

ALONG THE LINES



DEDICATED TO PROVIDING RELIABLE SERVICE FOR OUR MEMBERS.

JANUARY 2025

VOL.18, NO. 1

SUPPLY & DEMAND

Balancing Electricity Supply and Demand, p. 4

2025 RATES

Information on the new rate structure beginning May of 2025, pgs. 6-7

2025 REBATES

Summary pages for Residential and Business rebates, pgs. 8-9

JANUARY CALENDAR



January is Staying Healthy Month

Jan 1st: MJM Office Closed

Jan 4th: National Trivia Day

Jan 20th: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan 31st: Hot Chocolate Day

SAVE THE DATE!

June 12, 2025

MJM's Annual Meeting

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



JANUARY 4TH IS NATIONAL TRIVIA DAY.

Here are some trivia questions and answers about MJM and Electric Cooperatives!

Q: When was MJM officially organized?

A: MJM was first officially organized on April 5, 1939, and the first official meeting of the board of trustees was held on April 10 at 2 p.m. in Carlinville.

Q: What do the initials M.J.M. stand for?

A: The name was suggested by Loren L. Love of Carlinville and stands for Macoupin, Jersey, Montgomery – the three counties initially served by the Cooperative.

Q: How many accounts were initially served in each county in 1939?

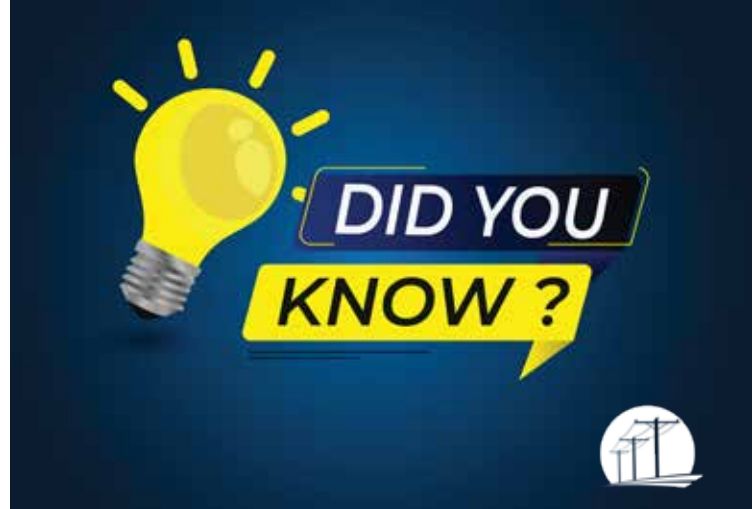
A: 940 members in Macoupin, 410 in Jersey, and 250 in Montgomery.

Q: Why are consumers on MJM lines called "members" and not customers?

A: Each member owns a little piece of the cooperative. Members can directly affect the operation of the cooperative by voting for directors (directors must also be members) on a one-member-one-vote basis. Local control through a locally elected Board of Directors ensures all members an equal voice in the operation of their electric supplier.

Q: Does MJM generate electricity?

A: No, MJM is a distribution cooperative. It constructs and maintains the power lines and substations necessary to deliver power to their rural members but does not generate that power. MJM purchases its power wholesale from Wabash Valley Power Alliance (WVPA), a Generation and Transmission (G&T) Cooperative.



Q: Why were Electric Cooperative originally established?

A: In the 1930s, Electric Cooperatives across the nation were born out of the idea that rural citizens deserved the same quality of life as people from the city. These rural citizens banded together to form their own communally-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Answer background: In the 1930s, investor-owned utility companies were reluctant to provide electricity to farmers and other folks from rural areas. Less customers per mile of line was deemed not profitable. These companies would either refuse service for these areas or charge them huge fees and higher power costs than they did for services in town.

Q: How many electric distribution cooperatives are there in the U.S. today?

A: 832.

Q: How many people currently have power provided by an electric cooperative?

A: 42 million people in 48 states, across 56% of America's landscape.

Q: How many electric distribution cooperatives are there in Illinois?

A: 25.

