PowerLines
March 2023

Marching Forward

March can be a very mercurial month from a weather standpoint. There are some interesting tidbits about the month of March:

- March is named for the Roman god of war, Mars. In the days of the Roman Empire, March was the time of year to resume military campaigns after the winter period.

- In the early Roman calendar, March was the first month, only to be supplanted later when January and February were added and became the first two months around 450 BC.

- In a different take on the weather axiom "in like a lion, out like a lamb", consider that the constellation Leo, the lion, rises in the east at the beginning of March (thus comes in like a lion) and the constellation Aries, the ram, sets in the west at the end of the month (out like a lamb).

- Of course, beware the ides (15th) of March (just ask Julius Caesar, "et tu Brute").

- The vernal (spring) equinox happens on March 20 at 4:24 CDT (we move our clocks forward on March 12 this year). It will be good to see the equal hours of sunlight and darkness that day. Also, the sunrise will occur directly in the east and sunset will occur directly in the west that day – if you are directionally challenged!

The three-month NOAA weather forecast for March, April, and May is predicting a slight chance of above normal temperatures for our area, and the likelihood of above average precipitation.

We continue to move forward with our meter replacement project. We now have approximately 20 different operable locations of various meter types that are transmitting billing data in parallel with our existing metering system. The worldwide supply chain issues during COVID-19 impacted delivery of our nearly 13,500 new meters. We are hopeful to receive delivery and complete installation of these meters by the end of 2023.

Recent bipartisan legislation passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden makes available a vast array of federal programs and billions of dollars in areas such as energy efficiency, Electric Vehicles, renewable energy, broadband, infrastructure improvements, and many more programs potentially applicable to electric cooperatives and their members.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

EIEC, along with our national and state associations are monitoring these programs to ascertain what programs may be applicable. Many of these programs will be administered through the various states as well. Keep alert to programs in which individual households may be able to participate.

Enjoy the beginning of spring and stay safe in all that you do.

Sincerely,

Bob Hunzinger

In this issue:

smart hub™

- View your bill
- Make a payment
- Compare usage by month
- Review known issues
- Report an outage
- Update account information

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- Democratic Member Control
- Member's Economic Participation
- Autonomy & Independence
- Education, Training, & Information
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community

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BY 2030 THERE WILL BE 18 MILLION EVs IN THE U.S.

Frequently asked questions about EVs

You've likely heard or read that most automakers are transitioning many of their new vehicles to electric-only models over the next few years. Regardless of the type of car you drive today, the electrification of the transportation sector is underway. By 2030, EVs on U.S. roads are projected to be 18 million. Currently there are 1 million EVs in the U.S. UPS recently purchased their first electric semi. It is an eCascadia Freightliner made by Daimler Truck. It will transport packages between distribution centers near Compton, CA.

We regularly receive inquiries about electric vehicles at Eastern Illini, so we thought we would share answers to some frequently asked questions.

Q: What kind of EV does EIEC own?
A: We purchased a Chevy Bolt and had it wrapped to promote Eastern Illini and EVs. We have an EV at our Paxton location which provides insights into how EVs operate and what infrastructure is needed to support them. Our EV uses a L2 charger and can be fully charged in about 8 hours time.

Q: Can I charge my EV using an existing outlet or do I need a special outlet?
A: All EVs come with a charging unit, which can be plugged into any standard household outlet. An eight-hour overnight charge will enable traveling around 36 to 40 miles a day. Here is some background information on charging levels to assist in determining what charging level is best for your individual situation.

AC Level 1
Provides charging through a 120 V AC plug and does not require installation of additional charging equipment. Level 1 can typically deliver five miles of range per hour of charging. Level 1 is most often used in home applications but is sometimes used at workplaces. A full charge may take up to 48 hours with level-1 120 V charging.

AC Level 2
Provides charging through a 240 V plug and requires the installation of additional charging equipment by a qualified electrician/installer. Level-2 chargers typically deliver 10 to 20 miles of range per hour of charging. Level 2 is used in homes, workplaces and for some public charging. Level 2 charging systems provide slight energy efficiency benefits over level 1 chargers - savings estimates vary based on length of charge time.

