



**Egyptian Electric  
Cooperative Association**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

**POWERFUL  
PAST**



**FUTURE  
FOCUSED**

**THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024**  
**4:30 PM** REGISTRATION & DOORS OPEN  
**6:00 PM** BUSINESS MEETING

EGYPTIAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
1732 FINNEY ROAD  
MURPHYSBORO, IL 62966



# Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

1732 Finney Road  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
Phone: (800) 606-1505  
Fax: (888) 554-8181  
Office hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. M-F  
eeca.coop  
@eeca.coop  
@egyptianelectriccoop

Egyptian Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Murphysboro, Illinois, is a consumer-owned cooperative that supplies electricity to our members in south-western Illinois. More than 14,900 households and businesses receive electricity from Egyptian Electric Cooperative. We are a distribution utility and purchase our power from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), which is located south of Marion, Illinois, at Lake of Egypt.

## Mission Statement

Our mission of “improving the quality of life of our members at a reasonable cost” guides us as we meet the diverse needs of our service area in Southern Illinois. Serving members in portions of 10 counties, including Franklin, Jackson, Johnson, Monroe, Perry, Randolph, Union, Williamson, Washington, and Saint Clair, we provide high-quality electric service at reasonable rates. We benchmark our efforts by our four core values: integrity, accountability, teamwork and commitment to community. At Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, our employees serve you, and we make management decisions based on these values. In other words, we desire to truly live up to your expectations!

## Executive VP/General Manager

Shane Hermetz, P.E.

## Board of Directors

Paul Hicks, President  
Kevin Liefer, Vice President  
Randall Campbell, Secretary-Treasurer  
Rick Asaturian  
Kevin Bame  
Mary Jo Homan  
Ken Jarrett  
Steve Prest  
Paul Pyatt

# 2024

Annual Meeting of the Members

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Tune into 87.9 FM to listen live.

# Notice of Annual Meeting

Notice was given to the membership by method of the July Illinois Country Living magazine, that was mailed out the end of June. Notice included that the 86th Annual Meeting of the Members would be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, at our headquarters facility at 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro, Illinois. Gates will open, registration, and food service will begin at 4:30 p.m. Boxed hot dog dinners & drinks will be provided to all in attendance. \$20 bill credits will be issued to each consumer-member upon registration (credit will be applied to August bills, one per membership). The business meeting will

take place on-stage outdoors inside our truck storage bays. Employees will assist with directing traffic and parking inside of our fenced area. Live entertainment will be provided by Honey & Tar beginning at 4:30 p.m. The business meeting will begin promptly at 6 p.m. Consumer-members will have the choice to attend the meeting in person near the stage, or by listening to the radio broadcast at 87.9 FM in their vehicle in on-site parking. Scholarship and attendance prize drawings will immediately follow the business meeting. Winners must be in attendance to claim their prize.

## Annual Meeting Agenda

▶ **1. Credential Committee Report**

The Committee will report on the number of members present and determine a quorum.

▶ **2. Reading of the Notice of the Annual Meeting**

and proof of the due publication or mailing thereof, or the waiver(s) of notice of the meeting as the case may be.

▶ **3. Reading of the Minutes**

of the 2023 Annual Meeting and action to approve the minutes.

▶ **4. Election**

of three (3) board members.

▶ **5. Presentation of Reports**

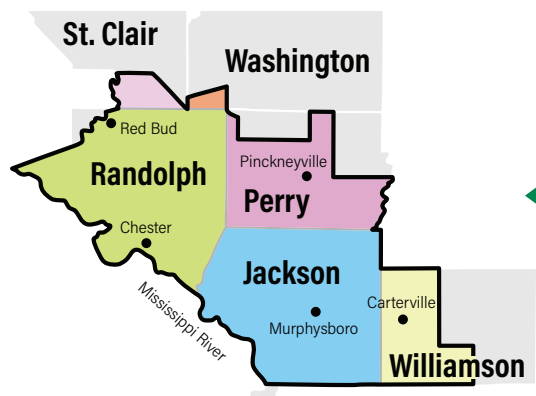
from the Board Secretary-Treasurer, Board President and Executive Vice President/ General Manager and consideration of necessary action thereon.

▶ **6. Unfinished Business**

▶ **7. New Business**

▶ **8. Adjournment**

**Egyptian Electric Cooperative  
Service Territory**



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FOR OUTAGE INFORMATION & OTHER COOPERATIVE NEWS

Instagram @egyptianelectriccoop Facebook @eeca.coop eeca.coop



Randall Campbell  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

# Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting

**JULY 13, 2023**

Pursuant to notice, the 85th annual membership meeting of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association was held at the office of the Cooperative, located at 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro, Illinois, on Thursday evening, July 13, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by President Paul Hicks. After the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance, the invocation was given by EECA employee, Mr. Matt McElroy.

Mr. Hicks reported that a quorum was present prior to the start of the meeting. There were 344 registered members and 674 total attendees.

Secretary-Treasurer Randall Campbell then presented the official notice of the meeting, the certificate of mailing, and moved that said notice and certificate be approved. Motion was seconded by Mary Wunderlich. Motion carried. Mr. Campbell moved to dispense with the reading of the 2022 minutes and that they be approved as printed. Motion was seconded by Al Yancey. Motion carried.

Mr. Stuart Langrehr, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the report of the Nominating Committee meeting, held on May 16, 2023, at which time Steve Prest of Coulterville, Richard Asaturian of Carbondale, and Mary Jo Homan of Chester were officially nominated for the office of directors for the ensuing three years.

Attorney Casey Twomey was called upon to conduct the election of directors. There were no nominations filed by petition. A motion

was made by Ralph Timpner, seconded by Stephen Schlager, to cast a unanimous ballot to elect Steve Prest, Richard Asaturian, and Mary Jo Homan, as the 2023 directors for a three-year term. Motion carried.

Mr. Campbell presented the Treasurer's Report for 2022 and moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved. Motion was seconded by Dan Connelly. Motion carried.

President Hicks welcomed everyone and reminded them that every registered member would receive a \$20 electric credit on their August bill. He then introduced the General Manager, Mr. Shane Hermetz.

