



# PEAK POWER REWARDS



Your Southern Illinois Family of Electric Cooperatives  
CLAY • CLINTON COUNTY • EGYPTIAN • MONROE COUNTY  
SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS • SOUTHERN ILLINOIS • TRI-COUNTY

# HI-LITES

 [Enroll in Peak Power Rewards](#)

## Peak Power Rewards – Earn Bill Credits for Reducing Energy Use During Peak Times!

Member-owners of Tri-County Electric Cooperative can now enroll in the new Peak Power Rewards Program (PPR), a voluntary program that rewards consumer-members with bill credits for temporarily reducing energy use during short periods of high electricity demand.

The program, offered in partnership with TCEC's wholesale power provider, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), encourages small changes, such as adjusting the thermostat or delaying appliance use, which may help consumer-members earn credits on their electric bill.

### How the Program Works

**Notification of Events:** When SIPC predicts high electricity demand, they'll call a "Peak Power Rewards event." Each event will last between 2 and 4 hours. Consumer-members enrolled in the PPR program will typically receive 24 hours' notice via email or text so they can plan to reduce energy usage.

### You Choose How to Participate:

During an event, consumer-members decide if and how they want to reduce their energy use. Participation is voluntary, and there are no penalties for not participating.

### Earn Bill Credits:

Consumer-members who reduce energy use below their personalized baseline during an event can earn \$1 for each kilowatt-hour (kWh) saved. Each participant's baseline is calculated using their recent energy usage. Pilot participants averaged about \$5 in bill credits per event.

### When will I get alerts?

The program typically operates during seasons of extreme temperatures, such as winter (December–February) and summer (June–August), but events can occur any time of year when SIPC predicts high demand, high prices, or grid-emergency periods.

 *Continued Page 2*

### Mt. Vernon Office

3906 Broadway  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Salem Office

1631 E Main St.  
Salem, IL 62881  
Tuesday - Thursday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Closed: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Phone: (618) 244-5151  
Toll-Free: (800) 244-5151  
Pay-by-Phone: (844) 968-1991



*Scan the code & enroll today!*

# YOUR GUIDE TO REDUCING ENERGY DURING PEAK POWER EVENTS

## Adjust your thermostat

Adjust your thermostat a few degrees lower in the winter or higher in the summer.



## Turn it off..

Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics.

## Avoid Using Large Appliances

Avoid using major appliances like pool pumps, ovens, or dryers during a Peak Power Rewards Event.



**PEAK POWER REWARDS**

Your Southern Illinois Family of Electric Cooperatives

CLAY • DEWITT COUNTY • DECATUR • HANCOCK COUNTY  
HARTSFORD • ILLINOIS • SOUTHERN ILLINOIS • THE COUNTY



Learn more ways to save during a Peak Power Event at [tricountycoop.com/PeakPowerRewards](http://tricountycoop.com/PeakPowerRewards)

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As spring arrives, take advantage of milder temperatures to save energy at home. Open windows on pleasant days to bring in fresh air instead of running your HVAC system. It's also a great time to replace dirty air filters, which helps your system run more efficiently and improves indoor air quality. As daylight increases, turn off unnecessary lights and rely on natural sunlight when possible. Small seasonal adjustments like these can reduce energy use, lower monthly bills and help keep your home comfortable as winter transitions into spring.



## Rates Effective March 2026

After careful consideration, beginning with March 2026 usage, the service availability charge for Rates 1 and 7 will increase \$3.00 per month. This will be accompanied by an increase in the price of the first 1,000 kWh from 11.24 cents to 12.3 cents.

Members on Rate 1 using over 1,000 kWh will see an increase from 10.24 cents to 11.3 cents for kilowatts used after the first 1,000 kWh.

Members on Rate 7 using over 1,000 kWh will see an increase from 9.24 to 10.3 for kilowatts used after the first 1,000 kWh in the winter, and an increase from 11.24 to 12.3 in the summer.

The new rates are designed to help us offset rising costs in energy, materials, and supplies. We understand that any increase in costs can be challenging, and we want to assure you that we have worked hard to keep this adjustment as reasonable as possible.

## Your Credit, Your Way.



At your Tri-County Electric Cooperative you aren't just a customer—you are a member-owner. One of the unique benefits of cooperative membership is capital credits, and we're pleased to share an update on how they will be returned this year in a way that helps reduce costs while continuing to put members first.