DC Fast-Charge
Provides charging through 480 V AC input and requires specialized, high-powered charging equipment and special equipment in the vehicle itself. DC Fast-Charging can deliver an 80 percent battery charge or 60 to 100 miles of range for most EV models in about 20-30 minutes of charging. This format is used in public charging stations, especially along heavy-traffic corridors. Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles typically do not have fast charging capabilities.

Q: Does the outside temperature affect the range of an EV?
A: Outside temperatures, particularly colder weather, can impact the range of an EV. Unlike a gas-powered vehicle, where the heat is mostly coming from the engine, an EV must produce cabin

Is it time to consider purchasing an EV?

heat and manage an optimal battery temperature with energy that comes from the battery, which can reduce battery range.

Q: Will an Electric Vehicle meet my daily driving needs?
A: Most Americans drive an average of 30 miles a day. Most of today's electric vehicles have a driving range-per-charge between 50 to 330 miles. If your daily commute is under 250 miles per day, there is likely an affordable EV model that will fit your needs.

BUYER TIP: *When you're looking at EVs, be sure to check the "range-per-charge" for the vehicle. This is the number of miles the car can typically drive between full charges. For example, if the range per charge for an EV is 100 miles and your daily commute is 30 miles, you should be able to go about 3 days between charges (30mi + 30mi + 30mi = 90mi). EV range varies significantly between models.*

Q: What kind of incentives are available for EVs?
A: There are a variety of tax credits, rebates, and other incentives available for EV purchases. Visit www.afdc.energy.gov/laws/electric-vehicles-for-tax-credit to learn about federal incentives available through the Clean Vehicle Credit program. State incentives can be found here: https://afdc.energy.gov/laws/state_summary?state=IL

Q: Should I let Eastern Illini know if I purchase an EV?
A: If you purchase an EV, please let us know so we can better serve you.

As more Eastern Illini members buy EVs, it's helpful to know where they are located in our service area.

Give us a call at 800-824-5102 and an EIEC Member Care Representative will update your account information to include details about your EV.

Q: Where will I charge an electric vehicle if I purchase one?
A: For electric vehicles to become mainstream, they need to be easy to charge. People correctly notice that there are not nearly as many Electric Vehicle chargers as gas stations.

One recent survey found that a majority of people considering an EV purchase believed there were too few charging stations around their home and work areas, suggesting that lack of a ubiquitous charging network presents a barrier to wide scale adoption. Public charging stations don't meet current, or future, demand, and residents without at-home charging options will need public charging. The next five years will see expansion and improvements in the public charging infrastructure due to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Does my EV perform as well as a gas-powered car?
They do! While the characteristics of each respective vehicle give you a different experience, they both perform similarly. EVs have extraordinary acceleration, with some EVs hitting 0 to 60 in just two seconds. On the other hand, gas-powered cars still rank higher when it comes to producing top speeds. Right now, EVs top out at around 200 mph while gas-powered vehicles have top speeds around 300 mph.

We understand making the switch to an EV is a big decision. Whether you're ready to make an EV purchase or wondering if an EV can meet your daily driving needs, we're here to help you make an informed decision. Give us a call at 800-824-5102

CONGRATULATIONS TO 40 TEACHERS IN THE EIEC SERVICE AREA!

