

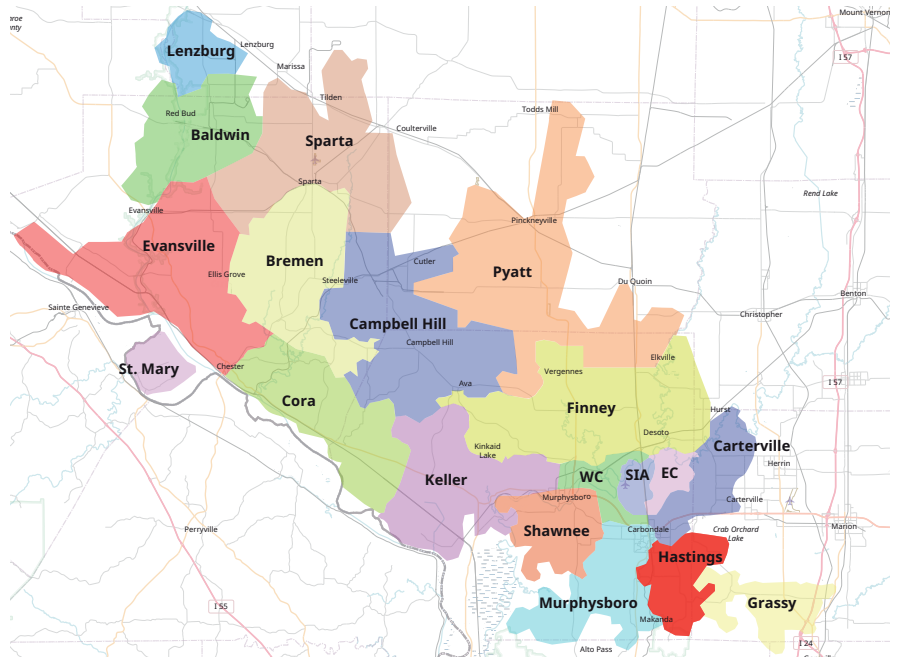


## Vegetation maintenance helps EECA reduce power outages

As your electric service provider, it is our duty to keep lines maintained so that we can provide our members with the safest and most reliable electricity possible. One of the most impactful ways we can do that is to keep up with vegetation maintenance.

The strip of land underneath and around power lines is known as right-of-way (ROW), and ROW maintenance is the number one factor that affects outage occurrences and outage duration. Over the last 18 years, EECA has seen a direct correlation between our forestry crew's ROW maintenance efforts and a significant reduction in power outages.

Last year, EECA members experienced, on average, a total outage time of only **two hours and 7 minutes**. **That means the electricity was available 99.95% of the time**. This is great in comparison to state and national averages!



To keep up, our goal is to trim and mow the ROW on a four-year rotation. This year, EECA will be doing vegetation maintenance on our Baldwin, Lenzburg, Shawnee, Cora,

and Keller substations. (To help our members understand where we will be working, we've provided our substations map above.)

If your lines may be affected, you should receive an automated phone call prior to tree work in your area. If you have questions, we encourage you to read through our Tree Trimming FAQ's at [eeca.coop](http://eeca.coop) → Engineering & Operations → Tree Trimming & ROW.

EECA Forestry Manager, Travis Deterding, is also available to answer questions about tree-trimming procedures. **Marcella Lindsay**

In addition to mowing and trimming on a four-year rotation, EECA applies herbicide to areas that have had mowing and trimming completed two years prior. This year, that work is occurring at our Murphysboro, West Carbondale, Pyatt, and Campbell Hill substations.



*Egyptian Electric forestry personnel trim branches west of Carbondale.*



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## A balanced team for reliability

The winningest basketball teams in history are ones that are consistent and have players with varying abilities. Some are better at shooting three-pointers; some are best at defense. Having a balanced mix of skills makes the team a powerhouse on the court. The way to keep electricity reliable is a bit like that, too.

