

PowerLines

October 2024

October is National Co-op Month

The fall season has arrived. Enjoy the crisp, cool mornings and (hopefully) the sunny blue-sky days. Harvest season has started and will soon be in full swing. Whether you are directly involved with harvesting or not, please take time to plan and consider safety in all your activities, especially while driving, as the available daylight hours continue to decline.

There are various causes recognized in the month of October, such as Bat Appreciation Month. If you have not researched the many benefits of bats, please do so. They are fascinating mammals that benefit us in countless ways. However, the two causes I want to highlight include national cooperative month and cybersecurity awareness month.

There are more than 30,000 cooperatives in the United States, providing more than \$700 billion to the annual economy. There are more than 900 electric cooperatives in the country, serving 42 million people and covering 56% of the land mass. We are proud to be a part of this network, and rely on many services provided by cooperatives.

Recently, I personally received multiple data breach notices impacting various aspects of my personal data and information. October is also cybersecurity awareness month. Please take time to

safeguard accounts and information by improving the security of your passwords, implementing multi-factor authentication, and updating anti-virus protection. A little time upfront can save a lot of time and headaches later.

CEO Search Update

During the annual meeting process this year I announced my planned end of February 2025 retirement. Your board of directors has begun the search process with the help of a search firm that specializes in electric cooperatives. Applications are due by October 13. You can view the job description at: <https://careers.electric.coop/jobs/20475567/president-ceo>

Lastly, October is the month each year that we ask your opinions of how we are doing. EIEC is fortunate to have loyal and dedicated

employees who strive daily to exceed our members' expectations. Please take a few minutes to complete our annual survey included in the newsletter or access it online at www.eiec.coop. We utilize the survey results to track our performance over time to ensure that we are doing everything possible to maintain our excellent level of service to members. Stay safe.

Cooperatively,

Bob Hunzinger



**MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT**

Let us know what you think! Complete the Member Satisfaction Survey today.

We want to hear from you. Please take a moment to complete the Member Satisfaction Survey on the back page or go our website: www.eiec.coop and complete the survey online.

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Watch out for Energy Vampires



Vampire energy — also referred to as phantom power, standby power or idle load electricity — involves the electricity that devices consume while not actively in use. Most modern electronics have a standby or “off-but-ready” mode that stays connected to a power source so you can power the device on at a moment’s notice. Common examples include TVs, desktop computers, device chargers and kitchen appliances.

Although on their own, each device only uses a modest amount of power, the collective impact of all your home’s devices can constitute a substantial portion of your electricity use.

Halloween is a spooktacular time to address the energy vampires lurking in your home. On average, Americans have more than 20 energy vampires sucking up electricity in their home right now and accounts for 10% of the electricity consumed in your home. Slaying these energy vampires doesn’t include a wooden stake or garlic. It is as simple as unplugging things such as phone chargers, coffeemakers, and toasters when they are not being used. It is just

just as important to unplug appliances and electronics while you are away for an extended period of time like when taking a vacation.

An easy option for combatting larger energy vampires such as televisions and computers is to use surge protector power strips which can be powered off and on with quick flip.

1,000 Americans were surveyed to better understand their awareness and management of vampire energy. The key findings provide some interesting insight:

- 82% of Americans surveyed said they leave electrical appliances plugged in or turned on when not in use.
- More than half of the Americans surveyed (53%) believe their energy bill is too high.
- Nearly 70% of Americans surveyed have never heard of the term “vampire energy” and don’t know how it impacts their daily lives and their electric bill.
- The most common appliance that remains plugged in while not in use is the microwave.

So how do we identify the vampires? Devices without clocks and dashboards, such as lamps and toasters, do not consume vampire energy. But many “smart” products do; for these devices, energy use comes mainly from adaptors converting AC into DC and circuits that continue to be energized even when a device is “off.”

There are a few major giveaways regarding vampire energy. The first

giveaway is if the device emits a seemingly innocuous standby light when not in use. The second giveaway is if you can activate the device with a remote, voice control or a timer. Devices commonly associated with phantom loads include: TVs, cable boxes, stereo systems, and printers. As home technology continues to improve, it’s important to be aware of the newer devices entering your home that are known vampires. These include smart TVs, laptop chargers, smart kitchen appliances, gaming consoles, and desktop monitors.

Here are a handful of practical steps you can take to combat vampire energy and reduce your electricity costs.

