

This season and always, we extend our heartfelt thanks to you — our members, neighbors, and partners in the community. You are more than customers; you are the heart of who we are and why we do what we do. As a member-owned electric cooperative, our mission goes beyond providing power — it's about strengthening the communities we all share.

Together, we're not just keeping the lights on — we're building a brighter future.





Fall chores to prepare for winter

- Have your heating system serviced by a professional, replace air filters and ensure registers are not blocked by rugs or furniture.
- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Drain and shut off outdoor faucets; insulate exposed water pipes.
- Clear gutters and downspouts. Trim trees away from the house to avoid damage.
- Service and store equipment you'll need this spring such as lawnmowers and trimmers. Gather winter tools like shovels and ice melt.
- Seal gaps at windows and doors with weatherstripping and caulk. Check your attic insulation for damage or settling; add more if needed.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to circulate warm air.
- Download our app to prepare now for winter storm outage notifications. Make sure your emergency kit is stocked.
- Clean the fireplace for efficiency and safety; close the flue when not in use.
- Get out winter blankets for chilly nights; consider space heaters carefully for energy use and use safely. Keep 3 feet from flammable items; review operating and safety instructions.



Bonus: Prepare for the holidays

- Inspect all holiday light strings and extension cords before using.
- Never attach light strings with staples. Be mindful of overhead lines when using ladders and installing lights outdoors.
- LED light strings use less power; if you are replacing your lights look for LEDs.
- Consider using timers to turn on and off light displays.



Budget Billing

Take the guesswork out of monthly budgeting with Budget Billing. E-mail info@menard.com or call 800-872-1203 for more information.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.

Source: energy.gov



LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) could help pay your electric, gas and propane energy bills. Contact your local agency to confirm income eligibility requirements and application timelines.

**MCS Community Services-Cass/
Morgan County**
217-243-9404
www.morgancounty-il.com

**Community Action Partnership
of Central Illinois-
Logan/Mason/Menard County**
217-732-2159
www.capcil.info/liheap

Sangamon County
217-535-3120
www.co.sangamon.il.us

**Tazwood Community Services-
Tazewell County**
309-266-9941
www.tazwoodcs.org



Do's and don'ts for portable generators

- **DO** position generators at least 25 feet outside the home in a dry area, away from doors, windows and vents that can allow CO to enter the home. Consider use of a canopy to protect it from precipitation, and if theft is a concern, secure it to a tree or outdoor structure.
- **DON'T** operate inside a home or attached garage. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can quickly become deadly if the generator isn't exhausted outside. Attached garages with an open door don't count — the carbon monoxide can still seep indoors and poison inhabitants.
- **DO** plug appliances directly into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords; follow manufacturer's instructions for maximum load. Turn them on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit. Before shutting it down, turn off and unplug all equipment/appliances being powered by it.
- **DON'T** plug a generator directly into a home outlet unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed. If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can backfeed along power lines and electrocute utility lineworkers making repairs.
- **DO** read the manual and perform regular maintenance between uses.
- **DON'T** allow children or pets to play near the generator.
- **DO** shut off the generator and allow it to cool before refueling to avoid risk of fire; have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby, just in case.

Have a permanent standby generator?

We need to know! You or your installation contractor should submit the online Backup Generator Application at www.menard.com/generators.

Remember, any backup generation connected to your electric system must have an automatic transfer switch. Without the switch, the backup generation could feed back onto our lines, putting our linemen and others at risk of electrocution.



Board highlights

For full minutes visit menard.com
or contact the office.

August 26, 2025

- All Directors present except Jodine Tate; also present General Manager, Attorney, Director of Accounting & Finance, Engineering Manager & Director of Member Services.
- Proposed 2026-2029 RUS Work Plan 3 options presented; strategic plan & infrastructure improvement priorities discussed. Motion carried to approve staff-recommended option. Staff exited room.
- Key Ratio Trend Analysis YE 2024 presented.
- Reviewed July monthly & YTD financial trends. Operating margins \$2,411,018 compared to \$2,240,011 last year; equity at 42.66%; 12-mo TIER 3.00 & DSC 2.12.
- Reviewed operations report: 148 outage incidents; longest duration of an outage 449 min due to downed tree; largest # affected by single outage 747 due to loss of Ameren transmission.
- Reviewed load control report, safety report, AIEC's vegetation mgmt cost survey, & USDA's FOIA request relating to submission of grant.
- Motion carried to approve slate for CFC 2025 District 5 Nominating Committee.
- Motion carried to vote for CoBank's 2025 Director candidate & 2026-2027 Nominating Committee slate.
- Next mtg 9/30/25 @ 6:00 p.m.



HUNTING SAFETY

- Before you begin a hunt, note the location of power lines and other electrical equipment. Dense trees can make them hard to see.
- Obey all signs that advise electrical hazards, especially when placing a tree stand.
- Never use power poles to support a tree stand.
- Never shoot at power lines or electrical equipment.
- When setting up and taking down the stand, make sure you don't make contact with any overhead electrical equipment.
- If you're using a portable generator on your trip, don't run it in a confined area.

For more information visit:



POWERING YOUR FUTURE

17 SCHOLARSHIPS
\$3,000 EACH

The electric cooperatives of Illinois are proud to offer scholarships to deserving students in our co-op family. Whether you're a high school senior planning to attend college or interested in a career as a lineworker, there's a scholarship opportunity for you.

Applications are now open for the 2026 Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarships. Apply by December 31, 2025, for most scholarships, or by April 30, 2026, for the lineworker scholarship.

Scan the QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/IECScholarships> for more details.



**IEC MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIPS**