

ALONG THE LINES



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

DEDICATED TO PROVIDING RELIABLE SERVICE FOR OUR MEMBERS.

JANUARY 2024

VOL.17, NO. 1

HOME ENERGY USE

Tips on how to save when analyzing your usage. p.2

YOUTH DAY 2024

How to sign up and possibly win a trip to D.C. p.4

REBATES

2024 Powermoves Rebates for homes and businesses. p.5-6

JANUARY CALENDAR



Jan. 1: Office Closed - New Year's Day

Jan. 3: National Write to Congress Day

Jan. 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan. 22: National Hot Sauce Day

Jan. 31: National Hot Chocolate Day

SAVE THE DATE! June 6th, 2024

MJM's 2024 Annual Meeting
in Carlinville, IL

HOLIDAYS OBSERVED:

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



OFFICE: 217-707-6156
FAX: 217-854-3918

18300 SHIPMAN ROAD (PO BOX 80)
CARLINVILLE, IL 62626

WWW.MJMEC.COOP



HOW TO PREPARE & STAY SAFE DURING WINTER STORMS



BY MJM PRESIDENT/CEO, JOE HEYEN



A glance at your monthly electric bill shows you the amount of energy powering your home. Yet all the information on the bill may also leave you in the dark about what exactly it all means. Fortunately, we can shed light on it!

MEASURING YOUR ENERGY

Your monthly energy bill includes a lot of information. For instance, your bill may include a facilities charge, which incorporates the cost of maintaining the poles and wires to safely and reliably deliver electricity to your home. And, yes, your bill also includes the amount of electricity your house used during the previous month.

Your home's energy use is typically measured in kilowatt-hours, or kWh, for short. This is the amount of electricity needed to do 1,000 watts of "work," or 1 kilowatt, for 1 hour. The amount of kilowatt-hours of energy consumed multiplied by your local electric cooperative's kWh rate leads to the total of your monthly energy cost.

Different appliances use varying amounts of energy, and their consumption is based on how frequently they are used:

- **1,000-watt coffeemaker:**
Used every day for a year would use about 365 kWh annually
- **Clothes dryer:**
Used four hours each week would use about 580 kWh each year
- **26-cubic-foot refrigerator:**
Uses on average about 725 kWh annually

More electricity is used to heat and cool buildings than nearly any other activity; this is why your energy bills are the highest during the dog days of summer and winter's coldest months. Your air conditioner and heating system are working the hardest during these times to maintain the thermostat settings to keep you comfortable.



IMPROVE YOUR ENERGY USE

Fortunately, there are steps you can take to improve your home's energy use. LED light bulbs that are ENERGY STAR-certified are much brighter, have longer lifespans, and use significantly less energy than incandescent bulbs. ENERGY STAR-certified appliances also use less energy than other options on the market.

You also can consider ENERGY STAR-certified heating and cooling equipment and water heaters. You can consider a blower door test, which will measure how airtight your home is, and identify potential air leaks. Air leaks lead to treated air escaping your home. This forces your heating and cooling systems to work harder than needed, wasting energy and costing you money.

For more tips and advice, you can visit the ENERGY STAR website at www.energystar.gov.



ALONGTHELINES

by MJM Electric Cooperative
www.mjmec.coop

**18300 Shipman Road (PO Box 80)
Carlinville, IL 62626**

Office: 1-217-707-6156
Pay by Phone: 1-855-313-6314

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

HOW TO REPORT AN OUTAGE:

Call 217-707-6156 or use your **SmartHub app**.

- 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/Social Media.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN: W. Kay Schultz..... Godfrey
VICE CHAIRMAN: Charles Huebener..... Brighton
SECRETARY: Marcie Tonsor..... Jerseyville
TREASURER: Robert Moore..... Medora
 Robert Lehmann..... Girard
 Tyler Heyen..... Raymond
 Dwayne Milner..... Piasa
 James Niemann..... Litchfield
 Todd Stewart..... Nokomis

STAFF

Joe Heyen.....President/CEO
 Jeremy Pattillo.....Director of Finance and Accounting
 Jennifer Peterson.....Executive Administrator
 Matt Eisenmenger.....Director of Operations
 Bob Brandon.....Director of Engineering

EDITOR

Eric Cooper.....Communications &
 Member Services Coordinator

MJM Along the Lines (USPS 854-620) is published monthly for \$4.75 per year, per member by MJM Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, Illinois 62626. Second-class postage paid at Carlinville, IL. POSTMASTER: Send Address changes to MJM Along the Lines, P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL 62626.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

IN THIS ISSUE

4 Youth Day 2024
 Details, info, and how to apply.

5-6 2024 Rebates
 Powermoves residential and commercial rebate summaries..

