

# JO-CARROLL

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  **HI-LINES**

Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Michael Hastings

### Board adopts mission, vision statements; adds core values

Strategic planning is critical to the future of Jo-Carroll Energy. It helps provide direction and focus.

During the recent months, the board of directors and staff have been working on our latest plan. As part of strategic planning this year, the board reviewed the cooperative's mission and vision statements. Employees provided input to the mission and vision statements along with a set of core values through a series of meetings.

The board adopted our new mission, vision and values at the September meeting. A mission statement defines what an organization is, why it exists, and tells its reason for being. The mission statement, simply put, is what we do.

Our new mission statement defines our primary customers – you the members – and identifies the products and services we provide. Our new mission statement reads:

**A member-owned cooperative that strives to deliver utility solutions to our members and communities – safely, efficiently, and responsibly.**

The vision statement is a description

of what the cooperative wants to achieve or accomplish. Our new vision statement should sound very familiar; it is essentially our former mission statement:

**Jo-Carroll Energy exists to enhance the quality of life for our members.**

This is something we have not wavered from since the cooperative was formed. It is what makes Jo-Carroll Energy distinctive as a not-for-profit cooperative.

We've added four core values to our mission and vision. Developed by employees and the board, these values illustrate the best of our culture. They are intended to guide the behavior of everyone in your cooperative's organization; they are how we drive this cooperative.

**Our values include: Safety, Accountability, Integrity and Reliability.**

Through these core values, the employees of Jo-Carroll Energy work for you every day to deliver on our mission and reach our vision. While we plan for and face the issues of the future, we will remain true to our cooperative roots, keeping members' needs first and at the heart of everything we do.

### Reader prize

Each month we print the name of a Jo-Carroll Energy member who is eligible to win a monthly \$25 readership prize. If your name is printed in this month's edition, and not a part of any article, contact Jo-Carroll Energy and claim your prize no later than the 10th of the month following publication.

**South View Solar Farm**

**Reserve your place in the sun!**

Subscriptions to South View Solar Farm panels now available

Visit [www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com) for information

### Our Values

SAFETY	ACCOUNTABILITY
We consistently promote a culture of safety for the protection of our employees, members, and communities.	We are responsible and will accomplish what is required by our position or role to assist the organization to fulfill its goals and plans.
INTEGRITY	RELIABILITY
We conduct ourselves, at all times, in a manner that is ethical, legal, and professional with the highest degree of honesty, respect and fairness.	We strive to provide efficient and dependable service in a timely and professional manner to meet the members' needs.

# Resume of Minutes

## Regular Board Meeting • August 26, 2015

### For your information

#### Your Board of Directors:

**David Senn**  
*Chairman*  
District 7

**Chris Stadel**  
*Vice Chairman*  
District 4

**Marcia Stanger**  
*Secretary*  
District 3

**Martin Werner**  
*Treasurer*  
District 1

**Joseph Mattingley**  
District 2

**Patricia Smith**  
District 5

**Thomas Lundy**  
District 6

**Russell Holesinger**  
District 8

**Larry Carroll**  
District 9

**Robert Kuhns**  
District 10

**Ronald Hallendorff**  
District 10

**Office Hours:**  
Monday-Friday

**Elizabeth**  
793 U.S. Route 20 West  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Savanna**  
103 Chicago Ave.  
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**Genesee**  
1004 S. Chicago St.  
7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
1:30 - 4 p.m.

**Services and  
Billing Questions:**

(800) 858-5522  
www.jocarroll.com

**For emergencies  
and outages call:**  
(800) 858-5522

The board met on Wednesday, August 26, 2015, at the Jo-Carroll Energy Headquarters. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The Agenda and the Consent Agenda were approved.

**Member Presentation** – Barry Shear, with Eagle Point Solar, and Michael Cox, with BluePath Financial, LLC, made a presentation to the board outlining a potential response to Dairyland Power's RFP for up to 25 MW of solar generation. The response from Jo-Carroll Energy would be collaboration between Jo-Carroll Energy, Eagle Point Solar, and BluePath Financial for a 5 MW facility in the Dairyland portion of Jo-Carroll Energy's service area.

