ENERSTAR ELECTRIC CO-OP

HOME PAGE

DECEMBER 2020

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF ENERSTAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

INSIDE

IEC Memorial Scholarship reminder

Twelve $2,000 scholarships will be awarded in 2021 through the Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship Program.

6 scholarships awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members.

4 scholarships 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.

1 Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship awarded to a high school senior who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric co-op employee or director.

1 LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship awarded to a student attending lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill.

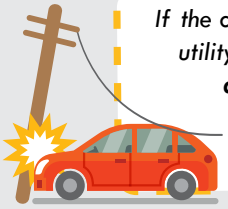
Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2020. The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2021. For more information, go to aiec.coop/iec-scholarship.

EnerStar®
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.

KNOW WHAT TO DO

if in an Auto Accident with Power Lines



If the car you are in hits a utility pole, ***your vehicle and the surrounding area can become energized.***

Even if you do not touch lines or equipment, you can still be killed or seriously injured.

1. Do NOT leave the car, and warn others to stay away.

2. Call 911 to have the utility notified.

3. Wait until a utility professional has told you it is safe.

The **only** reason to exit the vehicle is **if it's on fire.**

If the car is on fire, jump clear of the vehicle: with feet together, and without touching the car and the ground at the same time.

Continue to **hop away** with your **feet together** as far as you can.

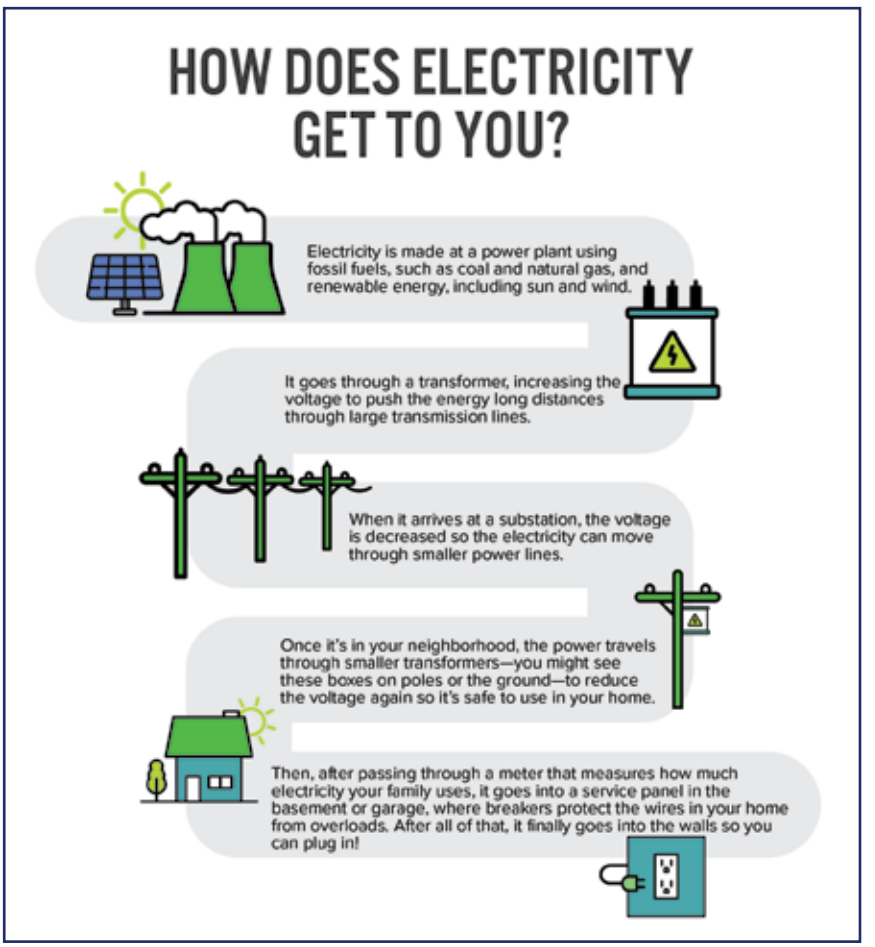
Learn more at

Safe Electricity.org

Power premise: How wind, natural gas (and more!) power your day

Few people turn on a living room lamp and ponder how it can turn on. Not many consider the complex path taken by the power that propels nearly every appliance and system you use during the day to brew your morning coffee, keep your home comfy, and entertain you with those dog and cat social media videos on your phone and desktop.

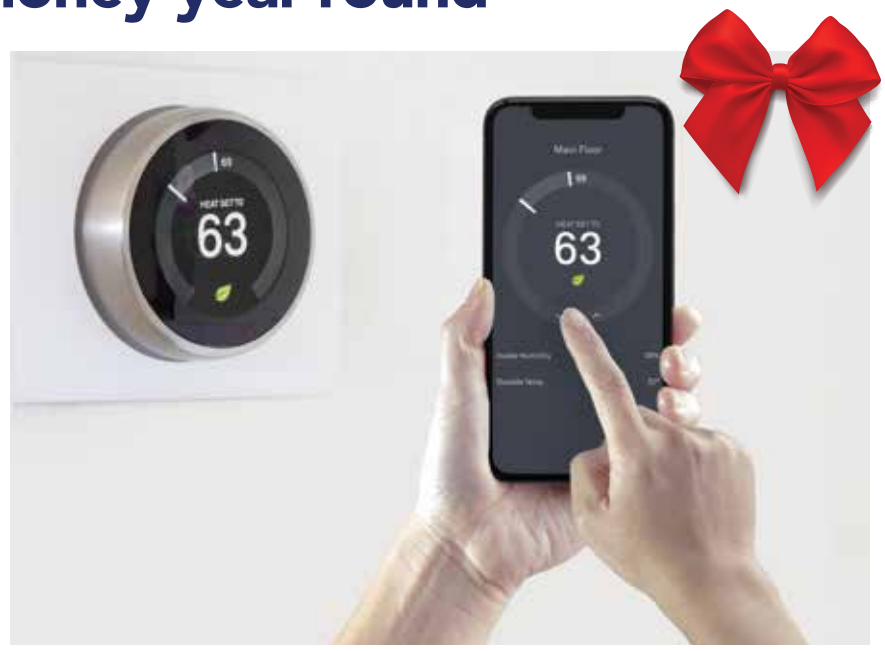
EnerStar Electric Cooperative, like most electric distribution co-ops, purchases electricity from a generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative that owns and maintains the transmission equipment carrying electricity to our service area. Wabash Valley Power is the generation and transmission cooperative that serves our electric co-op along with others in Illinois, Indiana and Missouri. The path that electricity takes to power your day is an interesting one:



