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EnerStar now offering refrigerator and freezer recycling program

A refrigerator recycling program that pays people \$35 for each unit picked up has been expanded to the members of EnerStar Electric Cooperative. The program offers members the opportunity to make money, save money, and get rid of unnecessary and inefficient refrigerators and freezers. EnerStar is joining forces with our power supplier, Wabash Valley Power, to offer this program.

In addition to the \$35 reward, the program will also benefit cooperative members by saving them up to \$150 a year in energy costs as a result of lower electricity usage. Typically, the appliances recycled through the program are outdated units used for extra storage and kept in garages and basements. But the convenience of chilling an extra six-pack and some leftovers can come with a steep price. Refrigerators manufactured before 1990 can use three times more electricity than new appliances.

"If your cleaning plans include the garage or basement, getting rid of that old clunker refrigerator or freezer gives you a great head start in freeing up space, saving more money, and getting paid \$35 just for letting us move it out and haul it away," said Angela Griffin, EnerStar's Manger of Member Services.

The refrigerator recycling program

is not a traditional rebate program because there is no purchase of a new appliance necessary. To receive the \$35 reward, people who qualify only have to schedule a pickup time to have their old, working refrigerator removed. Appliance recycler JACO Environmental will then recycle refrigerators through a process that returns 95 percent of their material back into the manufacturing stream. It also safely extracts various toxic components that are found inside refrigerators, including contaminated oils, mercury and CFCs that both deplete the ozone layer and accelerate global warming.

To schedule the pick up of a refrigerator or freezer for recycling, call JACO at 1-877-395-5535. Members will receive a credit on their billing statement for \$35 within four to six weeks after the collection of the appliance. Refrigerators and freezers to be recycled must be in working order with an inside measurement of 10-30 cubic feet.



**Free pickup,
 no paperwork,
 \$35 reward,
 no purchase
 necessary**



Groundbreaking for New Martinsville Substation

EnerStar is pleased to announce that after years of consideration and about 24 months of planning, the coop recently broke ground on a new substation that will enhance the electric system for generations to come.

The new substation to be energized shortly after Labor Day, located just north of Martinsville, will improve electric service in the southwestern portion of the coop service territory. "It will improve reliability by reducing blinks and outages and improve power quality issues such as reducing voltage fluctuations," said EnerStar's Manger of Operations Mike Clark.

The Martinsville substation was strategically located to maximize those results. "The farther down the line a member is from the substation increases their exposure to outages," explained Clark. "The new sub will let us reduce some of that exposure." Clark gave an example of a member who was 17 miles away from the



Visiting the new Martinsville sub site are left to right: CEO Peter E. Kollinger, Operations Manager Mike Clark, and board members Gene Higginbothom of Martinsville, Tom DeWitt of Newman, and Dale English of Paris.

Kansas substation now being only 5 miles away from the new Martinsville sub. "Less exposure means less outages," said Clark.

The southwestern part of EnerStar's service territory is currently served by the Kansas and Marshall substations. Clark said the new sub will take load off the Kansas sub that was approaching its peak with little room for growth.

EnerStar worked closely with its power supplier Wabash Valley Power Association (*see related story on page 16g*) to design and build the new substation. Clark explained

that the cooperative was able to save significant money because of its Wabash membership.

"The Wabash staff designed the project so there was no need to hire an outside engineering firm," said Clark. "Also, while Wabash crews were building the new transmission line, they built 4 ½ miles of EnerStar distribution lines at a fraction of the cost." Clark also explained that Wabash supplied new smart transmission switches at the Ameren tap points. These switches are designed to reduce power outages and protect the electric system on down the line, thereby improving reliability.

EnerStar's future plans are to build distribution tie lines that will connect all EnerStar substations. The cooperative will have the ability to "back feed" or re-route any of the substations during an extended outage or if experiencing transmission problems, improving reliability for the entire membership.

"This is our 9th substation and the last one was built back in 1977," concluded Clark. "So you can say we are pretty excited about this project because it's not one that comes along very often! And of course, the benefit to the membership is tremendous."

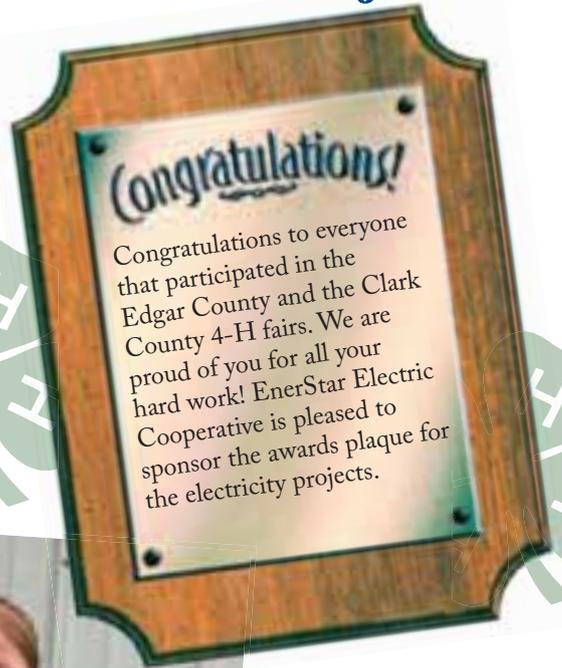


Upon completion of the substation, EnerStar anticipates constructing two tie-lines, represented by a pink and a yellow line. When complete, the coop will link all EnerStar substations and have the ability to "back feed" subs during an extended outage.

Area Youth Present 4H Electrical Projects



Shelby Stone (left) is presented the award for Outstanding Electricity Exhibitor by EnerStar board member Danny Gard Jr. Shelby is the daughter of Eric and Brandie Stone, and is a member of the Pikes Peak 4H Club.



Edgar County 4H Results: Earning the Grand Champion Award for lighted headboard project was Ali Bradenburg, daughter of Carianne Phegley and Tim Brandenburg. Ali is a member of Pine Grove Handy Helpers.



Office Closing

EnerStar Electric Cooperative
will be closed
Monday, September 6, 2010.

Have a safe Holiday!





Member Spotlight: Castle Finn Winery



A new business in the EnerStar service territory, Castle Finn Winery, officially opened its doors on July 31 with an open house celebration that welcomed over a thousand people.

EnerStar members Rob and Linda Morgan, the owners of Castle Finn Winery, experimented with homemade wines as a hobby. “The decision to open a winery happened over time,” said Linda. “We began wondering if we could take this to the next level and open a winery.” What also excited the pair was that they could eventually bring their children into the family business.

They began training vines of their own and eventually cultivating three acres of grapes about four years ago. The winery will serve up home-grown Illinois wine by the glass or by the bottle. While some grapes will come from the Morgan’s vineyard, Rob has also contracted with grape growers throughout Illinois, some as close as Newman,

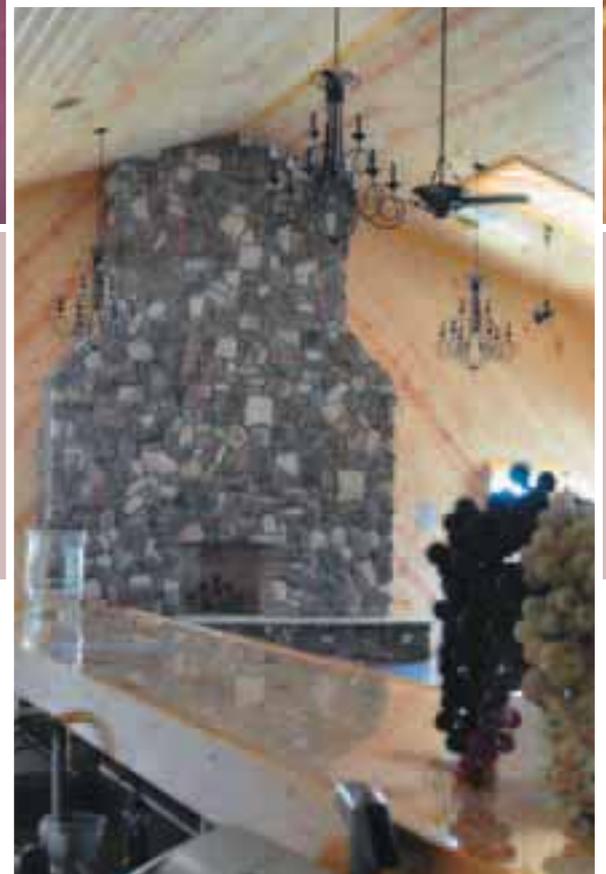
▲ *EnerStar members Linda and Rob Morgan are the proud owners of Castle Finn Winery.*

