

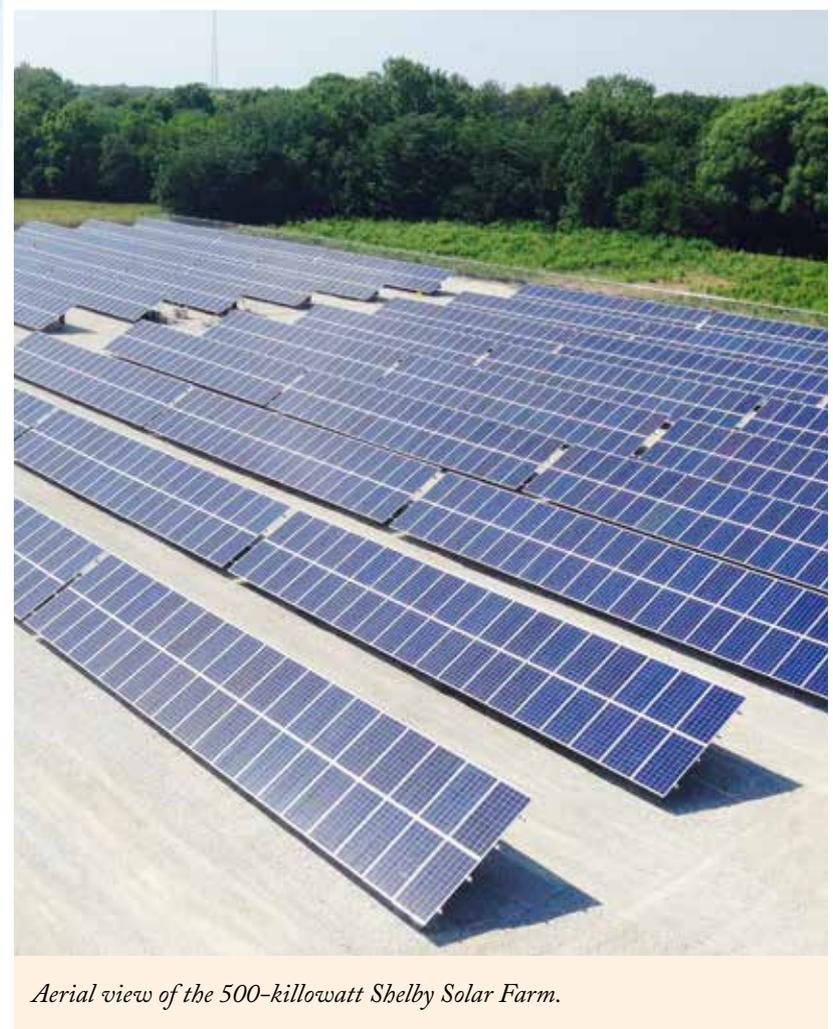
Bright Options SOLAR Harvesting electricity from the sun

We all share a responsibility for energy efficiency wherever and whenever we can. At Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) we are committed to improving our members' quality of life. We offer our members a viable and affordable option to voluntarily participate in renewable solar energy.

Bright Options Solar is a program started last year by our power supplier, Prairie Power, Inc. (PPI). Bright Options Solar gives any member of SEC the opportunity to buy blocks of solar energy generated from two 500-kilowatt solar farms operated by PPI subsidiaries. The Shelby Solar Farm is located in Shelbyville, Ill., and the Spoon River Solar Farm is located near Astoria, Ill. Both solar farms went online in the fall of 2015.

"If you are an environmentally minded consumer, Bright Options Solar just might be what you have been waiting for to participate in renewable energy," said SEC President/CEO Josh Shallenberger. Under Bright Options Solar, a member agrees to purchase blocks of solar-generated electricity at an added cost to their electric bill. There are three purchasing options available: blocks of 200, 400, and 600-kilowatt hours (kWh).

The added cost for a 200 kWh solar block is \$12 per month; the added cost for a 400 kWh solar block is \$24 per month; and the added cost for a 600 kWh is \$36 per month. The cost associated with each block of solar energy purchased will appear as a separate line item on



Aerial view of the 500-kilowatt Shelby Solar Farm.

the member's electric bill and in addition to all other normally billed charges. Bright Options Solar participants may begin purchases at any time with an automatic renewal at the beginning of each calendar year.

Any member of SEC is eligible to participate in the Bright Options Solar program. To learn more, visit shelbyelectric.coop and click on the

Bright Options Solar link under the Member Services & Billing tab or call us at 217-774-3986.

PPI is the supplier of wholesale electricity and electric transmission services to 10 member-owned distribution cooperatives in Illinois, which includes SEC.

Now might be the time!

Have you thought about buying a whole house generator? With new incentives and lower pricing, now might just be the time.

From essentials like your furnace, air conditioner, well, sump pump, and lights, to daily necessities like cooking, laundry, and securing your home, our lives run on electricity. Be prepared for power outages with a Generac automatic standby generator and keep life going without disruption.

An automatic standby generator is a back-up electrical system that operates whether you are at home or away. It automatically supplies power to essential circuits of your home within seconds of a utility outage. After utility power returns, the generator shuts itself off and awaits the next outage. It operates on natural gas or liquid propane and sits outside just like a central air conditioning unit.

Shelby Energy Company, Shelby Electric Cooperative's LP gas subsidiary, has announced new lower pricing on all Generac generators and a seven-year extensive warranty.

Shelby Energy Company partners with the cooperative on an

interruptible rate program that also contains a few incentives.

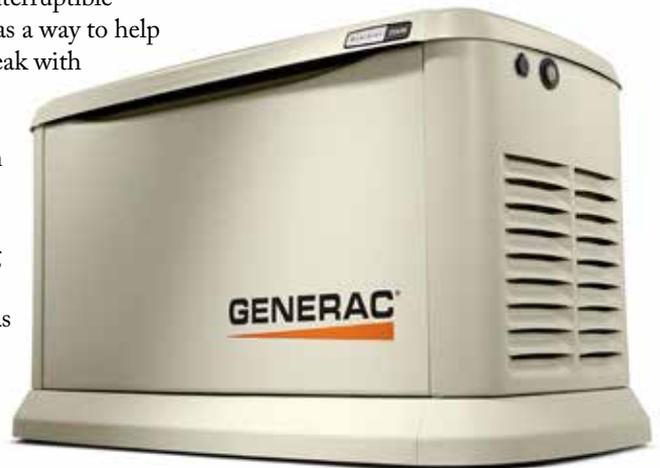
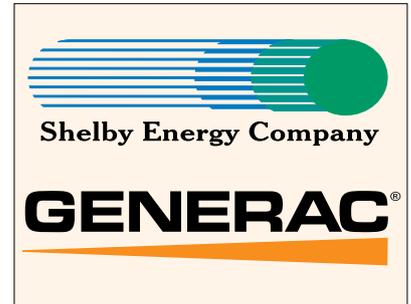
By participating in this interruptible rate, the member receives a discounted rate on their home's electric use throughout the year. If the member signs up for the residential interruptible rate within six months of purchasing their generator from Shelby Energy Company, a \$200 bill credit is also applied toward their electric bill.

In exchange, the member allows the cooperative to shut their power down during a peak alert. The peak alert period is from May 1 through October 31.

The residential interruptible program is offered as a way to help beat the summer peak with load control. This program also helps lower demand from the co-op's power provider, saving money and keeping the cost of power and member rates as low as possible.

To learn more about installing an

automatic standby generator for your home, farm, or business, call Shelby Energy Company today at 217-774-2311. To learn more about the residential interruptible rate contact the cooperative at 1-800-677-2612.



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or 1-800-677-2612
www.shelbyelectric.coop
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Office Hours:
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Let the sun work for you! Consider solar lights for outdoor lighting. Solar cells convert sunlight into electricity that can be stored in a battery and tapped at night to make light. Check manufacturers' instructions to make sure your solar lights are situated to receive sufficient sunlight to recharge during the day.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

Getting Real with Marla and HVAC Filters

You know that miserable stuffed-up feeling you get when you have a head cold or when your allergies flare up? Breathing effortlessly is taken for granted until it becomes a struggle. If your home's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system's filter is full of dust and dirt, the much more expensive mechanical unit is struggling to breathe!

Generally, more than half of your energy bill is for heating and air conditioning. It stands to reason that making sure this system is operating as efficiently as possible would be a priority. Let's get real though. As long as the house is cool in the summer and warm in the winter, we don't give it a lot of thought, at least until the bills arrive in the mail.

When a filter is doing its job well, it will need to be cleaned or replaced frequently. It is recommended to write the date you changed it on the filter. Often, we think it was changed "just the other day" when, in actuality, a season or two has flown by. I recommend you make a note for the next change on the calendar or schedule a recurring reminder in your phone, as I would rarely think of checking the filter for the last-changed date. Don't forget to note the size of the filter too! The quantity of filters on the store shelves may look similar to the number of books in a library. While you are at it, dust the air return vents in the house as well.

Plan to change the filter every three months at a minimum. In many cases, monthly changes

may be best. The International Association of Certified Home Inspectors recommends monthly filter changes if:

- The unit runs six months a year or more.
- Pets are in the home.
- Several people live in the home.
- Anyone smokes inside the home.
- Anyone in the home suffers from allergies or a respiratory condition.

