

PowerLines

A monthly publication for member/owners of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative

January 2013

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Energy efficiency grants

PLUS:

EIEC linemen help restore power after Hurricane Sandy

College scholarships available

Visit us at the AG Expo!

The Midwest AG Expo will be held January 23 and 24 at Gordyville, USA.

With over 175 exhibitors, the AG Expo is the premier area event designed to showcase the farm, industrial, outdoor power equipment, dairy and farmstead mechanization industries.

Visit our booth at the show!



330 W. Ottawa | Paxton, IL 60957
www.eiec.coop | info@eiec.coop
800-824-5102

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

New rates approved

Unbundled bills will offer a better reflection of the costs associated with providing you safe and reliable electric service.

At the November meeting of Eastern Illini's Board of Directors, a rate restructuring and unbundling was approved. The changes will take effect with the electricity you use in April of this year.

The new rates, which are based on a cost of service study and our new wholesale costs, do include a very modest increase for some member/owners (less than four percent for the average account), while others will see a slight reduction.

To help you understand what the new rates are, and why unbundling your bill makes the most sense, we are offering **10 member meetings (see schedule below)**

throughout our service territory in the coming months.

Please plan on attending a meeting.

Sincerely,

Dave Champion



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Member Meeting Schedule

Attend an upcoming member meeting to learn about your new electric rates.

Each meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m., and snacks will be provided. Visit eiec.coop or call us at 800-824-5102 for directions or more information.

Tuesday, February 5 in St. Joseph
Living Word Family Church
1000 Park Avenue

Thursday, March 14 in Hoopeston
Hubbard Trail Country Club
13937 East 3680 North Road

Thursday, February 7 in Onarga
Ford-Iroquois Extension Office
912 West Seminary Avenue

Tuesday, March 19 in Mahomet
Farm Credit Services
1100 Farm Credit Dr.

Thursday, February 14 in Forrest
Forrest Public Library
301 West James Street

Thursday, March 21 in Pesotum
Eastern Illini's Warehouse
987 CR 200 North

Tuesday, February 26 in Broadlands
Immanuel Lutheran Church
390 CR 2400 East

Thursday, March 28 in Tuscola
Tuscola First Christian Church
100 East Church Street

Thursday, March 7 in Watseka
Super 8 Motel
710 West Walnut Street

Tuesday, April 2 in Paxton
Eastern Illini's Office
330 West Ottawa Street

Linemen embody cooperative spirit



Employees from 11 Illinois electric cooperatives journeyed to New Hampshire to help restore power after Hurricane Sandy devastated the area. While co-ops like Eastern Illini regularly help other co-ops when needed, this was as far east as we've ever sent help.

Eastern Illini and other Illinois cooperatives sent men and trucks to help Hurricane Sandy restoration efforts.

More than 50 linemen from 11 Illinois electric cooperatives (including eight linemen from Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative) recently volunteered to help a sister cooperative, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative headquartered in Plymouth, restore power to over 23,000 cooperative members affected by Hurricane Sandy.

The crews were in New Hampshire for about a week. The New Hampshire Electric Cooperative is the only electric co-op in New Hampshire and serves more than 80,000 members in 115 towns and cities. The co-op has over

5,500 miles of energized line that traverse nine of the 10 counties. New Hampshire Electric Cooperative's President/CEO Fred Anderson, noted, "Here in New Hampshire the challenges we faced - flooding, broken poles and wires damaged from heavy wind and rain - caused enumerable hardships for our members and businesses who are already struggling through difficult times.

He continued, "The outreach from utilities as far away as Illinois was overwhelming. It was clearly evident that although miles may separate us in day to day operations, there is no distance when it comes to the human spirit. The outreach and ongoing bond that has developed between us other cooperatives at so many levels is simply amazing.

We want to personally extend our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to each and every one who assisted in our restoration efforts here at New Hampshire Electric Cooperative. It is wonderful to know in times of crisis there are people that you can truly count on."