**Chairman's Report** – Chairman Senn noted that under the Clean Power Plan, cooperatives could lose up to 20% of their electric capacity, which would make it more costly to perform one of the cooperative's basic functions, which is to keep the lights on for our members. The board's participation in training and continuing education is vital to stay on top of the changes occurring in the industry and to be effective advocates for the members.

**Dairyland Report** – Director Stadel reported that the Dairyland board recently completed strategic planning, which included an update of the cooperative's core values. Additionally, Dairyland has returned approximately \$1 million to its member cooperatives this year as a PCA credit.

**AIEC Report** – Chairman Senn reported that the AIEC board approved increasing the amount of each Thomas Moore Memorial scholarship from \$1,500 to \$2000. The AIEC also reported a 3% increase in NRECA dues.

**APGA Report** – Director Carroll reported that recent news headlines about natural gas explosions have subjected the gas industry to increased scrutiny from regulators. Many of the proposed regulations arising from this attention may be reactionary and unnecessary. The APGA is continually advocating for sensible regulations, where regulation is appropriate, and is opposed to unnecessary regulations that impose cost on consumer/members.

**PPI Report** – Director Hallendorff presented the board with the most recent cost/MWh figures from PPI. Hallendorff also shared the news that PPI's former CEO, Jay Bartlett, has left PPI to head the Wabash Valley G&T.

#### Monthly Committee Review

**a. Policy Report** – Director Smith reported that grammatical revisions were made to Board Policy 143; policy was approved as revised.

**b. Board Self Evaluation Committee Meeting Report** – Director Stanger reported on the June 19th and July 23rd committee meetings. The changes to the annual evaluation questionnaire were to reduce the ambiguity of some questions and answers. The committee's recommendations were tabled until the next board meeting, with the next committee meeting scheduled prior to the September Board Meeting. Director Stanger then reported on several recommendations from the committee that resulted from feedback provided on the last questionnaire that the Board completed. The recommendations were approved as presented.

**CEO's Report** – The CEO reported on the following in addition to his written report:

**Financial Operating Report** – Hastings reported that the Cooperative had an unaudited margin of approximately \$540,000 in July. Actual energy sales are down, but the cooperative's cost of power is also down, which reflects decreased costs from IP&L that were not available at budget time. Equity is at approximately 23%. The Board accepted the July Financial Operating Report for filing by general consent.

**Power Supply Report** – CEO Hastings updated the board on the work of Dairyland Power's compensation

modernization task force.

**Rentech Report** – CEO Hastings updated the board on work with Rentech.

**CFO Report** – Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Heidenreich reported that she and her staff are working with CFC on new financial forecasting software and tools.

**Sr. Vice President and Assistant General Manager Report** – Sr. Vice President and Assistant General Manager Buross reported that the building addition is slightly behind schedule, due to weather.

**Culture of Excellence and Communications** – Merri Sevey, Vice President of Human Resources informed the board that the content of the member survey is being finalized. Sevey also reported that the cooperative's employees would be voting on possible revisions to the cooperative's mission statement, vision, and core values. The results will be presented to the board for consideration.

**Member Services** – Jennifer Skien, Vice-President of Member Services, reported on the "archive" function that is available through the OnBoard app, along with other useful features found in the program.

**External Affairs Update** – Chris Allendorf, Corporate Counsel, provided a summary of the recently released Clean Power Plan, noting that Illinois has significant reductions to make, which are greater than what was proposed in the draft rule. Allendorf also updated the board on the status of Illinois legislative affairs. Allendorf concluded with updates on the activities of TCEDA, including news of a wave of new hires at Thomson prison, which is expected to happen in October.

John Cox, Board Attorney, updated the board on the activities of TCEDA's political advisory group.

