Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

Clinton County Electric holds 87th Annual Meeting

Members of Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) gathered Thursday, Aug. 20 at Central Community High School in Breese for the cooperative's 87th Annual Meeting of the Members. During the meeting, members heard reports on the cooperative's financial condition, system investments, community programs and plans to transition to a cost-based rate structure in 2027.

"Electric cooperatives are more than electric utilities — they are member-owned businesses guided by the seven cooperative principles," Board Chairman Steve Kalmer said during his report. "These principles ensure that decisions are made in the best interests of the member-owners rather than outside investors."

Kalmer reported that the co-op has returned more than $11.7 million in capital credits to its members over the years. In December 2025, the board approved $450,000 in general capital credit retirements and $84,000 in estate retirements. The general retirement went to members who received electric service from CCEC in 2005 and 2006.

CCEC has continued investing in local students and schools. Over the past 10 years, the cooperative has awarded $70,000 in scholarships to high school seniors and Kaskaskia College students. CCEC now offers two $1,000 scholarships to students in each high school in its service territory, along with four $1,000 scholarships for students attending Kaskaskia College.

The cooperative also awarded the $1,000 Kevin Kampwerth Memorial Scholarship to Connor Zurliene, who will attend Kaskaskia College. The scholarship honors the late Kevin Kampwerth, who served 26 years on CCEC's board, including as chairman.

In addition, CCEC annually provides $4,000 in Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment grants to educators in its service territory. During the past decade, the cooperative has awarded $39,000 to area teachers.

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Wiegmann reported that the

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cooperative remains financially strong. CCEC collected nearly $22 million in revenue in 2025 and spent more than $20 million to operate the cooperative, including approximately $13.8 million for purchased power.

CCEC generated approximately $963,000 in operating margins in 2025, while another $528,000 in margins was allocated to the cooperative from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) and other associated organizations.

President/COO Bob Kroeger discussed the co-operative's continued focus on safety, reliability and preparations for changes in the industry. He recognized the co-op's dedicated employees for reaching more than 660,000 hours without a lost-time accident, a safety record dating back to April 15, 2009.

"We take a lot of pride in the safety culture our employees have built," Kroeger said. "Their commitment has led to an achievement that deserves recognition."

CCEC continued to invest in reliability during the past year, spending $500,000 to replace 300 poles, $300,000 on proactive tree trimming and right-of-way maintenance, and nearly $500,000 to rebuild five miles of line to improve capacity and reliability.

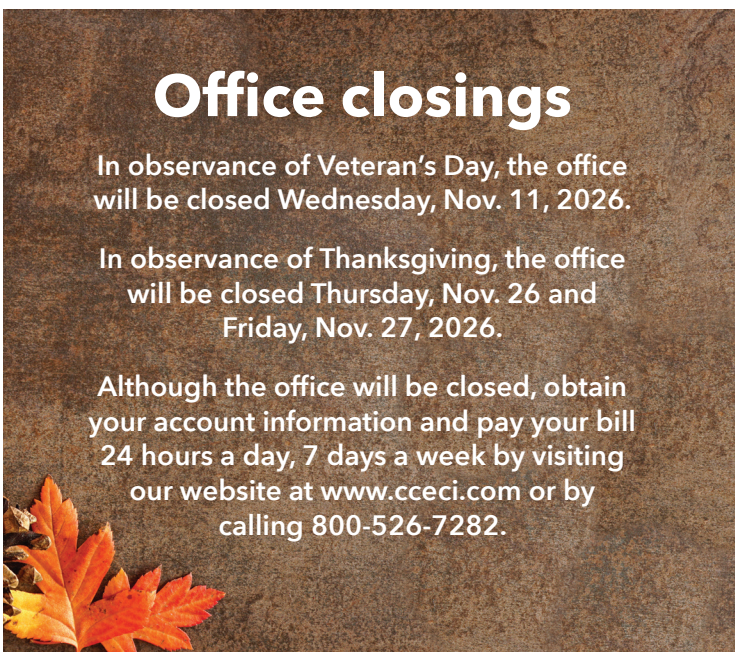
Kroeger updated members on CCEC's transition to a cost-based rate structure, which will take effect in January 2027. He said the change is revenue neutral and is intended to more accurately allocate costs based on both the amount of electricity members use and the demand they place on the electric system.

"Our goal has never been simply to implement new rate structures," Kroeger said. "Our goal has been to implement the right rate structure in a thoughtful, transparent and responsible manner."

Under the new structure, members will have an additional way to manage costs by considering not only how much electricity they use but also when they use it. The co-op plans to hold area meetings in November to provide more information and answer questions before the new rate structure takes effect.

"Everything we do is done on behalf of the members we serve," Kroeger said. "As we look ahead, we will continue investing in safety, strengthening reliability, planning responsibly and fulfilling our mission of providing safe and reliable services to benefit our member-owners."

During the meeting, members reelected three trustees to the co-op's board. Tim Hanke of Carlyle, District 1; Jeff Schulte of Breese, District 2; and Rodney Timmermann of Germantown, District 3, were elected by acclamation to three-year terms.



Understanding your new electric bill

A guide to the cost-based rate structure

Bob Kroeger
President/COO

Beginning in January 2027, Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) will transition to a cost-based rate structure designed to more accurately align each member's electric bill with the costs associated with providing service.

Over the past several months, we have explained why this transition is being made, the difference between energy and demand, and how the timing of electricity use affects the cooperative's costs. This month, we're bringing those concepts together by taking a closer look at the individual components that will appear on your bill.

Understanding what each charge represents can help make the new rate structure easier to understand and show how your monthly bill is calculated.

System Delivery Charge

The System Delivery Charge recovers the fixed costs of providing access to CCEC's electric distribution system. These costs exist regardless of how much electricity a member uses, so this charge applies each month even if no electricity is consumed.

This charge supports the basic infrastructure and day-to-day operations necessary to provide reliable electric service, including poles, wires, transformers, meters, service lines and substations. It also supports system maintenance, inspections, tree trimming, equipment testing, storm response, employees, administrative functions and professional services.

The charge also helps support member programs and services such as scholarships, classroom grants, Illinois Country Living, area and annual meetings, Youth Day and Youth Tour.

Simply put, think of the System Delivery Charge as your share of the cost of keeping CCEC's electric system, programs and services available and ready to serve you.

Power Supplier Energy Charge

The Power Supplier Energy Charge represents the cost of the electricity supplied by Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) and used by CCEC members. Measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), it reflects the cost of generating or purchasing the electricity consumed during the billing period. This component typically makes up about 35% of CCEC's total wholesale power cost.

In simple terms, this charge answers the question: "How much electricity did I use?" It is based on total consumption throughout the month rather than when that electricity was used.

SIPC Coincident Peak Demand Charge

The SIPC Coincident Peak Demand Charge is based on how much demand a CCEC member places on SIPC's system at the exact time SIPC experiences its monthly peak hour. Measured in kilowatts (kW), it reflects each member's contribution to SIPC's highest system demand during the billing period.

This component typically represents about 25% of CCEC's total wholesale power cost and helps recover costs associated with the generation and transmission infrastructure — such as power plants, transmission lines and substations — that must be large enough to serve customers when demand is at its highest.

Because this charge is tied to peak usage, reducing or shifting electricity use during peak periods can help control costs and improve overall system efficiency.

Member Coincident Peak Demand Charge

The Member Coincident Peak Demand Charge is similar, but instead of being based on SIPC's monthly peak, it measures a member's demand at the exact time CCEC experiences its monthly peak hour.

This component also typically represents about 25% of CCEC's total wholesale power cost and is used to allocate a portion of the demand-related costs CCEC incurs from SIPC.

Together, these demand charges recognize that the cost of providing electricity is affected not only by how much energy is used throughout the month, but also by how much electricity must be available during periods of highest demand.

Distribution Demand Charge

The Distribution Demand Charge recovers costs associated with building and maintaining CCEC's local distribution system so it can reliably serve members during periods of highest demand.

The difference between the System Delivery Charge and Distribution Demand Charge is important. The System Delivery Charge pays for the basic electric

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New electric bill continued from 18C

system that must always be in place — poles, wires, meters and other infrastructure needed to provide access to electricity.

The Distribution Demand Charge pays for the additional capacity needed when electricity use peaks. This can include larger conductors, higher-capacity transformers, upgraded substations and other improvements necessary to safely deliver electricity when demand is high.

Another way to think about it is:

- **System Delivery Charge:** Pays for having access to the electric system.
- **Distribution Demand Charge:** Pays for how much of the system's capacity is needed during peak times.

Unlike an energy charge, the Distribution Demand Charge is not based on total electricity use throughout the month. It reflects how much capacity the system must be prepared to provide when demand is highest.

SIPC Power Cost Adjustment

The SIPC Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) reflects changes in the actual cost of generating and purchasing electricity. These costs can fluctuate due to fuel prices, environmental compliance costs and energy market conditions. This component typically makes up the remaining 15% of CCEC's total wholesale power cost.

SIPC calculates the PCA using a 12-month rolling average, helping smooth short-term increases or decreases rather than passing along sharp monthly fluctuations.

The PCA flows through to CCEC and ultimately to its members. As a not-for-profit cooperative, CCEC passes these costs through without markup or profit.

Looking ahead

Cost-based rates are about more than changing the format of your electric bill. They are designed to collect the revenue needed to operate the cooperative in a fair and equitable manner while encouraging more efficient use of the electric system.

Understanding how CCEC is billed by SIPC and how CCEC's costs are created is an important part of understanding the transition to a cost-based rate structure.

CCEC remains committed to open communication, transparency and fair and reasonable rates that serve the long-term interests of our membership.

Next month, we'll look at factors that drive electric demand during the winter and share practical steps you can take to manage your demand and its impact on your electric bill.

If you have questions, please call our office at 800-526-7282.

Does your school or classroom need new materials?

Can your students benefit from new programs and educational resources?

Clinton County Electric Cooperative is again coordinating our grant program with Touchstone Energy for our local private and public Pre-K-12 teachers and administrators. Eight grants of $500 will be provided for innovative, unfunded projects or materials. Qualifying projects are those that improve the learning environment or increase educational resources for the school.

Grant applications are due by Nov. 6, 2026.

Grant awards will be announced on Dec. 7, 2026.

An objective panel of judges will determine which projects will be awarded the grants.

For grant applications and guidelines, please visit our website at www.cceci.com or contact Katy Singler at 1-800-526-7282.