

JAMUP

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

The cooperative advantage: Capital credits, grid innovation and preparing for winter



David A. Johnston
General Manager

As November settles across Southern Illinois, the pace of the year naturally shifts toward family gatherings, colder mornings and taking stock of what matters most. At Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, this season also offers an ideal time to reflect on the practical value and community strength of the cooperative model.

Unlike investor-owned utilities that answer to outside shareholders, SIEC operates strictly on a

not-for-profit basis. You are not simply a ratepayer — you are a member-owner with a real stake in our system. That difference is reflected in how we reinvest in modern grid technology to protect affordability, how we return margins directly to you, and how we honor the people who serve our communities.

April M. Gregg

Capital credits: Returning value directly to you

Just last month, eligible members received their capital credit checks in the mail. Because Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative operates on a not-for-profit basis, revenues collected beyond operational expenses and obligations belong to you, the member-owners who power our cooperative.

Each year, our board of directors carefully evaluates our overall financial strength, operational needs and ongoing system reliability to determine if a retirement of capital credits is prudent. In September, the board voted to approve returning approximately \$1.1 million to our membership, which we retired and mailed to eligible members in October. Returning those funds puts your cooperative investment right back into your hands, supporting local families and keeping resources circulating throughout our region.

Optimizing reliability through DERMS

Alongside financial stewardship, we continue enrolling members in our Peak Power Rewards program to balance energy demand during extreme temperatures. By reducing wholesale peak power costs behind the scenes, these

tools help protect rate stability for all members while keeping the grid resilient. To enroll and begin saving on your electric bill or to learn more about participation, contact our office at 618-827-3555. To find out more about our Peak Power Rewards, please visit <https://siec.org/peak-power-rewards>.



Getting ahead of winter weather

With freezing temperatures on the horizon, small efficiency and readiness steps around your home make an immediate difference:

- **Seal drafts:** Check weatherstripping around exterior doors and caulk window trim to stop cold air leaks before deep freezes set in.
- **Service heating equipment:** Replace furnace filters and ensure heating systems are running efficiently before extreme cold arrives.
- **Review storm kits:** Ensure flashlights, portable power banks, backup medical supplies and nonperishable food items are stocked in the event ice or winter winds impact overhead lines.

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"Cooperative advantage" continued from page 18A

Member office closures: Honoring our veterans & Thanksgiving

- **Veterans Day:** Our offices will be closed on Wednesday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day. We extend our deepest gratitude to our nation's service members and the families who stand beside them. True military service is never borne by the individual alone — it requires immense sacrifice, resilience and quiet dedication from the spouses, children and loved ones at home. We honor our veterans and military families within our cooperative workforce and across the communities we serve.
- **Thanksgiving:** Offices will also be closed on Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27, so our staff may celebrate Thanksgiving with their families.

Anthony S. Baker

As always, SIEC dispatchers remain on duty 24/7 to monitor our system and respond immediately to any power interruptions or emergency situations.

On behalf of the board of directors and the entire team at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, thank you for your partnership and trust. We wish you and your family a safe, warm and happy November.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Stay alert for fraudulent utility calls. Scammers can spoof caller ID to make a phone call appear to come from your electric utility—even when it doesn't. They may threaten disconnection, demand immediate payment or ask for personal information. Don't rely on caller ID alone to verify a caller's identity. If you receive a suspicious call, hang up and contact your utility using the phone number printed on your bill or listed on the official website.

Source: FTC



Voluntary Enrollment!



PEAK POWER REWARDS



**Southern Illinois
Electric Cooperative**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

EARN BILL CREDITS FOR REDUCING ELECTRICITY USE DURING PEAK DEMAND PERIODS!

-  **\$1 per kWh saved during events**
-  **2-4 hour event durations**
-  **Email and/or text notifications**
-  **No penalties for partial or non-participation**
-  **Utilize simple, practical ways to reduce energy**

Learn more or enroll at
siec.org/peak-power-rewards
 (online enrollment required),
 or call 618-827-3555 with questions.





FALL ENERGY SAVINGS WORD SEARCH

Fall is a great time to put energy efficiency into action! Read the following energy-saving tips, then find the bolded words in the puzzle below. *Zachariah M. Mick*

Word Bank:

Leave	Heat
Unplug	Electronics
Curtains	Window

- Turn off the lights when you **leave** a room.
- **Unplug** chargers when you're finished using them.
- On chilly days, open **curtains** to let sunlight help warm your home.
- Wear a sweater instead of turning up the **heat**.
- Turn off the TV and other **electronics** when you're done using them.
- Tell an adult if you see a dripping faucet or a drafty **window**.



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

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

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Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.

www.siec.coop



Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative salutes all veterans who have served our country. We especially recognize current SIEC employees who served in various branches of the armed forces.
Thank you for your service!



Efficiency Tip

Keep registers and vents clear of furniture, rugs, curtains and other items. Better airflow helps rooms feel more comfortable and keeps your system from working harder than needed. That can mean less wasted energy and help lower heating and cooling costs.



**Safe
Electricity.org**