

# JAMMUP

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Refunding Capital Credits through your electric bill statements

As you may have heard, SIEC's Board of Directors recently determined that since 2010 provided such an outstanding year of margins and a slight growth in equity, it is prudent to retire capital credits in 2011. Approximately \$650,000 in capital credits will be refunded, which will be a partial refund of the 1984 capital credits.

In an effort to trim costs associated with stamps, envelopes, labor, etc., we have decided for those receiving capital credit refunds, who are also current members of SIEC, we will be issuing those credits on your electric bills,



*SIEC Payroll & Capital Credit Specialist Bree Hileman.*

instead of mailing out actual checks. This will affect approximately 2,900 of our 8,500 members. Although we know the effect of receiving an

actual check in the mail may be more exciting, we must continuously find ways to save our entire membership money in tough economic times such as these.

Look for your capital credit "credits" on an upcoming electric bill statement in 2011, if you are one of the approximate 2,900 active members who paid SIEC for electric service in 1984. Enclosed with your electric bill statement, there will be a separate notification sheet, to remind those with Capital Credit "credits" that the refund is being issued on that particular statement.

## Electric Service Solicitations a Mistake

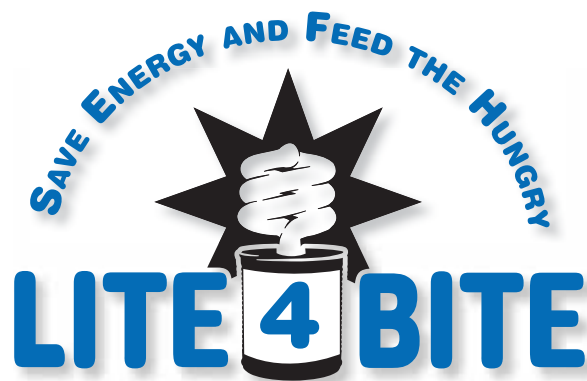
Several members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative and other electric cooperatives statewide are receiving telephone calls and letters encouraging them to switch their power generators (not power distributors), promising savings. The message is intended for investor-owned utility customers (Ameren, ComEd and others), **not** co-op members or municipal utility customers. We are unsure why cooperative members are receiving phone calls and are included in the mailings. **SIEC members should disregard the telephone calls and letters.**

The Illinois deregulation/customer choice issue was debated nearly a decade ago. Legislation was passed that allows investor-owned utility customers to choose who generates their power. It does not change who distributes the electricity to the consumer. Deregulation was driven by and mainly benefited larger industrial loads. In general, the savings for residential consumers and small industrial loads have been dismal or non-existent. **Robert Gunn**

Power generators and the electric utility industry are facing unprecedented levels of risk and uncertainty

in today's environment. Decisions made today could be the wrong decision for the future. Marketers make choice sound wonderful, but the risks for consumers can be high.

The legislation recognized that cooperatives are different and should have the right to make a local decision on whether or not to enter the deregulated market. A few did. Most cooperatives have not. Locally elected co-op board members can always decide to enter the deregulated market if circumstances change and it would benefit the co-op membership.



October has been designated National Cooperative Month since 1930. As part of our commitment to community, SIEC is once again celebrating by promoting energy efficiency, while collecting food for our local communities.

In October and November (or until supplies last), members will receive one free compact fluorescent light (CFL), up to a maximum of

four CFLs, for each commercially canned or packaged food item you bring in to the SIEC office in Dongola.

“Because of the economy, the need for food in our community is growing every week. We appreciate any donation, whether it is food or money,” explains SIEC member Lacie Betts of Happy Helpers food pantry in Tamms.

Please help SIEC assist our local food pantries by stopping in the Co-op and donating to our food drive! You are helping your neighbors in need, while saving energy in your homes. Our local food pantries serve over 2,700 people in our communities EACH MONTH. If we don't give, who will? Donations will be delivered by the Co-op the first week of December.

## Food Pantry Information

### Massac County:

#### COPE

*(open Mon/Wed/Fri 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.)*

**Address:** 1017 N. Ave, Metropolis

**Contact:** Diane Karber  
618-524-2902

**Serves:** Averages 600-700 people/month

### Union County:

#### Bethany Village

*(open Tue/Wed/Thurs 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., closed 12-1 p.m. for lunch)*

**Address:** 414 E. Davie, Anna

**Contact:** Walter King (Exec Dir.)  
618-833-1777

**Serves:** Averages 600-700 people/month

### Pulaski County:

#### Caledonia Christian Church

*(open school days 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.)*

**Address:** 10076 State Hwy 37,  
Olmsted

**Contact:** Pat Bankson 618-742-8223  
**Serves:** Averages 165 people/month

### Alexander County:

#### Daystar Community Programs

*(open Mon/Tue/Thurs/Fri 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.)*

**Address:** 909 Washington St., Cairo

**Contact:** Sherry Miller  
618-734-0178

**Serves:** Averages 600-800 people/month

### Happy Helpers

*(open Thurs/Fri 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)*

**Address:** 430 3rd St, Tamms

**Contact:** Lacie Betts  
618-967-1685

**Serves:** Averages 500 people/month

### Johnson County:

#### First Baptist Church

*(open 3rd Saturday of month 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.)*

**Address:** 301 N 7th St, Vienna

**Contact:** Skip Foulk  
618-658-3741

**Serves:** Averages 100 people/month

## Attention Local Teachers!

# Apply now for your Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants

Does your school or classroom need new materials? Can your students benefit from new programs and educational resources? We thought so.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is once again coordinating this grant program with Touchstone Energy for our local K-12 teachers and administrators. Six grants of \$500 will be provided for innovative, unfunded projects or materials. Qualifying projects are those that improve the learning environment or increase educational resources for the school.

