Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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# Change to the construction work plan

The article "Construction work plan" in the April 2023 Illinois Country Living magazine detailed CCEC's construction work plan for 2023, stating, "The second project we will be completing later this summer will consist of rebuilding and upgrading approximately 1 mile of line from #2 Copper conductor to 336 ACSR conductor. The project will begin at our Albers substation, located at the intersection of Wesclin Road and Tank Road, and extend south approximately 1 mile to the intersection of Tank Road and Court Road." However, we have decided to defer that part of the plan and will continue the line rebuild east of the intersection of County Line Road and Haselhorst Road towards the intersection of Highway 160 and Haselhorst Road. We apologize for any confusion. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the office at 800-526-7282.

# CCCE awards scholarships

Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) proudly offers two $500 scholarships to senior students from Carlyle, Central, Christ Our Rock, Mascoutah, Mater Dei and Wesclin High Schools. The following students, whose primary residence is served by CCEC, were awarded $500 scholarships this past May:

### Carlyle High School:

- **Madison Nattier,** daughter of Stacy and Stephanie Nattier of Centralia
- **Kaitlyn Steinkamp,** daughter of Eric and Jennifer Steinkamp of Bartelso

### Central High School:

- **Gracie White,** daughter of Samuel and Amber White of Breese
- **Madyson Diekemper,** daughter of Craig and Michelle Diekemper of Carlyle

### Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School:

- **Blake Kleiboeker,** son of Cory and Annette Kleiboeker of Centralia
- **Payton Golding,** daughter of Richard and Tina Golding of Carlyle

### Mascoutah High School:

- **Delaney Morio,** daughter of Jeff and Michelle Morio of Mascoutah
- **Gabrielle Mayssonet,** daughter of Kristin and Paul Bauman of Mascoutah

### Mater Dei Catholic High School:

- **Connor Loepker,** son of Troy and Tanya Loepker of Bartelso
- **Addison Kampwerth,** daughter of Scott and Paula Kampwerth of Carlyle

### Wesclin High School:

- **Aisley Toennies,** daughter of Terry and Holly Toennies of Trenton
- **Hayden Hoerchler,** son of Aaron and Shelly Hoerchler of Trenton

**Congratulations to CCEC's 2023 scholarships recipients!**

# Leaders of tomorrow represent their cooperative at Youth Day

For the first time since 2019, the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day returned following a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Back in March, nearly 200 students representing 22 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives had the opportunity to visit the State Capitol, view state government in action and question their legislators on key issues.

Alayna Benhoff, Bradley Huelsmann, Simon Toennies and Mason Nordike, all children of Clinton County Electric Cooperative members, were selected based on their applications to attend Youth Day in Springfield. They joined high school students from around the state for the day's activities, which included visiting the Capitol Building, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Lincoln Home National Historic Site. While at the Capitol Building, the students were privileged to meet with State Senators Jason Plummer and Christopher Belt along with Representative Blaine Wilhour and Representative Charlie Meier.

During lunch, State Treasurer Michael W. Frerichs addressed students and chaperones and encouraged them to find where their passion lies. Frerichs said, "It doesn't matter what you do if you love what you are doing. Find your own path. There may be times when you start down a path and diverge from it but listen to your heart. Sometimes you have to immerse yourself in something and possibly fail. Even when we don't win, we learn from the experience."

Participants also met Abigail Meyer, the 2022-23 Illinois Youth Leadership Council Representative from Tri-County Electric Cooperative. She spoke about her experiences on the Youth to Washington Tour and challenged attendees to maintain an interest in their cooperatives and the political process.

At the end of the day, the students were interviewed for the chance to participate in the Youth to Washington Tour, June 16-23, 2023. Alayna Benhoff, daughter of Justin and Pam Benhoff of Carlyle, and Simon Toennies, son of Gwen and Roger Toennies of Damiansville, were selected as Clinton County Electric's 2023 winners of the Washington D.C. trip.

*Pictured with Senator Christopher Belt (D-57) are students Alayna Benhoff, Bradley Huelsmann, Simon Toennies and Mason Nordike, and chaperones Bob Kroeger and Carrie Trame.*

*Pictured with Senator Jason Plummer (R-55) and Representative Blaine Wilhour (R-110) are students Alayna Benhoff, Bradley Huelsmann, Simon Toennies and Mason Nordike, and chaperones Carrie Trame and Bob Kroeger.*

Sophomores, juniors or seniors in high school whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are members of the cooperative and whose primary residence is served by Clinton County Electric Cooperative are eligible to apply for the Youth Day in Springfield, giving them a chance to participate in the annual "Youth to Washington" trip. For more information, visit our website at www.cceci.com or watch for information in our December and January issues of this newsletter.

**DID YOU KNOW**

You do not need a Facebook account to view the information we post. Simply go to our website www.cceci.com and scroll down until you see our Facebook information. There you can look through our posts without having to log into an actual Facebook account.

## Mark your calendar!

Clinton County Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting of the Membership will be held on Thursday, Aug. 17, 2023, at Central Community High School in Breese, Ill. Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the business meeting, including trustee elections, will begin at 7:30 p.m.

## What's the fuss about PEAK ENERGY USAGE?

Peak energy demand is when energy consumption is at its highest.

In much of the U.S., energy use spikes in summer and winter due to increased energy demands for heating and cooling spaces.

In the summer: Energy use spikes from mid- to late afternoon until evening.

In the winter: Energy use is higher in the early morning and then again in late afternoon/evening.

Adjusting when you use electricity can help even out energy use and avoid service interruptions caused by high demand.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Learn more at SafeElectricity.org®

## 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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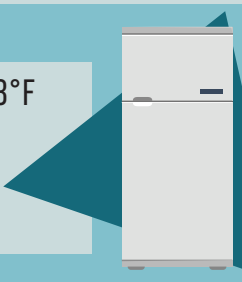
# FREE & EASY ways to save energy

(Spoiler Alert: Your clothes and dishes won't know the difference)

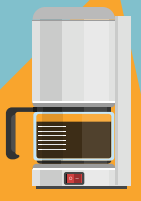
Major home appliances account for approximately 16% of an average home's energy consumption.

1. Run full loads of laundry instead of several smaller ones.
2. Use cold water to wash your clothes.



3. Keep your refrigerator at 35° to 38°F and your freezer at 0°F.
4. Regularly defrost manual-defrost freezers and refrigerators.

5. Skip the heat-dry setting on your dishwasher.
6. Fully load your dishwasher before washing.



7. When buying new appliances, consider Energy Star versions.
8. Unplug appliances you're not using.

Time to replace that old appliance? Replacing older versions with energy-efficient models can save the average household more than $500 per year.

Sources: National Resources Defense Council, U.S. Energy Information Administration

SafeElectricity.org®

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen (or the backyard) and find new ways to save energy!

*Source: Dept. of Energy*