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## Fifteen 2023 IEC Memorial Scholarships available

Illinois electric cooperatives will award 15 scholarships in 2023 to financially assist deserving students in the electric cooperative family. The 15 scholarships, \$2,000 each, will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Nine scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors whose parent(s) are an Illinois electric co-op member. A 10th 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. Four 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 15th scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship, will help pay for costs to attend line-worker 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, 2022. The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2023. 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).



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.

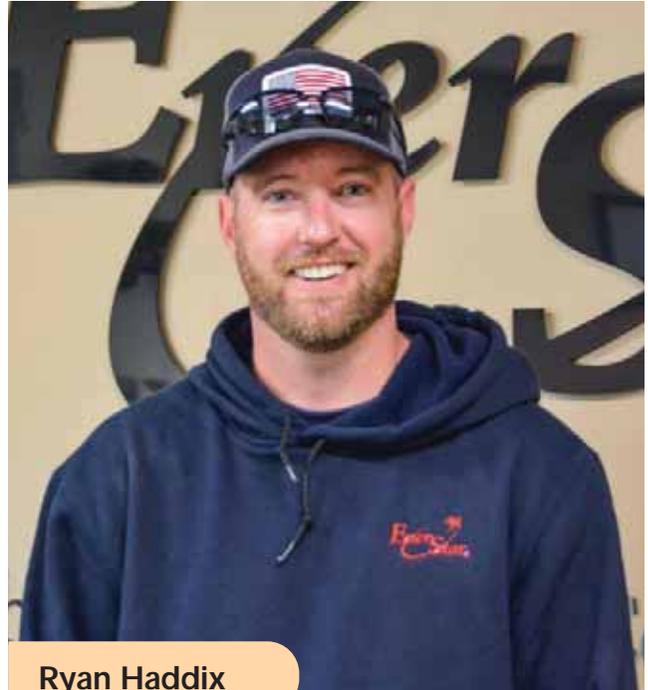
# EnerStar welcomes new employees

*In October, EnerStar welcomed two new employees to the co-op family.*



**Mike Flinn**

Clark County resident Mike Flinn has joined the EnerStar team as a mechanic. He will replace EnerStar's Mike Huddleston, who will retire in January. Flinn graduated from the Nashville Auto Diesel College in 2003. Prior to joining the co-op family, he was employed at Illinois Central School Bus and Edington's Wrecker Service.



**Ryan Haddix**

Paris native Ryan Haddix has been hired at EnerStar in the position of journeyman lineman. Ryan graduated from Lincoln Land Community College in 2008 and has been employed by Duke Energy in Indiana since then. He completed his apprentice program while at Duke and most recently held the position of Senior Construction Manager.

## 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](mailto:agriffin@enerstar.com).

# Capturing power from where you least expect it

*Sometimes electricity comes from unexpected places*

We are often asked about our co-op's commitment to renewable energy. The answer to that question is best explained by telling members about our wholesale power provider. Wabash Valley Power Alliance (WVPA). EnerStar is one of 23 cooperative members of this not-for-profit generation and transmission electric cooperative serving members in Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri.

## Landfill and Dairy Methane Gas

WVPA's first foray into renewable resources began in 2002 with the launch of their first landfill gas plant in Danville, Indiana. This partnership with Waste Management, Inc. enabled WVPA to produce electricity by capturing the landfill's methane gas that was being flared into the atmosphere, then clean the gas and use it to power engines at the facility. This partnership continued to grow over time, as the program has expanded to 15 plants producing 53 MW of electricity—all while helping to keep methane gas out of the environment. In 2021, WVPA began a partnership with Indiana-based Kinetrex Energy, a subsidiary of Kinder Morgan, Inc., providing a portion of the landfill gas resources to Kinetrex for the creation of a liquid natural gas product that will be used to power vehicles—yet another renewable application.

Also in 2002, WVPA began working with several large dairy farms to purchase the renewable energy created by their methane biodigesters. While the dairy farms have now chosen to retain the energy their biodigesters produce,

this energy source speaks to the innovation that will be required to meet today's climate directives.

## Wind Energy

Wind power has been part of WVPA's portfolio for many years. Since signing their first contract for wind power in 2006, they've continued to add wind to their portfolio through purchased power agreements with five wind development firms, including harnessing wind from several sites in Illinois; today, wind energy meets 218 MW of Alliance's energy needs and WVPA continues to explore opportunities as they arise.

