



IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY

DECEMBER 2023

Residential Customers 1.800.755.5000 • Business Customers 1.800.232.2477 • Call JULIE Before You Dig at 811

Ameren Illinois Helps Rural Community Open Sustainable, Local Grocery Store

When the team at Cornerstone Community Wellness developed an innovative approach to improve health and quality of life in their hometown of Sheffield, Ameren Illinois was happy to support their efforts.

The nonprofit launched a fundraising effort to acquire and remodel the Royal Super Mart building to give residents access to local, sustainable food options. Through the AmerenCares® program, Ameren Illinois donated \$15,000, which allowed Cornerstone to obtain a new point of sale system and make other technology upgrades to the store. Through our Energy Efficiency Program, we also provided financial incentives to help cover the costs of energy-efficient lighting and a new HVAC system for the store.

Thanks to the ingenuity of Cornerstone Community Wellness and the generosity of donors, residents of this small, rural community now have access to healthy food options closer to home.



HELP POWER UP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Thousands of Illinois families, individuals and older adults request energy assistance each year to keep their homes powered. You can make a difference in their lives with a gift to the Energy Assistance Foundation.

Through its Warm Neighbors Cool Friends program, the Foundation offers energy bill

assistance to moderate-income households.

To receive an energy grant, recipients must make a matching payment on their account.

To make a tax-deductible donation, please visit **WarmNeighborsCoolFriends.org/Donate**.

You can also log in to your Ameren Illinois account to add a monthly donation.



BUILDING A GRID THAT CAN OUTSMART OUTAGES

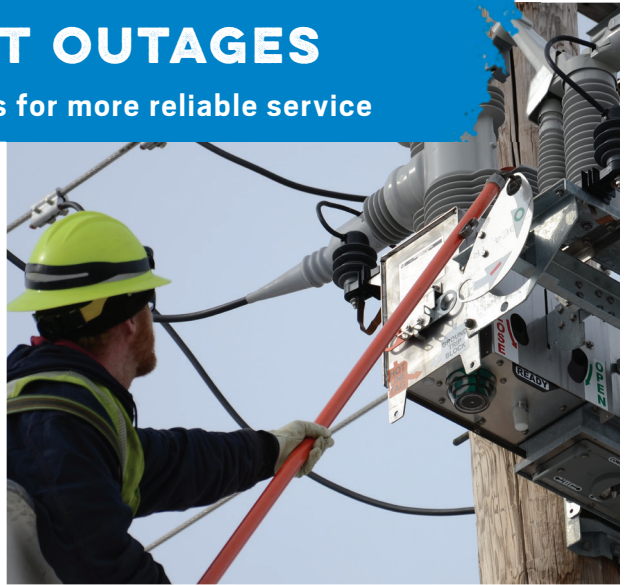
Ameren Illinois to add 300 IntelliRupters for more reliable service

As part of our statewide plan to build a more flexible, reliable and resilient grid, Ameren Illinois plans to install 300 “IntelliRupters” over the next 10 years. Work began last fall in the Metro East area.

These smart switches can detect problems on the electrical system and determine whether power needs to be re-routed from another source. IntelliRupters work in tandem with other outage detection devices to isolate the outage and reduce the duration of the disruption.

Each device can dramatically reduce the number of customers who lose power. The devices also automatically cut off power to damaged or malfunctioning sections of a power line, so electric crews can make repairs safely.

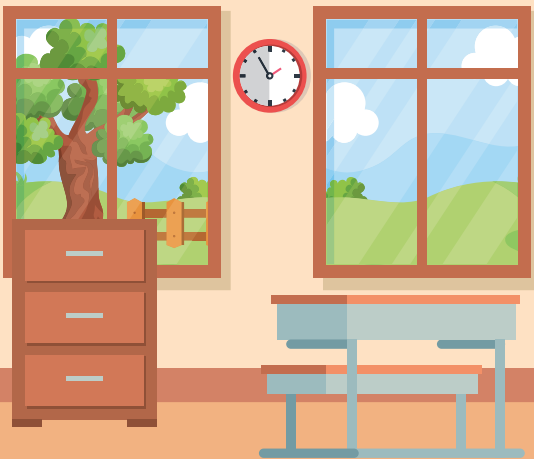
Deployment of these high-tech IntelliRupters are just one way Ameren Illinois is building a smarter system to serve you better.



Receive notice when power may be out in your area, estimated restoration updates and the cause of the outage by signing up for Outage Alerts. Text REG to AMEREN (263736).

GRANT HELPS EAST ST. LOUIS SCHOOL INSTALL ENERGY-EFFICIENT WINDOWS

When vandals broke windows at the Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School in East St. Louis in 2015, the school set out on a journey to replace all of its old, single-pane glass windows – 136 in total. This year, Ameren Illinois donated \$100,000 to help the school complete their work to install energy-efficient, impact-resistant windows. Benefits from the upgrade include lower power bills; more comfortable, quiet classrooms; and a better environment for teaching and learning.



FOR THE BIRDS

Ameren Illinois created an Avian Protection Program several years ago to protect birds of prey and migratory species from potential hazards, while enhancing reliability of the electric grid our customers depend on.

