

# Clay ELECTRIC News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

7784 Old Hwy. 50 ■ P.O. Box 517 ■ Flora, Illinois 62839 ■ [www.ceci.coop](http://www.ceci.coop) ■ 618-662-2171 ■ 800-582-9012

# 2025

## From the Manager

### Happy New Year!

**A**s we turn the calendar to 2025, we're excited to embrace a year filled with potential and new possibilities. At Clay Electric Co-operative, we're always looking for ways to improve the quality of services we provide. Over the past several years, we've focused on strengthening our infrastructure, and we've seen great results.

Looking ahead, our team is eager to continue building on that momentum. This year, we'll be focusing on a variety of projects designed to improve cooperative services. Whether it's upgrading equipment, maintaining the system's integrity or exploring new ways to meet the evolving needs

of our community, we're dedicated to ensuring Clay Electric continues to be a trusted and reliable partner for all of our members.

If you have big plans in the works for 2025, now is the time to reach out and let us know! We're here to help you plan ahead for projects that may impact your energy needs. From new home builds to solar panel installations or equipment upgrades that require expanded capacity, early communication ensures we can assist in securing the materials and services you'll need. The more notice you can provide us, the better prepared we'll be to assist. **14838-001**

Finally, don't forget to look for your member number in the center section of this magazine. Each month, three member numbers are hidden within the pages of Clay Electric News. If you find yours and give us a call, you'll win a \$5 discount on your next bill!



**Matt Conklin**  
CEO

# Can You Dig It?



An underground utility line is **damaged once every 9 minutes** because someone didn't call 811.



Call 811, the "Call Before You Dig Number," at least **2 business days** prior to digging.



811 locators **do not detect** underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.



Even if you have previously had underground utilities marked, **utilities can shift**, so it's best to call before starting a new project.



Once **all of your utilities** have been located, then you can start your digging project!

Learn more at

 Safe Electricity.org®

# New Year's resolution: Be energy efficient year-round

## Seal in comfort and savings

**A**s energy consumers, we can all play a part in conserving resources and reducing our bills. Here are some practical tips to boost your home's energy efficiency throughout the year.

### Know your energy consumption

Start by reviewing your energy bills for the past 12 to 24 months. Calculate your average monthly usage to establish a baseline for measuring your energy-saving efforts.

### Adopt no-cost ways to save energy

Small changes can lead to significant savings:

- Turn off lights and unplug electronics such as chargers when not in use.
- Close or lower window coverings to regulate the temperature indoors.
- Change your air filters regularly as recommended.
- Use ceiling fans strategically — counterclockwise in summer and clockwise in winter to force warm air down.
- Grill outdoors during the summer to keep heat out of the kitchen.

### Insulate your home

Weatherproofing is key to maintaining comfort and reducing energy use:

- Check for air leaks around windows and doors using the wet finger or tissue test.
  - Apply caulk or weatherstripping to prevent drafts.
  - Remember to keep doors closed to maintain indoor temperature.
- 12937-002**

### Get smart with your thermostat

Optimize your heating and cooling by using your programmable thermostat's features — many homeowners never use them — and allow it to adjust the temperature when you're asleep or away.

- Consider upgrading to a smart thermostat for automatic adjustments.
- In general, adjust the thermostat a few degrees up or down for energy savings.

### Explore renewable energy

Consider harnessing the power of natural energy sources:

- Look into installing solar energy panels for your home.



- Research local community solar programs that may be available.

Consult your electricity provider early in the process. They can provide valuable information regarding:

- Grid connection requirements.
- Cost considerations.
- Potential rebates available for renewable energy installations.

By implementing these tips, you'll not only save on energy costs but also contribute to a more sustainable community. For more tips on building a resilient and efficient home, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



Every month we will have three member numbers hidden throughout Clay Electric News. If you find your member number that corresponds to the one found on the upper right corner of your bill, call our office and identify your number and the page it's on. If correct, you will win a \$5 credit on your next electric bill.

**Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.**  
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## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Unleashing the Power of OUR Community!

Clay Electric Cooperative's Community Spotlight is featured in each issue of Illinois Country Living Magazine and on our Facebook page each Thursday.

If you have a community event you would like to see spotlighted, send your submissions to us by email at [Admin@ceci.coop](mailto:Admin@ceci.coop) or by mail to Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.—Community Spotlight, PO Box 517, Flora, IL 62839

# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

November 25, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Clay Electric Co-operative Headquarters, Flora, Ill., beginning at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 25, 2024.

Trustees present were Bob Pierson, Bill Croy, Kevin Logan, Frank Herman, Frank Czyzewski, Richard Rudolphi, Josh Schnepfer and Neil Gould. Also present were Matt Conklin, CEO, and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided, and Neil Gould acted as secretary thereof. Evan Smith was absent.

The invocation was given by Kevin Logan and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. **13566-002**

The following proceedings were had [all action being first duly moved and seconded, and all action taken being upon the unanimous vote of the Board or without dissenting vote of abstention unless otherwise stated]:

**APPROVED**, the Suggested Agenda.

**APPROVED**, the Consent Agenda including the following:

- **APPROVED**, the prior meeting minutes;
- **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the Board, said members no longer taking service.

**REVIEWED**, the Consent Agenda including the following:

- **REVIEWED**, the Work Orders;
- **REVIEWED**, the Disbursements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Credit Card Statements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Attorney Retainer;
- **REVIEWED**, the Account Summary Report;

■ **REVIEWED**, the CFC Report from the Board;

■ **REVIEWED**, the CRC Report from the Board.

**APPROVED**, the SIPC waiver for Rate Increase.

**REVIEWED**, the CFC Quarterly Loan Payment.

**REVIEWED** and **DISCUSSED**, the 2025 Budget including:

- SIPC Power Cost;
- Capital Credits;
- Advertising and Donations;
- Capital Items;
- 2025 Budget.

**HEARD**, a report by Bob Pierson regarding SIPC.

**HEARD**, a report by Kevin Logan regarding AIEC meeting.

**HEARD**, a report by Matt Conklin regarding AIEC managers' meeting and Solar Updates.

**WERE INFORMED**, of upcoming training opportunities.

**HEARD** and **APPROVED**, a financial report by Matt Conklin as to the following:

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in October 2024;
- October 2024 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- October 2024 Form 7;
- October 2024 Balance Sheet.

**HEARD**, the Manager's Report on Safety.

**REVIEWED**, Monday Morning Safety meeting held Nov. 25, 2024.

**REVIEWED**, the Cybersecurity Report.

**HEARD** and **APPROVED**, the Manager's Report by Matt Conklin on the following topics:

- Invenergy Agreement;
- Matt Conklin CCD Certificate;
- Strategic Plan Update;
- Operations Report;

■ Communications Report;

■ Upcoming meetings.

**WERE INFORMED**, the Invenergy Agreement with the Solar Farm has been signed.

**WERE INFORMED**, Matt Conklin has received his CCD Certificate.

**REVIEWED**, the Strategic Plan update.

**REVIEWED**, the Operations Report.

**REVIEWED**, the Communications Report.


**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on Dec. 20, 2024 at 3:30 p.m., Jan. 27, 2025 at 3:30 p.m., Feb. 24, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. and March 24, 2025 at 3:30 p.m.

**WERE REMINDED**, the Christmas party is Dec. 20, 2024 at 6 p.m.

**REVIEWED**, thank you note from member Jeff Crain regarding the tree trimming crew.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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Office hours:

7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

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