

Safety and savings for your home

It has been 70 years since Citizens Electric was founded in November 1947, and a lot of things have changed. Science fiction has become science fact and most of us carry a computer in our pocket smarter and faster than the one that took us to the moon. No longer do we have to wait for the evening news or even be home to keep up-to-date with the latest events. We can stay connected with nearly everyone from nearly everywhere in the world.

For instance, new technology will allow us to monitor and control devices in our home such as lighting and temperature. After installation, smart lighting and thermostats can be controlled from your smart phone or tablet. This can help you save money by turning off lights when they were accidentally left on, raising or lowering the temperature of your home while at work or on vacation, and even adding to your se-

curity by turning on lights when you arrive home of an evening.

While walking into a dark house can be nerve-racking, going on a trip, vacation or just out shopping without a security system is down right scary. With today's technology, you can monitor your home right from your mobile device. Many companies offer a monitoring system that allows home owners to view multiple cameras from their smartphone. Some connect to your doorbell and allow you to communicate with your visitor, while others are professionally monitored and can contact law enforcement.

While the things we do with electricity have come a long way since 1947, one thing you can count on is Citizens Electric's dedication to provide you safe and reliable service.



New smart technology allows you to monitor what is going on in inside and outside your home. New smart home technology will also allow you to control lighting in individual rooms and your HVAC system. DIY security systems allow you to customize where you place cameras and can be monitored by your smart phone or mobile device.

Co-op Solar launches next month

Adawning sun soon will be the newest way to energize more of the midwest.

Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA) is installing three solar arrays, which are a series of solar panels linked together to create electricity from the sun, at member co-op locations in Indiana, Illinois and here in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. The new array will join two existing arrays as part of "Co-op Solar", a new community solar program that will for the first time add solar energy to WVPA's increasingly diverse energy portfolio.

"We diversify our generation portfolio to minimize risk and ensure our members are protected against power market volatility," said Lee Wilmes, Executive Vice President of Risk and Resource Portfolio for Wabash Valley Power. "Solar energy has dramatically come down in cost the last few years to the point that it makes sense for us to add this resource to our portfolio."

In most community solar programs, a utility installs and maintains solar panels in large scale arrays for customers to invest in "shares" of electricity produced. Citizens Electric will provide details of its Co-op Solar offering later this year. Wabash Valley Power's solar arrays are spread across its service location and have potential to generate up to 1.7 MW of electricity.

"Spreading the array out over a three-state territory provides members the best opportunity for capturing the most sun and creating the most electricity," said Andrew Horstman, Project Manager for Wabash Valley Power. "It may be raining on the arrays in Indiana, but the sun may be shining in Missouri or Illinois."

The solar energy adds to WVPA's increasingly diverse energy

portfolio, which includes natural gas, landfill gas, nuclear power, coal, wind and even manure from cattle farms in northern Indiana, as among resources generating energy for more than 300,000 families, farms and organizations in the Midwest.



Panel construction was completed in spring of 2017. Photo courtesy of Stephanie Gremminger

"Our most important priorities are to keep members' rates low while maintaining reliable service," Wilmes said. "By adding a new, renewable resource to our portfolio and placing arrays in diverse locations to maximize sunlight, we believe that solar energy helps us fulfill those priorities to benefit everyone."

Wabash Valley Power supports renewable energy by owning solar arrays, landfill gas generation and purchasing the output from wind farms and biogas generators.

It is never too late to save energy

The final days of summer are upon us and cooler weather, fall foliage and pumpkin spice everything is just around the corner. Luckily there is still enough warm weather left for a do-it-yourself energy audit. By taking a little time now, you could save big money when cold weather hits.

Visual Inspection

It is important to visually inspect all areas where two building materials come together for cracks.

- All exterior corners
- Outdoor water faucets
- Where siding and chimneys meet
- Areas where the foundation and the bottom of exterior brick or siding meet
- Door and window frames
- Wall or window-mounted air conditioners

Check Insulation

Most homes were properly insulated when they were built, but recommended insulation amounts may have changed for your home. A quick visit to www.Energy.gov can provide an R-value for your home with their Home Energy Saver program. While there you can also learn how to determine your home's insulation type and amount.

Heating and Cooling

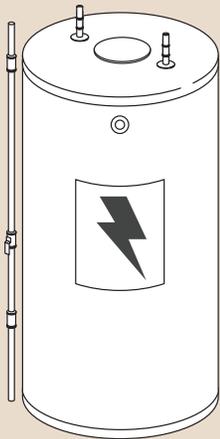
Heating and cooling equipment should be inspected annually or as often as recommended by the manufacturer. It is also important to change air filters monthly. An older unit could be costing you more in the long run than replacing it with an energy efficient heat pump. If your HVAC system is more than 15 years old, it is worth looking into.

Lighting

Accounting for as much as 10% of your electric costs, lighting is one area where savings can usually be found. By replacing incandescent and CFL bulbs with LED bulbs you can reduce your electric bill. If you purchase qualifying Energy Star® LED bulbs, you could be eligible for a rebate of up to \$3 from Power Moves® for up to 30 bulbs per year.

While a DIY energy audit is a great place to start, CEC is happy to help you with a professional audit. When you schedule an energy audit through CEC you will receive a professional audit for only \$150. This is a savings of over \$300 that you get simply for being a CEC member-owner. For more information on energy audits, call 877-876-3511.

PowerShift® easy as 1, 2, 3



1

During times of high demand:

Citizens Electric remotely controls power to your electric water heater.

2

When demand drops:

Water heaters are turned back on. Typically events last a few hours in the late afternoon M-F.

3

You earn a bill credit:

Water heater participants earn a bill credit of \$24 annually.

PowerShift can save you \$75 dollars a year when you couple your electric water heater and central air conditioner. During times of high demand, PowerShift will control your air conditioner by allowing the blower to operate, but reduce the time that the compressor runs. PowerShift is for residential members that living in a primary residents they own. For more information visit www.CECMO.com or call 877-876-3511



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