Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Future of rates

Bob Kroeger,
President/COO

At the Dec. 20, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) Board of Trustees, the board approved the 2023 Operating and Capital Improvement Budget. The budget outlines the cooperative's expenses for 2023, as well as the appropriate amount of revenue needed to cover those expenses. CCEC's primary source of revenue comes from our rates. The volatile energy market and inflation has made determining the 2023 rates challenging to say the least. However, I am going to do my best to explain what is being done and why.

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 2023, SIPC's purchased power costs are expected to increase 12.5%. Since SIPC owns a diverse mix of generation resources, including coal, natural gas, solar, wind and hydro, they have reduced 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 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, these expenses have risen drastically over the last couple of years. For example, in January 2021, a standard 35-foot pole cost $237. Today, that same pole costs $348.

SIPC's increased purchased power cost coupled with inflation has forced CCEC to implement a rate increase for 2023. The average residential member uses 1,200 kWh per month and will experience an average increase of 9.3% across the 12 months of 2023. The average member consuming 1,200 kWh per month can expect to begin the year with an increase of 6.4%, increasing slightly each month after that, and finishing the year with a 12.7% 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.

The monthly increase will reflect the monthly increased 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 Adj. 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 2023.

Typically, with a rate increase of this magnitude, we would take the time to do a cost-of-service study prior to implementing a rate increase. A cost-of-service study helps ensure costs are properly allocated among the various rate classes. However, we have elected to postpone the cost-of-service study until we get more clarity about the future of our wholesale rates and the impact those rates will have on our purchased power costs from SIPC. Wholesale rate design is currently being evaluated by the SIPC board and cooperative managers. A new wholesale rate would be better aligned with today's energy market and 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.

