



IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

EMPOWERING
OUR COMMUNITY

DECEMBER 2025

Residential Customers 1.800.755.5000

• Business Customers 1.800.232.2477

• Call JULIE Before You Dig at 811



IS YOUR HOME READY FOR WINTER?

As sweaters and snow blowers come out of storage, the seasonal change in temperature can increase energy use and impact your bill. But there are steps you can take to prepare your home for the season ahead. Follow these tips to reduce energy use and your bill.

- Keep your thermostat set at 68 degrees or lower.
- Install a programmable thermostat to automatically turn the heat down when you're away or customize a schedule to keep your home comfortable when needed. Claim a free Google Nest smart thermostat and smart plug before December 31 at AmerenIllinoisEEMarketplace.com.
- Set ceiling fans to turn clockwise at low speed to push warm air down.
- Use weatherstripping, caulk, or plastic cling film to seal air leaks around vents, wiring holes, windows, and doors.
- Ensure that your attic and walls are properly insulated.
- Have a professional inspect your furnace annually to ensure efficient operation. Clean or change the filter monthly to keep air flowing freely.

Visit AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/WinterTips for more DIY tips and additional ways to save with energy efficiency.



Sparkle (and Save) with ENERGY STAR®

Sparkling strands of decorative lights are a highlight of the holiday season. ENERGY STAR® qualified decorative string lights use approximately 92% less energy than conventional incandescent string lights. With a typical operating life ranging from 20,000 to 60,000 hours, LED lights will last for many holiday seasons to come. Pair LED lights with a smart power strip to schedule when they light up and cut standby energy use.

Home Charging Made Simple

Electric vehicle (EV) owners can add home charging with zero hassle. Ameren Illinois residential electric customers that meet our program criteria may qualify for a Level 2 Charger incentive, which includes the charger, installation, and necessary panel upgrades—at no cost to them. This generous offer eliminates a major up-front barrier, making EV ownership easy and more affordable.

To take advantage of the incentive, the EV owner must live in eligible areas or qualify as an individual. An EV Partner can assist you through the process. Visit AmerenEVPartner.com and ask to be qualified. Get charge-ready today!



THOUSANDS ATTEND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS



Thousands of customers across our service territory attended workshops hosted by Ameren Illinois this fall.

Ameren Illinois held a series of Community Development Workshops in Decatur, East St. Louis, Carbondale and Peoria. Participants learned about available assistance programs, energy efficiency strategies, and clean energy initiatives.

These events also delivered immediate financial relief to more than 5,000 income-eligible customers who had fallen behind on their energy bills. To help them manage future energy costs, income-qualified customers who participated in a brief educational workshop were eligible for a one-time \$300 bill credit.

The workshops were part of Ameren Illinois' Clean and Equitable Market Development Initiative, which focuses on education, workforce development, and contractor opportunities using community-led solutions to build a sustainable energy future for all.

A Bright Idea for a Bright Season

Eight out of 10 Americans are one unexpected expense away from not being able to heat their homes this winter. Every year, the Energy Assistance Foundation (EAF), through its Warm Neighbors Cool Friends™ program, helps thousands of households stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

Through home weatherization and heating and cooling assistance, Warm Neighbors Cool Friends™ helps moderate-income

individuals and families who do not qualify for any other assistance programs. Many are senior citizens and families facing illness, disability, job loss and other hardships.

Your gift to the Energy Assistance Foundation will help keep more Illinois homes warm this winter. To donate, go to **WarmNeighborsCoolFriends.org**. One hundred percent of your contribution goes directly to help families in need.





Kilowatts & Conservation: Meet Joey Anthony

In addition to his role as East Region managing engineer for Ameren Illinois, Joey Anthony is a certified master naturalist through the University of Illinois Extension — a role that brings ecological awareness into the heart of infrastructure planning.

Anthony's two worlds often intersect in unexpected ways. For example, on a power line extension project in Urbana, a maple tree designated for trimming

housed a thriving beehive. Anthony coordinated with the Champaign County Beekeeping Society to safely relocate the bees, preserving both the ecosystem and the project timeline.

In another instance, when a transmission upgrade project replaced old cedar power poles, Anthony — with help from his father-in-law and a local mill — crafted bluebird houses and wood duck boxes from the very power poles that once carried electricity.

As Anthony says: "Even in utility work, you can make choices that respect the environment."

NEW SMART DEVICES ENHANCE ELECTRIC SYSTEM RELIABILITY



How It Works

The new Viper-HV technology supports Ameren's broader strategy to improve overall reliability by:

- Isolating faults on power line segments while keeping adjacent segments energized.
- Automatically transferring customers away from faulted segments.
- Minimizing customer impact during winter storms and other 69kV system malfunctions.

Ameren Illinois is taking another step forward in its modernization of the electric grid in Vermilion County with the installation of cutting-edge 69kV Viper®-HV reclosers, also known as smart switches.

The new smart switches detect problems on the electric system and help determine whether power should be re-routed from another source. The reclosers work in tandem with other outage detection devices to isolate outages and reduce the length of service disruptions, while reducing the number of customers who experience an outage.

The community of Fithian was the site of the first-ever installation of this technology on sub-transmission power lines. Ameren Illinois is also adding these switches to other sub-transmission power lines in its service territory.

This industry-first solution was developed in collaboration with Illinois-based manufacturer G&W Electric to support local jobs and economic growth in central Illinois.

AMEREN ILLINOIS BREAKS NEW GROUND WITH HORIZONTAL DRILLING SUCCESS



In recent years, Ameren Illinois faced a daunting challenge: several 1960s-era underground natural gas storage facilities needed to be modernized to comply with evolving federal regulations.

The aging infrastructure included dozens of legacy wells and miles of vintage pipelines that spanned many acres of farmland and some residential backyards. Replacing each vertical well individually was cost-prohibitive and operationally complex.

Horizontal drilling offered a unique alternative: drill six to seven wells from a single pad, extending laterally up to half a mile, and eliminate the need for extensive surface infrastructure.

The challenging horizontal drilling process uses a 7-inch diameter steel pipe and involves making a 90-degree turn only 350 feet below the surface into sandstone seam that is only 20' thick.

Though many in the industry doubted it could be done, a successful test well at Tilden in 2019 kicked off a multi-year transformation to reshape these 60-plus-year-old facilities. By 2021, Tilden's 51 wells had been replaced with just nine horizontal wells. Freeburg's 81 wells are being replaced with 18 horizontal wells between 2024 and 2026, along with reducing 16 miles of aging pipeline to just two miles of new steel pipeline.

These are the shallowest horizontal wells successfully drilled in the U.S. While the geology of the fields remains unchanged, horizontal wells boost daily and hourly throughput, enhancing our ability to respond to periods of peak demand.

By reducing risk, cutting costs, and improving performance, Ameren Illinois' horizontal drilling initiative is setting a new standard for the industry, while ensuring a reliable natural gas supply for generations to come.



Work Wraps Up on Pekin Pipeline Upgrade

Ameren Illinois recently completed a natural gas pipeline modernization project that began last summer in the Pekin area.

Crews working in and around Pekin replaced nearly one mile of 1940s-era natural gas steel pipeline with new corrosion-resistant polyethylene material. The project also involved upgrading service pipelines for 113 customers.

Modernization projects like these are taking place across our service territory to ensure that Ameren Illinois is prepared to meet customers' energy needs now and in the future.