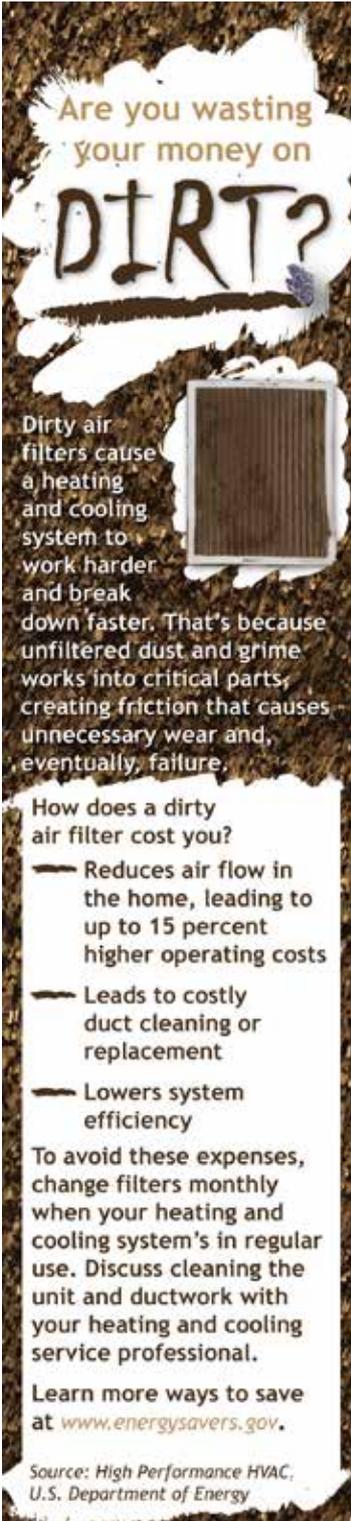
Additionally, if any construction or remodeling has occurred in the home or nearby outside, the filter may need to be changed even more frequently.

Not only will changing the filter help your HVAC system run more efficiently, it will also help extend the life of the unit. When the unit has to work harder due to reduced air flow, it can lead to a breakdown and costly repairs or replacement.

Another benefit is cleaner, healthier air. A filter that is exposed to condensation may become damp. This could lead to the growth of mold, which could then be distributed throughout the home as the system runs.

Help your home's HVAC system breathe efficiently by establishing a regular filter-changing schedule and also by scheduling a yearly professional check-up.

~Marla Eversole,
Communication Specialist



Are you wasting your money on DIRT?

Dirty air filters cause a heating and cooling system to work harder and break down faster. That's because unfiltered dust and grime works into critical parts, creating friction that causes unnecessary wear and, eventually, failure.

How does a dirty air filter cost you?

- Reduces air flow in the home, leading to up to 15 percent higher operating costs
- Leads to costly duct cleaning or replacement
- Lowers system efficiency

To avoid these expenses, change filters monthly when your heating and cooling system's in regular use. Discuss cleaning the unit and ductwork with your heating and cooling service professional.

Learn more ways to save at www.energysavers.gov.

Source: High Performance HVAC, U.S. Department of Energy

Be alert and stay safe in work zones

We are well into the summer season and with that brings vacations and road trips. While on these trips, you need to be aware of all types of roadside hazards and construction zones.

Sometimes utilities must put trucks and personnel in roadways to make repairs or install new equipment to keep



power on at your home and business. Examples may be a vehicle with flashing lights parked in the street, a bucket truck with cones around it as a tree is trimmed, or maybe several trucks and trailers with barricades and lanes closed as a crew of linemen replace a utility pole.

Workers in these situations are already facing the hazards of dealing with high voltage, and they increase their risk when establishing a work zone in the roadway. No matter how big the work zone, it requires drivers to pay attention to avoid an accident. Utility and construction families know all too well the heartbreak of accidents in a work zone. Workers die every year due to driver distractions. There are measures drivers must take when approaching a work zone to keep themselves and workers safe.

The National Work Zone Safety Information Clearing House has developed a list of tips to help drivers stay safe in work zones:

- Never use a cell phone or text while driving.
- Stay alert.
- Expect the unexpected.
- Slow down and drive the posted work zone speed limit.
- Keep a safe distance between your car and other cars, construction workers, and equipment.
- Pay attention to the signs.
- Obey the flaggers.
- Be patient and stay calm.
- Know the rules for work zones.
- Use your four-way flashers when stopping or traveling slowly.

Remember there are increased fines and/or jail time that result from traffic violations in work zones.

When making travel plans, research road construction information by visiting each state's department of transportation website. Use this information to allot extra time that may be spent in work zones. Let's keep this a safe summer for everyone.

Summer intern returns

Morgan Partlow, a 2015 Neoga High School graduate, finds herself once again spending the summer as the member services intern at the cooperative. She is currently a student at Missouri State University majoring in professional and technical writing.

In the fall, Morgan will start her junior year studying abroad at Plymouth University in Plymouth, England. She is looking forward to this opportunity and will return to Missouri State University for the spring semester.

She's excited to be working on several projects over the summer, including an overhaul of the PWR-net website.

Morgan would also like to remind everyone that the deadline for the "Thank A Lineman" coloring contest is July 14. For more information and to download the coloring page, visit the cooperative's website, www.shelbyelectric.coop.