7 Space Heaters = Energy Hogs
 The do's and don'ts for keeping your home cozy this winter.



MEMBER TRADING POST

FOR SALE: Selling parts for 1952 T020 tractor, motor, tires, radiator, etc. Bunker Hill. Call: 618-402-4420

FOR SALE: Three 30in prehung doors with knobs: \$40. Three 8ft solid oak pews: \$200. One 12ft lam beam 5 1/4 X 11 1/4: \$150. One 12ft beam, 5 1/2 X 7 1/4: \$40. A 36 Ford V8 & tran.: \$100. Call: 217-718-0709

FOR SALE: Wheelchair \$50, Walker \$25, Hospital Bed \$200, Hoyear Lift for disabled \$200. Carlinville area.

To list your free ad, email 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.

2024 YOUTH DAY: INFORMATION

Normal power line

Lines weighed down by ice

Top line melted after bottom line

ICE ON POWER LINES IS A WEIGHTY SUBJECT



When it comes to getting electricity across power lines and into homes, ice can be a force to be reckoned with.

ICE ON DISTRIBUTION LINES

Ice can quickly lead to broken power poles and other pole equipment. Ice can also make falling tree branches 30x heavier and much more likely to break power lines.

ON A 300-FOOT SPAN OF 1-INCH-THICK POWER LINES

- 1/2 inch of ice adds 281 pounds of weight
- 1 inch of ice adds 749 pounds of weight
- 2 inches of ice adds 2,248 pounds of weight

WHEN ICE MELTS

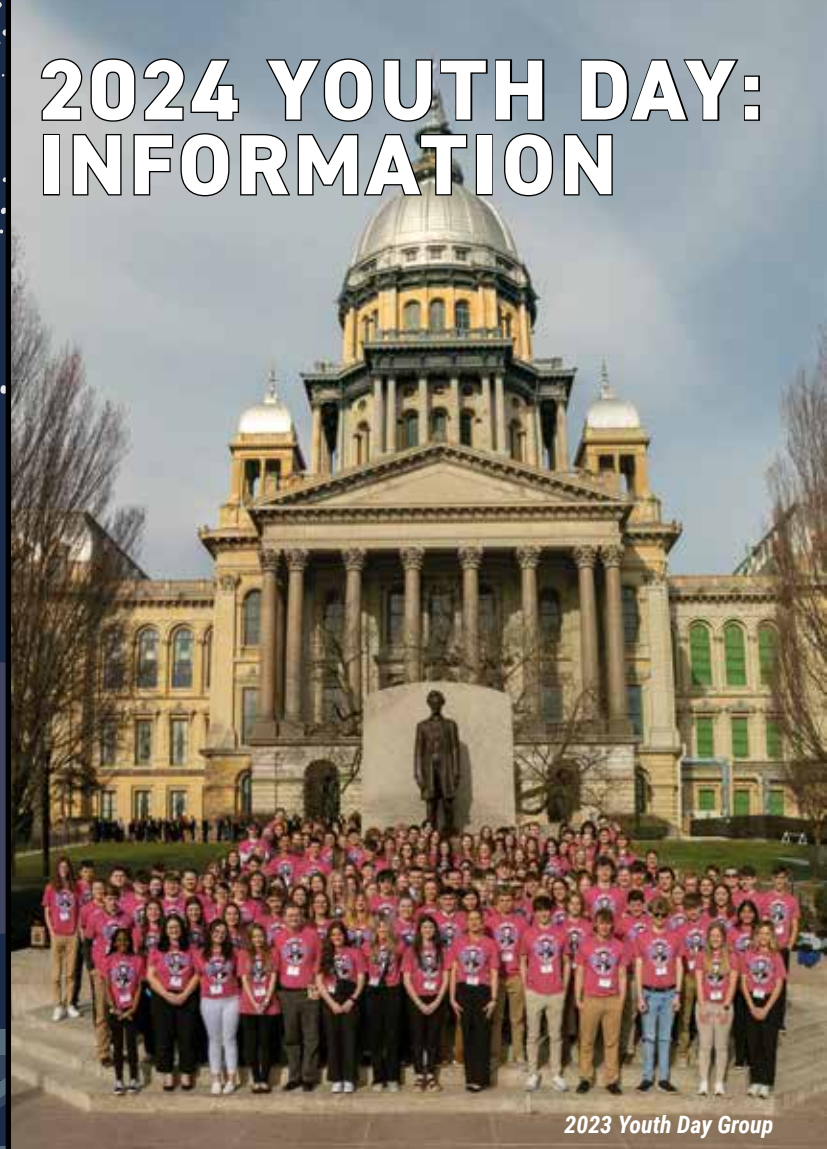
Melting ice can cause power outages. If ice on the bottom (neutral) line melts before the lines above, it can cause the lines to touch.

