

Apply Now for \$2,000 Scholarships

13 College Scholarships available through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship Program. Scholarships are available for children of electric cooperative members and employees attending four-year colleges and universities or two-year community colleges.

Deadline: December 31, 2021

1 Line School Scholarship available through the LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship for Lincoln Land Community College. Available for children of co-op members, co-op employees or directors, those presently enrolled in the lineworker school, and those who have served/are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard.

Deadline: April 30, 2022



Visit menard.com/scholarships to apply.



**Our office will close at noon
December 22 and reopen
Monday Dec 27 for
Christmas and will close
December 31 for New Year's.**



Winter Outages

Strong winds, heavy snow and ice can lead to power outages

- Download our MyMEC App to stay connected.
- Restock your home and car emergency kits.
- Generator users should fill out our application at www.menard.com/generators.

Winter Bills

Consider these reasons for winter bill increases

- **Holiday Traditions** – lighting displays, baking, entertaining & overnight guests.
- **Heating** – increased furnace fan use, space heaters, electric fireplaces, fireplace dampers left open, cold drafts, electric blankets & humidifiers.
- **Outdoor Life** – engine block heaters, tank heaters, well pump & livestock heat lamps.
- **Lifestyle Changes** – increases in indoor & outdoor lighting, staying home, video game & television time, hot baths & hot tubs.



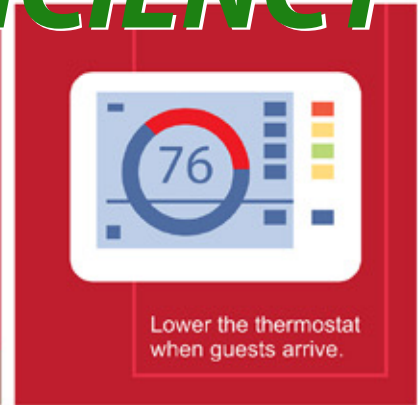
12 DAYS OF EFFICIENCY



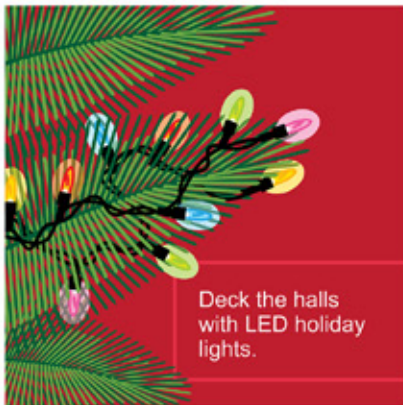
Keep the winter chill outdoors by sealing air leaks around your home.



Close the fireplace damper when a fire is not burning.



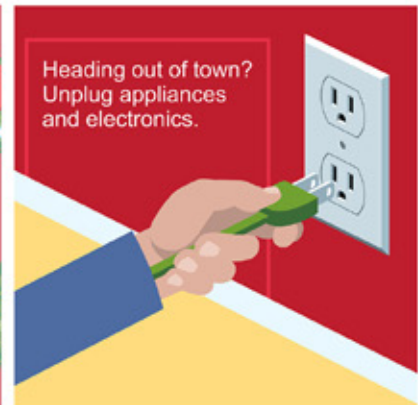
Lower the thermostat when guests arrive.



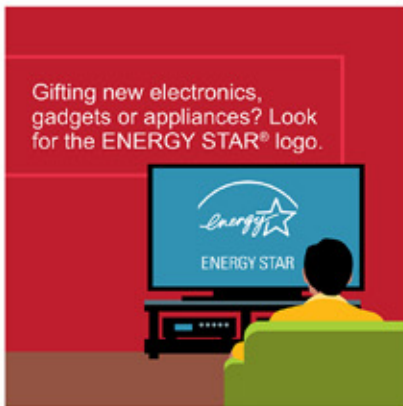
Deck the halls with LED holiday lights.



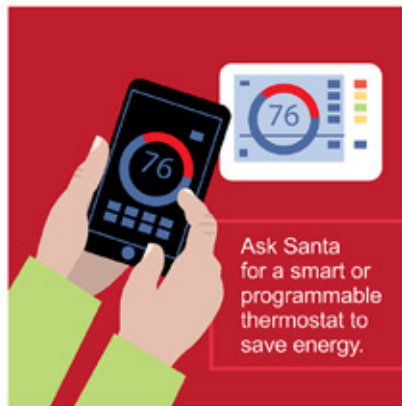
Use a timer to turn off holiday lights at night when you're sleeping.



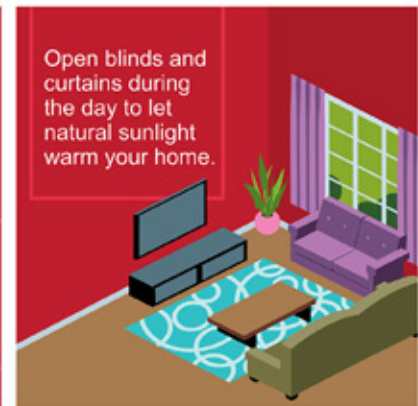
Heading out of town? Unplug appliances and electronics.



