



IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

EMPOWERING
OUR COMMUNITY

JUNE 2022

Residential Customers 1.800.755.5000

• Business Customers 1.800.232.2477

• Call JULIE Before You Dig at 811



HARNESSING THE SUN

AMEREN ILLINOIS BREAKS GROUND ON EAST ST. LOUIS SOLAR ENERGY CENTER

East St. Louis will soon be home to Ameren Illinois' first-ever clean energy facility.

The East St. Louis Solar Energy Center is now under construction on a 17-acre site across from East St. Louis Senior High School. The facility will feature more than 5,700 solar panels, which will harness energy from the sun and feed the energy onto Ameren Illinois' grid.

The 2.5 megawatt East St. Louis Solar Energy Center will produce enough electricity to power 500 homes, while providing an economic boost to the region. The project will create up to 50 construction jobs, with area contractors using local labor to build the facility.

The East St. Louis Solar Energy Center will begin producing clean energy in late 2022 or early 2023. This will be the first power generation facility owned and operated by Ameren Illinois in the last 25 years.

Conveniently located across from the senior high school, the new East St. Louis Solar Energy Center will feature a demonstration area to provide area students with practical instruction on solar generation and renewable energy. Ameren Illinois plans to develop an educational plan and curriculum to give students a first-hand view of how renewable energy is produced, while showcasing energy jobs of today and the future.

AMEREN ILLINOIS RECOGNIZED AS TREE LINE USA UTILITY

Ameren Illinois continues to be recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a "Tree Line USA" utility company. The Tree Line USA® program, a partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters, recognizes best practices in utility arboriculture, based on five core standards:

- Quality tree care
- Annual worker training
- Tree planting and public education
- Tree-based energy conservation program
- Arbor Day celebration

Learn more at **MySafeTrees.com** and **ArborDay.org**.



PROTECTING POLLINATORS



With a service territory that spans three-quarters of the state, Ameren Illinois recognizes the importance of conserving natural habitat and native species to help protect biodiversity in Illinois. As pollinator habitats disappear across the country, Ameren Illinois and other utilities are stepping up to create sanctuaries for bees, beetles, butterflies, bats and birds.

When it is practical, we replace invasive plants that crowd difficult to reach rights-of-way with pollinator-supporting plants native to southern

and central Illinois. These plants attract Monarch Butterfly, honeybees, and other pollinators critical to our ecosystem, such as native bees.

Ameren Illinois currently has approximately 175 acres of pollinator-friendly projects in our service territory, with more to come.

We're proud to be a founding member of the Electric Power Research Institute's Power-in-Pollinator Initiative. And we continue to look for additional ways to protect natural resources that impact our food supply.



ATTRACT POLLINATORS TO YOUR YARD

- Plant native flowers that bloom at different times of the year.
- Diversify your garden with flowers that are different in color, shape and size, which helps attract a wider variety of pollinators.
- Plant flowers close together rather than spaced out.
- Limit the use of pesticides.
- Include a bird bath or other water source that provides pollinators with clean water.

UNITED WAY AGENCIES RECEIVE \$1.3 MILLION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This spring, Ameren Illinois and its employees donated nearly \$1.3 million to Illinois United Way agencies to support youth programs and families in crisis. The company contributed nearly \$1 million to 24 United Way chapters throughout Illinois. Ameren Illinois employees pledged nearly \$300,000 to support the company's 2021 United Way employee campaign.



NATURAL GAS SYSTEM UPGRADES CONTINUE IN KNOX COUNTY

Customers in Knox County will benefit from a \$30 million investment to modernize Ameren Illinois' natural gas energy delivery infrastructure with 12-inch steel pipeline. The new pipeline, stretching across 10 miles, will strengthen the reliability of the natural gas transmission system and will also support economic development in the area.

Ameren Illinois has replaced more than 135 miles of natural gas vintage steel transmission pipeline across its 43,700-square-mile service territory in the last seven years. In the years to come, many more communities across central and southern Illinois will benefit from these same upgrades.



DONATION SUPPORTS HOME FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN



Home fires claim seven lives across the country every day. Having a working smoke alarm in the home can cut the risk of death in half. To help make homes in central Illinois safer, Ameren Illinois provided a \$10,000 donation to help fund the American Red Cross of Central Illinois' Home Fire Campaign.

The campaign works with community partners to install free smoke alarms in homes that do not have them. The campaign also allows the Red Cross to offer financial support to people affected by home fires.

Since the inception of the campaign, more than 2.2 million smoke alarms have been installed nationwide and more than 1,200 lives saved.

GLOBAL INCREASE IN ENERGY COSTS CONTINUES TO IMPACT AMEREN ILLINOIS CUSTOMERS



Significant global events, including the pandemic and conflict in eastern Europe, an increase in post-pandemic demand, increasing natural gas prices, and the nationwide transition away from fossil fuel generation to renewable generation sources are driving higher costs for the power and natural gas Ameren Illinois delivers to heat, cool, and power homes and businesses in Downstate Illinois.

We want customers to be aware that the supply portion of the energy bill is estimated to increase substantially (from current levels) beginning in June 2022.

Customers who use electric heat (often referred to as space heat customers) will see an even steeper increase.

Electricity is purchased for Ameren Illinois customers by a state agency and the costs are passed directly to customers, dollar for dollar, without markup from Ameren Illinois.

MANAGE YOUR ENERGY BILL

- Apply for energy assistance through LIHEAP at [HelpIllinoisFamilies.com](https://www.HelpIllinoisFamilies.com) or WNCF at [WarmNeighborsCoolFriends.org](https://www.WarmNeighborsCoolFriends.org).
- Set up a payment agreement by logging in to your Ameren Illinois account at [AmerenIllinois.com](https://www.AmerenIllinois.com).
- Explore bill payment programs such as Budget Billing, Flex Pay or Pick A Due Date at [AmerenIllinois.com/Options](https://www.AmerenIllinois.com/Options).

QUICK WAYS TO SAVE MONEY ON YOUR ENERGY BILL



DIAL IT DOWN.

A water heater set to 140 degrees or higher can cost an extra \$36 to \$61 each year. The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends setting your water heater at no more than 120 degrees Fahrenheit to prevent scalding, and you'll save energy, too.

SEAL IT UP.

Save up to 10% on your energy bill by sealing doors and windows with caulk or weatherstripping to better control the temperature in your home.



MAKE THE SWITCH.

90% of the energy produced by standard lightbulbs is heat. Changing your five most-used bulbs to ENERGY STAR® rated LEDs can save up to \$75 a year.

Find more energy-saving tips and rebates on energy-efficient products at [AmerenIllinoisSavings.com](https://www.AmerenIllinoisSavings.com).