Clinton County Connection

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. • cceci@cceci.com • www.cceci.com

CCEC sends crew to aid power restoration efforts after Hurricane Laura

When Hurricane Laura left mass destruction along Louisiana's coastline in late August, our linemen did not hesitate to volunteer to aid a fellow cooperative and its members. In the early morning hours of Aug. 29, a four-member crew left with equipment to assist Jeff Davis Electric Cooperative in Jennings, La.

The cooperative's facilities were completely leveled and at that time 100 percent of its members were without power. The storm ripped down roughly 8,000 miles of power lines across Jeff Davis Electric Cooperative's service territory and broke approximately 1,000 poles.

Linemen worked, setting new poles and hanging conductor so cooperative-served communities can get power once transmission lines are energized.

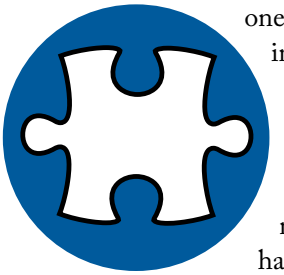
October is National Cooperative Month and even though the task of restoring power to thousands of people seems unattainable, ultimately cooperatives pull together and overcome adversity. Illinois alone has 13 cooperatives sending 68 guys to Louisiana. Helping other cooperatives is what we do. It's the cooperative way and one of the reasons we celebrate National Cooperative Month.

Continued on 20b ▶

▶Hurricane Laura continued from 20a

As of the deadline of this publication (early September) our linemen were still working hard under difficult circumstances. We hope as you read this all power has been restored to those affected by Hurricane Laura and all linemen are home safe. We encourage you to visit our Facebook page for updates.

Autonomy and Independence



Electric cooperatives form a vast network across America. They're found in 47 states, and cooperative-owned electric lines cover 42 percent of the nation's land mass. But what's unique is that each cooperative is an autonomous, independent business.

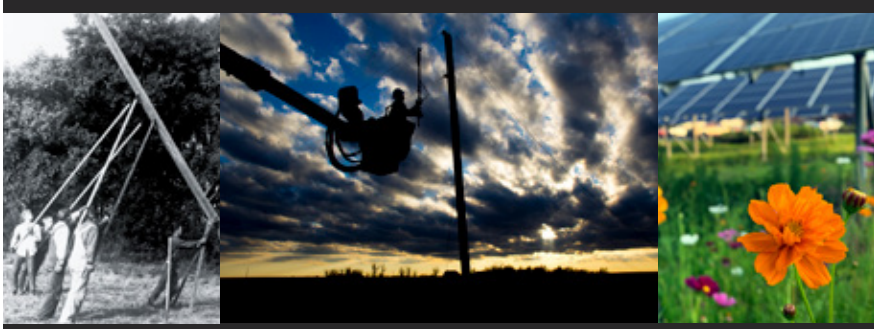
The definition of autonomy is the right or condition of self-government. The definition of independence is the fact or state of being independent. The Autonomy and Independence cooperative principle states: Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.

So, what does this mean? Basically, cooperatives are governed by the people we serve. Though we all operate on the same set of core principles, we have the flexibility to be different at the same time. An example would be CCEC being one of the last cooperatives in the state of Illinois to implement an Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI). Though many neighboring cooperatives had systems in place, we had some line infrastructure improvements we thought needed to be taken care of before diving into a project such as AMI.

Who decides when the right time is to do certain projects? You elect members to represent your voice on the CCEC board of trustees every year at the annual meeting. That decision-making body, along with CCEC management, makes decisions on behalf of the CCEC membership. The independence to make different decisions that fit local circumstances with unique ideas is a strength electric cooperatives possess that other utilities do not.

Although we may be on different pages at different times, the bottom line always remains the same, cooperatives exist to power communities and empower members to improve the quality of their lives.

Then. Now. Always.
We're proud to power your life.
October is National Co-op Month.



#PowerOn

Does your school or classroom need new materials?
Can your students benefit from new programs and educational resources?

Clinton County Electric Cooperative is again coordinating our grant program with Touchstone Energy for our local private and public Pre-K-12 teachers and administrators. Eight grants of $500 will be provided for innovative, unfunded projects or materials. Qualifying projects are those that improve the learning environment or increase educational resources for the school.

Grant applications are due by **November 6, 2020.**
Grant awards will be announced on **December 7, 2020**.
An objective panel of judges will determine which projects will be awarded the grants.
For grant applications and guidelines, please visit our website at
www.cceci.com or contact Carrie Trame at 1-800-526-7282.

In observance of Veterans Day, the office will be closed on Wednesday, November 11, 2020

In observance of Thanksgiving the office will be closed on Thursday, November 26, 2020 and Friday, November 27, 2020

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.

Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative