

## Summer safety tips

**W**hen the weather gets hot, we head outdoors for sun and fun. Keep in mind some tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International to make sure everyone has a safe summer.

### Water and electricity do not mix

Summer is the season for swimming and boating and awareness of electrical hazards around water can prevent deaths and injuries. Water and electricity do not mix.

- Sailboats often have masts of 30 feet or more which are dangerous when they come into contact with overhead power lines. Look up as you get close to shore and stay at least 10 feet away from overhead lines. Coming into contact with an energized power line causes serious and sometimes lethal electric shock.
- Use covers on outdoor power outlets, especially near swimming pools. Keep cords and electrical devices away from the water and never handle electrical items before you've dried off.
- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. These devices interrupt the flow of power when they sense a surge. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30 (see example in above picture).

### Lightning and storms

Lightning strikes are fatal in 10 percent of victims and 70 percent suffer serious long-term effects, according to the National Weather Service. Since lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles, blue skies are not a sign of safety. *If you hear thunder, take cover.*

- If weather conditions indicate a storm, stay inside—away from doors and windows—or seek shelter in a low-lying area away from trees and any metal, including sheds, clotheslines, poles and fences. If you are near water, stay as far away as possible.
- If you are in a group, spread out—do not stand close together.
- Indoors, unplug electronics before the storm arrives and do not use corded phones.
- Avoid plumbing—sinks, bathtubs, faucets.
- Do not forget about your pets. Doghouses are not safe from lightning and chained animals are easy targets.
- If your home is flooded during a storm, do not turn on appliances or electronics until given the okay by an electrician. If there's standing water, do not go inside. The water could be energized.



Portable GFCIs.

### Working with large appliances

If your air conditioner goes out, keep a few things in mind before you start poking around. Large appliances, such as air conditioners, are responsible for almost 20 percent of consumer-product electrocutions each year.

- Understand your electrical system—know which fuse or circuit breaker controls each switch, light and outlet.
- Make sure circuits are turned off before starting work and take measures to ensure they are not turned back on while working.
- Use a circuit tester—always test before you touch.

Find more safety tips at [esfi.org](http://esfi.org).

*Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International. Photo from Alert Stamping.*

The **POWER** of Green

# Recycler appreciation day announced

**July 20, 2013 at Shelby Electric Cooperative's PWR-net Internet facility on Route 16, east of Shelbyville.**

Come join us July 20th from 8:00 a.m. to noon to celebrate the Power of Green's 3rd annual recycler appreciation day! "This program has continued to grow and has been successful from the very start. The

community has been so appreciative and supportive of the program. We are very happy to provide this service to the community," said Tammy Carson and Chris French who help coordinate the recycling program for the cooperative.

pounds of material that would have gone to a landfill.

**Shelby Electric's Power of Green collects the following materials:**

- Aluminum
- Cardboard
- Magazines and Newspapers
- Office Paper
- Plastics #1 thru #7
- Tin & Steel Cans



*On July 20th at it's East Route 16 location, Shelby Electric Cooperative will be giving away a Power of Green recycling bag to the first 150 cars in to recycle.*

The Power of Green recycling center is located at Shelby Electric's building on East Route 16, which is home to PWR-net, Shelby Electric's wireless broadband Internet.

Recycling hours are Tuesdays and Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to noon and Thursdays 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. "Please be respectful of those hours. We have had a small problem of people dumping their recyclables in our parking lot when we're not open, and we just can't have that happen," noted French.

We ask that you bring your materials clean and dry. Also, break down all cardboard. Remember, this program is not just available to Shelby Electric members so be sure to tell your family and friends. If you have questions about our program, visit [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) or call 1-877-994-2323. Thank you for your continued support. We hope to see you on July 20th! The Power of Green is just one more example of Shelby Electric's commitment to community.

Recycling bins are located inside a garage area to allow recycling despite the condition of the weather.

The Power of Green has collected more than 180 tons of recyclable materials since the program started in July 2010. That's over 360,000



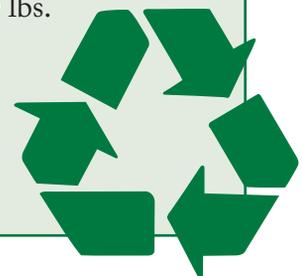
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**Office Hours:**  
**7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**



**As of May 31st, the Power of Green had collected 366,470 pounds of recyable materials. Here is a break down.**

- Aluminum = 2,410 lbs.
- Cardboard = 127,853 lbs.
- Magazines/newspapers = 158,030 lbs.
- Office paper = 34,774 lbs.
- Plastic #1- #7 = 31,588 lbs.
- Tin/steel cans = 11,815 lbs.



## Electricity remains a good value compared to other consumer goods

Popular demand and short supply drives the cost of everyday necessities higher. Some price tag changes, like the cost to fill your car's gas tank, are obvious to anyone driving down the road. Other increases at the grocery store are more subtle but still impact your family's bottom line. Compare the average price increase of a few household expenses to see how the rising cost of electricity stacks up.

