




Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Clinton County Connection

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Visit our website at www.cceci.com

Facility Charge – “The Story Continues”

Clinton County Electric ran an article in the October 2012 Illinois Country Living magazine concerning the basics of the Facility Charge. That article can be found on our website. To review it, please go to www.cceci.com, click on the Clinton County Connections tab on the left side of the webpage and then click on the October 2012 edition. At this time, I would like to continue the education process.

In February of this year, Clinton County Electric increased the Facility Charge from \$28 to \$34/meter/ month for the typical single phase home/farm account. That was a significant increase of 21%. Since 2012, we have been increasing the Facility Charge by \$6/meter/ month. 2012's percent increase in the Facility Charge was 27%. At this time, I would suggest that the \$6.00/meter/month increase may happen in 2014 and 2015 as well.

At YOUR Annual Meeting held in March of this year, we informed the membership that “we need to recover fixed expenses through fixed charges (our monthly Facility Charge) and we need to recover variable expenses through variable charges (our Energy Charge).” We also stated, “our long term rate design goals are: (1) to increase the Facility Charge, and (2) to flatten the Energy Charge. We believe this is the fair thing to do.”

I am writing this article towards the end of August 2013; Management and the Board of Trustees will begin to have discussions concerning the 2014 Rate Plan within the next few weeks. As mentioned above, our goal is to be fair and our current rate structure is not completely fair to all. Clinton County Electric is not alone in this area. This situation is fairly common in today's electric utilities. However, I believe almost all electric utilities, as well as Clinton County Electric,

are trying to move to a fairer rate structure. The definition of a “fairer rate structure” would be everyone paying their fair share of the cost to provide them with Safe, Reliable and Reasonably priced energy.

Last October's article described the fixed cost investment that needs to be in place if and when the member decides to “flip the switch”. There is more to that story; the continuation also needs to address Safety and Reliability. We believe the Facility Charge needs to include costs of our safety programs. Safety concerns include the general public, members and employees. We also believe the Facility Charge needs to include reliability costs. After all, what good is an electrical system if it's not reliable? Those reliability costs include tree trimming, pole testing, line inspection, outage restoration, replacement of worn out facilities, and investment in new equipment/technology that improves efficiency.

I did a short “back of the envelope” calculation using these costs to see where the Facility Charge should be and got a blended number of a little less than \$67/meter/ month. I am not saying that Clinton County Electric will go to that amount, but it is a helpful number to use as a guidepost in the education process.

Management and the Board of Trustees will continue working on our long term rate design goals, and as always, we will continue to communicate our findings with the membership.

Please remember, all initiatives we embark upon always have our members' best interest in mind. Providing our members with safe, reliable, reasonably priced electricity while providing excellent service will continue to be our goal. As always, if you have any comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at Johnson@cceci.com.



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

Attention Teachers and Administrators!
Have an educational project you'd like funded?

\$4,000 available through Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants

Enter Touchstone Energy's Classroom Empowerment Grant Competition and your submission could win a \$4,000 grant for classroom and education enhancement projects!

Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants totaling \$4,000 are being funded by Clinton County Electric Cooperative Inc. (CCECI) for the 2013-2014 school year. For more information about the grant program, or to get an application, please contact your school superintendant or Carrie Trame at Trame@cceci.com.

Grant applications will need to include the following information:

1. A description of the project and what it will accomplish;
2. The estimated cost of the project;
3. An explanation of why outside funds are necessary to complete the project;
4. Whether funding options have been pursued, and if so, how;
5. When project will be completed;
6. The number of people affected by the project;
7. If the project's goals are measurable, and how;
8. How the project ties in Touchstone Energy's four core values of Integrity, Accountability, Innovation and Commitment to Community.

Photos and supporting data are optional. Grant applications must be received at CCECI by November 8, 2013. Entries will be evaluated by an impartial panel of judges. Awards will be announced on December 13, 2013.

Last year's winners:

\$1,500 - Carlyle Community School District

Submitting teachers: Tara Joiner, Special Education Teacher; Patty Harre, 6th Grade Science Teacher; and LuAlice Kampwerth, Library Media Specialist.

\$500 - St. Rose School

Submitting teacher: Matt Scheibel

\$500 - Central High School

Submitting teacher: Rick Harre, Ag Education Teacher.

\$500 - Damiansville Elementary School

Submitting teacher: Candace Detmer, 3rd Grade Teacher.

\$2,000 - Germantown Elementary

Submitting teachers: Leslie Eversgerd, Literature Teacher; Lindsay Kania, 3rd Grade Teacher; Margie Koopmann, 4th Grade Teacher; Karla Scheer, 2nd Grade Teacher; and Pam Kreke, Special Education Teacher.

\$500 - Kaskaskia Special Education District

Submitting teacher: Bridget Wuebbles, Speech Language Pathologist.

\$2,500 - Wesclin-St. Mary's School

Submitting teachers: Angela Klein, Speech Language Pathologist; Julie Boekman, 4th Grade Teacher; Heather Klein, Special Education Teacher; Amy Woods, 4th Grade Teacher; Kristin Oster, Librarian.

New Bill Presentation, More Features!

