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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.

## Annual meeting tentatively set

### Board of director election information

Many of our members look forward to the cooperative's annual meeting every March. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing requirements, it is not possible to have the meeting this month.

The co-op has tentatively set a date of Thursday, June 24, 2021 for the meeting. We anticipate an early evening event with a new venue and menu. We will keep our fingers crossed and update you as soon as we know any details.

The 2021 election for the board of directors will be based on that

date. On page 20B, you will find the pertinent information and dates for member petitions.

We will release information on the "Luck of the Draw" scholarship in late March or April. If we are unable to have an in-person annual meeting where the random drawing is to be held, we will hold the drawing on the co-op's Facebook page. Co-op members or dependents of co-op members attending college can apply for the scholarship.

## 2021 Youth Tour canceled

Unfortunately, the 2021 Youth Tour is canceled due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. We know there were students looking forward to this

opportunity, so this is not a decision taken lightly. However, the safety of our students is our top priority, and the logistics are a big part of the decision.



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When you switch to an ENERGY STAR® certified heat pump water heater, you'll save up to 50% on your water heating energy costs. That's because a heat pump water heater operates more efficiently than gas alternatives. It has a smaller carbon footprint, too, to the tune of about half the carbon emissions of a propane or natural gas water heater.

Best of all? EnerStar Electric Cooperative will help you switch by giving you cash rebates on installation. That's some sweet savings on one mean machine.

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# Petitions available for June 2021 board elections

EnerStar Electric Cooperative's 82 Annual Meeting is tentatively set for June 24, and cooperative members have the opportunity to run in the upcoming board of directors election. Members who are eligible candidates and can commit the time and energy to the member-owned corporation may want to consider this opportunity.

The role of director is a huge commitment – of time, energy and education – more than most members realize. Thankfully, there are members who are willing to serve in this important capacity. Decisions made can affect the membership into the next generation.

For the 2021 election, EnerStar has three director seats, which are three year terms in Districts 2, 4 and 7.

Members interested in running for the board should contact the cooperative office to verify eligibility and receive a petition packet. The packet includes all the necessary information one would need to learn more about the cooperative and the role of the director.

Board petitions require the signatures of 15 EnerStar members who live in the candidate's Voting District. All members signing petitions must have an original membership card on file and must be currently receiving electricity from the cooperative. Candidates will also need to check with cooperative personnel to make certain they reside within the correct Representative District.

Petition packets will be available beginning March 10, 2021. Due to COVID, at the time of publication, the EnerStar lobby is closed. Please call 800-635-4145 to set up an appointment to pick up a petition packet.

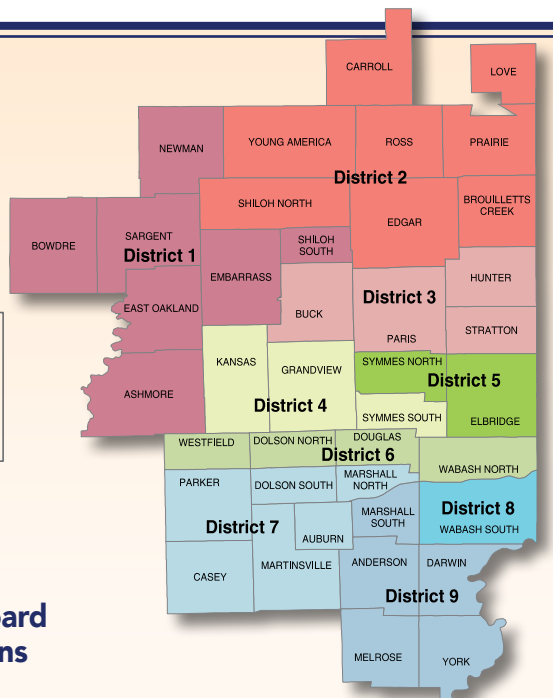
Completed petitions may be turned in to the cooperative office from April 10, 2021 to April 25, 2021. Candidates should also provide



## 3 Voting Districts

A	B	C
1	4	7
2	5	8
3	6	9

Voting Districts A, B, and C each contain three Representative Districts in shades of red, green, and blue, respectively.



## Representative Board District Descriptions 3 year terms

### ✓ Voting District A

#### District 2 - Currently served by Kevin Julian, Metcalf

The Townships of Carroll and Love in Vermilion County, Illinois; the Townships of Young America, Ross, Prairie, Edgar, and Brouilletts Creek in Edgar County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Shiloh lying north of the 1800th Road in Edgar County, Illinois.

### ✓ Voting District B

#### District 4 - Currently served by John Fell, Kansas

The Townships of Kansas and Grandview in Edgar County, Illinois; all that portion of the Township of Symmes lying south of the 400th

Road and west of Illinois Highway 1 in Edgar County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Symmes lying south of the 300th Road and east of Illinois Highway 1 in Edgar County, Illinois.

### ✓ Voting District C

#### District 7 - Currently served by Jeremy Williams, Martinsville

The Townships of Parker, Casey, Auburn, and Martinsville in Clark County, Illinois; all that portion of the Township of Dolson lying south of the 2000th Road in Clark County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Marshall lying north of Interstate Highway 70 in Clark County, Illinois.

a short biographical sketch, 250 words or less, and a digital photo to be published with the Annual Meeting Notice. Candidates should also make plans to attend the 2021 Annual Meeting of Members on Thursday, June 24, 2021.