Executive Vice President/General Manager Shane Hermetz started his remarks by welcoming all members to the 85th Annual Meeting of Members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative. Mr. Hermetz introduced past employees and directors and asked the membership to recognize the hard work of EECA employees. He asked members to review the annual meeting program, where he referenced the Cooperative's reliability was at 99.975%, the Cooperative had returned \$848,612 in 2022 and will be returning \$752,729 in Capital Credits during the summer of 2023 to members who had service in 1992. He discussed the Operation Round Up program and gave an update on its success since its inception in 2019.

He continued his discussion, updating members on how the cooperative was addressing inflation, supply chain concerns, blackout concerns, and the changing power supply landscape. He

discussed that the cooperative was addressing the electrification of the transportation fleet by adding electric vehicle charging equipment in strategic locations.

In closing, Mr. Hermetz discussed rate concerns and stated that pressures on electric rates were dropping and rates should remain stable for the remainder of the year. Mr. Hermetz took questions from the membership related to the possibility of electric blackouts, high electricity prices, and the overall energy landscape.

There was no old business or no new business to come forward at the meeting.

President Hicks called to adjourn the business meeting at 6:35 PM, and on a motion by Butch Hicks, seconded by Ryan Fischer, Motion carried.

Before the business meeting, drawings were held for attendance prizes. Winners of the gift bag with a t-shirt, hat, and fuel card include the following members: James Buitt, Troy Deming, and Patsy Wilson. Winners of the water jugs were the following members: Paul Penrod, and Delores Bender. The winners of the weather radios were members Christine Davis and Joyce Kramer.

Following the business meeting, the 2023 scholarship winners were announced. The winners were as follows: Logan Salger, Madison Kribs, Tim Reiman, Hunter Havens, Alek Abell, Michael Fisher, Claire Deterding, Annie Kennedy, Jesse Heath, and Jacob Powers.

Upon completion of the scholarship announcements, the remaining attendance prize winners were

announced. The winners of \$50 were as follows: John Freeberg, Louis Glidewell, Bill Gottschalk, Karla Heinz, Neil Rodewald, and Edwin Sterns. The winners of \$100

were as follows: Rolland Hargis, Hunter Havens, Barry Newman, John Rieckenberg, David Jennings, Russell Greer, and Donald Stallman.

Respectfully submitted,

*Randall Campbell*  
Secretary-Treasurer

# Where does your dollar go?



## Illinois Country Living

*As reader incentives, we award three consumer-members monthly with \$10 bill credits, if they locate their name within the body of our center section.*

If you are a consumer-member of Egyptian Electric Cooperative, unless you have opted out, you receive a monthly magazine, called the Illinois Country Living (ICL), that is edited and published by our statewide association, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). The magazine covers rural issues, provides commentaries from Illinois leaders, columns on safety, health, energy conservation, gardening, a calendar of events, and of course, ever-popular recipes from Illinois' best country cooks. The magazine's duty is to help the Illinois electric cooperatives communicate with their consumer-members. AIEC has been designing and printing these magazines for more than 75 years. Egyptian Electric is one of 20 Illinois electric cooperatives that provide the ICL magazine to their consumer-members monthly.

The Illinois Country Living magazine is the largest circulation of any monthly publication in Illinois. In fact, more than 190,000 magazines are mailed statewide each month, with just over 12,000 of those going to Egyptian Electric consumer-members!

The center four (4) pages of the magazine are exclusively reserved for EECA and are published each month by EECA staff. We refer to it as our "center section" or "monthly newsletter," and specific to our cooperative that include topics such as official member news releases, Annual Meeting notices, office closing dates, information on energy efficiency, storm preparation, how to pay your bills, and employee milestones. Page 6 in the magazine is also given to Egyptian Electric and utilized for important cooperative information as well.



# Capital Credits

**QUESTIONS**  
ON CAPITAL CREDITS?  
Contact us at  
[capcredit@eeca.coop](mailto:capcredit@eeca.coop)

A primary difference between an investor-owned company, or any business for that matter, and a cooperative, is that we operate with a not-for-profit business model - owned by the consumer-members we serve. An investor-owned (for-profit) company gives excess revenue (dividends) back to its investors, or to those who own stock in the company. When you pay your Egyptian Electric bill each month, you are accumulating equity in your cooperative through capital credit allocations. When the cooperative has a positive margin (excess of income over expenses), the margin is allocated through a capital credits system according to each member's contribution

to the positive margin. Consumer members are assigned an individual capital credit account, separate from their billing account.

The Board of Directors, on an annual basis, weighs the financial condition of the Cooperative and the want to distribute capital credits. Capital credits are refunded

refunded in accordance with the Cooperative bylaws & policies.

Sometimes when a distribution of capital credits is made, past members of the cooperative cannot be found. When this happens, these capital credits are placed in an Unclaimed Capital Credits account. If you know of or are related to anyone that may have distributed capital credits due to them, please call or email us at [capcredit@eeca.coop](mailto:capcredit@eeca.coop). It is important to keep your address, email, and other personal information up to date in our system in the event you move off our lines to ensure you receive your capital credits as they are paid out.

Capital credits allocated from the previous year are reported on your June bill yearly, and the methodology to calculate these amounts are also published annually in our May Illinois Country Living magazine.

**“ Each year, the Board of Directors evaluates the Cooperative's financial condition to decide whether to distribute Capital Credits. These credits are refunded in accordance with the Cooperative's bylaws when the board determines it won't jeopardize the Cooperative's financial health. ”**

when the board determines that it will not jeopardize the financial condition of the Cooperative and these general capital credits are

# Board of Director Elections

The 2nd Principle of the Rochdale Principles – democratic member control - states, “Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Those serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary, cooperative members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.”

You may ask, what does a Director do? Not only do board members attend monthly board meetings (board meetings are typically the last Tuesday of each month at the Cooperative headquarters), they are involved in mitigating risk, setting rates, understanding power supply, strategic planning, financial decision making, promoting the cooperative business model, gaining insights on political and environmental impacts, among many other responsibilities.

Voting in the Cooperative Board Election is one of the things that make EECA a cooperative. Each year at our annual meeting, the membership elects three (3) members to represent them on the board. We can't do it without you, so vote!

