



Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. • cceci@cceci.com • www.cceci.com

The benefits of demand response



Bob Kroeger,
President/COO

If you attended one of our area meetings back in March, you heard me talk briefly about demand response. I want to

take this opportunity to provide a better explanation of what demand response is and how demand response can benefit CCEC and its membership.

In today's energy landscape, maintaining a reliable electrical grid is more important than ever. As demand for electricity increases and available generation decreases, utilities will need to consider options that will help ensure the grid remains stable, especially during peak usage times. One of the most effective tools in achieving this balance is demand response.

What is demand response?

Demand response is a strategy that helps reduce or shift electricity usage to alleviate strain on the grid. Demand response programs are designed to adjust electricity consumption during peak periods to ensure the grid remains stable and power costs remain

affordable. Instead of relying solely on increasing power generation to meet members' energy needs, demand response programs encourage members to reduce or shift their electricity usage when demand is highest.

Demand response can be implemented in several ways:

- **Price-based incentives:** Programs such as time-of-use (TOU) rates provide a financial incentive for members to use electricity during off-peak hours when demand is lower and the cost to generate electricity is cheaper.
- **Direct load control:** Members provide utilities the control to temporarily reduce or cycle energy usage from high-consuming devices, such as air conditioners and water heaters, during peak times.
- **Voluntary participation:** Members may agree to reduce or eliminate their energy use when grid demand is high in exchange for financial incentives.

The benefits of demand response

- **Improve grid stability** – One of the primary advantages of

demand response is its ability to prevent grid overloads by reducing stress during peak demand periods. By adjusting electricity consumption, utilities can avoid blackouts and maintain a steady power supply.

- **Lower energy costs** – Reducing peak demand means utilities don't have to rely on expensive, peak power generation, which can lead to lower electricity rates for all consumers. By participating in demand response programs, members can also save money through incentive-based programs.
- **Delay costly infrastructure upgrades** – As the demand for electricity continues to grow, utilities will need to invest in new sources of electric generation or make improvements to existing sources. Demand response helps delay or avoid these costly investments by making better use of existing resources.
- **Support renewable energy** – Renewable energy sources like wind and solar are variable, meaning their output fluctuates. Demand response programs can help make better and more efficient use

Continued on 18B ►

of these renewable energy sources by shifting electricity usage to periods when these sources are available.



CCEC's history with demand response

Demand response is not a new concept for Clinton County Electric Cooperative. Prior to CCEC becoming a member-owner of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), demand response programs were made available to the CCEC membership. If you were a CCEC member 20+ years ago, you may remember or have even participated in one or more of CCEC's demand response programs.

Some of the demand response programs offered at that time included:

- **Time-of-use (TOU) rates:** Encouraging members to shift energy use to off-peak hours, reducing strain on the grid during high-demand periods.
- **Air conditioning control:** Cycling air conditioners on and off during peak hours to help lower electricity demand without significantly impacting comfort.
- **Water heater control:** Temporarily turning off water heaters when demand is at its highest, helping to smooth out electricity consumption.
- **Interruptible rates:** Large members and farms agreed to reduce energy usage when called upon in exchange for lower rates, providing an effective solution for managing peak demand.

All these programs provided CCEC members with a financial

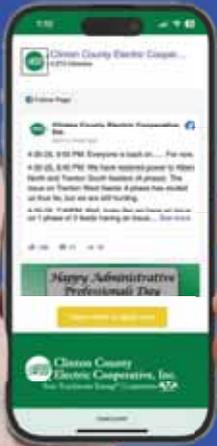
incentive that allowed members to lower their energy costs while also helping lower demand and maintain grid reliability, benefiting both the cooperative and its members.

The future of demand response

Demand response is sometimes viewed as a burden by electric consumers because it often requires them to change their routines or allow utilities to control their appliances during peak times. However, as energy demand continues to grow and generation resources are retired, demand response could become a powerful tool that will benefit both the consumer and the grid. By reducing electricity use during times of high demand, consumers can lower their energy bills, especially under time-of-use rates, and help avoid the use of costly peak generation. At the same time, this shift eases strain on the grid, improves reliability and reduces the need for additional generation or expensive infrastructure upgrades. In the long run, demand response helps keep energy costs stable and ensures a more resilient electric system for everyone.

Looking ahead, CCEC and SIPC are working together to explore new demand response options that can deliver both energy cost savings and improved grid reliability for its members. This collaborative approach ensures that any programs developed will be effective, member-friendly and aligned with long-term reliability goals. Together, CCEC and SIPC remain committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service to the members we serve.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office at 800-526-7282 or email kroeger@cceci.com with any questions.



DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU DO NOT NEED A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT TO VIEW THE INFORMATION WE POST?

Simply go to our website at www.cceci.com and scroll down until you see our Facebook information. There, you can look through our posts without having to log into an actual Facebook account.

A fond farewell



After almost 15 years of dedicated service, we bid a heartfelt farewell to our colleague and friend, Brenda Knolhoff. Over the years, Brenda wore many hats and wore them all well. Her profound knowledge, paired with an unwavering work ethic, has shaped countless projects.

As Brenda steps into retirement, we know she'll carry the same enthusiasm and thoughtfulness into this next, well-deserved new chapter. Whether it's traveling, diving into long-delayed hobbies, spending time with family, or simply enjoying the freedom of an unscheduled morning, we wish her all the happiness, health and fulfillment the future holds.

THANK YOU, BRENDA. YOU WILL BE DEEPLY MISSED.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., will host the 2025 Annual Meeting of the membership on Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025. The nomination procedure for those interested in running for a spot on the board is published on page 18D.

4th of July

**HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE
DAY**

Our office will be closed on
Friday, July 4th in honor of
the Fourth of July.

★

Bylaws specify nomination procedure

Section 4.06. Nominations. It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to appoint, more than ninety (90) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which Board trustees are to be elected, a committee on election and credentials consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than nine (9) members with at least one (1) member from each district from which a trustee is to be elected. No employee, trustee, Officer, known candidate, or close relative (as hereinafter defined) of any of the above may serve on such committee. The purpose of the committee is to review the qualifications of petitioning nominees and to conduct the election of trustees. To be nominated by petition, a candidate for trustee must file a petition for nomination signed by at least twenty-five (25) members, but not more than fifty (50) members. Signatures may come from the entire Cooperative membership. A joint membership constitutes only one member. Nominations by petition must be picked up and filed not more than ninety (90) days or less than forty-five (45) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected. The Election and Credentials Committee, or subcommittee of same must meet to determine if the candidates meet the qualifications for trustee. Upon establishment of the fact that a nominee for trustee lacks eligibility under these Bylaws, it shall be the duty of the Election and Credentials Committee to disqualify such nominee. If there are no nominations by Petition for trustee in any district in which a trustee is to be elected, it is the duty of the Board of trustees to appoint a member to serve in that position. At least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of members, the Election and Credentials Committee shall certify a list of nominees for trustee to the secretary. The secretary shall then post at the principal office of the Cooperative, at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of members, a list of the nominations for trustee to be elected, listing separately the nominee(s) for each trustee district. The secretary shall also be responsible for mailing, with the Notice of Meeting or separately, but at least five (5) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the nominees. No nominations may be made from the floor. Nominees' names from the same district may be rotated on the ballot so that each nominee's name is on the ballot in the same position as equal number of times as possible.

Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of trustee. The Election and Credentials Committee shall elect its own chairman and secretary at its initial meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the committee to establish or approve the manner of conducting any ballot or other voting, to pass upon all questions that may arise with respect to registration of members in person, to count all ballots or other votes cast in any election or in any other manner, to rule upon the effect of any ballots or other votes irregularly or indecisively marked or cast, to rule upon all questions that may arise relating to member voting in the election of trustees and to pass upon any protest filed with respect to election or to conduct affecting the result of the election. In exercising the responsibility, the committee shall have available to it the advice of counsel provided by the Cooperative. In the event a protest or objection is filed concerning any election, such protest or objection must be filed not more than three (3) business days following the adjournment of the meeting in which the voting is conducted. The committee shall thereupon be reconvened, upon notice from its chairman, not less than seven (7) days after such protest or objection is filed. The committee shall hear such evidence as is presented by the protestor(s) or objector(s), who may be heard in person, by counsel, or both, and any opposing evidence; and the committee, by a vote of a majority of those present and voting, shall, within a reasonable time but not later than thirty (30) days after such hearing, render its decision, the result of which may be to affirm the election, to change the outcome thereof, or to set aside. The committee's decision (as reflected by a majority of those actually present and voting) on all matters covered by this Section shall be final. The committee may not affirmatively act on any matter unless a majority of the committee is present.

For a list of Election and Credentials Committee members, date of meeting, a petition or any other information concerning the nominations procedure, please contact: Bob Kroeger, President, Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., 475 N. Main Street, Breese, IL 62230, (618) 526-7282.