

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

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THE POWER OF GIVING

We are proud to keep the lights on and the gas flowing throughout the coronavirus pandemic — and now employees are rallying to raise funds for neighbors in need.

In June, Ameren launched the AmerenCares Power of Giving COVID-19 Relief Fund, a company-wide fundraiser to help customers and communities recover from the COVID-19 crisis. Ameren employees and board members have pledged more than \$500,000.

Funds are being distributed to 10 nonprofit organizations serving customers throughout Ameren's 64,000-mile service territory in Illinois and Missouri. From providing food and other basic necessities for families in need, to ensuring that cleaning supplies are available for child care centers, the donations made to the Power of Giving fund support those families and businesses most severely impacted by the pandemic.

Ameren Illinois offers \$8 million in assistance to give customers "Fresh Start"

We understand the hardship created by this year's pandemic and want to help customers get back on their feet. As part of the Ameren Illinois Economic Hardship Recovery plan, the Fresh Start program offers \$8 million in bill payment assistance to help customers hit hardest by the COVID-19 crisis. The program offers the following to qualifying customers:

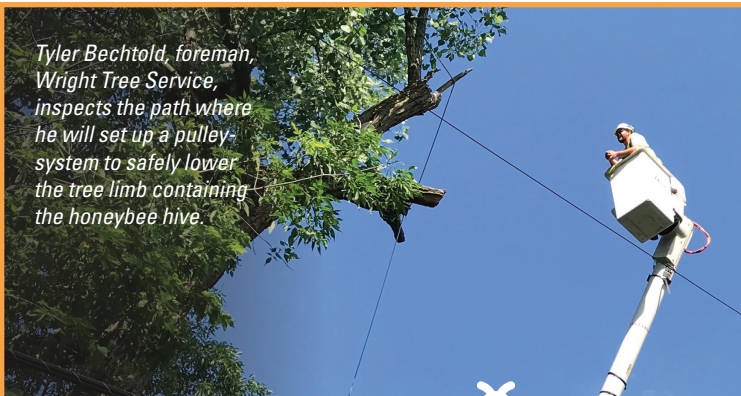
- **Household Income between 0 - 200% of the Federal Poverty Level:** Up to \$400 on electric bills and up to \$300 on natural gas bills.
- **Household Income between 200 - 350% of the Federal Poverty Level:** Up to \$200 on electric bills and up to \$150 on natural gas bills.

For information on income guidelines and how to apply, go to AmerenIllinois.com/Recovery. The Fresh Start program is scheduled through May 31, 2021 or until funding is exhausted.

Additional Resources That Can Help

- **Extended Payment Agreements:** We have reduced the down payment requirement and extended the repayment period up to 24 months. These new flexible terms will be available through January 31, 2021.
- **LIHEAP:** Energy assistance from the State of Illinois for households with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Details at HelpIllinoisFamilies.com.
- **Warm Neighbors Cool Friends:** Customers not eligible for LIHEAP may qualify for a grant from this non-profit organization. Eligibility is based on household size and 30-day household income between 200 percent and 350 percent of the federal poverty level. Find an agency at WarmNeighborsCoolFriends.org.

Tyler Bechtold, foreman, Wright Tree Service, inspects the path where he will set up a pulley-system to safely lower the tree limb containing the honeybee hive.



Home sweet hive



Ameren Illinois, Wright Tree Service & local beekeeper rescue honeybee colony

What was supposed to be a routine job for Wright Tree Service turned into a honey of a deal for a local beekeeper.

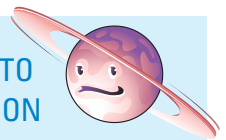
On a June day, Ameren Illinois called Wright Tree Service to remove limbs from a Cottonwood tree that were ready to fall into power lines in an Alton neighborhood. About 50 feet up in the air, the responding crew discovered a beehive inside one of the limbs.

“We knew that the proper ecological thing to do was to call a beekeeper, who shared with us the proper way to safely remove the limb to preserve the hive,” says Ameren Illinois Vegetation Supervisor David Schench.

Taking extra precautions, the Wright Tree Service crew used advanced rigging to safely lower the log containing the hive, without disturbing the honeybees. Local beekeeper Johnny Murdock later arrived on the scene to collect the hive and safely relocate it into a honeybee box on his property.