Sources: Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



ALONGTHELINES

by MJM Electric Cooperative
www.mjmec.coop

18300 SHIPMAN ROAD, PO Box 80
CARLINVILLE, IL 62626

OFFICE: 1-217-707-6156

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..... District 1
VICE CHAIRMAN: Charles Huebener..... District 3
SECRETARY: Marcie Tonsor..... District 9
TREASURER: Todd Stewart..... District 8
 Robert Lehmann..... District 4
 Tyler Heyen..... District 6
 Dwayne Milner..... District 2
 James Niemann..... District 7
 (Vacant)..... (District 5)

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Joe Heyen.....President/CEO
 Brian Gunning.....Finance and Accounting Manager
 Jennifer Peterson.....Office Manager
 Matt Eisenmenger.....Operations Manager
 Bob Brandon.....Right of Way Manager
 Martin Hinton.....Engineering Manager

EDITOR

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

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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11 Youth Day - Youth Tour
Sophomores and Juniors can apply. Deadline is February 1st.

MEMBER TRADING POST

FOR SALE: Eastlake Victorian Vintage - sofa/settee (\$385), round marble table (\$225), Parlor marble table top (\$175). Call for more detail 217-710-5614

FOR SALE: Track Firewood, aged hardwood, \$100.00 per truck-load. It's enough to fill a standard 4x8 wood rack. Free delivery locally (Gillespie, Benld, Staunton, Litchfield, Mt Olive, Carlinville), all others call for delivery cost. Call 217-246-2545

FOR SALE: Split Seasoned Fire Wood, pickup truck bed loads \$120 or call for delivery price: Call Leroy @ 618-972-4658

FOR SALE: Samsung LED Flat screen TV, Model # LN52A650A1F 50"X35". Works great. Asking \$100 OBO. Call: 217-204-7461

FOR SALE: 16ft trailer with 36in sides, ramp tailgate (Rice Trailer) bearings repacked. \$3,000. A 5x10 trailer, ramp tailgate with spare tire, \$900. A 4x8 trailer, wire mesh floor, ramp tailgate, \$550. Call: 618-376-5121

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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.

BALANCING ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND



BY MJM PRESIDENT/CEO, JOE HEYEN



Electricity is essential for nearly every aspect of daily life—so essential that we rarely think about how it's produced and delivered to our homes. You might be surprised to learn that behind the scenes, a network of experts is working daily (and even by the minute) to anticipate how much electricity you need before you even use it.

We're all connected to the electric grid, so ensuring the right amount of electricity for all involves a complex process of forecasting energy demand, planning for capacity and securing enough supply to meet Americans' needs.

POWERFUL SOURCES

First, electricity must be generated at a power plant using either traditional sources, such as coal, natural gas or nuclear energy, or from renewable sources, such as solar, wind or hydropower.

At MJM, we work closely with Wabash Valley Power Alliance, our local wholesale power partner, to secure enough electricity for our communities, using a diverse mix of energy sources to generate the power we deliver to your home or business. By maintaining a diverse energy mix—coal, natural gas, and renewables—MJM has options to ensure reliable power at a competitive cost.

On a larger scale, across the country, electricity supply and demand are managed through a market that includes long-term planning agreements, where electricity is bought and sold just like other common goods and services. Because MJM works with our wholesale power partner, which is also a cooperative, we are able to pool resources and expertise to deliver affordable power to our local communities.

Electricity supply changes throughout the day because demand fluctuates based on consumers' needs. For example, MJM knows that we need to ensure more electricity in the mornings when you're starting your day, and in the evenings when you're cooking dinner, running appliances and watching TV. Demand also increases when weather patterns change, such as extremely warm or cold temperatures.

MANAGING SUPPLY AND DEMAND ACROSS THE GRID

Across the country, other electric utilities are managing the same task of balancing supply and demand, which is why we have a larger network of key players in place to ensure enough power is delivered across the grid.

In most cases, the amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to specific areas are coordinated and monitored by regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs). In other areas, individual electric utilities perform these tasks.

RTOs, ISOs and electric utilities act as air traffic controllers for the electric grid. They forecast when you, your neighbors and communities across a large region will need more power. These organizations take measured steps to ensure there's enough supply to meet demand.

LOOKING AHEAD

As the energy sector undergoes rapid change, it's important for all consumers to understand the basics of electricity supply and demand.

Electricity use in the U.S. is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, with the demand for electricity expected to at least double by 2050. At the same time, energy policies are pushing the early retirement of always-available generation sources, which will undoubtedly compromise reliable electricity.

