

PowerLines

November 2020

It is still 2020

Yes, the calendar indicates November is upon us (or perhaps it is the 240th day of March). We have been dealing with COVID-19 for many months now, and it appears this will continue for an undetermined time period stretching well into 2021. At EIEC, we have strived to provide service as "normal", even in these unusual circumstances.

MEMBER SURVEY

Early results from our annual October member survey (with over 600 responses received at this time), indicate our members seem to agree with our service performance emphasis. Current results are slightly improved from our typically high ratings. For the four questions that comprise a nationally benchmarked customer satisfaction index, our ratings are in the low 90s (out of 100). This would be one of our highest ratings ever. Thank you for your continued support!

WEATHER AND HOLIDAYS

The late September and October weather have been very good for harvest season progress. Please continue to be safe in all that you do, as harvest season wraps up and a possibly interesting late fall and early winter weather and flu season await us.

November has two very important holidays, Veteran's Day, and Thanksgiving. Let us all remember to take time to thank our veterans for their service to our country. We

enjoy the freedom we have in this country in large part due to them. We all have many things to especially give thanks for this year, despite the many challenges encountered. If you are traveling during the holidays, please be vigilant and do so safely.

WRAPPING UP THE YEAR AND LOOKING TO 2021

Overall, 2020 is shaping up to be a very good year for your cooperative in many aspects. Presently, we are well ahead of our budgeted net margins. We will provide information on possible board decisions to return this surplus in future editions. We are nearing completion of the budgeting and planning process for what we anticipate will be a successful 2021 as well.

MEMBER BENEFIT: CAPITAL CREDITS

Earlier this year your board voted to return approximately \$775,000 of capital credits to members that were receiving service during 1994 and 1995. This return of member equity is a unique feature of cooperatives. Please see the article included for additional information.

On behalf of our employees and directors, we wish you a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

Cooperatively,

Bob Hunzinger

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

SmartHub is available online or through an application on your cell phone. Sign up today!

Capital Credit Checks:

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative will be sending out capital credit checks at the end of November. EIEC will be returning over \$775,000 to members who had electricity with Eastern Illini in 1994 and 1995.

Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

RETURNING OVER \$775,000 IN 2020

Capital Credits: A benefit of membership

WHAT ARE CAPITAL CREDITS?

Capital credits are the retained margins left over at the end of the year at Eastern Illini. They are the most significant source of equity for us. They are somewhat the same as the dividends that investor-owned utilities pay to their shareholders except that at EIEC “dividends” go back to the members. Capital credits reflect each member’s ownership in the cooperative.

WHAT IS A MEMBER?

A member is any individual or entity that purchases electricity from Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative. Members are entitled to participate in cooperative elections and to share in patronage capital allocations.

HOW DOES A MEMBER EARN CAPITAL CREDITS?

When someone becomes a member of Eastern Illini and begins purchasing electricity, they also earn capital credits. Your capital credit account is specific to you. Regardless of how many times you

move or how many billing accounts you may have, your capital credit membership account stays with you until it is paid out at the discretion of the EIEC board of directors.

HOW MUCH HAS EIEC PAID OUT IN CAPITAL CREDITS?

EIEC will have paid over \$14 million back to members and former members in capital credit refunds when capital credit checks are mailed out to members in late November 2020.

Contributing capital to Eastern Illini and receiving returns on your contribution is one of the tenets of the cooperative business model. Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative and all electric cooperatives, are guided by a set of seven principles and *members’ economic participation* is principle number 3. It’s akin to how shareholders receive dividends from companies they hold stock in — except with co-ops, the owners are people who receive electric service from EIEC. That’s why we consider you a member, instead of a customer.

WHEN DO I GET MY CAPITAL CREDITS?

Even though the cooperative allocates capital credits to members each year, the money is not paid out right away. The money is used by the co-op to maintain our electric system and enhance the safety and reliability of our 4,500 miles of line. Eastern Illini’s board of directors looks at the financial condition of the cooperative annually and then decides whether to retire capital credits. It is the goal of the board to keep capital credit retirements on a 25-year rotation, and employ a first-in, first-out retirement method for capital credit allocation.

If you received electricity from Eastern Illini in 1994 and 1995, you will receive your capital credit check in late November. Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative is pleased to return over \$775,000 in capital credits in 2020 for the years 1994 and 1995. Checks to all members receiving capital credit allocations will be mailed in late November - just in time for the holidays.

U N C L A I M E D C A P I T A L C R E D I T S

C H E C K A T

W W W . E I E C . C O O P

If you, or someone you know, received electricity from Eastern Illini in the 1980s through 1995, we encourage you to visit the unclaimed capital credit database at www.eiec.coop and search by last name. If you find your name, call us at 217-379-0410.

Even if you move and no longer receive electric service from Eastern Illini Electric Co-op, you may still be entitled to receive checks from your capital credit allocation account.

Keep us updated with your current mailing address, email, and phone number, so we can mail you your capital credit checks and be able to contact you. Give us a call at 1-800-824-5102.

To claim capital credits on the estate of a deceased member, please call Kenney Davenport, Member Relations Coordinator, at 217-379-0410. He will work with you to update the records and determine if and how to allocate capital credit funds to the estate.

Consider a new SMART thermostat

Smart thermostats do more than manage your home's heating and cooling. These app-enabled smart home devices make it possible to adjust your thermostat from your phone whether you're on the couch, at the grocery store, or on vacation -- anywhere your phone or mobile device is connected to a Wi-Fi or cellular network. Many smart thermostats also work with Alexa, Google Assistant, and Siri now too, giving you yet another way to adjust your settings with remote access to your smart home systems.

Some smart thermostat systems also use smart features like a motion sensor to determine if you're home or away and automatically change the temperature -- both heating and cooling -- for you, without you having to fiddle with your HVAC system. Others rely on a geofencing radius: Once you get a certain distance from your home, they automatically switch to away mode and then back to home mode when you return.

Then there are features like remote sensors, a power extender kit, thermostats that work with existing infrastructures (in other words, that are compatible with Apple HomeKit) and, of course, thermostats that measure your energy usage so that your home can be more energy efficient. Truly, a smart home thermostat is an energy-saving smart device that's good for both the environment and your wallet.

BEST OVERALL: Ecobee Smart

BEST VALUE: Honeywell Lyric T5

BEST REMOTE SENSOR: Resideo Honeywell Home T9

BEST DESIGN: Nest Learning

HOW SMART IS A Smart Thermostat?



MYTH VS FACT

My thermostat automatically saves me money.



That depends on how it's programmed and your preferences. It still uses the same amount of energy to reach and maintain temps.

A smart thermostat is smart straight out of the box.



The thermostat needs a little time to learn your heating and cooling preferences.

My thermostat is only as smart as I am.



Sort of. Most models are independent thinkers and adjust the temperature if no one's home.

It's creepy, my smart thermostat seems to know when I'm home.



It's smart for a reason! Geotechnology syncs your thermostat with your arrival. Some models use geofencing technology that tracks your smart phone location and kicks on when you're nearby.

My smart thermostat makes me smarter.



We'll give you this one! It can help you save money and make your home more efficient.

HOW MUCH ENERGY IS USED ON THANKSGIVING?

Thankful for electricity



Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving 2020 will probably be much different than in years past and it may require new approaches to old customs and modified family traditions. That said, there will still be quite a few turkeys cooked and delicious Thanksgiving meals devoured. In the U.S., more than 46 million turkeys will be consumed using 360GW of energy to roast them.

As we approach this Thanksgiving let's be thankful that we have the capability to cook like this. For the most part, Americans are 100% connected with electricity. Overall, three-quarters of U.S. homes use two or more energy sources.

An estimated 88% of all Americans eat turkey on Thanksgiving. There are 328,000,000 people living in America, so this means that 288,640,000 people eat turkey on Thanksgiving. The average turkey size in 2019 was 30 pounds! That's one big bird, and more than double from the 13-pound average sold in the 1930s. The fact that turkeys have bulged into enormous proportions means that it takes longer to cook. A 30-pound bird can take as long as 6 hours to cook in a 350° oven. If you do the math, the average electric oven will use 12 kWh of electricity to cook that Tom Turkey for 6 hours. At a cost of 15 cents per kWh for electricity, it will cost \$1.80 to cook the turkey.

Also, while families are together waiting for the turkey to be done, fewer televisions are tuned to football games and the gatherings create more heat, so the thermostat can be turned down slightly. Estimates are that energy usage typically drops 5-10% on Thanksgiving Day, compared to the November average, all thanks to that delicious turkey. And the estimated savings of that energy could amount to more than \$2 billion in energy bills.

Of course, Thanksgiving is all about connecting with family, sitting around the table, and enjoying their company without distractions. But let's face it, once dinner is over and the food coma sets in, you may have exhausted all the talking points, and no one is interested in playing charades, so people pull out their cell phones and the kids play games on their PS4. These always-handy gadgets provide a little distraction while you recover for a second round of dessert.

Perhaps this year you will instead Zoom or Face Time with family and friends rather than gathering together. It's electricity that is powering that laptop, cell phone, and tablet for instant access to loved ones down the street or across the country.

So, while we spend time being thankful this Thanksgiving as we gather around the dinner table, we may want to take a moment to remember how abundant and affordable electricity is and extend that thanks to the energy that will be consumed making the turkey and all the trimmings.