As promised, CCECI deployed a new billing statement to the membership with its' September billing. The new bill presentation is certainly different and definitely more informational. Here are some of the notable changes that were made:

- #1**— A graph displaying the usage of the current bill, as well as the previous 12 months. Now you can easily see historical trends in your energy consumption.
- #2**— A breakdown of the Facility Charge(s). In the past, these were combined if you had more than one.
- #3**— A breakdown of all of the individual energy charges. Again, these were lumped together on the old bill style.
- #4**— Average Daily Consumption and Average Daily Cost, another tool for members to monitor their usage and costs.
- #5**— Late Charges shows the amount of money you can save by paying your electric bill before the due date.
- #6**— Not shown — The entire back side of the bill includes definitions of terms used on the bill, a list of services offered by our Billing Department, what to do when your power goes out, and how to pay your bill online.

The image shows a sample electric bill from Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. with several callouts highlighting new features:

- #1** points to the 'KWH USAGE HISTORY' graph showing monthly usage over the last 12 months.
- #2** points to the 'Facility Charge' breakdown, showing a charge of \$10.00 for the 'Facility Charge'.
- #3** points to the 'Energy Charges' breakdown, showing charges for 'Electricity' (\$10.00), 'Gas' (\$10.00), and 'Water' (\$10.00).
- #4** points to the 'Average Daily Consumption' and 'Average Daily Cost' section, showing a consumption of 1000 KWH and a cost of \$10.00.
- #5** points to the 'Late Charges' section, showing a late charge of \$10.00.

Above and Beyond

Electric cooperative membership offers value far beyond Safe, Reliable, and Reasonably priced electricity

Here at Clinton County Electric Cooperative, we work hard to deliver Safe, Reliable, and Reasonably priced electricity to our 4,858 members every day, but we don't stop there. As a cooperative, we strive to do much more to find ways of providing real value to you and the communities we serve.

So what exactly does real value mean? Well, in some ways it's the basic commodities, like connecting with a real, local person when you call our office, rather than just a recording. It could be finding a copy of Illinois Country Living Magazine in your

mailbox every month or visiting our newly designed, information packed website, www.cceci.com. All being basic things that keep you informed about cooperative business and happenings in Illinois. Providing real value can be seen in CCECI's commitment to the annual retiring of Capital Credits back to the membership as well. CCECI has always done this and plans to continue to do so in the future. It can also mean getting your electricity restored much quicker after natural disasters such as ice/thunderstorms. Thanks to mutual-aid

agreements, Clinton County Electric can bring line crews in from other cooperatives to help us restore power as quickly as possible when needed.

October marks National Cooperative Month, in which we take time to celebrate cooperatives and talk about why our not-for-profit, consumer-owned business model is special. Offering our members real value and working to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve, is just one way we set ourselves apart from Investor Owned Utilities. To learn more about cooperatives, visit <http://usa2012.coop/about-co-ops>.

Low Income Energy Assistance Available

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to assist eligible households pay for winter energy services. The amount of assistance is determined based on household size and income. The agencies serving members of Clinton County Electric Cooperative include BCMW Community Services, C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation, St. Clair County Community Action Agency and Madison County Community Development Energy Assistance.

When applying for assistance, the following information is necessary:

1. Proof of gross income for all household members for the 30-day period prior to application date;
2. A copy of your current electric and gas bills;
3. Proof of social security numbers for all household members;
4. If a member of the household received TANF, you must bring their "Medical Eligibility Card;"
5. If you rent your residence, bring proof of your rental agreement which states your monthly rent.

If you are approved for assistance, a payment will be made directly to your account with Clinton County Electric Cooperative.

If you think you might be eligible for assistance, please contact one of the following energy assistance agencies depending on the county in which you reside:

- **Clinton County**
BCMW Community Services
625 North 2nd Street
Breese, IL 62230
Telephone: 618-526-7123
- **Fayette County**
C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation
517 West Gallatin Street
P.O. Box 44
Vandalia, Illinois 62471
Telephone: 618-283-2631
- **Madison County**
Madison County Community Development
130 Hillsboro Avenue, Suite 100
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025-1636
Telephone: 618-692-6200 ext. 6485
- **Marion County**
BCMW Community Services, Inc.
(Main Office)
909 East Rexford Street
P.O. Box 729
Centralia, Illinois 62801-0729
Telephone: 618-532-7388
- **St. Clair County**
St. Clair County Community Action Agency
19 Public Square, Suite 200
Belleville, Illinois 62220-1624
Telephone: 618-257-9246
- **Washington County**
BCMW Community Services, Inc.
455 South Washington
Nashville, IL 62263
Telephone: 618-327-8476

INCOME ELIGIBILITY:

30-day period prior to application

Family Size	30 Day Income	Annual Income
1	\$1,436	\$17,235
2	\$1,939	\$23,265
3	\$2,441	\$29,295
4	\$2,944	\$35,325
5	\$3,446	\$41,355
6	\$3,949	\$47,385
7	\$4,451	\$53,415
8	\$4,954	\$59,445

In observance of **Veteran's Day**, the Cooperative office will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, November 11th**

In observance of **Thanksgiving**, the Cooperative office will be **CLOSED** on **Thursday, November 28th & Friday, November 29th**