MJM remains committed to providing affordable, reliable energy to the members we serve. That's why we are preparing now for increased demand and other challenges that could compromise our local electric supply.

Managing the balancing act of electricity supply and demand is a complex job, which is why we have a network of utilities, power plant operators and energy traffic managers in place to direct the electricity we need and keep the electric grid balanced.

To learn more about MJM's power supply, visit:
www.mjmec.coop/where-we-serve



A Balancing Act: ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

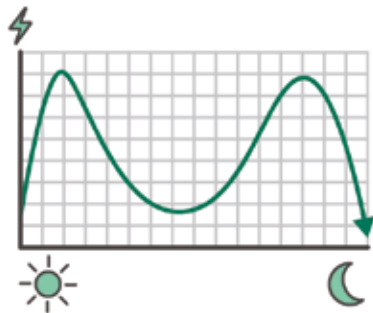
Behind the scenes, a network of people and facilities work together to ensure you have electricity when you flip the switch.



Electricity is generated at a power plant, then sent across the grid to homes, schools and businesses.

The *amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to where it's needed* are typically coordinated and monitored by regional grid operators that essentially act as energy traffic managers.

Regional Grid Operators



As electricity demand varies throughout the day, grid operators, power plant operators and electric utilities work to forecast, plan and purchase enough electricity for everyone.

Ensuring communities have the exact amount of electricity they need is a challenging task, but behind the scenes, a network of industry experts make it happen every day.



Factors that Impact Electricity Supply and Demand



- Demand Surges
- Extreme Temperatures
- Infrastructure Costs and Availability
- Supply Chain Challenges
- Fuel Costs
- Federal and State Regulations

2025 RATES



The following rate changes will take place on May 1, 2025 and will be reflected on the June billing statements. A rate calculator has been set up for your convenience at www.mjmec.coop

Your "Rate Class" number is located on your monthly bill:

Service Map Loc	Service Description/Address	Rate	Meter Number	Days	Readings		Multiplier	kWh Usage
					Previous	Present		

SINGLE-PHASE

SINGLE-PHASE RATE CLASSES (1,2,3,4,5,31,32,33,37,38, & 39)

Service Delivery Charge
\$ 54.00 per month

Power Supplier Demand Charge
\$ 2.25 per kW

Power Supplier Energy Charge
1 - 1,100 kWh \$ 0.07723 per kWh
Over 1,100 kWh \$ 0.06783 per kWh

Distribution Energy Charge
\$ 0.02497 per kWh

THREE-PHASE

THREE-PHASE RATE CLASSES (6,7,8,34,35,36,40, & 41)

Service Delivery Charge
\$ 112.00 per month

Power Supplier Demand Charge
\$ 2.25 per kW

Power Supplier Energy Charge
1 - 1,100 kWh \$ 0.08663 per kWh
Over 1,100 kWh \$ 0.06663 per kWh

Distribution Energy Charge
\$ 0.02301 per kWh

SINGLE-PHASE LARGE POWER (Rate Class 9)

Service Delivery Charge
\$ 80.00 per month

Power Supplier Demand Charge
\$ 12.59 per kW

Power Supplier Energy Charge
\$ 0.05 per kWh

Distribution Energy Charge
\$ 0.03896 per kWh

THREE-PHASE LARGE POWER (Rate Class 10)

Service Delivery Charge
\$ 123.00 per month

Power Supplier Demand Charge
\$ 13.17 per kW

Power Supplier Energy Charge
\$ 0.05 per kWh

Distribution Energy Charge
\$ 0.04182 per kWh

2025 RATES: UNDERSTANDING DEMAND

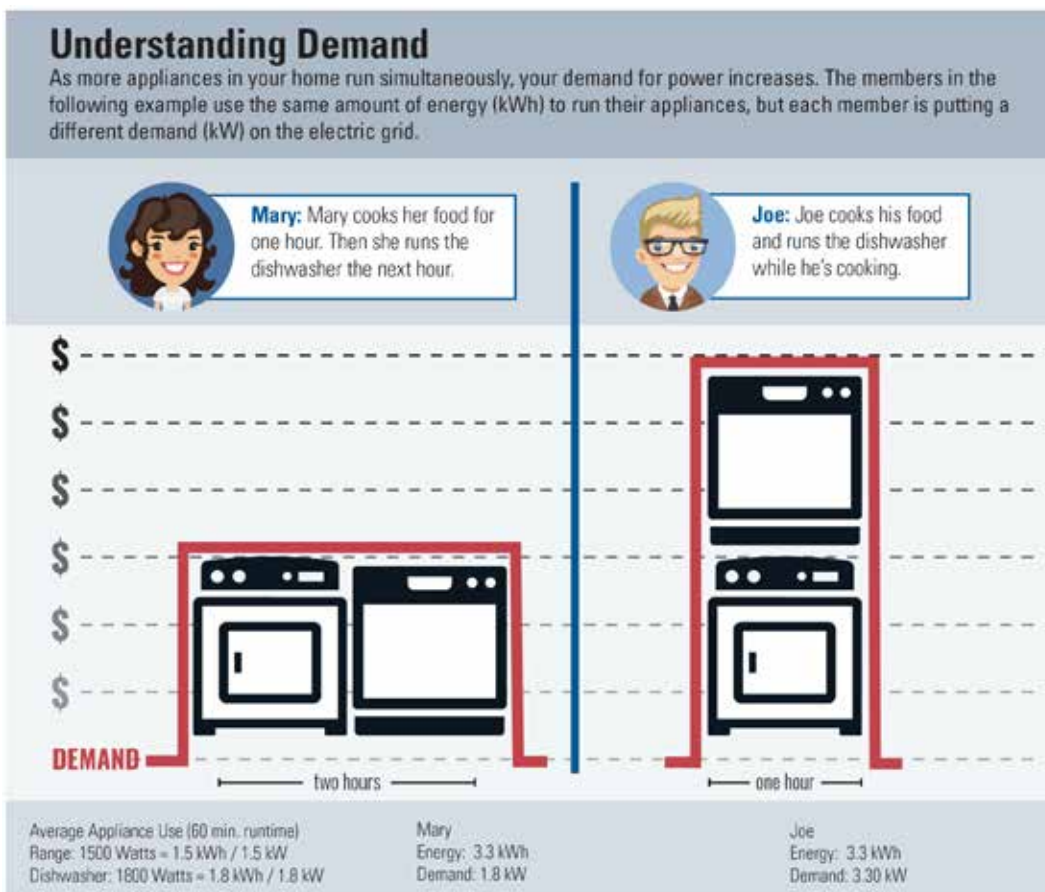


Beginning in May 2025, MJM Electric Cooperative will implement a new rate structure that separates the costs for energy (kWh) and demand (kW). This charge is new for all residential rate classes.

WHAT IS DEMAND?

Simply put, **energy** is the amount of power you consume, while **demand** measures your impact on the grid to deliver that power.

For example, think about your vehicle. Energy (kWh) would be what is recorded on the odometer - a measurement of total miles. Demand is like your speedometer - measuring the speed at which energy flows. The upcoming Demand charge will be similar to your highest recorded "miles-per-hour." MJM must build and maintain the electric system so we can make sure you can "drive" as fast as you'd like at any time.



WHY CHARGE A DEMAND RATE?

With a traditional blended rate where the impact of your demand is rolled up into a charge based on the power you use, some members pay more than they should, while others don't pay enough. This change will allow us to bill you more fairly for the two largest drivers of your consumption: your impact on the electric system (your demand) and amount of power you consume (your energy use). This will enable us to adequately and fairly collect enough money through our rates to deliver reliable electricity and maintain the utility system.

HOW IS MY DEMAND DETERMINED?

Although there hasn't been a charge associated with demand, we've been showing your demand reading on your bill for years. It represents the 15-minute interval with the highest energy consumption during the billing period, measured in kilowatts (kW). When we make the change to your rate, you will be billed a per kW rate multiplied by the total kW of that highest interval. The demand charge will vary by rate class.

You've always been able to save money by turning off lights or adjusting your thermostat. You'll soon be able to lower your bill by simply staggering the use of appliances.

For more information, please contact us at 217-707-6156 or info@mjmec.coop.



POWER MOVES®

2025 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
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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, 2025, 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[®]

2025 BUSINESS REBATE PROGRAM SUMMARY



LIGHTING | Retrofit only. All must be 5.1 DLC in order to qualify.

Fixture Type	Rebate/Fixture
▶ Corn Cobb E39 Mogul Base <i>(DLC Qualified Only)</i>	\$10-\$45 per lamp
▶ De-Lamping	\$.10 per watt reduced
▶ Occupancy Sensors	Up to \$30 per sensor
▶ LED Lighting	Up to \$250 per fixture
▶ LED Tubes <i>(DLC Qualified Only)</i>	\$3 - \$5 per tube

Restrictions apply; please see application for complete program rules.

HVAC | Retrofit only

Units	Rebate/Ton
▶ Air Cooled Unitary Package AC and Split Systems	Up to \$75 per ton
▶ Air Source Heat Pumps	\$500 per ton
▶ Ground Source Heat Pumps	Up to \$750 per ton
▶ VFDs (1-20 HP Motos)	\$100 per HP
▶ Chillers	Up to \$60 per ton

Restrictions apply; please see application for complete program rules.

MISCELLANEOUS | Retrofit only

Units	Rebate/Ton
▶ Process VFDs (up to 200 HP)	\$80 per HP
▶ VFD Screw Air Compressor	\$80 per HP
▶ Compressed Air No-Loss Condensate Drain (up to 200 HP)	\$150 per drain

Restrictions apply; please see application for complete program rules.

CUSTOM INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Don't see a rebate that applies to your project? Our custom rebate program may be just the thing for any verifiable energy-saving upgrades. Pre-approval required.

- ▶ **Lighting Projects:** \$.05 per kWh for the first year's kWh savings.
- ▶ **Non-lighting Projects:** \$.10 per kWh for the first year's kWh savings.

NEW BUILDS

If you decide to build, or to undertake a major renovation, talk to us as soon as you start planning. We can help you choose systems and equipment that are best suited to your project and earn you the biggest incentives—before they start saving you money and energy.

Get started by filling out a Project Information Form at [PowerMoves.com](https://www.PowerMoves.com).

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.

Wabash Valley Power Alliance and its member co-ops give rebates for energy-efficiency upgrades in new or existing businesses.

WHAT IS THIS PROGRAM?

- ▶ Available to commercial and industrial co-op members.
- ▶ Offers rebates on energy-efficient equipment.
- ▶ Applies to upgrades to an existing facility or equipment for a new facility.
- ▶ Provides a set list of prescriptive measures that earn rebates and a custom program for measures that don't fall into our set list. Custom upgrades require program approval prior to equipment purchase.

WHO'S ELIGIBLE FOR A REBATE?

- ▶ Non-residential members of participating electric cooperatives.
- ▶ Visit [PowerMoves.com](https://www.PowerMoves.com) to find out whether your co-op participates.

WHAT'S THE REBATE LIMIT PER MEMBER?

- ▶ Prescriptive: \$25,000 per member per calendar year.
- ▶ Custom: \$50,000 per member per calendar year.

WHO RECEIVES THE PAYMENT?

- ▶ Checks are paid directly to the member.
- ▶ Payment may be made to Trade Ally with member approval.

WHAT'S A TRADE ALLY?

A Trade Ally is any contractor who:

- ▶ Sells or installs energy-efficient equipment.
- ▶ Assists customers with their rebate applications.

WHAT'S THE DEADLINE FOR APPLYING?

- ▶ Apply for a prescriptive rebate within 60 days from the project's completion.
- ▶ All custom projects require program approval prior to equipment purchase.

Visit [PowerMoves.com](https://www.PowerMoves.com) to start the application process or find out more.

CONGRATULATIONS TO VICE-CHAIRMAN HUEBENER!

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model. MJM has a commitment to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative consumer-owners.



Charles Huebener (L) and MJM President/CEO Joe Heyen.

Charles Huebener recently received the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Charles resides in Brighton and serves on MJM's Board of Directors, representing District 3.

The NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) program requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies contained in five core courses:

- ◆ **Director Duties and Liabilities**
- ◆ **Understanding the Electric Business**
- ◆ **Board Operations and Process**
- ◆ **Strategic Planning**
- ◆ **Financial Decision Making**

Congratulations Charles!

Coffee with the Co-op



Come join us at a location near you. Regular coffee will be provided, along with cookies, and a presentation on the upcoming residential Demand Rate/2025 Rates.

