



**MJM**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**ALONG THE LINES**

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

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ALONG THE LINES

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**Holidays observed**

New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, day following Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

**How to report an outage**

Call 217-707-6156. When you report an outage, give your name and location number. Before calling, check your fuses or circuit breakers. Check with your neighbors. Call to report hazardous conditions. Please do not report outages on Facebook.

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*Member Trading Post*

**FOR SALE:** Firewood for sale. Six foot pick up load. \$100 or delivered for a fee. Call 618-972-4658.

**FOR SALE:** 2016 RCP 2660 Land Pride. Used very little. Asking for \$15,000 - O.B.O. Please call 618-729-4421 or 618-535-0275.

To list your free ad, email [info@mjmec.coop](mailto:info@mjmec.coop), call 217-707-6156 or mail the ad to MJM Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL 62626. Each ad will run for one month. Some restriction may apply. Thank you.

# 5

## Five Ways to Save Energy When Working from Home

By Abby Berry, NRECA



Today, more Americans are working from home than ever before. More time spent at home means more energy used throughout the day.

If you're punching the clock from home, there are small steps you can take to reduce your energy use and save on electric bills. Here are five easy ways to save energy when working from home:

1. **Use a smart power strip.** Plugging in your most-used devices, like computers, monitors and routers, to a smart power strip ensures these devices are not drawing power when they are not in use. Smart power strips also give you the option to select which devices should stay in "always on" mode.
2. **Unplug your least-used equipment.** If your home office includes equipment like printers and scanners, you are probably not using these electronics every day. In this case, go ahead and unplug your least-used electronics and devices, since many of these draw energy even when they are not being used.
3. **Choose ENERGY STAR®-certified office equipment.** If you are looking to purchase new equipment for your workspace, look for the ENERGY STAR® label to ensure you are getting the most energy efficient features. Computers, monitors, imaging equipment and other office electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating include power management features to make saving energy easy, and most are designed to run cooler and last longer.
4. **Flip the switch and use natural light instead.** It is still chilly out there, so take advantage of natural light and additional warmth from the sun. When you are working during the day, open blinds, curtains and other window coverings to let natural light in—and do not forget to turn off the lights to reduce energy use!
5. **Lower the thermostat.** Home heating makes up a significant portion of your energy bills. Turn the thermostat down a couple degrees during the day to reduce energy use and save money. The Department of Energy recommends setting the thermostat to 68 degrees or cooler during winter months. You are more likely to stay focused and alert when it is cooler in your home, so all the more reason to mind the thermostat. Speaking of thermostats, did you know that MJM now offers a rebate program for Smart Thermostats? By enrolling in the program, you will get \$50 and \$25 every year after that just for being enrolled! You must have a Wi-Fi thermostat and be a current MJM Member. Please visit <https://www.powermoves.com/energy-efficiency/powershift/> for more information and how to enroll.

Working from home does not have to take a toll on your energy bills, and whether you are working remotely or not, these practical tips can help everyone reduce their energy use. 🌍

## You' ve Got Mail !



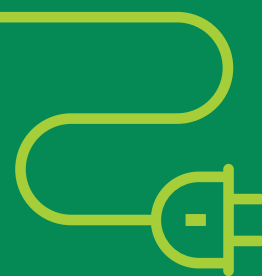
Due to recent feedback, MJM Members have made it known that they are interested in receiving digital copies of the monthly newsletter. A Member's wish is our command! Although the newsletter is always going to be mailed, available on social media, and our website, Members will now have the newsletter emailed to them directly. For the past year, Members with an updated email address have been receiving emails with the monthly newsletter as an attachment. If you did not get an email or wish to be added to the contact list, please call the office at 217-707-6156. If you do get the emails and wish to be removed from the list, simply hit 'unsubscribe' at the bottom of the email. We want to keep in contact with you as best as we can in 2022. Help us communicate with you! 🌈

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip all windows to seal air leaks.

When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.



