



# Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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## Bundle up for winter storms

Are you ready for winter's cold grasp? Snow and ice are inevitable when dealing with winter storms but being prepared can make a world of difference. Clinton County Electric Cooperative recommends the following tips to help you prepare for wintry blasts.

### Winterize your home

Winter storms wreak havoc on your home. By winterizing your living space, you'll be prepared for extreme cold and hazardous conditions.

- Remember to maintain and inspect heating equipment and chimneys every year to ensure they're working safely and properly.
- Caulk and weather strip doors and windows to make the most of your heating system.
- Freezing temperatures often cause water pipes to burst. Remember to insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic. Allow faucets to drip during extreme cold to avoid frozen pipes.
- Consider installing storm windows for better insulation. You can also cover windows with plastic (from the inside) to keep the cold out.
- Make sure everyone in your

family knows where the home's fire extinguisher is located and how to use it properly. House fires occur more frequently during winter months, as people tend to use alternative heating methods that may not be safe.

### Prepare a winter survival kit

Severe winter storms often bring heavy accumulation of ice and snow, which can lead to downed power lines and extended outages. Clinton County Electric Cooperative crews will work hard to restore power, but having a winter survival kit on hand is a smart idea.

- **Food:** Store food that does not require cooking, such as canned goods, crackers, dehydrated meats and dried fruit. Keep a large supply of water on hand. Ready.gov recommends five gallons per person.
- **Medication:** Be sure to refill all prescriptions in the event of a major power outage.
- **Identification:** Keep all forms of identification handy, such as driver's licenses, photo IDs and social security cards. Bank account information and insurance policies are also good to have on hand.
- **Other items:** First Aid Kit, blankets, flashlight,

*By Abby Berry*

battery-powered radio and extra batteries.

### Stay warm and safe

If an outage occurs, you should plan for an alternate heating source. A fireplace, propane space heater or wood-burning stove would be sufficient. Fuel and wood-burning heating sources should always be vented, and make sure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. Always practice extreme caution when using alternate heating sources.

If you decide to use a portable generator during an outage, make sure it is placed outside the home for proper ventilation. Be careful not to overload the generator. Use appropriate extension cords that can handle the electric load.

Follow these tips, and your family will stay warm in the event of a power outage. For more information on preparing for winter storms, visit [cceci.com](http://cceci.com) or [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov).

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*Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service organization for the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*



# Applications are being accepted for 2018 Youth Day and Youth Tour

Clinton County Electric Cooperative will again sponsor up to 12 area sophomores or juniors to attend Youth Day in Springfield to be held on April 18, 2018, sponsored by the cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Two students will be selected to go to Washington, D.C. from June 8-15, 2018 for an all-expense paid tour.



Cooperative board of trustees or employees may attend at their own expense.

## Youth to Springfield

Up to 12 students will participate with more than 125 other youths from other

Illinois electric cooperatives in Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day in Springfield set for April 18, 2018. The day's activities in Springfield will include touring the State Capitol complex, visiting with legislators and a luncheon. Transportation to Youth Day in Springfield will be provided by the Cooperative.

## Washington Tour

Of the 12 students attending Youth Day in Springfield, two will

have the opportunity to participate in the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour. The two local winners will join about 70 other Illinois students who are winners of similar contests sponsored by other Illinois electric cooperatives. They will travel on air-conditioned buses, leaving on June 8 and returning June 15. While in Washington, D.C., they will visit such attractions as the White House, U.S. Capitol, Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery, Lincoln Monument and many other national monuments and places of interest.

Applications are available at [www.cceci.com/youthprograms](http://www.cceci.com/youthprograms). Completed applications need to be returned to the cooperative office no later than **March 16, 2018**. Feel free to contact Carrie Trame at [Trame@cceci.com](mailto:Trame@cceci.com) with any additional questions.

## 2018 Clinton County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

**Thursday, March 15, 2018**  
Be sure to mark your calendar!

*It is never too early to plan for your upcoming annual meeting.*





# 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.

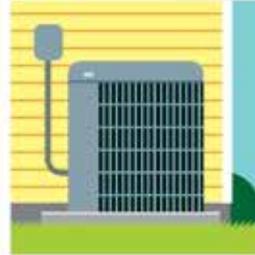
A CCECI representative will provide information on our interconnection process and policies, as well as answer any questions you may have. That way, you and your installer will have the information needed as you progress with your system.

*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.*

# We're Proud to Power YOU.

Local, Safe, Reliable Electricity.

For all the ways  
you live.



**The cooperative office will be  
closed on Friday, December  
29 & Monday, January 1 in  
observance of New Year's.**

2018