



\$50,000 grant awarded to local school served by Shelby Electric Cooperative

A \$50,000 GeoAlliance grant was recently awarded to Stewardson-Strasburg CUSD 5A to help in completing the installation of a highly energy-efficient geothermal heat pump heating and cooling system.

On hand for the grant check presentation were, front row left to right: Darrell Shumard, Board Chairman of Shelby Electric Cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC); Nancy Nixon, Marketing Administrator at the AIEC; Randy Porter, School Board Vice President of Stewardson-Strasburg Schools; Matt Shoaff, Dean of Students of Stewardson-Strasburg Schools and Brandon Little, Construction Administration and Observation at Hurst-Rosche Engineers/Design Architects. Back row left to right: Aaron Ridenour, Marketing and Economic Development Manager at

Prairie Power, Inc.; Marla Eversole, Member Service Representative at Shelby Electric Cooperative; Josh Shallenberger, COO of Shelby Electric Cooperative; Mark Giertz, Principal of Stewardson-Strasburg K-12; Steve Harsy, Superintendent of Stewardson-Strasburg Schools; Nick Hartke, Director of Building and Grounds at Stewardson-Strasburg Schools and Mark Fearday, General Contractor at Grunloh Construction.

The GeoAlliance geothermal grant program is a collaborative

effort of Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation in Chicago and the AIEC in Springfield. The funding is re-granted through AIEC members, such as Shelby Electric Cooperative. The cooperatives then award the funding to qualifying not-for-profit members served by the cooperatives such as schools, government entities and churches.

Check out pictures and a video clip from this check presentation on the cooperative's facebook page, facebook.com/YourCoop.

OUTAGE REPORT				
LINE OUTAGES				
DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
2/1/2012	2.00	Velma	Unknown	75
2/29/2012	1.25	Elwin	Storm	104

REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

Getting real with Marla

“Absolutely nothing has changed in my house.” This statement is often what I hear when members inquire about their high electricity use. I find this intriguing because my house always has something changing. We may have a home improvement project we are working on which uses power tools and extra lights. Teenagers are in and out with their friends and electricity-using activities. The outside animals may need heat lamps and tank heaters in cold weather or fans during hot weather. We use more water in the hot months which requires the well pump to run more often. The air compressor gets used, then possibly forgotten and left plugged in. I hang laundry outside to dry a lot less in the winter time.

It is always possible that nothing has changed and that might be the problem.

- My levels of insulation sure needed changed (increased). Have you examined your attic and crawl space/basement recently? Are sills, joists, cracks

and crevices caulked? Is your insulation adequate; or has it settled, fallen down or become damaged?

- Do you have an old refrigerator? A survey conducted by the Cooperative Research Network found that 19 percent of homes have two refrigerators. A refrigerator from the 1970s can cost \$200 more per year to operate than a new model. A refrigerator from the 1980s may use \$100 more a year to operate than a new unit. Also, 40 percent of U.S. households have a stand-alone freezer. If you upgrade to a new refrigerator and move the old unit to the garage or basement, be prepared to pay the extra monthly expense for keeping it operational.
- Have the heating and air filters been changed recently? Spring cleaning might lead to more energy saving changes. Here are a few ideas to get you started:
 - When washing windows, be sure

to lock them upon finishing. Unlocked windows can creep open and not keep a good seal. You may also find a window open, as my mother-in-law did this winter in her basement after a family get-together!

- Clean the dryer vent louvers on the exterior of your house. Be sure they are opening and closing properly and are free of lint.
- Make sure livestock tank heaters and heated pet bowls are unplugged.
- Did you use a humidifier this winter? If no longer needed, unplug it.
- Clean winter debris from around the outside air conditioning unit. Celebrate Earth Day, April 22nd, by completing a project to make your home more energy efficient or by shutting off all the lights and electronics and taking a walk outside!

—Marla Eversole,
Member Services Representative



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Ken Macken, Manager of Safety & Loss Control for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), recently presented Shelby Electric Linemen with awards that were won during the AIEC's 13th annual Lineman's Safety Rodeo held last fall. Linemen Brian Chevalier, Matt Clark and Jamie Sharp were awarded a plaque for finishing in 2nd place for Best Team Overall. Chevalier also received an individual award for champion of the Individual Egg Climb. From left are Clark, Chevalier, Sharp and Macken. The AIEC is located in Springfield, Illinois.