**COVID Note:** At the time of publication of this magazine, due to the Illinois COVID mitigation plan, it

is unclear whether it will be possible to hold the annual meeting. We will release more information at a later date as it becomes available. We anticipate mailing the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting in mid-May. This notice will contain meeting information as well as the voting ballots for the board of directors election.



## What you need to know

### *Member-owned renewable energy systems*

Solar is a hot topic in Illinois, and maybe you are considering installing a solar array at your home. If so, EnerStar is here to help guide you through the somewhat complex process of connecting member-owned renewable energy systems to the EnerStar system.

Prior to installation, it is important that you contact the co-op regarding your project. There are several items to consider prior to making the financial commitment. Below are some of the frequently asked questions regarding member-owned renewable systems:

#### **When should I contact EnerStar about my plans for adding renewable energy to my house/business?**

Prior to a financial commitment and/or installation, it is important that you contact EnerStar regarding your intent. This will ensure there

are no questions left unanswered when it is time to connect to the EnerStar system.

#### **Does EnerStar charge a fee for interconnecting renewable energy?**

To recover the some of the costs incurred by EnerStar during the interconnection process and for the special bi-directional metering needed to connect to the EnerStar system, there is a non-refundable \$400 application fee required for renewable energy systems under 25 kW AC. This fee will need to be paid at the time of application.

#### **What size renewable energy system is allowed?**

Based upon local system capabilities, EnerStar will allow any size renewable energy system to safely interconnect to our electric system. Your member-owned generation

should be appropriately sized for your home's energy needs. At most residences, a system up to 10 kW AC is quite adequate.

#### **What if I request a renewable energy system that is larger than my energy profile?**

If the kW requested is larger than your load profile, a System Impact Study may be necessary. The deposit for this study is \$3,000. This study is necessary to determine whether EnerStar's electric system can accommodate the excess electricity you would potentially put out onto the grid. Based on the study results, if any system upgrades are necessary, EnerStar will contact you with a maximum kW allowed to interconnect and/or the cost to upgrade the facilities to handle the requested kW. All construction costs must be paid prior to the solar installation.

## What if I generate more electricity than I need for my home?

When your solar power system is generating more electricity than your needs, the excess electricity is delivered into EnerStar's system. You will be compensated for the excess generation at the co-op's avoided cost according to the net billing section of EnerStar's Power Purchase and Sales policy.

## What does the term 'net billing' mean?

Under EnerStar's net billing policy, both electricity consumption and net generation (excess electricity put onto the grid) are metered and billed separately. Members are charged the standard retail rate per kWh when they use energy from the EnerStar system. Members are compensated for any excess generation purchased by the cooperative at the co-op's avoided cost kWh rate

## What is avoided cost?

Avoided cost is the price the cooperative would have paid to produce the same power itself or purchase it from another source, which is a market-based price. When a solar account is generating excess electricity and puts it out onto the EnerStar system, the cooperative is purchasing the excess electricity at the point of interconnection. The avoided cost rate reflects the cost of energy but does not include transmission and delivery system cost components. Think of it as the "raw price" of energy. This rate is reviewed and adjusted annually by EnerStar based upon then-current market rates for electricity.

## What is the monthly Grid Access Fee?

If you are interconnected to EnerStar's system, you will be charged, at a minimum, a monthly grid access fee just like all other co-op members. This fee covers the



costs associated with poles, wires, substations, transformers and operations necessary to deliver reliable electricity to your property.

## Does EnerStar require the member to have insurance on the renewable energy system?

EnerStar requires a one-million-dollar liability policy to be kept on the renewable energy system for the longevity of the installation. You must notify EnerStar of any changes or cancellations to the insurance policy as well as provide yearly renewal certificates. This policy protects the EnerStar electric system and the co-op employees at locations where a renewable energy system is installed.

## Does EnerStar Electric Cooperative require a contract to be signed?

EnerStar requires two policies to be reviewed and acknowledged via signature. These are Policy 16 "Interconnection and Parallel Operation of Distributed Generation" and Policy 17 "Member Purchases and Sales of Electric Service." These agreements include, but is not limited to, keeping insurance on the system, compliance with laws, rules, and regulations, ensuring that no changes have been made to the system and that the

system will operate properly in the event of an outage.

## Does the system act like a back-up generator when EnerStar's power goes off?

No. During a power outage, EnerStar requires that the renewable energy system disconnect automatically from our electric system. This is done to prevent electricity from back-feeding into the distribution system. It is important to have generation disconnected from the system in order to prevent potential injury to co-op line crews working to restore power in a timely manner.

## Are inspections required? What if I need to make changes/alterations to my system?

EnerStar will do a final inspection of the renewable energy system to ensure it is properly interconnected to the EnerStar grid. After completion, no operational modifications or additional generation will be allowed on interconnected projects absent prior written consent from EnerStar.

## Who do I contact with further questions?

Please email any inquires to EnerStar Electric Cooperative at [power@enerstar.com](mailto:power@enerstar.com) or feel free to call us at 800-635-4145.