#### Board Issues

**RESCO Voting Delegate** – Board Chairman Senn, Vice-Chairman Stadel and CEO Hastings are all eligible to be the RESCO voting delegate at the upcoming NRECA Region 5 & 6 Meeting.

**Policy Committee Meeting** – The next policy committee meeting date was set.

**Solar Project Proposal for Dairyland** – The Board approved Jo-Carroll Energy's response to Dairyland's RFP for solar generation.

**IB&T renewal for the Line of Credit** – The renewal of the cooperative's line of credit with Illinois Bank & Trust was approved.

**Membership in DistribuGen Cooperative** – The Board approved Jo-Carroll Energy to apply for membership in the DistribuGen Cooperative.

**Approval of Badger Group additional funds** – The payment of a one-time assessment by the Badger Group was approved.

**NRECA International Program** – President and CEO Hastings will discuss current opportunities for lineworkers through the NRECA's international program to see if there is interest among Jo-Carroll Energy's employees.

#### Executive Session

Executive Session was held to discuss pending and possible litigation, other legal matters, and employment matters.

**Consideration of Matters discussed in Executive Session** – The board approved a TIF Redevelopment Agreement with the Village of Elizabeth for the Dollar General property.

**Reports** – Reports were heard on: NRECA Course 957.1, AIEC Annual Meeting, Brian Stewart Event, Badger Group Annual Meeting, and three area fairs.

**Upcoming Meetings** – Region 5 & 6 Meeting.

**Other Business** – ACRE enrollment forms and Member Appreciation Days.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 P.M.

# Petitions available for 2016 director nominations

*Nomination petitions for the 2016 Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors are now available.*

Three director posts will be up for election in the 2016 elections including: District 1, now represented by Martin Werner of East Dubuque; District 2, now represented by Joe Mattingley of Scales Mound; and District 4, now represented by Chris Stadel of Hanover.

Any Jo-Carroll Energy member residing in the district of a director whose term is expiring, including the incumbent director may petition for nomination. Members interested in seeking election to the board may pick up a nomination petition at one of Jo-Carroll Energy's offices or download a petition from the cooperative's website at [www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com)

Petitions must be signed by at least 25 Jo-Carroll Energy members residing in the district for which the director is to be elected. Petitions must be filed at Jo-Carroll Energy's headquarters no earlier than Dec. 27, 2015 and no later than March 25, 2016.

In order to qualify to have their names placed on the ballot, all nominees must participate in an orientation process provided by the attorney for the cooperative, assuring that all nominees fully understand the expectations and responsibilities of directors. These include but are not limited to: time demands, educational expectations and fiduciary duties.

All eligible candidates will be announced in the 2016 Annual Meeting Book, on the cooperative's website and in Hi-Lines.

Complete details on director qualifications and the nomination procedure can be found in Jo-Carroll Energy's bylaws posted on the cooperative's website at [www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com). Anyone without internet access may request a copy by calling 800-858-5522.

The 2016 Annual Meeting of Members is set for Wednesday, May 25 beginning at 6 p.m. at the East Dubuque High School.

## Budget billing accounts recalculate in November

Members with budget billing for their electric accounts will have their budget amounts recalculated in November.

Because your budget amount is based on an average of the previous 12 months' use and outstanding credits or debits accrued, this November true-up recalculation may result in an increase or decrease, depending on changes in your use patterns.

Be sure to look at your November statement to see if your budget amount has changed. If a change results from the recalculation, a message will appear on your statement in blue indicating the new budget amount. If you do not see a message on your statement, your budget billing amount remained the same.

If you have more than one billing account on budget, it is possible that one or both amounts may change. You begin paying the new budget amount in December.

Budget billing can help you manage your energy costs by allowing you to allocate the same amount each month. Monthly utility bills can vary significantly throughout the

year due to variations in your usage through heating and cooling seasons. With Jo-Carroll Energy's budget billing plan you eliminate the month-to-month fluctuations caused by changing weather and use patterns. It is imperative that members on budget billing still watch their monthly use and outstanding balances to ensure a large increase does not occur during a recalculation month.

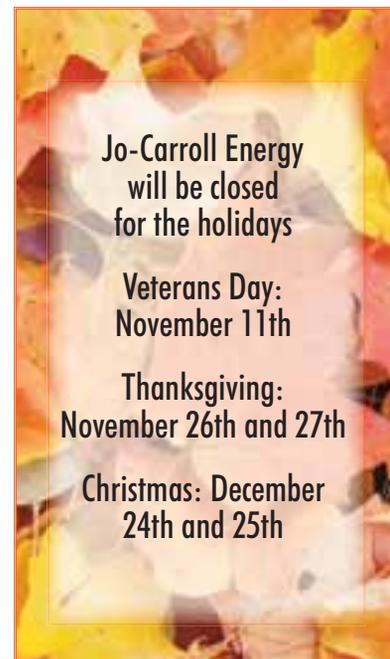
### Levelized billing

Jo-Carroll Energy also offers a levelized billing program. Under this plan, each monthly bill is the rolling average of your electric use for the most recent 12 months, thus eliminating true-up months.

This means you will not pay the exact same amount every month, but it will be close to the same. The amount you owe some months will be more than the average, other months it will be less. Over the course of the year, you will have paid what you actually owe.

Levelized billing does not reduce your bill; rather it helps you manage your utility payments.

If you have any questions regarding budget billing, your budget bill account or levelized billing, please contact the Member Services Department at 800-858-5522. You can find more information about budget billing on our website at [www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com).



# Ready, set, winterize!

**W**ith winter just around the corner, knowing how to prepare your home this fall can help reduce the amount of money you spend on heating this winter.

In 2014, energy.gov reported that home heating accounted for approximately 42 percent of the total energy used in an average American home. So, it makes up a significant portion of a utility bill, and is a sensible area of focus for energy efficiency improvements and savings.

Make a habit of cleaning your furnace annually in the fall months. Removing a season of built-up debris (especially if you have pets) can reduce the risk of fire and make your furnace run more efficiently.

Also, remember to replace your furnace filter during the winter. Replacing a dirty filter will increase the air flow and make your home more energy efficient (with the added benefit of cleaner air in your home).

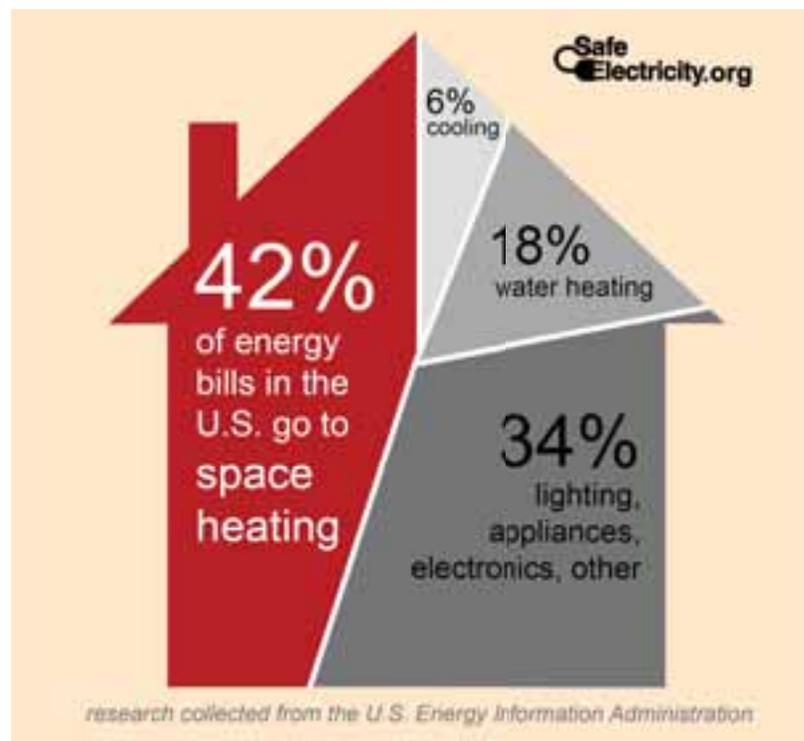
If it is time to replace the furnace itself, look for energy-efficient models. Furnaces with an Energy Star rating usually exceed federal standards for energy efficiency and can make choosing the right model that much easier. Installing an energy-efficient furnace can reduce your energy consumption and the cost of heating your house.

Check your home for air leaks. You can use the following method

to check for them. On a windy day, hold a lit incense stick or smoke pen next to anywhere you think a leak may be (usually windows, doors, attic hatches, or any other opening to the outside). If the smoke stream travels horizontally, you have found an air leak.

There are a variety of actions you can take to plug the leak, depending on its location. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends the following steps:

- Caulk and add weather stripping to doors and windows that leak air.
- Use foam sealant on larger gaps around windows, baseboards, and other places where air may leak out.
- Replace door bottoms and thresholds with ones that have pliable sealing gaskets.
- Keep the fireplace flue damper tightly closed when not in use.



**WE ARE ALL WORKING TOWARDS THE SAME GOAL.** When we work together, using energy wisely and saving money go hand in hand. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).



**Jo-Carroll Energy**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

[TOGETHERWESAVE.COM](http://TOGETHERWESAVE.COM)



## Kids Safety Day



*Jo-Carroll Energy hosted the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau's Kids Safety Day at the Elizabeth headquarters on Saturday, Sept. 26. Kids learned to be safe around electricity, grain bins, bikes, the internet, fire and other dangers.*

## Recycling and Shred Event



*Farmers National Bank held a recycling and shred event at Jo-Carroll Energy's Geneseo office Saturday, Sept. 26. With the community's help, they were able to collect 4,000 pounds of items to shred and a semi-truck full of electronics.*

## Neighbor to Neighbor Care Funds offer help

If you need assistance paying your energy bill this winter, help may be available through Jo-Carroll Energy's Neighbor to Neighbor Care Funds.

This program works in tandem with the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Members must first apply for LIHEAP funds to then be considered.

If funds are available, you may receive a grant from the Neighbor to Neighbor funds. To find out if

you qualify, contact your respective agency to start the application process:

- Jo Daviess County: Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency (NICAA), 815-232-3141.
- Carroll and Whiteside counties: Tri-County Opportunities Council, 800-323-5434.
- Henry County: Project Now, 309-852-4565

Warm someone's heart this holiday and give the gift of Energy

## Holiday Energy Credits

A wonderful gift for any Jo-Carroll Energy Member!

Certificates are available in any amount and are applied to the member's energy bill for the amount purchased.

Ask any billing service representative for more information

### Jo-Carroll Energy

793 U.S. Route 20 West • P.O. Box 390  
Elizabeth, Illinois 61028-0390



## Snap Fitness, Geneseo

**F**unctional fitness is how Brett Decker describes the experience his members receive at Snap Fitness in Geneseo.

Brett Decker had been a gym member for years when he had the thought to open his own in Geneseo. Instead of creating a new, competing business he chose to contact the owners of the existing Snap Fitness. Decker purchased the business in 2011 and moved to the gym's current location in February, 2012.

At this larger-than-most gym, members benefit from a variety of workout equipment and opportunities. **Laurie Ivory**

"People like to work out by moving their bodies, not just machines," said Decker.

The FITNESS on demand™ room is a unique and valuable feature exclusive to Snap Fitness members. It is stocked with a large selection of exercise equipment. Members may pair this

equipment with any of the more than sixty on-demand video instruction classes available in cardio, strength, dance, cycling, and flexibility.

Members may schedule time in the FITNESS on demand™ room as a group or enjoy the benefits of a personal workout session.

Members also gain the benefits of a reciprocal agreement, meaning once members join a Snap Fitness gym they are able to work out at any Snap Fitness facility in the world.

Snap Fitness locations, including the Geneseo franchise, are always open, allowing members to exercise at their convenience.

"You just swipe your key and the door opens," said Decker. Safety is a priority at the Geneseo Snap Fitness. Two emergency buttons are located within the

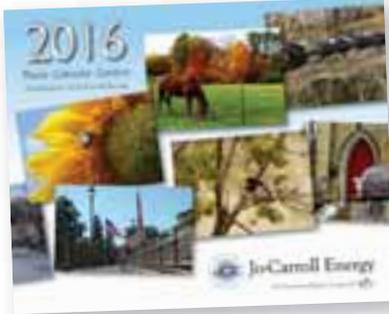


gym contacting local authorities when pressed. The parking lot is extremely well lit and security cameras watch every work-out area.

Decker relies on his three managers to care for the members. Two of his managers are personal trainers equipped with knowledge in fitness and nutrition. All three like to answer questions and put the members first.

To join Snap Fitness of Geneseo, visit their facility at 1045 S. Oakwood Ave. during manager's hours or signup online at [www.snapfitness.com](http://www.snapfitness.com). Jo-Carroll Energy members receive one month free when they show their Co-op Connections Card at purchase.

# Congratulations to our 2015 photo contest winners



Congratulations to the winners in our 2015 Photo Calendar Contest. We are proud to feature the work of our talented members in the 2016 Jo-Carroll Energy Calendar.

Copies are available at the Elizabeth, Savanna and Geneseo offices while supplies last.

## Members whose photos appear in the calendar include:

- Paula DeVore of Geneseo
- Tonia DeLong of Geneseo
- Barb Virtue Townsend of Galena
- Sarah Machala of Galena
- Donna Berlage of Galena
- Amy Graham of Galena
- Adelle Mure-Ravaud of Fulton
- James Glessner of Galena
- Jo Ellen McCaskey of Savanna
- Laurie Starrett of Hanover

## See your photos in print

The 2016 Photo Contest is now open. Jo-Carroll Energy is accepting entries for the 2016 contest; winners will be featured in the 2017 Jo-Carroll Energy Calendar.

We are looking for images that represent life in our service territory – whether they are action shots or scenic landscapes. All photos must be the original work of the entrant and be taken within the Jo-Carroll Energy service territory.

Entry deadline is June 30, 2016. For complete rules and entry information, visit [www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com) or contact Peggy Francomb, manager of communications and marketing, at 800-858-5522 or [pfrancomb@jocarroll.com](mailto:pfrancomb@jocarroll.com).



# Ten 2016 IEC Memorial Scholarships available

The Illinois electric cooperatives in 2016 will award nine academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” In addition, a tenth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric line-worker school – will also be offered.

The total of ten scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded in 2016 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Five scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A sixth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. Three additional scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The tenth annual scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” was



*Information about the 2016 Jo-Carroll Energy Scholarships will be available in the December Hi-Lines and at [www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com).*

awarded for the first time in 2011. This \$2,000 scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative from 1949 until 1991. He and his wife, Nola, endowed the scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees

or directors; and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for the lineworker’s scholarship.

For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Peggy Francomb, Jo-Carroll Energy manager of communications and marketing, at 800-858-5522, ext. 1218 or [pfrancomb@jocarroll.com](mailto:pfrancomb@jocarroll.com). Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative’s website at [www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com).

electric • natural gas • broadband

**We provide solutions.**  
 Whether for your home, homework, home office or business, our service goes far beyond basic. We open opportunities. Contact us to learn what your cooperative can do for you.



**Jo-Carroll Energy**  
Your Tristone Energy® Cooperative



**Sand Prairie** WIRELESS  
Connecting our members to the world.  
 A service of Jo-Carroll Energy

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