Celebrate Earth Day The POWER of by recycling Green

The first Earth Day was April 22, 1970 and was the creation of founder Gaylord Nelson who was a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin at the time. This month will celebrate the 42nd year of Earth Day on April 22nd.

Shelby Electric Cooperative, through its recycling program, the Power of Green, encourages everyone to make a conscious effort to recycle this month. Maybe even start a recycling program at home or office in honor of Earth Day 2012.

Power of Green recycling is located at the cooperative's PWR-net location on Route 16 east of Shelbyville. Hours of operation are Tuesdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon and on Thursday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Please check www.shelbyelectric.coop or call them at 217-774-2323 to find out what items the Power of Green accepts.

Since its inception in July 2010, the Power of Green has recycled more than 68 tons or 135,800 pounds of material. That would be equivalent to an army tank that was built in the 1980s.

Electronic Recycling Day announced

If you haven't heard by now, the new Electronics and Reuse Law went into effect January 1, 2012, which basically bans electronics from landfills. Consumers and businesses can no longer throw computers, monitors, televisions and other e-waste into the garbage.

So, what are you supposed to do with items like televisions, computers and printers when you don't want them anymore? Recycle them! On Saturday, April 21, 2012, Shelby County Habitat for Humanity will host an electronic

recycling day at the Shelbyville Walmart parking lot from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vintage Tech Recyclers, Inc. will be on hand to take all those unwanted or used electronic items.

To see a full listing of items they will be accepting visit the cooperative's website: shelbyelectric.coop or call 217-774-3695/217-825-9581 and ask for Donna Russell.

Other area businesses that recycle electronics are listed below:

- **BLH Computers**
123 W. Main Cross in Taylorville 824-2500
No microwaves, toasters, kitchen or bathroom appliances accepted
- **BLH Computers**
2350 E. Logan in Decatur 424-4040
No microwaves, toasters, kitchen or bathroom appliances accepted
- **Land of Lincoln Goodwill**
1004 Keller Drive in Effingham 789-0400
No televisions or large appliances accepted
- **Mervis Industries**
612 N. Logan in Mattoon 235-5575
No microwaves, large appliances, speakers or console TVs (accepted TVs must be in tact)
(It is highly recommended to call the facility before making the trip to ensure they accept what you're wanting to recycle.)

Let us all take an active role in helping our planet by recycling and what better time to start than the month we celebrate Earth Day.



Earth Day 2011

In honor of Earth Day (April 22nd) you may consider planting trees or shrubs. Remember to call JULIE before you dig!

Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees and shrubs.

If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs.

For more information, visit their website at <http://www.call811.com>

Cooperative Offices will be closed Friday, April 6, in observance of Good Friday.



Tom Cole loves to use PWR-net while working in his shop through a wireless router.



What every farmer needs! PWR-net

Well, it might not guarantee you a great harvest but PWR-net wireless broadband Internet can help you out around the farm. Just ask Tom Cole who farms near Windsor, Illinois.

“PWR-net has been a great asset to me,” said Cole. “I use it to check up to the minute weather and markets. I need dependable and fast Internet connection and PWR-net has been just what I needed,” added Cole. Cole has been with PWR-net for a couple of years now and recommends it to those who can receive it. “One thing that it has really been

great for has been the wireless router that is set up so we can use our laptops away from the house. I can go to my shop, get on the Internet and download schematics on equipment or machinery we are working on,” said Cole. “We’ve even sold and purchased some farm equipment online. I would have never thought I’d be doing that when I started farming,” continued Cole.

You don’t have to live or work on a farm to enjoy the benefits of PWR-net. If you want to learn more about PWR-net visit their website www.pwr-net.coop or scan

the QR code with your smart phone or other electronic device. You can also e-mail subscriberinterest@pwr-net.coop or call them toll free at 1-877-994-2323.

Current PWR-net subscribers: Don’t forget about our free month referral promotion. Receive a free month of service for every qualified new subscriber you sign up. There is no limit to the number of free months you can receive. Use Promo Code 1910.

Shelby Energy
1-217-774-2311
 24-hours-a-day

PWR-net & WildBlue Internet
1-877-994-2323
 weekdays
 (closed from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

Shelby Electric Cooperative
1-800-677-2612
1-217-774-3986
 24-hours-a-day



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Don’t get your electric bill caught in a spin cycle! When doing laundry, use cold water. If your dryer has a moisture meter, use it to prevent over-drying clothes — 50 minutes often works best for a full load. And remember to check your lint filter each time before you run a load to help your dryer run more efficiently (and save energy). Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives