



## Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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

### Facility charge - "the story continues"

Clinton County Electric ran articles in the October 2012 & October 2013 Illinois Country Living magazine concerning the basics of the Facility Charge. Those articles can be found on our website. To review it, please go to [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com), click on the Clinton County Connections tab on the left side of the webpage and then click on the October 2012 and/or the October 2013 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 \$34 to \$40/meter/ month for the typical single phase home/farm account. That was a significant increase of 18%. Each year since 2012, we have been increasing the Facility Charge by \$6/meter/month. 2013's percent increase in the Facility Charge was 21%. At this time, I would suggest that the Facility Charge will probably increase in 2015. We do not believe the current charge of \$40 is sufficient to cover the cost of what it takes to deliver safe and reliable power to your home or business.

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 2014; Management and the Board of Trustees will begin to have discussions concerning the 2015 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, including 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.

Past articles have 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 efficiencies.

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

**Continued on 16c ►**



*Mike Johnson*

# 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:

- Proof of gross income for all household members for the 30-day period up to and including the application date;
- A copy of your current electric and gas bills;
- Proof of social security numbers for all household members;
- If a member of the household received TANF, you must bring their "Medical Eligibility Card;" and
- 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 ext. 117

## **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
1	\$1,459
2	\$1,966
3	\$2,474
4	\$2,981
5	\$3,489
6	\$3,996
7	\$4,504
8	\$5,011

# Attention educators 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 2014-2015 school year. For more information about the grant program, or to get an application, please contact your school superintendent or Carrie Trame at [Trame@cceci.com](mailto:Trame@cceci.com).

Grant applications will need to include the following information:

- A description of the project and what it will accomplish
- The estimated cost of the project
- An explanation of why outside funds are necessary to complete the project
- Whether funding options have been pursued, and if so, how
- When project will be completed

- The number of people affected by the project
- If the project's goals are measurable, and how
- 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 7, 2014. Entries will be evaluated by an impartial panel of judges. Awards will be announced on December 5, 2014.

## **Last year's winners:**

### **\$1,500 - Carlyle Junior High School**

Submitting teachers: Tara Joiner, 7th & 8th Grade Special Education; Patty Harre, 6th Grade Science; and LuAlice Kampwerth, Library Media Specialist.



**Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup>**

*The power of human connections*

### **\$500 - St. Rose Elementary**

Submitting teacher: Laura Wesselmann, Kindergarten.

### **\$500 - Bartelso School**

Submitting teacher: Amy Koch, Music.

### **\$1,000 - Germantown Elementary**

Submitting teachers: Kaci Lueking, 1st Grade; and Cheri Markwell, Kindergarten.

### **\$500 - Wesclin Jr.-Sr. High School**

Submitting teacher: Kristin Oster, Librarian.

## **Facility charge continued from 16a**

that amount, but it is a helpful number to use as a guidepost in the education process. The facility charge is comparable to the basic/minimum fee charged by cell phone companies, cable TV services and internet providers. Even if consumers don't utilize the service, they still pay a certain fee which in many cases is higher

than our \$40 monthly facility charge.

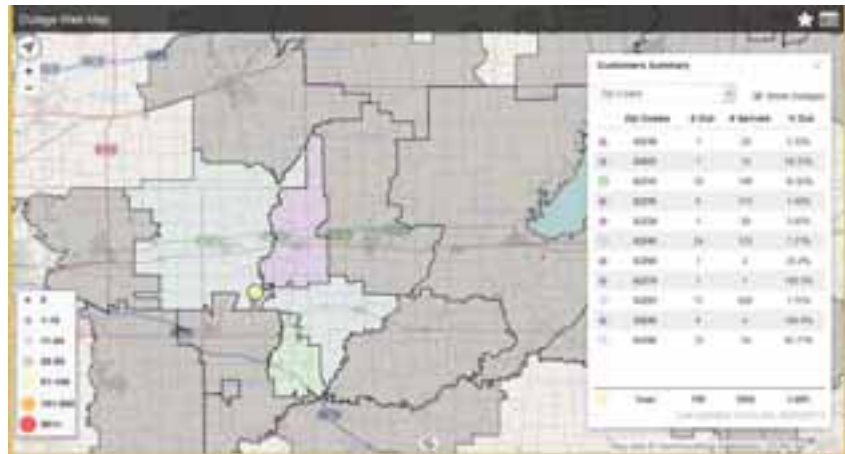
Management and the Board of Trustees will continue working on our long term rate design goals and as always we will continue to communicate our findings with the membership.

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](mailto:Johnson@cceci.com).

# Outage Web Map now available!

With the recent purchase and installation of an Outage Management System, we are now able to offer an Outage Web Map. This map will show approximate location and size of active outages in our service area along with the number of customers affected in each town (or zip code). The map is designed to work on a smartphone, tablet, or desktop PC. In some instances other details about current outages may be available including the cause of an outage and an estimated time of restoral. Links to the map are on our website at [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com). It is very important that



even if your location is shown on the map as an area experiencing a power outage, you still report your outage by calling our toll free number 1-800-526-7282. In addition to our Outage Web

Map, details of large power outages can normally be seen on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CantonCountyElectric](http://www.facebook.com/CantonCountyElectric).



*In observance of Veterans Day the office will be closed on Tuesday, November 11th*

*In observance of Thanksgiving the office will be closed on Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th.*

