

# JAMUP

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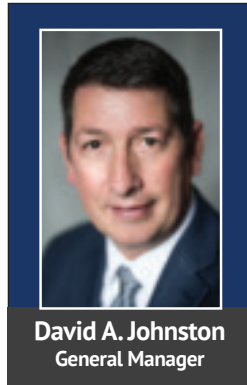
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Electricity brings everyday value

**A**lthough I work in the energy industry, like most people, I still don't think much about the electricity I use. I expect the lights to turn on when I flip the switch and the coffemaker to work each morning. Because electricity is so abundant, we don't think much about it. Since many of us have been spending more time at home over the past few months, we have likely been using more energy. Yet, we still expect an endless supply of power with uninterrupted service 24/7. The only time we worry about electricity is when the power goes out or perhaps when the monthly bill arrives.

Given how electricity powers our modern lifestyle every day, it's a great value, especially when compared to other common services and expenses. For example, think back to the cost of a gallon of gasoline 20 years ago. Consider the cost of groceries or a cup of your favorite specialty coffee from a few years back. In comparison, the cost of electricity has remained largely flat, unlike most other consumer goods.

Many people have a cell phone to stay connected and subscribe to cable channels to enjoy more viewing options. Many of us consider these necessities for modern day life. We can see what we're getting for our money, and we pay the price for those services. In contrast, when we use electricity, we don't necessarily "see" all



**David A. Johnston**  
General Manager

that we're getting for our money.

But considering what electricity does for us, it's a tremendous value for our quality of life as well as our budgets. For comparison, consider that the average rent increase was nearly 4 percent (from 2014-2019) according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics

Consumer Price Index (CPI). The cost of medical care was increased 3 percent during this time, and education was not too far behind at 2.6 percent. Where did electricity rank? According to the CPI, electricity increased by less than half a percentage point, 0.4 percent.

The bottom line: electricity brings everyday value. Considering that electricity is something that we all use around the clock, I'm proud of Southern Illinois Electric

Cooperative's track record of 99.96 percent reliability and average of only 3.796 outage hours per meter in 2019. At the same time, we are constantly striving to increase our service reliability, reduce those brief interruptions and reduce costs. We are continually working to improve our operations to ensure a smarter grid and exploring more renewable energy options where possible.

SIEC provides the reliable service you expect and deserve as valued member-owners of the co-op. As your trusted energy advisor, we want to help you save energy and money.

We recognize that the past few months have been challenging for many of our member-owners and we're here to help. If you have questions about your account or are looking for ways to save energy at home, please give us a call. SIEC is your electric co-op and our sole purpose is to serve you and the needs of our community. That's everyday value.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Installing a smart power strip is a quick and easy way to start saving money while making your home more energy efficient. Smart power strips can actually cut power off to save energy since they are able to detect when a device is in standby mode.

Source: energy.gov

## Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's Jessie Lewis wins IEC scholarship

The Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by unanimous vote of the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) in Springfield, Ill. in January 1994. It was designed to provide financial assistance to deserving students in the electric cooperative family.

Scholarship applicants must be high school seniors who plan to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school in the U.S. Scholarships are awarded based on grade point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, biographical statement and knowledge of electric cooperatives, as demonstrated by a short essay.

Each year, 12 scholarships, worth \$2,000 each, are given out to these Illinois students who are sons or daughters of cooperative members



(receive electric service from a cooperative), directors and/or employees. Funds to support the scholarship are raised yearly at the AIEC annual meeting as well as by other private donors. **Patricia Perry**

Of the 265 applications from 24 Illinois electric cooperatives, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative has a

winner. Jessie Lewis, a 2020 graduate of Massac County High School, is the daughter of Kathleen Cohoon of Brookport, Ill. and David Lewis of Metropolis, Ill. She will attend John A. Logan College this fall to study wildlife and conservation biology.

Congratulations to Jessie and her family on her accomplishments!

### Remembering Bob L. McIntosh 1944-2020

*It is with great sadness that the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative board of directors announces the death of board member Bob L. McIntosh who passed away on June 20, 2020. A board director since 2013, Bob dedicated seven years of service to the member-owners of SIEC.*

*"Bob was our board vice president and always made well-informed decisions for the membership and employees," said David Johnston, executive vice president and general manager of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. "The value he brought forth as a man and director will certainly be missed."*

*Over the years, Bob served the board as vice president, secretary-treasurer and finance committee member. He also represented SIEC's interest as a voting delegate for many state and national committees.*

*Bob was a gentle and kind man that was always willing to listen and make informed decisions. He will be missed here at SIEC. We would like to thank his wife Sue and his entire family for sharing Bob with us through the years.*



## Do ENERGY STAR appliances really save money?

If you are in the market for a new appliance, you might wonder if buying an ENERGY STAR-certified version will make a difference in your energy bills.

