

PowerLines

A monthly publication for member/owners of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative

March 2015

Inside:



Page 2

With SmartHub, take control of your electric account

PLUS:

Make efficiency affordable
Lighting upgrade to save big \$\$
Directors receive training

Home rebates frozen

The State of Illinois has frozen all grants, including the funding for the electric cooperatives' Home 3.0 Rebate Program, pending a review by the new administration.

However, we do recommend that you still complete the Home 3.0 Project Form as soon as possible and forward it to Eastern Illini to reserve your spot, if the funding is released. More information can be found at www.eiec.coop.



330 W. Ottawa | Paxton, IL 60957
www.eiec.coop | info@eiec.coop
800-824-5102

A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

Co-op Principle #1

Voluntary and Open Membership

When electric co-op member/owners look at the seven co-op principles, many may question if cooperatives really live up to the first principle: Voluntary & Open Membership. It is a fair question. There is a two-part answer.

First, it is important to remember that when Eastern Illini's predecessors (Illini Electric Co-op and Eastern Illinois Power Co-op) were being formed in 1937, every potential member had the option to refuse service. While it may be hard to believe today, there are numerous stories from electric co-ops throughout the country where the rural resident said, "No thanks. We are doing fine with kerosene." Over time they changed their minds, and eventually became member/owners of the co-op.

Due to the complexity of offering electric service, the vast majority of people and businesses have a single delivery choice if they want to connect to "the grid" and receive electricity. While that may change in the future, we believe the best option for most people for safe and reliable power is from Eastern Illini, your electric co-op.

Today, electric co-ops focus on the second part of the principle, "Open Membership." All residents and businesses in the service territory of Eastern Illini are welcome to receive power. We continually strive to ensure that your membership has value to you not just through the service of electricity but by being an active part of our community.

Co-ops offer and welcome your participation in the governance of the organization through a democratically elected board of directors. As a locally owned and controlled utility, co-ops are in a better position to understand the needs of its members and can be quicker to react to help ensure the membership receives the best service possible.

Member/owners are welcome to suggest improvements to the co-op's operations and, unlike large investor owned utilities (often with millions of customers), you can be assured your ideas will actually be read by a real person in real time.

We will continue to look at the seven co-op principles throughout 2015. Stay tuned for the second cooperative principle: Democratic Member Control.

By using all of these principles integrated together, Eastern Illini is able to serve your needs every day.

Sincerely,

Bob Hunzinger



MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT

View and pay your bill
Track your electric use
Report an outage



Pay your bill and view account history (online version)

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative
A Truist Energy Cooperative

Log Out | Home | Help | Energy Tips

Home | Billing & Payments | My Profile | My Usage | Notifications | Contact Us | Have a Question? Get Help. »

Billing & Payments
Billing History
Payment History
Auto Pay Accounts
Budget Gauge

EIEC Member Select/Unselect All

Total amount may differ from your statement due to recent payments and/or adjustments.

Next Auto Pay Date	Auto Pay Amount	Make a Payment
02/17/2015	\$120.45	\$ 0.00

Electric
12345678
View Usage »

View Bill »

Total Due
 Other Amt

\$0.00 [Pay Now »](#)

Billing & Payments | My Profile | My Usage | Notifications | Contact Us |

Call Us: (800) 824-5102

Version: 2.12

Report an outage and view status (app version)

Service Status

No known issues

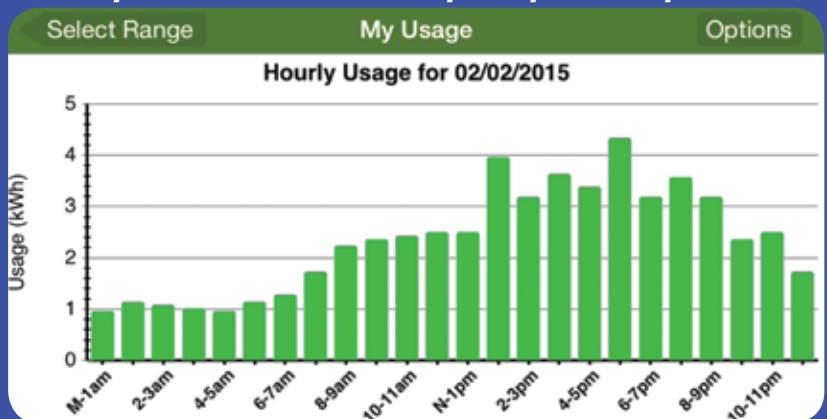
OUTAGE STATUS

There are currently no known issues reported with your service.

SUBMIT SERVICE UPDATE

Report an outage >

Track your electric use monthly, daily or hourly (app version)



SmartHub is available online and as a **FREE** app for iOS and Android smartphones and tablets.

Find out more by visiting www.eiec.coop.

Make efficiency affordable

Low-interest loans and special electric rates make energy efficiency upgrades practical.

