



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# Hi-Lites

## MISSION STATEMENT

To safely provide our member-owners with reliable electric service, superior customer service, and practical energy solutions, all at reasonable prices.



## What is in store for EV Batteries?

Luke Johnson,  
General Manager

Range anxiety is one of the main concerns that members have regarding electric vehicles (EVs), which leads us to our next EV topic in this series - batteries. In our last issue of the newsletter, we discussed the types of electric vehicles and chargers. In this issue, I'd like to expand on the battery component of EVs.

I would love to tell you exactly how long an EV battery will last, but unfortunately there are a lot of

variables. You must take into consideration: high/low temperatures, overcharging, frequent driving with battery less than half full, frequent quick accelerations, age of the battery, size of battery, and vehicle make and model.

For a frame of reference, the 2022 Chevy Bolt has an 8

year/100K mile warranty for its lithium-ion battery. Depending on the factors mentioned above, the life expectancy of the Chevy Bolt battery is 300k-400k miles. The battery pack has 161 components, nine modules and 288 cells, and weighs 435 lb. The cost to replace a 2022 Chevy Bolt EV battery runs around \$15,700 for the battery itself before labor, taxes, and other fees. For some models, there is also an option to refurbish battery packs for about half the cost of a full replacement.

Chevrolet reports that the estimated driving range for their 2022

Chevy Bolt EV is 259 miles on a full charge with the disclaimer that, "Your actual range will vary based on several factors, including temperature, terrain, battery age and how you use and maintain your vehicle," as previously mentioned.

Do you have an electric vehicle? We would love to hear about your experience! Reach out to our Member Services Department: [lhutchison@tricountycoop.com](mailto:lhutchison@tricountycoop.com) 618-244-5151

We would love to share your experience with other members interested in EV's.

3906 Broadway  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

618-244-5151  
Toll-Free: 800-244-5151  
Fax: 618-244-1496  
Pay by phone:  
855-385-9902

Mt. Vernon  
Office Hours  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Salem  
Office Hours  
Tuesday - Thursday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
(Closed 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Continued from Page 1

How long does it take to charge? A Chevy Bolt EV charging on a 120V charging unit will accumulate 4 miles of range in approximately 1 hour. If the vehicle is charging on a 240V charging unit, it can fully charge in approximately 7 hours. If you are charging this vehicle at a DC fast charge station (typically seen in commercial settings) you can accumulate up to 100 miles of range in 30 minutes.

What happens to this 435 lb. battery when it's removed from the vehicle? Fortunately, we are beginning to see the batteries being recycled or used as part of energy storage systems. For example, Nissan has launched an initiative to use old Nissan LEAF batteries as the energy storage for streetlights. The lights have a solar panel that generates energy which is then stored in the battery. At night, the battery provides the power to run the streetlight.

There are a few ways to extend the life of your vehicle battery. Kia suggests a slow charge. While charging fast is a great convenience, fast charging presses so much current into the batteries in a short period and strains your EV battery. Eight years of standard charging will give you 10% more battery life compared to 8 years of using fast charging.

Kia also states that, "EVs that are parked or stored with an empty or full battery also degrades the battery. If you do not use your electric car often or have a long trip planned, get a timed charger, and plug it in. Leaving your vehicle at 100 percent while parked at a certain place for a long period, the battery will struggle with preserving its state of charge while you are away. One strategy is to charge just above the low mark, not filling it up to the maximum capacity, at an average charge level between 25 percent and 75 percent".

Be on the lookout for future EV interest articles, which will continue later this summer. If you'd like to see an EV, make sure you stop by the Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 9th, 2022. Pending availability, we are planning to have an electric vehicle to display. In the meantime, let us know if you have an electric vehicle. We would love to hear about your experience, what you like, and what you don't like.

Advanced Energy, Touchstone Energy.com, 2019, *How Long will an Electric Vehicle Battery Last?*

Chevrolet Press Room, Media.Chevrolet.com, 2022 *Bolt EUV and Bolt EV Specifications*

Kia.com, 2022, *How to extend EV battery life?*

## Employee Spotlight



**Name:** Hillary Keip

**Position at the Cooperative:** Customer Service Representative (CSR)

**Years of Service:** 4

**What is your favorite line from a TV Show?**

"Would I rather be feared or loved? Easy. Both. I want people to be afraid of how much they love me." -Michael Scott, *The Office*

**Motto or personal mantra?**

Eyebrows are sisters, not twins.