**The short answer is yes**, when you compare its estimated energy costs to its less efficient counterpart.

In fact, there are really two costs to consider before buying an appliance: the cost itself and the projected monthly energy costs.

The energy-conscious appliances donning the square-shaped ENERGY STAR logo use 10 to 15 percent less energy and water than standard models, according to Energy.gov. For example, ENERGY STAR clothes washers use about 40 percent less energy than conventional clothes washers while also reducing water bills.

**And the longer answer is yes**, if you consider the appliance's lifespan.

ENERGY STAR appliances and other products used throughout your home can save you a collective \$750 over their lifespan, according to Energy.gov. (Besides appliances, there are other ENERGY STAR-certified products, such as lighting and electronics).

While selecting energy-saving designated appliances could have a slightly higher price tag, they don't always. Compare prices and don't assume they cost substantially more than less efficient models.

The biggest bang for your energy-savings buck might be your refrigerator, especially if it is 15 years old or older. By replacing your old fridge with a new ENERGY STAR-certified model, you can save more than \$200 over a 12-year lifespan.

Tip: EnergyStar.gov offers a "Flip Your Fridge" calculator to estimate savings depending on the size and age of your largest kitchen appliance.

**Bottom line?** The typical U.S. family spends around \$2,200 a year on home utility bills. Switching to ENERGY STAR products can help lower these costs over time.

According to EnergyStar.gov, if every appliance purchased in the U.S. this year earned the ENERGY STAR, Americans would:

- Prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the emissions from 225,000 cars.
- Save more than 1.3 billion kWh/year of electricity.
- Save \$425 million in annual energy costs.
- Save more than 28 billion gallons of water per year.\*

*\*Includes ENERGY STAR-certified clothes washer, dishwasher and refrigerator. Dollars savings reflect savings generated from the reduction of energy and water usage.*

## What's Your Appliance Safety IQ?



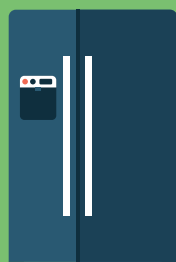
### Clothes Dryer

Children have been electrocuted when hiding behind dryers; some pets also like to nap there.

Install a childproof lock on the laundry room door, as well as on your washer and dryer—especially front-loading models.

Clean lint screen between loads, and thoroughly clean the vents and duct system at least twice a year.

Make sure hoses, seals and connections do not leak and are secure.



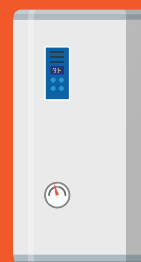
### Refrigerator

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for maintenance.

Clean the coils every six months to a year.

Keep an eye out for dust or lint under or behind your fridge and remove it to let your refrigerator breathe.

If you have young children in your home, make sure your refrigerator is not a tipping hazard. Consider using an appliance anchor that secures your tall appliance to the wall.



### Hot Water Heater

Make sure your hot water heater is well-maintained.

Make sure it does not have excessive pressure buildup by testing the relief valve (or have it tested) at least once a year.

Ensure vents are connected securely and that the correct parts are used to avoid carbon monoxide production.

Have all components of the appliance inspected regularly (at least once a year) by a technician.



## Member prize

In the July 2020 issue of JAMUP, a name was inadvertently left out, so this month, we printed the names of four SIEC members who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit toward their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section and it's not part of the story, call Bree with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.

### SIEC Board of Directors

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**For Outages Call:**  
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**618-827-3555**

**Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.**  
**www.siec.coop**



## Help keep our crews safe

**O**range road signs are not just for highway construction zones; they also apply to utility work zones. Slowing down before entering work zones helps save lives, including the lives of our crew members, who must often work roadside to maintain or restore power.

Cars or trucks that go too fast not only endanger workers on the ground. Driving too fast or not moving over can also put a lineworker who is working high up in a bucket in serious danger by causing it to move or sway into high-voltage lines. **Sam R. Lambert**

Please, take extra care in work zones. Our crews and their families thank you.



In 2017,

**799**  
**people died**

in work zone  
accidents

Source: Federal Highway  
Administration