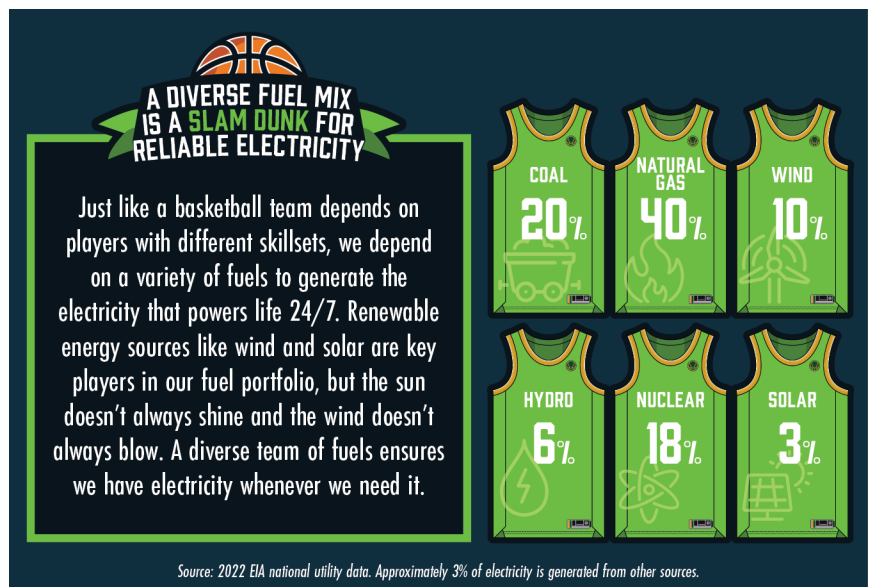
The power team first requires a foundation of consistent sources that can be put in the game any time they're needed. Having enough "always available" fuel sources like natural gas and coal can ensure consistent power generation.

Just like a team needs different players for different situations, our power grid requires multiple sources to keep the grid running. Relying solely on one player to win every game is not an effective strategy — if they get injured, you'll likely lose. Similarly, using a single fuel source for electricity generation poses a significant risk to energy reliability. Natural disasters, geopolitical tensions or unforeseen disruptions can severely impact the supply chain of a particular fuel. A diverse mix of energy sources acts as a safeguard, ensuring that the grid remains operational even in the face of unexpected challenges.

A diverse energy mix also enhances grid flexibility by accommodating the intermittent nature of renewable energy sources like solar and wind. Think of solar power like a team's inconsistent three-point shooter. It's awesome when the sun is shining bright, but what if it's nighttime or a cloudy day? That's where the other players, like wind, hydro, nuclear, natural gas and coal, can step up and keep the team scoring. **Faisal Ahmad**

A diverse set of energy sources is essential, but that's not the only thing we need to have reliable electricity — or a winning team. Basketball teams are always trying out new plays or training rookies to create a versatile lineup. Similarly, electric cooperatives are constantly innovating to maintain reliability for tomorrow, but creating new ways to make our power sources more efficient and reliable takes time, money and advances in technology that aren't necessarily ready yet.

As we continue to work on the innovations of tomorrow, the key to keeping our electricity reliable right now is ensuring a diverse "team" of fuels. Each one brings something special to the table, and together, they make sure we have the power we need, whenever we need it.







## Electric vehicle (EV) FAQs

At Egyptian Electric Cooperative (EECA), we want to be your source of power and information. Given the rising popularity of electric vehicles and the frequent inquiries we receive about them, we have put together this information to help answer any questions you might have. If you still have questions, please visit our EV webpage or give us a call!

### Why is EECA communicating about electric vehicles?

Consumer interest in electric vehicles (EVs) is growing rapidly, and EECA wants to provide information so that our members can make informed decisions when considering an EV purchase, as well as their individual available service size for at-home charging needs.

### Why is EECA involved in EV infrastructure issues?

All electric utilities are planning now how to best ensure they have the necessary electric infrastructure in place to meet future EV charging needs without jeopardizing the ability to keep reliable power flowing to our local homes and businesses. As your local energy provider, EECA is best suited to advise our consumer-members and local businesses on planning for the future. We're also actively applying for grants to expand infrastructure locally, and we've already been awarded funding!

### Can I charge my EV using an existing outlet or do I need a special outlet?

All EVs come with a 110-volt-compatible (Level 1) charging unit, which can be plugged into any standard household outlet. An eight-hour overnight charge will enable an all-electric EV to travel around 36 to 40 miles a day. If you typically drive longer distances or are in a hurry, a Level 2 charger takes about half the time and provides about 180 miles of range over an eight-hour charging period. A Level 2 charger must be installed by a licensed electrician and requires specialized charging needs.

### Does the outside temperature affect the range of an EV?

Outside temperatures, particularly colder weather, can impact the range of an EV. Unlike a gas-powered vehicle, where the heat is mostly coming from the engine, an EV must produce cabin heat and manage an optimal battery temperature with energy that comes from the battery, which can reduce battery range.

### Will an EV meet my daily driving needs?

If you are like most Americans and drive an average of 30 miles a day, an EV can meet your daily needs. Technologies continue to improve, and range is dependent on the year, make, and model.

