



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Hi-Lites

Empowering Safety: A Call to Farmers, First Responders, and Large Equipment Operators

In line with our commitment to our community and electrical safety education, we are excited to extend an invitation to all farmers, large equipment operators, and first responders to our upcoming Electrical Safety Luncheon.

One of the highlights of our luncheon will be a live line demonstration. Guests will witness firsthand the potential hazards associated with power lines and gain invaluable insights into best practices for prevention.

We are honored to have Mike Tiemann as our distinguished guest speaker for the event. Mike brings a wealth of experience and expertise in electrical safety, earned through years of service

in the field as well as his own brush with death in an electrical accident. His insights are not only informative but also inspiring, offering a unique perspective on the importance of vigilance and preparedness in the face of potential electrical hazards.

Why Attend?

Enhanced Safety Awareness: Stay informed about the latest developments in electrical safety, ensuring that you and your team are well-prepared to handle any situation.

Please RSVP online using the link below or call 618-244-5151 by February 18th.

MISSION STATEMENT

To safely provide our member-owners with reliable electric service, superior customer service, and practical energy solutions, all at reasonable prices.

3906 Broadway
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

618-244-5151
Toll-Free: 800-244-5151
Fax: 618-244-1496
Pay by phone:
855-385-9902

**Mt. Vernon
Office Hours**
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Salem
Office Hours**
Tuesday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
(Closed 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ELECTRICAL SAFETY LUNCHEON

Date: Thursday, March 7th, 2024

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location:

Tri-County Electric Cooperative
3906 Broadway St., Mt. Vernon, IL

RSVP online or call 618-244-5151

www.tricountycoop.com/safetyluncheon

Rates Effective March 2024

After careful consideration, beginning with March 2024 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 10.8 cents to 11.24 cents.

Members on Rate 1 using over 1,000 kWh will see an increase from 9.24 cents to 10.24 cents for kilowatts used after the first 1,000 kWh.

Members on Rate 7 using over 1,000 kWh will see an increase from 8.24 to 9.24 for kilowatts used after the first 1,000 kWh in the winter, and an increase from 10.24 to 11.24 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.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During winter months, ensure your home is well sealed to reduce the need for excessive heating. Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% on annual energy bills.

Install weather stripping on exterior doors and apply caulk around windows. Check attic insulation levels and hire a qualified contractor if additional insulation is required.

Source: energystar.gov



Are you interested in installing solar? Requesting three bids from qualified contractors before hiring for any project can potentially save you a lot of money and hardship down the road. You may be surprised at how different the prices for each contractor can be! We know that the cheapest option isn't necessarily the best option - "You get what you pay for".

However, we have seen instances where members were taken advantage of. We want you to be informed before making a large investment. It takes a little more homework to get three bids, but it's time well spent.

In addition to getting bids, make sure you review any contracts and service agreements thoroughly. Solar units are a major purchase, so discretion and careful review is necessary. Once you have done your due diligence, you can rest easy in your choice, knowing that you made an informed decision.

Want to learn more? On our website, you can find Tri-County Electric Cooperative's solar policies and interconnection agreements. You can also find informational resources, including:

- Solar Energy Brochure for TCEC Members
- Steps to Solar Commissioning
- Questions to ask a Solar Contractor
- Links to State and Federal Solar Resources

For more information, visit:
www.tricountycoop.com/solar-energy



Plant Trees Safely

Before you dig, call 811 to locate buried utility lines.

LOW TREE ZONE

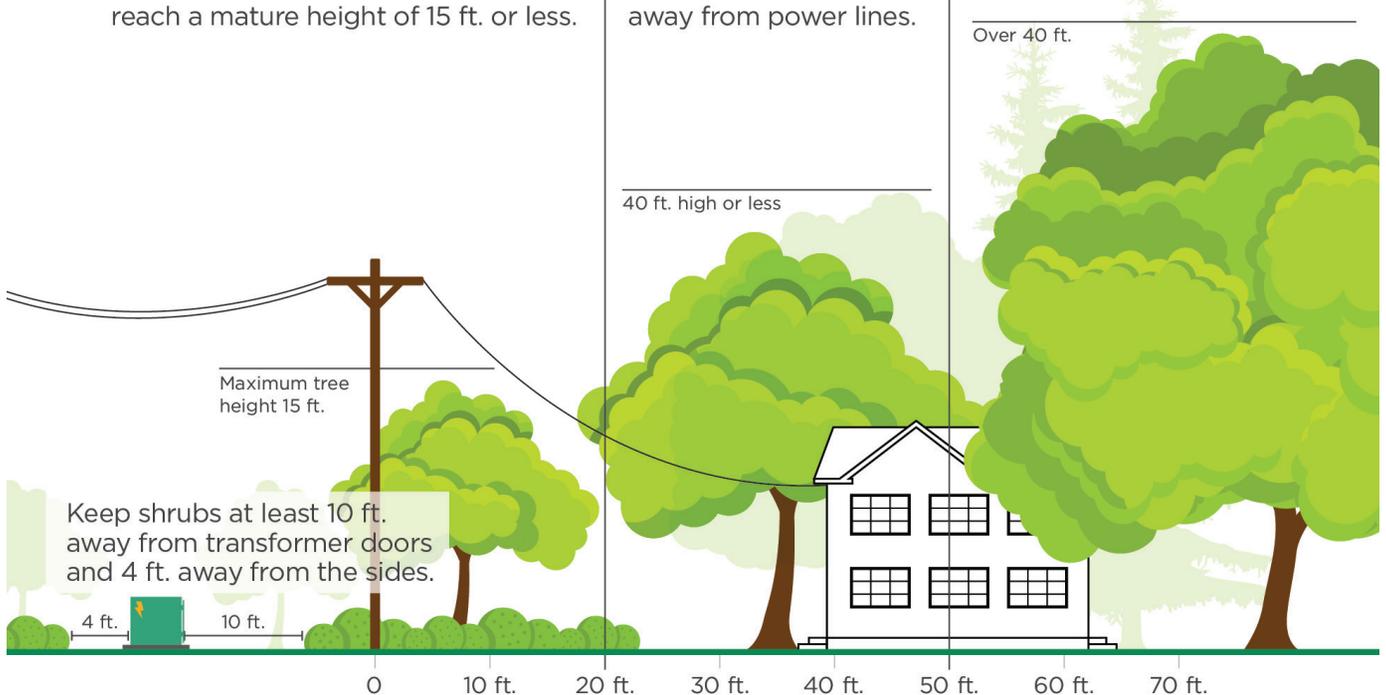
Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.



Cooperative Calendar

February 14th, 2024

Director petitions available for pickup at the TCEC Mt. Vernon Office

February 19, 2024

TCEC offices closed - President's Day

March 7th, 2024

Farmers and First Responders Safety Luncheon

March 20, 2024

Youth to Springfield (Deadline to apply: Feb. 2nd)

March 29th, 2024

TCEC offices closed - Good Friday

April 12, 2024

Director petitions must be filed before the end of the business day

June 14-21, 2024

Youth to Washington (Deadline to apply: Feb. 2nd)

July 13, 2024

Tri-County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

LADDERS are involved in more **ELECTROCUTIONS** than any other product

- CPSC report



Safe Electricity offers the following tips to use when working with ladders:

- Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from power lines.
- Work only when weather permits. Rain is a good conductor of electricity, and wind could blow a ladder out of control and into a power line.
- Never trim near power lines. Call professional tree trimmers to do the job.
- Never use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines. Contact a professional maintenance contractor.
- Follow safety guidelines whether you use an aluminum, wooden, or fiberglass ladder. Although some materials are better conductors than others, all ladders require the same precautions.

For more information on protecting yourself from outdoor electrical hazards, visit:

Safe
Electricity.org[®]

