TCEC TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

December 2026

TRICOUNTYCOOP.COM

HI-LITES

2027 Plan of Work

Enhancing Safety, Efficiency, & Reliability

The Board of Directors of Tri-County Electric Cooperative has approved the cooperative's work plan for 2027, which includes a series of critical infrastructure upgrades aimed at enhancing the reliability of the electric distribution system. Each year, the cooperative evaluates its system and prioritizes a range of projects to address aging equipment, accommodate growing demand, and improve overall service for its members.

Key initiatives outlined in the 2027 plan include:

Pole Inspections

Tri-County Electric conducts inspections on a regular ten-year rotation, and any poles that fail the inspection process are replaced. This year, pole inspections will take place in the following substation service areas: Reserve, Jaycee, and Marlow.

Substation Improvements

Maintenance and upgrades will be carried out on several substations to improve their reliability, extend the life of key equipment, and boost overall system efficiency.

Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Upgrade

Phase 2 of the AMI project focused on changing meters throughout the service territory that will communicate with the new software and base stations that were installed in 2026 during Phase 1 of the project. This final phase will include installing advanced meters, paving the way for full systemwide deployment. Once implemented, the AMI system will improve communication throughout the distribution network, enhance system monitoring and reliability, and provide the foundation for future technologies, including load management programs and the integration of distributed energy resources.

The goal of these upgrades is to ensure reliable, uninterrupted service for Tri-County Electric Cooperative's members. These planned projects reflect Tri-County Electric's ongoing commitment to enhancing the safety, efficiency, and reliability of its electric grid, benefiting its members and the communities it serves.



Danny Hopfinger
General Manager

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
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Pecans for a Purpose: Thank you for your support!

At Tri-County Electric Cooperative, community is at the heart of everything we do. Each year, our employees host a fundraiser selling Mascot Pecans and Specialty Nuts, raising funds to support local families and organizations.

We are grateful for the community's support, which makes this fundraiser possible. Together, we're building a stronger, more caring community one pecan at a time!



(Back, L): Debbie Jones, Susan Rogers, Mel Mueller, Dwayne Johnson, Lynn Lenker (Front, L) Heather Rawls (TCEC), Kathy Newman, and Teresa Hoyt (TCEC)



(Left) Alicia Hester (TCEC) and Nat Wellen from United Way of South Central Illinois



(Left) Hillary Keip (TCEC) and Bo Meyer



(Left)Cathy Wallace (TCEC) and Ronnie Donoho



(Left)Lynn Hutchison (TCEC) and Phil Martin



(Left) Meghan Branch and Jodi Schierbaum (TCEC)

The Board of Directors and Employees of Tri-County Electric Cooperative wish you a safe and Merry Christmas!

Tri-County Electric Cooperative offices will be closed for:
Christmas Day - Friday, December 25th and New Year's Day - Friday, January 1st

Mascot Pecans and Candies Make the Perfect Christmas Gift!

16 oz. Mammoth Pecan Halves	**$11.50**
16 oz. Medium Pecan Pieces	**$11.25**
12 oz. Roasted & Salted Jumbo Cashews	**$8.50**
4 oz. Pecan Log	**$4.25**
8 oz. Pecan Caramel Clusters	**$7.00**
12 oz. Chocolate Covered Pecans	**$10.50**

Mascot Pecans are great for baking, gift-giving, or snacking! All specialty nuts come in a decorative foil bag. The proceeds from the employee Mascot Pecan Fundraiser are donated to community organizations that serve the membership of Tri-County Electric Cooperative. Mascot Pecans are the gift that gives back!

Nuts are available, while supplies last, during regular business hours at both office locations of the cooperative.

2027 Forestry Trim Cycle: Improving Safety & Reliability

Beginning in January 2027, you may see tree-trimming crews from Asplundh working throughout our service area. These contractors are part of TCEC's 2027 Forestry Program, and when you see them out and about — know that they're working for you.

