

JAMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

For safety's sake, do not mess with a meter



For your safety, never try to tamper with or pull (remove) a meter. Only electric utility crews should access an electric meter. Janie L. Reames

Illegally accessing a meter can cause an arc flash bright enough to result in blindness and powerful enough to launch fragments of red-hot, shrapnel-like debris, according to the Cooperative Research Network. Serious injury or death from electrocution, explosion or fire is often a result of meter tampering.

Individuals may tamper with a meter to bypass it, create an illegal connection to a power line, electrify fences or attempt to reconnect or disconnect the power, often with disastrous consequences.

More on meter safety

- Tampering with a meter is illegal in most states.
- Meters should only be installed, maintained or removed by electric utility crews.
- Accessing the backside of a meter can generate high voltage; pulling or tampering with a meter can cause electric shock, sparks, surges, explosions or fire.

- Electricity should always be connected or disconnected using a transfer switch or a dedicated disconnection point.
- There is no guarantee that a structure will be deenergized by pulling a meter.
- If firefighters respond to a call and know they will need a disconnect, they should call the electric utility while en route.
- If firefighters try disconnecting a home by pulling a meter, it can introduce additional problems and damage.
- Direct any questions to Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative at 618-827-3555.

Other facts

If a home's electricity is shut off at a main disconnect, the house can be automatically reconnected if there is a standby generator or battery-stored power.

Only the electric utility can properly and safely disconnect a meter. Utility crews are trained in proper disconnection techniques and wear protective clothing and gear.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Meter tampering is not only illegal, but also incredibly dangerous!

-  **Never break a meter seal.**
-  **Never open a meter base.**
-  **Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner**



Bradley earns THM Memorial Scholarship

Ethyn Bradley of Vienna, Ill., received a \$2,500 scholarship through the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives as part of



the Thomas H. Moore Memorial Scholarship Fund. Ethyn graduated as the valedictorian of Vienna High School in May, while simultaneously earning an associate degree from Shawnee Community College the same month. There were 253 applicants across the state of Illinois vying for 16 scholarships. His academic and athletic achievements, along with his community involvement, were key to him earning this scholarship. He is a member and officer of the National Beta Club, Student Council and 4-H. He is also a member and captain of the football and wrestling teams, and volunteers for FEMA Region 5 Youth Preparedness Council, Faith Alive and Night to Shine Special Needs Prom, among many other accomplishments. Ethyn plans to pursue his education in order to become a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner. Congratulations to Ethyn on all his achievements. We are proud to have you represent southern Illinois with this scholarship and wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors!



Concern for community

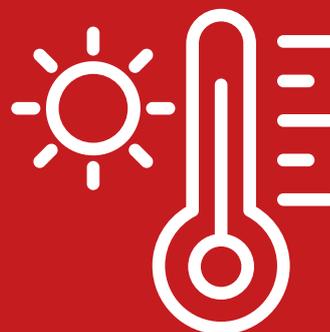
Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is proud to support our local 4-H and University of Illinois Extension office in their efforts to bring awareness to National 4-H Week and Breast Cancer Awareness Week, the first and second weeks in October. With the help of a \$300 donation from SIEC, Illinois Extension purchased green and pink LED light bulbs to disperse throughout the communities we serve, with hopes that residents and businesses will use these special lights in October to display their support for each cause. Wendy S. Gorski

We encourage all our members to reach out to the Illinois Extension office to learn more about when and where bulbs can be picked up over the coming months. Kristi Stout, 4-H youth development educator for Illinois Extension, is presented with a check from Brent Goforth, SIEC director of member services.



Safety Tip

If you work outdoors, hydration is key. Drink water every 15 minutes, even if you're not thirsty, to help prevent heat exhaustion. Take breaks in a shady or a cool area, and schedule heavy work for cooler times of day.



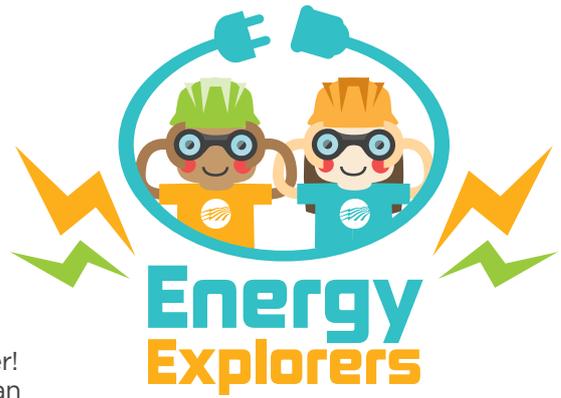
Safe Electricity.org



SOLAR ENERGY WORD SEARCH

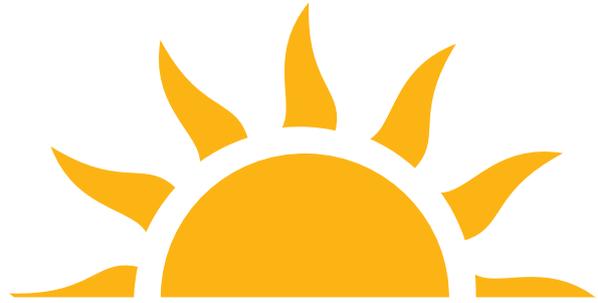
Did you know solar panels turn sunlight into electricity? When the sun shines on the panels, tiny particles of light hit cells on the panels to create a flow of energy, like magic sunlight turning into power! The electricity then travels across power lines and can be used to light up homes, charge gadgets and more.

Can you find all the words associated with solar energy in the puzzle below?



WORD BANK

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Solar | Sunlight |
| Panel | Efficiency |
| Renewable | Installation |
| Energy | Rooftop |



R	W	Y	Z	U	N	M	J	Z	E	S	Z	E	V	A
T	A	N	G	C	J	I	S	L	I	B	A	F	I	V
S	N	L	Y	U	S	K	B	R	U	Y	Z	F	P	D
W	U	S	O	P	I	A	M	K	K	B	E	I	V	K
P	P	N	G	S	W	E	N	E	R	G	Y	C	O	R
F	O	W	L	E	X	H	Q	Q	V	U	I	I	G	S
X	P	T	N	I	R	Q	V	N	T	J	D	E	A	U
B	A	E	F	L	G	O	S	P	Q	P	T	N	H	Q
W	R	X	D	O	E	H	D	I	Z	X	P	C	X	Z
L	L	X	N	I	O	J	T	L	D	N	L	Y	H	Z
K	O	Y	E	Z	F	R	K	Z	D	Q	E	B	M	V
C	N	O	I	T	A	L	L	A	T	S	N	I	H	B
L	G	P	F	K	Y	L	P	G	E	Z	A	I	E	W
I	W	C	N	Q	O	N	Y	Z	Q	Q	P	V	W	Q
G	L	Y	J	L	L	H	O	X	F	C	H	P	K	K

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.
 Toni L. Snell
(Secretary-Treasurer)..... Johnson Co.
 Kim Bakehouse..... Massac Co.
 Lamar Houston, Jr..... Alexander Co.
 Bill Littrell..... Union Co.
 Josh Miller..... Alexander Co.
 Randall Rushing..... Massac Co.
 Tadge Wilson..... Pulaski Co.

Ronald E. Osman (Attorney)
Executive VP/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

Smart ways to save energy this summer

Don't sweat the heat

Summer heat can strain both your comfort and your budget. As temperatures soar and energy demand peaks in the late afternoon and evening, it's time to take steps to lower your energy consumption and stay cool without breaking the bank.

Boost your home's energy efficiency

Start with an energy audit. We can't fix what we don't know about. Request a home energy audit from your local utility provider or a home energy auditor to identify where energy is being lost. Then, take action to reduce usage this summer.

Tips to keep cool air in and hot air out

- Seal air leaks around pipes, doors, windows, cracks and openings with caulk or weather stripping.
- Schedule an HVAC system inspection with a professional to maintain performance. Check with your utility for rebates on energy-efficient replacements.
- Change your air filter regularly. A clogged air filter makes your HVAC system work harder.
- Switch to LED bulbs for increased efficiency.
- Install a smart or programmable thermostat for automatic temperature control. Check with your local utility for incentives and deals.

Reduce energy costs with smart appliance use

- Run dryers, washers and dishwashers early in the morning or late in the evening.
- Wash full loads of laundry in cold water. It's the detergent, not hot water, that cleans the clothes.
- Clean the dryer's lint trap after every laundry load, and air-dry clothes when possible.
- Reduce heat-generating activities at home, like cooking during the hottest parts of the day or using heat-producing appliances.
- Use a microwave oven or countertop appliance instead of a conventional range or oven. Better yet, grill outside!

Easy actions for big energy savings

- Change ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise to cool rooms and turn them off when you leave the room. Ceiling fans don't actually cool the air; they create a windchill effect on your skin by circulating air around you.
- Stay on the lowest floor of your home for naturally cooler air.
- Close blinds and shades on sunny days to block excess heat.
- Increase your thermostat by two degrees or more and set it to higher temperatures when you're away.
- Turn off and disconnect electronics that are not in use.
- Prepare no-heat meals like salads, wraps and dips.

Making small changes to reduce energy use can make a big impact. You'll keep cool, save money on your utility bill and help reduce energy demand.