**Board candidates are cooperative consumer-members, like you! When elected, board members serve three-year terms and seat a board of nine (9) directors.**

# Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee met at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at the headquarters office to nominate directors to be elected at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Members. The nominating committee selected the following members, for director seats, to serve a three-year term beginning in 2024:

- **Randall Campbell, Chester**
- **Paul Hicks, Carbondale**
- **Paul Pyatt, Pinckneyville**

There were no nominations filed by petition during the 2024 director's cycle by the May 13,

2024 due date. Members of the 2024 Nominating Committee are:

- **Matt Crain, Carbondale**
- **Richard Fager, Murphysboro**
- **Wes Fritsche, Marissa**
- **Kenneth Hollmann, Gorham**
- **Royce Hoops, Chester**
- **Stuart Langrehr, *Chair*, Evansville**
- **Jefferson Lindsey, Carbondale**
- **Donald Stallman, Chester**
- **Cynthia Winter, Pinckneyville**

## Board Candidate Profiles



**RANDALL CAMPBELL, CHESTER**, currently serves as EECA Board Secretary-Treasurer and will be completing 12 years as an Egyptian Electric Cooperative Board of Director. In that time, Campbell has held every office on the Board including Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President, and President. He is a Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and holds Board Leadership (BLC) and Director Gold Certifications from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Randall was appointed this year to the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Board of Directors.

Mr. Campbell retired from Thrivent Financial in Chester, where he worked for more than 27 years. His previous experience includes working as a Control Operator for Illinois Power's Baldwin Power Plant.

He and his wife, Myrna, have been married 46 years and have two children.



**PAUL HICKS, CARBONDALE**, has served as the EECA Board President the last three years and is completing 26 years on the Board of Directors, having also served in every officer role on the board over his tenure. He has completed training to earn his CCD, with his BLC and Director Gold Certification.

He has two degrees from SIU Carbondale and has been the Pastor at Murdale Baptist Church in Carbondale since 1970. Paul is active in the Illinois Baptist Disaster Relief Association and has been involved in numerous community initiatives & disaster relief activities over the years.

Mr. Hicks and his late wife, Donna, were married for 52 years and share two sons, a daughter-in-law, and five grandchildren.



**PAUL PYATT, PINCKNEYVILLE**, has served as all officer roles on the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Board and is seeking reelection after serving 28 years. He has completed coursework to become a CCD, has obtained his BLC and most recently his Director Gold Certification.

Mr. Pyatt previously served on the Power Production committee for the Southern Illinois Power Cooperative Board but retired from his position earlier this year. Paul is a retired farmer of Pyatt Brothers Farms, LLC. He and his wife, Joyce, have been married 53 years. They have a son, daughter-in-law and three grandsons. Paul also currently serves as the Secretary for the Trinity Lutheran Church in Conant.



Randall Campbell  
Secretary-Treasurer

# Treasurer's Report

The information below is from the Egyptian Electric Cooperative's 2023 audited financial statements.

The year-end balance sheet lists assets and liabilities totaling \$110,374,565. This compares to year-end assets and liabilities of \$108,130,394 for the year ending 2022.

Our long-term debt for the year ending 2023 was \$32,466,296 compared to \$33,974,274 for the year ending 2022.

Revenue, as reported in the Statement of Earnings, from electric sales increased from the prior year; revenue reported for the year ending 2023 was \$45,263,891; in comparison, revenue for the year ending 2022 was \$42,770,661.

Total Operating Expense for the year ending 2023 was \$43,030,182, increasing 2.26% from \$42,078,394 in 2022.

The wholesale cost of power continues to be our largest Operating Expense. Electric power, as

purchased from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), for the year ending 2023 totaled \$27,600,894 up from \$27,546,832 for the year ending 2022. Our wholesale power cost is 64.14% of our total cost of electric service.

Other operating expenses break down as follows. Distribution line operations and maintenance totaled \$6,033,280, or 14.02% of our cost. This is the second largest group of expenses at our Cooperative. Depreciation, interest, and taxes collectively as a group totaled \$5,479,996, or 12.74% of our total cost.

Administration, consumer accounts, and consumer service totaled \$3,916,012, or 9.1% of our cost. Non-operating margins, which show up as other income, amounted to \$82,086.

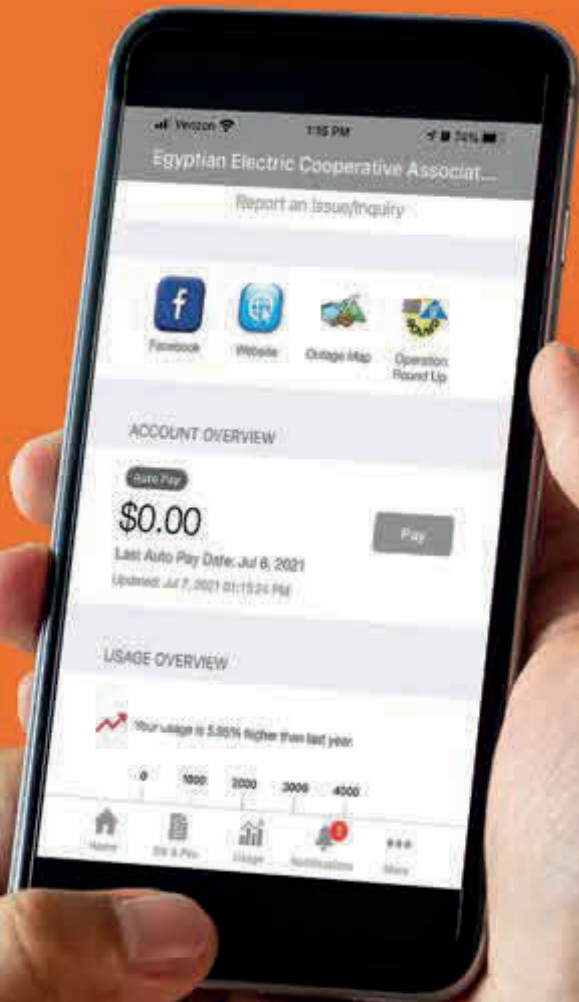
The bottom line is that we finished the year with a positive margin of \$2,315,795 for 2023 to be allocated back to you, the members of the Cooperative, as Capital Credits.