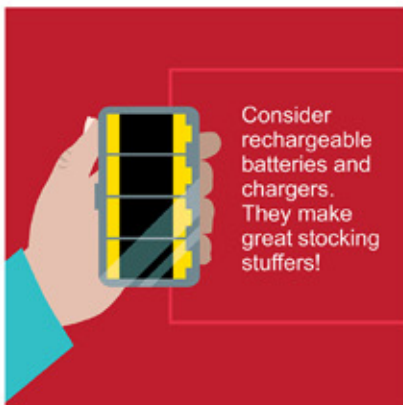
Gifting new electronics, gadgets or appliances? Look for the ENERGY STAR® logo.



Ask Santa for a smart or programmable thermostat to save energy.



Open blinds and curtains during the day to let natural sunlight warm your home.



Consider rechargeable batteries and chargers. They make great stocking stuffers!



Cooking a holiday feast? Use the oven light to check the progress of your dish.



When your holiday tree is lit, turn off lamps and enjoy the cozy ambiance.



If only your holiday shopping was this convenient

December is often full of busy days, long to-do lists, and budget blowing expenses. Consider our BudgetWise programs and easy payment options to make at least one thing, paying your electric bill, just a little bit more convenient. Sorry we can't make that shopping list any shorter.

Automatic Payment: We will deduct the total amount from your savings or checking account automatically on the 10th, 17th or 24th of each month. See the back of your payment stub or www.menard.com for the form. Coming Soon: Credit card automatic payments.



MyMEC App: Download the MyMEC App by searching for Menard Outage in the Google Play or iOS App store. The app allows you to securely pay your bill as well as keeping you connected during an outage.

Website: Visit www.menard.com to link to our secure online bill payment portal to pay with your credit/debit card or e-check.

Phone: Call us at 800-872-1203 anytime to pay with a credit/debit card or e-check.

Drop Off: Stop in, or use our drop box anytime, at our office at 14300 IL St Hwy 97, Petersburg.

Mail In: Allow adequate time for delivery to PO Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675.

BudgetWise Program

Budget Billing: Pay the same amount every month. Your amount due is fixed at the average of your most recent 12 months. In November or June each year you will settle up with a credit if you used less than the estimated amount of electricity or a balance due if you used more.



Average Billing: Your bill will reflect the average of your most recent 12 months, rounded to the nearest \$5 increment. The amount due may fluctuate month-to-month. There is not a settlement month each year, the amount continually rolls forward.

Board highlights

September 28, 2021

- All Directors present, exception Steve Worner. Present General Manager Alisha Anker, Mgr of Accounting Chris Hinton, Director of Accounting & Finance Brian Hartssock & Attorney Charles Smith. Ryan appointed active secretary; Patrick present remotely.
- Tom Hancock from Kelso Lynch, P.C., P.A. by Zoom reviewed year-ending 2020 Form 990, Form 990-T, and IL-Form-990 returns.
- Entered into executive session; reconvened.
- Anker reviewed monthly & YTD financial operating report, balance sheet & financial

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

- trends. Operating margins YTD as of 8/31 were \$1,944,247 compared to \$1,225,664 last year; equity at 43.98%; 12-mo TIER 3.67 & DSC 2.01.
- Reviewed Member Svs report w 269 generated cut-off tickets and \$1,120.62 in write-offs for the month.
- Reviewed Operations report w/84 incidents; longest outage 425 minutes, bad ug primary for 2 members; largest outage 202 members, large tree in line near substation.
- Entered into executive session; reconvened; adopted/approved actions taken.
- Next mtg 10/26/21

KiloWatt Korner



Who as a kid didn't hear mom say, "You're letting all the cold air out!" as you stood dumbfounded with the refrigerator door wide open looking for a snack salvation? Guilty. But the kid in me often thought, aren't I rather letting the warm air *in*. Either way you stack it up, this month we break down the energy usage of this precious keep-it-fresh appliance by comparing the U.S. Government's EnergyGuide consumer label for a 22.6 cu ft Samsung 4-dr French-door refrigerator with KiloWatt facts.

This model is an "extra" we keep in the garage space, purchased new late last year. I struggled with the justification given EnergyGuide's label telling me it would cost approximately \$83/year for the 690 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy. That said, I succumbed and do find it useful - its doors and drawers get plenty of action. I keep the Fridge temp at a reasonable 40 degrees F, the FlexZone drawer at an economic 41 degrees F, and the much-used Freezer at 0 degrees F. The icemaker is kept ON and the dog assures me the water dispenser sees daily combat.

Surprisingly, throughout the test-month I was happy to discover the unit only drew an average of 1,030 watts (W) per day given the number of hot and muggy days we endured. This equates to only 376 kWh of energy usage in the year, more like an expected \$46/yr cost. I'm sold!!

Korner Recommendation: Don't fret over the "extra" garage fridge, but be wary of its energy efficiency - an older model could cost you more than the value of its convenience.



LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) could help pay your bill. Contact your local agency as soon as possible for eligibility requirements.

MCS Community Services
Cass/Morgan County
217-243-9404

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

Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corporation
Macon County
217-428-2193 • dmcoc.org

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

Tazwood Community Services
Tazewell County
309-694-4391 • tazwoodcs.org

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holiday season?

Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use.

