Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

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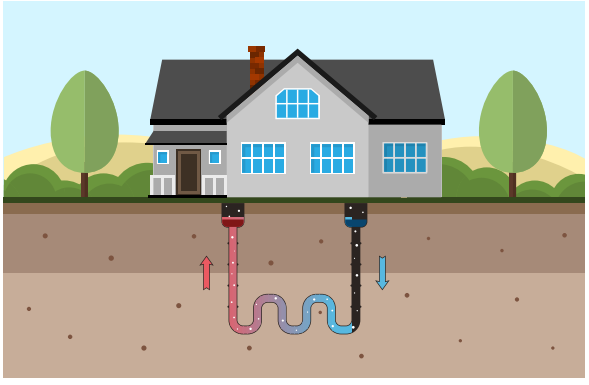
CCEC policy change to be implemented July 1, 2018

At the April 2018 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, the board voted to amend CCEC's Line Extension/Relocation, New/Temporary Service Policy 102 with all changes effective July 1, 2018. Policy 102 establishes the costs, as well as the terms and conditions for new services, service upgrades and line relocations.

If you are thinking about installing a new service or making changes to an existing service, please contact the cooperative office Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Our Engineering & Operations Department can provide information on the policy changes and answer any questions you may have. To view Policy 102, visit our website www.cceci.com after July 1, 2018.

Geothermal heat pump federal tax credits reinstated



Federal tax credits for geothermal heat pumps were recently reinstated by the federal government. Residential consumers are eligible for a 30 percent federal tax credit for installing a geothermal heat pump system in their home. The reinstated tax credits are retroactive to Jan. 1, 2017, meaning that anyone who installed a geothermal system in their home in the past 14 months now qualifies for the tax credit. The tax credits are extended through Jan. 1, 2022, through a phase out plan in which the credit is reduced to 22 percent before ending.

The geothermal tax credit was part of a measure to extend the tax incentives to renewable energy technologies like geothermal heat pumps, combined heat and power systems, microturbines, small wind systems, fuel cells, etc., that were taken out of the legislation passed by Congress two years ago, extending the tax credits for the solar industry.

In addition to the residential tax credits, there is also a 10 percent investment tax credit for commercial geothermal systems that was also extended.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association joined with a coalition of many national and state organizations to support reinstatement of the tax credits. The cooperatives are appreciative of the efforts of Rep. John Shimkus and several other Illinois Congressmen who sponsored legislation leading to the tax credit reinstatement.

The tax credit extension was part of the Continuing Resolution action by the Congress in early February to fund the federal government.

"We are appreciative of our leaders' support for geothermal heat pump technology and providing parity with the other renewable energy technologies," said John Freitag, executive director of the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois. "Geothermal heating and cooling is by far the most efficient and effective way known today to heat and cool our homes and businesses. The tax credit extension helps to make installation of a geothermal heat pump the obvious best choice for heating and cooling."

YOUTH DAY IN SPRINGFIELD

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives sponsored the 2018 Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on April 18, 2018 in Springfield, Ill.

Blake Markus, Owen Henderson, Brandon Huelsmann and Noah Marlar, all children of Clinton County Electric Cooperative members, were selected based on their applications to attend Youth Day in Springfield. They joined more than 200 high school students from around the state for the day's activities, which included touring the Capitol Building, Old State Capitol Building and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. While at the Capitol Building, the students were privileged to meet with State Senator Kyle McCarter and Representative Charles Meier.

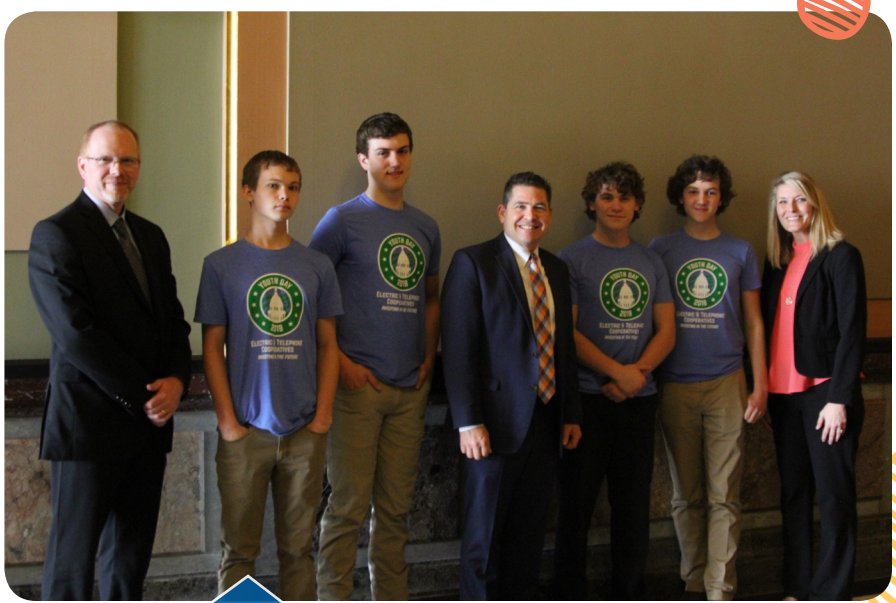
During lunch, Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti addressed students and chaperones. Sanguinetti discussed her humble beginnings and being encouraged to not allow her background to limit her future. With her passion for volunteerism in local communities, she challenged students, "you never know where life may take you. Volunteer, make a difference. If not you, then who?" Illinois State Fair Manager Luke Sailer, a former Illinois Youth Leadership Council representative, challenged the students to take an interest in the political process and stressed how important their voices and actions are. He encouraged them to "take a leap of faith and work hard, and doors will open for you and your future."

Faye Yang, the 2017-18 Illinois Youth Leadership Council Representative from Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, spoke about her experiences on the Youth to Washington tour and challenged attendees to maintain an interest in their cooperatives and the political process.

At the end of the day, the students were interviewed for the chance to participate in the Youth to Washington Tour, June 8-15, 2018. The 2018 winner of the Washington D.C. trip from Clinton County Electric is Owen Henderson, son of Henry and Laurie Henderson of Trenton. Owen will be an outstanding representative for Clinton County Electric.

Children of cooperative members who are sophomores or juniors in high school are eligible to apply for the Youth Day in Springfield, giving them a chance to participate in the annual Youth to Washington trip. For more information, visit our website at www.cceci.com or watch for information in our December and January issues of this newsletter.

Pictured with Representative Charles Meier, left to right, are CCEC President Bob Kroeger, CCEC Customer Service Representative Carrie Trame, Noah Marlar, Owen Henderson, Brandon Huelsmann, Blake Markus and Representative Charles Meier.



Senator Kyle McCarter spent some time with the students representing Clinton County Electric Cooperative while visiting the Capital Building for Youth Day on April 18, 2018. Pictured left to right are CCEC President Bob Kroeger, Brandon Huelsmann, Blake Markus, Senator Kyle McCarter, Noah Marlar, Owen Henderson and CCEC Customer Service Representative Carrie Trame.

Representatives Charlie Meier met with students representing Clinton County Electric Cooperative during their visit to Springfield on April 18, 2018.

Closing Notice

The cooperative office will be closed Wednesday, July 4, 2018 in observance of Independence Day and Monday, September 3, 2018 in observance of Labor Day.

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 CCEC 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 CCEC policies and requirements, please contact our office Monday through Friday, between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 800-526-7282.