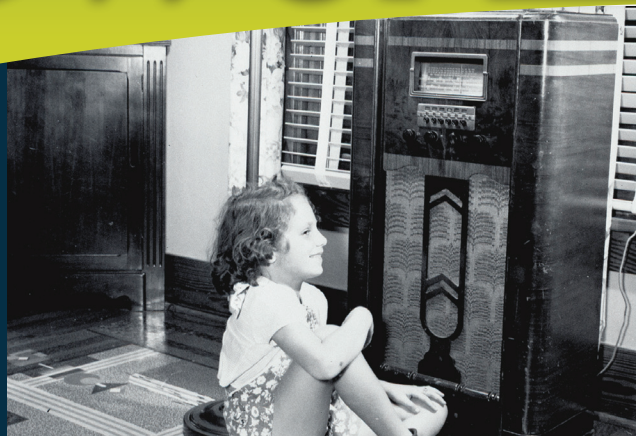


Eastern Illini *PowerLines*

January 2012



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Happy New Year

Everyone at Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative would like you wish you a happy new year.

We look forward to serving you in 2012!

Remembering when the power came on

We need your help to find stories about the early years of rural electrification in Illinois.

In the 1930s, investor-owned utilities in Illinois decided it wasn't in their (or their stockholders) best interest to provide electricity to the rural parts of the state. That led President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Congress to establish the Rural Electrification Administration (REA).

The REA provided loans to groups of farmers that banded together to form cooperatives so they could receive some of the same comforts that "city folk" had already been enjoying.

A cooperative is a business that is owned by the people who use it - member/owners who have organized to provide themselves with the products and services they need or otherwise could not receive.

Rural electric cooperatives were established and continue to operate based

on seven cooperative principles: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; economic participation; autonomy and independence; education; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for the community.

In the fall of 1938, Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative and Illini Electric

Cooperative were formed. For a \$5 membership fee, rural residents of east central Illinois could join the cooperative and finally turn the lights on!

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative was then formed in 1987 by the union of those two cooperatives.

As we celebrate our 75th anniversary in 2012, we would love to hear stories from any members that were around when the lights were turned on.

If you have any stories, please share them by contacting us at 800-824-5102 or info@eiec.org. You can also drop a note in with your electric bill payment.

Even though technology has changed quite a bit since 1938, Eastern Illini is still focused on one thing: providing you - our member/owners - with safe and reliable electric service - at the lowest possible cost. We are looking out for you.

Eastern Illini Electric Co-op
330 W. Ottawa
Paxton, IL 60957
800-824-5102
www.eiec.coop

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Upcoming Event

Join us at 2012 Midwest Ag Expo.

The area's biggest annual farm show will be held at Gordyville (near Gifford) on January 25 and 26, starting at 8:30 each day.

Eastern Illini will have a booth during the show, and will sponsor the Live Line Demo electrical safety display.

Cooperative power and the Clean Air Act

Pending regulation could have a major impact on electric bills.

At Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, we have three top priorities: provide you with safe, reliable access to electric power; offer that service as affordably as possible; and do both of those things in a fiscally and environmentally responsible fashion.

Because Eastern Illini is a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative—which means your money stays local; we don't have to worry about distant shareholders—we are well-positioned to make any necessary investments for ensuring safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

However, fulfilling our commitment to environmental stewardship in a fiscally responsible manner has become more challenging. Today, many environmental laws that were adopted by Congress

decades ago are being used by federal agencies and the courts to address issues for which they were never intended.

For example, the federal Clean Air Act is now 40 years old and was last amended in 1990. Much has changed since then, including technology, our understanding of the environment, and the electric utility industry as a whole.

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - often under court order - is trying to modify the Clean Air Act to fit new circumstances. Without a doubt, new EPA rules being issued will wind up back in the courts and lengthy litigation will ensue.

In the meantime, Eastern Illini will keep you updated on our efforts to encourage lawmakers and regulators to strike the proper balance on these concerns.

Affordable. Innovative. Member Focused.

It's hard to predict the future, but one thing seems certain—**new government regulations will increase the cost of electricity.**

We want to work with you to keep your electric bills **AFFORDABLE**. We're controlling costs through **INNOVATION**, and no matter what the future holds we'll continue to put you, our members, **FIRST**.



Eastern Illini
Electric
Cooperative



Looking Out
for You

Find out how we're *Looking Out for You* at www.eiec.coop.



Electric bills reflect weather patterns

Minimizing movement of conditioned air can cut costs and save money.

Electric bills vary with the seasons, driven by weather and consumer use patterns. “Weather matters,” stresses Tim Frick, Eastern Illini’s energy efficiency expert. “When it’s cool outdoors, family members generally want the house warm. When it’s warm outside, air conditioners make living areas pleasant.”

How much weather affects your electric bills depends on many factors, including your home’s original construction materials, insulation, and air leaks. Personal comfort plays a role too, as does the difference between the thermostat setting inside and the outside temperature.

“When a house stays at 68 degrees Fahrenheit, but the outdoor temperature varies from minus 20 degrees in winter to more than 100 degrees on a muggy summer’s day, demand for heating and cooling can be significant,” Frick notes. “Cooled air leaving a home essentially wastes the money spent to cool it. The same is true for air a homeowner has paid to warm in the winter.”

To save money, set your thermostat five degrees closer (higher in summer, lower in winter) to the outdoor temperature—this simple change could result in a savings of 90 watts per hour of electricity—about 197

kilowatt-hours (kWh) in three months. At Eastern Illini’s 13.8 cents per kWh, this adjustment keeps an extra \$27.19 in your pocket - in just three months.

You can also keep blinds and drapes on the sunny side of your home closed in summer and open in winter. Most homes would benefit from added insulation, too.

“There are a variety of tools, appliances, and resources available to solve all sorts of energy challenges,” Frick stresses. “Some, such as new windows or a roof, require significant financing. But there are a lot of options that are inexpensive and simple to benefit from.”

Eastern Illini offers several choices for members looking for assistance in increasing their home’s efficiency. Options range from a free home walkthrough to a full home energy audit, complete with infrared pictures and expert analysis.

Find more ways to save at www.eiec.coop or by contacting us at 800-824-5102 or info@eiec.coop.

Did you know?

According to the EPA, geothermal heating and cooling systems are the most energy-efficient, environmentally clean, and cost-effective space conditioning systems available today?

Find out more by visiting www.eiec.coop.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Switch to energy-saving halogen incandescent lightbulbs to cut lighting energy use by 25 percent. These bulbs last three times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs and can easily be dimmed. Want to save more? Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs) cut lighting energy use by at least 75 percent. Learn more at energysavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Prescription Drug Savings

Did you know that Eastern Illini members have saved over \$100,000 when using the Co-op Connections Card to buy their prescription drugs? Members are saving an average of 33%!

Check the back of your card for the pharmacy discount information. If you have an old card and don't see the pharmacy information, or if you need a new card, contact us at info@eiec.coop or 800-824-5102.

Savings soar with Co-op Connections

Discount savings card is a free benefit of being a member of Eastern Illini.

The Co-op Connections Card is a simple, FREE savings program that gives you discounts at local businesses and well known national companies. Discounts are available at all types of businesses and several online services

- many of which you are probably already shopping at.

The Co-op Connections Card also gives you a pharmacy benefit that could save you 30 percent or more on your prescriptions - all with no paperwork or hassles. In fact, Eastern Illini members have saved over \$100,000 on prescriptions by using their Co-op Connections Card.

A new benefit for 2012 will help you save more and live healthier every day! Our highly successful prescription discount

offer is now joined by **discounts on dental, vision, hearing, lab work & imaging, and chiropractor visits.** Best of all, you get all these great benefits for FREE!

This month's Co-op Connections Card spotlight is on the **Chanute Air Museum** - the largest aerospace museum in Illinois.



Located in Rantoul on the site of a former Air Force base, the museum features: the life and accomplishments of Octave Chanute; a history of Chanute Air Force Base and

its technical training programs (including ICBM maintenance training silos); and a history of military aviation and Illinois aviation with over 40 aircraft.

Visit www.connections.coop to find all of the local deals and national offers available when using your Co-op Connections Card.

Co-op Connections Card Coupon

**\$5 off
admission**

1011 Pacesetter Dr., Rantoul, IL
217-893-1613
www.aeromuseum.org



Offer expires 7/31/12 and is good for up to 4 adults. Normal ticket price is \$10.