Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

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Member engagement saved the cooperative

By Adam Schwartz

Clinton County Electric Cooperative is a member-owned, member-governed cooperative. When the cooperative was founded back in 1939, members of the community knew that we are a locally-owned business – likely because they or someone they knew played a part in helping found the cooperative. Over time as the novelty of receiving electricity waned, the founders passed on and new people moved into the community, viewing the electric cooperative like any other energy provider.

But we are different and the key to that difference is you, the member-owner of our cooperative. Without your support and commitment, we would not exist. For many years, people had no choice in the company that provided them with the electricity they so greatly depended upon, but today, the electric utility industry is changing.

Research proves that when people own something they treat it differently, which is why we encourage Clinton County Electric Cooperative members to act as an owner rather than a customer. As an owner, you play a critical role in our success. Each year, if our revenue exceeds our expenses (which is always our goal), a certain percentage is allocated back to you – because you are a member of the cooperative.

With that ownership comes certain rights like the opportunity to seek election to serve on the board of directors. If that seems like too big a commitment, we still want and need you to participate in the annual elections.

We welcome your advice and counsel as we continually look for innovative ways to help you use energy efficiently and in a more cost-effective manner.

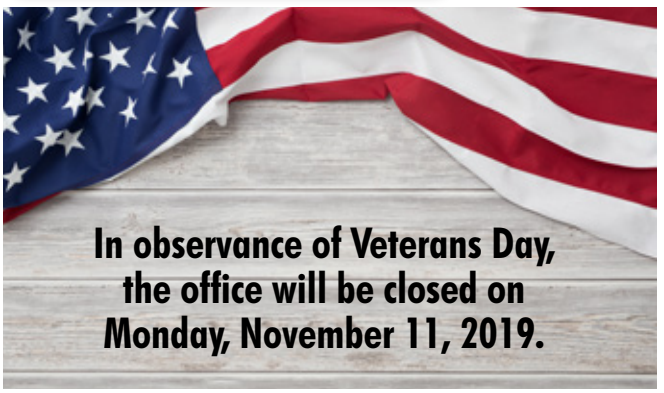
While electric power is the commodity that your cooperative sells, the real power is that together, we empower this local community. When people feel empowered they accomplish great things.

True, the world is different today than it was in 1939 when Clinton County Electric Cooperative was founded, but our mission of serving you and our community is constant. Working together with your active, inspired engagement, we can continue to accomplish great things.

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

Service upgrades

Recently, CCEC crews upgraded an existing single-phase line to three-phase along Town Hall Road in Mascoutah. Here are some photos of their work in progress.



Although the office will be closed, view your account information and pay your bill 24 hoursa day, 7 days a week by visiting our website www.cceci.com or by calling 800-526-7282.

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 (CCEC) for the 2019-2020 school year. For more information about the grant program, or to get an application, please contact your school superintendant or Carrie Trame at Trame@cceci.com.

Grant applications will need to include the following information:

1. A description of the project and what it will accomplish
2. The estimated cost of the project
3. An explanation of why outside funds are necessary to complete the project
4. Whether other funding options have been pursued, and if so, how
5. When project will be completed
6. The number of people affected by the project
7. If the project's goals are measurable, and how
8. 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 CCEC by November 4, 2019. Entries will be evaluated by an impartial panel of judges. Awards will be announced on December 9, 2019.

Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

Last year's winners:

- **$500 – All Saints Academy**
  Submitting educators: second grade teachers Lindsay Tripp and Denise Jonhnston
- **$1,000 - Aviston Elementary**
  Submitting educators: math teacher Tammy Kuper and 5/6 teacher Amy Schilling
- **$1,000 – Carlyle Elementary School**
  Submitting educators: first grade teacher Amanda Monken & third grade teacher Cheryl Brinkmann
- **$500 – Carlyle Jr. High School**
  Submitting educator: special education teacher Tara Joiner
- **$500 – Bartelso Elementary**
  Submitting educator: teacher Ashley Stefanisin
- **$500 – Wesclin High School**
  Submitting educator: special education teacher Heather Klein.

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 through before a system is installed.

Before deciding to buy a solar array, examine the economics to determine if 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.

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