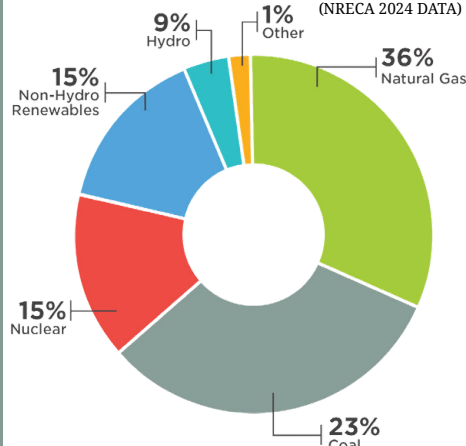


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NATIONAL ENERGY SOURCES FOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

(NRECA 2024 DATA)



Electric co-ops use a variety of fuels to power members' homes & businesses.

This diverse fuel mix supplies co-op members with safe and reliable power they depend on.

THE SUMMER SURGE

What is behind the power you use?

August brings warm weather, vacations, cookouts, and often a big jump in electricity use. When temperatures climb and air conditioners kick on across homes and businesses, the electric grid is pushed to deliver more power, fast.

This spike in demand happens most evenings, right after work hours. People head home, turn on lights, cook dinner, and lower the thermostat. Behind the scenes, electric utilities and grid operators work in real time to make sure enough electricity is available to meet that surge.

But temperature isn't the only factor driving demand. In recent years, a new kind of power user has emerged: the data center. These facilities, housing the servers behind cloud computing, streaming, and AI, use huge amounts of electricity around the clock. Unlike homes or offices that have daily usage patterns, data centers run 24 hours, 7 days a week, and often require new substations and transmission upgrades to connect to the grid.

These companies do pay for their power; however, their constant demand may spur the need for infrastructure investments,

which affects the entire system, including co-ops like Eastern Illinois, and can contribute to higher regional costs. At the same time, these grid upgrades can improve reliability and capacity for all members.

The key to meeting demand is to have a mix of generation types available, including baseload, intermittent, and peaking sources of power.

Power is produced from a variety of sources including fossil fuels like coal and natural gas, nuclear plants, and renewable resources like solar, wind, and hydro power.

Some sources are designed to run all the time and form the backbone of our power supply. These are called baseload generators, typically large coal, nuclear, or hydroelectricity plants that operate continuously and supply the majority of the electricity we use.

But baseload plants aren't built to respond quickly to sudden spikes in demand. That's where peaking, or intermediate, generators come in, usually natural gas plants that can start up quickly and increase output as needed.

Then there are renewables like wind and solar. These sources don't use fossil fuels

and are increasingly affordable, but they depend on the weather. They can't be dispatched on command, and during extreme weather events, like a calm, cloudy heat wave, they may not generate much power at all. That's why grid operators rely on a diverse mix of energy sources.

Battery storage is one of the most promising tools for managing renewable energy. It allows utilities to store excess power when demand is low and release it when needed. But large-scale battery systems are still developing and are best suited for short-duration support.

You can do your part when it comes to the summer energy surge by upgrading to high-efficiency lighting, appliances, and HVAC systems which may reduce your energy use and lower demand on the grid.

Here's to an enjoyable August full of hot days, cold drinks, vacations and cookouts. Whatever your plans are this summer, stay safe and have fun!



Bradley W. Smith

BRADLEY W. SMITH
President/CEO

Grid Power Players

Electricity is available with the flip of a switch, but it travels great distances and is coordinated among multiple entities before it reaches your home or business. Take a look at the grid power players that ensure you receive reliable electricity.



1. Generation Owners & Operators

Power plants can be owned and operated by electric utilities, government entities or other private companies. Power plants produce electricity by converting energy from various sources—like natural gas, coal, nuclear, or renewables—into electricity.



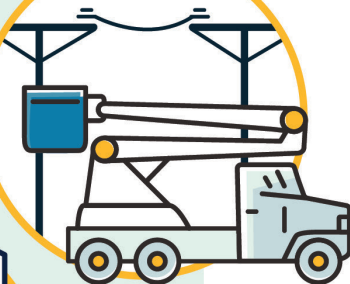
2. Transmission System Owners & Operators

The transmission grid moves large amounts of electricity over long distances using high-voltage transmission lines attached to large towers. Like power plants, these lines can be owned by a variety of public and private companies.



3. Organized Wholesale Markets

In many parts of the country, Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) & Independent System Operators (ISOs) coordinate the flow of electricity across regions by balancing supply and demand in real time and managing the dispatch of electric generation and transmission across large areas with the participation of generation and transmission owners.



4. Electric Utilities (That's Us!)

Electric distribution utilities take electricity from the transmission system and deliver it to homes and businesses through lower-voltage distribution lines. They also maintain local power lines, poles and other essential equipment.



5. End Users (That's You!)

End users consist of the homes, businesses and industries that consume electricity. Their demand drives how much electricity is generated and how the grid is managed in real time.

Other Key Players:

NERC: The regulatory authority that develops and enforces mandatory, reliability standards for the North American bulk electric grid. (Standards are developed through a stakeholder process.)

FERC: Independent federal agency that oversees interstate transmission and wholesale electricity sales, ensuring fair access to the grid.

2026 YOUTH TOUR

*Opening minds and
building leaders*



Every June, a select group of high school students from across Illinois leave their rural communities to spend a week taking in the historic sights and bustling energy of our nation's capital.

This year, 52 students sponsored by 25 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives took part in the 2026 Youth Tour to visit Washington, D.C., held June 15 to 22 for an immersive weeklong experience designed to educate and inspire the next generation of cooperative and civic leaders.

Eastern Illini sponsored three students from our service territory. These students were Bo Epperson, son of Jason and Lacy Epperson of Dewey. Elijah Heeren, son of Josh and Erin Heeren of Watseka and Andrew Todd, son of John and Marla Todd of Foosland. Bo and Andrew are Youth Tour legacies as their brothers were delegates in the past.

This year's delegates joined more than 2,500 students from across the country representing 46 states for the annual event.

Students began their journey at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) headquartered in Springfield, where they boarded a bus heading east and traveled all night to wake up and step off the bus in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Central to the Youth Tour experience is the formation of a mock student-run co-op called Chip 'n' Pop Co-op. The group selected a co-op board and the board then interviewed and hired a manager. Throughout the week, the co-op handled snack sales, decision-making and budgeting — giving participants a hands-on look at how cooperatives operate. Being part of a co-op helps students understand what makes a co-op different. It's all about working together and making decisions that serve everyone — not just one person or company.

Students took part in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Day. They joined hundreds of other teens from across the country to hear from national leaders and learn how to use their voices back home.

Over the course of the week, students visited historic landmarks including Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery and The Holocaust Museum. They also toured the U.S. Capitol, strolled the National Mall, stood at the steps of the Supreme Court, explored several Smithsonian museums and visited the zoo.

The week concluded with a farewell dinner and dance, and by the time students returned home on June 22, many said they felt changed by the experience.

Students who will be sophomores and juniors in high school in the 2026/27 school year and live on EIEC lines, may apply for the June 2027 trip.



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



SIGN UP TODAY!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

August heat can put your air conditioner to the test. Now is a great time to check your system's air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts airflow, forcing your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. That extra strain can reduce efficiency. A clean filter supports efficient operation and helps you stay cool and comfortable during the hottest days of summer.

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AUGUST 11: NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING DAY

Call 811 before you dig

Nearly 200,000 underground utility damages occurred in the U.S. and Canada in 2024. Experts estimate that there are 500,000 utility strikes nationwide annually costing the U.S. economy \$30 billion. 26% of those underground damages are due to failure to contact 811 before digging.

August 11 is National Safe Digging Day (or 811 Day), an annual initiative designed to remind homeowners and contractors to call 811 before any excavation project. Dialing this free, nationwide number connects you to your local one-call center so underground utility lines can be marked before you dig.

While August 11 serves as a peak summer reminder, safe digging is important all year round. Whether you are planting a tree, building a fence, or installing a deck, proper preparation prevents dangerous and costly damage to hidden infrastructure like gas, electric, and water lines.

Every few minutes an underground utility line in Illinois is damaged because someone decided to dig without first contacting JULIE. Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, penalties, and inconvenient outages. The depth of utility lines can vary for several reasons, such as



erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surfaces. Utility lines need to be marked even when digging only a few inches or digging in a location that has previously been marked, because the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists. JULIE's agents are available to receive, and process locate requests 24 hours a day, seven days a week by dialing 811. Here are some reasons why it is important to call:

- Striking a buried line can be deadly.
- Digging into a high-voltage electrical line risks electrocution, while hitting a natural gas pipeline can cause explosions and fires.
- Damaging essential services is incredibly expensive. If you damage a fiber-optic cable, water pipe, or gas line, you can be held legally and financially responsible for

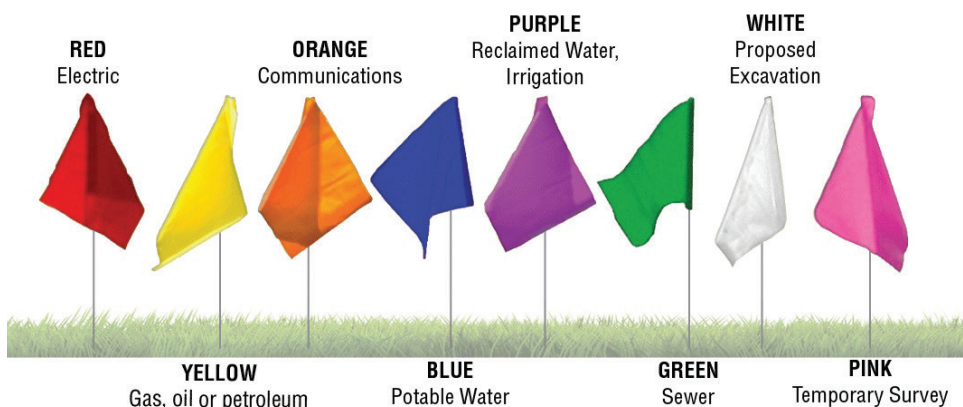
the cost of the repairs. You may also face hefty fines for failing to notify local utility companies before excavating. Furthermore, you risk cutting off critical services (like internet, power, or water) to your entire neighborhood.

You need to call 811 for any project that requires moving earth, no matter how shallow. No digging project is too small to warrant a call to 811. Many homeowners assume that plans for activities like digging to plant shrubs or installing a new mailbox are insignificant enough that they do not need to include a call (or click) to the 811 call center- but nothing could be further from the truth! Call at least 2 to 3 business days before your project starts to allow utility companies time to respond. Professional crews will visit your property and use color-coded paint or flags to mark the exact locations of buried electric, water, and communication lines. Always dig carefully and maintain a safe distance (usually 18–24 inches) on all sides of the marked lines.

The Underground Utilities Act, also known as the Call Before You Dig Law, was enacted by Washington in 1984. Today, every state in the nation has enacted a similar law.

The more people who are aware of the importance of calling 811 and making sure a locate is completed before digging, the safer we all are.

JULIE personnel are not utility locators and do not visit dig sites nor locate any underground lines. JULIE member companies use the following color coded paint or flags to mark their underground facilities.





UNDERSTANDING YOUR CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION FROM EASTERN ILLINI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE: A BENEFIT OF CO-OP MEMBERSHIP



Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative keeps track of how much you pay for the electricity you use all year.



Eastern Illini calculates if the overall revenue collected for the year is more than the costs of operation. If there is more revenue than expenses, it's called margin.



EIEC allocates margins to each member as capital credits based upon the amount each member paid for electricity that year. The allocation is added to your capital credit account and it's always yours, even if you move.



Capital credits stay in your account to "go to work" funding the operations of the co-op. We use those dollars to offset other types of financing like taking out loans.



Over time, and based on the financial condition of the co-op, the board may authorize the retirement of capital credits, so it is important to keep us up-to-date on your address if you move.



FREE



**EASTERN ILLINI
MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026
3 P.M. - 6 P.M.**

★ **HARDY'S REINDEER RANCH**

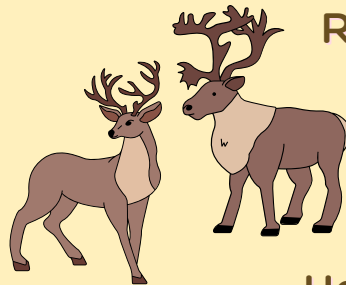
★ 1356 County Rd. 2900 N. - Rantoul, IL

★ We want to say thanks to our co-op members
with a free, fun event for the entire family!

Hot Dogs
& Smores



Reindeer Tours



Corn Maze



Hay Rides



RSVP:
www.eiec.coop or call us at 800-824-5102