

HI-LITES

A Message from Your General Manager



Danny Hopfinger
General Manager

It is an honor and a privilege to begin serving as General Manager of Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

Having already had the opportunity to serve Tri-County and work alongside our employees, Board of Directors, and members for the past 18 years, I have seen firsthand what makes this cooperative special. I am grateful for the confidence the Board has placed in me, and I look forward to building on the strong foundation that has been established here.

As your General Manager, my commitment is straightforward: to continue providing the safe, reliable, and affordable electric service our members depend on while preparing Tri-County for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

The electric utility industry continues to change. Rising costs,

new technologies, evolving regulations, growing demand for electricity, and the need to maintain and strengthen our system will require thoughtful planning and sound decisions. Through all of those changes, however, our purpose remains the same — serving our members and the communities we call home.

That mission is especially meaningful to me because Southern Illinois is home. My wife Whitney and I are raising our two children here, and we care deeply about the future of this region. I want our communities to remain places where families want to live, businesses can grow, and future generations have opportunities to succeed. Tri-County plays an important role in making that possible.

I am also fortunate to step into this role with a dedicated group of employees who work every day to serve our members. Whether they are maintaining our electric system, restoring power, assisting members, planning for future needs, or working behind the scenes, their commitment to this cooperative is evident.

There will undoubtedly be challenges ahead, but there are also tremendous opportunities. I am excited about Tri-

LOCATIONS

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

President

Sam Phillips, Salem

Vice President

Jordan Brink, Richview

Secretary/Treasurer

Christopher Johnson, Belle Rive

Michelle Barbee, Salem

Tom Beyers, Odin

Keith Doehring, Nashville

Doug Knolhoff, Hoyleton

Donnie Laird, Waltonville

Kathy Withers, Mt. Vernon

Phone: (618) 244-5151

Pay-by-Phone: (844) 968-1991

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County's future and look forward to working with our employees, Board, and members to ensure your cooperative remains strong for many years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.





Mascot Pecans Have Arrived!

IN STOCK:

16 oz. Mammoth Pecan Halves	\$10.75
16 oz. Medium Pecan Pieces	\$10.50

OTHER NUTS COMING IN NOVEMBER:
Roasted & Salted Jumbo Cashews, Pecan Logs, Pecan Caramel Clusters, and Chocolate Covered Pecans.



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

Funds from the Mascot Pecan Fundraiser are donated to community organizations that serve the members of TCEC.

Recipe

From Our Table to Yours

Southern Illinois Persimmon Pudding

A rich, old-fashioned dessert that's a true taste of the season.

Ingredients

- 1 cup pureed native persimmons
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1¼ cups milk (buttermilk is best)
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- ½ cup packed brown sugar
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 2 Tbsp. melted butter
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- ¼ tsp. baking soda
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. cinnamon
- Dash of nutmeg
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Tip:

Use native persimmons that are fully ripe and very soft. They should be dark and almost jelly-like inside for the best flavor.



Directions

1. Heat oven to 325°F. Grease an 8×8-inch baking dish.
2. In a medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg.
3. In a separate bowl, combine persimmon pulp and baking soda. Add egg and sugars, then gradually stir in milk and melted butter. Stir in vanilla.
4. Gently stir in the flour mixture just until moistened. Do not overmix.
5. Pour into the prepared pan and bake for about 50 minutes, or until a knife or fork inserted in the center comes out almost clean.
6. Cool before serving. Refrigerate leftovers.



ATTENTION, TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS!

Have a project you'd like funded?

\$4,000 available through Classroom Empowerment Grants!

APPLICATION ON BACK OR VISIT: WWW.TRICOUNTYCOOP.COM/CLASSGRANT



Touchstone Energy®





PEAK POWER REWARDS



Earn Bill Credits for Saving Energy During Peak Times

Peak Power Rewards (PPR) is a **voluntary program** for TCEC members that provides bill credits when you reduce electricity use during short periods of high energy demand.

HOW IT WORKS



ENROLL

Sign up online.
Info below
Completion may take
5-7 business days.



GET NOTIFIED

You'll receive an email
and/or text about 24
hours before a Peak
Power Rewards event.

Events last 2-4 hours.



REDUCE ELECTRICITY USE

During the event,
make temporary
changes to lower
energy use.

There are no penalties
for not participating.



EARN CREDITS

Your energy use is
compared to your
typical usage during
similar times. If you use
less, you earn bill credits!

Earn \$1 per kWh saved!

WAYS TO SAVE DURING AN EVENT



ADJUST YOUR THERMOSTAT

In summer:
raise 4° or more

In winter:
lower 4° or more



PAUSE MAJOR APPLIANCE USE

Avoid washing or
drying clothes,
running the
dishwasher, or
taking long
showers.



REDUCE SIMULTANEOUS USAGE

Avoid using
multiple
high-energy
appliances at the
same time.



TURN OFF NON-ESSENTIAL ITEMS

Unnecessary
lights,
electronics,
pool/spa pumps,
water heaters.



DELAY EV CHARGING

Charge your
electric vehicle
before or after
the event.



USE BACKUP GENERATION

Safely switch to
a properly
installed backup
generator if
available.

*Recommendations assume appliances and systems are electric.

SIGN UP TODAY!



Scan the QR code or visit:
tricountycoop.com/peakpowerrewards
Online enrollement required.



TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. &
Touchstone Energy Classroom
Empowerment Grant Application



**TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
www.tricountycoop.com

Applicant Name		Title	
School Name			
School Address			
City/State/Zip			
Daytime Phone Number			
Email			

Electric Cooperative Territory: Tri-County Electric Cooperative, inc.

To apply for grant, send a double-spaced typed request (not to exceed 3 pages) that includes the following:

1. A description of the project and what it will accomplish
2. The estimated cost of the project
3. An explanation of why outside funds are necessary to complete the project
4. Whether funding options have been pursued, and if so, how
5. When the project will be completed
6. The number of people affected by the project
7. If the project's goals are measurable, and how
8. How the project ties in Touchstone Energy's four core values of integrity, accountability, innovation, and commitment to community

Photos supporting data are optional. Applications will be evaluated by an impartial panel of judges. Awards will be announced mid-December.

Deadline: Grant applications must be received by *November 6, 2026*.

Email or mail application to: lhutchison@tricountycoop.com

Tri-County Electric Cooperative, 3906 Broadway St, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Acknowledgement

Touchstone Energy and Tri-County Electric Cooperative reserves the right to photograph grant winners and use photos for publication purposes. Projects must be completed by the time school is out for summer. Recipients must provide written proof of completion detailing how the grant funds were used within six months of the project's completion. Grant recipient agrees to follow all completion requirements.

Signature	Date