2023 Empowering Education Grant Winners

TEACHER	SCHOOL	PROJECT
Steven Dunlavey	Armstrong Township High School	3D Printer
Melissa Hopkins	Arthur Grade School	Lego Spike Prime
Mitch Wilson	Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond HS	Weight Room Upgrades
Chrissy Patterson	Atwood Hammond	Knightly Reading: A Family Literacy Event
Ashley Knox	Bement Grade School	Life Skills
Mark Dodd	Bismarck-Henning-Alvin-Rossville HS	Shakespeare a Live Performance
Jessica Sanders	Chebanse Elementary	Classroom Design for Positive Learning
Kari Stachura	Christ Lutheran in Buckley	Cooking Basics Class
Hannah Allen	Cissna Park High School	Wireless Motion Detectors
Beth Bennett	Clara Peterson Elementary	Lego Wall
Teri Boudreau	Donovan Elementary	Teach the Way They Learn
Kevin Venner	Donovan Jr/Sr High	Sabakiball for PE
Jeane Breiland	East Central Illinois Christian School	3D Printer
Jennifer Jamison	GCMS Middle School	Monthly Meeting Groups with Mentors
Marcella Noel	Hoopeston Area High School	Poetry Café
Toni Tammen	Iroquois West Elementary	Life Skills Grocery Store
Ali Denault	Iroquois West Special Education	Sand Tray Therapy
Jose Gobbo	Lovington Grade School	Undust the Music
Jennifer Wherely	Mahomet-Seymour High School	Interactive Electrical Wiring Lab Project
Alisa Lamb	Middletown Prairie Elementary	Sensory Supports for students with disabilities
Shelby Franzen	Mary Miller Junior High	Cricut
Kristi VanHovlen	Milford Grade School	Two Degree books about climate change
Quentin Schaumburg	Milford High School	Storage Shed for the Little League
Ryan Woodham	Monticello High School	Plumbing
Melody Fried	PBL High School	3-D Printer for Chemistry and Physics
Danielle Funk	Pine Crest Elementary	Gross Motor Play Area for Preschool
Jim Ochs	Potomac Grade School	Drones in the classroom
Jonnita Vogel	Prairie Central Jr High	Family Literacy Night
Patti Davis	Prairie Central Jr High	DNA and Probability
Allyson Bork	Prairie-Ogden Jr High	Weather Balloon
Matt O'Brien	Prairieview-Ogden Jr High	12 Angry Men
Shawn Hoeft	Rantoul Township High School	Receiving blanket materials for Crisis Nursery
Robyn Jones	Ridgeview Middle School	Middle School Book Club
Betty Kolakowski	St Thomas Catholic School	Non-fiction Reading
Tyler McCune	St. Joseph Grade School	New Wheels: Scooters
Lisa Schuldt	St. Paul's Lutheran, Milford	Physical Education Enhancement
Deborrah Pagel	The High School of St. Thomas Moore	The Big Dig
Lauri Novy	Tri-Point High School	Theater Stage Renovation
Melissa Burke-Marquart	Urbana High School	Theatrical Set Construction Tools
Carrie Hughes	Washington Elementary	Readers Gotta Read and Writers Gotta Write

Make outdoor safety your top priority

As members begin their springtime rituals of sprucing up and painting around the house, we encourage everyone to brush up on safety. Here are some safety tips to follow when working outdoors this spring:

- Look up and out for overhead power lines. Overhead power lines carry thousands of volts of electricity and are not insulated, making them deadly to touch. Staying far away from power lines is one of the most important ways you can stay safe.

- Remember, water and electricity do not mix. If it is raining or the ground is wet, do not use any electric tools. Keep electric tools and power cords far away from wet areas and never touch electrical cords or tools if you are wet or standing in water.

- Be careful when working on or around your roof. That includes installing or cleaning gutters, installing rooftop antennas and satellite dishes, or making repairs. Never use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines. Play it safe and contact a licensed contractor instead.

- Practice ladder safety. Just as you should keep ladders away from overhead power lines, you also should take precautions against slipping or falling.

When using a ladder to reach higher areas, wear non-skid shoes and ensure that it is placed firmly on level ground. In addition, it is best to have another adult hold the ladder for you.

- Support tree-trimming efforts. Eastern Illini is committed to trimming trees that are too close to power lines and may be likely to cause power outages or create safety issues. If you see a tree or branch that looks dangerously close to the power lines running from pole to pole, call Eastern Illini at 800-824-5102 and report it.

- Always assume power lines are electrified, even if they are down and do not spark or hum, and especially if they are hidden under debris or downed branches. The safest thing to do is to stay far away and call us at 800-824-5102, or 911 and keep everyone far away until help arrives.

- Plant the right trees in the right place. When adding new trees to your landscaping, consider placement and tree height at maturity, and avoid planting trees that will grow tall under power lines or cause damage in a storm.

- Light it up. Make sure your outdoor lighting adequately illuminates walkways to prevent tripping hazards after dark and that your bulbs are intended for outdoor use. If you need to replace them, opt for energy-efficient bulbs to help lower bills at the same time.

