

# THE GRID

**P.O. Box 709  
(104 Dewitt Ave., East)  
Mattoon, Illinois 61938**

**Phone:** 217/235-0341  
or **Toll-Free:**  
1-888-661-CMEC (2632)

**Office hours:**  
Monday-Friday  
7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

**Chairman**

Kent Metzger..... Gays

**Vice Chairman**

Bill Voyles.....Sullivan

**Secretary**

Andrew Fearn.... Charleston

**Treasurer**

Thomas Sherman... Humboldt

**Directors**

Jeffery Hudson.....Charleston

Mike Love..... Mattoon

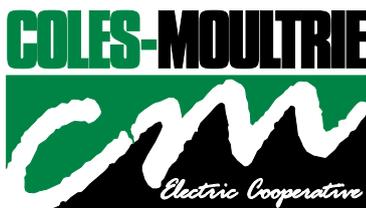
Colt Roderick..... Trilla

**President/CEO**

Amy Borntrager

**To Report an Outage  
call #888-661-2632**

**Send your current email  
to [info@cmec.coop](mailto:info@cmec.coop)  
for a chance to win a  
\$25 bill credit**



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## Director Election Results for 2020

Your board is a democratically elected body nominated by members of the cooperative's service territory. Elections were held from May 18 - June 15, 2020 with two candidates nominated for District #4. Colt Roderick was elected and started his term in June. Approximately 15.64 percent, or 1,112 of 7,748 eligible members, took time to cast their vote. Members had the option to mail in their ballot or vote online. The current board of directors are:

- District 1:** Bill Voyles
- District 2:** Mike Love
- District 3:** Kent Metzger
- District 4:** Colt Roderick
- District 5:** Andrew Fearn
- District 6:** Tom Sherman
- District 7:** Jeffery Hudson

Special Thanks to Debbie Albin, District #4 and John Bowers, District #2 for serving on our board for 12 years.



# Help Keep Our Crews Safe



Orange road signs are not just for highway construction zones; they also apply to utility work zones. Slowing down before entering work zones helps save lives, including the lives of our crew members, who must often work roadside to maintain or restore power.

Cars or trucks that go too fast not only endanger workers on the ground. Driving too fast or not moving over can also put a lineworker who is working high up in a bucket in serious danger by causing it to move or sway into high-voltage lines.

Please, take extra care in work zones. Our crews and their families thank you.

## AIEC Survey Reminder

Members will be randomly selected and contacted by Insider Information who will conduct a statewide survey for our cooperative during August and September. You will not be asked for **credit card information and we do not sell or share your private information.** Members who participate will be entered for a chance to win a \$250 bill credit.

## We Are Here to Help

Please call 888-661-2632 or email [info@cmec.coop](mailto:info@cmec.coop) to make payment arrangements on your bill if you have a past due balance. Below is a list of agencies you may contact for assistance:

**CEFS:** .....217-728-7721

**Coalition for People in Need:** ..217-345-5099

**ERBA:**

**217-500-3120** ....(Coles County)

**217-923-3113**.....(Cumberland County)

**Salvation Army**.... 217-234-3915

Local townships and churches may also provide aid.

## We Are Part of Something Bigger

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative (CMEC) is just one of hundreds of electric co-ops throughout our country which includes:

- **42 million members**
- **56% of the nation's land mass**
- **71,000 employees**
- **88% of all counties**
- **65% of all congressional districts**

*From NRECA Cooperative Footprint 2019*

# Do ENERGY STAR Appliances Really Save Money?

If you are in the market for a new appliance, you might wonder if buying an ENERGY STAR-certified version will make a difference in your energy bills.

The **short answer is yes**, when you compare its estimated energy costs to its less efficient counterpart.

In fact, there are really two costs to consider before buying an appliance: the cost itself and the projected monthly energy costs.

The energy-conscious appliances donning the square-shaped ENERGY STAR logo use 10 to 15 percent less energy and water than standard models, according to Energy.gov. For example, ENERGY STAR clothes

washers use about 40 percent less energy than conventional clothes washers while also reducing water bills.

And the **longer answer is yes**, if you consider the appliance's lifespan. **Alec Woodall**

ENERGY STAR appliances and other products used throughout your home can save you a collective \$750 over their lifespan, according to Energy.gov. (Besides appliances, there are other ENERGY STAR-certified products, such as lighting and electronics).

While selecting energy-saving designated appliances could have a slightly higher price tag, they don't always. Compare prices and don't assume they

cost substantially more than less efficient models.

The biggest bang for your energy-savings buck might be your refrigerator, especially if it is 15 years old or older. By replacing your old fridge with a new ENERGY STAR-certified model, you can save more than \$200 over a 12-year lifespan.

**Tip:** ENERGYSTAR.gov offers a "Flip Your Fridge" calculator to estimate savings depending on the size and age of your largest kitchen appliance.

**Bottom line?** The typical U.S. family spends around \$2,200 a year on home utility bills. Switching to ENERGY STAR products can help lower these costs over time.

## What's Your Appliance Safety IQ?



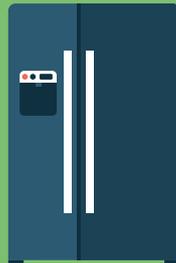
**Clothes Dryer**

Children have been electrocuted when hiding behind dryers; some pets also like to nap there.

Install a childproof lock on the laundry room door, as well as on your washer and dryer—especially front-loading models.

Clean lint screen between loads, and thoroughly clean the vents and duct system at least twice a year.

Make sure hoses, seals and connections do not leak and are secure.



**Refrigerator**

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for maintenance.

Clean the coils every six months to a year.

Keep an eye out for dust or lint under or behind your fridge and remove it to let your refrigerator breathe.

If you have young children in your home, make sure your refrigerator is not a tipping hazard. Consider using an appliance anchor that secures your tall appliance to the wall.



**Water Heater**

Make sure your water heater is well-maintained.

Make sure it does not have excessive pressure buildup by testing the relief valve (or have it tested) at least once a year.

Ensure vents are connected securely and that the correct parts are used to avoid carbon monoxide production.

Have all components of the appliance inspected regularly (at least once a year) by a technician.

## Why Is My Power Out?

When the power goes out, we go out. Below are some main causes power is interrupted. Most of the time the reason is beyond our control. Know that we are working hard to restore your service as fast and as safe as possible. Visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org) for more information.

- Accidents
- Animals
- Equipment
- Overload
- Public Damage
- Storms
- Trees & Vegetation

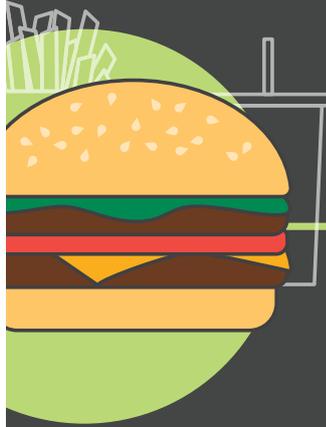


### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Installing a smart power strip is a quick and easy way to start saving money while making your home more energy efficient. Smart power strips can actually cut power off to save energy since they are able to detect when a device is in standby mode.

Source: *energy.*

# THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY

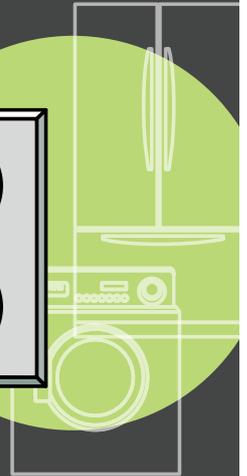
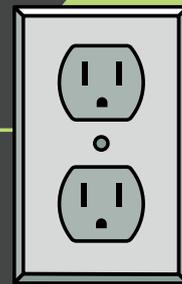


## \$5.30

average cost of a Big Mac® value meal

## \$3.87

average daily cost of power



*Electricity is expressed on a daily basis using EIA 2018 Average U.S. Monthly Residential Bill of \$117. Big Mac® is a registered trademark of McDonald's Corporation. McDonald's Corporation does not endorse or sponsor this material.*

Sources: *Economist.com and EIA, 2018 data.*

### Find Your Name and Win \$25

Find your name hidden inside this issue of **The Grid** and receive a **\$25 bill** credit. Credit must be claimed by the end of each month in which this newsletter is published.



Monthly Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed on our website: [cmec.coop](http://cmec.coop)