

PowerLines

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

August 2013

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Benefits of being a member

Capital Credit Allocation

Check your electric bill included in this mailing for your 2012 capital credit allocation.

Allocations are made each year for all Eastern Illini member/owners based on two things: the amount of electricity you purchased the previous year; and our overall financial condition.

Allocations cannot be applied to your electric bill, or used as payment for any other services.



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

A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

Loyal Connections

Electric co-ops help to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve.

Loyalty is a prized virtue—to country, family, even the schools we attend. We keep those ties strong throughout our lives, myself included: I still proudly wear the colors of my alma mater, the University of Illinois.

We at Eastern Illini also have loyalties, to the member/owners and communities we serve. We have deep connections here because east central Illinois is our home, and you are our neighbors.

When you signed up for electric service with Eastern Illini, you became a member/owner, not a customer—because each of our roughly 12,000 members owns a portion of our utility.

That means we care about improving the quality of life in the areas we serve. From sponsoring electrical safety demonstrations at area schools and fire stations to working with businesses to get federal grants and low-interest financing for expansion projects, Eastern Illini is proud to invest in the places where you live and work.

Eastern Illini doesn't exist to make profits for distant investors on Wall Street. We exist to provide you with safe and reliable electric service—and doing so in a way that makes things

better for future generations. Because electric co-ops operate on a not-for-profit basis, we have no need to increase revenues above what it takes to run our business in a financially sound manner.

This not-for-profit structure helps keep your electric bills as affordable as possible.

We take our jobs seriously, but we also take our community roles seriously, too. That's why we offer scholarships to college-bound students and send two of those scholarship winners to Washington, D.C. every summer to learn about history and government. Page two of this newsletter highlights their recent trip.

We don't participate in these activities simply because it's nice to do, or even the right thing to do. We do it because we remain loyal to you, our member/owners, our neighbors, our home—and a mission to make life better in the areas we serve.

Respectfully,

Dave Champion



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Scholarship winners travel to D.C.

Youth to Washington trip highlights Eastern Illini's scholarship program.

Kaitlyn Johnson and Cole Stalter are the 2013 recipients of Eastern Illini's Youth to Washington Scholarship Contest. Each of the graduating seniors earned a \$1,000 college scholarship and an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. Kaitlyn attended Watseka High School and Cole attended Fisher High School.

On the trip, the two joined more than 1,500 students from electric cooperatives across the country as they took part in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's 49th annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour of Washington.

They visited with members of Congress and their staff to discuss issues important to their states and local communities and they toured the United States Capitol building.

The object of the tour is to introduce the young leaders to our democratic form of government. During the tour, they visited many of our nation's most historic sites, including Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, and the many memorials, monuments and museums.



The students also visited the Holocaust Museum, the Iwo Jima statue, a Marine parade, and took a Potomac River night cruise.

According to Stalter, "Taking part in the Youth to Washington Scholarship program was a great experience. I learned a lot and met many wonderful new friends. Thank you for the amazing opportunity!"

Johnson noted, "The Youth to Washington trip was truly a life changing experience. It allowed me to really explore what I want to do in the future and changed my perspective on life. I loved being able to see how our country is governed. Seeing the Holocaust Museum was my favorite part of the trip and really touched the heart. The Youth to Washington trip will be something I will never forget!"

The two students competed for the scholarships with other students, who are the sons and daughters of Eastern Illini member/owners. The applicants were judged on academic achievement, work and volunteer experience, school and community activities, goals and knowledge of electric cooperatives.

Below: Scholarship winners Cole Stalter (left) and Kaitlyn Johnson (right) pose with Congressman Adam Kinzinger at the U.S. Capitol.



Small measures can yield big savings

No matter the age of your home, it could benefit from an energy audit.

Eastern Illini offers several levels of home energy audits conducted by our certified energy specialists. But you can also get started on your own to find low-cost solutions that could save money on all of your utility bills.

First, ask yourself a simple question: Does my home feel drafty and cold in the winter, or stuffy and hot in the summer? If yes, then it probably experiences air leakage.

To track down where those air leaks are located, start with the usual suspects—like damaged seals around doors and windows. If you see daylight or feel air, then apply caulk and weather stripping to keep outdoor air where it's supposed to be.

But don't forget areas you might not immediately think of, like recessed canister lights and electrical outlets. Outlet insulation kits can be purchased for as little as \$2, and you can fix your canister lights with some caulk around the edges.

Also look where the walls meet the ceiling. Cobwebs mean you may have drafts.

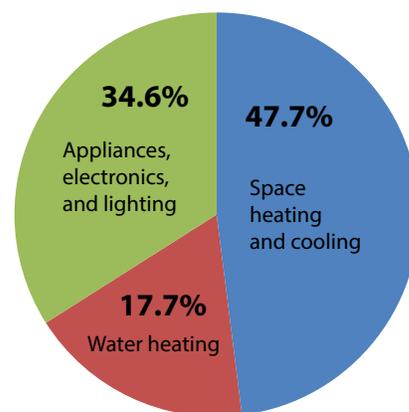
Next, peek into the attic and inspect your crawl space or basement for sufficient insulation. We recommend at least 18 inches of attic insulation and that at least the joists in your crawl spaces be insulated.

Keep in mind insulation won't do its job well if you don't have a proper air barrier working in tandem. That means all joints and cracks must be sealed between your living space and insulation.

Finally, look to your light fixtures. Compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) are up to 75 percent more efficient than traditional incandescent bulbs, and they've come a long way in light quality, design, and affordability. You can purchase CFLs in a variety of shapes and hues. They cost more upfront, but you'll make your money back in less than nine months and, after that, they start saving you money.

How Americans Use Energy

New data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows that heating and cooling still accounts for the largest amount of electricity consumption in American homes. But as we use more and more electronic gadgets, that segment is closing the gap.



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

will typically last 10 times longer than a traditional incandescent bulb producing the same amount of light.

LEDs—light-emitting diodes—are in the next wave of residential lighting. An ENERGY STAR-rated model is estimated to use only a quarter of the electricity consumed by traditional bulbs and can last for up to 25 years. As with many new technologies, the up-front cost for an LED bulb is still much more than even a CFL, but prices are expected to drop as new products are developed.

To learn more about ways to reduce all of your utility bills, visit the energy efficiency section of our website at eiec.coop or call us at 800-824-5102.

Our certified energy specialists would also be happy to visit you at your home to discuss ways to become more efficient. A basic walkthrough is offered at no charge, and advanced services are also available with pricing based on the service provided.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

When shopping for a new appliance, consider lifetime operation costs as well as the up-front purchase price. Refrigerators last an average of 12 years, clothes washers about 11, and dishwashers about 10. Check the Energy Guide label for the appliance's estimated yearly operating cost, and look for ENERGY STAR units, which usually exceed minimum federal standards for efficiency and quality. To learn more, visit EnergySavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Make sure to purchase a CFL that's rated by ENERGY STAR, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's program that denotes products meeting specific energy efficiency criteria. ENERGY STAR-rated CFLs

Save money with Co-op Connections

Your Eastern Illini membership includes free access to this money-saving program.

Our commitment to you goes beyond providing safe and reliable electricity.

We're always looking for ways to provide value to our member/owners and our community, especially during tough economic times. Eastern Illini's Co-op Connections Card is a money-saving tool we're proud to offer our membership. The card connects you with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescription drugs.

The card also gives you access to online savings at more than 95 national retailers like Barnes&Noble.com, Hertz Rental Cars, Best Western hotels and ProFlowers.com. You can check out these great national discounts at www.connections.coop.

One of the most valuable features of the Co-op Connections Card is the pharmacy discount. While it is not insurance, the discount can mean savings of 10 to 60 percent on prescription drugs. The logo and information on the back of your card



is recognized at more than 60,000 national and local pharmacies.

The pharmacy discount has been widely used by members of Touchstone Energy co-ops across the country, resulting in combined savings of over \$20 million on prescriptions.

Want to find out more? Log on to www.locateproviders.com to search for pharmacies in our area honoring the card. Use code 22203 as the group number under the "Groups" login section. Next, enter your zip code.

As a Touchstone Energy co-op, we strive to serve you according to four core values: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. Our Co-op Connections Card is one of the ways we live up to those values.

We're eager to answer any questions you have about the card and how to take advantage of the discounts it provides. Call us at 800-824-5102 to find out more, or visit www.eiec.coop.

Last summer, we sent out new cards to all Eastern Illini member/owners. You can also request a new or replacement Co-op Connections Card by contacting us at the above number or website.

Champion earns national award

Dave Champion, Eastern Illini's President/CEO (left) was recently awarded the 2013 Brand Champion Award from Touchstone Energy®. Champion was recognized for his exceptional efforts in making the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives brand come alive with our member/owners and delivering real value.

The Brand Champion Award shines the spotlight on dedicated employees in various job roles who have shown exceptional leadership, effectiveness and consistency while locally or regionally building the



brand. These employees exhibit innovation, integrity, accountability and commitment to community while proudly serving their members.

"Dave is a shining example of why the brand is as strong and successful as it is today," said Jim Bausell, COO of Touchstone Energy. "This type of leadership on behalf of the Touchstone Energy brand has had a huge impact."

Touchstone Energy's success as the national brand for electric cooperatives is attributed to individuals like this who truly live the "power of human connections".