



Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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Preparation is power: Weathering winter outages

Anyone who has weathered prolonged outages due to an ice or winter storm will tell you it is more than inconvenient. Such an outage during cold weather creates an additional set of challenges and safety requirements. Prepare now to ensure you're not left in the cold when the next one happens.

Safe Electricity recommends assembling an emergency kit with essential items such as:

- Flashlight, portable radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit and essential medicines
- Non-perishable food
- Bottled water
- Basic tools and related materials
- Extra blankets and clothing to dress in layers
- Outerwear at the ready, including hats, gloves and scarves
- Rags or duct tape to seal air leaks

If you have a wood stove or fireplace, have plenty of wood on hand, and if you have a fuel-based heater, have extra fuel and the means to vent the fumes.

Know how you can get area weather updates, such as a weather

radio, mobile notification system you can enroll in, mobile app, etc. Visit state and local websites for emergency outage plans in your area. Develop an emergency plan with your family so everyone knows what to do in an outage. Keep your mobile devices fully charged and ready to use when a storm is headed your way.

Additional tips for weathering a cold weather outage:

- Dress in several layers of warm clothing. Wear a hat to avoid the loss of heat from your head
- Reduce the amount of wasted heat during an outage by closing doors to rooms not being used and securing curtains and blinds to reduce heat loss from windows
- Never use an oven or charcoal grill to heat the home
- Reduce the risk of spoiling food during an outage by lowering the temperature of your refrigerator as low as possible, and avoid opening the refrigerator doors unless it becomes necessary. By doing so, you can keep your food cool for up to 24 hours
- Protect your sensitive electronics by unplugging devices such as televisions and computers.

Use surge protectors to protect electronics when power comes back on

- Be alert to the signs of frostbite, which can include loss of feeling in the extremities, and hypothermia, such as shivering, memory loss, incoherence or drowsiness
- Use caution when going outside. Downed power lines could be hidden by snow or ice. If you see a downed power pole or line, stay far away and report it to Clinton County Electric Cooperative at 800-526-7282

A portable generator can provide power in the event of an outage. Have an electric cord long enough to keep the generator at least 20 feet from any door, window or vent to keep carbon monoxide out of the home. Read your instruction manual before use and operate your generator in well-ventilated areas.

Never use a portable generator in the home or garage –and never plug it into a home wall outlet or connect it directly to the home's electrical system. Install battery-powered or battery back-up carbon monoxide detectors near floors on each level of the home.

Clinton County Electric Cooperative Annual Scholarship Program

For many years, Clinton County Electric Cooperative has awarded scholarships to students who live on CCEC's electric lines. We are proud to announce that we will again carry on the tradition by proudly sponsoring 14 - \$500 scholarships, totaling \$7,000 this spring to benefit students from our service territory. Two - \$500 scholarships will be awarded to two seniors at each of these six area high schools: Carlyle High School, Central High School,

Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School, Mater Dei Catholic High School, Mascoutah High School and Wesclin High School. Two - \$500 scholarships will also be awarded to two students attending Kaskaskia College. The scholarships are awarded based upon criteria set forth by the school they are attending. Please contact the guidance department at the schools mentioned above for an application and more details.



Applications are still being accepted for 2018 Youth Day and Youth Tour



There is still time left for high school sophomores and juniors to apply to attend Youth Day in Springfield to be held on **April 18, 2018**. This event is sponsored by Clinton County Electric Cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Please visit our website www.cceci.com for an application and more information about Youth Day. Deadline to apply is Friday, March 16, 2018.

