

PowerLines

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

March 2014

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Give blood, save lives

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Standby Generators

Our electric system is extremely reliable...but we can't control Mother Nature. For those times, we are pleased to offer Briggs & Stratton brand automatic standby generators.

They are fueled by either propane or natural gas, and are built to automatically start when the power goes out.

Please call us at 800-824-5102 for more information.



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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Membership privileges

As an electric company, we're a bit unique. As you may know, we are a cooperative, which means we are owned by you. In addition to being customers, you are much more than that. We like to think of you as member/owners.

Being a member/owner brings with it several privileges and benefits:

You have a say

We are governed by an elected board of directors made up of member/owners just like you. The board sets our guidelines and policies, and then tasks me and all of our employees with carrying out those guidelines.

We have nine board members, and each year at our annual meeting (June 12 this year) you have the privilege - and responsibility - of electing three board members (each board member serves a three-year term).

Your voting rights allow you to have a big voice in how we operate.

Local presence

Eastern Illini, as a member-owned organization, is locally owned. Our main office is in Paxton, and we have warehouse facilities in both Gilman and Pesotum.

Our employees live in the same neighborhoods you do, and they are always happy to answer your questions about the co-op, energy efficiency, or really anything else energy related.

Cooperation among Co-ops

We've banded together with nine other Illinois co-ops to form a cooperative

called Prairie Power, Inc. (PPI) who is our generation and transmission provider.

The added buying power we receive by working together with other cooperatives allows us to increase our economies of scale.

This cooperation also gives us an edge when we need assistance during major storms. Our co-op network is ready!

National Alliance

Touchstone Energy is the national brand identity for electric co-ops. Through Touchstone Energy, we are happy to provide you with programs like the **Co-op Connections Card**.

This free, money-saving membership card gives you discounts on everyday expenses. For instance, you can save up to 85 percent on prescription drugs, plus get discounts on other medical related services. To date, Eastern Illini member/owners have saved almost \$150,000 on the drug discounts. Find out more by visiting connections.coop.

These are just a few of the reasons we think being a part of an electric co-op is special. We hope you do, too.

Respectfully,

Bob Hunzinger



**MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT**

Give blood, save lives

Join your community as we celebrate the American Red Cross in March.

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative is proud to help promote the American Red Cross this month.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt began the tradition in 1943, proclaiming March the month to recognize the work of the American Red Cross. The group began during the Second World War as a blood donor service. The President called on the public to help by giving blood, volunteering time, or donating money. Seventy-one years later, every U.S. president has echoed the proclamation.

The Red Cross collects 6.3 million units of blood a year from roughly 3.7 million blood donors. The group

provides 40 percent of the nation's blood supply. Donors—called everyday heroes by the American Red Cross—may save up to three lives with each donation.

“It’s a small thing to do, and it means a lot to a family in need,” shares Gayle Ford, Eastern Illini’s blood drive organizer and a blood donor. “We really appreciate being able to give something tangible - and needed - in our community.”

Becoming a hero only takes about an hour from the time you arrive at the donation site until the time you leave. The donation process is also simple and relatively painless.

Prepare to Donate

- Eat a healthy meal that includes iron-rich foods. Avoid fatty foods; they can affect a blood

test that you will be given to determine whether you are eligible to donate.

- Drink an extra 16 oz. of water or other non-alcoholic fluids before the donation.
- Bring identification: a donor card, driver’s license, or other form of ID.
- Wear clothing with sleeves you can raise above the elbow.

Donation Process

- Register at the donation site and complete a brief, confidential health history.
- Staff will check your temperature, pulse, and blood pressure, before drawing blood to determine your blood type.
- Staff will draw blood for the donation and place a bandage over the spot when the needle is removed.

After Your Donation

- Drink extra water or other non-alcoholic fluids for the next 24 hours.
- Keep the bandage on for the next several hours.
- Avoid heavy lifting or strenuous exercise for the rest of the day.
- If you feel dizzy or light-headed, sit or lie down until you feel better.
- Call the American Red Cross Donor Hotline at 866-236-3276 with questions or health concerns following your donation.



When you make a blood donation, you join a very select group. Currently only 3 out of every 100 people in America donate blood. Every minute of every day, someone needs blood. That blood can only come from a volunteer donor, a person like you who makes the choice to donate. There is no substitute for your donation. To learn more about blood donation opportunities, visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543).

Nominating petitions available March 14

Nominating petitions for the June 12 director election will be available March 14.

Directors in directorate districts 2, 5 and 9 will be elected at the June 12, 2014, Annual Meeting. Incumbent directors Tom Schlatter of Chatsworth, District 2; Marion

Chesnut of Rossville, District 5; and Jay Hageman of Fairmount, District 9, have indicated they will seek reelection.