### What Are Capital Credits?

As a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative, any margins collected above the cost of providing reliable electric service are allocated back to members. These allocations are known as capital credits and represent your ownership stake in the cooperative.

Instead of profits going to outside shareholders, margins are reinvested to maintain and improve the electric system—or returned to members when the Board of Directors approves a capital credit retirement. Capital credits are one of the clearest examples of how the cooperative business model works for the benefit of the people it serves.

### What's Changing This Year

To be good stewards of cooperative resources and reduce printing, postage, and processing costs, we are making a small change to how capital credits are distributed:

- Inactive accounts (members who no longer receive service) will receive their capital credits by check in the mail.
- Active accounts will have their capital credits automatically applied as a credit to their July electric bill.

Applying capital credits directly to active accounts allows us to significantly reduce administrative expenses—savings that help keep overall costs lower for the entire membership.

### Who Will Receive a Capital Credits This Year?

Members who received electric service from Tri-County Electric Cooperative in 2003 or earlier will have their capital credits applied to their July electric bill.

### Prefer a Check Instead?

Active members who would prefer to receive their capital credits by check instead of a bill credit may opt out. The deadline to opt out is May 1st. To opt out, email us at [ebill@tricitycoop.com](mailto:ebill@tricitycoop.com) or call 618-244-5151.

### A Benefit of Belonging

Capital credits are a powerful reminder that your electric cooperative exists to serve its members. Every bill payment helps strengthen the electric system, invest in long-term reliability, and support the community we share. When the cooperative does well, you share in that success.

Thank you for being a valued member-owner and for helping us operate efficiently while continuing to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. We are proud to serve you—today and for generations to come.

[Learn More](#)

[www.tricitycoop.com/capital-credits](http://www.tricitycoop.com/capital-credits)

## Classic Texas Sheet Cake

### Ingredients:

#### *Cake*

- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ cup unsalted butter (1 stick)
- ½ cup vegetable shortening
- 4 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 cup water
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ cup buttermilk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

#### *Frosting*

- ½ cup unsalted butter (1 stick)
- 3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 6 tablespoons milk
- 1 (16-ounce) box powdered sugar (about 4 cups)
- 1 cup chopped nuts (pecans or walnuts work well)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease a rimmed sheet pan (approximately 10x15 or jelly roll size).
2. In a large bowl, whisk together sugar, flour, and salt.
3. In a saucepan over medium heat, combine butter, shortening, cocoa powder, and water. Heat until melted and just beginning to boil. Remove from heat.
4. Pour the hot cocoa mixture over the dry ingredients and stir until smooth.
5. Add eggs, baking soda, buttermilk, and vanilla. Mix until fully combined.
6. Pour batter into prepared pan and spread evenly.
7. Bake for 20 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

### Frosting (Prepare While Cake Bakes)

1. In a saucepan, combine butter, cocoa powder, and milk. Bring to a gentle boil, stirring constantly.
2. Remove from heat and whisk in powdered sugar until smooth.
3. Stir in nuts and vanilla.
4. Immediately spread the warm frosting over the hot cake so it melts into the surface.

*Let the cake cool slightly before slicing. This cake is excellent served warm or at room temperature and keeps well for several days.*

## Teriyaki Chicken and Rice Bowls

### Ingredients:

- 1 lb. boneless chicken breasts, cut into small pieces
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- Rice - 1 bag, prepared
- Steamed broccoli, 1 head
- Toasted Sesame Seeds, optional*

### Sauce Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/4 cup low-sodium soy sauce
- 2 Tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
- 2 cloves garlic minced
- 1 Tablespoon cornstarch

### Instructions:

1. Cook rice according to packaging.
2. Steam the Broccoli.
3. Season chicken pieces with salt and pepper and place in a large non-stick skillet.
4. Cook until done, stirring often.
5. In a small bowl or a measuring cup, combine brown sugar, soy sauce, ginger, garlic, vinegar, and cornstarch. Whisk together until there are no cornstarch lumps. Add sauce to chicken and cook stirring constantly, until it thickens into a shiny glaze.
6. Remove from heat and serve immediately with rice and steamed broccoli

*Optional: Serve with toasted sesame seeds on top for visual appeal and crunch.*

