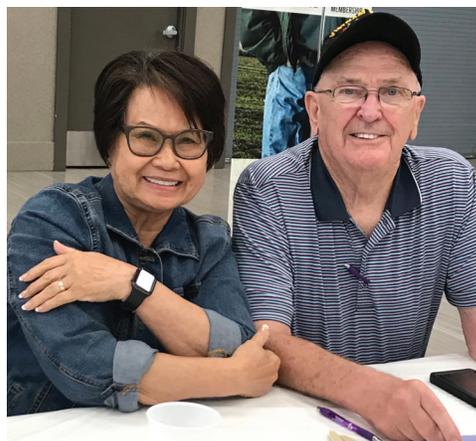


# PowerLines

July 2022

## 35th Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members



We want to thank Eastern Illini members who attended the Annual Meeting events in Tuscola, Gifford, and at the Iroquois County Fairgrounds. It was great to again be able to enjoy a sit-down fried chicken meal and talk with members, friends, and neighbors whom we haven't seen in quite a while. We hope everyone enjoyed the meal, music, and ice cream. Hats off to our employees who went above and beyond to ensure everything ran smoothly. The final Annual Meeting event at the Iroquois County Fairgrounds culminated with the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative business meeting which began at 6:15 p.m. in the 4-H Building.

Kevin Moore, Chairman of the EIEC Board of Directors, confirmed the notice and proof of mailing for the meeting. The meeting minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved. Members heard an update from President/CEO Bob Hunzinger. He provided insight regarding electric rates and the availability of electricity this summer. He shared that despite the continuation of COVID-19, employees have provided safe and reliable energy solutions and exceptional service.

Guy Hall, attorney for Eastern Illini, determined that quorum had been achieved and he announced that the three members of the Board of Directors who ran uncontested were reelected for three year terms.

**DISTRICT 1:** Tyler Finegan, Ashkum  
**DISTRICT 7:** Steve Gordon, Rantoul  
**DISTRICT 8:** Chad Larimore, Bement

Since there was no unfinished business or new business, Chairman Moore thanked members for attending and the meeting was adjourned. The Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Board of Directors held a reorganization meeting immediately following the annual meeting and elected board officers.

**CHAIRMAN:** Kevin Moore  
**VICE CHAIRMAN:** Bruce Ristow  
**SECRETARY/TREASURER:** Steve Meenen  
**ASST. SECRETARY/TREASURER:** Chad Larimore

The Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative board of directors hold their monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the EIEC Headquarters in Paxton.



### In this issue:

- Annual Meeting event highlights
- Is solar right for you?
- Summers are getting hotter in the U.S.
- Electric mowers are going mainstream
- Proud to be an American

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4. Autonomy & Independence
5. Education, Training, & Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

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# THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING 2022 Annual Meeting events



# WHAT TO CONSIDER REGARDING SOLAR INSTALLATION

## Is Solar right for you?



**STEP ONE: Call Eastern Illini at 217-379-0410**

**STEP TWO: Talk to an installer**

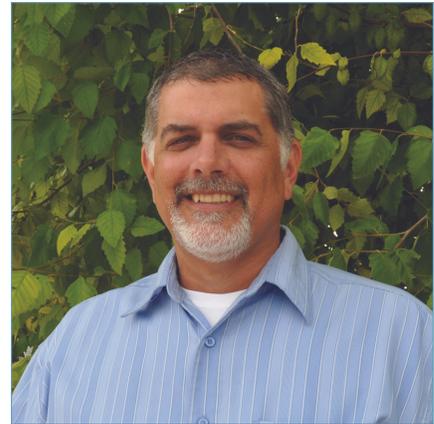
- Make sure the installer understands our solar policy  
110% of yearly load and under 100 kWh for Net Billing
- We can provide hourly kWh use data
- Get at least 2 proposals and ask for past client referrals
- Look closely at their savings calculator

**STEP THREE: Submit an application**

- Application, Member Agreement, \$500 application fee
- \$1M Liability insurance – putting electricity onto the grid
- Underwriting of equipment & wiring diagram
- Engineering study, upgrades, additional study,  
Authorization to Construct, final inspection