## Solar Energy

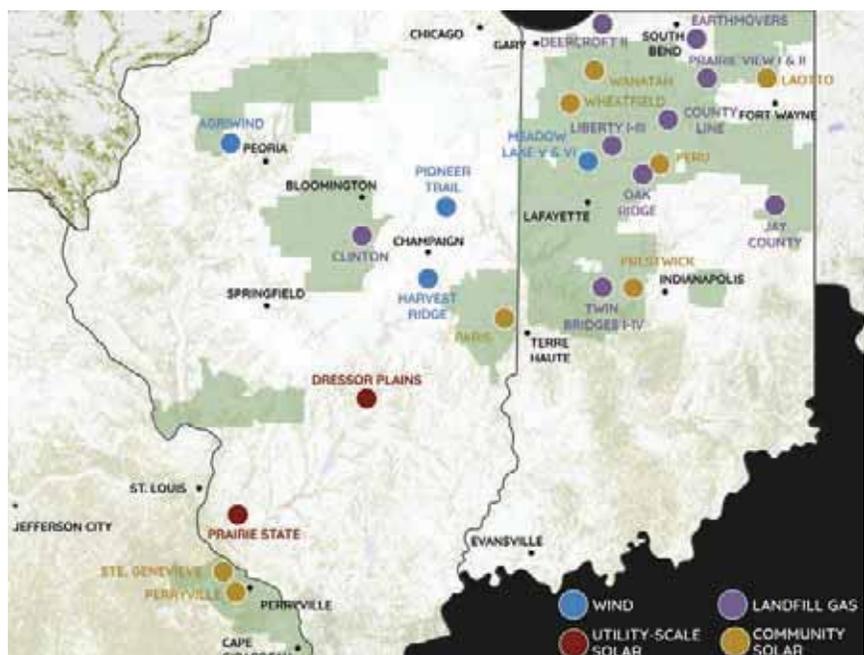
In 2017, WVPA entered the solar energy arena with the launch of the Co-op Solar program. Co-op Solar enables members to invest in solar energy as part of their monthly electric usage without having to

add solar panels to their homes. In total, WVPA has constructed eight solar arrays in Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri, including a solar location just north of the EnerStar office in Paris. Each locally based array's energy output is then aggregated into a single source. This aggregation of energy means that participating members aren't dependent on the sun shining brightly only where they live: They get access to the energy produced across WVPA's three-state footprint. Additionally, WVPA has purchased power agreements for the energy output from Dressor Plains and Prairie State solar facilities located in Illinois.

## Decarbonization Strategy

Wabash Valley Power Alliance has a decarbonization strategy that balances members' needs for reliable and affordable electricity with environmental responsibility.

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Through a combination of the addition of zero-emission resources, elimination of carbon in our power supply portfolio, and edge-of-grid technologies, they will be reducing carbon emissions by 50% by 2031, 70% by 2040, and will target net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

It should be noted that Wabash Valley Power sells the majority of the renewable attributes from renewable energy resources as

renewable energy credits (RECs), thus enabling other organizations to meet their renewable energy directives. Selling the credits into the REC market prohibits WVPA from claiming these resources within their own power portfolio; however, revenue generated from these REC sales is used to reduce wholesale power costs to their 23 member cooperatives, reducing the cost of energy across the system.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

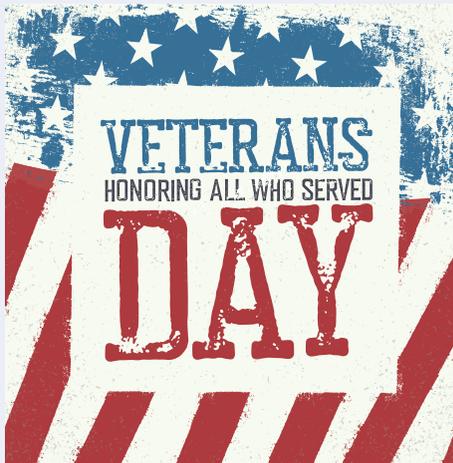
Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to boost efficiency.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## November Office Closings



Friday, November 11th



Thursday, November 24th & Friday, November 25th