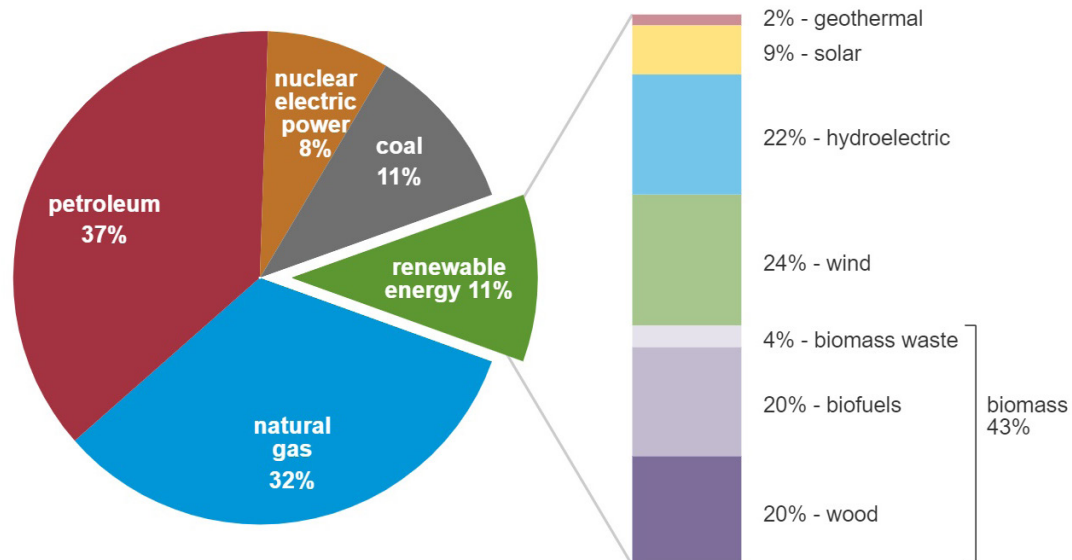
This graph shows primary energy consumption by source for 2019.

The average annual electricity consumption for a U.S. residential utility customer last year was 10,972 kilowatt-hours (kWh), an average of about 914 kWh per month.

U.S. primary energy consumption by energy source, 2019

total = 100.2 quadrillion British thermal units (Btu)

total = 11.4 quadrillion Btu



Note: Sum of components may not equal 100% because of independent rounding.
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, Table 1.3 and 10.1, April 2020, preliminary data



Tami Shedd



Her responsibilities include:

Operations: Closing plant work orders, special equipment, substation equipment which update fixed assets and depreciation for plant construction and retirement accounts.

Procurement & Physical Resources: Processes material and special equipment accounts payable and maintains records for fleet management and the annual physical inventory.

Member Care: Approves cash register and daily remittance reports.

Human Resources: Reviews payroll reports and back up for payroll time entry.

Tami also likes watching reality television shows, especially Survivor. When Tami is not at work, she enjoys visiting the beach. Her favorite spot is North Redington Beach, where she adheres to these beach rules:

- Soak up the sun.
- Walk barefoot in the sand.
- Breathe the salty air.
- Feel the breeze.
- Collect seashells.
- Rest, relax, reflect.

Tami has also recently traveled to Puget Sound, WA, and upstate New York and Lake Ontario.

Tami and her husband Chuck make their home in Rantoul. Family is very important to Tami. She spends much of her spare time at sporting events and activities cheering on her grandchildren. Daughter, Mandy, and son-in-law Joe have two children, Ava (11), and Adam (7). Daughter Kaila and son-in-law Warren have two children, Michael (8), and Dominic (3).

As Plant Accountant for Eastern Illini, Tami Shedd must be a good problem solver. She sees problems as challenges and tries to stand above them and remain objective. Her problem-solving skills are a combination of intuition and logic and that has served her well during her 21-year career with the co-op.

In October 1999, Tami joined SkyQuest, a subsidiary of Eastern Illini, as a customer service representative. When Eastern Illini dissolved SkyQuest, Tami transferred to EIEC as a full-time accounting clerk and in 2004 she was promoted to Plant Accountant.

In her role as Plant Accountant, she provides proper inventory and accounting control for the cooperative. The Accounting department at Eastern Illini consists of the Controller, Plant Accountant and Accountant, so it requires that staff wear many hats and take on multiple roles to accomplish all that needs done. As Plant Accountant, Tami interacts with all departments and most employees at the co-op.

Tami is responsible for all Plant EOM balancing to the General Ledger for the cooperative which is submitted to the Controller. This information is part of the financial reports that are provided to the EIEC board of directors.

During the fall, Tami spends many Sundays in a blue and orange jersey watching the Chicago Bears play football.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models.





Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarship Program

The Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program awards twelve \$2,000 scholarships annually to deserving students in the “electric cooperative family” entering college to assist them with their educational costs.

About the scholarships

- 6** scholarships are awarded to high school students who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2020).
- 4** scholarships are reserved for high school students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2020).
- 1** scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, is awarded to a high school student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2020).
- 1** scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship, is awarded to a student to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL (deadline to apply April 30, 2021).

