Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

2025 rate information for CCEC members

Bob Kroeger,
President/COO

At the Dec. 17, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) Board of Trustees, the board approved the 2025 Operating and Capital Improvement Budget. The budget outlines the cooperative's expenses for 2025, as well as the appropriate amount of revenue needed to cover those expenses. CCEC's primary source of revenue comes from our rates. In 2025, we expect to see increases in purchased power costs and distributions costs compared to 2024.

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 2025, SIPC's purchased power costs are expected to be 13.9% higher than in 2024. 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 2025 budget reflects an increase of 11.4% 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 2025. The average residential member uses 1200 kWh per month and will experience an average increase of 7.2% across the 12 months of 2025. The average member consuming 1,200 kWh per month can expect to begin the year with an increase of 6.2%, increasing slightly each month after that, and finishing the year with a 7.9% 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.

Like 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 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 2025.

The February bills will also include a CCEC Power Cost Adjustment of $0.01116 per kilowatt-hour or $11.16 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours to cover the increases in distribution expenses. This increase can be seen by looking at the CCEC Power Cost Adj. on your bill. This charge will also appear on all bills for the remainder of 2025.

On a related topic, the second and final phase of the new wholesale rate for the energy we purchase from SIPC took effect on Jan. 1, 2025. Now that the new wholesale rate is in place, we have begun the process of completing a cost-of-service study to assess how the new wholesale rate will impact CCEC's rates. We will use the results of the cost-of-service study as a foundation for

Continued on 18D ▶

Wrapped in savings

Ensuring your home is properly insulated can improve energy efficiency and make your home more comfortable. Insulation acts like a cozy coat that reduces heat loss during winter months and a protective layer that reduces heat gain during summer months.

Many older homes have less insulation than newer homes, but even newer homes can benefit from additional insulation. While it's not the least expensive efficiency improvement, adding insulation and air sealing your home can provide the biggest bang for your buck in energy savings and overall comfort.

The most common areas to insulate are attics, ceilings, crawlspaces or unconditioned basements, exterior and interior walls, floors and ductwork located in unconditioned spaces.

The amount and effectiveness rating of insulation required for each area varies by climate, but many websites like The Department of Energy or Home Depot provide easy-to-follow recommendations. Visit energy.gov/insulation to learn about recommended R-values for specific areas of the home based on climate zones.

It's important to understand how insulation effectiveness is measured. Insulation is rated in R-value, which measures the material's resistance to conductive heat flow. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulation's effectiveness. The R-value you'll need depends on factors like climate, type of heating and cooling system and which area of the home you plan to insulate.

Insulation is offered in a wide range of materials from bulky fiberglass rolls to cellulose materials made from recycled paper products. If you're considering installing additional insulation, talk to an expert who can offer guidance on the right materials for your budget, climate and comfort needs.

Investing in proper insulation for your home not only enhances comfort but also reduces energy consumption.

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 offi ce 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

Applications are still being accepted for 2025 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 5, 2025. 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 16-23, 2025, 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. 14, 2025.

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.

"2025 rate information" continued from 18A ▶

future base rate adjustments, which 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.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Scammers will try anything to deceive utility customers, including a tactic that claims customers have overpaid their bill. If you receive a call, text or email from someone claiming you overpaid a utility bill and need to provide your banking or credit card information to receive a credit, it's likely a scam. In most cases, your utility will apply a credit to your account to cover future charges or refund an overpayment with a mailed check.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams

COMING SOON

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 17 at 7 p.m. — Carlyle Knights of Columbus Hall**
- **Tuesday, March 18 at 1:30 p.m. — Breese Knights of Columbus**
- **Tuesday, March 18 at 7 p.m. — Albers American Legion**