### What kind of incentives are available for EVs?

Although EECA doesn't have consumer-member incentives today, there are a variety of tax credits, rebates and other incentives available for EV purchases. Visit [afdc.energy.gov/laws/electric-vehicles-for-tax-credit](https://afdc.energy.gov/laws/electric-vehicles-for-tax-credit) to learn about federal incentives available through the Clean Vehicle Credit program. State of Illinois incentives can also be found on the site.

### Should I let my co-op know if I purchase an EV?

Yes, please! If you purchase an EV, let us know so we can better serve you. As more EECA consumer-members buy EVs, it's helpful to know where they're located in our area so we can ensure we have the necessary infrastructure in place to meet charging needs and ensure reliable power. **John Walker**



Whether you're ready to make an EV purchase or wondering if an EV can meet your daily driving needs, we're here to help you make an informed decision. Give us a call at 800-606-1505 or visit our website and read through all of our EV resources.



>> Scan here to visit our electric vehicle webpage. >>

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**OPERATION**



Congratulations to our three (2023 4Q) Egyptian Electric Cooperative Operation Round Up recipients! Specialized Equine Services received \$1,000 to support therapeutic riding programs for all, regardless of income. \$500 was given to St. Francis Care to support their outstanding efforts in animal care and adoption, and another \$500 was given to 724 Ministries to contribute to their weekly community meal initiative in Murphysboro.



To register to contribute to our charitable fund, visit [eeca.coop/roundup](http://eeca.coop/roundup), or to apply for funds, visit [eeca.coop/applytoroundup](http://eeca.coop/applytoroundup) today!



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**MEMBER PRIZES**

Every month we will have three member's names hidden throughout our Egyptian Electric News section. If you find your name, call our office and identify yourself and the page that it is on and you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.



# Ways to Pay

## • Pay online

Visit [eeca.coop](http://eeca.coop) to pay on your account online through your browser on the:

- Pay Now portal on our homepage that is used for a quick one-time payment, or
- SmartHub, where you can pay online 24/7 with a checking account or credit/debit card.

## • SmartHub app

View and pay your bill with your smartphone or other device. Find this FREE app in your app store!



## • Pay by mail

Mail your payment check with the stub, located at the bottom of your bill. Allow up to 10 business days for delivery.

## • Pay by phone

Call us during or outside business hours, 24/7, through our secure payment system at (844) 759-3977, to pay your bill, update your account information or set up recurring payments.

This is an automated service, available in English and Spanish. It accepts Visa, Mastercard and Discover cards, and checks though E-Check!

## • Recurring payments

Choose an automatic payment deduction from the account of your choice. This is set up as a recurring payment draft from your credit, debit, checking or savings account on the due date shown on your bill.

- Sign up for recurring credit/debit card payments through SmartHub or at (844) 759-3977.
- Sign up for recurring checking/savings account withdrawals through SmartHub or complete the Automatic Bank Draft Authorization Form (from our office or online).


## • Pay at our office

Stop by our office at 1732 Finney Road, north of Murphysboro, during business hours to pay your bill. An after-hours kiosk and drop box is available on the south side of our building. This kiosk accepts cash (no change given), E-checks, Visa, Mastercard and Discover cards.

## • Offsite payment kiosks

Make secure payments at one of two offsite kiosk locations! Kiosks accept cash (no change given).

### → *Marketplace Shell*

2301 N Reed Station Pkwy  
Carbondale, IL  
6 a.m.-midnight daily 

### → *Neighborhood Co-op Grocery*

1815 W Main Street  
Carbondale, IL  
8 a.m.-9 p.m. daily

Other offsite payments can be made by Moneygram. See below for more information.

For questions, contact us during business hours to speak with a Member Service Representative at (800) 606-1505.

## • VanillaDirect Pay

VanillaDirect is an alternative method to transact real-time cash payments conveniently and safely to Egyptian Electric from Vanilla Direct's expansive retail network, allowing our cash-preferred consumer-members to thrive in today's evolving digital world. By scanning the barcode on your Egyptian Electric payment stub, you can make secure cash payments to your Egyptian Electric Cooperative account at any cashier location at any participating VanillaDirect retailer

across the U.S. Participating locations include stores such as Walmart, Walgreen's, Dollar General, Family Dollar and CVS, to name a few. A third-party retailer fee of \$1.50 is charged by the vendor for each transaction made, and fee amounts and terms associated



with Vanilla Direct Pay are subject to change at any time. For additional information visit [pay.vanilladirect.com](http://pay.vanilladirect.com).

## • Moneygram

Moneygram is also an alternative off-site cash payment method at retailer locations such as participating CVS and Walmart stores. For all Moneygram payment locations, visit [moneygram.com](http://moneygram.com). Fees associated with this payment method are also third-party.