Other Illinois co-ops that sent help include: Adams Electric Cooperative, Corn Belt Energy, Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, EnerStar Electric Cooperative, Jo-Carroll Energy, Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, Shelby Electric Cooperative, SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Tri-County Electric Cooperative, and Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative.

HomE lite grants now available

Illinois electric cooperative efficiency grant program returns for phase two.

In 2011 the electric cooperatives of Illinois received \$2.5 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's State Energy Plan.

Those funds were, in turn, distributed as rebates to co-op member/owners for energy efficiency projects. This investment paid real dividends and helped prime the pump for nearly ten times that in energy efficiency investments. Better yet, the energy efficiency improvements will multiply the savings for many, many years.

The HomE energy efficiency rebate program was so successful in saving

energy for co-op member/owners that it is being repeated for a second, but very limited time.

If you didn't get a chance to participate in the first round of HomE rebates now you have a second chance. HomE Lite rebates are available until funding runs out, or until June of this year.



HomE Lite Incentive Rebates Include:

- Geothermal system - \$1,500
- Air-Source Heat Pump (16 SEER or higher) - \$1,000
- Insulation and Weatherization - 50 percent of total project cost, up to \$1,000
- Heat Pump Water Heater - \$250
- Commercial installations - \$500 per ton of capacity, up to a maximum of \$10,000 for geothermal and air source heat pumps.
- Energy Audit by BPI certified auditor - \$300

With the help of the first round of HomE funding Eastern Illini member/owners installed 68 geothermal heat pumps, 30 air-source heat pumps, and 17 made insulation and weatherization improvements.

Bob Dickey, Eastern Illini's vice president of marketing and economic development says, "We know a lot of members were unable to participate in the first HomE program for a variety of reasons. Thankfully, all Eastern Illini member/owners that own and live in their home are eligible for HomE Lite.

These rebates, plus the the federal income tax credits that are available for some of the projects, make this a great time to make your home more energy efficient."

For more information, call Eastern Illini's office at 800-824-5102 or visit our website at eiec.coop.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Sleek new flat-panel TVs can consume almost as much electricity as a refrigerator. In general, the bigger the screen the more power it draws, and HD pulls more, too. Plasma screens use the most energy, while LCD TVs use much less. And remember to change your new TV's default settings to a power saver mode, and turn down the LCD backlight to save energy without sacrificing picture quality.

Source: Cooperative Research Network

Scholarship applications available

Graduating seniors of EIEC families should apply now!

Two high school seniors will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship and a weeklong all expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June.

In addition to receiving the \$1,000 scholarships, the two students will attend Illinois Cooperative "Youth Day" in Springfield this March to see state government in action. (Approximately 200 young people will be participating in this annual event.)

Moreover, the scholarship winners will join over 90 students from Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives in Springfield in June

where they will board tour buses and travel to Washington, D.C.

They will tour the nation's capital with more than 1,000 students representing cooperatives from across the nation. During the week in the nation's capital, these students get an up close, first-hand look at democracy in action. Students will learn how

government works and why it is important for every citizen to get involved in government.

While on the trip, the students will get to visit many historical places, including: the U.S. Capitol; Arlington National Cemetery; the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; the Washington National Cathedral; the National Archives; the Smithsonian Museums; and all of the monuments and memorials.

The week also includes a stop in Gettysburg, PA to view Civil War battlefields.

Check out the information below for more details and to learn how to apply.



Youth to Washington Scholarship Rules

- Applicants must be sons or daughters of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative members. (Immediate family members of employees and directors of Eastern Illini are not eligible for the scholarship.)

- Applicants must be high school seniors graduating in 2013.

- Scholarships may be used for educational costs for an undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year

college or university, including vocational/technical schools.

- Scholarship winners must submit evidence that they are enrolled as full time students (at least 12 credit hours) before receiving the \$1,000 disbursements.

- Scholarships must be used within 12 months of high school graduation and are for one year and are not renewable.

- Scholarships will be awarded based on grade point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, biographical statement and knowledge of electric cooperatives as demonstrated by a short essay.

- Applications must be received at the co-op by January 31, 2013.

For more information or to apply, visit eiec.coop or call 800-824-5102.