Nominating petitions can be picked up at 8 a.m. on Friday, March 14, 2014, at Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, 330 W. Ottawa, Paxton.

Each member/owner who desires to be elected to the board of directors must have a petition signed by not less than 25 Eastern Illini member/owners.

Petitions must be filed at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, April 28, 2014.



Board of Directors

Eastern Illini's Board of Directors is made up of member/owners just like you. They are tasked with setting the policies and guidelines that our management team then carries out.

Pictured, from left to right: Herb Aden, Newman; Jay Hageman, Fairmount; Tom Schlatter, Chatsworth; Marion Chesnut, Rossville; Brad Ludwig, Fithian; Bruce Ristow, Cissna Park; Harold Loy, Beaverville; Kay Horsch, Dewey; and Steve Meenen, Melvin.

Credentials Committee selected

Committee tasked with reviewing potential candidates for Eastern Illini's board.

Dave Boomgarden of Chatsworth, Doug Chew of Sidell, Chris Elliott of Rankin, Kevin Moore of Hoopeston, and Scott Zumwalt of Sheldon have been appointed by the Board of Directors to serve a 1-year term on the Credentials Committee. The Credentials Committee will meet at the cooperative's headquarters on Thursday, May 1, 2014, to review the qualifications of all candidates who file nominating petitions to determine

their eligibility to serve as directors of the cooperative.

The nominating process is conducted in accordance with the following provision of the Cooperative's bylaws:

Article III, Section 3.5

Nominations:

"Any member of the cooperative in good standing who desires to be elected to its Board of Directors may be nominated by petition signed by not less than twenty-five (25) members and filed with the Secretary of the Cooperative not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting of members. Nominations from the floor shall not be

permitted. The Secretary of the Cooperative shall cause to be prepared and posted at the principal office of the Cooperative at least thirty (30) days before the annual meeting, a list of the nominations for Directors thus filed with him or her.

"A specimen ballot marked "Ballot for Directors" containing the names and addresses of all nominees listed in the order determined by lot conducted by the Board of Directors of the Cooperative shall be printed in or mailed with the notice of the meeting. The Secretary shall also have printed in or mailed with the said notice of the meeting or separately not less than ten (10) days prior to said annual meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the district from which they are to be elected."

Between the lines

Spring cleaning delivers safe, reliable power.

Spring gives us a chance to thaw out after a chilly winter. Some take advantage of longer daylight hours by doing a little spring cleaning and yard work. Others hit the course to work on their golf swing.

But the seasonal shift isn't all good news. The rapid change from harsh, cold air to warmer temperatures can trigger severe weather. To protect our lines and keep power flowing safely to your home, Eastern Illini maintains our rights-of-way. Think of it as spring cleaning for power lines.

Right-of-way (ROW) maintenance keeps tree limbs and other obstacles away from high-voltage power lines.

It's an important part of the service we

Wood Chips

We often get asked if we can provide wood chips to our member/owners.

Unfortunately, we get many more requests than what we have available. Generally speaking, when we (or our contractors) have a full load of wood chips (about 10 cubic yards - or the size of a small car), we deliver them to the closest location on our request list that our trucks can safely get to. Many of the trucks are quite large and can't always get to every location.

When we are getting ready to work in an area, we will send you a notice and a wood chip request form. Call us at 800-824-5102 if you have any questions.



provide to you, our member/owners, for three reasons: safety, reliability, and cost.

Our primary concern is the safety of our workers and members. Properly maintained ROW keeps our crews safe when they are restoring service and maintaining our system. Keeping trees clear of power lines also keeps your family safe. From making sure a child's tree house doesn't hit power lines to creating a safe environment while doing yard work, a well-maintained ROW helps avoid tragedy.

Power lines are a constant part of our landscape; it's easy to forget they are around. We work hard to keep the area around our lines clear, but we need your help. Be alert this spring. Don't plant trees or tall vegetation under power lines, and keep an eye out for power lines when working in your yard.

If severe spring weather blows through, a well-maintained ROW leads

to fewer outages and faster response time. Trees are less of a threat. When trees do fall, crews are able to restore service more quickly than they could with poorly maintained areas.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, we strive to keep costs affordable for you, our members. Maintaining our ROW is an important part of controlling costs. Fewer and shorter outages save money for everyone. When crews work in well-maintained areas, we can reduce risks for employees and equipment too - another way to keep costs low.

Safety, reliability, and cost: this is why we believe in ROW 'spring cleaning.' If we compromise on one of these areas, it impacts the others. At Eastern Illini, we aren't willing to compromise.

Maintaining our ROW is a priority for your safety, comfort, and pocketbook.

When to replace old appliances

Replacing outdated appliances can save you big money.

Saying goodbye to an old friend can be daunting. But pulling the plug on an outdated refrigerator or dishwasher might save you money; new appliances are often considerably more energy efficient.

