Current Service Detail		
Energy	1,561 kWh @ 0.12379	\$193.24
Service Availability		\$44.00
Security Light		\$11.33
Public Utility Tax		\$5.13
Total Current Charges		\$253.70

Co-op Welcomes Two New Employees

Amanda Tullis & Chasidy Walker Joined the Cooperative in October

WAYNE-WHITE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IS happy to welcome two new faces to our cooperative family.

Chasidy Walker and Amanda Tullis were hired in October as Customer Service Representatives to fill two upcoming vacancies. One of those vacancies will be from long-time employee, Denice Kinney, as she is set to retire at the beginning of 2027 after 27 years at the cooperative.



Chasidy began her duties at the cooperative on October 1. She comes to Wayne-White Electric Cooperative from Fairfield National Bank, where she served as

a Loan Officer for the past year and a half. Prior to that, she worked at Fairfield National Bank for over five years.

A graduate of Wayne City High School, Chasidy obtained her Associates in Ag Business and Ag Production from Rend Lake College, followed by a Bachelors Degree from Murray State University in Ag Business.

Chasidy and her husband Gideon have a new three-month-old baby girl Claire at home on their farm, where they also raise cattle and chickens.

In her free time, Chasidy enjoys going antiquing and collecting Hull crocks. Your junk may be her treasure!

Amanda began working at the cooperative on October 5. She had previously spent 14 years at the Wayne County Highway Department as the Office Manager.

A life-long resident of Fairfield, Amanda is married to Brett Tullis and together they have two sons. Xavier is a high school

history teacher at Chester High School, while Logan is playing baseball at Shawnee Community College and majoring in business management.

Amanda attends Union North Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Fairfield.

When she is not at work, Amanda enjoys spending time with her family, reading, cooking, and hopes to spend more time gardening now that her and her husband are empty nesters.

We hope you can help us welcome Chasidy and Amanda to Wayne-White Electric! 



Powering the Future - AIEC Announces Available Scholarships

20 Scholarships, \$3,000 Each through AIEC

AT WAYNE-WHITE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, we believe the key to a brighter future lies in empowering the next generation. That is 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.

"This program is about more than financial aid -- it is about empowering students," said President/CEO Chris Hopfinger. "While honoring those who came before us, we are investing in the future. Illinois' electric cooperatives are always looking for ways to spark positive change in our communities,

and supporting youth through scholarships is one of the most impactful ways we can help shape tomorrow."

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 December 31, 2026, and the lineworker scholarship is due by April 30, 2027.

For more information, visit aiec.coop/iec-scholarship.

Information has also been shared with all of the area high school guidance counselors. 