## 2023 Statement of Earnings

Operating Revenue .....	\$45,263,891
Cost of Power .....	\$27,600,894
Operations & Maintenance .....	\$6,033,280
Depreciation, Interest and All Other .....	\$9,396,008
Total Cost of Electric Service .....	\$43,030,182
Operating Margins .....	\$2,233,709
Non-operating Margins .....	\$82,086
Total EECA Margins .....	\$2,315,795
Total SIPC Capital Credits .....	\$1,127,334
Other Capital Credit Allocations .....	\$221,929
Total Capital Credits .....	\$3,665,058



# Take control of your account with



## View your bill

Review your current bill or billing and payment history. You can even enroll in paperless billing to reduce clutter.

## Pay your bill

Enroll in AutoPay or make one-time payments with credit/debit cards or checking/savings account.

## Report an outage or issue

From our SmartHub home screen, you can easily report an outage, other issue or inquiry.

## Shortcuts

Access important alerts, sign up for Operation RoundUp, get Outage Map details, view our Facebook page & website, and quick methods to Contact Us.

## Register your account today!

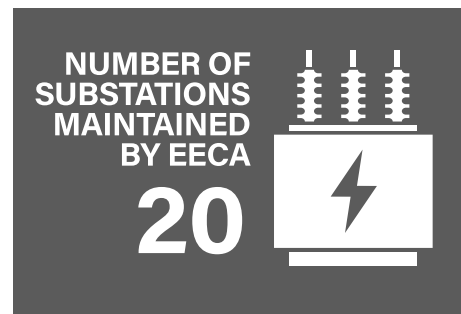
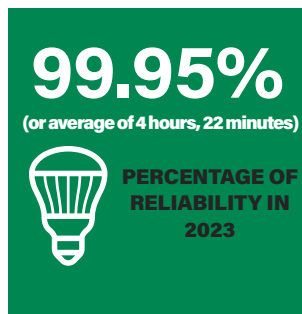
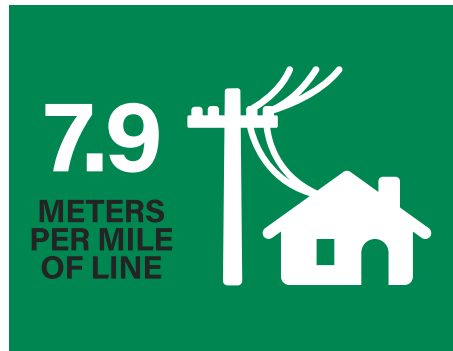
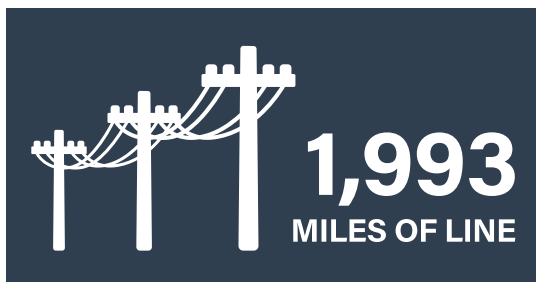
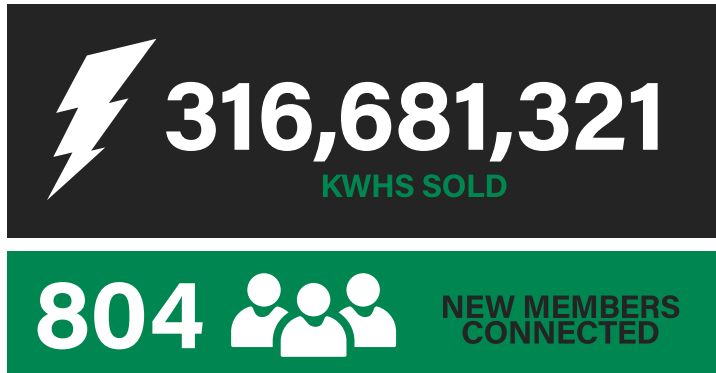
Visit SmartHub at [eeca.coop](http://eeca.coop) to view our step-by-step guide on how to sign up!



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



# 2023 EECA Highlights





Shane Hermetz  
Executive VP / General Manager

# Manager's Report

On behalf of the employees and Board of Directors, welcome to the 86th Annual Meeting. Exciting things continue to occur at your cooperative.

For the past few years, our message at the Annual Meeting has been to address the changing electric industry. As a recap, we have discussed the continuing transition from fossil-based generation toward resources that are fueled by the sun and wind (renewable-based generation). We have discussed the impacts of inflation and supply chain constraints. More and more members are investing in electric generators with ownership of at home solar generation. Additionally, members are moving toward the adoption of electric cars and trucks.

In line with the theme of the 2024 Annual Meeting 'Powerful Past – Future Focused', we will focus more on discussing the solution rather than listing the challenges.

Change is the only constant and our multi-year strategic vision addresses more than change management, it lays out a path to ensure continued success. The father of modern business management, Mr. Peter Drucker, once said, "The greatest danger in times of turbulence is not the turbulence, it is to act with yesterday's logic."

The key pieces of our strategic vision include the following, as well as our strategic pillars below:

- ▶ Building on our power past by focusing resources on System Reliability to accommodate the growing demand for electricity.

- ▶ Making key investments to deploy advanced technology solutions, where needed, to improve the quality of life of all members.
- ▶ Focus resources on the workforce of today and tomorrow by adopting new workforce attraction methods to ensure proper succession planning.
- ▶ Expand our reach with the development of regional relationships to encourage economic development in our region.
- ▶ Continue to advocate on behalf of all members on the topics that matter to members.
- ▶ Tie it all together; ensure members have rate stability.

Our mission and our priority has not changed. We will continue to provide our consumer-members with safe, reliable electricity. We continue to adapt to the changes around us to ensure that we will always have the ability to provide our consumer-members with the superior service and expert advice that you expect. We pledge our dedication to provide best in class service, reliability, affordable rates, commitment to serve our communities, and much more.