If you have purchased a new appliance recently, you probably found yourself comparing the annual energy consumption of various models. You probably also noticed that efficiency costs extra. When it comes to appliances, water heaters and HVAC systems, consumers face a classic dilemma: pay now or pay (more) later. The answer is simple: make efficiency affordable.

Energy efficiency is part of Eastern Illini's DNA. More than 95 percent of electric cooperatives nationwide offer efficiency programs, and we are no exception. As member-owned, not-for-profit utilities, co-ops are constantly looking for ways to keep your bills as low as possible, including programs to make high-efficiency appliances and equipment more accessible.

Our newly revamped Energy Wise Home Loan program offers qualified Eastern Illini member/owners up to \$20,000 for energy efficiency and electric service upgrades. The loans, currently offered at 5.5 percent interest for up to seven years, are conveniently paid back on your monthly electric bill.

Working together at the national level, electric co-ops advocate federal policies and programs that can reduce

the upfront cost of energy efficiency. Co-ops are now partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, for example, on a new low-interest loan program targeted to rural consumers.

At Eastern Illini, we want our members to be armed with the information they need to make cost-effective investments in efficiency. Good information will lead to smart choices not only about appliances but about efficiency upgrades. A good place to start is online at TogetherWeSave.com, where members can conduct an interactive energy audit and gain access to a library of energy-saving how-to videos.

What qualifies as a smart efficiency investment will differ from member to member, of course. Many factors will determine whether you should put your money into insulation, replacing your water heater or purchasing an ENERGY STAR-qualified appliance. There might be rebates and

incentives that can help offset the cost of upgrades.

We understand there is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all efficiency solution. Our staff can help you sort out which energy efficiency investments make sense

for you and your situation. Contact us at 800-824-5102 or info@eiec.org and one of our certified energy specialists will get you on the way to energy savings. They can also assist you in beginning our loan process.

Energy Wise Home Loan Program:

Eastern Illini will loan up to 80 percent of a qualifying project's costs. The interest rate is 5.5 percent. Loans are conveniently repaid on your electric bill over seven years, and there are no prepayment penalties.

There is an overall cap of \$20,000 per member/owner for the loan program.

Qualifying projects include:

Electric heating systems
Insulation upgrades
Electric service upgrades
Standby generators

Contact us at 800-824-5102 or info@eiec.org for more information or to begin the loan process.

Eastern Illini strives to be a trusted energy partner for every single one of our member/owners. So come talk to us about how we can help save you money! That's one of the benefits of being a member/owner of an electric cooperative.

We're your local, member-owned connection to powerful solutions.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Source: EnergySavers.gov

Your home works hard for you. Consider giving it an energy checkup. Hire a professional energy auditor to diagnose where your house could be losing energy and where you can start saving money. Auditors check for air leaks, inspect insulation, survey heating and cooling equipment and more. After making efficiency upgrades, you could save 5-30 percent on your energy bills!

Lighting upgrade will save co-op big bucks

New lights will save almost \$5,000 per year.

There are many low-cost or no-cost energy efficiency upgrades available. They usually net you a modest savings.

There are also major upgrades with considerable costs - that can save you

a great deal of money. Lighting usually falls somewhere in the middle.

Thanks to an efficiency grant that covered more than half the cost, we recently changed all of our T-12 fluorescent lighting to much more efficient T-8 bulbs. Waters Electric, of Rantoul, performed the switch.

The calculated energy savings will be \$4,956 per year. The actual expense to the co-op was a modest \$7,180.

EIEC's VP of physical resources, Mike Zalaker, noted, "at less than an 18-month payback, this was a deal that we couldn't pass up. Beginning next year, we will be saving over \$400 per month."



The new, energy efficient lighting (right) provides a much "whiter" light (measured in degrees Kelvin) than the traditional lighting (left). The co-op's switch will provide a payback of under 18 months, and will result in \$4,956 savings on lighting costs annually.

Directors receive training

Eastern Illini directors receive advanced training.

Two Eastern Illini board members attended a class on director's duties and liabilities. The class was held at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives headquarters in Springfield, Ill. in January. The directors received one continuing education credit toward their Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate.

Electric co-op directors are elected by the member-owners and are responsible for directing the affairs of the cooperative. Instructor Patrick Mangan from the National Rural Electric Cooperative

Association discussed the duties of loyalty, obedience, and due care, and the need for directors to acquire the minimum knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill their responsibilities.

Key topics included:

- An overview of today's multi-billion dollar electric utility business
- The concepts and values that govern cooperatively owned businesses and related types of organizations.
- Legal and regulatory concepts affecting public utilities.
- Key legal documents such as articles of incorporation and bylaws.
- The role of management and guidelines for maintaining an effective relationship with the CEO.



During a break in the directors training class, instructor Patrick Mangan (left) from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association talks to Eastern Illini directors Herb Aden of Newman (middle) and Kevin Moore of Hoopeston (right).