



With an Operation Round Up program, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) is in a unique position to be a catalyst for improving the quality of life of our membership within our service territory. It will help further facilitate member dialogue, identify community goals, and have the ability to act upon and support these goals.

**What is Operation Round Up?** The Operation Round Up program was started by Palmetto Electric Cooperative in South Carolina in 1989. It was a way for their cooperative to act as a conduit and help facilitate the cooperative members in giving back to their communities. The program has now been adopted by hundreds of other rural electric cooperatives across the nation. One of the cooperative principles is Concern for Community. Cooperatives feel a strong responsibility to the people in the communities we serve that goes beyond simply providing reliable and safe electricity. One of the most rewarding aspects of Operation Round Up is that it is an extension of the concept of neighbors helping neighbors that built our electric cooperatives in the first place.

**How does it work?** Funding for Operation Round Up is donated by co-op members like you who volunteer or opt into rounding up their monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar amount. For example, if your electric bill is \$86.75, it will round up to \$87.00, and your contribution for the month would be 25-cents. Your traditional round up donation never goes above 99-cents per month. The average donation for the year is \$6.00, and the most it would ever be is \$11.88! It is small change, but when you multiply that by the thousands of SIEC members participating in the program, it delivers big benefits to the local community. So, if 1,000 members were registered and donated an average of \$6.00 per year, that would amount to \$6,000.00 that would go right back into our community. Employees and anyone else can also contribute at any time for any other specified monetary contribution.

**What are possible uses for Operation Round Up?** The charitable organization program would be used to aid many worthy causes. For instance, it could benefit community service projects, economic development, environment, energy efficiency assistance, humanitarian, and safety programs. A committee will be assembled and will comprise of two SIEC board members, two active SIEC members in good standing (by random drawing), and one SIEC management employee. Funding determinations will be based on applications received.

**When will this begin?** Operation Round Up deductions will begin in 2024. You can opt out at any time should you ever choose to.

**What better way to celebrate more than 80 years of service than to join electric cooperatives across the United States to help cooperative member-consumers reach out to worthy causes in their communities to work together to help others! That's the co-op way!**

#### **Concern for Community**

*While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.*