OTHER ICE FACTS

- Damage can begin when ice exceeds 1/4 of an inch
- 1/2 inch of ice can cause a line to sag up to 12 inches
- Pressure can also be caused by a broken tree limb
- Both ice and melting ice can cause power outages

 Safe Electricity.org®

Source: Jerri Imgarten-Whitley and Victory Electric Cooperative



2023 Youth Day Group

Sophomores and Juniors (High School students) of MJM Electric Cooperative members and MJM employees are eligible to attend the Youth Day in Springfield, IL on **March 20th, 2024**, and the Youth to Washington Tour! Up to ten students will be selected to attend Youth Day in Springfield. In addition, up to two students will be chosen to represent MJM by attending an all-expense paid, week-long trip to Washington D.C., with other winners from across the nation.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see our government at work and tour national sites, monuments, and museums. To be eligible, the student(s) must currently be a high school sophomore or junior and be able to attend the trip to Washington D.C. in June, if selected.



For more information and application, go to: www.mjmec.coop/youth-day-youth-tour



POWERMoves.COM

**POWER
MOVES®**

**2024
RESIDENTIAL
REBATE PROGRAM**

Geothermal Heat Pump (with Electric Backup)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Water-to-air closed loop ≥ 17.1 EER / ≥ 3.6 COP ▶ Water-to-air open loop ≥ 21.1 EER / ≥ 4.1 COP ▶ Water-to-water closed loop ≥ 16.1 EER / ≥ 3.1 COP ▶ Water-to-water open loop ≥ 20.1 EER / ≥ 3.5 COP 	CLOSED LOOP, REPLACING: <i>electric resistance, fossil fuel, air source heat pump, or into new construction geothermal</i>	\$2,000 \$250
	OPEN LOOP, REPLACING: <i>electric resistance, fossil fuel, air source heat pump, or into new construction geothermal</i>	\$1,000 \$250

Air Source Heat Pump (Whole Home)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Electric Back-up ▶ ≥ 15.2 SEER2 ▶ ≥ 8.1 HSPF2 ▶ ≥ 1.75 COP at 5° (Cold Climate ASHP only)* ▶ Condenser and coil must be replaced and installed as a matched set 	REPLACING:	COLD CLIMATE HEAT PUMP*	NON-COLD HEAT PUMP
	<i>Electric Resistance Heat</i>	\$1800	\$750
	<i>Natural Gas, Propane, Fuel Oil Heat</i>	\$1800	\$750
	<i>Air Source Heat Pump</i>	\$1800	\$250
	<i>New Construction</i>	\$1800	N/A

Air Source Heat Pump (Partial Home)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Electric Back-up ▶ ≥ 15.2 SEER2 ▶ ≥ 8.1 HSPF2 ▶ ≥ 1.75 COP at 5° (Cold Climate ASHP only)* ▶ Condenser and coil must be replaced and installed as a matched set 	REPLACING:	COLD CLIMATE HEAT PUMP*	NON-COLD HEAT PUMP
	<i>Electric Resistance Heat</i>	\$800	\$250
	<i>Natural Gas, Propane, Fuel Oil Heat</i>	\$800	\$250
	<i>Air Source Heat Pump</i>	\$800	\$250
	<i>New Construction</i>	\$800	N/A