Thank you once again for being a member of this great organization.

Shane Hermetz, P.E.  
Executive Vice-President/General Manager

## SYSTEM RELIABILITY

- Modernize the local electric grid with investments to improve reliability, replace aging infrastructure, and prepare for electric vehicles and renewable energy sources.
- Modernize risk management assessments to include infrastructure, employee, and cyber safety.

## RATE STABILITY

- Increase value to our membership by innovative rate design, giving members flexibility for smart energy usage.
- Develop and adapt plans to ensure that supply chain concerns minimize disruption to Cooperative members while also monitoring and minimizing the effects of inflation.

## SUCCESSION PLANNING

- Ensure that the Cooperative has the workforce of tomorrow by investing and training employees today.
- Optimize daily operations to achieve measurable efficiencies.
- Develop innovative ways to attract, develop, and retain our workforce.

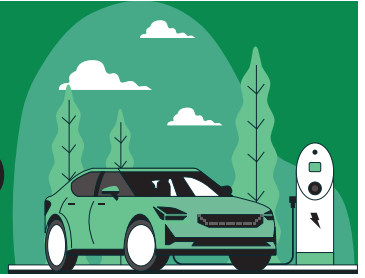
## REGULATORY PRESSURES

- Advocate for power supply choices that best match the needs of EECA and its power supplier, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC).
- Develop local and regional relationships to encourage economic development and broadband deployment in Southern Illinois.

## TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT

- Modernize electric grid devices as appropriate with the latest technology.
- Assist members with smart energy choices through education on rate choices and smart technology choices in the home.

# CONSIDERING AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV)?



## WHAT YOUR ELECTRIC COOP WANTS YOU TO KNOW

**KEEPING US IN THE LOOP ENSURES YOU HAVE RELIABLE SERVICE!**

Planning to purchase an EV? Let us know!  
We'll ensure that your electric service is adequate for charging at home.

### COST OF CHARGING

Wondering about the cost of charging your EV? Trust our experience, so you can budget accurately and enjoy the savings of electric driving! Below are the two EVs in our fleet, along with data based on usage and charging at our headquarters.



**Chevrolet Bolt**

Average Cost to Charge\* - \$0.033/mile

A comparable Chevy Malibu costs \$0.105/mile with regular unleaded gasoline (holds 15.8 gallons/avg 30 mpg)

\*Costs calculated using 2024 EECA Rate Schedule A with a bundled \$0.12/kWh, and an estimated \$3.18/gallon for gasoline.



**Ford F-150 Lightning**

Average Cost to Charge\* - \$0.060/mile

A comparable Ford F-150 costs \$0.176/mile with regular unleaded gasoline (holds 36 gallons/avg 18 mpg)

### OUR CHARGING NETWORK

Apps like ChargeHub and PlugShare can help you plan your route to find charging stations. EECA has begun to publicly install ChargePoint Level 2 chargers. We have 22 at Walker's Bluff Casino and one (1) in front of our office. We are doing what we can to be an integral part of the charging network in our part of Southern Illinois.

### EV INCENTIVES

Did you know that when you purchase a new electric vehicle, you could be eligible for a federal tax credit of up to \$7,500? In Illinois, explore additional incentives such as rebates and retail cash bonuses to make your EV purchase even more rewarding.



**Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association**

(800)-606-1505 ⚡ 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro

For more info, visit our EV web page at [eeca.coop](http://eeca.coop)



# Board President's Report



Paul Hicks  
Board President

As your Board President, I am pleased to once again report that Egyptian Electric Cooperative ended 2023 on a strong note. Our goal has been to keep members and employees safe and healthy, with the ongoing mission to improve the quality of life for our consumer-members at a reasonable cost. The safety of members and employees continues to be a top priority. Working around electricity is extremely hazardous. We want every employee to go home to their families at the end of their workday in the same condition that they came. This is and will always be our number one goal.

Commitment to Community and Member Education and Training are two of our seven Cooperative Principles which we strongly believe in. We support our consumer-members with involvement at both the local and regional levels. We support local food pantries, we support the continuing education of our children, we ensure local first responders are trained to recognize electrical hazards, and lastly, we support economic development with grants and low-interest loans with our involvement in the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG).

If you are looking for a way to help, our Operation RoundUp program is a great place to start. For an average

of 50 cents a month, or \$6 dollars a year, each member can round up their electric bill to the next whole dollar, or any additional amount, and it will be automatically donated to our 501(c)(3) charitable organization. If over 15,000 members participate in the program, 50 cents a month per member could turn into over \$90,000 a year. These funds go right back into our communities.

It is our commitment as directors and employees to work every single day to ensure our membership is the best it can be. We take our role as community leaders seriously. By being leaders in the industry and by being engaged with our communities, we will ensure that every member is the most important member and that all will have access to safe, reliable electric service, now and well into our future. Thank you for being an integral part of our Cooperative.

Sincerely,

Paul Hicks  
Board President

*In 2024, the Board approved \$1,583,320 in Capital Credit retirements, representing 100% for the years 1993 and 1994.*

## 7 COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

- 1. MEMBERSHIP:** Open to all without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.
- 2. DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL:** One member, one vote.
- 3. MEMBER ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION:** Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of the cooperative. The economic benefits of a cooperative operation are returned to the members, reinvested in the co-op, or used to provide member services.
- 4. AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE:** Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.
- 5. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION:** Cooperatives provide education and training for members so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperation.
- 6. COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES:** Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, regional, national and international structures.
- 7. CONCERN FOR THE COMMUNITY:** While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.



# CONSIDERING SOLAR?

*IT'S COMPLICATED, BUT WE ARE HERE TO HELP!*

**As your electric cooperative, we've compiled the top 5 factors you should carefully consider before committing to install solar panels:**



## Expertise and Energy Efficiency Matters

Contact EECA *first* for unbiased advice and assistance. We can evaluate your energy usage history and recommend the most suitable system size to prevent oversizing your system and save you money. Before jumping into solar, it's essential to prioritize basic energy-efficient tactics like upgrading to LED bulbs and sealing air leaks. These small investments can yield significant savings over time. Be sure to also take advantage of our free energy assessment to evaluate your home's efficiency before making the leap to solar panels.

## Financial Considerations

While solar technology has advanced and costs have decreased, there are still substantial upfront expenses. It's important to understand the projected savings solar can offer you compared to total costs. Payback periods can vary from less than 10 years to over 20 years. Financing options and incentives like Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) and tax incentives may help offset costs but high interest rates can have a significant impact on the payback of the investment.

## Types of Solar

Understand the different solar setups: roof-mounted or ground-mounted and interconnected, off-grid, or battery-backed-up systems. Are your roof conditions, pitch & shingles suitable for a rooftop solar installation? For ground-mounted applications, do you have sufficient non-shaded space to install solar for maximum production?

## Choosing a Contractor

Research reputable local contractors and obtain multiple bids. Before deciding, verify their experience and review references and contract details, including maintenance plans and expectations. Be cautious of out-of-town companies charging higher costs, making unrealistic promises, or claiming to be associated with us.

## Interconnection Process

Learn about the interconnection process with Egyptian Electric Cooperative, including system size limitations, billing expectations and net metering. For FAQs about solar panels' functionality, lifespan, energy generation, and more on our interconnections page at by scanning this QR code!



# Annual Meeting Scholarships

*Each year, Egyptian Electric Cooperative proudly awards ten \$1,000 scholarships to college or college-bound students following the Annual Meeting!*

The applicant must be a consumer-member in good standing of Egyptian Electric Cooperative or is the dependent of a member of the Cooperative who is in good standing, and must have been a member for one year prior to July 11, 2024. The student must be enrolled, or applied for enrollment, in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two or four-year college, university or vocational school for the Fall 2024 term.

Prior annual meeting scholarship applicants are eligible. Prior scholarship recipients are ineligible. Attendance for student and parent or legal guardian (if a dependent) is mandatory.

## 2023 Scholarship Winners

- ▶ Jacob Powers, 2023 Carbondale Community High School graduate, attending SIU Carbondale
- ▶ Michael Fisher, 2018 Trico High School Graduate, attending Bellevue University
- ▶ Alek Abell, 2022 Murphysboro High School graduate, attending SIU Carbondale
- ▶ Timothy Reiman, 2023 Trico High School graduate, attending McKendree University
- ▶ Logan Salger, 2023 Red Bud High School graduate, attending Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO)
- ▶ Annie Kennedy, 2020 Murphysboro High School graduate, attending University of the South
- ▶ Jesse Heath, 2023 Chester High School graduate, attending Lincoln Land Community College
- ▶ Hunter Havens, 2016 Elverado High School graduate, attending SIU Carbondale
- ▶ Claire Deterding, 2021 St. Vincent de Paul Catholic High School, attending SIU Edwardsville
- ▶ Madison Kribs, 2022 Chester High School graduate, attending SEMO



## 2023 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

*Pictured left to right: (back) Jacob Powers, Michael Fisher, Alek Abell, Timothy Reiman, and Logan Sagler; (front) Annie Kennedy, Jesse Heath, Hunter Havens, Claire Deterding, and Madison Kribs.*



# Youth Tour

For over 57 years, more than 50,000 young Americans have taken advantage of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour offered by their local electric cooperatives. Each June, hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send participants to Washington, D.C. for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing and social networking. While in D.C., participants have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Without a doubt, Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable leadership program that gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Each year Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association (EECA) selects local high school students for the annual Youth Day in Springfield and Youth to Washington! Youth Day to Springfield was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 and Youth Tour (Youth to Washington) June 14-21, 2024 in Washington D.C. This year two students were selected to represent EECA in Washington – Allie Robinson of Trico High School and Auna McClure of Elverado High School.

Students have repeatedly shared that this experience has helped them grow into successful professionals. Youth Tour participants return home with a deeper understanding and skillset of what it takes to be a leader. As a result, they



put these skills to use right here in our community. Help us find the next generation of leaders by sharing the Youth Tour opportunity with a promising student. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors, attending a public or private high schools within the Egyptian Electric service territorial footprint, or otherwise a member of the cooperative, are eligible to apply each year. EECA school districts include: Marissa, Sparta, Chester, Pinckneyville, Murphysboro, Elverado, Trico, Carbondale, Steeleville, Carterville, DuQuoin, Red Bud and Carterville. All expenses are paid by Egyptian Electric Cooperative, and transportation provided. More information can be found at [eeca.coop](http://eeca.coop).



Allie Robinson  
Trico High School



Auna McClure  
Elverado High School



# The Power of Operation Round Up



Today, hundreds of electric cooperatives across the country, including EECA, have implemented Operation Round Up, as a community focused program within their business! As all cooperatives adhere to the seven cooperative principles, including "Concern for Community," the Operation Round Up program is the perfect embodiment of this core principle. Operation Round Up is a perfect example of that cooperative spirit.

Funds are raised through a voluntary round-up process on our consumer-member bills. EECA consumer-members voluntarily enroll in the Operation Round Up program – agreeing to round their monthly electric bills up to the nearest dollar (or other specified amount). With the traditional round up option, the average contribution is 50 cents per month and never exceeds \$11.88 per year. This may not seem like a large amount, but when combined with over 12,000 members, it adds up fast and could make a significant impact. The program is always voluntary, and members can opt out anytime.

Thank you to our consumer-members, board members, and employees that are enrolled or otherwise contribute to our 501(c)(3) EECA Charitable Fund, Operation Round Up. Your generosity has allowed us to give back to organizations doing meaningful work in Southern Illinois. In the spirit of transparency and accountability, we were excited to share the impact we've achieved together. Since 2020, the collective efforts have raised an impressive \$12,443.82!

Through 2023, Operation Round Up awarded \$8,500 in grant funds, which helped local schools enhance their educational facilities, supported grassroots initiatives that foster community cohesion, and supplied much-needed funds to organizations that generously care for the people and animals in Southern Illinois.

