

PowerLines

July 2017

Happy Independence Day!

I would like to thank all of our member/owners that attended the recent annual meeting. Almost 1,000 members, and their families, enjoyed the days' festivities!

Along with the fun and games and great entertainment during the annual meeting, we also were pleased to present a very positive outlook for your cooperative. In 2016, we had a good year, and although the mild weather has reduced our kilowatt hour sales a bit this year, your cooperative is in a good position. Our employees are leveraging technology to better serve you, and



**MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT**

options like SmartHub are giving interested members the chance to take control of their electric use.

As you enjoy time with your friends and family during the Fourth of July holiday, please do so safely, and with a sense of gratitude for all those who have led the way for not only our original independence and birth as a country but also for those in uniform that continue to provide us with the freedoms we all enjoy so much.

Sincerely,

Bob Hunzinger



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**SmartHub is your online
and app portal to:**

**View and pay your bill
Report an outage
Track your electric use
Update your account info**

**Visit www.eiec.coop to
get started!**

Independence Day

Our office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4 as we celebrate Independence Day.

As always, you can call us at 800-824-5102 or use SmartHub to report an outage or for other service issues.

Your Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative

Annual Meeting Recap

The Annual Meeting is one of the benefits of being part of an electric cooperative.

On Thursday, June 8, almost 1,000 member/owners and their families (totaling almost 2,000 people) attended Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's 30th Annual Meeting.

The event was geared for family fun and featured several children's activities, including two bounce houses, an inflatable obstacle course, miniature golf, a petting zoo, and bucket truck demonstrations.

Other entertainment included the Marvin Lee Band, and all registered member/owners received a \$25 attendance credit for attending the days' festivities.

A full meal of fried chicken, ham, noodles, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and desserts was provided by Niemerg's Catering, and the Rocking K Chuckwagon provided lighter fare and snacks for those relaxing outside.

Several seminars were held during the day. The wide-ranging topics included a session by Mac Condil from the Great Pumpkin Patch in Arthur. Pat Milchuck, from Simply Pat's Hats, discussed her love of millinery and showed off many of her amazing hat creations. Donna Lee, of the Bloomington-Normal Modern Quilt Guild offered examples of quilting designs and techniques.

Other sessions included a question and answer forum with Eastern Illini's President/CEO Bob Hunzinger, and Don Gerdes, Eastern Illini's forestry and right-of-way specialist, provided an overview of proper tree-trimming techniques and chainsaw safety tips.

Several legislators attended the meeting to show their support for Eastern Illini and to mingle with the crowd. Among the attendees were State Representative Tom Bennett, State Senator Scott Bennett, and Paul Faraci, a staff member for Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs.

Incumbent board members Tom Schlatter of Chatsworth, Kevin Moore of Hoopeston, and Jay Hageman of Fairmount were all re-elected to Eastern Illini's Board of Directors.

Board Chairman Tom Schlatter, and Eastern Illini's President/CEO Bob Hunzinger provided an update of the cooperative during the business portion of the meeting. They showed a video that highlighted a 1950's era digger truck that was recently donated back to the cooperative and restored by employees. Also during the business meeting, Eastern Illini Serviceman Terry Riggins discussed his recent trip to Bolivia, where he worked with other Illinois electric cooperative employees to help provide electricity to impoverished rural areas of that country. The trip was sponsored by NRECA International.

Eastern Illini's annual meeting is a tangible benefit of being much more than simply a customer. You are a member - and an owner - of your locally owned and governed electric cooperative.





Energy Efficiency: The Path to Energy Independence

Start your path on the journey to energy independence this summer!

While fireworks and Independence Day parades are synonymous with the Fourth of July, no such fanfare comes to mind when discussing energy efficiency. Perhaps it should.

If you think about it, energy efficiency not only benefits individuals and families, but the country as a whole. Energy efficiency combined with energy conservation and advances in technology in the utility industry, ultimately help our country on a path toward greater energy independence. And that's worth celebrating.

