

Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Norris Electric Cooperative

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Dave Sheppard.....Jasper

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General Manager

Tamara Phillips



With economic uncertainties, we wanted to address the topic of rates and reliability. As a member of Norris Electric Cooperative, you can expect your electric rates will remain stable for 2022. The rate increases that have been discussed in the news are mostly for investor-owned utilities and we do not expect those increases to impact any of the Norris members in the near future.

Norris has a long-term contract with our power provider that locks in a portion of our rate until 2026. The other portion of our bill is based on the cost to produce the energy which is adjusted annually. We are thankful the energy costs are not market-driven or we would be looking at similar increases as the investor-owned utilities. Norris Electric has one of the lowest co-op rates in the state of Illinois because the board of directors remains committed to providing our members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

While we try to ensure reliability, sometimes this is beyond our control. Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) is our regional transmission operator and dispatcher of generation resources for parts of 15 states from the Midwest region down to the Gulf

of Mexico. MISO warns us of potential rolling blackouts due to less generation in our region.

“The reality for the zones that do not have sufficient generation to cover their load plus their required reserves is that they will have increased risk of temporary, controlled outages to maintain system reliability,” said Clair Moeller, MISO’s president and COO.

Our power contract protects us from some of the volatility of the market-based energy, it can’t protect us from these rolling blackouts that MISO is warning us about. We are part of a large electric grid and if this grid fails or there isn’t an adequate amount of generation to meet the electricity demand, rolling blackouts will be implemented. We are waiting to receive the information as to how this will happen, but it would likely cause some or all our members to be without electricity during these times.

We will keep our members informed if and when an event is expected. An event could also occur without any prior notice. Either way, we will send out information as soon as we are informed. For updates follow us on Facebook or our website at norriselectric.com.

2022 scholarships awarded

Norris Electric Cooperative offers three \$1,000 scholarships every year to high school seniors to further their education. Applications were available at all area high schools and on the co-op website. A panel of judges reviewed the applications, and with much difficulty narrowed down the list to three students.

The 2022 recipients are: Alexis Davis, daughter of Jesse and Rebekah Davis, Robinson High School; Jack Beckman, son of Tony and Michelle Beckman, Teutopolis High School; and Kaitlyn Ochs, daughter of Brad and Kimberly Ochs, Newton Community High School.

Tamara Phillips, co-op manager said, “The employees and board members of Norris Electric Cooperative have always been involved in our local schools and communities. We live here too, and like our members, have a vested interest in the future of our children. These scholarships are just a small way we can help make a difference for students like Alexis, Jack and Kaitlyn.”

Congratulations to all area graduates!



Alexis Davis



Jack Beckman



Kaitlyn Ochs



Image courtesy of Butler Rural Electric Cooperative

Utility pole safety

Utility poles are not bulletin boards or support for satellite dishes and bird houses. These obstacles create a dangerous environment for line workers. Norris Electric line crews climb utility poles at all hours of the day and night, in the worst of conditions. Anything attached to utility poles can create serious hazards for our line personnel.

Please help us keep our linemen and our community safe. Don't attach any of these unauthorized and dangerous items to utility poles.



Beat the peak this summer

As temperatures begin to spike, there are steps you can take to save money on energy bills this summer.

According to the Department of Energy, a typical home uses a whopping 48 percent of energy expenditures just on the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC) system. Although a majority of that 48 percent is spent on heating expenses, Americans still spend \$29 billion every year to power their air conditioners.

Aside from replacing your central air conditioner with a newer, higher-efficiency model, there are some things you can do to increase efficiency, which can help reduce your energy bills.

Besides weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors in your home (always a good idea regardless of the time of year), Safe Electricity offers the following:

- Close curtains, blinds and shades during the hottest part of the day. Not only is about one-third of a home's energy lost around windows, but about 76 percent of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters the

home to become heat, according to energy.gov.

- If you don't already have one, install a programmable or smart thermostat. You can save up to 10 percent a year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for 8 hours a day, according to Energy.gov.
- Clean the filter and get your unit inspected by a HVAC professional.
- Consider changes to your landscaping. Greenery that includes shade trees and those that insulate the foundation can reduce energy costs.
- Ventilate the attic and check insulation. Adequately sized vents and an attic fan can help hot air from building. If your attic has less than 6 to 8 inches of insulation, consider adding more. By addressing air leaks around your home and adding insulation, homeowners can save around 10 percent annually on energy bills, according to energystar.gov.

- Get a pre-season checkup by a professional HVAC technician, which could help your air conditioner run more efficiently.
- Make sure your outdoor condenser unit is clean and free from debris. Ideally, the unit should be in the shade.
- Use your clothes dryer and oven during the cooler parts of the day.
- Consider a professional energy audit to reveal where your home is inefficient, including air leaks and exposed duct work.

Increased summer electric demand not only affects the monthly budget, but it can also seriously strain your home's electrical system, which can create dangerous shock and fire hazards. Flickering or dimming lights or frequent circuit breaker trips are signs of an overloaded electrical system or faulty wiring that should be checked immediately by a qualified electrician.

To schedule an energy audit, contact Norris Electric at 618-783-8765. For more information on electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org.



Automatic Draft is one of our many options for payment methods. Each month, Norris Electric will automatically draft your checking or savings account the day before it is due. You will never have to worry about your bill again. If you would like to sign up for automatic draft, fill out the attached form and mail it into the office ... it is as simple as that!

**Norris Electric Cooperative
Authorization Agreement for Direct Payments (ACH Debits)**

I (we) hereby authorize NORRIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE to initiate debit entries to my (our) Checking Account indicated below at the depository financial institution named below, hereafter call DEPOSITORY, and to debit the same to such account. I (we) acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my (our) account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

Depository Name _____ Branch _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Routing Number _____ Account Number _____

This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until NORRIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford NORRIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE and DEPOSITORY a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Name(s) as it appears on checking account _____
(please print)

Signature(s) _____

Address _____

Call Back Phone Number if Bank doesn't Approve _____
Please include a void check with this agreement.

Office Use Only

Name on Electric Bill _____ Date _____
Billing Acct Number _____ Cycle _____
_____ Cycle _____
_____ Cycle _____