It's also interesting to note that the electricity you are using now was just recently produced – energy is consumed as it is used, in real time. So now that you know how energy is produced, the next time you turn on a lamp in your home you too will feel enlightened!

Think "smart" this holiday season and save money year-round

This holiday season, think "smart" and consider giving a loved one (or yourself) a gift that keeps giving. Many smart devices reduce home energy use, which can put a little more jingle in your pocket. Consider energy-saving smart gadgets while shopping this holiday season.



Smart thermostats learn users' schedules and the temperatures they prefer to keep their home. It remembers these temperatures while a home is occupied and adjusts to an energy-saving setting when the home is empty. Smart thermostats also feature apps that let family members change the temperature from anywhere in the world using a phone or other mobile device. Owners may use the app to see how much energy is used and why, and then use that information to make appropriate adjustments to their home energy usage.

Smart lighting saves energy in multiple ways. Smart lightbulbs last longer and use less power. Smart lighting systems also have scheduled timers and allow you to remotely turn the lights off, which is a great feature if you have loved ones who constantly leave the lights on.

Virtual assistants, like Siri or Alexa, can connect to smart thermostats, smart lights, entertainment center devices and others. With a few spoken words, virtual assistants can turn lights, appliances, and other devices off and on, activate and deactivate security systems, shut or open a garage door, and more. These home automation devices allow homeowners to control their appliances and create daily smart-home routines through smartphone apps, creating many new ways to save energy. For example, owners can schedule kitchen appliances, such as dishwashers and coffee makers, to run while they are out of the house or to operate at a specific time every day.

Thermal leak detectors use infrared sensors to detect energy draining drafts so they can be repaired (filled) to make your home more energy efficient. Thermal imaging accessories now exist for smartphones as well, converting them into lightweight, portable thermal leak detectors. Repairing thermal leaks in a home can save up to 20 percent in heating and cooling costs.

Smart power strips and surge protectors are a less expensive option to gain some smart technology without upgrading all appliances and devices to smart models. Smarter devices that can be used independent of an all-smart home, the strips can detect when a device is in standby mode and cut its power supply. Using smart power strips can reduce a home's overall energy usage, which equates to savings on your energy bill.

For more information about energy efficiency and safety around electricity, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Energy bills can increase during winter for a variety of reasons, like houseguests, more time spent at home, and shorter days and longer nights. Small actions, like turning down your thermostat, replacing old bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help you save.

Four ways Santa saves energy in his workshop

The holiday season is finally upon us, and Santa and his elves have been especially busy as they gear up for their biggest night of the year.

It's no secret that Santa is known for running an efficient workshop – how else could he make all those toys in time for Christmas Eve? Rumor has it that one way Santa ensures an efficient workspace is through energy-saving measures.

Here are four ways Santa saves energy in his workshop.

1. Santa leaves his decorations up year-round, so by using LED holiday light strands, he's able to save on his monthly energy bills. LED holiday strands can last up to 40 seasons, which make them a great option for any festive home.

2. Santa requires several power tools to make a year's worth of new toys. That's why he insists on using cordless power tools with the ENERGY STAR rating. According to energystar.gov, if all power tools in the U.S. used ENERGY STAR-rated battery chargers, 2 billion kWh hours of electricity could be saved – that's equivalent to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1.7 million tons!

3. Mrs. Claus loves to keep warm by the fire in the evenings, and Santa knows one of the best tricks to ensure fireplace efficiency. While a fireplace can keep a small area of your home cozy and warm, it can also pull heated air from the room through the chimney. That's why Santa always closes the fireplace flue when a fire isn't burning.

4. Santa also saves energy by using power strips. Power strips are ideal for workshops, craft nooks, game rooms and other spaces in your home. With one simple switch, you can conveniently control several devices and electronics that are plugged into the power strip.

This holiday season, let's take a page from Santa's book and remember to save energy when possible. With these four tips, you'll be well on your way to savings and Santa's "nice" list!

Member FYI

2021 Annual Meeting delayed

Many EnerStar Electric Cooperative members look forward to the cooperative's annual meeting each year in March. But with Illinois restrictions still in place that limits attendance numbers, the board has made the decision to postpone the meeting.

The Annual Meeting typically draws more than 500 people. "We begin planning for the March meeting in November, so we felt postponing it would be best in light of the current COVID-19 situation," said Angela Griffin. "Hopefully, we will be looking for a June meeting, possibly with a different format than the traditional pancake and sausage breakfast."

It is of paramount importance to the Board of Directors and staff of EnerStar Electric Cooperative that any gathering or meeting of the members be conducted in a healthy environment and safe manner. Members will be notified of the date of the rescheduled annual meeting as future circumstances may permit.