Benefits of efficiency

At its essence, greater efficiency means less energy is used for the production of goods and services. For individual consumers, a reduction in energy use usually translates to a tangible financial benefit – more money in your wallet at the end of the month.

If your co-op neighbors are also using less energy, collectively, it means the overall cost of providing that electricity could be lower and may result in reduced costs for co-op members. For many, this is reason enough to strive for greater energy efficiency.

On a national level, energy efficiency, sometimes called the “fifth fuel,” has a more profound impact. It can potentially boost the economy by allowing consumers and businesses to invest their savings in other areas. As importantly, greater energy efficiency could also reduce our need for foreign energy.

Strike up the band

There's no need to wait for the first exploding burst of fireworks in the night sky to start your energy efficiency efforts. Every American can take charge of their own energy use, regardless of the date on the calendar. Small steps can lead to a big difference for you and your neighbors, whether across the road or across the country.

Energy efficiency can generally be achieved two ways. The first is with mechanical change, such as replacing an older HVAC unit or less efficient appliance with a new ENERGY STAR model or upgrading to new, insulated windows. Less expensive actions include improving the seal of your home's “envelope” by caulking exterior windows and doors and sealing openings where pipes and ductwork meet the outside. Swapping out your last incandescent bulbs (inside and outside) with LEDs also makes a noticeable difference.

Smart control

The second way to realize energy efficiency is through smarter management of your energy use. Leveraging smart thermostat technology is a good place to start. Most smart thermostats contain an app allowing remote control by mobile phone or tablet. Program your thermostat to reflect your family's schedule. Many thermostat programs allow you to view and edit your thermostat schedule and monitor the amount of energy used.

Take control of your energy use

Sometimes, however, energy efficiency is simply a matter of changing old habits such as washing clothes in cold water instead of hot or running the dishwasher during off-peak times.

Regardless of the path you take on the road to energy efficiency and independence, Eastern Illini can help you on the journey. Contact our office at 800-824-5102 or visit our website at www.eiec.coop to learn how we can help!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



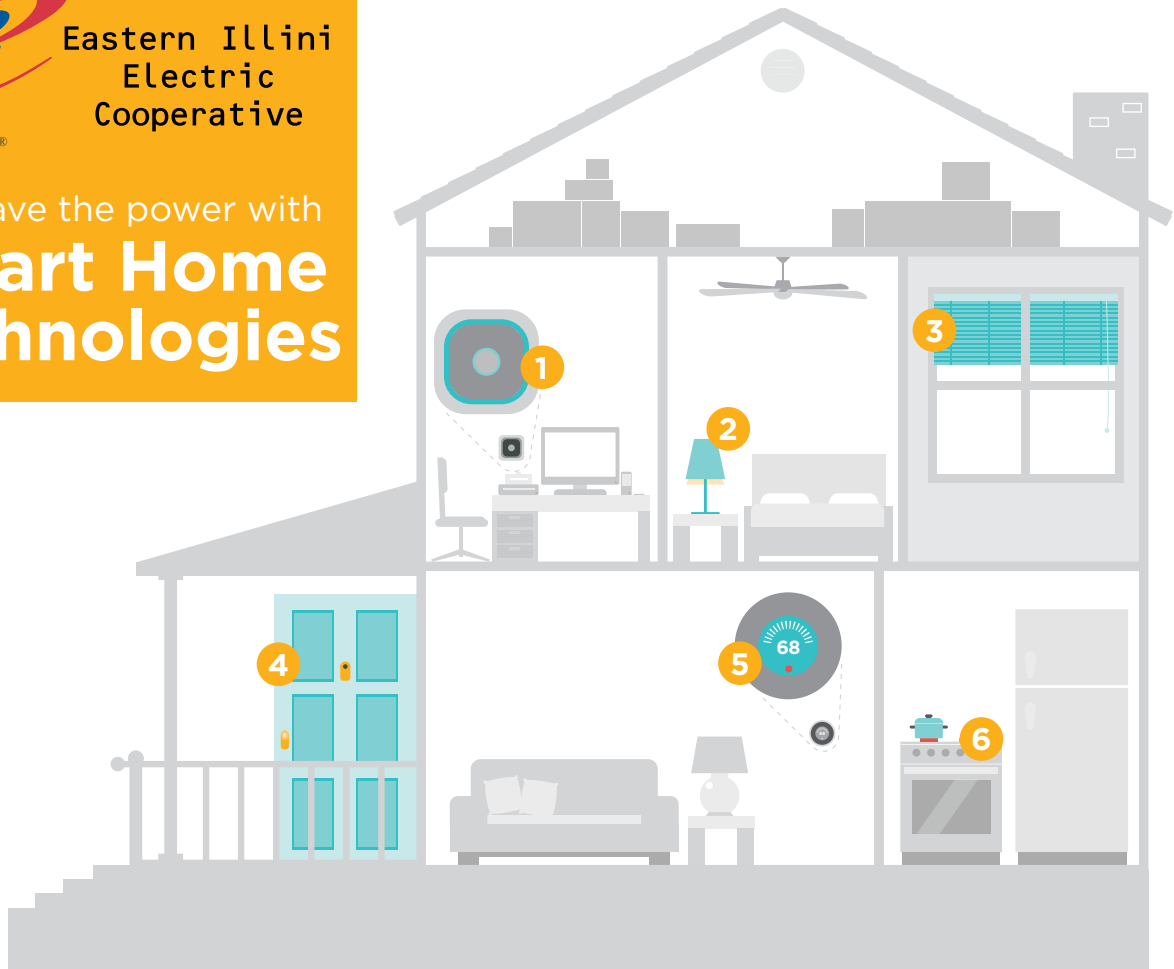
Keep warm summer air outside where it belongs! Add caulk and weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



