



## NEWS RELEASE

### Media contacts:

Stacey Shangraw  
309-677-5073

[sstockton-shangraw@ameren.com](mailto:sstockton-shangraw@ameren.com)

Brian Bretsch  
618-343-8087

[bbretsch@ameren.com](mailto:bbretsch@ameren.com)

Marcelyn Love  
217-535-5116

[mlove@ameren.com](mailto:mlove@ameren.com)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Ameren Illinois Announces Commitment to put 300,000 Smart Thermostats in Customer Homes and Businesses

*Collaboration with leading brands, environmental advocates*

*Rebates and incentives provided through Ameren Illinois energy efficiency programs*



*Pictured at the official launch event in May (from left): Dave Bend – Nest, Jackie Asch – ecobee, Kristol Simms – Ameren Illinois, Richard J. Mark – Ameren Illinois, Brien Sheahan – Illinois Commerce Commission, Rob Kelter – Environmental Law & Policy Center*

**COLLINSVILLE, IL** – Building on its commitment to help customers become more energy efficient, Ameren Illinois announced an initiative to put 300,000 smart thermostats in customer homes and businesses.

Residential customers can receive a \$100 instant rebate coupon and redeem it with participating retailers at checkout to save on select ENERGY STAR® certified smart thermostats. In addition, income-qualified customers can obtain a smart thermostat and have it installed for free by completing a home energy audit offered by Ameren Illinois and its Program Allies. Application forms for the home energy audit and additional information on both instant and mail-in rebates are available at [www.AmerenIllinoisSavings.com](http://www.AmerenIllinoisSavings.com) or by calling 866-838-6918.



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The smart thermostat rebates are being offered to customers through energy efficiency program funding under the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA). Signed into law in 2016, the landmark legislation provides approximately \$114 million per year to help Ameren Illinois' customers reduce energy and save money on their energy bills, while expanding access to energy efficiency programs and services for moderate-to-low income customers.

"When the Future Energy Jobs Act was passed, we made a bold commitment to ensure that benefits of energy efficiency would be available to all of our customers, especially those with limited financial means," said Richard J. Mark, Ameren Illinois Chairman and President. "With this initiative, we're living up to that promise. Putting 300,000 smart thermostats in customer homes and businesses is an ambitious goal, but we're confident that with the collaboration of our partners we can make that vision a reality."

Easy to install and operate, use of a smart thermostat can save between 10 and 15 percent on heating and cooling costs. The devices enable customers to adjust settings on the go via smartphone apps. Additionally, many smart thermostats models can sense when the homeowner and/or residents are away from home and automatically modify the temperature, further reducing energy usage.

"Smart thermostats will empower Ameren Illinois residential and business customers to better manage their energy usage, and give them more control over their monthly bill," said Brien J. Sheahan, Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission. "On behalf of Governor Bruce Rauner and the ICC, we applaud Ameren Illinois for continuing the state's more than 100-year tradition of leadership on energy issues by embracing new innovation and technology, like smart thermostats, that help our state reach its energy efficiency goals."

"Smart thermostats will help consumers to stop cooling and heating empty homes," said Rob Kelter, Senior Attorney for the Environmental Law & Policy Center. "With this initiative, Ameren Illinois is stepping up to help its customers save money and reduce pollution at the same time."

The initiative is bolstered by the active involvement from leading smart thermostat brands, including Nest and ecobee. Since 2011, Nest thermostats around the world have helped customers save more than 22 billion kilowatt-hours of energy and their work with Ameren is in service of this mission to bring energy efficiency to more homes across the U.S.

ecobee introduced the world's first smart wi-fi thermostat to help homeowners save money, conserve energy and live more comfortably. "We applaud the commitment that Ameren Illinois is making and are thrilled to offer the Ameren Illinois customers a better way to save on their energy bill and reduce their carbon footprint," said Stuart Lombard, president and CEO of ecobee.

Ameren Illinois' energy efficiency program is recognized as one of the best in the country – rated #12 by ACEEE, an independent energy efficiency organization. Over the past nine years, Ameren Illinois has helped its customers reduce their energy usage by nearly 12 million megawatt-hours, saving them approximately \$781 million. This improved energy efficiency has enabled Ameren



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Illinois customers to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 8.3 million metric tons – the equivalent of taking nearly 1.8 million cars off the road for a year.

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### **About Ameren Illinois**

Ameren Illinois delivers energy to 1.2 million electric and 816,000 natural gas customers in central and southern Illinois. The company is devoting \$114 million per year to help customers reduce energy and save money on their energy bills, and expanding access to energy efficiency programs and services for moderate-to-low income customers. For more information, visit [AmerenIllinois.com](http://AmerenIllinois.com), find us on Twitter @AmerenIllinois or Facebook.