**What is the last joke you recall?**

Taco Bell is the only place you can still get gas for \$1.39.

## Cooperative Calendar

**May 20, 2022**

American Red Cross Blood Drive - Mt. Vernon

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**July 9, 2022**

Annual Meeting - Mt. Vernon

# Teaching Farm Safety



On March 29th, Linemen Kyle Douglass and Justin Tepovich took a break from their normal day jobs to join hundreds of Jefferson County students at the 22nd Annual Farm Safety Day Camp at Adams Farms in Jefferson County.

The day camp featured 20 different stations for kids to visit and learn. Tri-County Electric Cooperative's station featured a tabletop miniature live line demonstration. The linemen were able to show the kids how electricity can be conducted through farm equipment, vehicles, ladders, and even tree limbs.

The students were excited, engaged, and had great questions! We appreciate Adams Farms for allowing us to be involved in such a fun and impactful day of safety and learning.

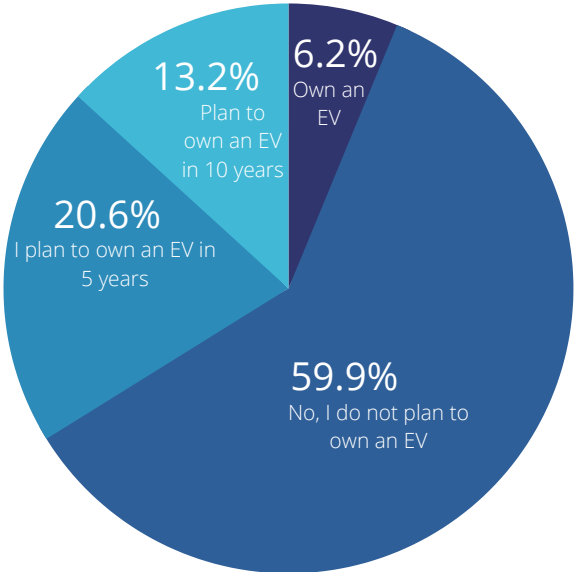


It is with great pleasure that we announce our newest addition to the Tri-County Electric Cooperative Family! Alicia Hester started her career on March 30th as a Customer Service Representative at our Mt. Vernon office. She is very excited to serve the members of the Cooperative! Welcome, Alicia!



Members responded to a recent electric vehicle (EV) survey on Facebook. Here is what 257 members that participated in the survey had to say.

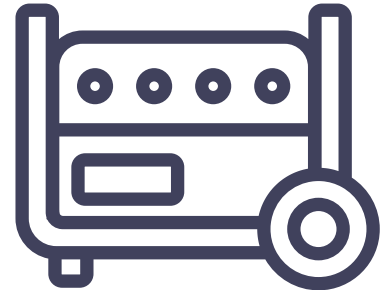
Do you plan to own a fully electric vehicle (EV)?





# A QUICK GUIDE TO GENERATORS

With proper use and maintenance, generators provide great convenience during a power outage. Before you purchase a generator, determine your backup power needs to select the right size. Make a list of essential appliances and devices you'll want to power during an outage, then total the required wattage.



## Recreational Inverter

### Up to 2,000 watts

Lightweight, about 60 pounds

Quiet, easy to store

Power: fridge and a few smaller items (i.e. lamp, phone charger and home security system)

## Mid-sized Inverter

### Up to 3,500 watts

Weighs up to 150 pounds

Power: fridge, laptop, five to 10 lights, phone charger, home security system and 10K BTU air conditioner

## Portable Generators and Large Inverters

### Up to 7,500 watts

Weighs about 300 pounds

Power: fridge, gas furnace, 10K BTU air conditioner, dishwasher, multiple lights, TV, laptop and more

Ability to connect to home's breaker panel

## Home Standby

### Up to 20,000 watts

Must be permanently installed; starts automatically during outage Power: nearly all home appliances and electronics (simultaneously) Can run indefinitely on natural gas or propane

Recommended if you are not able to be without power for an extended period of time

## SAFETY FIRST!

- Let us know if you purchase a generator that you plan to connect to an electric panel.
- Improperly installed generators can create back feed, which is dangerous to our crews and the community.  
**Before using the generator, disconnect the normal source of power coming into your home/business.**
- Never operate a generator indoors or in an enclosed space.

**Disclaimer:** Please note safety requirements may differ based on the type of generator you purchase. Thoroughly read the operator's manual and know how to shut off the generator quickly.

Source: *Consumer Reports*