This year, we hope to expand our reach in all directions. If you haven't enrolled already, we encourage you to enroll at [eeca.coop/roundup](http://eeca.coop/roundup) (or by checking the box on your payment stub or by calling/emailing our office)

and spread the word not only to those not enrolled in Operation Round Up but also to organizations interested in receiving financial support through Operation Round Up. You can learn more on how to apply for these funds at [eeca.coop/applytoroundup](http://eeca.coop/applytoroundup). Thank you once again to those that continue to support our not-for-profit organization.

Sincerely,

Shane Hermetz  
Executive VP/General Manager

Kevin Bame  
Operation Round Up Board President

- ▶ **Toys for Tots - \$1,500** – to provide Christmas gifts and books to over 3,300 children across 5 counties in Southern Illinois. Visit [toysfortots.org](http://toysfortots.org) to donate or contact [herrin.il@toysfortots.org](mailto:herrin.il@toysfortots.org) / (618) 303-0149 to learn more!
- ▶ **St. Francis CARE - \$1,000** – to support their outstanding efforts in animal care and adoption. As a no-kill shelter and low-cost clinic, they care for 125 dogs and cats at any given time and perform 100+ surgeries per month. Donate or volunteer at [stfrancis-care.org](http://stfrancis-care.org) or (618) 687-2079. Located at 6228 Country Club Rd, Murphysboro.
- ▶ **724 Ministries - \$2,000** – to support their free weekly community dinner initiative in downtown Murphysboro. Community Dinners every Sunday from 4-6 p.m. at 724 Walnut Street, Murphysboro. Learn more at [724ministries.org](http://724ministries.org)!
- ▶ **Giant City School - \$1,500** – to upgrade gymnasium lighting from halogen to LED for better energy efficiency.

Giant City School is a K-8 public school (approx. 233 students) located at 1062 Boskydell Road, Carbondale.

- ▶ **Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church - \$1,000** – to support their back-to-school backpack and school supply giveaway benefiting over 2,000 students across Southern Illinois. They are located at 400 E. Main Street, Carbondale. Visit [hopewellmb.org](http://hopewellmb.org) or call (618) 529-3975 to learn more!
- ▶ **Carbondale Park District - \$500** – to support their third annual Hometown Holiday Light Show, offering a drive-thru or walk-through experience for families at no cost. Located at Hickory Lodge, 1115 W Sycamore Street, Carbondale, over the Christmas holiday season ([cpkd.org](http://cpkd.org))
- ▶ **Specialized Equine Services - \$1,000** - supporting therapeutic riding programs for all, regardless of income. This organization operates out of Giant City Stables in Makanda. Contact [info@sestherapy.com](mailto:info@sestherapy.com), visit [sestherapy.com](http://sestherapy.com), or call (618) 529-4110 to learn more.

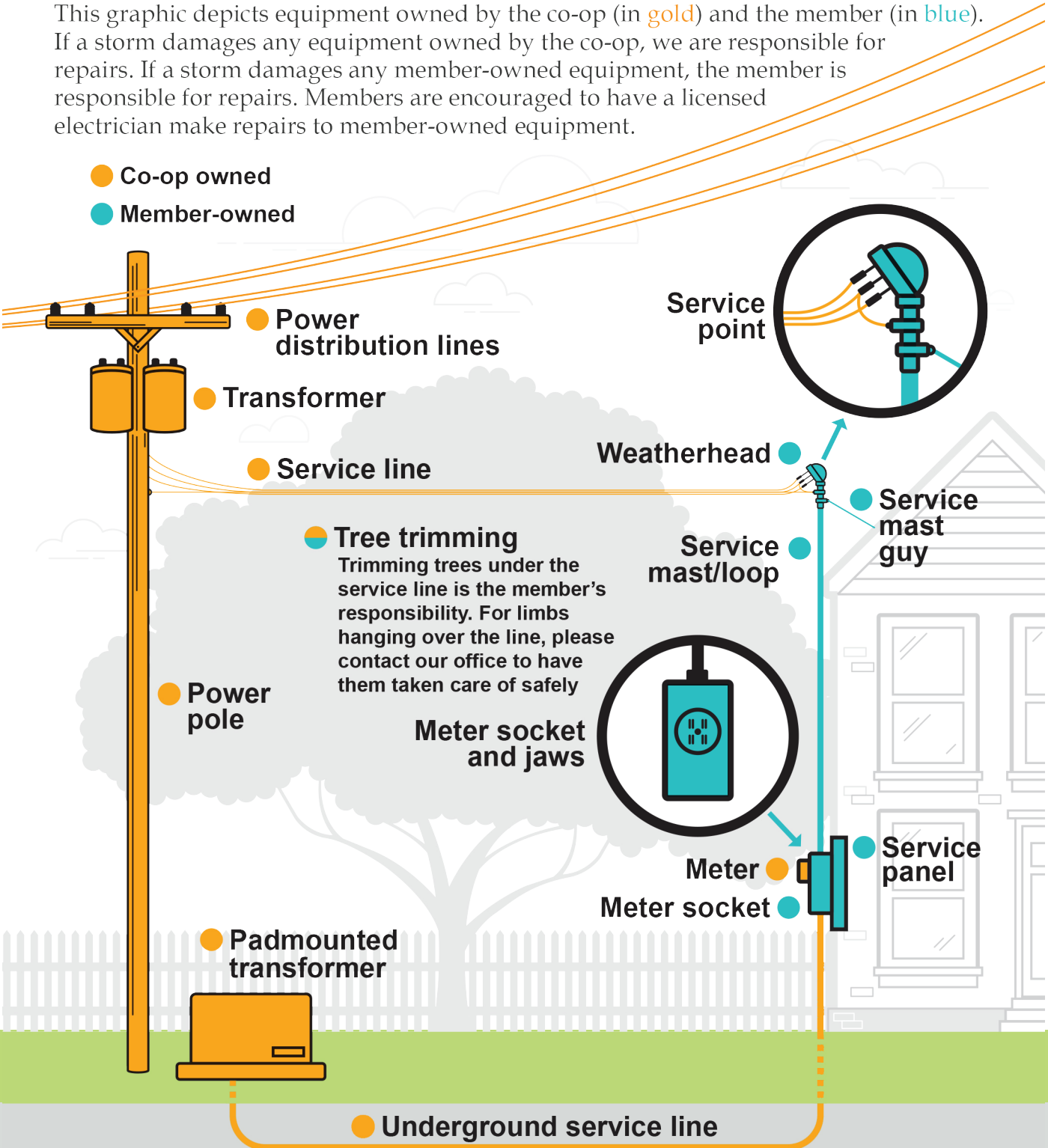
Visit [eeca.coop/roundup](http://eeca.coop/roundup), check the box on your electric bill, email request to [info@eeca.coop](mailto:info@eeca.coop) or call our office at (800) 606-1505 to sign up!

# Who Owns What?

## Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members are encouraged to have a licensed electrician make repairs to member-owned equipment.

- Co-op owned
- Member-owned



Note: Egyptian Electric Cooperative is responsible to also locate cooperative owned lines. Service lines beyond the meter are considered private lines.

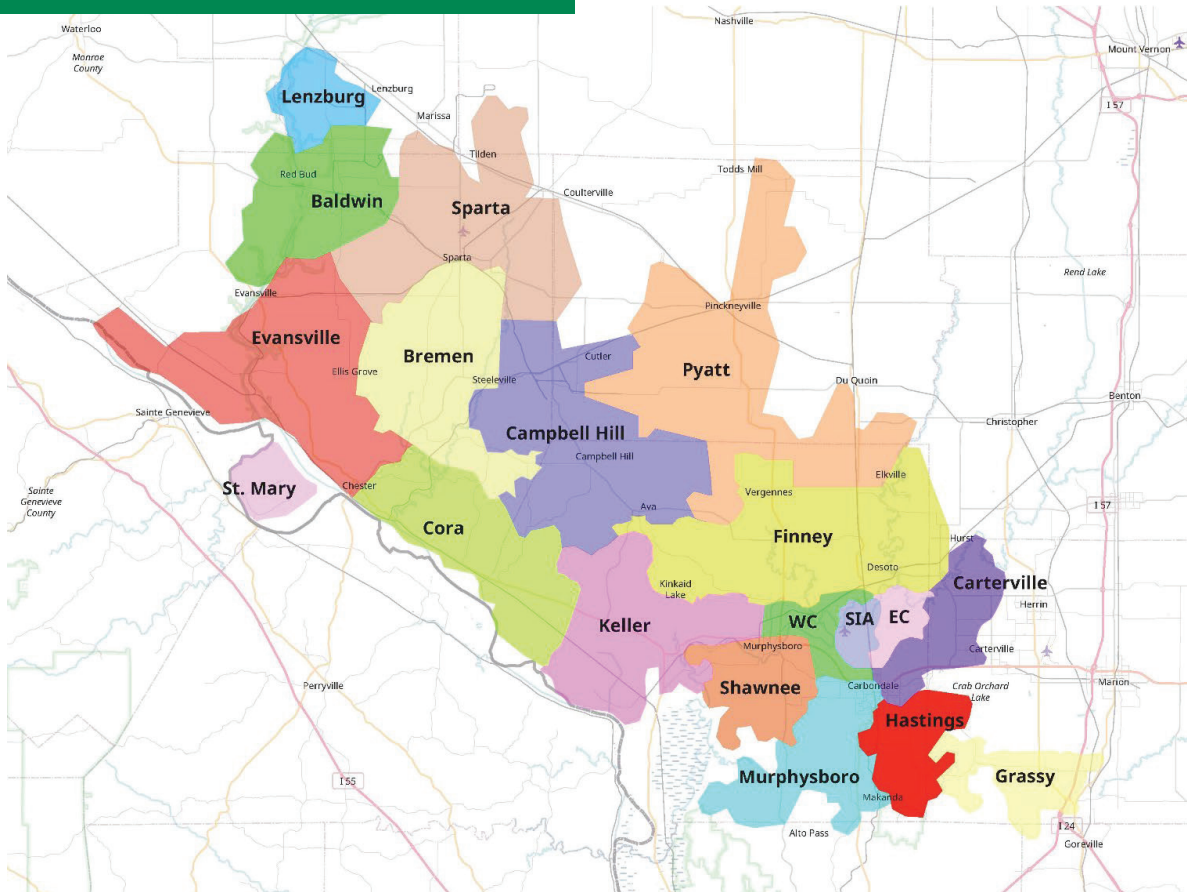
# Outage Reporting

If your power goes off, you can first check our Outage Map to see if any outages in your area have been or are being reported. To find our Outage Map on our website homepage at [eeca.coop](http://eeca.coop) or in the main menu select, Engineering & Operations>Operations>Outage Updates. Preferably, the Outage Map can be found through logging into your SmartHub account and selecting the Outage Map icon on the home screen. The Outage Map is in real time and a great source to view the extent of an outage.

**You can report an outage through SmartHub or by calling (800) 606-1505.** Before reporting an outage, please check: 1) your circuit breakers in your service panels to make sure they are in the "ON" position, 2) your main breaker panel outside below/next to the meter socket to make sure it is in the "ON" position and that your meter is reporting/flashing, and 3) with your neighbors to see if they have power.

You can report an outage through your SmartHub account, by selecting "Report an Issue/Inquiry" at the very top of the home screen. You can also describe any observations you see (a limb is on the line, a pole has been hit by a car, etc.) and monitor the status of the outage you created. Informing us of the nature of the outage or any supporting information you can provide can save a great deal of our time and your inconvenience.

You can always call us at (800) 606-1505, 24/7 to report an outage or emergency. When you call to report an outage, give us your phone number, name, and address as it is listed on the bill. If an individual outage occurs after hours, our call service will ask to what extent you checked your side of the meter, take your information and dispatch a serviceman to check it out. Please do not attempt to report an outage via social media, but instead by phone or SmartHub. Visit [eeca.coop/smarthub](http://eeca.coop/smarthub) to sign up for SmartHub or the app store on your phone.



**To access the best ECA communications, sign up for SmartHub! Through SmartHub you can report an outage, view your billing history, make payments, view important notices, and compare usage history! Learn more at [eeca.coop/smarthub](http://eeca.coop/smarthub)**



# Ways to Pay

**Egyptian Electric  
Cooperative Association**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## • 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.