

# JAMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## 2025 ROW Plan



**Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) proactively engages in a system-wide right-of-way maintenance program to provide safe and reliable**

**electric service to its members — all day, every day.**

We provide electric services with over 2,100 miles of power lines to more than 10,000 members within 1,350 square miles of the southern tip of Illinois. Providing cost-efficient and reliable electric service to our members is challenging because the terrain varies and is covered with many fast-growing species of trees. Our well-managed right-of-way maintenance program has been successful as it has a direct correlation with our 2024 reliability rate of 99.97%.

While trees add to the beauty of our communities, they are also responsible for costly property damage as well as dangerous and inconvenient power outages. In fact, tree failure is by far the leading cause of outages. A tree that grows into electrical conductors presents a potential hazard to you and others if it becomes energized when contacting a power line. The right-of-way program is a critical part of our business, but most importantly, it is a critical part of your safety — for your family, friends and neighbors.

### What is right-of-way?

In the strict sense of the word, right-of-way refers to the land on which infrastructure is built. Infrastructure could be anything from a highway, an airport to power lines. Projects such as power lines, pipelines and telephone facilities all require right-of-way. **Sandra R. Bridges**

SIEC uses right-of-way to build and maintain power lines. We maintain right-of-way areas by controlling brush and tree regrowth in all easement areas. Right-of-way is usually on private land and is obtained by an agreement with the current landowner when new poles and wires are installed. SIEC doesn't own that private land but is legally granted the right by the landowner to maintain brush and tree regrowth.

### Why SIEC needs right-of-way

SIEC has a legal obligation to provide safe and reliable electric service to our members. This obligation could not be met without a commitment to an effective right-of-way program.

With the vast size of SIEC's service area and its diverse terrain, a well-maintained right-of-way program is a critical part of our everyday functions. It is important to have clearance between trees, brush and power lines and poles, so your power stays on. If the power does go out, a maintained right-of-way helps our line crews spot the cause of an outage so they can get your power back on more quickly. Thick brush and trees in easement areas limit access and cut efficiency and safety for line crews. Before crews can fix a power outage,

they need to drive or walk every piece of line before turning on the power, or it could be harmful or even fatal to a lineworker or you. If line crews can't access the lines because of poor right-of-way, the member is more likely to be without power for a longer period and more often. **Pamela K. Morris**

### About SIEC's right-of-way program

Right-of-way maintenance is accomplished through side trimming and removing trees and limbs, mowing underbrush to allow access, and the use of nonrestricted herbicides. SIEC rights-of-way are on a seven-year cycle. SIEC spends approximately \$1 million dollars a year trimming, treating and clearing rights-of-way.

Our crews pay special attention when evaluating the line clearance before trimming or removing a tree. The National Electric Safety Code requires us to follow a certain amount of clearance around wires and trees. This can depend on voltage, the tree's growth rate and other characteristics, and the re-clearing cycle — how frequently it will need to be re-cleared. Our right-of-way clearance is 15 feet on each side of the power line for single phase, 20 feet on each side for 3-phase, and 40' on each side of transmission lines with SIEC's under-build. If trimming needs to be done, the tree should be left in a healthy state with some aesthetic value. If this cannot be accomplished, we may opt to remove the tree if it is cost-effective rather than create an eyesore and future problems. A dangerous tree is one that is partially

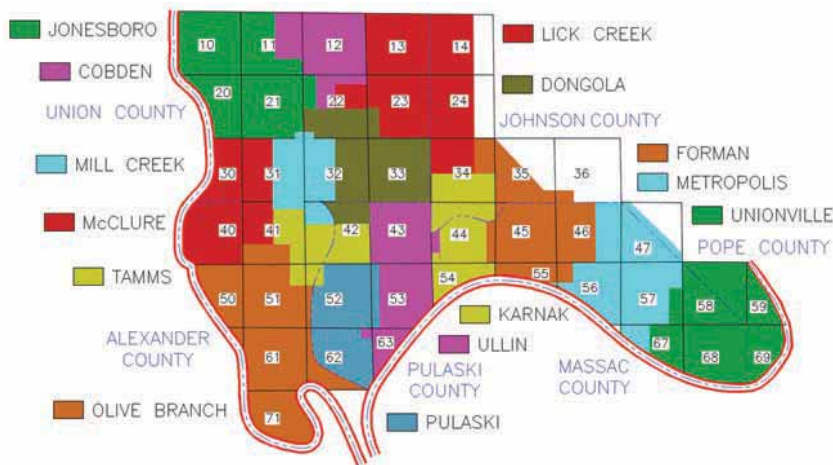
*Continued on page 18B*

Continued from page 18A

dead, shows sign of rot, or has insect infestation, cankers, eroded root systems, conifers with brown needles, or is a deciduous tree that will no longer leaf out and clearly will cause damage to an SIEC power line that can create an unsafe condition. **Charles J. Aden**

In cases where we've encountered large established trees on right-of-way, we have found that the removal of limbs helps to redirect the future regrowth away from the wires, thereby eliminating the need to remove the entire tree. This also keeps maintenance costs to a minimum while helping to ensure that the tree won't need drastic trimming in the future.

After re-clearing, brush and regrowth are maintained with an herbicide treatment, which encourages slow regrowth. The herbicides that are used are varieties which can be purchased over the counter by private landowners. The products are used in accordance with label instructions and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We control all species of woody brush and trees.



### 2025 ROW PLAN

#### Substations to Spray

(June–September)

- Lick Creek
- Cobden

#### Substations to Bucket Trim

(January–December)

- Lick Creek
- Cobden

#### Substations to Jarraff Trim and Mow

(February–September)

- Lick Creek
- Cobden

If you want to know what substation you are on or have other questions, call our office at 800-762-1400.

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 20TH**

IN HONOR OF  
**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Taking steps to help your home heating system run more efficiently can reduce energy use and lower your winter bills. Check to see if any air vents around your home are blocked by furniture, curtains or other items. Obstructed vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and can increase pressure in the ductwork, causing cracks and leaks to form. If necessary, consider purchasing a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture or other obstructions.

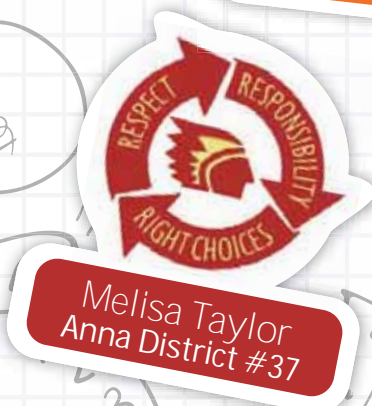
Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



# Classroom Grant 2025 Winners

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative continues to invest in the education of students throughout our community.

Our Touchstone Energy Classroom Grant program will provide these seven educators with additional resources to further improve their classrooms and the overall experience for their students! Congratulations to each of our winners for their grant projects!



## 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.

### SIEC Board of Directors

Scott L. Ury  
(President)..... Union Co.  
Jerry P. Thurston  
(Vice President) ..... Pulaski Co.  
Scott Miller  
(Secretary-Treasurer) ..... Alexander Co.  
Kim Bakehouse ..... Massac Co.  
Lamar Houston, Jr. .... Alexander Co.  
Bill Littrell ..... Union Co.  
Randall Rushing ..... Massac Co.  
Toni L. Snell ..... Johnson Co.  
Tadge Wilson ..... Pulaski Co.  
Ronald E. Osman (Attorney)  
General Manager David A. Johnston  
Brent Goforth (Editor)

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

### 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.**

[www.siec.coop](http://www.siec.coop)

# FREE & EASY ways to save energy

[Spoiler Alert: Your clothes and dishes won't know the difference]

Major home appliances account for approximately 16% of an average home's energy consumption.

16%



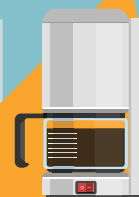
1. Run full loads of laundry instead of several smaller ones.
2. Use cold water to wash your clothes.

3. Keep your refrigerator at 35° to 38°F and your freezer at 0°F.
4. Regularly defrost manual-defrost freezers and refrigerators.



5. Skip the heat-dry setting on your dishwasher.
6. Fully load your dishwasher before washing.

7. When buying new appliances, consider Energy Star versions.
8. Unplug appliances you're not using.



Time to replace that old appliance? Replacing older versions with energy-efficient models can save the average household more than \$500 per year.

Sources: National Resources Defense Council,  
U.S. Energy Information Administration

**Safe  
Electricity.org**