



# Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. • [cceci@cceci.com](mailto:cceci@cceci.com) • [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com)

## Our history, our future

*Looking back provides the path forward.*

*By Adam Schwartz*

One of my favorite quotes has always been, “Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Yet sometimes remembering our history with the goal of repeating it can actually be a good thing. As the nation’s 30,000 cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month this October, it is a great time to take a look back – and a look forward.

Take the history of your electric co-op. Clinton County Electric was founded when neighbors worked together to bring electricity to our rural community. Big investor-owned power companies thought they couldn’t generate enough profit so they bypassed rural areas. Back then, there were frequent meetings among neighbors to discuss the formation of

the cooperative. Once established, annual meetings were the “must attend” event of the year. The co-op – on behalf of the member-owners – committed to provide the community with electricity.

Fast forward to today – and tomorrow. Clinton County Electric currently serves almost 5,000 members. We have returned \$7,850,000 of capital credits to the members over the lifetime of the cooperative since 1939.

We understand the spirit that helped create this co-op must be continually nurtured. While times and technology will continue to change, our commitment to you will not.

Although we started out to provide electricity, our impact (with your support) has grown.

As we continue to look toward the future, you can be confident that Clinton County Electric will commit to explore new ways to help our members and our community.

Over the years, as we’ve listened to you and your fellow co-op member-owners, we know that we have to keep pace as technology and consumer tastes evolve. As always, we welcome your participation as we plan for the future.

Adam Schwartz is the founder of The Cooperative Way, a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op. You can follow him on Twitter @adamcooperative or email him at [aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop](mailto:aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop)

# Right of Way Maintenance

Clinton County Electric has again contracted with Rensing's Tree Service to maintain our right of ways. Rensing's Tree Service sprays herbicides and uses bucket trucks along with specialized trimming equipment to control foliage growing too close to overhead power lines.

These preventive measures will not only reduce the number of unnecessary outages, but will promote quicker restoral times when outages are inevitable. With no obstacles, such as overgrowth in their way, the CCECI linemen are able to easily access the areas needed to

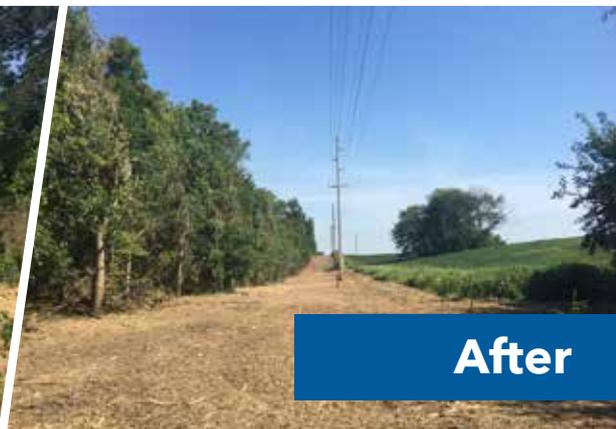
restore electricity in a quick and safe manner.

In 2017, Rensing Tree Service crews are working in the areas served by the Albers, Breese and Mascoutah substations. The areas served by the Beckemeyer and Boulder substations will follow next year in 2018.

*A right of way southeast of Trenton before and after CCECI's preventive maintenance.*



**Before**



**After**

# Scam Alert

Please be careful if you get a call that appears to be coming from Clinton County Electric and the caller identifies themselves as a Clinton County Electric employee. Someone is posing as a CCECI employee, calling members and asking for their checking information or immediate payment in order to avoid disconnection. If you ever have any doubt a call is legitimately coming from a Clinton County Electric representative, hang up and call us directly. **DO NOT** give out payment information over the phone unless you are certain you are speaking to Clinton County Electric.



## ***In observance of Thanksgiving***

*the office will be closed on Thursday,  
November 23, 2017  
and Friday, November 24, 2017*



## ***In observance of Veteran's Day***

*the office will be closed on  
Friday, November 10, 2017*



# Attention Educators and Administrators!

## Have an educational project you'd like funded?

\$4,000 available through Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants



Enter Touchstone Energy's Classroom Empowerment Grant Competition and your submission could win a \$500 grant for classroom and education enhancement projects!

Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants totaling \$4,000 are being funded by Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CCECI) for the 2017-2018 school year. For more information about the grant program, or to get an application, please contact your school superintendent or Carrie Trame at [Trame@cceci.com](mailto:Trame@cceci.com).

### Grant applications will need to include the following information:

- A description of the project and what it will accomplish
- The estimated cost of the project
- An explanation of why outside funds are necessary to complete the project
- Whether other funding options have been pursued, and if so, how
- When project will be completed
- The number of people affected by the project

- If the project's goals are measurable, and how
- How the project ties in Touchstone Energy's four core values of Integrity, Accountability, Innovation, and Commitment to Community

*Photos and supporting data are optional. Grant applications must be received at CCECI by November 6, 2017. Entries will be evaluated by an impartial panel of judges. Awards will be announced on December 4, 2017.*

### Last year's winners:

#### **\$1,000 – Germantown Elementary**

*Submitting educators: Kris Shubert, P.E. Teacher & Pat Henrichs, Music/Band Teacher; Cheri Markwell, Kindergarten Teacher.*

#### **\$1,000 – Wesclin High School**

*Submitting educators: Heather Klein, Special Education Teacher; Jessica Pilgreen, English Teacher.*

#### **\$500 – Albers Elementary**

*Submitting educator: Melissa Becker, M.S Science Teacher.*

#### **\$500 – All Saints Academy**

*Submitting educator: Dr. Robin A. Booth, Principal.*

#### **\$500 – Lebanon High School**

*Submitting educators: Mary Beil, Librarian & Mary Lou Seely, Ag. Teacher.*

#### **\$500 – Mater Dei Catholic High School**

*Submitting educator: Pam Zurliene, English Teacher.*



# Considering Solar? Call us first!

As interest in “green” energy and ways to save money on utility bills continue to grow, some cooperative members may be considering the installation of a solar array.

Since these types of systems have the capability of returning electricity back to the electric grid, there are some major safety considerations to sort out before a system is installed.

Before deciding to buy a solar array, examine the economics to determine whether such a system will lower your monthly electricity costs. If you do decide to install a solar array, contact our office as early as possible in the process.

A CCECI representative will provide information on our interconnection process and policies, as well as answer any questions you may have. That way, you and your installer will have the information needed as you progress with your system.

*For more information on CCECI policies and requirements, please contact our office Monday through Friday, between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 800-526-7282.*