Here are some of the ways Ameren Illinois is doing its part to help our feathered friends:

- **Protective covers in high-risk areas:** We added insulating products on hundreds of poles and other structures that posed the greatest risk to large birds of prey.
- **Flight diverters:** Reflective devices have been installed on power lines crossing lakes and wetlands to help large birds, such as swans, blue herons or pelicans avoid collisions with power lines.
- **Avian-safe construction standards:** We revised our construction standards to ensure that new distribution lines include insulated components or increased spacing between wires so eagles, hawks, owls and other large birds of prey can land on a line and spread their wings – safely.
- **Responsible nest management:** We work with the proper government agencies when nests present a safety or reliability concern. Only inactive nests of non-endangered species are removed.

- **Workforce training:** We've trained hundreds of employees and contractors on the installation and use of avian products, new construction standards, and proper handling and reporting related to protected species and their nests.

WILD ABOUT WILDLIFE

Over the summer, audiences across Ameren Illinois service territory were treated to an up-close and personal experience with several birds of prey, thanks to the Illinois Raptor Center and Ameren Illinois.

Illinois Raptor Center Executive Director Jane Seitz and Program Director Jack Nuzzo wowed the crowds with a barn owl, peregrine falcon, red-tail hawk and turkey vulture as part of the organization's Wild about Wildlife presentations. The raptors included in the program have been rehabilitated by the Decatur-based nonprofit but cannot be released back into the wild. They now help educate the public.

Ameren is a long-time partner of the Illinois Raptor Center. Presentations were held in Champaign, Decatur, Fairmont City, Marion, Mt. Sterling and Peoria.

Jacques Nuzzo, program director for the Illinois Raptor Center, talks with the audience about his childhood experience seeing a red-tailed hawk.



Jane Seitz, executive director of the Illinois Raptor Center, shows off a turkey vulture to a group of children and residents who came out to learn more about birds of prey as part of a Wild about Wildlife presentation hosted by the Center and Ameren Illinois. Photo by Bill Greenblatt.

AMEREN ILLINOIS, SCHNUCKS PARTNER TO INSTALL CUTTING-EDGE COOLING TECHNOLOGY AT FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS STORE

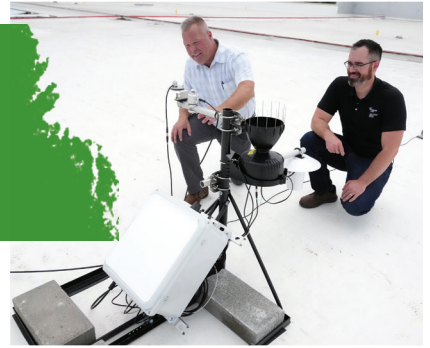
In a pioneering effort to combat the high costs of commercial refrigeration, Ameren Illinois partnered with the Schnucks supermarket chain to install a cutting-edge radiative rooftop panel system at its Fairview Heights store earlier this year. It's the first of its kind in Illinois, and one of only 20 such systems installed around the world.

The game-changing technology from SkyCool Systems features rooftop panels that integrate with the store's existing cooling systems. Layered, radiative cooling films on the panels act like a mirror, reflecting up to 97% of sunlight back into the atmosphere. By cooling the fluids used in air conditioning and refrigeration systems, the SkyCool System improves the operating efficiency of the units by as much as 40%.

Because it helps to keep the building and food products cool with less energy, the innovative system will help the Schnucks store reduce its monthly power bill and its impact on the environment. Unlike other energy-efficient cooling technologies, the SkyCool system requires no water, produces no carbon emissions and uses only a minimal amount of electricity to power a small circulating pump.

For more information about the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program, visit [AmerenIllinoisSavings.com](https://www.AmerenIllinoisSavings.com).

Ike Eichenlaub, Manager HVAC/R & Energy for Schnucks Markets, pointing, and Tom Tyler, industrial energy advisor, Ameren Illinois, on top of the roof at the Fairview Heights Schnucks store. The two are looking at the first installation in Illinois of a highly efficient cooling technology.



Ike Eichenlaub, Manager HVAC/R & Energy for Schnucks Markets, and Tom Tyler, industrial energy advisor, Ameren Illinois, check out the rooftop equipment that transmits data from all the sensors in the system to the internet.

GIVE ENERGY-SMART GIFTS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Giving new electronics, gadgets or appliances this holiday season? Look for the ENERGY STAR® logo for a gift that uses less energy without sacrificing features, style or comfort.

If you're shopping for the do-it-yourselfer in your life, consider giving gifts that help keep your home and loved ones safe. A few options include: ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI), heavy-duty extension cords, power strips with built-in circuit breaker, non-contact voltage testers, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, flashlights and weather radios. For more ideas, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org).



Ameren Earns Great Place To Work Certification™ for 7th Consecutive Year.

Ameren employees have once again reported the company as a Great Place to Work® – a prestigious Certification™ awarded to companies with an empowering and engaging culture.

Thanks to rankings provided by Ameren employees, the company scored 19% higher than average U.S. companies. Learn more at [greatplacetowork.com](https://www.greatplacetowork.com) and visit [Ameren.com/Careers](https://www.Ameren.com/Careers) to explore opportunities at Ameren.