The banquet room is available for rental and the Morgans report a good number of bookings already. ▶

Ill. Fruit wines will be based on fruit availability.

Once picked and crushed, the grapes are pressed and made into wine. Rob said they are currently growing French-American hybrids, a variety of red and white grapes. “The fermenting process takes about six months and then the wine is aged in the bottle for about six weeks.”

Upon entering the winery building, visitors walk into the tasting room. The wine rack is directly opposite the door behind the servers



bar and directly above is a stuffed mountain lion keeping watch over the room. “Our son caught it on a hunting trip out west,” said Rob.

Opposite the tasting room, is a large banquet hall with a large stone fireplace. “We already have bookings



On the winery's terrace, a fountain and a fire pit overlook the vineyard in the background and a wooded pond area, perfect for a quiet evening.



Castle Finn Winery features home-grown Illinois wine, available by the glass or the bottle.

through October," said Linda. The building has a caterer's kitchen and will be available to rent for receptions, showers and corporate events.

Outside, a terrace with a dance floor is beautifully surrounded by a woodland pond and flowers around the fire pit and a fountain. The vineyard can be seen just a few hundred yards away. "We want your eyes to pop open when you walk in the door," said Rob. "Once my son completes the landscaping, we think this will be a beautiful area for our patrons to enjoy."

So, if you are looking for a fun drive in the country, make it a point to stop by and visit Rob and Linda at Castle Finn Winery. The winery is located at 1288 N. 1200th St. in Marshall, and can be reached at 217-466-2600, or at www.CastleFinnWinery.com. Their hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday 12 p.m.-5 p.m. and Monday by chance or by appointment.



About the name Castle Finn:

The Castle Finn name comes from the nearby former community of Castle Finn. At one time bigger than Marshall in the 1800s, the community's population dried up after the railroads went through Marshall instead of Castle Finn. The community would have been about 1 mile south of the winery on Castle Finn road.



Time is running out for claiming energy efficiency tax credits

Only three months remain to tackle home improvement projects if you want to take advantage of energy efficiency tax credits authorized under the federal stimulus bill. Measures that qualify include replacing windows, doors, or roofs with materials that reduce your home's heat loss or gain; adding insulation; replacing certain air conditioners; and installing air-source heat pumps, hot-water boilers, and biomass stoves.

"We want to make sure our members know about these tax credits and can take advantage of them before they expire on December 31, 2010," stresses EnerStar's Manager of Member Services Angela Griffin. "This is an incredible opportunity for folks to invest in residential energy efficiency and see energy bill savings right away." Griffin emphasized that these federal tax credits, along with energy efficiency rebates available from the cooperative, make it a great time to become more energy efficient.

Homeowners can recover 30 percent — up to \$1,500 — of costs associated with buying and installing heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and biomass stoves. Installation costs are not covered for windows, doors, roofing, and insulation.

ENERGY STAR, a joint program of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, provides guidelines on what qualifies for the tax credit at www.energystar.gov/taxcredits. Tax credits are especially beneficial as they directly reduce, dollar for dollar, any taxes you owe.

"These are tough times, and we know it's important for our members to keep their monthly electric bills as

low as possible," explains Griffin. "Making home energy efficiency upgrades offers a great way to save energy and money, and these tax credits can help make that a reality."