A new refrigerator consumes 75 percent less energy than a 1970s model. Replace a vintage clothes washer and save \$60 on utility bills and nearly 5,000 gallons of water a year, according to the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers. Not every new appliance is a good bet; always look for the ENERGY STAR label. It signals energy-efficient models.

Ready to save? Walk through your home to find opportunities to pull the plug!

Laundry Costs

In the laundry room, a full-sized ENERGY STAR-certified clothes washer uses 15 gallons of water per load, compared to the 23 gallons used by a standard machine. During the machine's lifetime, this saves 27,000 gallons of water.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Programmable thermostats can save up to \$160 a year in energy costs. Match thermostat settings to your schedule: cold when you're away and warm when you're at home. In winter, set the thermostat to 68 degrees during the day (lower at night when you're snug in bed). By turning your thermostat down 10 to 15 degrees for at least eight hours, you can shave 5 to 15 percent from your heating costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com, U.S. Department of Energy

Cleaning Kitchen

Replace your kitchen's classic refrigerator with an ENERGY STAR-certified model to save between \$200 and \$1,100 in lifetime energy costs.

Today's average refrigerator uses less energy than a continually lit 60-watt light bulb. Resist the urge to move the old refrigerator to the basement or the garage. Instead, say goodbye and recycle the energy-guzzler.

Was your dishwasher built before 1994? If so, you're paying an extra \$40 a year on your utility bills compared to neighbors with an ENERGY STAR-qualified model.

Screen Savings

Televisions might be a little more baffling. As screen sizes increase, energy consumption may also rise. You can still be a savvy shopper, though.

ENERGY STAR-certified TVs are about 25 percent more efficient than conventional models. LED screens use 20 percent less energy than LCD TVs. Once you purchase a TV, calibrate it by adjusting the contrast and brightness to a moderate level. By default, new televisions are set to dynamic, high-contrast settings. This consumes more power than standard, lower-contrast settings.

Smart Settings

Attached to old appliances? You can still save with smart settings. For example, heating water creates the greatest expense when washing dishes or clothes. Set your water

heater at 120 degrees and be sure your clothes washer or dishwasher is full whenever used.

Here are a few other ways to save without buying new appliances:

Not too cool food: In the kitchen, don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 37 to 40 degrees for the fresh food compartment and 5 degrees for the freezer section.

Toast, don't roast: Use toaster ovens or microwave ovens for small meals rather than your large stovetop or oven.

Air-dry dishes: Use the dishwasher's "eco" option or use a no-heat air dry feature. Scrape food pieces off the plates, rather than rinsing them.

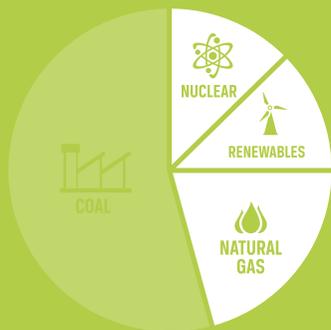
Cold clothes: In the laundry room, wash your clothes in cold water using cold-water detergents whenever possible. Adjust load settings for smaller loads.

Lose lint: Clean the lint screen in the dryer after every use to improve the dryer's efficiency.

For other tips on how to save energy, call our energy experts at 800-824-5102. Our trained professionals are happy to visit with you, and we even offer a complimentary walk-through to help you identify "energy hogs" in your home.

You can also find out how little changes add up to big savings at www.TogetherWeSave.com. Our own website, www.eiec.coop also offers many energy efficiency tips and ideas.

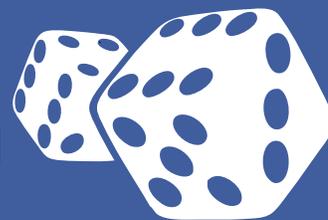
1.



ABANDONS ALL-OF-THE ABOVE

The Administration is reversing course: **ditching our All-of-the-Above energy strategy** for an **All-But-One** approach that bans new coal plants.

2.



TECHNOLOGY GAMBLE

New regulations essentially require technology that's **not commercially viable and prohibitively expensive**—leading to higher bills down the line.

TOP 4 FACTS

ABOUT THE EPA'S NEW CLIMATE REGULATIONS

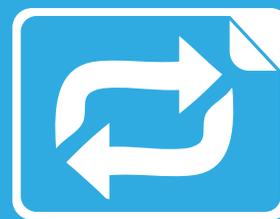
3.



LIMITS ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, DOMESTIC ENERGY

By banning new coal plants, Americans forfeit a **236-year domestic source of energy** with a historically stable price.

4.



HISTORY REPEATS: ALL-BUT-ONE DOESN'T WORK

A 1978 mandate prevented use of natural gas & forced utilities into coal or nuclear—**before common sense prevailed and it was repealed 9 years later.**