

JAMUP

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Lowering power costs together: Why you should join our Peak Power Rewards program



David A. Johnston
General Manager

Every October, electric cooperatives across the country celebrate National Co-op Month. It is a time to reflect on what makes our cooperative

business model unique: We exist not to generate profits for outside investors, but to serve the member-owners across Union, Pulaski, Johnson, Alexander and Massac counties, as well as our neighboring members in Jackson, Williamson and Pope counties.

While our crews remain hard at work maintaining our lines — continuously testing utility poles, replacing aging infrastructure, and aggressively trimming rights-of-way to safeguard reliability — operational excellence also means tackling our single largest expense: wholesale power costs.

That is why we launched our **Peak Power Rewards program (PPR)**. A few forward-thinking members have already enrolled, but to unlock the full financial benefit for our entire membership, we need more of you to participate.

What is the Peak Power Rewards program?

Wholesale electricity is priced like almost everything else: When regional demand surges, the cost to generate and deliver that power skyrockets. These high-demand periods — known as “peaks” — typically occur on the hottest

summer afternoons and coldest winter mornings, often between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., or 7 a.m. and 10 a.m., respectively.

The Peak Power Rewards program allows participating members to voluntarily reduce electricity usage during designated peak events. In return, you earn direct financial incentives while helping your cooperative avoid expensive wholesale demand charges.

The clear benefits of signing up

1. Earn cash credits on your electric bill: Participation pays directly. Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) calculates peak cost savings and reconciliations based on \$1 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of energy saved during an event compared to your baseline usage over the preceding 10 days. By shifting flexible electric loads during a called event, you earn direct credits that reduce your bill.

2. Help stabilize electric rates for the entire co-op: Wholesale power accounts for more than 60% of SIEC’s total operating expenses. The peak demand set across our system drives the capacity rates we must pay for the entire year. When hundreds of members trim just a little bit of electricity during those critical hours, it significantly flattens our system’s peak demand — keeping wholesale costs down and directly helping us maintain stable, affordable retail rates for everyone.

3. Protect grid stability across our region: Regional energy reserves have tightened across the Midwest in recent years. By enrolling, you

become part of a reliable local resource that helps prevent grid overloads and avoids the need for emergency, high-cost generation during extreme weather conditions.

4. You stay in control: Participation is voluntary, transparent and easy. When a peak event is anticipated, enrolled members receive advance notification, giving you time to plan and make simple, short-term adjustments — such as delaying laundry, adjusting your thermostat a couple of degrees, or pausing heavy pump usage.

True cooperative partnership in action

At our September board meeting, management presented a formal capital credit retirement recommendation to our board of directors — another proud hallmark of the cooperative model, returning margins directly back to the members whose investments built our system.

Gavin R. Alfter
The Peak Power Rewards program carries that exact same cooperative principle forward: When we work together, the value stays right here at home. A handful of participants is a great start, but widespread enrollment transforms our membership into an active partner in holding down power costs.

Enrolling takes only a few minutes, costs nothing, and puts money back in your pocket while protecting our collective grid.

Bailey R. Sterling
To sign up or learn more about the Peak Power Rewards program, visit or call our office at 618-827-3555.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, and Happy Co-op Month!



Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

2026/2027 Classroom Empowerment Grant

INFORMATION FOR THE APPLICANT

Review the following information before completing the application. The application form and information can be found on our website, www.siec.org.

WHO MAY APPLY?

Seven \$500 Classroom Empowerment Grants will be provided to K-12 public or private schools in the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative service territory.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Qualifying projects are those that improve the learning environment or increase educational resources for the school.

SELECTION PROCESS

An impartial judging panel will judge the applications to determine which projects best serve the goal of improving the learning environment or increases the educational resources for the school.

Projects do not have to be electric related, although encouraged. Decision of the judging panel is final.

IMPORTANT DATES

All completed applications must be received in the offices of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative by **Friday, November 13, 2026**. Winners will be announced no later than Friday December 18, 2026. Funded projects must be completed by the time school is out for the summer.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Send the completed Grant Application Form, AND a double-space typewritten request (not to exceed 3 pages) that includes the following:

1. A description of the project and what it will accomplish.
2. The estimated cost of the project.
3. An explanation of why funds or additional funds are necessary for the completion of the project.
4. Whether other funding options have been pursued and if so, the status of those requests.
5. When the project will be completed.
6. The number of students impacted by the project.
7. If the project's goals are measurable and how they will be measured and what determines if the project is a success.
8. How the project ties to our Touchstone Energy core values; integrity, accountability, innovation, and commitment to community.

Photos and supporting data are optional.

Completed grant applications must be received at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative by 4:00 p.m. November 13, 2026. For questions, contact Brent Goforth at (618) 827-3555 Ext. 208 or bgoforth@siec.org



Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 2026/2027 Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant Application

Applicant's Name _____ Title _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone Number () _____ E-mail _____

Name of Project Submitted _____

Eligibility is limited to schools located in Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's service area. Teachers and administrators of K-12 public and private schools may apply annually, even if they have been a recipient in years past. Seven \$500 grants will be awarded. For more information about Touchstone Energy, log on at www.touchstoneenergy.coop. Touchstone Energy and Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative reserves the right to photograph the grant winners and use the photos for publicity purposes. Projects must be completed by the time school is out for the summer.

Incomplete entries will be deemed ineligible and will not be judged. **Recipients must provide written proof of completion detailing how the grant funds were used within six months of the project's completion.**

Deadline: Application forms must be received by SIEC by mail, e-mail or fax no later than 4:00 p.m. **Friday, November 13, 2026.** Awards will be announced no later than Friday, December 18, 2026. Checks will be awarded in January 2027.

For additional questions, please call Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (618) 827-3555 Ext. 208 or e-mail Brent Goforth at bgoforth@siec.org. Mail grant applications to: SIEC, Attn: Brent Goforth, P. O. Box 100, Dongola, IL 62926.

Judging Process:

Applications will be reviewed by an impartial panel of judges. If necessary, applicants may be contacted for additional information.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Teacher or Administrator)

If I receive the grant, I pledge to follow all completion requirements and provide written proof of completion within six months of my project's end.

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.

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Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.

www.siec.coop

CO-OP MONTH QUIZ

October is National Co-op Month

Did you know there are many different kinds of cooperatives? A cooperative, or co-op, is a business that's owned by the people who use it. Some co-ops help people buy groceries, some help farmers sell their crops and some—like your electric co-op—bring power to your home. **Read each clue below and guess the type of cooperative you think it is.**



Answer Choices:

Worker	Producer	Consumer	Utility	Retail	Financial	Housing
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1. Your local electric cooperative

It keeps the lights on, restores power after storms and is owned by the members it serves.

Type: _____

2. REI

People can become members to shop for outdoor gear, enjoy special benefits and help support the business.

Type: _____

3. Ocean Spray

Thousands of cranberry and grapefruit farmers work together to grow fruit and produce juice sold across the country.

Type: _____

4. Your local credit union

Members save money, open checking accounts and apply for loans through a financial institution they own together.

Type: _____

5. A grocery co-op

Local shoppers become members to help support a community grocery store and buy fresh foods.

Type: _____

6. A cooperative apartment building

People work together to own and manage the place where they live.

Type: _____

7. A cooperative bakery

The people who bake the bread, decorate the cakes and serve customers also own the business together.

Type: _____

Answer Key:

1. Utility 2. Retail 3. Producer 4. Financial 5. Consumer 6. Housing 7. Worker