**FACTORS TO CONSIDER**

- Where will you place it (free standing, house roof, shed)
- Shade considerations
- How long will you be in your home?
- What is the time frame for the return on investment?
- Do you have the room in your federal tax liability to redeem the credit?
- Is the information you're getting about the timeframe for the return accurate?
- What is the length and rate of interest for the loan if you're borrowing the money?
- How much electricity do you use during the daytime?
- Can you add load during the daytime to help offset nighttime use?
- Installations gone wrong



**KENNEY DAVENPORT**

217-379-0410

RENEWABLES@EIEC.COOP



Eastern Illini  
Electric  
Cooperative

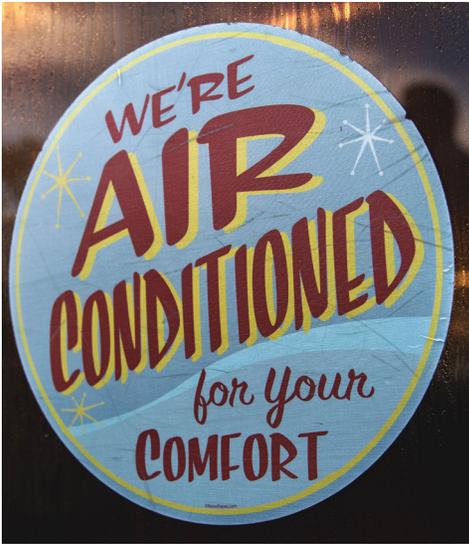
FEDERAL TAX CREDIT: 26% in 2022, 22% in 2023, sunset in 2024

SREC: Solar Renewable Energy Credits, State Block Grant Program, 15 year contract

USDA Rural Development Grant

# SAVE MONEY ON ENERGY BILLS WHILE STILL STAYING COOL

## Summers are getting hotter in the U.S.



An alarming trend shows average temperatures in the summer have increased by at least 2°F since 1970 in the U.S. Aside from being an ecological disaster, these hot summer days can also be a disaster for your wallet.

As summer kicks into high gear and the sweltering heat of the day sends us inside to enjoy the AC, there are some steps you can take to save money on energy bills while still staying cool.

According to the Department of Energy, a typical home uses a whopping 48 percent of energy expenditures just on the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning. Although most of that 48 percent is spent on heating expenses, Americans still spend \$29 billion every year to power their air conditioners.

Installing a new air conditioning system is a big investment, but replacing your AC unit can lower your energy consumption significantly and save you money on your electricity bill.

The Department of Energy data suggests that replacing an old air conditioner with a modern, energy-efficient unit can save you up to 40% on cooling costs. Aside from replacing your central air conditioner with a newer model, there are some things

you can do to increase efficiency, which can help reduce your energy bills.

Eastern Illini suggests these energy-saving tips to keep the temperature, and your budget, well within the comfort zone.

- If you don't already have one, install a programmable or smart thermostat. You can save up to 10 percent a year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for 8 hours a day.
- Close curtains, blinds, and shades during the hottest part of the day. Not only is about one-third of a home's energy lost around windows, but about 76 percent of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters the home to become heat.
- Replacing windows is often a recommended upgrade for a truly energy-efficient home. New windows can be cost prohibitive, but caulking around windows to seal air leaks is fairly inexpensive and can save between \$83 and \$166 per year on heating and cooling costs.
- Consider changes to your landscaping. Greenery that includes shade trees and those that insulate the foundation can reduce energy costs.
- Ventilate the attic and check insulation. Adequately sized vents and an attic fan can help hot air from building. If your attic has less than 6 to 8 inches of insulation, consider adding more. By addressing air leaks and adding insulation, you can save around 10 percent annually on your bill.
- Make sure your outdoor condenser unit is clean and free from debris. It is recommended that the unit should be in the shade at least part of the day.
- Get a pre-season HVAC checkup by a professional technician. Getting an inspection ahead of time will provide peace of mind. It should also help your

air conditioner run more efficiently saving you money in the long run.

- Use fans with your AC. Running a fan is much cheaper than running your air conditioning. In fact, running a fan 24/7 for an entire month would only cost about 5 dollars on your electricity bill. Unfortunately, fans don't actually produce cold air—they just move the existing air around. The air flow creates a wind chill effect that helps people feel more comfortable, but it does nothing to change the temperature.

However, fans and air conditioning work very well together. If you use air conditioning, a ceiling fan will allow you to set your thermostat setting about 4°F higher with no reduction in comfort. Remember to turn your fans off when you leave the house. With no people around to feel the wind chill effect, the fans aren't doing much.

- If you're still using incandescent light bulbs, then it's time to switch to LED lights. Incandescent bulbs are extremely inefficient. Only about 10 to 15% of the electricity that they use gets turned into light—the rest becomes waste heat. LED lights use 75% less energy, last 25 times longer, and run much cooler than standard incandescent lights. They cost a little more up front but soon pay for themselves in energy savings.
- Use your clothes dryer during the cooler parts of the day. If you have a clothes line, hang clothes outside to dry or air dry inside when possible.
- Consider preparing meals that don't require turning on the oven. The microwave uses up to 80 percent less energy than your oven.

Energy savings isn't just a summertime activity. Many of these tips will save you money all year long.

## THINKING OF GOING ELECTRIC?

# Electric mowers are going mainstream

When that gas powered, push mower you have owned forever, finally gives out, it might be time to consider purchasing an electric mower.

The growing popularity of electric lawn mowers might have something to do with neighborhoods sounding a little quieter even though your neighbor is mowing his yard. With a noise level on par with a dishwasher, electric mowers are less ear-piercing than gas-powered machines. Firing up the mower early in the morning to beat the heat of day is no longer out of the question.

Along with a big reduction in noise pollution, electric mowers also reduce emissions of carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides and methane by 99 percent, according to the National Gardening Association.

Since electric mowers connect to a power outlet or are battery-operated, they need electricity to function.

Cordless electric mowers are most appropriate for medium-size lawns. Because they aren't hooked up to a power supply, they're easier to maneuver, more like a traditional gas mower, and there's no worry about running over the extension cord. You can forget about needing a gas can to fill up the tank. With the current price of gas, this is a plus.

Cordless, battery operated mowers are heavier and costlier. To avoid waiting to recharge, some homeowners keep a spare battery on hand to swap in. Some current electric lawn mower models offer trimmers and leaf blowers with interchangeable batteries, so you'll always have a charged battery nearby.

Battery-operated mowers come in styles from walk-behind to self-propelled to robotic. There are also electric in traditional and zero-turn configurations. These batteries must be recharged on a regular basis, and as with all battery-operated

devices, when their batteries run out, so does the amount of time available for grass cutting. Here are a few reasons why an electric mower may be the best choice for you:

- **Cost savings:** Cordless mowers use just \$3 to \$4 of electricity per year, while a gas mower may use \$20 to \$30 annually in gas and oil.
- **Less noise:** Gas mowers operate at about 90 decibels, so hearing protection is recommended. Electric mowers are in the 65 to 85 decibel range.
- **Lightweight:** Electric mowers are lighter than gas-powered mowers and easier to push, maneuver, and store.
- **Easy starting:** No more wrestling with a pull start rope - push a button and mow.
- **Easy to maintain:** No need to add gas, oil filter or spark plug — just charge the battery or plug in.

## PROS

-  Quieter
-  No gas or oil changes
-  Foldable storage
-  Push-button start
-  Adjustable cutting height
-  Mulching
-  Self-propelled

## CONS

-  Not ideal for large lawns
-  Dense, weedy lawns run down battery quickly
-  Less power than a gas machine
-  Harder to repair





# **“I’m proud to be an American where at least I know I’m free!”**

On the Fourth of July, reach out and shake the hand of a veteran or an active serviceperson. It’s people like them who have spent the last 246 years protecting our rights and privileges as Americans.

**Happy Independence Day**  
*from Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative!*

