



# TAKE ACTION



SAY 'NO' TO  
CLOSING  
PRAIRIE  
STATE  
ENERGY  
CAMPUS

Keep our jobs in Southern Illinois, and keep electricity affordable and reliable!

## Take Action Update

You may recall receiving a postcard from us in mid-July notifying you of legislation that was proposed to prematurely close Prairie State Energy Campus. As soon as we were made aware of the proposed legislation, members were contacted through social media, our website, and direct mail. These opportunities allowed members to contact their legislators via email or postcards.

Your response to this call to action was incredible. We received over 3,400 postcard responses and thousands of responses online through our Voices for Cooperative Power website. Together with all Illinois electric cooperatives, our collective voices made a difference and resulted in more than 40,000 emails to Governor Pritzker, Senate and House members through the Voices for Cooperative Power website.

As promised, we are delivering an update on the legislation that was passed. During an event in Chicago on September 16th, Governor Pritzker signed into law the omnibus energy bill, Senate Bill 2408, now Public Act 102-0662.

### **Public Act 102-0662 Summary Decarbonization**

All non-public coal-fueled generation plants must be closed by the year 2030. All public-owned (co-ops/munis) coal-fired generation are required to be 100% carbon-free by the end of the year

2045 (i.e. Prairie State Energy Campus). The bill further calls for a reduction of CO2 emissions by 2035, and if that emission reduction level is not achieved, then “the plant shall retire one or more units or otherwise reduce its CO2e emissions by 45% from existing emissions by June 30, 2038.”

What does this mean for you as a member of Tri-County Electric Cooperative? As a member, you own Tri-County Electric Cooperative. Tri-County Electric Cooperative is a member-owner of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC). SIPC is a part-owner of Prairie State Energy Campus.

Since 2012, Prairie State has provided more than 2.5 million families with baseload electricity on behalf of its owners. These families are located throughout territories that span the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic. It was built by nine public power ownership groups, including SIPC.

Forced closure of one of the units of the energy campus by June 30, 2038, will result in a partially stranded investment, divided between the nine public power ownership groups, and subsequently, the cooperatives and municipalities that own the public power organizations.

While the outcome is not ideal, we acknowledge the victory of Prairie State being allowed to continue providing reliable energy until 2045, opposed to the initially proposed legislation of closing in 2035.

As we have learned, a lot can happen in twenty-four years. It is our sincerest hope that technology will advance to meet the needs of increased energy demands with a focus on reliability. If that doesn't happen, we hope that legislation can be revised to accommodate for an all-of-the-above energy strategy, which we wholeheartedly support.

Your actions helped convey electric cooperative support for a reasoned transition to lower carbon sources of electricity while maintaining grid reliability. Together we emphasized to our legislators that policy objectives must not get ahead of today's technology, and our voices were heard.

We will continue to keep you informed as we advocate for issues important to co-ops in the ever-evolving legislative landscape.

## Rate Adjustments to Better Reflect Costs

As discussed in previous issues of our Hi-Lites newsletter, we are continuing to implement rate adjustments that better reflect Tri-County's costs. We will repeat the adjustment that occurred in January 2019 and again in January of 2020.

Beginning with January 2022 usage, our service availability charge for rates 1 and 7 service will increase by \$3.00 per month. This will be accompanied by a decrease in the price of the first 1,000 kWh from 11.1 cents to 10.7 cents or 4/10ths of a cent decrease. The combined increase of the service availability charge and decrease of the kWh charge results in between a \$3 increase and a \$1 decrease in your monthly bill. The effect will be identical to previous years.

### Some examples as follows:

Zero usage	\$3.00 increase
500 kWh usage	\$1.00 increase
750 kWh usage	no change
1000 kWh and above	\$1.00 decrease

Our challenge is to make rates equitable for all members. If one member uses only 1 kWh and another member uses 500 kWhs, the cost to build the line, maintain the distribution system and deliver electric to both members is relatively the same. These costs are considered fixed costs. It takes just as much infrastructure, the same amount of tree trimming, spraying, pole inspection, accounting, billing, bucket trucks, digger trucks, etcetera to deliver 1 kWh as it does 500 kWh's.

Although some of the fixed costs will still be collected through the kWh charge, the planned changes are another step in the right direction. Plans are to gradually increase the service availability charge on an annual basis. We further plan to offset this increase by a decrease in the first 1,000 kWh charges when possible. Remember, this rate adjustment will not be effective until your bill for January 2022 usage.

## 2021 Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants

Tri-County Electric Cooperative is once again coordinating a grant program with Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. A total of eight grants of five hundred dollars each will be provided for innovative, unfunded projects or materials. Qualifying projects are those which improve the learning environment or increase educational resources for the school.

### Who is eligible?

K-12 teachers and administrators serving students in the Tri-County Electric Cooperative territory (in-person or virtual learning)

### Application deadline:

Friday, November 5th, 2021

### More information:

[www.tricountycoop.com/touchstonegrants](http://www.tricountycoop.com/touchstonegrants)

618-244-5151, ext. 234

[lhutchison@tricountycoop.com](mailto:lhutchison@tricountycoop.com)



Shelled Georgia Mascot Brand Pecans are in stock at Tri-County Electric Cooperative!

### Currently in stock:

16 oz. Mammoth Pecan Halves \$10.00  
16 oz. Medium Pecan Pieces \$9.75

### Specialty nuts available mid-November:

12 oz. Salted Jumbo Cashews \$7.75  
4 oz. Pecan Log \$3.75  
8 oz. Pecan Caramel Clusters \$6.25  
12 oz. Chocolate Pecans \$7.25

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

# Deadline for IEC Memorial Scholarship Applications

The deadline to apply for scholarships awarded by Illinois electric cooperatives is December 31, 2021. A total of twelve scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded.

- Six scholarships to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members receiving service from the cooperative.

- One scholarship to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director.

- Four scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

- The final scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker's school at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, IL.

Visit [www.tricountycoop.com](http://www.tricountycoop.com) for more information.

**Cooperative offices will be closed on:**  
**November 11th - Veteran's Day**  
*Thank you for your service, veterans!*  
**November 25th - 26th Thanksgiving**  
*Have a safe and happy holiday!*

## Farmers, First Responders, and Large Equipment Operators Safety Luncheon

**Date: Wednesday, December 8th, 2021**

**Time: 10:30 a.m.**

**Location: Tri-County Electric Cooperative  
3906 W. Broadway St., Mt. Vernon, IL**

*Lunch will be served!*

We invite you to join us for a lunch and learn safety presentation given by Tri-County Electric Cooperative employees and Special Guest, Cody Conrady. Topics covered include: What to do if your equipment comes in contact with a powerline, best practices in electrical safety, and a live line demonstration. The first 100 registered attendees will receive a gift!

**RSVP by November 20th**  
**618-244-5151 ext. 234**  
**or [lhutchison@tricountycoop.com](mailto:lhutchison@tricountycoop.com).**



*Special Guest, Cody Conrady (right)*