“This was a great partnership between Ameren Illinois, Wright Tree Service and beekeeper Johnny Murdock to understand the importance of honeybees and the environment while safeguarding electric service reliability for our customers in Alton,” says Ameren Illinois President & Chairman Richard J. Mark. “We are thrilled the honeybees were rescued and will continue to thrive.”

A SMART START TO ENERGY EDUCATION



Energy Smart Kids makes learning fun for students and easy for educators — at school and at home.

From kid-friendly videos and games to teacher’s guides and tests, Ameren Illinois encourages students, parents and teachers to take advantage of our free online resources. The lessons they learn will help young people stay safe around natural gas and electricity and use energy wisely.

Shipping of educational booklets was suspended during Illinois’ Stay at Home Orders. Teachers’ online orders will be shipped after school is back in session. Visit [EnergySmartKids.com](https://www.energysmartkids.com) to learn more.



Johnny Murdock, St. Clair Beekeeper Association, uses a special vacuum he created to safely remove the honeybees from the honeycomb. Murdock successfully relocated the hive to a bee box on his property. “I will do everything I can to make sure it becomes a strong and healthy colony,” says Murdock.

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS OPEN DOORS IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY INDUSTRY

While the coronavirus put a halt to many activities, Ameren Illinois' summer energy efficiency internship program is going strong. The program aims to prepare a new generation of workers for careers in the growing energy efficiency field.

Working with partner organizations, we are providing hands-on job training and industry-related education to 20 interns this summer. Interns learn about employment opportunities related to energy efficiency, receive mentorship from professionals in the industry, and learn skills that will help them land a full-time position in energy efficiency. Visit [AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/Internships](https://www.amerenillinois.com/Internships) to learn more about the program.



LED streetlights pave way for savings in McLean County

This summer, Ameren Illinois partnered with the communities of Chenoa, Colfax and LeRoy in McLean County to upgrade neighborhood streetlights with energy-efficient LED (light-emitting diode) streetlights.

Ameren Illinois upgraded 275 existing sodium vapor, mercury vapor and metal halide streetlights to LEDs in these communities. Compared to older technology, the new streetlights use up to 65 percent less energy and last up to three times longer. The new LED lights also produce a cool white light similar to moonlight, which will improve nighttime visibility.

By the end of this year, Ameren Illinois will have replaced 50,000 streetlights throughout central and southern Illinois. Along with safety benefits, the new streetlights will help communities reduce operating and maintenance costs for years to come — as well as their impact on the environment.



Keeping our first responders safe has never been more important. Ameren Illinois is proud to support Mt. Hope-Funks Grove Fire Protection District in McLean, Illinois, with a \$5,000 grant. The funds were used to purchase a cleaning system to help crews perform their jobs safely.



PLUG INTO SAVINGS WITH ENERGY STAR®

Every appliance comes with two price tags: the purchase price and the cost of operating the product. Look for the ENERGY STAR® label for products that are independently certified to save energy, save money and protect the climate.

When you purchase qualifying ENERGY STAR products, you may apply for a rebate from Ameren Illinois. We're offering a \$50 rebate on the purchase of select ENERGY STAR clothes washers and electric clothes dryers, refrigerators and freezers; and up to \$100 back on select smart thermostats.

Learn more at
AmerenIllinoisSavings.com



Make a splash with safety this summer

For many of us, happy summer memories begin at the lake or the pool. But it's important to remember that water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Faulty electrical equipment can cause electricity to leak into and energize the water around docks or in swimming pools.

To keep swimmers safe, have your boat and dock electrical systems regularly inspected and maintained by a professional familiar with marine electrical codes.

With more people spending time at home during the pandemic, homeowners should ensure that all wiring complies with the National Electric Code (NEC) and that ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are properly installed on equipment in areas around pools, spas, and hot tubs.

Learn more at SafeElectricity.org.

Electric Shock Drowning: Know What to Do

If you are in the water and feel electric current:

- Shout to alert others.
- Tuck your legs up to make yourself smaller.
- Move away from anything that could be energized, such as boat or dock ladders.

If you see someone in the water whom you suspect is getting shocked:

- Do not jump in — or you risk electrocution, too.
- Throw them a flotation device.
- Unplug or turn off the source of electricity as quickly as possible.
- Call for help.