



Clinton County Connection

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Patronage returned to the membership

CCEC refunds \$700,000 to members

At their December 2020 Regular Board Meeting, Clinton County Electric's Board of Trustees approved retirement of 2020 margins in the amount of \$700,000. Current members saw this refund in the form of a one-time credit. The line item on the bill received in January 2021 was labeled "Reduction of 2020 Margins." This credit was based on their consumption between Jan. 1, 2020 and Nov. 30, 2020.

The additional margins for CCEC in 2020 are a result of

higher than expected energy sales and an effort to control costs. We felt it would be prudent to return these dollars to the membership this year instead of retaining them for future patronage retirements.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, all margins are eventually returned to the members based on the percentage each paid throughout the year. CCEC allocates these operating margins to each individual member as patronage dividends and keeps track of how much each member is owed. The

funds are invested into new plant and equipment helping to keep our rates low. Each year, based on the financial health of the cooperative, the board may retire a portion of the allocated margins and returns it to the members. Clinton County Electric Cooperative recognizes that returning margins is one of the most powerful ways for members to recognize the "cooperative difference."

Negative Power Cost Adjustment for 2021

At their December 2020 Regular Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees approved management's recommendation of implementing a negative \$0.00759 per kWh Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) to be reflected on the members' 2021 bills starting with the bill they receive in February.

A PCA is a way to temporarily alter rates without having to do a permanent rate change. Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (CCEC's wholesale power provider) lowered their rates to Clinton County Electric (CCEC), and we are passing that savings along to the membership. This PCA will

remain in effect through 2021. Since the future of SIPC's rates remain uncertain, management decided to implement a PCA verses re-doing the entire rate structure. A re-evaluation will be done at the end of 2021 to determine the future of CCEC's rates.

For any questions regarding the refund or the PCA, do not hesitate to contact President Bob Kroeger at kroeger@cceci.com.

Assisting our neighbors to the north



In the early morning hours of Saturday, January 2, 2021, Clinton County Electric Cooperative sent Linemen Craig Benhoff, Justin Hubert and John Schroeder to Corn Belt Energy in Bloomington, Ill. to assist with power restoration efforts after an ice storm wreaked havoc on parts of their service area.

Late on New Year's Eve and early on New Year's Day, Corn Belt Energy's service area was impacted by an ice storm, which caused damage to lines and trees and resulted in widespread power outages. This storm was followed by a snowstorm less than two days later. The accumulation of snow brought on additional weight to the existing ice-covered lines and trees and caused additional power outages.

CCEC is just one of the many Illinois cooperatives that sent crews to help restore more than 27,185 outages over a six day period. Crews worked tirelessly, navigating icy conditions to restore power to the members of Corn Belt Energy.



From left, Linemen Justin Hubert, John Schroeder and Craig Benhoff spent a week aiding Corn Belt Energy with power restoration efforts after an ice storm rolled through the area at the beginning of January.

CCEC has been fortunate and has not experienced storms severe enough to call on another cooperative for assistance. However, just as we are always willing to help, other electric co-ops are ready to reciprocate help if needed. It's the cooperative way!



2021 maintenance programs

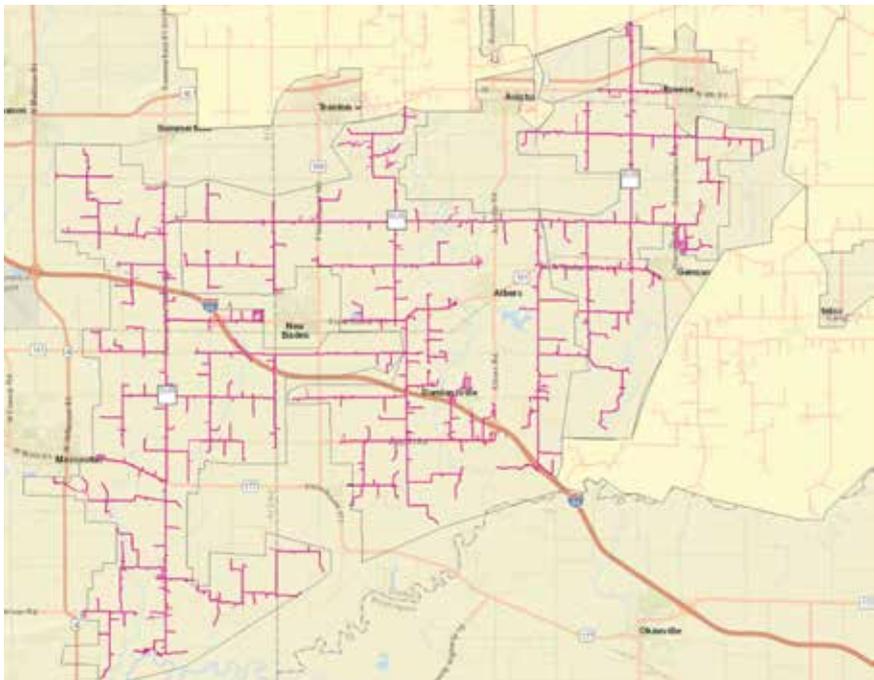
In 2021, we have again contracted with Rensing Tree Service to continue with our 4-year trimming program. This year we will be trimming trees in areas served by our Mascoutah, Albers and Breese Substations. Since weather conditions play a big part in where and what they can cut, you can expect to see Rensing Tree Service crews throughout most of the year. Rensing Tree Service has worked with Clinton County Electric for many years and we believe they are a valuable partner for us to ensure reliable service to the membership.

Also in 2021, Clinton County Electric has contracted with Osmose Utilities Service to inspect and possibly treat all electric utility poles served by the Albers Substation. Osmose will start their work this spring. Osmose will be using both pickup trucks and 4-wheelers to move from pole to pole, inspecting and treating them.

For a more detailed map of the areas affected by the 4-year trim or pole treating programs, please visit our website www.cceci.com. Please do not hesitate to call the office at 800-526-7282 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. if you have any questions or concerns.



Poles will be treated in the areas served by the Albers Substation.



Trees will be trimmed in the areas served by the Mascoutah, Albers and Breese Substations.

Clinton County Electric Cooperative annual scholarship program

For many years, Clinton County Electric Cooperative has awarded scholarships to students who live on CCEC's electric lines. We are proud to announce that we will again carry on the tradition by proudly sponsoring 16 \$500 scholarships, totaling \$8,000 this spring to benefit students whose primary residence is served by CCEC. Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded to two seniors at each of these six area high schools: Carlyle High School, Central High

School, Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School, Mater Dei Catholic High School, Mascoutah High School and Wesclin High School. Four \$500 scholarships will also be awarded to four students attending Kaskaskia College. The scholarships are awarded based upon criteria set forth by the school they are attending. Please contact the guidance department at the schools mentioned above for an application and more details.

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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Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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