



IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

EMPOWERING
OUR COMMUNITY

MARCH 2022

Residential Customers 1.800.755.5000

• Business Customers 1.800.232.2477

• Call JULIE Before You Dig at 811



BUSINESS FACILITIES AWARDS AMEREN TOP HONORS

Ameren Corporation was recently recognized as a Business Facilities Top Utility. Ameren was selected for its role in helping to bring new business investment to the region, as well as its community involvement, innovative technologies, energy efficiency programs and competitive industrial rates.

"Business leaders who have chosen to locate in the Ameren Illinois service territory often cite our central location, modern electric grid, stable rates and innovative utility incentives among the factors in their decision to expand or locate downstate," said Richard Mark, chairman and president of Ameren Illinois. "We're proud to be recognized by Business Facilities as a Top Utility."

Business Facilities has been a leading source of intelligence on corporate expansion and relocation since 1968. A full listing of the publication's Top Utilities is available in the Jan/Feb 2022 issue of the magazine: businessfacilities.com.



JULIE ESTABLISHES AWARD TO HONOR GINA MEEHAN-TAYLOR

In tribute to our late co-worker Gina Meehan-Taylor's work as a damage prevention advocate, the JULIE (Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators) board of directors has established the Damage Prevention Advocacy Award in her honor.

As Public Awareness Supervisor at Ameren Illinois,

Gina was a tireless and passionate advocate for safety and damage prevention. She also served on the JULIE board of directors and the JULIE Public Education Committee. The award was created to recognize the efforts of Gina and others who work to protect underground utilities, the people who work around them, and the entire state of Illinois.



AMEREN ILLINOIS GRID UPGRADES WILL HELP FUEL RACEWAY SUCCESS



More than \$40 million in improvements are underway for the 2022 racing season, which includes the inaugural NASCAR Cup Series race at WWTR.

Ameren Illinois will soon cross the finish line on infrastructure upgrades designed to support World Wide Technology Raceway (WWTR) in its inaugural NASCAR Cup series race.

To prepare for the June 5, 2022, NASCAR Cup Series race in Madison, Illinois, improvements are underway outside the venue to enhance the driver, race and fan experience. For example, Ameren Illinois is making critical enhancements to bolster the local electric grid that serves customers in and around the racetrack. Our work includes upgrading the two circuits currently feeding the venue and adding a third circuit.

“The technology that drives modern racing — coupled with on-site attendance from broadcast media outlets and more than 60,000 fans — requires significant power, and Ameren Illinois is helping ensure we host a seamless event for all,” said Curtis Francois, owner and CEO of World Wide Technology Raceway.

“We know the NASCAR Cup Series race is going to have a tremendous economic impact on the region,” said Richard J. Mark, chairman and president of Ameren Illinois. “This upgrade, which is part of our overall statewide plan to build a cleaner, greener, more resilient grid, plays a role in making World Wide Technology Raceway a premier motorsports venue.”

AMEREN ILLINOIS DONATES \$80,000 TO HELP CHILDREN

Continuing a long-standing partnership with the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Foundation, Ameren Illinois has donated \$80,000 to support programs for underserved youth in the East St. Louis area. From STEM activities to athletic programs, The JJK Foundation serves pre-K through 12th grade students year-round.

“Our programs are about improving the lives of families and giving kids a support system,” said Jackie Joyner-Kersey. “This generous donation from Ameren Illinois allows us to continue to provide the tools and guidance our youth need in order to become successful now and in the future.”



A POLLINATOR PARADISE

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, about one-third of the food we eat comes from insect-pollinated plants, and the honey bee is responsible for 80% of that pollination. To support the creatures that sustain us, Ameren Illinois is working to create safe havens for butterflies, bees, birds and other pollinators in select right-of-way locations.

When landowners wish to remove invasive plants from a right-of-way, Ameren Illinois will safely clear and prepare the site to become a pollinator plot. We then plant seeds native to the area, including milkweed, aster, coneflower, bergamont, blazing star, black-eyed Susan and clover.

It can take up to three years before a pollinator plot is well established. A 4-acre plot planted in Pinckneyville a few years ago came into full bloom in 2021. In early 2022, Ameren Illinois plans to start another pollinator plot in the Valmeyer area. In total, Ameren Illinois now has 155 acres of pollinator native species growing in our transmission and distribution right-of-ways.

Concerned landowners can create a more hospitable habitat for pollinators by reducing mowing and allowing native flowers to grow. Reducing insecticide use is another important step toward pollinator survival.



VIRTUAL EVENTS TO ANSWER YOUR ELECTRIC VEHICLE QUESTIONS

Curious to learn more about electric vehicles (EVs)? Not sure where to start? Ameren Illinois invites you to attend these free, online informational sessions. Visit the event URLs below to view dates and register.

EV 101: A Brief Introduction to Electric Vehicles

Join us for a fun virtual road trip that will answer all your questions about EVs! Register at [EVeent.org/EV101](https://www.ameven.com/ev101).

EV 201: Finding the EV for You

If you're ready to make a purchase decision, this session will walk you through key considerations for bringing your EV home, such as charging and tax incentives. Register at [EVeent.org/EV201](https://www.ameven.com/ev201).

Visit [AmerenIllinois.com/EV](https://www.AmerenIllinois.com/EV) to learn more.



AMEREN ILLINOIS WINS PRESTIGIOUS ENERGY EFFICIENCY AWARD

Our efforts to help underserved customers reduce their energy bills during the COVID-19 crisis have earned Ameren Illinois the Association of Energy Engineers' (AEE) Region III Innovative Energy Project of the Year award.

Pivoting away from conducting in-home energy assessments during the pandemic, Ameren Illinois created Safe and Virtual Energy Efficiency (SAVE) kits. The kits contained energy-saving LED bulbs, faucet aerators, advanced power strips and more.

Customers were also given the opportunity to have an Energy Advisor complete a virtual "walk-through" of the home to identify additional ways to save energy and money. During the peak of the pandemic in 2020, our SAVE kits and virtual assessments helped more than 8,500 households make lasting reductions in their energy costs.

"The limitations on in-person consultations and the immense economic and social challenges faced by our customers meant we had to get creative quickly," said Kristol Simms, Sr. Director, Energy Efficiency & Regulatory Policy Implementation for Ameren Illinois. "I'm proud of our team for developing a virtual offering and delivering energy-saving services to customers who needed our help the most."

For more information on our award-winning Energy Efficiency program, visit **AmerenIllinoisSavings.com**. A complete listing of AEE award recipients can be found at **aeecenter.org/regional-awards**.



YOUR POWER TO SAVE

Every year, Ameren Illinois customers receive millions of dollars in cash incentives, discounts and rebates for energy-efficient projects and equipment through our award-winning Energy Efficiency Program. In 2021 alone, we provided \$45 million in cash incentives to help customers make upgrades that collectively reduced their annual energy costs by \$26 million.

Why not join the homeowners, business owners, schools and nonprofits who are taking steps to use less energy and spend less? Visit **AmerenIllinoisSavings.com** to get started.

PLANT THE RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE

Planning to plant new trees this spring? Planting the right tree in the right place will protect your tree and the electric service you depend on.

Avoid planting trees directly beneath power lines, near poles or too close to electrical equipment. When planting in the vicinity of power lines, consider planting small trees or shrubs that will not exceed 12 feet in height at maturity.

Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hiring a professional, call 811 before digging to have underground utility lines marked.

For more information on safe planting, go to **MySafeTrees.com**.

