Clinton County Connection

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Member Facilities

Clinton County Electric Cooperative wants to remind you to check all fuses and breakers before calling to report a power outage. Due to an increasing number of outages on the member's side of the meter caused by tripped breakers, or members pulling their own meters, the Board of Trustees passed Policy 131-Member Facilities at the Regular Board Meeting in November 2021.

This policy went into effect on January 1, 2022 and defines the cooperative's responsibilities, as well as the member's responsibilities regarding their electric service. Policy 131 states the cooperative will strive to provide a constant and uninterrupted supply of power to the member. It also states a member may be assessed a service charge of up to $300 if CCEC dispatches a crew to an outage that ends up being on the member's side of the meter.

Member safety will continue to be the guiding principle in the administration and enforcement of this policy. To see the entire policy, go to the "About Us" tab on our website, www.cceci.com and select "Core Information." Do not hesitate to contact the office at 800-526-7282 with any questions or concerns.

Applications are still being accepted for 2022 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 29, 2022. 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. from June 17-24, 2022 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, February 21, 2022.

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.

Five ways to save energy when working from home

Today, more Americans are working from home than ever before. More time spent at home means more energy used throughout the day.

If you're punching the clock from home, there are small steps you can take to reduce your energy use and save on electric bills. Here are easy ways to save energy when working from home.

1. **Use a smart power strip.** Plugging in your most-used devices, like computers, monitors and routers, to a smart power strip ensures these devices aren't drawing power when they're not in use. Smart power strips also give the option to select which devices should stay in "always on" mode.
2. **Unplug your least-used equipment.** If your home office includes equipment like printers and scanners, you're probably not using these electronics every day. In this case, go ahead and unplug your least-used electronics and devices since many of them draw energy even when not in use.
3. **Choose ENERGY STAR-certified office equipment.** If you're looking to purchase new equipment for your workspace, look for the ENERGY STAR label to ensure you're getting the most energy efficient features. Computers, monitors, imaging equipment and other office electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR rating include power management features to make saving energy easy, and most are designed to run cooler and last longer.
4. **Flip the switch and use natural light instead.** It's still chilly out there, so take advantage of natural light and additional warmth from the sun. When you're working during the day, open blinds, curtains and other window coverings to let natural light in – and don't forget to turn off the lights to reduce energy use!
5. **Lower the thermostat.** Home heating makes up a significant portion of your energy bills. Turn the thermostat down a couple degrees during the day to reduce energy use and save money. The Department of Energy recommends setting the thermostat to 68 degrees or cooler during winter months. You're more likely to stay focused and alert when it's cooler in your home, so more reason to mind the thermostat.

Working from home doesn't have to take a toll on your energy bills, and whether you're working remotely or not, these practical tips can help everyone reduce their energy use. Contact Clinton County Electric Cooperative at 800-526-7282 if you have questions about your bills or want additional information about saving energy at home.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip all windows to seal air leaks.

When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

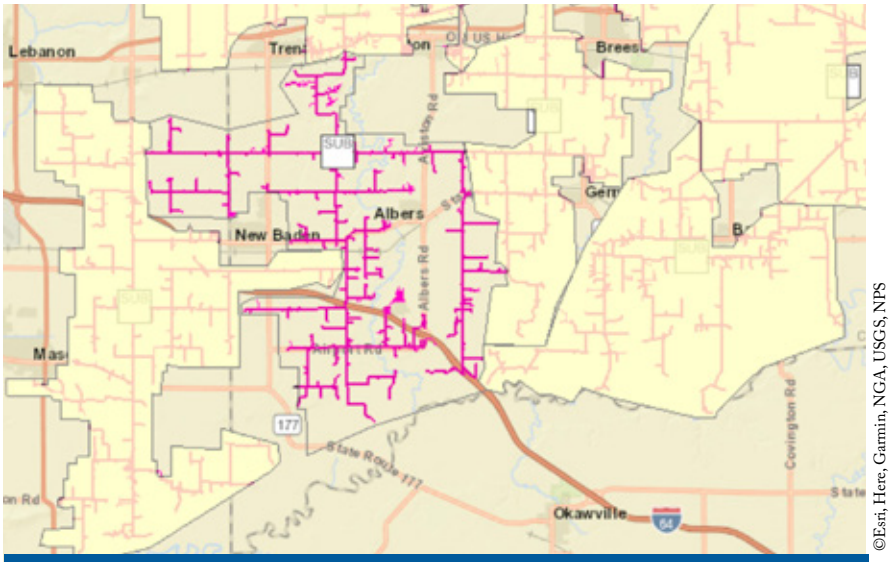
Source: Dept. of Energy

2022 Maintenance Programs

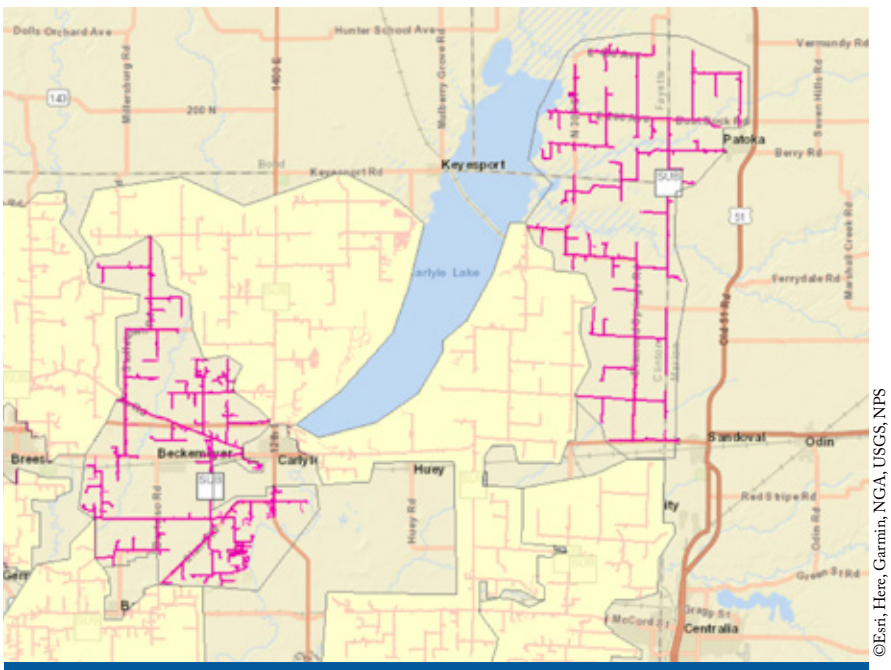
In 2022, we have again contracted with Rensing Tree Service to continue with our 4-year trimming program. This year we will be trimming trees in areas served by our Beckemeyer and Boulder Substations. Since weather conditions play a big part in where and what they can cut, you can expect to see Rensing 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 2022, 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 Beckemeyer and Boulder 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 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.

Clinton County
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative