



Outages and line clearance

Last year, on average, an EECA member experienced a single outage with a duration of two hours and 11 minutes. These numbers trend very well both at state and national levels. When analyzing outage data, we can see a direct correlation between maintenance and power outages, and the outage data continues to move in a positive direction.

Vegetation maintenance is just one of the attributing forms of maintenance. There are also many others, such as pole changes, line upgrades and line relocation that play an important role when it comes to system reliability. It is our duty as your electric service provider to keep our lines maintained, but it is also our responsibility to you, our members, to provide the safest and most reliable electricity possible.

We refer to the strip of land underneath and around power lines as right-of-way (ROW). ROW maintenance is the number one factor that

affects outage occurrences and outage duration. EECA maintains nearly 3,000 miles of line that serves more than 15,000 members. It is a full-time, year-round job to maintain even the minimum clearance of 15 feet each side of the line. It is our goal to trim out and mow the ROW on a four-year rotation, making outages shorter and repairs less difficult. Over the last 17 years, our improved efforts in our right-of-way maintenance have drastically reduced power outages across the board. Maintaining a cleared ROW helps with pole inspections and allows for better visibility of rotten or broken poles that could have otherwise gone undetected.

To keep up on vegetation maintenance, we continue to contract out the line share of our forestry work to Endrizzi Contracting. In 2022, we decided it was time to bring on a full-time tree crew to take on more of this work internally. By doing so, we can best ensure our membership gets the most controlled and expedited product possible.

This year EECA will be doing vegetation maintenance (trimming, tree removal, mowing/spraying of hazardous trees and brush) on our Airport, East Carbondale, Carterville, Hastings, Baldwin and Lenzburg substations, and finishing up trimming and clearing on our Murphysboro substation circuits. We will be doing herbicide applications on Grassy, Finney, Shawnee and Evansville substation circuits. We will also focus in areas where there are large

concentrations of dead ash trees as a result of the Emerald Ash Borer.

Please keep in mind, if you have a tree with a limb near the line(s) that looks hazardous or you are considering trimming a tree that is in danger of falling on the lines, we ask that you contact us before doing any work. Not everyone should attempt tree trimming near power lines. Specialized tree trimmers, certified by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in utility clearance, are the only persons legally allowed to trim within 10 feet of power lines. They understand how an electrical grid functions, the effects of tree growth patterns and tree damage and how to implement directional pruning. OSHA requires this certification because electricity is a serious and widespread hazard to tree workers. According to the Tree Care Industry Association, electricity is the leading cause of death in the tree care industry, causing about 15 percent of all industry fatalities. Tree care industry workers do not have to directly contact a power line to be electrocuted; about half of all electrocution fatalities are the result of indirect contact. **25-36-0004**

Visit our website (eeca.coop) to learn more about our tree trimming procedures and our Stump Program. If your lines will be affected and your account is active with us, you should receive an automated phone call prior to tree work in your area. Travis Deterding, our forestry manager, is always available to answer questions you may have. For information on line clearance and electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.





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- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N Reed Station Pkwy in Carbondale and 1306 N Market in Sparta

Rate changes

As discussed in prior months, we will be implementing new rates beginning with March usage/April bills. **33-17-0002** Rates for all rate classes have been studied over the last few months, plugged in with our rising costs as well as rising charges we have been and continue to receive from our power supplier. Until now these charges have been absorbed in the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) line, but moving forward they will be built into the rates, with variables still included in the PCA line and the new Delivery Cost Adjustment (DCA) line. We will discuss this further in detail in the April magazine. Information can also be found at eeca.coop.



Coffee with the Coop

Join us for a free coffee drink and discussion on questions you may have for us at the cooperative!

**I Am Java, 715 N 14th Street, Murphysboro
8:30 a.m. on Friday, February 17**

We have begun scheduling and hosting a “Coffee with the Coop” series as an olive branch to our membership to further explain continuing changes outside the yearly annual meeting that will be held the evening of July 13.

Each month we will be visiting a new location across our service territory to offer our membership a free coffee/drink and an opportunity to sit down and chat with us, ask us questions, further explain issues or discuss anything else cooperative-related. The energy landscape, challenges and technology continue to rapidly change around us, and we want to keep you informed.

There will be no time frame or agenda. We are allowing the time to get through all questions. You can come and go as you want, and minimal information will need to be provided to confirm membership. If you can’t make this one, more locations will continue to be scheduled and announced.

Electric vehicle (EV) FAQs

You've likely heard or read that most automakers are transitioning many or all their new vehicles to electric-only models over the next 10 years. Regardless of the type of car you drive today, the electrification of the transportation sector is underway. We regularly receive inquiries about electric vehicles from Egyptian Electric Cooperative (EECA) members: what are our thoughts on EVs, what do we recommend, etc. We thought it would be helpful to respond to some of those frequently asked questions in this month's newsletter.

Why is EECA communicating about electric vehicles?

Consumer interest in electric vehicles (EVs) is growing, 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.

Does EECA have an EV?

Yes! We purchased our first EV in 2020 for research and development purposes. We utilize our Chevy Bolt for local cooperative business daily. Our EV and EV charger help us access key data and gain insights into how EVs operate and what infrastructure is needed to support them. We have an EV to help raise awareness and promote understanding of EV technologies. We are also working on EV educational resources, so our members have an opportunity to ask questions and form their own opinions. We also speak to high school driver's education classes, will discuss EVs at our Coffee with the Coop events and continue to have it on display at our annual meeting.

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. **54-16-0073** As your local energy provider, EECA is best suited to advise our consumer-members and local businesses on planning for the future.

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 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. If you purchase an EV, please 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.



We understand making the switch to an EV is a big decision. 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 contact us at engineering@eecca.coop to further discuss.

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OPERATION

**ROUND
AWARDS**



Congratulations to our two (2022 4Q) Egyptian Electric Cooperative Operation Round Up program recipients! \$1,500 was awarded to Giant City School in Carbondale for LED lighting upgrades in the gymnasium and \$1,500 to 724 Ministries in Murphysboro towards their weekly “Dinner on the House” community dinner mission! Remember, these funds are from generous contributors to our Egyptian Electric Cooperative Charitable Fund NFP, so thank you!



To register to contribute to our charitable fund, visit eeca.coop/roundup, or to apply for funds, visit eeca.coop/applytoroundup today!



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MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three map location numbers hidden throughout our Egyptian Electric News section. If you find your location number, that corresponds to the one on your bill, 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 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 

→ Wright Do-It Center

1306 N Market Street
Sparta, IL
7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. M-F
7 a.m.-3p.m. Saturday

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.

• Moneygram - Express Payment

Walmart Supercenter

1410 N Market Street
Sparta, IL 62286
(618) 443-5800
CLOSES AT 9 PM

Walmart

2206 State Street
Chester, IL 62233
(618) 826-5041
CLOSES AT 9 PM

Walmart Supercenter

215 Grant Way
DuQuoin, IL 62832
(618) 542-8438
CLOSES AT 9 PM

Walmart Supercenter

6495 Country Club Rd.
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 684-5041
CLOSES AT 9 PM

Walmart Supercenter

1450 E Main Street
Carbondale, IL 62901
(618) 457-2033
CLOSES AT 8 PM

Walmart

2802 Outer Drive
Marion, IL 62959
(618)997-5618
CLOSES AT 9PM

CVS

801 W Main Street
Marion, IL 62959
(618)997-3155
CLOSES AT 11PM



To find additional locations visit:
<https://www.moneygram.com/mgo/us/en/locations>

**Fees associated with this payment method are third-party. Store hours are subject to change at any time.*