- Use smart power strips to reduce energy waste by automatically turning off power to connected electronics when not in use.
- Another simple, yet effective solution is to turn off power strips when your devices are not in use.
- You’ll want to upgrade to energy-efficient appliances because they minimize phantom loads and improve your home’s efficiency.
- Adjust the power settings on smart devices and disable standby modes.
- Install a smart thermostat to efficiently control your home’s temperature, adjusting it automatically to conserve energy when you’re away or asleep. This helps reduce your heating and cooling costs by optimizing your home’s energy usage.
- Consider purchasing a Kill-A-Watt meter. This device plugs into an outlet, to which you then connect an appliance, offering real-time data on the amount of energy the appliance is drawing. This information enables users to identify energy hogs and implement energy-saving strategies.

This Halloween watch out for Energy Vampires and take steps to rid your home of them and save money on your electric bill.

Grain drying and energy consumption

As agricultural operations have become more sophisticated and automated, the electric demands of many farms have increased as well. Illinois farmers have an on-farm grain storage capacity of more than 1.5 billion bushels and this capacity is on the rise as farmers strategically store grain until the price is right to sell. Depending on the type of grain dryers, electricity accounts for 2 percent to 4 percent of the total energy required to dry grain.

The demand for electricity in grain storage and drying operations is highly variable with long periods of low to medium activity and relatively short peaks of high activity. Many dryers require three-phase electricity due to the high demand for electricity needed to power the large motors while others only require a single phase.

Eastern Illini implemented a new rate structure earlier this year that now includes a demand component. As members with grain bins prepare for the upcoming harvest season and grain drying, it's important to take into consideration the impact of demand as it relates to when you turn on your bin fans, how many you turn on at one time, and the other equipment that requires electricity that is running simultaneously.

Your load profile and use patterns will impact your peak demand and what you pay for electricity each month. Are your grain bins set up as a stand-alone account or is your residence and everything associated with your home part of the account with your grain bins? The answers to these questions may determine your monthly demand and you'll want to be aware so you can manage costs.

If a 75-horsepower motor runs your tower dryer fan, what additional motors are involved? Do you have a blower air pump, grain leg, bin unload motor, or aeration fans and what is the horsepower on those motors? Do you run them all at the same time or is there an opportunity to vary their use?

Eastern Illini measures monthly demand up until the day the meter information is transferred for billing purposes – also known as meter reading. In October, demand will be measured from September 27 through October 26 and will appear on the October 30 bill. In November, demand will be measured from October 27 through November 26 and will appear on the November 27 bill. In December, demand will be measured from November 27 through December 26 and will appear on the December 30 bill.

There are some tips and techniques for managing your demand that may impact your demand charges.

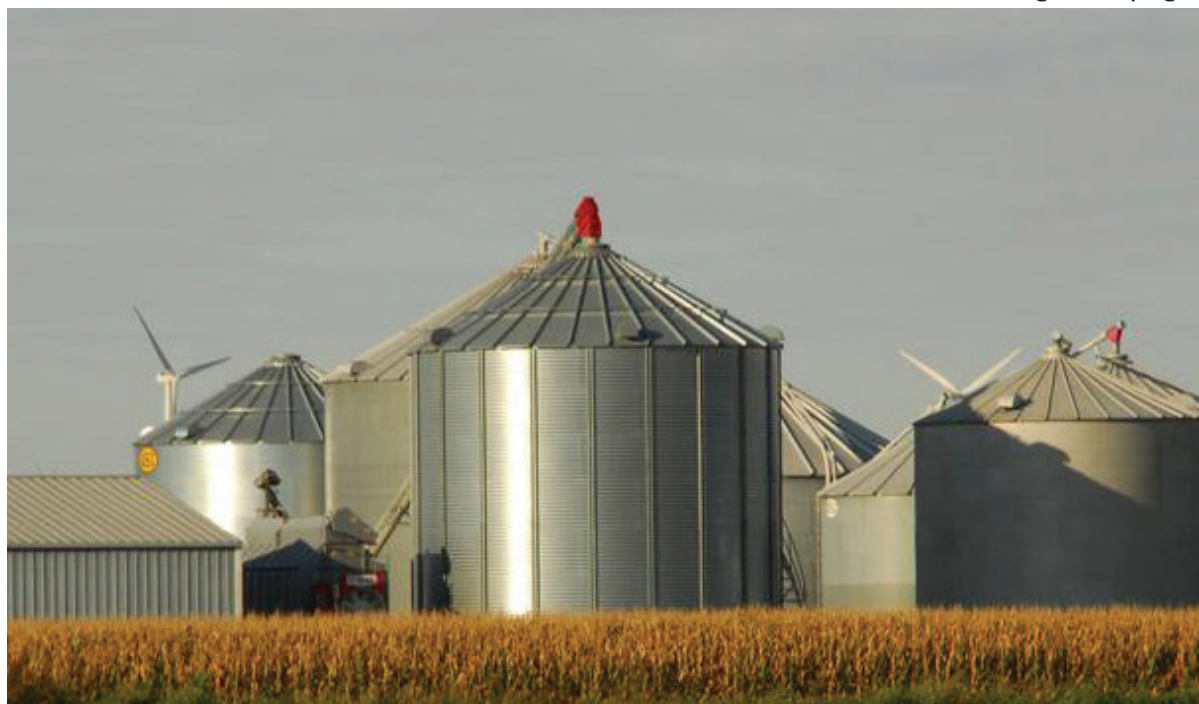
- Schedule high electric use within the monthly parameters we've mentioned above, so when you hit your demand peak one month, it doesn't spill over into the next month's billing cycle. Sometimes

dry grain takes precedence and when that happens electric use takes a back seat to staying on schedule to keep harvest moving forward.

- Consider staggering when you test the fans on your grain bins in an effort to levelize your demand peak for the month. Demand is measured in 15 minute increments.
- Take an inventory of all electric equipment that's adding to your monthly demand peak and evaluate if the current process is the most efficient use of electricity.
- Look at purchasing software that gives you the ability to schedule, monitor, and manage your dryers from wherever you are. Remote monitoring lets you make adjustments for optimal performance.

Your most important goal is to get the grain dry. Energy efficiency shouldn't take precedence over grain quality, but keeping an eye on energy use might help save you a few dollars.

Give Andy Schaumburg a call at 217-379-0410 to discuss your specific situation when it comes to grain drying.



**\$500
GRANTS**

2025 EMPOWERING EDUCATION GRANTS

EASTERN ILLINI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**ATTENTION TEACHERS
\$500 GRANTS!**



**APPLY BY:
DECEMBER 13, 2024**

**APPLY AT:
www.eiec.coop**

This
could
be you!


Eastern Illini supports our schools, teachers, and students by funding projects that inspire and engage students and provide valuable learning experiences.

Each school district in the Eastern Illini service territory has a chance to earn a **\$500 Empowering Education Grant**.

Teachers may complete the application online at www.eiec.coop. Previous winners may apply again every three years. Grant winners will be notified in March 2025. Up to **40 grants** will be awarded.



Eastern Illini
Electric
Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

October is National Co-op Month

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative is deeply committed to our members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community.

This month, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of cooperative membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are built by the communities they serve. For EIEC, our mission is to provide you with safe, reliable energy solutions and exceptional service. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our members' energy needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here, too. That's why we work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

Eastern Illini is guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our purpose:

Open and Voluntary Membership: Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.

Democratic Member Control: Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members, for the members and are governed by the members who serve on the board of directors.

Members' Economic Participation: Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. At Eastern Illini, this happens through paying your energy bills.

Autonomy and Independence: Co-ops are independent and operate on their own which ultimately benefits the members.

Education, Training and Information: Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives: Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.

Concern for Community: All co-ops work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize and appreciate the many aspects that set electric cooperatives including EIEC apart from other utilities.

Our mission is safe and reliable power. Our purpose is people and the local communities we're proud to serve.



MEMBER SATISFACTION SURVEY

Complete & return for a chance to win one of 10 \$25 bill credits

We'd love your feedback. We created this survey to hear all about what's important to you. Take a moment to complete this short survey for a chance to win one of 10 \$25 bill credits. You can complete the survey on-line at www.eiec.coop or mail it in with your electric bill payment.

Please rate your satisfaction with Eastern Illini on each of the following:	not at all satisfied					very satisfied				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Providing excellent customer service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to resolve issues or problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conducting business in a professional manner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friendly and courteous employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Knowledgeable and competent employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing valuable programs and services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community involvement and support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delivering good value for the money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing energy efficiency information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charging reasonable rates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Having a minimum of outages	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Restoring power quickly after an outage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

For the following questions, rate your answer based on a scale of 1 to 10

Considering all your experiences, how satisfied overall are you with Eastern Illini?
 not at all satisfied very satisfied

To what extent has Eastern Illini fallen short of or exceeded your expectations?
 falls short exceeds

Imagine an ideal utility company. How well do you think Eastern Illini compares?
 not very close very close

If you could choose your electric company, how likely is it that you would choose Eastern Illini again?
 very unlikely very likely

How do you view your relationship with Eastern Illini?
 Member Customer

First and Last Name: _____

List your account # so we can contact you if you are one of the 10 winners of the \$25 bill credit drawing.

Your account number can be found on your electric bill. Account #: _____