Natural Gas, Propane, and Fuel Oil with Heat Pump - Split System (Ducted)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ ≥ 15.2 SEER2 ▶ ≥ 7.5 HSPF2 ▶ A new heat pump may be installed on an existing gas furnace ▶ New system must heat and cool entire home 	REPLACING ELECTRIC RESISTANCE: <i>electric furnace, ceiling cable, baseboard</i>	\$500
	REPLACING FOSSIL FUEL AND CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING	\$500
	ADDING A HEAT PUMP TO AN EXISTING GAS FURNACE	\$500
	NEW CONSTRUCTION	\$500

Heat Pump Water Heater

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Minimum UEF of 3.3 	REPLACING ELECTRIC RESISTANCE TANK	\$800
	REPLACING NATURAL GAS OR PROPANE WATER HEATER	\$800
	NEW CONSTRUCTION	\$800

Wi-Fi Thermostat

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Approved Wi-Fi thermostats 	REPLACING NON WI-FI THERMOSTAT WITH WI-FI THERMOSTAT	\$75
--	---	-------------

PURCHASE RECEIPTS REQUIRED FOR ALL REBATE APPLICATIONS.

AHRI Certificates required for all geothermal, air source heat pump, and heat pump water heater rebate applications.

Heat loss/heat gain calculations required for geothermal and air source heat pumps.

Failure to provide requested information may result in forfeiture of rebate.

All installations are subject to verification and/or inspection.

For full requirements, see applications.

REBATE PROGRAM ENDS DEC. 31, 2024, AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

We also offer prescriptive and custom rebates for businesses to make qualifying energy efficiency upgrades to their facilities.

Visit PowerMoves.com or call your local electric cooperative's Energy Advisor for more information.

POWER MOVES®

2024 BUSINESS NEW CONSTRUCTION REBATE PROGRAM SUMMARY



NON-AGRICULTURE FACILITIES

Lighting

Lighting rebates are calculated on Lighting Power Density (the total Watts of lighting/square foot of building). Please provide us your COMCheck report.

INTERIOR	▶ ≥ 10% more efficient than code	\$200/1,000 ft ²
	▶ ≥ 20% more efficient than code	\$300/1,000 ft ²
	▶ ≥ 30% more efficient than code	\$350/1,000 ft ²
	▶ ≥ 40% more efficient than code	\$400/1,000 ft ²
	▶ ≥ 50% more efficient than code	\$450/1,000 ft ²
	▶ Exterior Lighting	\$35 - \$250/fixture

HVAC

▶ Air Source Heat Pumps	\$80-\$300/ton
▶ Geothermal Heat Pumps	\$500, \$600 or \$750/ton
▶ Air Cooled Unitary Packaged AC and Split Systems	\$60 or \$75/ton
▶ VFDs on HVAC Systems	\$100/HP (not code required)
▶ Chillers	\$20-\$60/ton

Miscellaneous

▶ VFDs on process systems	\$80/HP
▶ Air Compressors VFD screw	\$80/HP
▶ Commercial Food Service Equipment	Varies

AGRICULTURE FACILITIES

Miscellaneous

▶ LED < 15W ENERGY STAR® Screw-in	\$3.00 (This rebate will not be offered after 2024)
▶ LED ≥ 15W ENERGY STAR® Screw-in	\$5.00 (This rebate will not be offered after 2024)
▶ VFDs on irrigation	\$40/HP
▶ High Volume Low-Speed Fans	\$600/fan
▶ High Speed Fans	\$50/fan

Please call us to discuss other energy saving items in agriculture facilities.

ITEMS NOT ON THIS LIST?

No problem! We can review and provide a custom incentive offer.

In order to receive a rebate, equipment must meet our minimum efficiency standards. Please talk with our energy engineer about your project. This is for information purposes only and not a quote or guarantee of an incentive.

WHAT IS THIS PROGRAM?

This program is for commercial accounts that are building:

- ▶ New construction
- ▶ Adding on to existing facility
- ▶ Change of use or total gut rehab of existing facility

WHO'S ELIGIBLE FOR A REBATE?

- ▶ Non-residential members of participating electric cooperatives.

WHAT'S THE REBATE LIMIT?

Rebates are PER BUILDING, PER YEAR.

- ▶ \$25,000 Prescriptive
- ▶ \$50,000 Custom

HOW DO I GET THE MOST FROM THIS PROGRAM?

Talk to us **before** your plans are on paper. Often, we can help you and your contractors find a better solution at a lower cost and provide more rebate money and better long-term savings.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Talk to your co-op. Ask them for a Project Information Form and to set up a meeting with our BNC energy engineer.

WHAT BASELINE DO YOU USE?

All rebates in this program are based on local energy codes

- ▶ IN = ASHRAE 90.1-2007
- ▶ IL = 2021 IECC
- ▶ MO = ASHRAE 90.1-2007

Agricultural Building Averages

- ▶ Average Size: 50,489 ft²
- ▶ Average Incentives per ft²: \$.32

Manufacturing Building Averages

- ▶ Average Size: 73,305 ft²
- ▶ Average Incentives per ft²: \$.63

Other Building Averages

- ▶ Average Size: 53,418 ft²
- ▶ Average Incentives per ft²: \$.47

RUNNING ELECTRIC SPACE HEATERS IMPROPERLY CAN RUN UP YOUR ENERGY BILL

by MJM Communications & Member Services Coordinator, Eric Cooper

If you shiver when walking into particular areas of your home, you may have considered an electric space heater to warm up the area.

When used properly, electric space heaters can effectively (and temporarily) heat certain parts of your home. Yet many people mistakenly believe that using space heaters requires less energy than setting the thermostat to a higher setting. In fact, most of our winter high bill complaints involve people running electric space heaters! Some important aspects about space heaters to consider include:

SPACE HEATERS ARE NOT ENERGY EFFICIENT.

ENERGY STAR®, which provides energy efficiency information and labels appliances meeting certain energy efficiency requirements, states on its website that it has no plans to label any model in the near future!

They are unlikely to save you money if you use them as a primary heating source. An electric space heater is small but uses a lot of energy! A 1,500-watt heater running for eight hours each night for a month can add about \$43 to your electric bill. Running multiple space heaters can run up your energy costs.

SPECIFIC, SPARING USE.

Space heaters should only be used when you are in the same space. They should be used to heat a specific area (where you are) and should be used sparingly (when you are in the same space and you need to warm up). If you do choose to use a portable electric space heater, make sure to properly follow directions to ensure safe operation, as it can pose a fire hazard if used improperly.

CONSIDER AIR SEALING AND ADDING INSULATION IF YOUR HOME IS DRAFTY.

If your home feels very chilly, you may want to check that it is properly air sealed and insulated. Proper air sealing and insulation will keep more conditioned air in



your home, lowering your long-term energy costs and keeping you comfortable.

MAINTAIN AND MAYBE UPGRADE YOUR HEATING SYSTEM.

If your system is having a difficult time keeping up with the needs of your household, even after you've sealed and insulated your home, it may be that it needs a little love. Putting in a new filter now means your system won't have to strain all season, and an inspection by your local HVAC company can help determine if there are any other problems you might not be able to see.

Or maybe you need to take things a step further. Heating and cooling systems can make up as much as 50 percent of your energy budget; an old or inefficient system could be wasting energy you don't even know about.





SMARTHUB BILL PAYMENTS MADE EASY

The easiest way to pay your bill is in the SmartHub App, although you can pay through SmartHub web, as well. Pay with debit/credit or E-check. It's fast, it's easy and the payment applies to your account immediately.

See your daily electric usage on SmartHub through the purple button on our website or through the SmartHub App. Why wait to see your bill and THEN make changes? See your daily use and make changes RIGHT AWAY to lower your next bill.

You can also report outages with the SmartHub app! To see all the features and how to set the app up: www.mjmec.coop/smarthub-help



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During winter months, ensure your home is well sealed to reduce the need for excessive heating. Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% on annual energy bills.

Install weather stripping on exterior doors and apply caulk around windows. Check attic insulation levels and hire a qualified contractor if additional insulation is required.

Source: *energystar.gov*

