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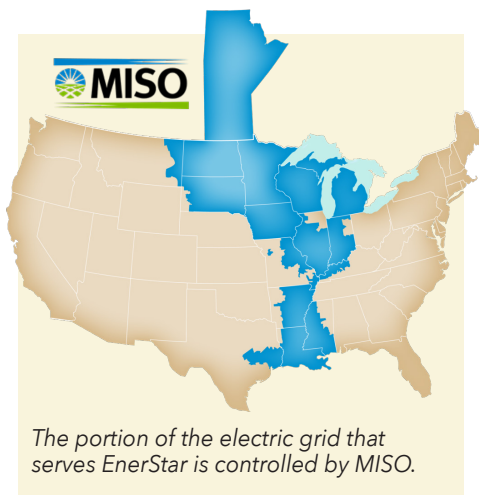


Electricity – it is the lifeline of our homes and communities. The ability to provide power is a balancing act. One that is getting harder and harder to maintain for many reasons. It is certainly top of mind for me and, as I am learning, for you. At our annual meeting in June, a member asked about “rolling blackouts” and expressed concern for the future. This really struck me. I am not alone in my worry for the future.

On a recent summer day, MISO’s peak load was about 109,000 megawatts (MW). That is a lot of power when you consider that 1 MW can run between 650-1,000 homes. If you take the midpoint (825), 109,000 MW will power almost 90 million homes.

You may wonder, where did we get that power? A lot of places. On that same summer day:

- 8% of the load came from solar and wind
- 5% from hydro
- 9% nuclear
- The remaining 78% from coal and natural gas!



The portion of the electric grid that serves EnerStar is controlled by MISO.

This is where the balancing act comes into play. By 2050, a study from McKinsey & Company predicts U.S. electricity demand to double. This does not worry me as much as the government’s overreach into our industry. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed rules that, if enacted, would threaten the nation’s coal and natural gas plants before other “cleaner” solutions can be brought online.

How would we generate enough power? The rules would require most coal and gas power plants to cut or capture nearly all their carbon dioxide emissions or close within 15 years. These rules are impractical, costly and unproven. This is not a statement to undermine the transition to renewable energy. It is a matter of fact. The costs and timelines are unrealistic and threaten our ability to deliver affordable and reliable power.

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The “balance” that concerns me is with power generation and power use. We live in the MISO, Midcontinent Independent System Operator, service area. MISO ensures we, in all the territories highlighted in blue, have enough electricity at any given time.



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.

Our region can barely generate enough electricity to meet peak loads. The disorderly and premature elimination or reduction of our power workhorses – coal and natural gas – is a threat to our families and communities. Imagine people unable to receive medical care, flooding due to loss of pumping stations, heat strokes due to loss of air-conditioning. I could go on and on, but you get my point.

I fear in the next 10 years, this balancing act I am concerned about now will be different. If we continue on the current path, we will be teetering on the edge of the power reliability cliff. EnerStar and Wabash will continue to pursue reliable and affordable power sources and work with our legislatures to enact “sensible” rules for our power sources. We’re watching out for you.

Contributing to this article is Vicki Gardner, VP of Marketing & Communications at Wabash Valley Power Alliance. WVPA is a not-for-profit generation and transmission cooperative which provides EnerStar Electric Cooperative with its wholesale power needs.

## Electric co-ops grow for the communities they serve

October is National Co-op Month

October is National Co-op Month, and EnerStar Electric Cooperative is joining cooperatives across the U.S. to celebrate. Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but they each have a common goal: to provide goods or services for the members of the co-op.

Electric co-ops, including EnerStar Electric Cooperative, exist to serve their members. Our priority is to provide affordable, reliable energy to our local communities. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs.

This October, as we celebrate Co-op Month, we’re focusing on the ways “Co-ops Grow” for their members.

**Co-ops Grow Communities:** Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. “Concern for Community” is one of our core principles—and being community-focused is essential to everything we do.

### Co-ops Grow Together:

Co-ops are all about cooperation, not competition. That’s why electric co-ops work together to share lessons learned, successful strategies and better ways to serve our members. We’re better when we grow together!

### Co-ops Grow Tomorrow’s

**Leaders:** Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for growing tomorrow’s leaders through a variety of youth engagement programs. Whether through school demonstrations, community events or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we’re committed to providing opportunities for local youth to learn and thrive in our community and beyond.

### Co-ops Grow for You:

At EnerStar Electric Cooperative, your satisfaction is our number one goal. It’s why we were formed many years ago to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We’ve come a long way since then, and your needs continue to evolve. That’s why we’ll never stop growing for you!



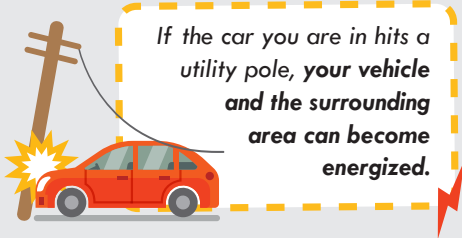
**CO-OPS GROW COMMUNITIES**

Electric cooperatives are joining co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate National Co-op Month. As your local electric co-op, our services are shaped to meet your specific needs. We love growing with you, the members we are proud to serve.

# 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**



## Seventeen 2024 IEC Memorial Scholarships available

Illinois electric cooperatives will award 17 scholarships in 2024 to financially assist deserving students in the electric cooperative family. The 17 scholarships, \$2,000 each, will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Ten scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors whose parent(s) are an Illinois electric co-op member. An 11th scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the child of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. Five additional scholarships are reserved for high school seniors enrolling full time at a two-year Illinois community college whose parent(s) are an Illinois electric cooperative member, employee or director.

The 17th 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. Children 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.

"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 investing in our youth through programs like this one."

Deadline to apply for the scholarship is Dec. 31, 2023. The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2024. For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Griffin at 800-635-4145, ext. 103 or agriffin@enerstar.com. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available online at [www.enerstar.com](http://www.enerstar.com).



## Spooky energy savings

This spooky season, we're sharing a few energy-saving tricks so you can treat yourself to lower energy bills. Here are four simple ways to summon the spirit of energy efficiency.

**Conjure instant savings with a smart thermostat.** One of the easiest ways to save energy is through thermostat control, since home heating and cooling account for a large portion of monthly energy use. Smart thermostats can help you manage heating and cooling costs by learning your daily routine and adjusting the temperature settings accordingly. You can control a smart thermostat from anywhere (through your smartphone), which allows you to prevent unnecessary energy consumption while you're away. Sorcery! To learn more about rebates for smart thermostats, visit [www.powermoves.com](http://www.powermoves.com) under the residential section.

**Get rid of goosebumps by eliminating ghostly drafts.** The winter chill is just around the corner, so now is the time to seal air leaks around your home. Apply caulk and weatherstripping around drafty windows and doors to make your home more comfortable and lower energy use.

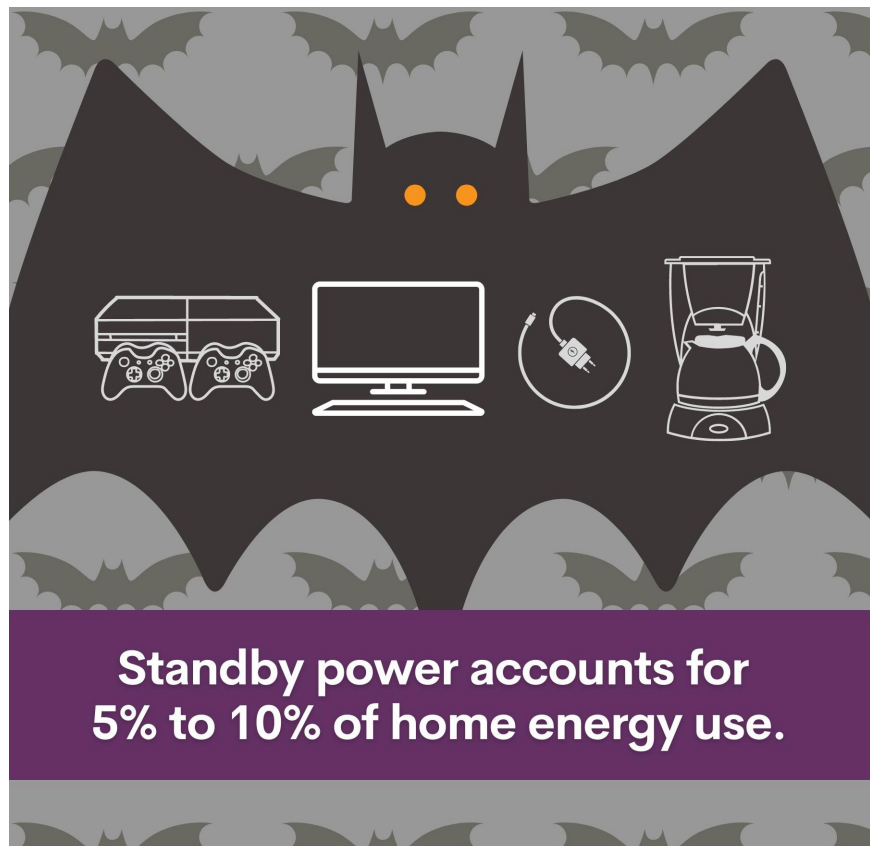
**Illuminate your lair with energy-efficient lighting.** LED bulbs use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent light bulbs. Make the switch to reduce energy used for

lighting. Remember to use LEDs when it's time to decorate for the upcoming holiday season. LED light strings offer an average of 88% energy savings compared to traditional incandescent light strings.

**Stir up savings with countertop cauldrons.** Cooler weather summons our favorite soup recipes. Small countertop appliances like slow cookers

use less energy than cooking meals on the stovetop. Grab your book of spells (or recipes) and start stirring up savings in the kitchen.

When we look around our homes, there are many opportunities to save energy. So, this spooky season, investigate your space and unlock a different kind of magic — the kind that brings real energy savings.



**Standby power accounts for 5% to 10% of home energy use.**