

# EASTERN ILLINI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

March 2026



## MISSION STATEMENT

*Providing our members with safe, reliable energy solutions and exceptional service.*

## MAIN OFFICE LOCATION

330 West Ottawa, Paxton, IL 60957

Our headquarters is located just east of Exit 261 off I-57 on the south side of Route 9. We also have warehouse facilities in Gilman and Pesotum.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

217-379-2131 | 800-824-5102

[www.eiec.coop](http://www.eiec.coop)

## MEDIA CONTACTS

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## ABOUT US

EIEC is a not-for-profit member-owned business providing electric service to over 13,000 meters in ten counties throughout east central Illinois.

Eastern Illini is owned by the members it serves and is committed to providing safe and reliable energy solutions and exceptional service. The cooperative is governed by nine directors who are co-op members. Safety, energy efficiency, community engagement, and education of students on electric safety are top priorities in addition to distributing energy. Eastern Illini employs 59 people and operates and maintains 4,500 miles of energized line.

Eastern Illini is a member of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and has been a member of Touchstone Energy since its inception in 1998.

EIEC serves the counties of Champaign, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, McLean, Moultrie, Piatt, and Vermilion.

## BRIEF HISTORY

It was September 10, 1938, when John B. Anderson broke a kerosene lantern over a newly installed electric pole to celebrate the raising of the first pole on the first section of high line to be built by the newly formed Illini Electric Cooperative. This new and progressive era in rural life was made possible by an REA grant of \$100,000 for building 173 miles of line to serve 447 co-op members in three counties.

Just prior to that, in 1937, a group of sixteen men gathered in Watseka, IL to go about the business of organizing the Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative. The Illinois Agricultural Association in conjunction with county Farm Bureau units took an active role in bringing rural electric cooperatives into existence.

When the first 114 miles of the 770-mile project was energized, it was a day of rejoicing to the farmers located along the lines of the new co-op. The first section of line, known as the Paxton West line, began in Paxton, then went to Gibson City, Melvin, Loda, and Fairbury, of which 379 homes received electric service for the first time.

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative was formed in 1987 by the union of these two electric cooperatives: Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative and Illini Electric Cooperative. Together, they formed a larger cooperative that provides more reliable and cost-effective power solutions for its members and communities.

Our sole purpose, to serve our members, hasn't changed. We exist because no other entity was willing to provide electric service to the "last-mile" areas of rural, east central Illinois.

A part of FDR's New Deal, the Rural Electrification Act (REA) provided much-needed support residents of rural America so they could form their own electric companies. That original mission continues today. We still work to provide our members with safe, reliable energy solutions, and exceptional service.