The cost for a gallon of unleaded gasoline shot up 11.1 percent on average every year between 2002 and 2012, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Eggs don't go over easy; the cost for a dozen eggs increased 7.8 percent. Bakers watched the price of flour rise 5.7 percent, and apples felt the crunch with a jump of 4.8 percent every year.

The cost of electricity grew at a slower pace—3.2 percent a year, on average. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports homeowners across the nation pay an average of 11.7 cents per kWh.

Unlike eggs or apples, electricity is a 24-hour-a-day commodity. Despite energy efficiency advancements, the average household uses

more electronic gadgets and needs more power to operate them every year.

In the past 30 years, the amount of residential electricity used by appliances and electronics has increased from 17 percent to 31 percent according to the Residential Energy

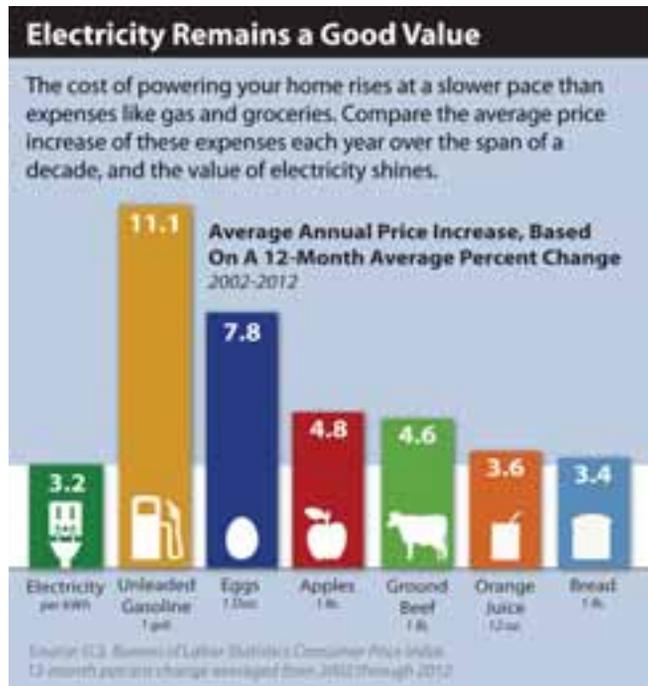
Consumption Survey by EIA. More homes than ever have major appliances and central air conditioning. Digital video recorders (DVRs), computers and multiple televisions are common.

Your local electric cooperative works hard to keep your electricity safe, reliable and affordable, but you play a role in the price of your power. Just as you might cut back on

eggs if your budget is tight, we can work with you to cut your monthly electric bill. See how little changes add up at [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com).

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Graphic and article by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



**Shelby Electric Cooperative offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.**

REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

## Getting real with Marla

**D**o you have any chimneys allowing air to flow between the living space of your home to the attic? If you have non-insulated, recessed lights, you just might!

Illinois adopted the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) as our mandatory, statewide, building energy code. This code regulates minimum energy conservation requirements for new buildings. Recessed lighting is included in this building code. The code states that “all recessed luminaires shall be IC-rated...” and “...sealed with a gasket or caulk between the housing and the interior wall or ceiling covering.” The IC-rating refers to insulated-can, air-tight, or ICAT.

If you are building new, it is easy – make sure your contractor



installs the required ICAT light fixtures. If you already have these mini-chimneys in your home and they are not IC-rated, what can you do to make your home more energy efficient? The existing fixtures can be exchanged for IC-rated fixtures. If changing all

the non-insulated fixtures is not an option, the energystar.gov website has a Do-it-Yourself Guide. The guide recommends that home-owners call a professional to properly seal the fixtures as it can create a hazard if not done properly with non-combustible materials. The non-insulated lights need adequate space around them to vent the heat they generate. They caution that all insulation should be kept three inches from non-IC-rated can lights. For more information, go to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

Kick the can to the curb and don't let all your air-conditioned air cool the attic.

*~Marla Eversole, Member Services Representative*

## SmartHub is here

**T**hose of you who use the online bill pay feature may have already noticed a new look with new features. Now smart phone and tablet users can download SmartHub directly to your devices.

SmartHub brings your account information to your fingertips via a smartphone, tablet or computer screen. SmartHub lets you manage all aspects of your cooperative's account online or with your mobile device. View your electric use hourly, daily or monthly. Quickly pay your bill, get outage information or connect with social media in a safe and secure environment.

SmartHub lets you see detailed use from all your accounts. Use this information to stay within a budget, monitor tenant use, manage energy efficiency and more!

iOS users access SmartHub in the Apple iTunes App Store and Android users access SmartHub in the Android Market.

Creating a SmartHub account takes less than three minutes. Enter your profile information, choose your provider and you're ready to begin.



iOS Users



Scan this QR code to access SmartHub in the Apple iTunes App Store.

Android Users



Scan this QR code to access SmartHub in the Android Market.