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This time of year is well-suited for a time of reflection and topping that list of things our co-op is grateful for is the wonderful communities we serve. We are fortunate to live in the same place where we work, which makes our ties to this community stronger.

The Cooperative Principles are essential to the co-op business model and benefit all members of the co-op, and we would like to continue this series from the previous month and tell you more about four of them.

AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Autonomy and Independence means the co-op operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its members, reflecting the

values and needs of our local community. This means the co-op is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, a local co-op board of directors leads our co-op members it serves.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education and Training focuses on enhancing the knowledge of co-op employees and board members, which enables them to contribute to the development of the co-op. By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment not just to individual professional and personal growth, but to the future of the co-op and the high quality of service our

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

11597 Illinois Highway 1
Paris, IL 61944
800-635-4145
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Community born.
Community led.
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members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

We also strive to inform our members (that's you!) and the public about the mission and operations of the co-op. In fact, that's why you receive this magazine every month, so we can share the latest co-op news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips.

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperation Among Cooperatives fosters the way co-ops work together to address bigger challenges. While this principle applies to all types of cooperatives, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case,

we put this principle into action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages. When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts—and we extend the same help to them when they need us.

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

Concern for Community is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our communities not only by being an essential service, but by helping to power our local economy. Whether through economic development, volunteerism or donations to local

causes, we invest in this community because it's our home too. A good example of this is through our CoBank Sharing Success Grant by which we have been able to donate \$125,000 toward services and organizations that make our communities thrive.

We think you'll find that most cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric co-op. On behalf of everyone at EnerStar Electric Cooperative, we're thankful for your membership, and we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Capital credit refund checks mailing

Earlier this year, after review of the cooperative's financial position, the EnerStar board of directors voted to retire capital credits to current and former members of the cooperative who received electric service in 1988 and a partial retirement of the 1989. The remainder of that year is paid in the coming year.

"For many years now, EnerStar's strategic focus has been to simultaneously improve the cooperative's financial status while upgrading our utility infrastructure," said Brent Reyher, EnerStar CEO. "We are pleased to say we are accomplishing our goal."

As a non-profit electric cooperative, EnerStar allocates annual operating margins, or profits, to members receiving service during the year. These margins are based on usage and are called capital credits.

Capital credits represent the member's equity and remain on file until EnerStar's board of directors determines a general refund may be issued. Checks will be mailed the last week of November for those members who qualify for the retirement.



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Our offices will be closed on Nov 11 in honor of Veterans Day



Our offices will be closed Nov 25 and 26 for the Thanksgiving holiday



Fourteen 2022 IEC Memorial Scholarships available

Illinois electric cooperatives will award 14 scholarships in 2022 to financially assist deserving students in the electric cooperative family. The 14 scholarships, \$2,000 each, will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” says EnerStar’s Angela Griffin. “EnerStar and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth and investing in them through programs like this one.”

Eight scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric co-op member. A ninth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. Four additional scholarships are reserved for high

school seniors enrolling full time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The 14th scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker’s Scholarship, will help pay for costs to attend lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. Sons and daughters of co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or directors, and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for this scholarship.

Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2021. The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2022. For more information regarding the scholarships, contact EnerStar’s Britta Baker at 1-800-635-4145 or bbaker@enerstar.com. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available online at www.enerstar.com.

'Watt' do I need to know about electricity and my appliances?

Determining how much electricity your appliances and electronics use can help you understand how much money you spend to operate them. Electricity is measured in units of power called watts, and 1 watt is a joule of energy used or produced per second.

The power consumption of small devices is usually measured in watts, while larger devices are measured in kilowatts (kW) (1 kW equals 1,000 watts). Knowing how much electricity an appliance uses and how much the electricity costs can help you decide whether to invest in a more energy-efficient appliance or make other cost-saving decisions, such as unplugging appliances when not in use.

Here are ways to estimate how much electricity your appliances and electronics use.

See the data plate

Appliances have data plates located on the back or inside the door. They tell you how many amps, watts and volts are needed to power the appliance. If your appliance does not list watts for some reason but does list the number of volts and amps, you can multiply them to get the number of watts.



Review the EnergyGuide label

The EnergyGuide label, a yellow sticker or tag found on new products, provides an estimate of the average energy consumption and cost to operate the specific model of the appliance you are considering. The FTC requires the label, and the dollar amount is the estimated yearly operating cost based on the national average cost of electricity.

Use a monitor or meter

Wattage meters are affordable instruments that are easy to use and can measure the electricity usage of any device that runs on 120 volts. To put it to work, just plug the monitor into the electrical outlet and plug the device into the monitor. The monitor will display how many watts the device uses. If you want to know how many kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity a device uses over time, just leave everything set up and read the display later. Some monitors allow you to plug in your co-op's cost per kWh to determine how much that appliance costs you over a length of time.

Want to know the electric usage of an appliance?



Borrow EnerStar's energy monitor! Give us a call at 800-635-4145.

Comparing an older appliance to a newer one

Now that you know how to measure the energy used by your appliances and electronics, visit EnergyStar.gov to access information that can help with decision to upgrade to newer, more efficient models. ENERGY STAR provides energy use data on specific products that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating. You can compare this information to your current appliances' energy use to see if an upgrade is worth your while. EnergyStar.gov also provides tools that allow you to compare different models. Depending on the type of appliance, ENERGY STAR-certified appliances use 10 to 50 percent less energy than their standard counterparts.

To learn more information about electrical safety and energy efficiency, visit SafeElectricity.org.