



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

RURAL Highlights



2026

Happy New Year from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative



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Data centers are in the news

What is a data center? A data center is the physical infrastructure that houses a large group of networked computers that are used to remotely store, process, and distribute large amounts of data. One remote structure enables servers, storage devices, and networking equipment to work together and ensure seamless, secure data processing. These facilities are critical for digital services like cloud computing, e-commerce, social media, and government services. Data centers have evolved from on-premises locations to remote large-scale facilities that are owned and managed by cloud providers.

Is RECC involved in the Sangamon County data center? RECC is not the owner or operator of the proposed Lowder facility, but we recognize the impact it may have on our community. Our team is actively working with the data center operator, local township officials, and regulatory partners to find responsible solutions. As a cooperative, we strive to balance the needs of our community with our commitment to providing reliable electricity to all our members.

Why would RECC want data centers as members? RECC provides electricity to any approved member, including commercial and industrial businesses. Data centers use a lot of electricity consistently, which brings in extra revenue to help cover our system costs, keeping rates stable for all our members.

How much electricity do data centers use? Data centers are considered large industrial customers and their energy use is much higher than a typical home or small business, which is why they're billed under different rate structures designed for high-consumption accounts.



Rendering courtesy of CyrusOne

Will the data center put a strain on the power grid? This data center's electricity demand was thoroughly reviewed to determine if there was adequate capacity within Ameren Transmission connecting system and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) regional planning group. These entities studied and confirmed that the new electrical demands would not negatively impact the electrical grid before they gave authorization to proceed with construction. Both groups confirmed that no reliability issues or transmission planning concerns were found for this project. In fact, the data centers will help maximize the use of the existing electric infrastructure that otherwise would be underused at certain times, making the system more efficient and benefiting all cooperative members.

Will data centers cause higher rates for members? No, actually, it's the opposite! These operations bring in extra revenue and help cover system costs, which supports rate stability for all members.

What kind of rate would data centers pay? RECC works with many industrial members, and each has a unique agreement based on their operations. Data center rates are tied

directly to market prices, which are set independently of our residential and commercial rates.

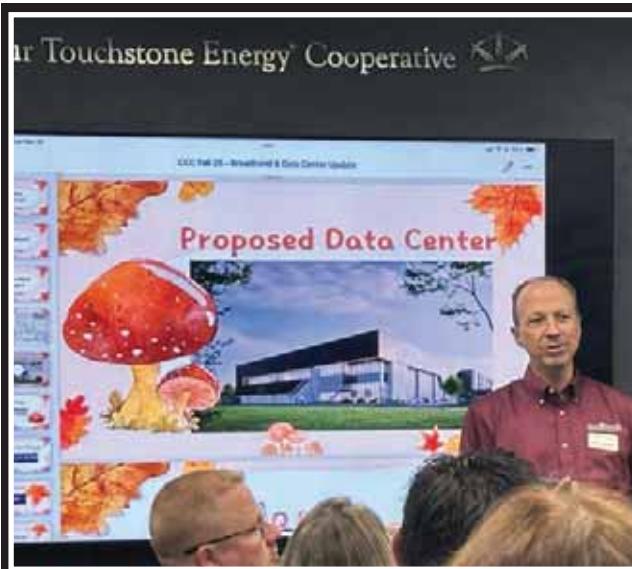
Where does the money from data centers go? As a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative, RECC doesn't make profits for shareholders. Instead, all revenue – including what we get from data center operations – is reinvested back into the cooperative to benefit our members. Any leftover funds are returned to our members as capital credits. A data centers would contribute significantly to our electricity sales, which will help make up for the overall decrease in energy use across our service area. This extra revenue helps cover the fixed costs of maintaining and upgrading our electric grid, which in turn helps keep rates more stable for everyone.

Where can I find more information? The Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance has many articles and publications on their website here: <https://www.thriveinspi.org/news-and-events/newsroom/>

Cyrus One Q & A is also available at: <https://www.cyrusone.com/sangamon-county-community-faq>



The Cooperative Communicator Committee met on November 18th in Auburn



President/CEO Middleton talks data centers

Gail & Jim Austin

Cooperative Communicator Committee continued...



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David & Anita Ray



Jeff & Kate Tuxhorn



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Engineering technician position filled



The cooperative's newest employee is Craig Workman. He was hired in September as an engineering technician. Craig graduated from New Berlin High School in 2005 and later earned his bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University. He was employed at Ruby Electric for 15 years, serving as a journeyman electrician and project manager. Craig lives in Loami with his wife Desa and two children.