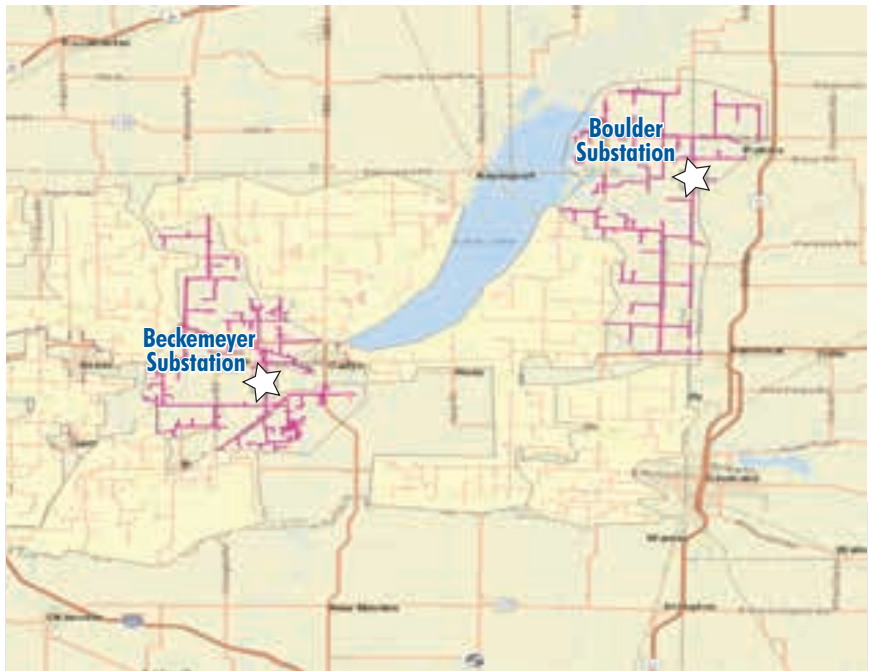
This program may be suspended at any time due to inadequate funding or participation. There will be a maximum number of 12 participants chosen. Notifications will only be made to those chosen to participate in the program.

Beckemeyer, Boulder and Trenton Substations

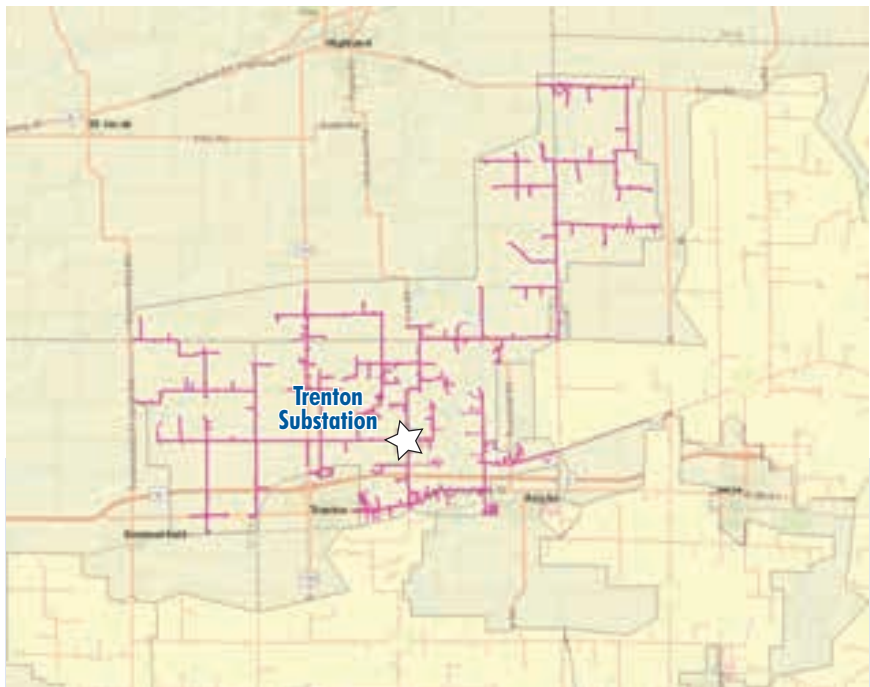
In 2018, Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) has again contracted with Rensing Tree Service to continue with our 4-year trimming program. This year we will be trimming trees in areas served by our Beckemeyer and Boulder Substations. Since weather conditions play a big part in where and what they can trim, you can expect to see Rensing Tree Service crews throughout most of the year. Rensing Tree Service has worked with CCEC for many years, and we believe they are a valuable partner for us to ensure reliable service to the membership.



CCEC has also contracted with Osmose Utilities Service to inspect and possibly treat all electric utility poles served out of the Trenton Substation. Osmose will probably start their work this spring. Osmose will use both pickup trucks and 4-wheelers to move from pole to pole, inspecting and treating them. For a more detailed map of the areas affected by the 4-year trim or pole treating programs, please visit our website www.cceci.com. Please do not hesitate to call the office at 800-526-7282 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. if you have any questions or concerns.



Trees will be trimmed in the area served by the Beckemeyer and Boulder Substations.



Poles will be treated in the area served by the Trenton Substation.



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 out before a system is installed.

Before deciding to buy a solar array, examine the economics to determine whether 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.