



IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

EMPOWERING
OUR COMMUNITY

APRIL 2023

Residential Customers 1.800.755.5000

• Business Customers 1.800.232.2477

• Call JULIE Before You Dig at 811

WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

Visit **AmerenIllinois.com/EnergyCarePlan** to learn about energy efficiency solutions, bill payment options, and financial assistance to help customers manage higher energy costs.



ARE YOU READY FOR SPRING STORMS?

Spring brings some of Illinois' best — and worst — weather. Follow these tips to prepare for severe weather:

- Have an emergency plan for your home, business, school and when you are traveling. Designate safe places to seek shelter from a tornado or severe thunderstorm.
- Put together an emergency supply kit to help you cope with extended power outages. Include water, non-perishable food, flashlight, batteries, blankets, and a first aid kit. A full list of suggested items can be found in the Outage Center at **AmerenIllinois.com/Outage**.
- If severe weather is on its way, stay inside and stay tuned to local weather reports and recommendations.
- Turn your refrigerator to its coldest setting and leave the refrigerator closed.
- To prevent overloading circuits when power is restored, turn off and unplug large electronics and appliances.
- If you need to seek shelter, go to the lowest level of your home, and stay away from windows.

Learn more at **AmerenIllinois.com/BePrepared** and **SafeElectricity.org**.

AFTER THE STORM

When you venture out after a storm, be on the lookout for downed power lines. Remember that tree limbs and other debris could hide a downed line. Treat any line as energized and dangerous. Stay away and call Ameren Illinois immediately.

THANK A LINEMAN

When everyone else is seeking shelter from severe weather, our crews are heading out to get your lights back on and your life back to normal.

Our crews work around the clock, in all kinds of weather conditions, to help us deliver the reliable energy that powers our lives.

National Lineman Appreciation Day is April 18, so let's all take the opportunity to thank a lineman.



AMEREN ILLINOIS IS INVESTING \$84 MILLION IN NATURAL GAS SYSTEM UPGRADES IN METRO EAST

Metro East area customers will benefit from an approximately \$84 million investment to modernize the natural gas transmission infrastructure in St. Clair and Madison counties.

In Madison County, crews are upgrading a 7-mile stretch of 1950s-era pipeline with modern 12-inch steel pipeline parallel to Illinois Route 162 from Nameoki Road in Granite City east to Interstate 255. In St. Clair County, workers will upgrade a 6-mile stretch of transmission pipeline along Illinois Route 15 in Belleville to just north of Lebanon Avenue, along North Green Mount Road. Work begins in April and the pipelines will be ready for service by September, weather permitting.

These upgrades will strengthen the integrity and reliability of the natural gas system in the area and support economic development in the Metro East.



NATURAL GAS UPGRADES BRING MANY BENEFITS

As we look to the future, Ameren Illinois is building a robust energy delivery system that meets the needs of customers throughout our service territory.

Under Ameren Illinois' natural gas modernization program, the company has replaced more than 400 miles of mechanically coupled steel pipeline, 150 miles of vintage high-pressure steel pipes, and more than 70 natural gas regulator stations over a 7-year period.

Along with implementation of new technology to monitor and adjust pipeline pressurization, these projects have delivered increased safety and reliability, supported downstate growth, and created hundreds of jobs in central and southern Illinois.



NATURE'S INSULATION

Beyond boosting your home's curb appeal, carefully placed trees and shrubs can provide shade from the hot summer sun and block the winter wind — saving up to 25% of a typical home's energy use.

Plan ahead and plant new trees away from power lines, poles or other electrical equipment. When you do, you'll help protect your tree — and prevent power outages — for years to come. Visit [MySafeTrees.com](https://www.mysafetrees.com) to learn more.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR ALL: UNIQUE PARTNERSHIPS EARN INDUSTRY ACCOLADES

Every year, the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) Inspiring Efficiency Awards recognize individuals and businesses that have shown exemplary leadership in advancing energy efficiency across the Midwest. Ameren Illinois was proud to claim the 2023 Marketing Award for our unique partnership with the Peoria Guild of Black Artists (PGOBA).

To support our vision to provide energy efficiency for all, the partnership provides resources and energy efficiency education to black communities in our service territory in an

accessible and relatable manner. In addition, Ameren Illinois has collaborated with PGOBA to identify ways to improve communication to our diverse customer base.

Another Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program partner, Senior Services Plus, earned the MEEA's Inspiring Efficiency Leadership Award for offering no-cost energy efficiency installations and at-home education to at-risk senior citizens who own their homes. Through this energy efficiency partnership, SSP has engaged more than 174,000 residents with energy efficiency from 2019 to 2022.

AMEREN ILLINOIS EMPLOYEE HELPS LAUNCH FOOD PANTRY IN BEARDSTOWN

When Randy Pherigo, a storekeeper at Ameren Illinois' Jacksonville Operating Center, and his wife Abby decided to return home to Beardstown to raise their family, they made a commitment to make a difference in their community. It didn't take them long to get involved.

Most recently, the Pherigos partnered with their friends, Sarah and Joe Engelbrecht, to open a food pantry to fight hunger in the small river town.

Designed to look like a grocery store, the pantry opened in January 2023. The first Sunday it was opened, 60 families filled baskets. The following Sunday, the number of families served nearly doubled to 120.

"We saw a need in our community," says Randy. "Nearly 75% of the



population in Beardstown lives below the poverty line. We just want to make sure people have food to eat. When we give

people this food, it can maybe help them focus on something else."

ENERGY EFFICIENCY MAKES AN IMPACT



There's no better day than Earth Day April 22 to think about your impact on the environment and how to use less energy. The Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program makes it easy to save energy and money, and reduce your impact on the planet.

In 2022, the program paid more than \$65 million in incentives to help customers make their homes and workplaces more energy efficient.

Their efforts reduced annual energy use in Illinois by more than 421 million kilowatt-hours and over 5 million therms. The energy they saved equates to an annual reduction of more than 340,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions. That's like taking more than 73,000 cars off the road!

Go to **AmerenIllinoisSavings.com** to learn how you can use less, spend less and take less from our planet.

"The earth is what we all have in common."

— Wendell Barry

KNOW WHAT'S BELOW BEFORE YOU START DIGGING



Every 9 minutes an underground utility line is damaged in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without contacting a notification center such as JULIE (Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators) first. The results can be inconvenient, costly, disastrous — even deadly.

Any time you're planning an outdoor project that requires digging, driving a stake or puncturing the ground in any way, call JULIE at 811 before you begin. With one quick call, JULIE will make sure that all buried utility lines are marked so you can dig safely.

If you don't call and you hit an underground utility line, you could be hurt or killed. You could also disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and possibly be held liable for damages.

Regardless of the size of your project, call JULIE (or submit an electronic request at Illinois1Call.com) at least 48 hours before you dig. The service is free, and it's the law.

Don't assume your job is too small to require a call. Common projects that require notifying JULIE before you dig include:

- Trees & Shrubs
- Decks & Patios
- Driveways & Sidewalks
- Sheds
- Swing Sets
- Swimming Pools
- Fencing
- Room Additions
- Mailbox Posts
- Gardens
- Fountains
- Concrete Structures



**APRIL IS NATIONAL
SAFE DIGGING MONTH**