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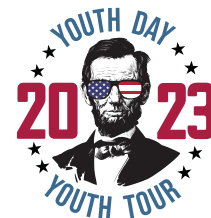
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APPLY TODAY TO REPRESENT ENERSTAR IN D.C.



For more than 50 years, the electric cooperatives of Illinois have given tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to learn from today's public officials, and EnerStar is on the hunt for two outstanding students to represent our co-op at Youth Tour this year. EnerStar's Youth Tour is actually two separate events: Youth Day in Springfield and the Youth to Washington trip.



YOUTH DAY IN SPRINGFIELD – MARCH 29, 2023

Each year, nearly 300 outstanding students get an up close and first-hand look at democracy in action when they meet their elected representatives during Illinois Electric Cooperatives Youth Day.

YOUTH TO WASHINGTON – JUNE 16-23, 2023

Those individuals selected will also travel by charter bus for an all-expense, week-long tour of Washington, D.C where they will create lasting memories and visit all the Washington must-see sites including Gettysburg, George Washington's Mt Vernon, Smithsonian museums, Arlington Cemetery, and much more!

Applicants should be high school freshmen, sophomores or juniors during the 2022-2023 school year. In addition, the students must reside in the EnerStar service territory and receive their electricity from EnerStar.

Visit www.enerstar.com to find the application in the Community Section. Applications are due February 28, 2023. Good luck!



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.

We need your help! Email survey to begin

Data gathered will help plan for the future



In November and December, EnerStar Electric Cooperative, along with our wholesale power provider, Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA), will be conducting an email survey of co-op members. The survey is conducted every two years and helps WVPA determine how much power we'll need in the near future.

The survey does include a couple questions regarding member satisfaction. "These questions help us determine how we as a cooperative are meeting the needs and expectations of our members. Hopefully, we will receive high marks for our service to the membership," said EnerStar's Angela Griffin. She emphasized that members with concerns should contact the cooperative so co-op personnel can resolve any unknown issues.

"We greatly appreciate those who take the time to help us plan for the future," added Griffin. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact EnerStar's Angela Griffin at 800-635-4145, ext. 103 or agriffin@enerstar.com.

IEC Memorial Scholarship reminder

Fifteen \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded in 2023 through the Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship Program.



9 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.



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.



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



**Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2022. The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2023.
For more information, go to aiec.coop/iec-scholarship.**

Capital Credit Checks mailed

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 1990.

"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.

NEW YEARS SAFETY RESOLUTIONS

Consider these safety-themed resolutions this year. They will help keep you and others safe!

1. Do not drive distracted, especially near or in work zones.
2. Do not place a cell phone on bedding or under a pillow.
3. If you see a downed power line, stay away and call 9-1-1.
4. If you are in a car accident involving a downed line, do not get out.
5. Do not take on electrical work if you are not qualified.
6. Never use a portable generator indoors, in a garage or in an enclosed area.
7. Test GFCI outlets monthly to ensure they are working.
8. Ensure your home's electrical system is up to code.
9. Look up and look out for overhead power lines when working outside.
10. Call 8-1-1 prior to your next digging project.

Safe Electricity.org

Holiday Closings

Christmas

Dec 23rd and 26th

New Year

Dec 30th and Jan 2nd



Five ways to fight the winter chill and save energy

We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings and all the fun outdoor activities that go with it.

But there's one thing we can all agree on: high winter bills are never fun. EnerStar wants you to use LESS of what we sell, so here are a few helpful hints to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check.

Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

1. Mind the thermostat. This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.

2. Button up your home. The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and



During winter months, set your thermostat to 68 degrees when you are home. Got a Wi-Fi controlled thermostat? Call us about a rebate!

weatherstripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.

3. Use window coverings wisely. Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.

4. Consider your approach to appliance use. When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or

clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.

5. Think outside the box. If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills. Visit our website at www.enerstar.com for additional energy-saving tips and rebates available for upgrading your HVAC system.



Get cozy under your favorite blanket for additional warmth. Don't forget to bundle up your furry friends, too.