



# About Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative

Eastern Illini Electric Co-op is a member-owned corporation that provides electricity to rural residents of east central Illinois. Our main office is in Paxton, with warehouse facilities in both Gilman and Pesotum. We are governed by an local group of nine directors, all of whom are member/owners of Eastern Illini.

Eastern Illini’s electric energy is purchased from Prairie Power, Inc., a generation and transmission cooperative owned by 10 electric cooperatives in Illinois, including Eastern Illini.

Prairie Power, Inc. is a partial owner of a new, state-of-the-art coal-fired power plant in Lively Grove Township, Ill. called the Prairie State Energy Campus (PSEC). PSEC is among the cleanest coal-fired plants in the nation, and it exceeds all EPA requirements for emissions and air quality.

One of the biggest challenges we face in providing our member/owners with safe, reliable and affordable electric service is our density. With only three consumers per mile of line, Eastern Illini’s density is among the lowest in the country.

## Outage information

Even with our reliable electric system, outages can occur. Outage information can be found at the following locations:

**Outage map:**

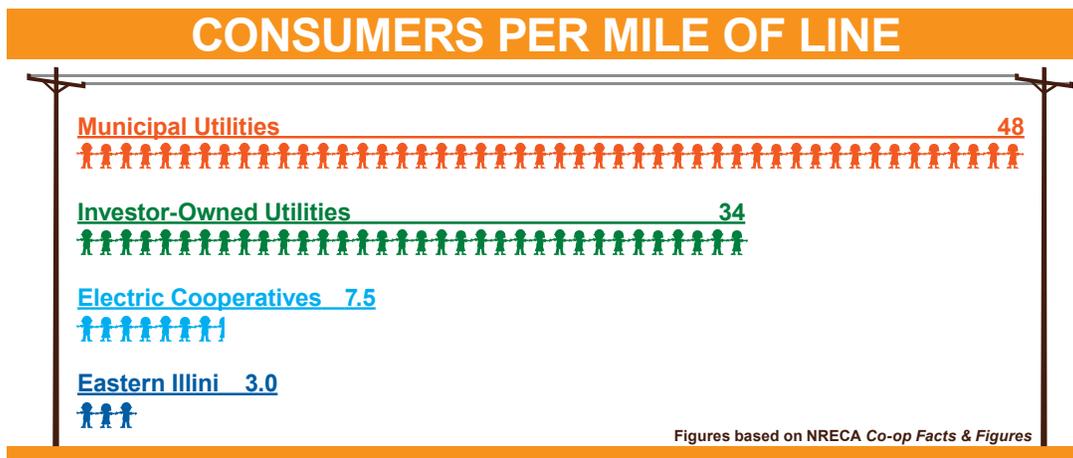
[www.eiec.coop/outage-map](http://www.eiec.coop/outage-map)

**Regular updates:**

[www.facebook.com/easternillini](https://www.facebook.com/easternillini)

## By the numbers:

Electric accounts:	13,581
Miles of line in service:	4,522
Accounts/mile of line (density):	3.0
Number of employees:	56
Average monthly kWh use:	1,435
Number of counties served:	10
Total plant value:	\$105 million





## Cooperative leadership

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative is governed by an elected Board of Directors. The Board is made up of co-op member/owners, and is elected by the member/owners. They are tasked with setting the policies and guidelines that Eastern Illini's management team then carries out. The board meets at least once per month at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