JANUARY 2025 DATES:

Friday, January 10th @ 8:30am

MJM Community Room
18300 Shipman Road, Carlinville, IL

Friday, January 31st @ 9:00am

Germania Brew Haus
309 N. State St., Jerseyville, IL

More dates coming in February and March!

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Never make a utility bill payment to anyone calling you on the phone, coming to your door (unless that is a verified bill payment method used by your utility company), texting you or emailing you. Always call your utility company at the number provided on your bill or on the utility's website if you have a question about payment or billing information. Know your utility bill payment options—online, by phone, automatic bank draft, mail or in person.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams



YOUTH DAY 2025

INFO AND REGISTRATION DETAILS



In June 2025, more than 1,800 youth delegates representing electric and telephone cooperatives from across the nation will converge in Washington, D.C., for Youth Tour, an annual tradition that has spanned 60 years. MJM is seeking applicants to represent their co-op for the trip of a lifetime.

“Youth Tour is a great opportunity that changes high school students’ lives,” said Brooke Gross, Youth Tour coordinator for Illinois. “After touring our nation’s capital, meeting congressional representatives and learning firsthand how our government works, they return home with valuable knowledge that helps prepare them for the future, as well as friendships that will last a lifetime.”

During the weeklong trip, students will have the opportunity to visit Capitol Hill and meet with their elected officials, and to visit historical and cultural sites including Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court, memorials and museums.

Youth Tour is rooted in politics. It was born from a speech at the 1957 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) annual meeting by then Texas Senator Lyndon B. Johnson, who later became president. “If one thing comes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital, where they can

actually see what the flag stands for and represents,” he said. Illinois electric cooperatives did just that and began sending students to Washington, D.C., in 1959. In 1964, NRECA began to coordinate Youth Tour as the national event that it is today. Electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois are still participating in this character-building experience.

Youth Tour in Illinois begins with Youth Day. The year 1974 marked the first annual Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day, and ever since, co-ops across the state have sent high school students within their service territories to Springfield to meet their elected officials, tour the city and learn more about the cooperative program.

MJM will sponsor up to 5 students from high schools within its service area on an all-expense-paid trip to Springfield on March 5, 2025. The participating student’s main residence must be on MJM lines. Each year, more than 200 students across Illinois get an up-close look at state government in action.

The annual Youth Tour occurs every June. This year, selected participants will board buses in Springfield on June 16 and will return on June 23. MJM will sponsor up to 2 students on the weeklong, all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

These students will join dozens of others from across the state and create lifelong friendships along the way. The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives coordinates the daily planning for all events and sites of interest for the tour, which travels via two chartered buses.

“Youth Tour is important to the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, because educated citizens are better citizens,” Gross explained. “It familiarizes students with the historic and political environment of our nation’s capital, and visits with elected officials give them a better understanding of government.”

During the trip, students have the opportunity to be selected to represent Illinois on the NRECA Youth Leadership Council (YLC). One student from each state is selected by their peers to represent the state during Youth Tour and at NRECA’s annual meeting. This role helps to build leadership and public speaking skills, as well as develop lifelong friendships with representatives from other states.

To apply to represent MJM, go to www.mjmec.coop/youth-day-youth-tour. The deadline to apply is February 1, 2025. For more information, contact the MJM office at 217-707-6156 or email info@mjmec.coop.



BOARD LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



MJM follows the basic principle of Democratic Member control: one Member, one vote. Did you know that as a Member of our Co-op, you are eligible to run for a Board of Director position? The Board of Directors are your friends and neighbors. The decisions they make for your Cooperative affect their electric service the same as yours.

To know which Board of Director represents you, refer to the MJM bylaw booklet (Articles IV – Board of Directors; V – Meetings of Director; and VI – Officers, Misc.) available online at:

www.mjmec.coop/how-were-governed.

For more details on how to participate, you can contact the MJM office at **217-707-6156** or email us at info@mjmec.coop.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Taking steps to help your home heating system run more efficiently can reduce energy use and lower your winter bills. Check to see if any air vents around your home are blocked by furniture, curtains or other items. Obstructed vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and can increase pressure in the ductwork, causing cracks and leaks to form.

If necessary, consider purchasing a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture or other obstructions.

Source: *energy.gov*