



IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

EMPOWERING
OUR COMMUNITY

AUGUST 2021

Residential Customers 1.800.755.5000

Business Customers 1.800.232.2477

Call JULIE Before You Dig at 811

ILLINOIS UTILITIES BUILD SUPPLY CHAIN DIVERSITY

Diversity is a proven driver of economic benefits and new jobs in communities across Illinois – and an important link in the supply chain.

As a founding member of the Illinois Utilities Business Diversity Council (IUBDC), Ameren Illinois is helping to build supplier diversity in our industry. Created in 2015, the Council provides education, information and technical assistance to utility stakeholders on issues of business diversity.

As Illinois' leading utilities make significant infrastructure investments to improve reliability for customers, a growing share of project contracts are being awarded to diverse- and women-owned businesses.

In 2020 alone, IUBDC companies spent nearly \$2 billion with diverse suppliers in Illinois, including \$831 million with women-owned businesses. Learn more at IUBDC.com.



SPEND WITH WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES
WAS \$831 MILLION IN 2020

\$2B
DIVERSE SPEND

In 2020 alone, IUBDC companies spent
nearly \$2 billion with diverse suppliers
in Illinois



Ameren Illinois Community Relations Executive Kenny Blum, right, presents Williamsfield Fire Protection District Chief Bruce Bush and department staff with a \$5,000 grant.

GRANT FUNDS NEW FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT FOR WILLIAMSFIELD

At Ameren Illinois, we know the importance of first responders. We are proud to empower them with the equipment they need to keep our communities safe. Earlier this summer, the Williamsfield Fire Protection District received a \$5,000 grant to help fund the purchase of a new fire-medical skid unit equipped with a water tank.

Because the self-contained unit fits in the back of the District's utility terrain vehicle, it will allow for a more effective and speedy response to fires in rough or remote terrain. The unit also includes a platform to attach a basket stretcher, which will make it easier to evacuate those in need of medical assistance in less accessible areas.

The grant funds were made available through the AmerenCares program, which connects Ameren Illinois with the communities it serves through charitable giving and volunteering. Through AmerenCares, we partner with nonprofit organizations to empower communities and improve the quality of life across our Illinois service territory.





GRANT HELPS COMMUNITY GARDEN GROW

There's nothing like a little rain — and some “seed money” from Ameren Illinois — to help this garden grow. A \$2,500 grant will allow Phoenix Community Development Services to expand the Sow to Grow Community Garden and increase access to fresh food for families in the Peoria area.

Established on a vacant lot in Peoria's North Valley in 2019, the Sow to Grow Community Garden provides healthy food in the heart of one of Peoria's food deserts. The nonprofit also uses the garden to educate and empower children and families to make healthy food choices for life.

\$30 MILLION SUBSTATION PROJECT WILL MAKE PEORIA-AREA GRID MORE RELIABLE

A project to modernize a key Ameren Illinois substation will add capacity and strengthen service reliability for electric customers in the Peoria-Pekin region. Under the \$30 million, 7-acre expansion of our “Cincinnati” Substation, Ameren Illinois is adding new transformers and supporting high-voltage equipment and power lines that feed the facility and tie into the existing energy distribution grid.

“Substations do not get a lot of fanfare but they are critical elements in a reliable, resilient energy grid,” says Brian Brackney, director of Northern Region Electric Operations, Ameren Illinois.

“This is a major expansion that will add more load capacity to meet demand from our Pekin industrial customers. When fully operational, the Cincinnati Substation gives us the ability to reroute power from other substations in the event of a service disruption.”

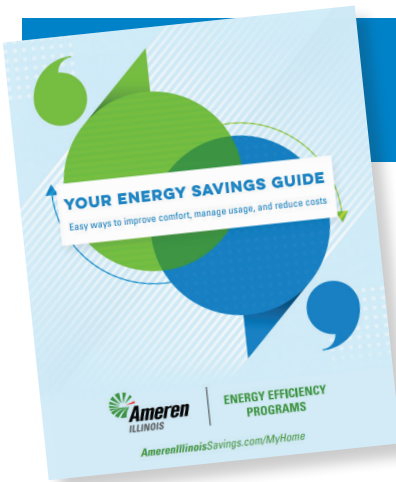
The substation remains in service, while one additional 69kV power line with power poles is under construction. The expansion project is expected to be complete by December 2021.



