



# Clinton County Connection

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## 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 2021-2022 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, 2021. Entries will be evaluated by an impartial panel of judges. Awards will be announced on December 6, 2021.

*Last year all six applicants received a \$500 grant:*

### **\$1,500 - Germantown Elementary**

Submitting educators: kindergarten teacher Cheri Markwell, third grade teacher Dawn Strake and pre-k teacher Becky Hitpas

### **\$500 - Mater Dei Catholic High School**

Submitting educator: teacher Doug Denaro

### **\$1,000 - Wesclin High School**

Submitting educators: special ed teacher Heather Klein and teacher Brad Burcham



## Unplug with meaningful community programs

Most adults have a vague memory of a time when “checking for messages” meant listening to an answering machine. We carried on with our days without relying on cell phones and managed just fine. But today, we are more connected than ever through our smartphones and other devices.

From cameras to calendars to social media connections, our phones do so much more now. Truly disconnecting from them can be tough. But it’s even harder for our kids to unplug because they only know life with these tiny screens. It’s difficult for them to imagine life without computers, gaming devices, tablets or cell phones.

But there’s great value in unplugging for children and adults, even if it’s for a short period of time. For kids, time away from the screen to be outside with other children allows them to connect with nature and others in a way that a virtual experience simply does not allow. They are able to experience life in the moment and allow their creativity and energy to break free.

Fortunately, we have access to great community programs and organizations like 4-H, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts that provide children with a safe place to play, learn and grow, while cultivating new skills and interests.

These types of clubs and programs offer kids an opportunity to explore activities and interests outside of school academics. Children can investigate areas they might not otherwise have access to and discover new interests and passions. They often learn new skills and strengthen existing ones. It’s no secret that the broader the range of experiences and activities children are exposed to, the more likely they are to find their own path and possibly a career. Community programs also foster important leadership development and public speaking skills. Through guided and informal play and activities, children learn problem-solving and interpersonal skills that enable them to resolve conflicts peacefully and improve interpersonal relationships.

Adults can also find meaningful opportunities to spend time with the kids when we all unplug. From board games to craft projects to playing in the park, there are many ways we can unplug for some family fun.

While you and your children are disconnecting, take a moment to identify potential energy savings. Unplug electronics that are not in use to avoid “vampire” energy loss. This is the energy that is drained from technology and electronics even when they are not in use. For example, although it is turned off, your TV is waiting to receive a signal from the remote and your DVR is waiting to record the next show or perform an update.

Let’s encourage youngsters to step away from the screens and join in. To play and be part of an organization that helps them connect with others and find meaningful interactions and explore new activities and interests.



# USING A GENERATOR?

## 8 DANGEROUS MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE



### 1 IN ENCLOSED SPACES

Always use it in a well-ventilated area.



### 2 NEAR WINDOWS OR DOORS

Place it at least 20 feet away from windows and doors.



### 3 IN A GARAGE

Even if the door is up, never use a generator in a garage.



### 4 IN THE ELEMENTS

Run it on a dry surface under a canopy-like structure (but not in a carport).



### 5 PLUGGED INTO A WALL OUTLET

This can be deadly to you, family members, neighbors or utility workers.



### 6 WITH THE WRONG EXTENSION CORD

Use a properly rated cord to plug appliances into a generator.



### 7 WITHOUT CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) TESTERS

CO detectors should be on every level of your home (test them monthly).



### 8 IN DISREPAIR

Make sure your generator is well-maintained and in good working order.



Safe Electricity.org®





In observance of Veterans Day, the office will be closed on Thursday, November 11, 2021.



In observance of Thanksgiving, the office will be closed on Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26, 2021.

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.

# 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 through before a system is installed.

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