Eastern Illini
Electric
Cooperative

You have the power with
**Smart Home
Technologies**



1 Smart Hub/Bridge

If you are looking to make your home smart without having to hire a company to install an interconnected system, then an internet-connected smart hub is the first thing you'll need. A smart hub will allow you to control all your smart devices from one app by acting as a middle man that facilitates communications between all your smart home devices.

2 Smart Lighting

Like most items in a smart home, smart lighting can be controlled with a few swipes of a smart phone app. But smart lighting is more than just convenient. Smart light bulbs are more energy efficient than standard incandescent bulbs. Some bulbs use GPS on your phone to determine your location, and can turn on or off depending on where you are located. Some bulbs are even voice controlled!

3 Smart Blinds

Smart blinds can be useful for those who have tall, hard-to-reach windows; for those who have difficulty moving around the house; or for those who simply want

to smarten their home. Smart blinds allow you to schedule your blinds to open and close during certain times of day – a bonus if you are trying to be energy efficient – or control them via an app.

4 Smart Locks

Smart locks allow you and anyone else you wish to enter your home with ease. Some smart locks let you open your doors with your cell phone. Some let you see who is coming and going while you are out of the house. Some even allow you to assign security privileges to certain people.

5 Smart Thermostat

A smart thermostat is a great way to keep your home smart and energy efficient. Many smart thermostats can learn your heating and cooling behavior and will auto-schedule based on your preferences.

6 Smart Cooking Appliances

Smart cooking appliances, like smokers, allow you to cook a perfect meal away from home, without burning the house down! Wi-Fi technology makes these cooking appliances smart!

A Field Guide to Overhead Power Lines

High-voltage transmission lines are used to deliver electricity from generation plants to co-op members like you.

HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES

Large amounts of power, measured by watts, are delivered by transmission lines. These lines are energized with very high voltage in order to move the power long distances with minimal losses. Insulators on the towers prevent the power from flowing to the towers or the ground.

Virtually all of the high-voltage transmission lines in our area are owned by companies other than Eastern Illini.