Continued on 18B ▶

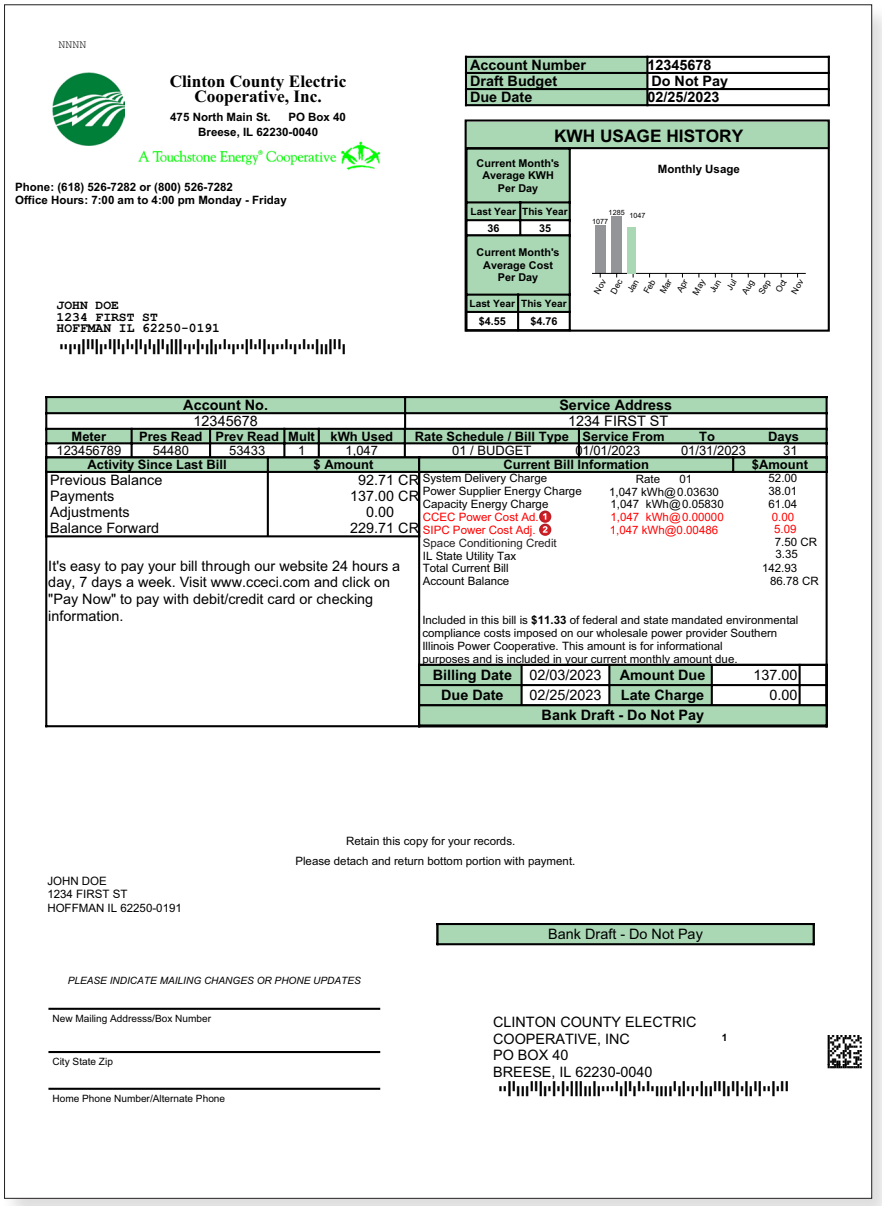
Future of rates – continued from 18A ▶

New lines on monthly bill:
CCEC POWER COST ADJ. & SIPC POWER COST ADJ.

Starting with the bill you receive in February reflecting January consumption, you will notice a slight change. The line that previously read Power Cost Adjustment included a combination of CCEC costs and SIPC's costs. That line is now broken into two separate lines: ❶ CCEC Power Cost Adj.; and ❷ SIPC Power Cost Adj. The CCEC Power Cost Adj. line reflects any changes in CCEC's costs. The SIPC Power Cost Adj. line reflects increases coming from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC).

This change was approved by the board at the Regular Board Meeting on Nov. 29, 2022, and was then added to the 2023 Operating and Capital Improvement Budget. Since SIPC's power cost adjustment is expected to escalate over the course of 2023, CCEC wants to be transparent with our members and allow them the capability to see that escalation on a month-to month basis.

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



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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Phone: (618) 526-7282 or (800) 526-7282
Office Hours: 7:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday - Friday

JOHN DOE
1234 FIRST ST
HOFFMAN IL 62250-0191

Account Number	12345678
Draft Budget	Do Not Pay
Due Date	02/25/2023

KWH USAGE HISTORY

Current Month's Average KWH Per Day	
Last Year	This Year
36	35
Current Month's Average Cost Per Day	
Last Year	This Year
$4.55	$4.76

Monthly Usage

Account No.					Service Address			
12345678					1234 FIRST ST			
Meter	Pres Read	Prev Read	Mult	kWh Used	Rate Schedule / Bill Type	Service From	To	Days
123456789	54480	53433	1	1,047	01 / BUDGET	01/01/2023	01/31/2023	31

Activity Since Last Bill	$ Amount
Previous Balance	92.71 CR
Payments	137.00 CR
Adjustments	0.00
Balance Forward	229.71 CR

It's easy to pay your bill through our website 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Visit www.cceci.com and click on "Pay Now" to pay with debit/credit card or checking information.

Current Bill Information		$Amount
System Delivery Charge	Rate 01	52.00
Power Supplier Energy Charge	1,047 kWh@0.03630	38.01
Capacity Energy Charge	1,047 kWh@0.05830	61.04
CCEC Power Cost Ad. ❶	1,047 kWh@0.00000	0.00
SIPC Power Cost Adj. ❷	1,047 kWh@0.00486	5.09
Space Conditioning Credit		7.50 CR
IL State Utility Tax		3.35
Total Current Bill		142.93
Account Balance		86.78 CR

Included in this bill is **$11.33** of federal and state mandated environmental compliance costs imposed on our wholesale power provider Southern Illinois Power Cooperative. This amount is for informational purposes and is included in your current monthly amount due.

Billing Date	02/03/2023	Amount Due	137.00
Due Date	02/25/2023	Late Charge	0.00

Bank Draft - Do Not Pay

Retain this copy for your records.
Please detach and return bottom portion with payment.

JOHN DOE
1234 FIRST ST
HOFFMAN IL 62250-0191

Bank Draft - Do Not Pay

PLEASE INDICATE MAILING CHANGES OR PHONE UPDATES

New Mailing Addresss/Box Number

City State Zip

Home Phone Number/Alternate Phone

CLINTON COUNTY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC 1
PO BOX 40
BREESE, IL 62230-0040

Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.

Applications are still being accepted for 2023 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, 2023.** 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 16-23, 2023, 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 Friday, Feb. 13, 2023.

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

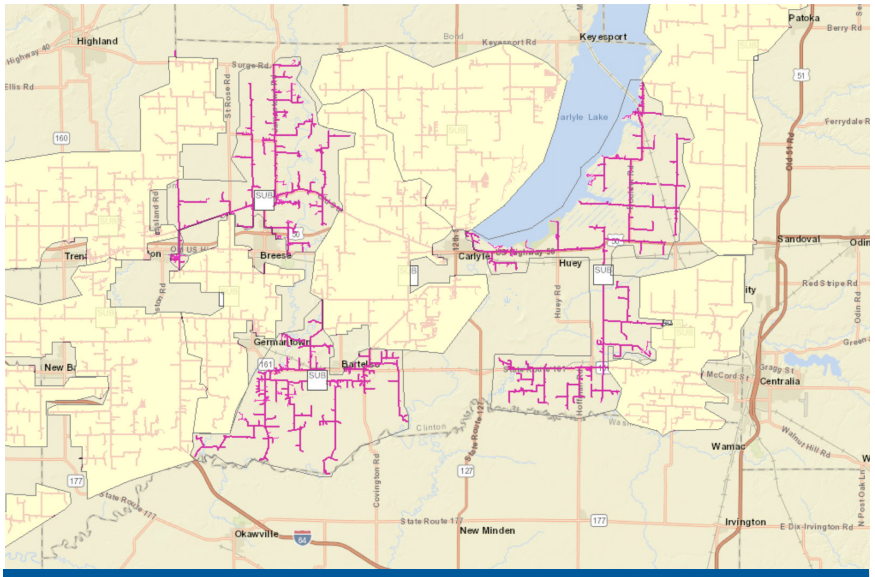
For many years Clinton County Electric Cooperative has awarded scholarships to students who live on CCEC's electric lines. We are proud to announce that we will again carry on the tradition by proudly sponsoring 16 $500 scholarships totaling $8,000 this spring to benefit students whose primary residence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

2023 Maintenance Programs

In 2023, we have again contracted with Rensing Tree Service to continue with our four-year trimming program. This year we will be trimming trees in areas served by our Old State, Ferrin and Bartelso 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 2023, Clinton County Electric has contracted with Osmose Utilities Service to inspect and possibly treat all electric utility poles served by the Beckemeyer Substation. Osmose will start their work this spring. Osmose will be using both pickup trucks and four-wheelers to move from pole to pole, inspecting and treating them.

For a more detailed map of the areas affected by the four-year trim or pole-treating programs, please 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.



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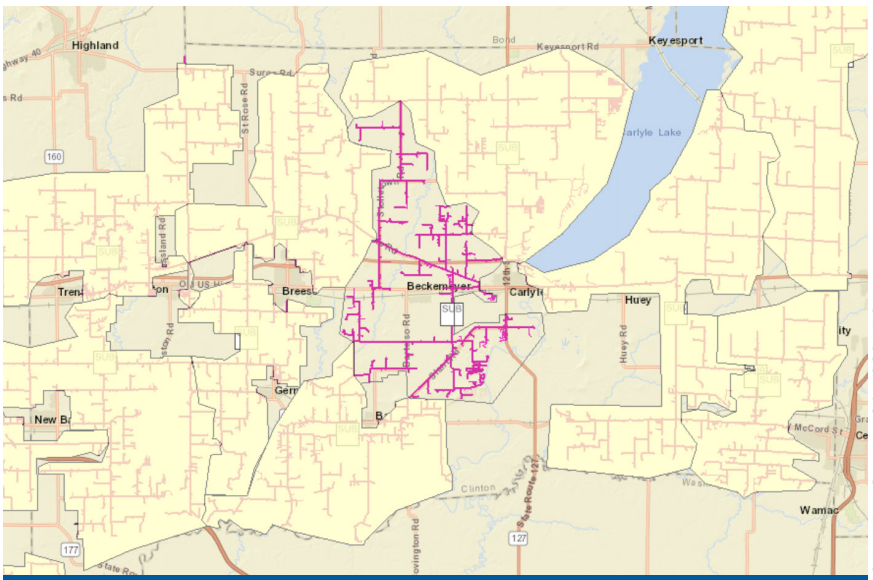
Trees will be trimmed in the areas served by the Old State, Ferrin and Bartelso Substations.



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

5 Ways to Save During Winter

Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home. Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy– and money!

Mind the thermostat. If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Consider a smart or programmable thermostat for additional savings.

Get cozy. Add layers of clothing for additional warmth, and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.

Don't block the heat. If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.

Take advantage of sunlight. Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.

Block air leaks. Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.