Time's Running Out...

DECEMBER 31

...to take advantage of federal Energy Efficiency Tax Credits!

Incentives provided by the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help you make energy efficiency improvements to your existing home expire **THIS 31**. Don't miss your chance to save!

You can receive a tax credit for 30 percent of the cost of materials for qualifying improvements—up to \$1,500 over 2009 and 2010.

For a full list of qualified improvements visit:
www.energystar.gov/taxcredits



Energy Efficient Rebates Available!

With the HomE program, you can earn up to \$1500 in rebates for making energy efficient improvements to your home. Call EnerStar at 217-463-4145 or 800-635-4145 for more details.

- The Rebates
- \$1,500 – Geothermal heat pumps closed loop (14.1 EER or 3.3 COP)
- \$1,500 – Geothermal heat pumps open loop (16.2 EER or 3.6 COP)
- \$1,000 – Air source heat pumps (16 SEER)
- \$350 – Natural Gas or LP furnace (95% efficiency)
- \$350 – Central air conditioner (16 SEER)
- \$250 – Heat pump water heater (2.0 Energy Factor)
- 30% of cost of insulation and weatherization (max of \$500)

Maximum rebate per household is \$1,500. Rebates began May 10, 2010, and will continue until the money is exhausted.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Where does my power come from?

Every month you pay your power bill to EnerStar Electric Cooperative. But have you ever wondered where that electricity comes from?

Generally, electricity travels quite the distance from where it is generated across heavy-duty transmission lines to reach local electric distribution systems like EnerStar and, finally, your home. Along the way the electricity changes hands a few times. But co-op members are lucky — in most cases, different types of member-owned electric cooperatives are involved at each step of the way to keep power flowing safely, reliably, and affordably.

Different Co-ops, Same Goal

EnerStar Electric Cooperative is one of roughly 860 electric distribution cooperatives in America. These local, member-owned, not-for-profit utilities build and maintain overhead and underground lines and equipment to deliver power. Typically, co-ops like EnerStar do not generate electricity or directly negotiate with power providers. In most cases, that role lies with generation and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts).

G&Ts are wholesale power suppliers owned by electric distribution co-ops. The G&T's generate electricity or buy it in large blocks from the power market, and then transmit over high-voltage transmission lines (whether owned or leased) to local distribution co-ops.

Just as you are a member-owner of EnerStar, EnerStar is a member-owner of its G&T, Wabash Valley Power Association (Wabash).

Wabash is located in Indianapolis and meets the wholesale power needs of 28 electric cooperatives throughout Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Missouri.

Generation

Currently, G&Ts generate about 5 percent of the nation's electricity and own all or part of 200 generating plants with a combined capacity of more than 51,000 MW. That's enough electricity to power approximately 10 cities the size of Las Vegas!

Overall, 45 percent of the power used by distribution co-ops nationally comes from power plants fully or partially owned by G&Ts. Coal-fired facilities account for more than half of the electricity produced by utilities nationally, followed by nuclear power and natural gas. Nineteen G&Ts feature green power generated from wind, solar, biomass and other renewable resources. We are proud to report that Wabash is one of the leading G & T cooperatives involved in renewable energy.