An objective panel of judges will determine which projects will be awarded the \$500 grants. Grant applications are due by November 5, 2010. Grant awards will be announced on December 10, 2010. For a grant application and guidelines, please visit our website at [www.siec.coop](http://www.siec.coop) or contact Jerri Schaefer at 1-800-762-1400. It only takes a few minutes to apply.



*Mrs. Thomasson of Jefferson Elementary School used a \$500 grant last year to create a Mystery Science Festival. The week-long project with second- and third-graders, taught them about analyzing details, facts vs. assumptions, recording data, identifying fingerprints with FBI fingerprint pads, handwriting patterns, basic DNA codes, personal check writing, detailed observations, fundraising and donations, chemical testing, adding money and counting change.*

## State Representative John Bradley receives Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award

At the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives annual meeting, held Thursday, July 29 in Springfield, State Rep. John Bradley, D-117th District, received the 2011 Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award. The award was made in recognition of Rep. Bradley dedicated public service to all citizens of the state of Illinois and for outstanding contributions to the rural electrification program.

Rep. Bradley has served in the Illinois House since 2003, and is currently Chairman of the House Revenue & Finance Committee. Among his other committee assignments, he serves as Vice Chairman of the Judiciary 1-Civil Law Committee and as Chairman of subcommittees dealing with workers' compensation



*Among those presenting the Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award to Rep. Bradley were (l-r), SIEC Executive Vice President and General Manager Larry Lovell, Bradley and SIEC Board of Director Larry Douglas.*

and unemployment insurance. Rep. Bradley has been a great friend to Illinois electric cooperatives while serving in the House. Among his many achievements, he was instrumental in 2011 on successful state legislation to reform the workers'

comp system in the state.

Rep. Bradley is an attorney. He received A.S. and A.A. degrees from Southeastern Illinois College, his BA from the University of Texas, and his law degree from the University of Illinois.



# A review of Interconnection and Net-Metering policies for Renewable Energy

In 2008, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors adopted Interconnection and Net-Metering Policies designed to assist members who want to install wind, solar or other on-site generation facilities using renewable fuel sources. These policies address all sizes of residential and commercial systems, while providing net-metering provisions for systems of 10 kilowatts (kW) or less. The policies encourage the use of renewable energy, while addressing safety, power quality and financial fairness issues.

## Interconnection Issues

Safety, reliability and power quality issues must be addressed if any type of generator is interconnected to the Cooperative's lines. Safety is of utmost concern. For the protection of linemen or contractors working on the lines during an outage, and for the protection of the member's equipment, an automatic disconnect system must be installed. Power quality issues must be addressed so that the member's generator does not cause problems for other members. The Cooperative's interconnection policy and agreement address these issues.

## What is Net-Metering?

Normally when you use electricity the meter rolls forward, like your car's odometer. But when a member's wind, solar or other generation system generates more electricity than the member is currently using, electricity will flow back onto the Cooperative's lines. Under the Cooperative's net-metering policy the meter can roll backward and the member pays the "net" result if more electricity is used than is produced in a monthly billing period. If more electricity is produced than is

used in a monthly billing period, the member is allowed to "credit" any excess kilowatt-hours for up to a three-month period. Fixed monthly service charges, taxes, and other normal fees would still be applied each month.

Net-metering is a simple and easily administered way of compensating members with generation systems. It also helps encourage the use of renewable energy. For members who want to install larger systems above 10 kW and below 50 kW or 200 kW depending on the application, the member may be compensated for excess electricity generation by using the "avoided cost" method. The "avoided cost" equals the costs the Cooperative would otherwise have to pay for electricity it purchased from another source.

In setting these policies, your Board of Directors enacted fair and equitable policies that would: 1) encourage the use of clean, renewable energy; and 2) protect the interest of all Cooperative members.

## Call the Cooperative First!

Because there are many financial, engineering, safety, legal and even zoning issues to consider, members are encouraged to contact the Cooperative if they have any questions about renewable energy, interconnection issues or net-metering. While it is the responsibility of the member to determine the economic feasibility of a proposed generation system, the Cooperative does have a free brochure with a worksheet that can help answer some of the financial questions that will arise. Cooperative personnel can also explain the interconnection and net-metering issues in more detail. You may also visit the Cooperative's website at [www.siec.coop](http://www.siec.coop) to view the policies and brochure.

## Member prize

In this issue of the JAMUP, we printed the names of three 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 Jerri with your account number at 800-762-1400 to claim your prize.

## Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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South • P.O. Box 100  
Dongola, Illinois 62926  
618-827-3555  
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8 a.m. — 4 p.m.  
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[www.siec.coop](http://www.siec.coop)

## Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Board of Directors

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Manager Larry Lovell \* Editor Jerri Schaefer

**For Outages Call:**  
**800-762-1400 \* 618-827-3555**