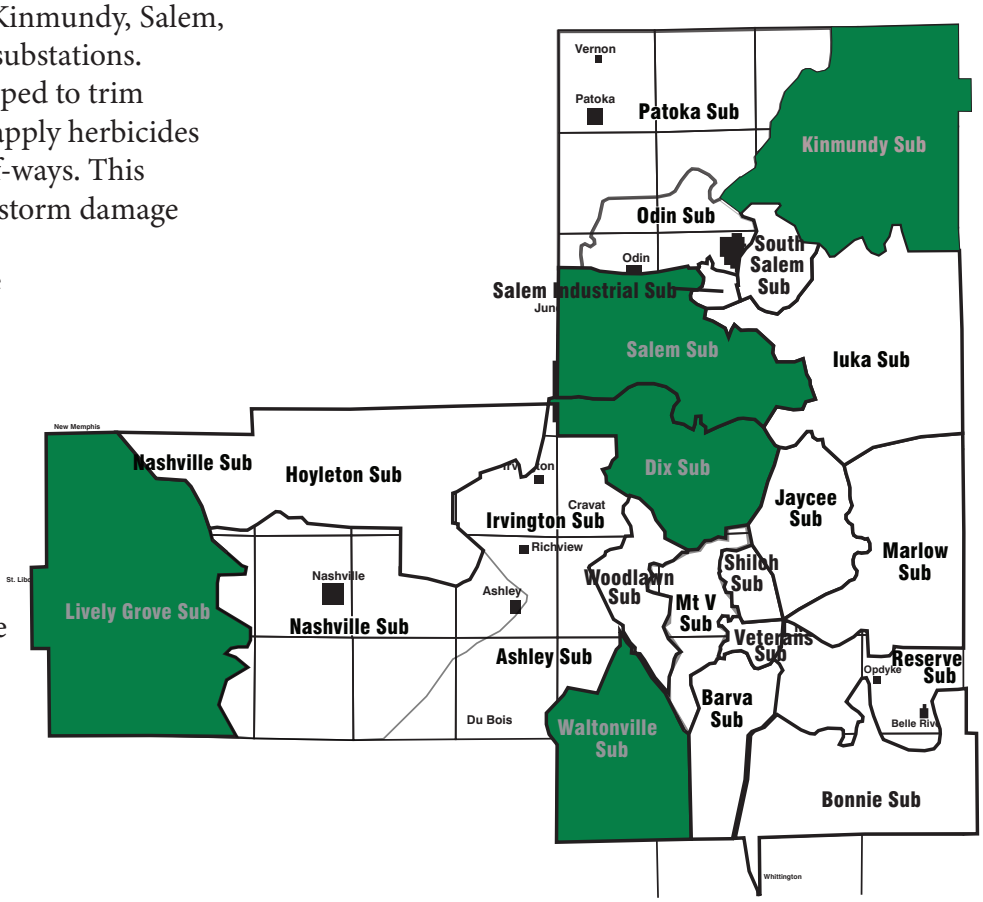
Each year, TCEC focuses on a group of substation areas as part of our four-year forestry trim cycle. For 2027, the program will include the Kinmundy, Salem, Dix, Waltonville, and Lively Grove substations.

The Forestry Program was developed to trim and remove trees, mow brush, and apply herbicides around our power lines and right-of-ways. This proactive approach helps us reduce storm damage that can cause extended outages, minimize "blinks" and other service interruptions, and lower long-term maintenance costs by keeping vegetation under control.

Trees are a beautiful part of our communities, but when branches grow too close to power lines, they can create safety hazards and reliability issues. By maintaining a consistent four-year cycle, we're able to prevent problems before they start — keeping the lights on for everyone.

So if you notice crews from Asplundh in your neighborhood, know that they're helping ensure your power stays safe and reliable all year long.

If you have any questions regarding the cooperative's Cycle Forestry Program, please contact Ben Ceglinski, Tri-County Electric Cooperative's Forestry Supervisor, at 618-244-5151.



POWERING YOUR FUTURE



20 SCHOLARSHIPS
$3,000 EACH

The electric cooperatives of Illinois are proud to offer scholarships to deserving students in our co-op family. Whether you're a high school senior planning to attend college or interested in a career as a lineworker, there's a scholarship opportunity for you.

Applications are now open for the 2027 Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarships. Apply by December 31, 2026, for most scholarships, or by April 30, 2027, for the lineworker scholarship. Scan the QR code or go to https://bit.ly/IECScholarships for more details.

IEC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS