

JAMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

A review of SIEC's Interconnection and Net-Metering Policies for Renewable Energy

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors regularly reviews its interconnection and net metering policies designed



to assist members who want to install wind, solar, or other on-site cogeneration 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. **Karen Stroemel**

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,

and for the protection of the member's equipment, automatic disconnection of the system must occur in case of an outage on the Cooperative's lines. Also, 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 moves forward, like your car's odometer. But when a member's wind, solar, or other cogeneration 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, energy is measured in both the forward and reverse direction, and the member pays for the "net" energy



consumed 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 one-year 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 cogeneration systems.

It also helps encourage the use of renewable energy. For members who want to install larger systems above 10 kW and below 40 kW, 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 would purchase from its wholesale power supplier, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC). For systems of 40 kW or more, members must comply with SIPC's interconnection and metering policies.

Call the Cooperative first!

Because there are many financial, engineering, safety, legal, insurance, 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. Interconnection and net-metering policies, a Renewables Checklist brochure, and an economic feasibility brochure can be found on the Cooperative's web site at www.siec.coop.



Michael Logeman, P.E.,
Director of Engineering

SIEC is looking for the next generation of leaders

What do 1,500 high school students, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives have in common? The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, of course!

Youth Tour was established with one thought in mind to inspire our next generation of leaders. Since 1964, more than 50,000 young Americans have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by their electric cooperative. And Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative alone has sent many, many students since it all began.

It all takes place in June, when hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send participants to Washington, D.C. for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing.

While in D.C., participants have

a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Without a doubt, Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Soon SIEC will begin the process to select local students to attend Youth Tour 2016. If you are a high school junior interested in traveling to Washington, D.C. to experience the trip of a lifetime, please contact Chris Boyd for more information. Perhaps you know of an exceptional student who would be a great candidate for the program. If you do, please share this article with them.

Youth Tour is so much more than a sightseeing trip. Students have repeatedly shared that this experience has helped them grow into successful professionals. It has also benefited our local communities. Youth Tour participants return home with a deeper understanding and skillset of



what it takes to be leader, and as a result, they put these skills to use right here in our community.

Help us find the next generation of leaders by sharing the Youth Tour experience with a promising student. For more information about SIEC's Youth Tour program, call 618 827-3555 and ask for Chris Boyd, SIEC's Director of Member Services, or visit www.siec.coop.

Susan Gilley

Meghaan Evans writes for NRECA, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Be prepared for winter storms

When winter temperatures drop and storms hit, it can be challenging to stay safe and warm. Winter storm severity varies depending on where you live, but nearly all Americans are affected by extreme winter storms at some point. SIEC cares about your safety, and we want you to be prepared.



Heavy snow and ice can lead to downed power lines, leaving co-op members without power. During extremely low temperatures, this can be dangerous. During a power outage, our crews will continue to work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power, but there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself.



- **Stay warm** – Plan to use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove during a power outage. These are great options to keep you and your loved ones warm, but exercise caution when using, and never leave the heating source unattended. If you are using gasoline, propane or natural gas burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel and wood burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer's directions before using.
- **Stay fed** – The CDC recommends having several days' supply of food that does not need to be cooked handy. Crackers, cereal, canned



goods and bread are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.

- **Stay safe** – When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. It is best not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along, and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible, and report the situation to our dispatchers by calling 618 827-3555 if possible.

Continued on 16c ▶

"Be prepared for winter storms" continued from 16b

Winter weather can be unpredictable and dangerous, and planning ahead can often be the difference between life and death. Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is ready for what Mother Nature has in store, and we want you to be ready, too.

Abby Berry writes for NRECA, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

FAMILY EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

A few important kit items are listed below:

- A battery-powered National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Radio and a battery-powered commercial radio and extra batteries.
- Foods that do not require cooking or refrigeration are best. Include high energy foods such as dried fruit and granola bars.
- Extra medications and special items for babies, the disabled or elderly.
- Extra water in clean containers.
- Flashlights and extra batteries. Do not use candles.
- A first-aid kit, non-prescription drugs and personal sanitary items.
- Pet supplies. For details, go to: http://ready.illinois.gov/pdf/IHS_Disaster_kit.pdf

Q---What should I do if I don't have electricity?

A---If you do not have electricity, check the following before calling SIEC:

- **Breakers** – Check breakers that might have tripped if certain areas in your home are without power. Check the main breaker if your home is completely without power. If you find any breakers that have tripped, reset the breaker which should take care of the problem. If the breaker trips again call an electrician as the breaker panel may need service. **Opal May**

■ **Visible and audible signs**

- Did you hear any loud "booms" just before the power went out?
- Do you see any trees, lines, poles or other equipment that are damaged or on the ground? (Remember, stay clear and do not go near any downed power lines or equipment)
- Check to see if your neighbors have power.

- **Pre-paid Meters** - If you have an SIEC Pre-paid Meter be sure that you do not have a zero balance on your meter. If the account balance drops to \$0, then the meter will automatically disconnect. The electricity will remain disconnected until the member pays for the used kilowatts on the meter and adds funds to their pre-paid account. Remember to monitor the available balance on your meter so that you can add funds before the meter disconnects.

PLEASE NOTE: Members will be charged for dispatching a company representative to the member's premises if the cause of a power outage is on the member's side of the meter and is NOT related to the member's Pre-paid meter or other Cooperative owned equipment. There is no charge during our normal business hours of 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday; the charge after normal hours or holidays is \$200.

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 Cathy with your account number at 800-762-1400 to claim your prize.



Office Closed for New Year's Day, January 1, 2016 and January 18, 2016 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



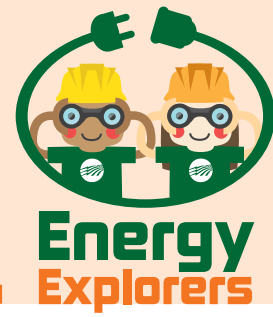
For your added convenience, we have a secure payment deposit box at our Massac facility at 2652 IL 145 Highway.

SIEC Board of Directors

- William E. Littrell (President) Union Co.
- Larry A. Douglas (Vice President) Massac Co.
- Scott Miller (Secretary-Treasurer) Alexander Co.
- G. Robert Inman Pulaski Co.
- David Martin Massac Co.
- Bob L. McIntosh Pulaski Co.
- Carole J. Kelley Johnson Co.
- Richard D. Moss Alexander Co.
- Scott L. Ury Union Co.
- Ronald E. Osman (Attorney)

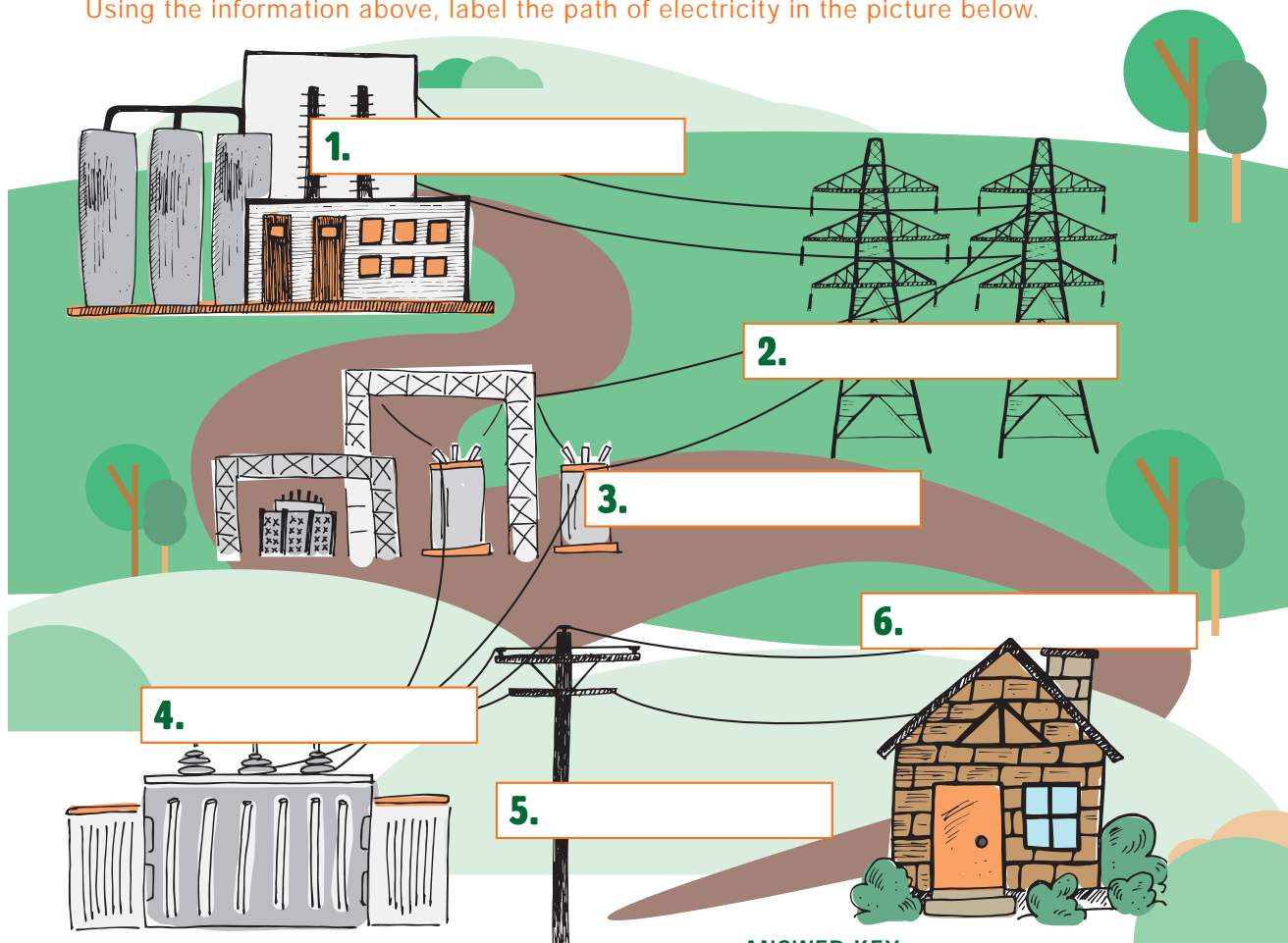
General Manager Chris L. Bennett
For Outages Call:
800-762-1400 * 618-827-3555

THE PATH OF ELECTRICITY



Have you ever wondered where your electricity comes from? First, electricity is generated at a power plant. Then it travels across transmission lines (that look like tall towers) to a substation. There, transformers reduce the voltage. After the voltage is reduced to a safe level, electricity travels through distribution lines to your home!

Using the information above, label the path of electricity in the picture below.



America's Electric
Cooperatives

ANSWER KEY

1. Power plant
2. Transmission lines
3. Substation
4. Transformer
5. Distribution lines
6. Your home

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

7420 U.S. Highway 51 South • P.O. Box 100 • Dongola, Illinois 62926
618-827-3555 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m. • Web address: www.siec.coop