Eastern Illini offers outdoor lights at an affordable monthly cost. Give us a call to find out more.

- Check outdoor outlets. During the wet winter months, moisture can trickle into uncovered outlets. Before you plug in that electrical cord or power tool, be sure to check outdoor outlets for signs of damage and make sure they are properly covered year-round.

We want you to have a safe and enjoyable spring, so stay safe when working outdoors. Empower your family with electrical safety knowledge to avoid preventable injuries in and around electricity.

Plant Trees Safely

Before you dig, call 811 to locate buried utility lines.

LOW TREE ZONE

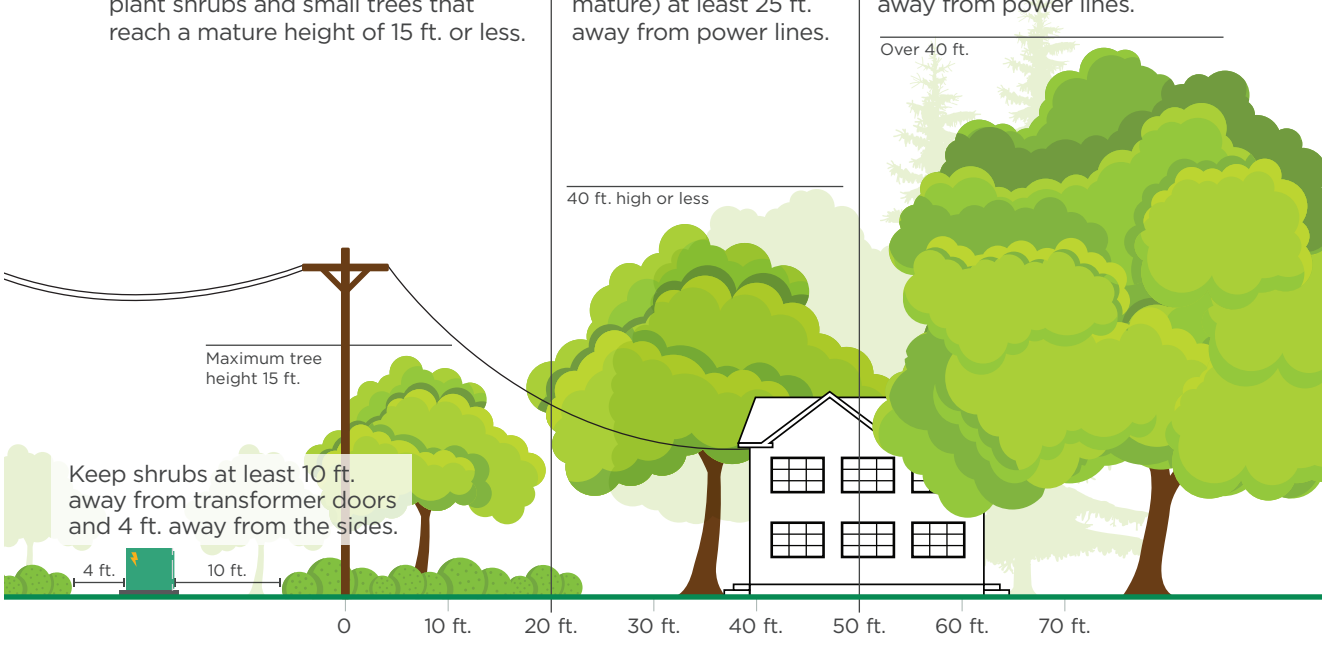
Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.



SOW SEEDS OF SAFETY THIS PLANTING SEASON

Whether you've been through 30 planting seasons or three, be alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. You and those working on your farm should know and follow electrical safety precautions to avoid potential hazards.

When near power lines, poles or other electrical equipment:

- Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines at all times.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting.
- Designate preplanned routes that avoid potential hazards.
- Lower extensions to the lowest setting before moving loads.
- Use a spotter and deploy flags when moving equipment.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
- If you are on equipment that contacts a power line, do not exit the equipment. Call 911 or Eastern Illini and wait for help to arrive.
- If you think a pole or line has been damaged, call us at 800-824-5102.

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative

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