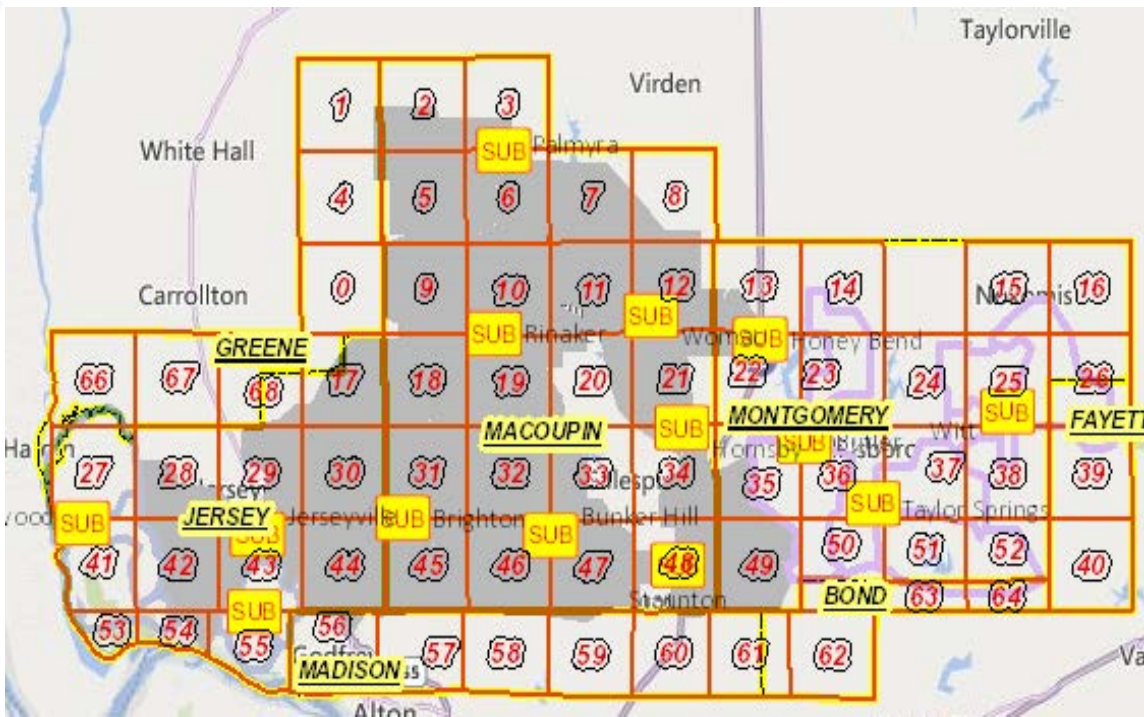
# ROW Clearing Begins!

Beginning in mid-January, MJM employees or their contractors can be found off the Jerseyville and Rinaker substation performing necessary maintenance on the power line right-of-way (ROW). This may consist of tree trimming, brush clearing, and/or the use of herbicides to control incompatible vegetation.

The most common cause of power outages is related to trees that grow or fall into power lines. The goal of MJM's Vegetation Management Program is to provide safe and reliable electric service while respecting the environment. Typically, the year following brush removal we will do an herbicide application. This allows for a transition of tall, overgrown brush and trees to become a diverse environment of low, growing grass and plants. All herbicides used are registered with the Illinois Environmental Protective Agency. Additionally, professional applicators will take special care to assure safe handling and precise application.

For your convenience, a Vegetation Map Viewer has been set up on MJM's website at [www.mjmec.coop/vegetation-management](http://www.mjmec.coop/vegetation-management). This map gives Members the ability to look up their account number/service location number to view where they are in relation to the vegetation management that is being done in their area. Directions are included on the website to assist Members on using the Vegetation Map.

If you have any questions concerning the MJM Vegetation Management program, please do not hesitate to contact the Cooperative at 217-707-6156. 



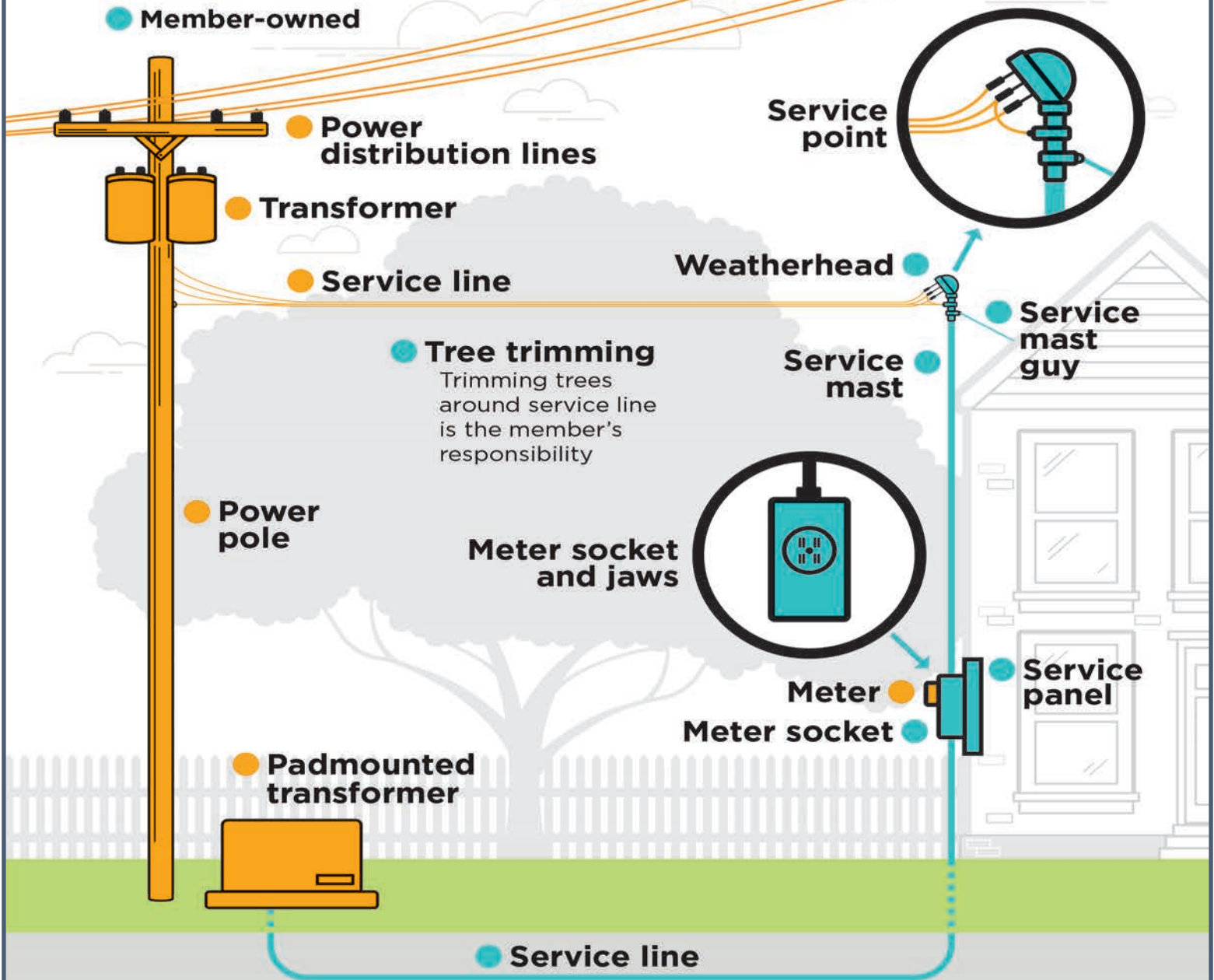
► The screenshot above is an example of what the Vegetation Management Map looks like. Please see [www.mjmec.coop/vegetation-management](http://www.mjmec.coop/vegetation-management) for more details.