SUBSTATIONS AND SUB-TRANSMISSION LINES

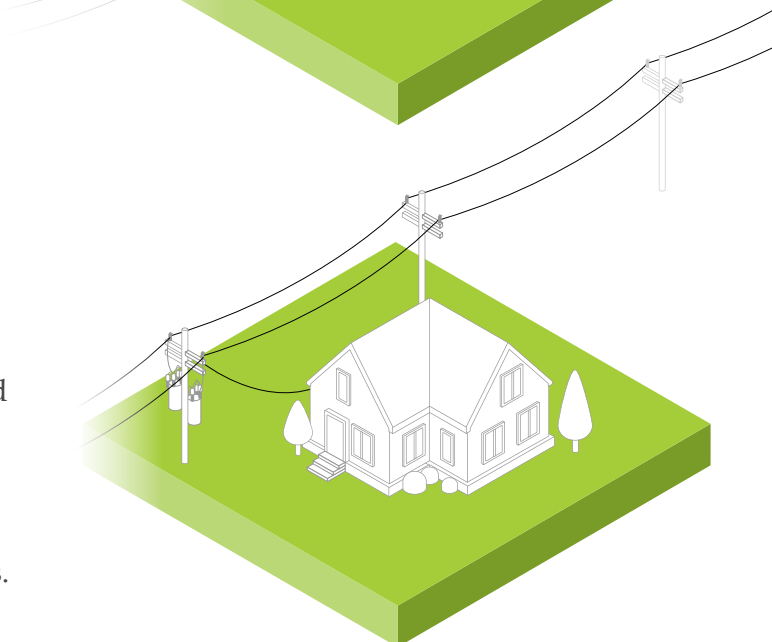
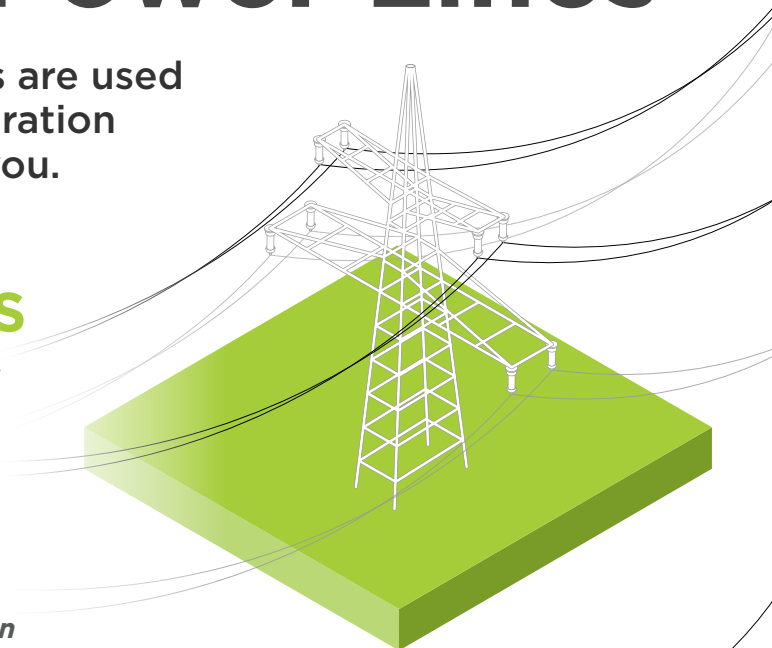
Transformers at transmission substations reduce the voltage from transmission levels to sub-transmission levels, typically ranging from 115,000 volts to 34,500 volts. Sub-transmission lines deliver power over shorter distances to distribution substations and large industrial sites. At distribution substations and large industrial sites, transformers reduce the voltage to a lower level, typically 7,200 volts or 14,400 volts.

Eastern Illini operates 28 substations throughout our service territory.

DISTRIBUTION LINES

The lines typically seen along rural roads and next to homes are generally single phase distribution line, energized at 7,200 or 14,400 volts. Transformers on the utility poles lower the voltage to between 120 and 480 volts to serve residential homes and small businesses.

Eastern Illini owns and maintains over 4,500 miles of distribution line in east central Illinois!



Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association