

INSIDE

20B

Planned outage notification call list

Why we plan outages

Holiday office closing

Sign up with SmartHub

20C

No posting zone: power poles

Winter weather can bring power lines down

20D

POWER MOVES 2021
Residential rebate program

Five ways to stay cozy this winter

Baby, it's cold outside! When you're feeling chilly at home, there are several budget-friendly ways you can keep comfortable without turning up the thermostat.

Here are five easy ways to stay cozy this winter.

1. Whether you're experiencing extremely cold winter temps or you simply "run cold," **an electric blanket can deliver quick warmth** like a regular throw or blanket cannot. Electric blankets can include a variety of features, like timers and dual temperature settings (if your cuddle buddy prefers less heat). This winter, consider an electric blanket instead of turning up the heat, and your energy bill will thank you.



Electric blankets deliver quick warmth and include a variety of features like timers and dual temperature settings. Photo Credit: Abby Berry, NRECA


2. One of the easiest ways to stay cozy at home is to **keep your feet warm**.

Our feet play a critical role in regulating body temperature, so when your feet are warm, your body automatically feels warmer. Try a pair of comfortable wool socks or house slippers to stay toasty.

3. On winter days when the sun is shining, take advantage and **harness natural warmth from sunlight**. Open all curtains, drapes and blinds in your home to let the sunshine in—you'll be able to feel the difference.
4. Another way to make your home cozier is to **use a humidifier**. Cold air doesn't hold water vapor like warm air, so by adding humidity inside your home, you can feel a little warmer. A favorable level of humidity inside your home can also help clear sinuses, soften skin and improve sleep.
5. Beyond adding visual appeal to your home, **area rugs can also provide extra insulation and a warm surface for your feet** on cold winter days. Use large area rugs in rooms where you spend the most time. You'll enjoy the new colors and textures of the rug, and the additional warmth will help keep your home comfortable.

These are just a few ways you can stay cozy this winter *without* turning up the thermostat. Don't forget the hot chocolate!



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.

Planned Outage Notification Call List

If you depend on life support equipment, contact EnerStar

EnerStar does its best to keep the power on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Yet despite our best efforts, outages do occur. For most members, this is an inconvenience, but for those who depend on electricity to power life support equipment, an outage can present a real challenge. To protect yourself, be prepared by installing a generator or having some other form of backup plan.

While most outages are weather-related, a few are planned in advance for maintenance and construction purposes. In instances of a planned outage, EnerStar maintains a Planned Outage Call List for those



members with a verified medical necessity. These members receive notification in the event of a scheduled power outage.

If you or a relative depend on electrically powered life support equipment and would like to be put on the call list for medical reasons, it is necessary for the member's

doctor to send a letter to EnerStar indicating the need for electrically operated life support. The letter should include information regarding the person needing life support equipment, the type of equipment, and location information. It is the member's responsibility to keep all contact information updated with EnerStar.

If your business depends on uninterrupted power supply, the use of an electric generator is highly recommended, and computers should have some sort of a battery back-up system.

It is important to stress that by being placed on the planned outage call list, **EnerStar is in no way guaranteeing uninterrupted power supply.** Members must make personal arrangements for both unplanned and planned outages.

To apply for the Planned Outage Call List, send an email to EnerStar's Kayla Foos at kfoos@enerstar.com or call her at (800) 635-4145, extension 112.

Why we plan outages

Sometimes, you may hear that EnerStar will be having a "planned outage." Ever wondered why?

Occasionally, the equipment we use to bring power to your home needs to be repaired or replaced. When this happens, as a way to keep our crews and you safe, we plan a power interruption.

"We do our best to plan these outages during times when you will be least inconvenienced," said EnerStar's Manager of Operations Tim Haddix.

Haddix explained that while it may be inconvenient, planned

outages are actually beneficial.

"Regular system maintenance is critical for many reasons. Yes, power reliability is one issue to avoid after-hour outages but there is also the issue of public safety and the safety of our employees," he said.

Here at EnerStar, we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep you safe and to keep our system running smoothly. So the next time you hear about a planned outage, know that it is one of the best ways we can provide you with quality electric service.



Sign up with SmartHub!

and get updates on outages!



Visit www.enerstar.com or download our free, secure mobile app!



No posting zone: Power poles

Most jobs do not require you to climb 40 feet in the air and conduct business within a few feet of high voltage power lines that carry 7,200 volts of electricity. However, for many utility workers, this is just another day at the office.

Utility poles must be kept free from all personal materials such as signs, holiday decorations, fliers and other metal objects like staples or tacks. We're just as patriotic as our neighbors but yes, this includes flags.

During this past election season, we saw many political signs and banners hanging on poles as well. While we appreciate the passion of democracy in action, again these items can be a risk to both the person attaching those items and to our lineman.

Utility workers use specialized climbing devices to perform regular maintenance and repair damaged power lines at the top of utility poles. Nails, tacks and other metal objects used to attach items to utility poles can interfere with the safe operation of the climbing gear they wear.

Foreign objects embedded in utility poles can also snag or damage the protective, fire-retardant clothing that keeps our linemen safe from electrical shock. A small puncture in their specialized, high-voltage rubber gloves could go unnoticed, causing electrocution.

Linemen already work in extremely hazardous conditions, so by respecting utility poles, you can help keep your lineman safe. If you see items on our electric poles, give us a call at 800-635-4145 so we can have them removed. Please, do not try to remove the items yourself.

WINTER WEATHER

CAN BRING POWER LINES DOWN



DID YOU KNOW:

STAY WHERE YOU ARE

You've just been in an accident involving a downed power line. Your first instinct might be to get out and run, but that could cost you your life. In most cases, the safest place to be is inside your car or truck. Wait there until electric utility workers deenergize the power. If your car is on fire or you see smoke, escape as safely as possible by making a clean, solid jump out and hop away with both feet together as far as you can. Warn others not to approach the scene.



- That downed power lines are extremely dangerous and even deadly?
- The current could spread throughout the ground and anything touching the ground?
- Stray voltage spreads like ripples on a pond?
- If you step from one "ripple" (voltage) to another you could be electrocuted?
- Downed lines could be hiding under standing water, ice or debris?

Learn more at:

 Safe
Electricity.org®

Congratulations!

Congratulations EnerStar member Nancy Davis, winner of \$250 for completing the recent member survey conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Thank you, Nancy and to all the members who took time to complete the survey. We love hearing from you!



Geothermal Heat Pump (with Electric Backup)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Water-to-air closed loop \geq 17.1 EER / \geq 3.6 COP ▶ Water-to-air open loop \geq 21.1 EER / \geq 4.1 COP ▶ Water-to-water closed loop \geq 16.1 EER / \geq 3.1 COP ▶ Water-to-water open loop \geq 20.1 EER / \geq 3.5 COP 	CLOSED LOOP, REPLACING: <i>electric resistance, fossil fuel, or into new construction</i>	\$1,500
	OPEN LOOP, REPLACING: <i>electric resistance, fossil fuel, or into new construction</i>	\$1,500

Air Source Heat Pump (Whole Home)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Electric Back-up ▶ \geq 16 SEER ▶ \geq 9 HSPF ▶ \geq 1.75 COP at 5° (Cold Climate ASHP only)* ▶ Condenser and coil must be replaced and installed as a matched set 	REPLACING:	COLD CLIMATE HEAT PUMP*	NON-COLD CLIMATE HEAT PUMP
	<i>Electric Resistance heat</i>	\$1500	\$750
	<i>Natural Gas, Propane, Fuel Oil Heat</i>	\$1500	\$750
	<i>Air Source Heat Pump</i>	\$1500	\$250
	<i>New Construction</i>	\$1500	N/A

Air Source Heat Pump (Partial Home)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Electric Back-up ▶ \geq 16 SEER ▶ \geq 9 HSPF ▶ \geq 1.75 COP at 5° (Cold Climate ASHP only)* ▶ Condenser and coil must be replaced and installed as a matched set 	REPLACING:	COLD CLIMATE HEAT PUMP*	NON-COLD CLIMATE HEAT PUMP
	<i>Electric Resistance heat</i>	\$600	\$250
	<i>Natural Gas, Propane, Fuel Oil Heat</i>	\$600	\$250
	<i>Air Source Heat Pump</i>	\$600	\$250
	<i>New Construction</i>	\$600	N/A

Natural Gas, Propane, and Fuel Oil with Heat Pump - Split System (Ducted)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ \geq 16 SEER ▶ \geq 9.0 HSPF ▶ \geq 90 AFUE ▶ Condenser and coil must be replaced and installed as a matched set ▶ New system must heat and cool entire home 	REPLACING ELECTRIC RESISTANCE: <i>electric furnace, ceiling cable, baseboard</i>	\$500
	REPLACING FOSSIL FUEL AND CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING	\$500
	NEW CONSTRUCTION	\$500

Heat Pump Water Heater

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Minimum UEF of 2.0. 	REPLACING ELECTRIC RESISTANCE TANK	\$400
	REPLACING NATURAL GAS OR PROPANE WATER HEATER	\$400
	NEW CONSTRUCTION	\$400

Variable Speed Pool Pump

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ ENERGY STAR® 	REPLACING EXISTING SINGLE STAGE POOL PUMP	\$250
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PURCHASE RECEIPTS REQUIRED FOR ALL REBATE APPLICATIONS.

AHRI Certificates required for all geothermal, air source heat pump, and heat pump water heater rebate applications.

Heat loss/heat gain calculations required for geothermal and air source heat pumps.

Failure to provide requested information may result in forfeiture of rebate.

All installations are subject to verification and/or inspection.

For full requirements, see applications.

REBATE PROGRAM ENDS DEC. 31, 2021 AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

Visit PowerMoves.com or call your local electric cooperative's Energy Advisor for more information.