# Who Owns What?

## Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.

- Co-op owned
- Member-owned



*Note: This graphic depicts overhead and underground service. Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home or business.*

# Five Reasons We Love Serving Our Members


By Anne Price, NRECA

February may be the shortest month, but it is packed with special observances like Presidents' Day, Black History Month and Valentine's Day, in addition to a host of unofficial "national" days you have probably never heard of like "National Tater Tot Day." But they all have something in common. They were created to draw attention to a particular issue or theme.

Valentine's Day may seem like an observance originally created by a greeting card company, but over time, it has become a widely celebrated day generating millions of dollars spent on flowers, candy, and, of course, greeting cards professing our love. But Valentine's Day is not just for the lovebirds. It is also the perfect time to let our friends, family, co-workers and other special people in our lives know we care about them—with or without a store-bought greeting card.

So, in that vein, we have created our list of top five reasons why we love serving you, the Members of MJM Electric.

1. **We love serving our Members because without you, the Co-op would not exist.** Our purpose is to provide you with reliable and safe electricity. Simply put, MJM Electric exists to serve you. That is why we were formed in 1939 - to bring power to our local area when for-profit utilities would not.
2. **You enable us to complete our mission by supporting our efforts to give back.** A major part of our mission is to serve our community and look after the greater good. With your assistance, we are able to help the most vulnerable Members of our community and programs like Operation Round-Up that help local organizations pay for needs that help make our communities a better place!
3. **Members of our Co-op also serve on the Board of Directors.** They provide guidance for setting Co-op priorities and helping make big decisions. Because our Board Members live in the area, they are able to serve as the pulse of the larger community and identify immediate and long-term needs. The broader Co-op Membership provides helpful input through their vote on director elections and by weighing in on Co-op and community issues.
4. **You help us get it right.** MJM Electric Members are great about keeping us in the know. We do our best to avoid power outages but Mother Nature can occasionally throw us a curveball; our Members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. We know outages are frustrating, and your support as we work through storms means so much to our employees.
5. **You and your neighbor make up the community we serve—and for us, it is *all* about community.** Our employees live and work here too and care about our community the same way you do. We are invested and work to help it thrive. That is why MJM Electric donates to local charities, schools, and has a \$1,000 scholarship program. It is also why we invest in economic development, and why you will see our employees volunteering at charitable and community endeavors.

As a Co-op, our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our community and look after its long-term interests. We love serving our Members and our local community, and just like you, want to see it continue to thrive. 

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**MJM'S ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS  
JUNE 10, 2022  
3:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.**

Save the date for MJM's Annual Meeting of Members on Friday, June 10, 2022, at the MJM headquarters in Carlinville. We had experienced an overwhelming support from Members regarding the first, drive-thru Annual Meeting hosted in June 2021. In fact, we had so much support we have decided to do it again! The 2022 Annual Meeting will be set up as a hybrid meeting. Beginning at 3:30 p.m., MJM's gates will open to the public for a drive-thru registration. After registering, Members will get a goody bag and bagged supper to-go. Registration closes to Members at 6:30 p.m. If Members would like to stick around, a live meeting will take place at 6:35 p.m. This gives Members the opportunity to get out of their car, eat their meal, listen to the entertainment, and speak with Board of Directors and MJM employees. If you have a busy schedule and need to keep moving, the meeting will also be streamed online. MJM Members' demographics are changing every day. We find it extremely important to accommodate to each Member and their lifestyle. If you have questions, please call the office at 217-707-6156. More details will follow in the months to come. We cannot wait to see you in June! 🎉