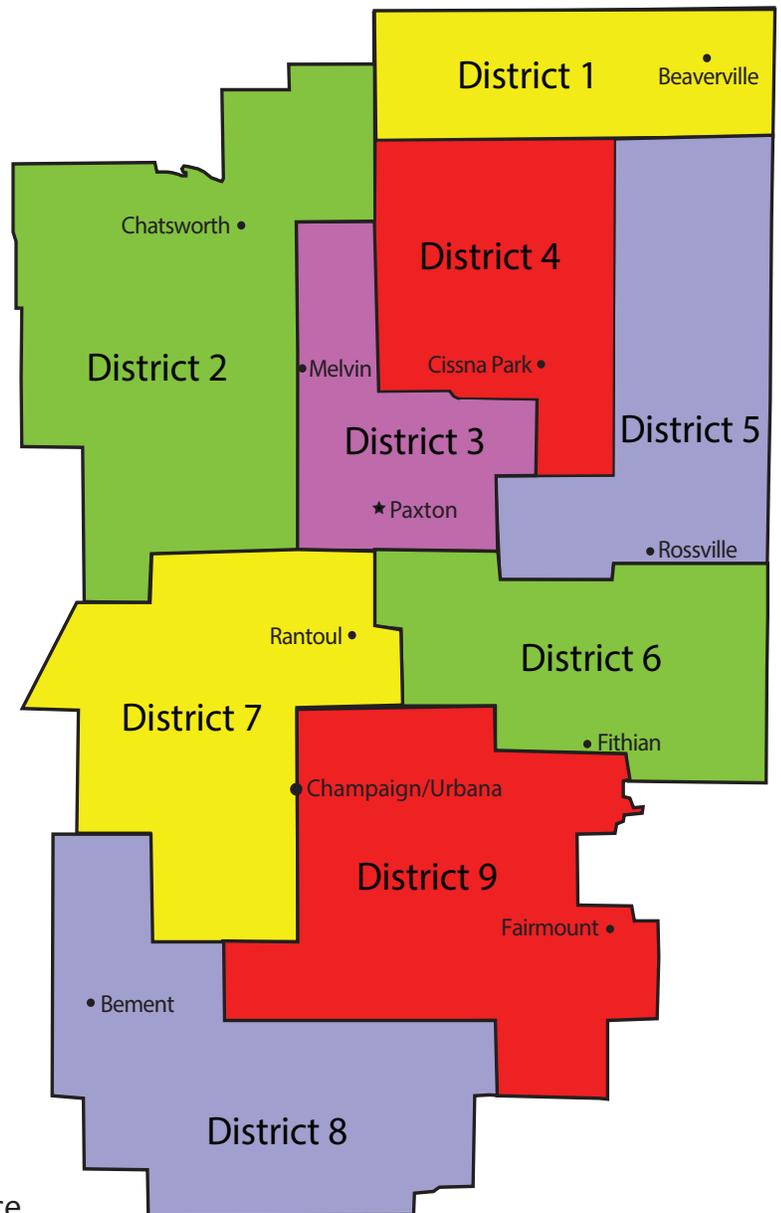
### **Board of Directors**

- District 1: Harold Loy, Beaverville
- District 2: Thomas Schlatter, Chatsworth
- District 3: Steve Meenen, Melvin
- District 4: Bruce Ristow, Cissna Park
- District 5: Kevin Moore, Hoopston
- District 6: Brad Ludwig, Fithian
- District 7: Steve Gordon, Rantoul
- District 8: Chad Larimore, Bement
- District 9: Jay Hageman, Fairmount

### **President/CEO**

Bob Hunzinger is Eastern Illini's President/CEO. He has over 30 years of electric industry experience.

He can be reached at [bob.hunzinger@eiec.coop](mailto:bob.hunzinger@eiec.coop), or by calling him directly at 217-379-0443.





## Expert source list

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative employs many industry experts.

To schedule an interview with any of these employees, please contact Melinda Garrelts at [melinda.garrelts@eiec.coop](mailto:melinda.garrelts@eiec.coop) or 217-379-0446.



Bob Hunzinger, President/CEO

- **Big-picture cooperative issues**
- **Cooperative management and policies**
- **Staffing/employment issues**



Mike Wilson, Vice President of Member & Community Relations

- **Outage/storm information**
- **Economic development**
- **Rates and regulations**
- **Federal and state energy-related legislation and regulation**
- **Energy efficiency programs**



Brad Smith, Vice President of Operations & Engineering

- **System reliability**
- **Construction & maintenance**
- **Emergency preparedness**
- **Electrical safety**



Melinda Garrelts, Communication Specialist

- **School safety and efficiency programs**
- **Media Relations**
- **Cooperative News and Events**



## About electric cooperatives

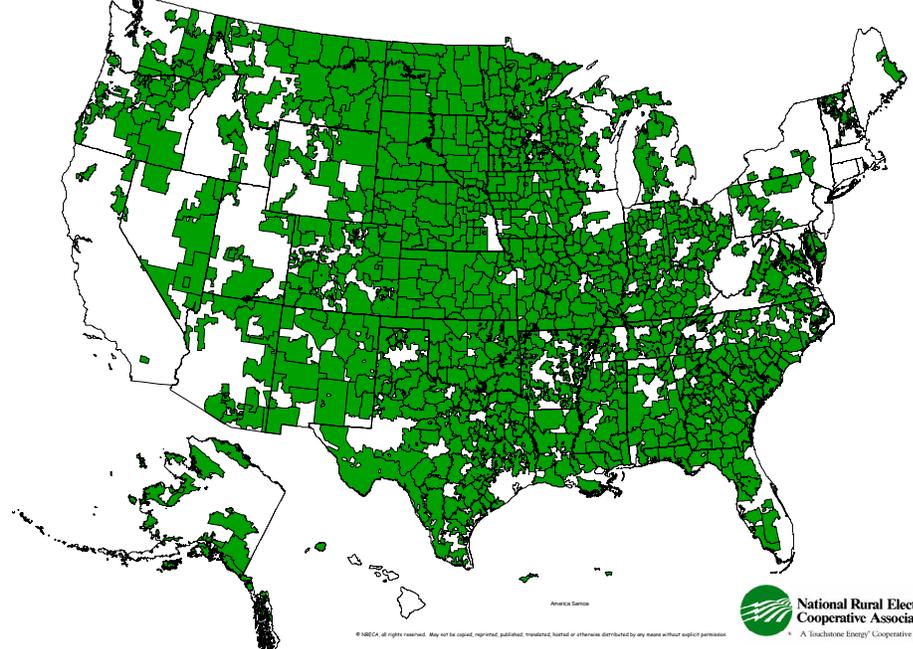
Electric cooperatives are private, independent businesses whose member/owners have a financial interest in the operation. They are not-for-profit, democratically governed corporations that are based in the communities they serve. Cooperative profits, or margins, are either reinvested in the cooperative or returned to the member/owners as patronage capital. Electric cooperatives provide reliable and technologically advanced service to 40 million Americans while maintaining a unique consumer-focused approach to business.

### SEVEN PRINCIPLES

Energy cooperatives are guided by the following seven cooperative principles, which help anchor them firmly in the communities they serve and allow close regulation by their member/owners.

- **Voluntary & Open Membership** – Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.
- **Democratic Member Control** – Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their member/owners, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.
- **Members' Economic Participation** – Member/owners contribute equitably to and democratically control the capital of their cooperative.
- **Autonomy & Independence** – Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their member/owners.
- **Education, Training & Information** – Cooperatives provide education and training for their member/owners, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.
- **Cooperation Among Cooperatives** – Cooperatives serve their member/owners most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together.
- **Concern For Community** – While focusing on member/owner needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.

### America's Electric Cooperative Network





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## Frequently asked questions

### **Q. What is an electric cooperative?**

**A.** An electric cooperative is a not-for-profit company whose member/owners have a financial stake in the company. Cooperatives provide all of the same essential services as any investor-owned utility (IOU) or municipal electric company.

### **Q. What's the difference between cooperatives and other power companies?**

**A.** Most Americans get their electric energy from public utilities called IOUs. IOUs are for-profit private corporations owned by investors that typically operate in densely populated areas. The Rural Electrification Act of 1935 helped bring electricity to rural parts of the country not served by IOUs by offering funding options for locally owned cooperatives. Cooperatives now serve about 75 percent of America's land mass, but only 12 percent of the American population.

### **Q. Is Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative run by or owned by the government?**

**A.** No. Eastern Illini is a corporation operating as a not-for-profit cooperative. Co-ops are governed by the member/owners they serve and ran by policies established by a member elected board of directors. The board selects a chief executive officer, who then hires additional staff for the purpose of running the organization.

### **Q. What is the significance of being not-for-profit?**

**A.** Electric cooperatives developed because rural citizens who did not have access to electricity in the 1930s decided to band together and form their own companies to acquire power. Investor-owned power companies said they couldn't make enough profit in areas with a small number of consumers per mile of expensive power line. The cooperative business structure already was a well-established part of the American free enterprise system for providing services that were too big for individuals to do alone. Not-for-profit cooperatives were a natural solution for distributing electricity in areas where making a profit would be difficult.

### **Q. What are capital credits?**

**A.** Any revenue collected by the co-op that is not needed to cover the cost of providing service is accounted for and allocated back to member/owners based on the amount of energy they used during the year. Those credits are paid back to member/owners at a later date based on a retirement schedule adopted by the board of directors, and the cooperative's financial condition.