The substation enhancements in Peoria are part of Ameren Illinois' multiyear initiative to modernize our energy delivery system. Since 2012, the company has implemented hundreds of projects, added new technology and strengthened poles, wires and distribution equipment. As a result, reliability has improved by an average of 22% and the average duration of a power outage is down by 16%.

Comfort at less cost...

YOUR GUIDE TO A MORE EFFICIENT HOME



How would you like to lower your monthly power bill? Improve your home's comfort? Maybe even do both?

Whether you rent or own, there are simple steps you can take to reduce energy waste in your home. Our online Energy Savings Guide is a great place to start your journey to reduce energy costs and gain comfort.

In our Energy Savings Guide, you'll find helpful tips and information on:

- ▶ Monthly Home Maintenance
- ▶ Energy-Saving Tips for Every Season
- ▶ Advanced Power Strips
- ▶ Energy-Efficient Lighting
- ▶ Smart Thermostats

The guide also explains our Efficient Choice Tool, an easy way to compare energy-efficient products and appliances before you shop. Visit **AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/SavingsGuide** to download or flip through an online version of the guide.

QUINCY PIPELINE UPGRADES WILL ENHANCE SAFETY, RELIABILITY

Customers in Quincy have seen energy at work firsthand this summer as crews replace 1970s vintage pipeline with modern, corrosion-resistant polyethylene material. Along Broadway Street (Highway 104), our contractor crews are replacing 1.25 miles of natural gas pipeline and nearly 70 individual customers' natural gas services.

The nearly \$2 million project is expected to wrap up in August. These proactive upgrades will ensure the continued safe, reliable delivery of natural gas today, while preparing us to meet the future needs of our natural gas customers.



At any given time, Ameren Illinois has infrastructure improvement projects underway across our service territory. Any time you approach a work zone when you are driving, please be mindful of employees and equipment. Slow down and pay attention so our workers can return home safely at the end of every workday.



**DON'T BE
SCAMMED!**

Scams are on the rise. And scammers are always coming up with new ploys to target unsuspecting people and businesses. Many of these criminals pretend to be utility employees and threaten to disconnect service if immediate payment is not made. Others may claim that you've overpaid your utility bill and ask you to provide bank account information or a credit card number to facilitate a refund.

Scammers may contact you by telephone, text, email or mail. They may even come to your door. If you suspect a scam, do not provide any payment or personal information. End the conversation or delete the text or email. Call Ameren Illinois at **1.800.755.5000** to confirm your account details or ask questions for more clarity.

Stop the scam in its tracks! Stay on guard and informed. Learn more at **AmerenIllinois.com/Scams**.

AMEREN RANKED TOP UTILITY IN NATION FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION



When it comes to diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I), Ameren has earned the top spot among U.S. utilities, according

to DiversityInc. The organization annually ranks companies based on the hiring, retention and promotion of women, minorities, people with disabilities and LGBTQ+ employees.

Some of the DE&I initiatives that earned Ameren these top honors include:

- Pledging \$10 million over the next five years to nonprofits working for racial equity and opportunity.
- Holding a DE&I summit with community leaders and Ameren co-workers.
- Investing in a robust supplier diversity program, which resulted in a record \$810 million on projects delivered by

women-owned, minority-owned and veteran-owned companies in 2020.

- Facilitating diversity training and mentorship programs, including the Discussions Across Differences and Be Courageous conversation series, which are available on **Ameren.com**.
- Building a more diverse workforce through intentional recruiting, such as Ameren's Hiring Our Heroes program to hire veterans, and the Bright Return Program to give opportunities to mid-career professionals to return to a career after voluntarily leaving the workforce.
- Providing resource groups for women, veterans, minority groups and LGBTQ+ employees.

This marks the 13th consecutive year that Ameren has ranked as one of the nation's top utilities for DE&I. To view the entire Top 50 list and specialty lists, visit **diversityinc.com/top50**.



*For the second time, Ameren also was named among the Top 50 of all types of companies nationwide for ESG (environment, social and governance) performance, a recognition of the company's strong sustainability strategy and continued commitments to clean energy and environmental stewardship, employees and the community. For more information about Ameren's ESG performance, including its 2021 sustainability report, visit **Ameren.com/Sustainability**.*