



# Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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

## Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

At the regular meeting of the board of trustees on Dec. 18, 2017, the decision was made to invest in an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system. Simply put, AMI technology allows two-way communications between your meter and Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC). AMI will improve service to the membership, as well as the efficiency and reliability of our electric system. It will also provide benefits for the billing department, customer service, and engineering and operations.

### Billing

AMI will provide timely meter readings on the last day of each month, resulting in a consistent number of days of usage on your bill every month. It will also provide accurate meter readings. Currently, we physically read each meter every month. For every reading that is incorrect, we send someone out to verify the reading.

AMI will send notification if an attempt is made to tamper with a meter or steal power. It will also provide valuable data and information for rate development in the future.

### Customer Service

In customer service, AMI will be an invaluable resource for assisting our members with high bill complaints. AMI will deliver the data

needed to provide our members with daily and hourly consumption. It will also integrate with our SmartHub app, which will give the ability to view daily and hourly consumption without contacting the office.

With AMI, we will have the ability to verify momentary interruptions or blinks in your service. Sometimes blinks originate on our side of the meter, sometimes they originate on the member's side. Either way, AMI will help identify those problems and resolve the issue in a timely manner.

### Engineering & Operations

In the engineering and operations department, we will be able to efficiently manage and respond to outages. The two-way communication of the AMI system will allow us to poll the system and look for meters without power. However, if you experience an outage, please call. Don't ever assume we know you are without power.

The data provided by the AMI system will be a better source of information to use as a basis for our construction work plan. The construction work plan is an important tool for addressing service reliability.

Currently, CCEC does not have a load control program. However, the AMI technology will put us in a good position to evaluate if there ever

becomes a need for load control.

AMI network installation began in June. Meter installation began in mid August, and we hope to have the project completed by the first of July 2019. Throughout the year, all main meters on our system will be replaced. So, if you haven't seen a CCEC lineman in your neighborhood yet, chances are you will sometime between now and July 2019.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the office Monday through Friday, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 800-526-7282.



# Change to CCEC's heating and cooling program

At the regular meeting of the board of trustees on April 24, 2018, the board approved a change to Clinton County Electric Cooperative's (CCEC) high efficiency heating and cooling program.

Effective with the August 2018 electric consumption, members with a geothermal system or high efficiency air to air heat pump will receive a \$7.50 monthly bill credit. This will take the place of the discounted heating and cooling kilowatt hours currently being registered through your second meter and eliminate the monthly \$4 System Delivery Charge for that second meter.

With the installation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), the board decided it is not in the best financial interest of the cooperative to replace the approximately 900 second meters on our system. However, CCEC is committed to high efficiency heating and cooling technology and wants to keep an incentive available for those using high efficiency units.

If you are a member who currently has a second meter and are getting the discount on heating and cooling kilowatt hours, there is nothing you need to do. You will automatically receive the new monthly credit starting with August 2018 consumption, reflected on your September bill. If you are not taking advantage of the discounted kilowatt hours or are thinking of installing a geothermal system or high efficiency air to air heat pump, please provide the office with a bill of sale for your unit and we can set your account up to receive the new credit.

This change is revenue neutral. It will not generate any more or less revenue for CCEC.

If you have any questions regarding this rate change, do not hesitate to contact the office Monday through Friday, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 800-526-7282.



In observance of Veterans Day, the office will be closed on Monday, November 12, 2018.

In observance of Thanksgiving, the office will be closed on Thursday, November 22, 2018 and Friday, November 23, 2018.



Although the office will be closed, view your account information and pay your bill 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by visiting our website [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com) or by calling 800-526-7282.

# 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 \$500 grant for classroom and education enhancement projects!

Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants totaling \$4,000 are being funded by Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) for the 2018-2019 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](mailto: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 other 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 CCEC by November 5, 2018. Entries will be evaluated by an impartial panel of judges. Awards will be announced on December 3, 2018.



**Touchstone Energy**<sup>®</sup>

*The power of human connections*

## Last year's winners:

- **\$1,000 – Carlyle Jr. High School**  
Submitting educators: LuAlice Kampwerth, Library Media Specialist & Tara Joiner, Special Education Teacher
- **\$500 – Bartelso Elementary**  
Submitting educator: Dianne Schroeder, 4th Grade Teacher
- **\$500 – Germantown Elementary**  
Submitting educator: Cheri Markwell, Kindergarten Teacher
- **\$500 – St. Rose School**  
Submitting educator: Bev Kapp, Teacher
- **\$500 – Trenton Elementary School**  
Submitting educator: Sara Barton, 3rd Grade Teacher
- **\$500 – Wesclin Middle School**  
Submitting educator: Amy Woods, 4th Grade Teacher
- **\$500 – Wesclin High School**  
Submitting educator: Heather Klein, Special Education Teacher

# 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.*



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