Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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2024 rate information for CCEC members

Bob Kroeger,
President/COO

At the Dec. 19, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) Board of Trustees, the board approved the 2024 Operating and Capital Improvement Budget. The budget outlines the cooperative's expenses for 2024, as well as the appropriate amount of revenue needed to cover those expenses. CCEC's primary source of revenue comes from our rates. In 2024, we expect to see increases in purchased power costs and distribution costs compared to 2023.

CCEC's largest expense is the power we purchase from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC). Sixty-five cents of every dollar billed to a member pays for the generation and transmission expenses it takes to get power to the distribution substations before we deliver it to the CCEC membership. In 2024, SIPC's purchased power costs are expected to be 8.5% higher than 2023. This increase is due primarily to higher fuel costs at the Marion generating plant. Fortunately, SIPC's diverse mix of generation resources, including coal, natural gas, solar, wind and hydro, reduces the need to purchase energy from the market. This has helped stabilize their rates when compared to other utilities.

The remaining 35 cents of every dollar billed to a member pays all distribution expenses associated with delivering power from the distribution substations to the CCEC membership. Those expenses include trucks, wire, poles — whatever it takes to get power to your electric meter. Since the cooperative is not exempt from inflation, the 2024 budget reflects an increase of 8.2% in the costs of the goods and services necessary to provide the CCEC membership with reliable service.

The increases in purchased power and distribution costs have forced CCEC to implement a rate increase for 2024. The average residential member uses 1,200 kWh per month and will experience an average increase of 6.1% across the 12 months of 2024. The average member consuming 1,200 kWh per month can expect to begin the year with an increase of 2.1%, increasing slightly each month after that, and finishing the year with an 8.3% increase. Please note the word average. Some members may see less of an increase, and others may see more of an increase. The increase will vary with their monthly consumption.

Similar to last year, the monthly increases will reflect the monthly Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) billed to CCEC by SIPC. If SIPC's PCA is more than budgeted, CCEC will pass the additional expense along to the membership. If SIPC's PCA is less than budgeted, CCEC will also pass that savings along to the membership. The monthly increases can be monitored by looking at the SIPC Power Cost Adjustment line on your bill. This change will first appear on the bills received in February for January consumption and will appear on all bills for the remainder of 2024.

The February bills will also include a CCEC Power Cost Adjustment of $0.003 per kilowatt-hour or $3.00 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours to cover the increases in distribution expenses. This increase can be seen by looking at the CCEC Power Cost Adjustment line on your bill. This charge will also appear on all bills for the remainder of 2024.

On a related topic, at the October 2023 board meeting, the SIPC board approved a new wholesale rate effective Jan. 1, 2024. In the coming months, we will begin the process of completing a

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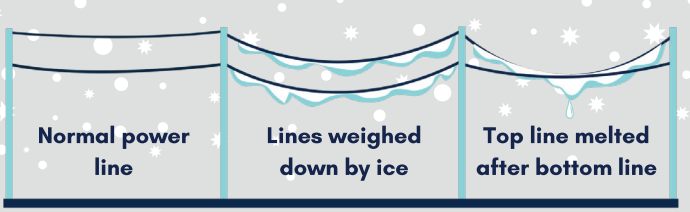
cost-of-service study to assess how the new wholesale rate will impact CCEC's rates. The new wholesale rate provides better alignment with today's energy market and will give CCEC the ability to offer new types of rates or programs to the membership. These new rates and programs will give the membership the ability to better manage energy costs by taking advantage of lower rates during off-peak periods. Until then, consistent with our current strategic plan, CCEC will continue to make investments to maintain and improve reliability while looking to provide rate options that will benefit the CCEC membership.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office at 800-526-7282 or email kroeger@cceci.com with any questions.

Safety Tip

Did you know that mylar balloons can damage the power grid and cause power outages? Mylar and latex balloons eventually fall back to earth and their remnants can cause harm to animals and marine life.Consider alternatives to balloon releases and enjoy balloons indoors.

Safe Electricity.org®



ICE ON POWER LINES IS A WEIGHTY SUBJECT

When it comes to getting electricity across power lines and into homes, ice can be a force to be reckoned with.

ICE ON DISTRIBUTION LINES

Ice can quickly lead to broken power poles and other pole equipment. Ice can also make falling tree branches 30x heavier and much more likely to break power lines.

ON A 300-FOOT SPAN OF 1-INCH-THICK POWER LINES

- 1/2 inch of ice adds 281 pounds of weight
- 1 inch of ice adds 749 pounds of weight
- 2 inches of ice adds 2,248 pounds of weight

WHEN ICE MELTS

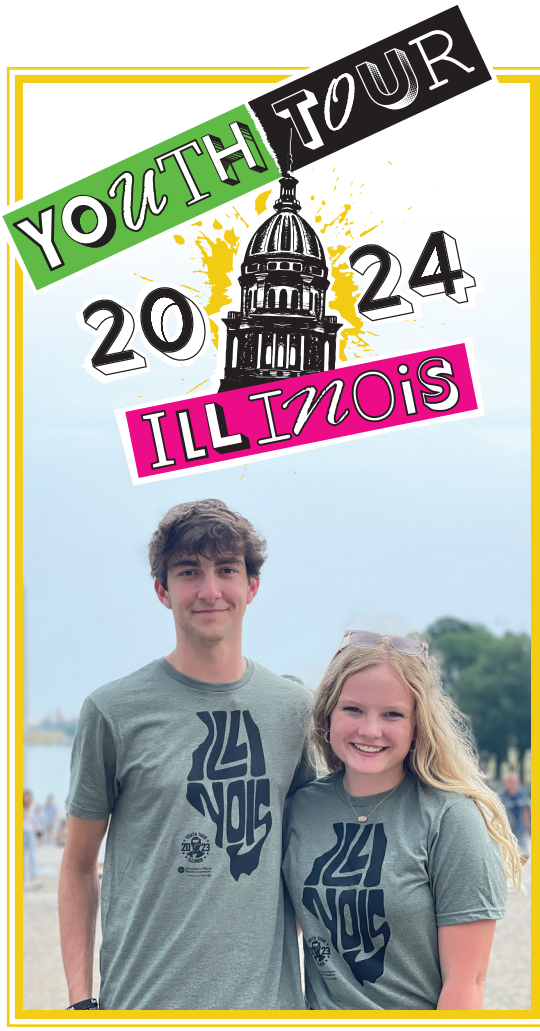
Melting ice can cause power outages. If ice on the bottom (neutral) line melts before the lines above, it can cause the lines to touch.

OTHER ICE FACTS

- Damage can begin when ice exceeds 1/4 of an inch
- 1/2 inch of ice can cause a line to sag up to 12 inches
- Pressure can also be caused by a broken tree limb
- Both ice and melting ice can cause power outages

Safe Electricity.org®

Source: Jerri Imgarten-Whitley and Victory Electric Cooperative



Applications are still being accepted for 2024 Youth Day and Youth Tour

There is still time left for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors to submit an application to attend Youth Day in Springfield to be held on March 20, 2024. CCEC will again sponsor up to 12 area sophomores, juniors or seniors to attend Youth Day in Springfield. Two Youth Day participants will be selected to go to Washington, D.C., June 14-21, 2024, for an all-expense-paid trip. Applications can be found by clicking the Youth Programs tab on our website, **www.cceci.com**, and must be returned to the cooperative office by **Monday, Feb. 12, 2024**.

This program may be suspended at any time due to inadequate funding or participation. There will be a maximum number of 12 participants chosen. Notifications will only be made to those chosen to participate in the program.

Clinton County Electric Cooperative Annual Scholarship Program

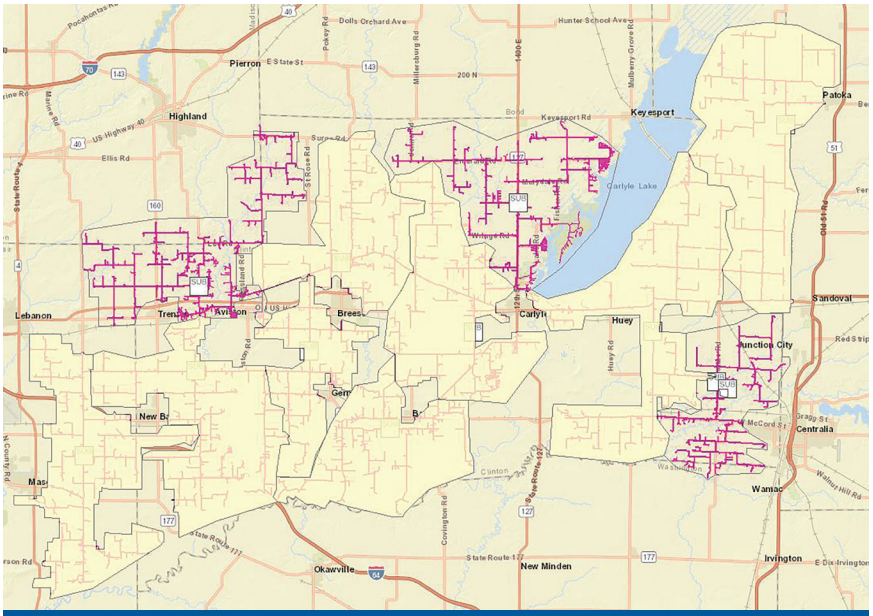
For many years, Clinton County Electric Cooperative has awarded scholarships to students who live on CCEC's electric lines. We are proud to announce that we will again carry on the tradition by proudly sponsoring 16 $500 scholarships totaling $8,000 this spring to benefit students whose primary residence 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.

2024 maintenance programs

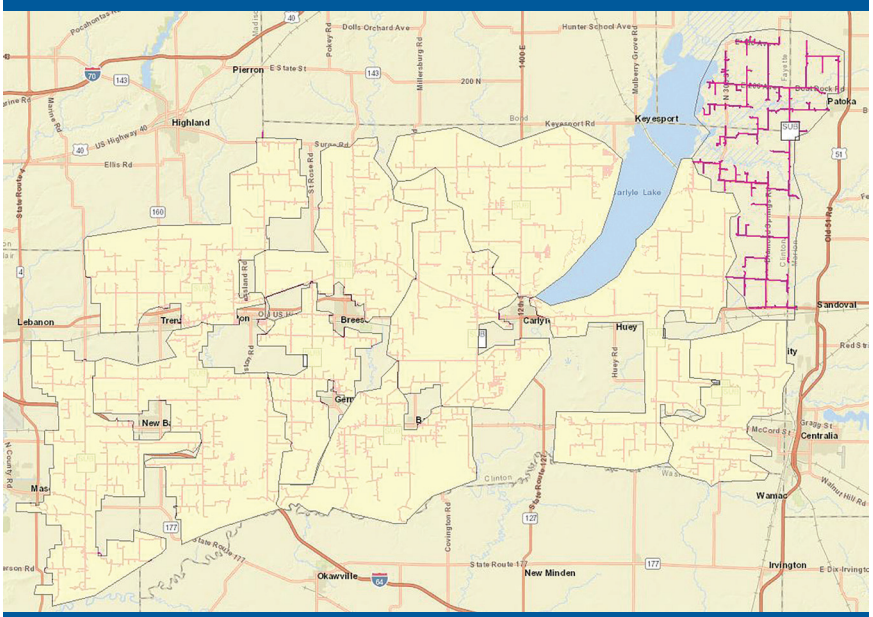
In 2024, we have again contracted with Rensing Tree Service to continue our 4-year trimming program. This year we will be trimming trees in areas served by our Trenton, Keyesport and Shattuc I Substations. Since weather conditions play a big part in where and what they can cut, you can expect to see 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 2024, Clinton County Electric has contracted with Osmose Utilities Service to inspect and possibly treat all electric utility poles served by the Boulder Substation. Osmose will start their work this spring, 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, visit our website at 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.



Trees will be trimmed in the areas served by the Trenton, Keyesport and Shattuc I substations.



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

CLINTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE WE WILL BE HOSTING AREA MEETINGS.

Each member in attendance can enjoy refreshments and will receive a $20 bill credit. To hear details about your cooperative, reliability and the electric grid, please mark your calendars to join us at one of the following meetings:

- Monday, March 18 at 1:30 p.m., Breese Knights of Columbus Hall
- Monday, March 18 at 7 p.m., Carlyle V.F.W.
- Tuesday, March 19 at 7 p.m., Albers Legion