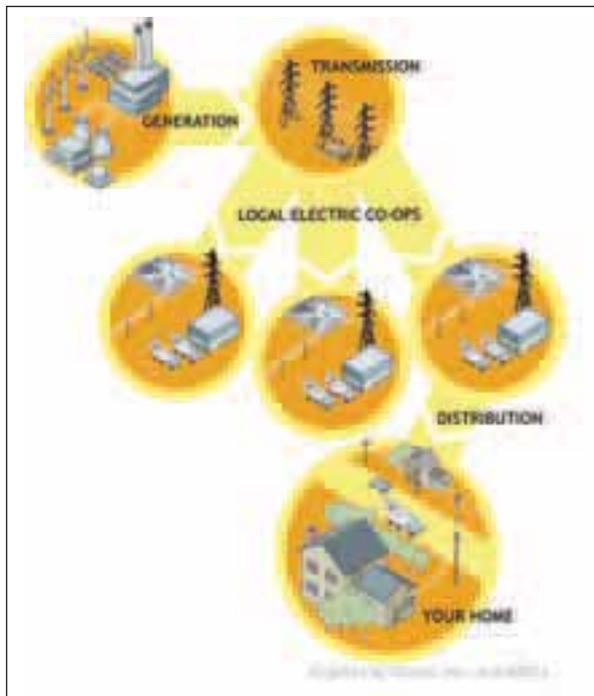
Transmission

Once generated, electricity can't be stored efficiently. Instead, G&Ts make sure that energy reaches local co-ops systems over high-voltage transmission lines. The more electricity packed

onto a line (by increasing the voltage), the farther it will travel. Once power reaches its destination, co-ops use transformers at substations to reduce the voltage before sending it over their lines to your home or business. G&Ts own and maintain a national network of 66,584 miles of transmission line to deliver power to local co-ops—enough to go around the world more than two and a half times! The co-ops own and maintain 2.6 million miles of distribution line, 42 percent of the nation's total.

Wabash owns, either wholly or jointly, about 432 miles of transmission lines across 4 states.

To learn more about where your power comes from, visit Wabash's website at www.wpva.com.



Member Question: What is an Ameren Transmission Outage?

Sometimes EnerStar power outages may actually be a result of an Ameren transmission outage. This often confuses our members. All EnerStar substations, including the new Martinsville sub, receive electricity directly from the Ameren transmission lines and 5 of the 9 subs require Wabash/EnerStar transmission lines to transfer power from Ameren delivery points to the EnerStar subs. Problems occurring on either the Ameren side or the Wabash/EnerStar side can cause multiple substation outages. Outages on the Wabash side are repaired quickly by EnerStar personnel territory agreements require that Ameren personnel do their own repairs. It is Wabash and EnerStar's goal to work closely with Ameren to resolve power quality and reliability issues before they become a problem.



New Cooperative Hours Announced

EnerStar CEO Peter E. Kollinger has announced that the cooperative office will have new hours. The new hours are 7:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

“We tried the new hours over the summer and our members really seemed to appreciate the extra half hour in the morning,” said Kollinger. “It also helps out contractors and electricians who need information or material from the cooperative before they set out on their jobs at a member’s home or farm.”

Coop members needing assistance after hours will be served by the cooperative’s 24 hour dispatch service, which can assist with payments and any power outages that may arise.

Check inside your monthly billing statement through November for Helpful energy efficiency ideas

Ways to save your energy dollars

Information on federal tax credits available

**This month:
Dreading Winter Heat Bills?**

Savvy Saver

Dreading those winter heat bills? A geothermal heat pump may be your best savings plan yet. Learn more about this popular heating and cooling system by contacting your local cooperative.

There's no better time. The government is offering a tax credit for 30 percent of the cost, with no upper limit.

Deadline is Dec. 31, 2016 on new and existing principal residences.

Contact your local co-op for more details or see www.enerstar.gov ... and be sure to keep receipts.



EnerStar
A Goodness Energy Company



can help you dispose of used oil



- EnerStar will collect used oil during normal business hours, but if oil is in a container larger than 5 gallons, please call for an appointment.
- Service available to residential members who are considered “do-it-yourselfers” for home and farm use.
- Drain the oil or transmission fluid into a suitable container, sealed.
- Important to remember...Do not mix the oil with other liquids such as antifreeze, gasoline, paint thinner, brake fluid or water.

If you have questions about the program, contact EnerStar’s Mike Clark at 1-800-635-4145, extension 616 or e-mail him at mclark@enerstar.com.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

It may be time to replace your refrigerator. A fridge made before 1993 could cost more than \$100 each year to operate. A new ENERGY STAR qualified model could cut your related energy costs in half. In addition, newer models keep food fresher longer.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy