


# JAMMUP

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## How electricity gets to you



**Stephanie Theis**  
Executive Assistant

**H**ave you ever thought about how electricity gets to your light switch or what makes the outlet automatically charge your cell phone when you

plug it in every night? We, as a society, have become very dependent on electricity. Electricity is thought about as a necessity, not a luxury. It plays an essential role in our everyday lives. It powers our homes, hospitals, schools and businesses. We depend on it to heat our homes in the winter, keep us cool in the summer and charge our electronics, and it lets us binge watch our favorite television shows. If the power goes out ... we are at a standstill. **James F. Schultz**

This system that delivers the electricity to our homes, schools, businesses, etc., is part of the electric grid, which can be described as the most complex machine in the world. Why is this? Since we all use different amounts of electricity throughout the day, the supply needed is constantly changing. Most of us typically use more electricity in the mornings when we are starting our morning routines of getting ready for work and school and in the evenings as we are getting home from work and school cooking dinner and using home appliances. This can create a challenge for your electrical provider, SIEC. SIEC must

plan for this usage and make sure it has secured enough electricity to distribute to its members as they demand it. This is where the electrical grid comes into play. The grid will adjust for this need so there is not too much or too little electricity in place at one time. The grid makes sure the whole system stays balanced in “real time.”

The electric grid is a big network of power lines, transformers, substations and other infrastructure that runs across the country. However, it is not just one singular system. It is divided into three major connected grids: the Eastern Interconnection, the Western Interconnection, and the Texas Interconnected system (overseen by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas). These grids run independently but are linked together when backup support is needed. There are seven balancing authorities, known as independent system operators (ISOs) or regional transmission organizations (RTOs), that monitor the grid. They signal the power plants like SIPC when more electricity is needed. This is when the power plants can sell extra electricity on the grid or purchase electricity if they need it from the grid—all depending on their current situation. **John M. Haase**

The power plants then must get electricity to your home by a transportation system. To do this, high-voltage transmission lines, which are seen along highways on big towers, are used for transporting electricity over many miles. These lines connect power plants to substations. Substations can be thought of as a pit stop. This is

where the voltage is adjusted and then distributed through distribution lines. These are usually the lines seen on the side of roadways. The electricity is carried through the distribution lines to transformers to individual homes, making it possible for you to turn on the light. As you can see, this is what makes the electric grid a complex machine. It is one of the world’s greatest achievements. So, the next time you turn on that switch, think about how far that electricity has traveled.

*See graphic on page 18D*



**BLOOD DRIVE**

**MARCH 13**

**Red Cross Blood Drive  
Cypress Grade School  
1-6 p.m.**

*SIEC members who donate blood will receive a \$10 bill credit! (Limit one credit per membership)*

# Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant winners

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative would like to thank all those who submitted projects for the 2024 school year and encourage all educators within our service territory to consider applying for next year's grants. It is amazing to see the investments made directly into the classrooms and lives of our youth, and it is this same "Concern for Community" that keeps this program going! We look forward to seeing the culmination of each project throughout the school year and will provide an update this summer of each completed project. **Regina J. Morrison**



*Hilary Crain of Century Elementary submitted "Reading in Style" as a way for students to expand their reading environment and very own in-classroom library book selection! She looks forward to allowing her students to further their reading abilities by gaining access to new books.*



*Stephanie Stroehlein from Cobden Elementary submitted "Acoustic Noise Control Panels" as a way to improve the cafeteria for all students! As Mrs. Stroehlein puts it, these panels would "reduce external noises, providing a more sensory-friendly space and allowing better communication among peers."*



*Ashley Taylor's submission was a project named "Reading Through History." The Cobden Junior High teacher says this project's goal is to provide students with "curated books that are age-appropriate, engaging and related to each unit we cover." The project will include reading and journaling, as well as writing research papers!*



*Leslie Bradley of Vienna High School submitted "Assisted Living — Living Plants," which will help build and install raised flower beds at local assisted living facilities in Johnson County. Mrs. Bradley said that this project not only benefits the residents of the facilities, but "gets the students engaged with the senior citizens!"*

*Brandy Thurston of Anna District #37 submitted "Virtual Reality in the Classroom!" This immersive educational experience helps students learn in a hands-on manner and will continue to innovate the teaching style in the classroom utilizing the latest in VR technologies!*



*Principal Jordan Suits of Lick Creek C.C.S.D. #16 submitted "STEAM Building for Youth" as an opportunity to purchase all new Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math (STEAM) kits for use by all of the students! She says that these kits will allow the opportunity to "grow team building and critical thinking and provide hands-on experiences" for each student who uses the kits.*

*Rebecca Yates of Anna District #37 submitted "Treehouse Calming Room!" Mrs. Yates says this project will be utilized as a space that students can use as "an escape from the traditional learning environment!"*



## 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 Brent with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.

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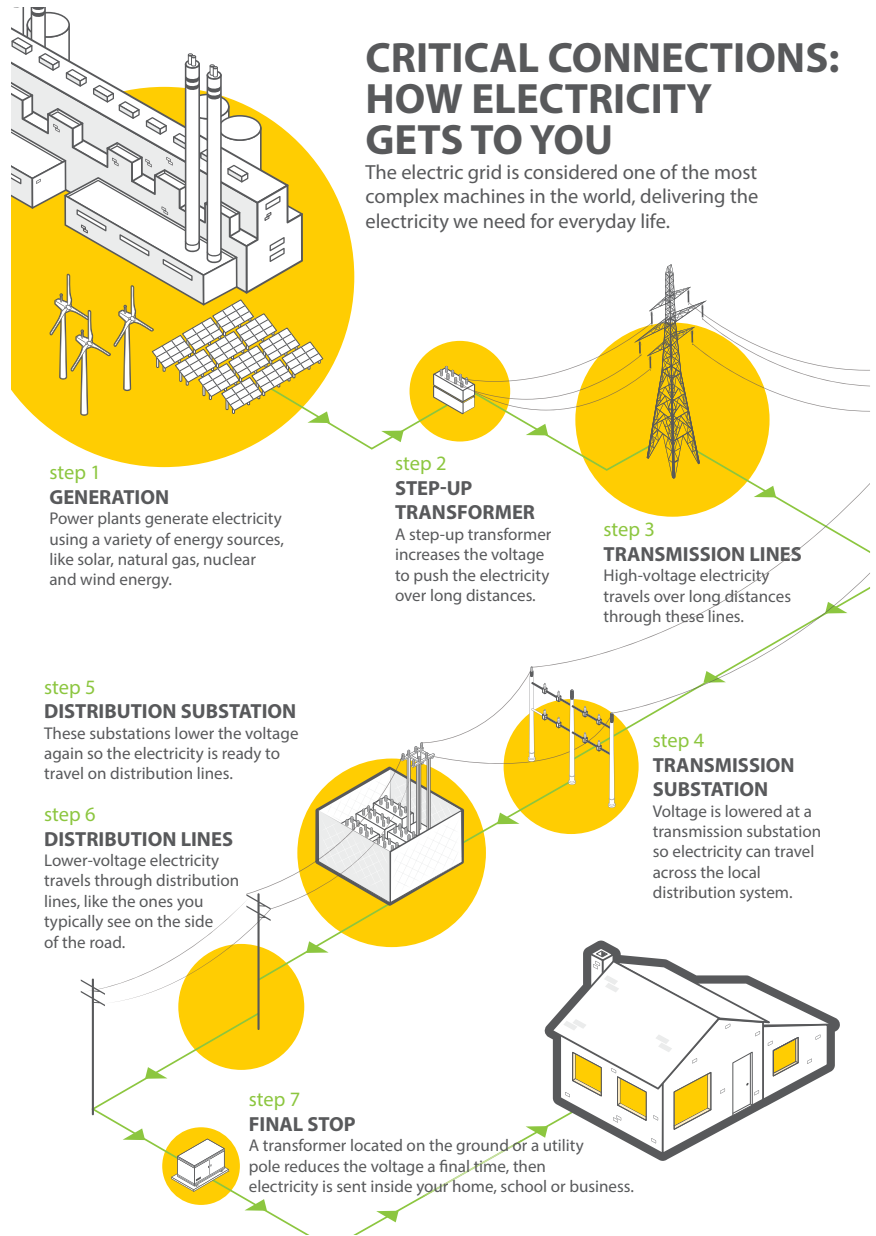
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## CRITICAL CONNECTIONS: HOW ELECTRICITY GETS TO YOU

The electric grid is considered one of the most complex machines in the world, delivering the electricity we need for everyday life.



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH IN OBSERVANCE OF GOOD FRIDAY.**