



Hi-Lites

Official Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of Tri-County Electric Cooperative will be held at the office of the Cooperative, 3906 Broadway, Mount Vernon, Illinois, on Saturday, July 8, 2023.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the Business Meeting at 10:00 a.m. to take action on the following:

1. Receive reports of officers, directors, employees and committees;
2. Elect three directors for 2023;
3. Conduct all other business which may come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

Sam Phillips, Secretary Treasurer

Capital Credit Checks Will Be Mailed to Members Prior to Annual Meeting

If you received electric service in 2000, you will receive a capital credit check in the mail. If you have not received your check by July 11th, please contact the Cooperative office during normal business hours.

The amount of capital credits that a member receives is determined by how much electricity they used during the years for which capital is being retired and the cooperative's cost of distributing the power during that time.

Instead of sharing profits with distant investors, Tri-County Electric Cooperative returns money to local members who use electricity.

Capital Credit Checks will be mailed out before Annual Meeting and will not be available for pickup at the meeting.

One of the many benefits of being a member of TCEC is our business model. We are a co-operative and we return excess revenues or margins back to you. We call these capital credits. The board approved paying out \$1,030,000 in capital credits in 2023! It really does pay to be a member!

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

President

Donnie Laird - Waltonville

Vice-President

Doug Knolhoff - Hoyleton

Secretary/Treasurer

Sam Phillips - Salem

Michelle Barbee - Salem

Tom Beyers - Odin

Jordan Brink - Richview

Phil Carson - Oakdale

Larry Manning - Belle Rive

Kathy Withers - Mt. Vernon

2023 Director Elections

The 2023 Credentials and Elections Committee members were Tonya Lowery, Ralph Hilmes, Keith Doehring, Cindy Leeck, and Jill Harre. The committee met in April to review the petition signatures and eligibility of petitioning nominees. One director will be elected from each county. The director candidates nominated by petition and their biographies are as follows:



Donnie Laird
Jefferson County

Nominated for reelection to the board, Donnie Laird is a partner in Laird Farms of Waltonville. Born and raised on this grain and cow/calf operation, Laird was first elected to the cooperative's board in 2011.

Laird also serves on the following board of directors: Gateway FS, Jefferson County Farm Bureau, as well as the Waltonville Fire Protection District. He is a former trustee for Bald Hill Township and is a member of the Illinois Beef Association.



Jordan Brink
Washington County

Nominated for reelection to the board, Jordan Brink is a former FFA member and graduate of Nashville Community High School. He was born and raised on his family's 4th generation grain farm, which he currently co-owns and operates with his father, John Brink.

Jordan and his wife Bridget reside on JDB Farms, and he has been involved in the management of the farm for over 10 years. Through conferences, classes, and experience, he continues to educate himself on the progressive ideas and new technology that will help farming move successfully into the future.



Sam Phillips
Marion County

Nominated for reelection to the board, Sam Phillips, a life-long resident of Marion County, is a licensed CPA in Illinois with two offices, one in Salem and one in Breese. He is also an adjunct instructor for the University of Illinois in Urbana and Indiana University.

First elected to the board in 2005, Phillips has served as Secretary/Treasurer since 2006 and earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate in 2007. He served on the Marion County Board for 12 years, and he and his wife, Becky, are both active members of the Hoots Chapel Christian Church.

TCEC Annual Meeting

Date: Saturday, July 8, 2023
Tri-County Electric Cooperative Office
3906 Broadway St., Mt. Vernon, IL

8:30 a.m. - Gates Open / Registration
Children's Activities

9:00 a.m. - Live Line Demonstration

10:00 a.m. - Business Meeting Begins

Prize drawings at the end of the meeting, BBQ sandwich lunch, and lemon shakeups!

Bring the kids! We will have a 'Lineman-For-A-Day' photo opportunity, life-size CONNECT 4 game, robotics demonstrations, facepainting, 'Meet a Lineman' station, and free Child ID kits. Four lucky kids will win a robotics kit!



2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

The Annual Meeting of the members of Tri-County Electric Cooperative Inc. was held at the Cooperative headquarters, 3906 Broadway, Mt. Vernon, Illinois at 10:00 a.m. on July 9, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by Donnie Laird, President, who presided with Sam Phillips acting as Secretary.

The President reported that as of his last information, 597 members were present in person constituting a quorum of the membership and that business could be conducted. The final membership attendance was 597.

Director Phil Carson led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance and then prayed the invocation.

President Laird introduced members of the Board of Directors and all other distinguished guests.

Secretary-Treasurer Sam Phillips then read the Notice of Meeting.

The President then directed the Secretary pursuant to Notice of Annual Meeting which was given in accordance with the Bylaws to annex to the minutes of the meeting a Notice of the meeting together with proof of due mailing thereof to all members through the Hi-Lites. Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried the reading of the minutes of the last annual meeting was dispensed with, the minutes were approved as published and the Notice to membership in the Hi-Lites.

President Laird then introduced Attorney Bill Howard to conduct the election for directors to fill offices for Directors from each of the counties for three-year terms. Mr. Howard read the report of the Credentials and Elections Committee which verified that the following persons were qualified to be placed on the ballot for election as follows: Kathy Withers from Jefferson County; Phil Carson from Washington County; and Tom Beyers from Marion County for three-year terms.

Mr. Howard then turned the meeting back to President Laird, who introduced Sam Phillips who gave the Treasurer's Report.

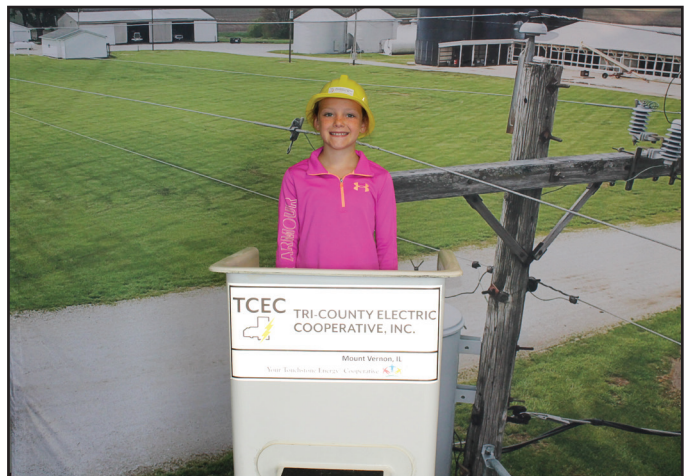
President Laird then gave the President's Report and introduced Manager, Luke Johnson, who then gave the Manager's Report.

President Laird called for unfinished business and there was none. He then called for new business and there was none. President Laird called for a motion to adjourn, which was made, seconded and unanimously adopted.

Sam Phillips, Secretary/Treasurer



The RoboRams will be joining us and displaying their creations! We will have a drawing and 4 lucky kids will win a robotics kit!



Reminder: Plan Ahead

If you are thinking about upgrading your current service or installing a new service, please let us know as soon as possible. Supply chain issues have caused a much longer lead time on materials here at the co-operative. Some materials have a 1-year lead time!

Manufacturing and shipping delays have resulted in extended lead times to acquire routine materials and equipment. Unfortunately, these lead times are beyond our control. We ask that you plan ahead and notify us as soon as possible so that there is plenty of lead time for your materials to arrive.

New Employee

Welcome, Jacob Wiley!



Please join us in welcoming our newest Line Clearance Journeyman, Jacob Wylie! Jacob is excited to serve the members of Tri-County Electric Cooperative in the Forestry Department.

2022 Year-End Financial Report January through December

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

Our Receipts	
We furnish electric service amounting to.....\$	47,299,000
Our Expenses	
Electric power cost us	\$ 30,979,000
Expenses for operating & maintaining system	8,117,000
We estimate our system depreciated	4,369,000
Our taxes were	136,000
Our interest to CFC was	<u>3,131,000</u>
Total Expenses for Year	\$ 46,732,000

Operating Margins (receipts less expenses).....\$	567,000
Non Operating Margins.....	1,839,000
(includes SIPC capital credits & interest)	
Total Margins (deficits)	<u>\$ 2,406,000</u>

Balance Sheet

What We Own (Assets)	
Total cost of our system is	\$ 152,540,000
We estimate it has depreciated.....	<u>-47,489,000</u>
The net value of our system is	\$ 105,051,000
We have cash in the bank amounting to	434,000
We have temporary investments - cert. of deposits.	4,538,000
We have vested interests - assoc. organizations.....	21,673,000
Accounts receivable	4,183,000
We have material & supplies amounting to	1,167,000
We have prepaid insurance & deferred expenses of	<u>491,000</u>
Total Owned.....	137,537,000
What We Owe (Liabilities)	
We owe CFC.....	\$ 64,717,000
We owe for materials, purchased power, taxes, etc.	7,122,000
Consumer deposits paid	1,684,000
Members' capital credits	59,538,000
Deferred credits	4,169,000
Accumulated operating provisions	<u>307,000</u>
Total Liabilities and Capital	\$ 137,537,000

The above figures have been rounded to the nearest thousandth.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Annual Meeting of Members

Saturday, July 8, 2023

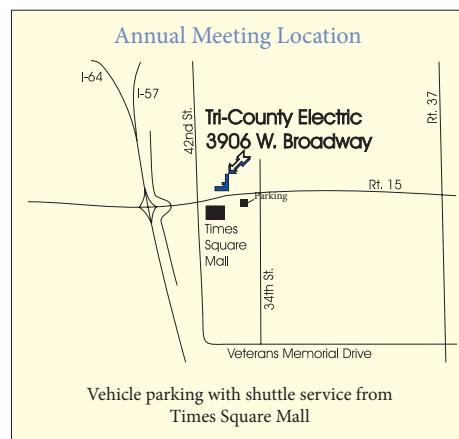
Register before 10:00 a.m. for \$15 credit on your August 2023 electric bill.

2023 Official Registration - \$15 Value

Name: _____

Account #: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____



TCEC Employee Shares Experience with Solar

In an effort to better inform our members of the risks and benefits associated with solar, we have interviewed one of our employees about their solar installation. While it's not for everyone, we wanted to provide information to members that are possibly interested in purchasing a solar array.

Alicia Hester is a Member Service Representative at Tri-County Electric Cooperative (TCEC) and also a TCEC member. Alicia and her husband Matt installed solar at their home in August of 2022. We have interviewed Alicia in hopes of answering any questions you have about solar.

What size of solar unit do you have?

We have an 11.20 KW system with 28 panels. Based upon our energy usage and habits, this size of unit was quoted to meet our needs.

What made you consider solar?

Matt had always wanted to put in solar but we just thought it was going to be too expensive to do. One of my friends on Facebook had made a post about getting a free quote so I decided to send him a message to just see if it was even possible. He sent me back a proposal, and with the federal tax incentive and the SRECs (solar renewable energy credits) it was a no brainer for us.

Was it a difficult process?

The process was pretty easy for us. The company we went with is local to Mt. Vernon and they had installed several of my friends' systems, so we felt pretty safe going with them. Typically, I would recommend getting 2 or 3 quotes to compare.

Is the paperwork daunting?

Our solar installer took care of everything for us. All we had to do was sign a couple of contracts with Tri-County and get the \$1M insurance policy and provide documentation to Tri-County of that. We also wanted to check with our insurance company that our panels were covered in case of any storm damage or if they got wiped out by a tornado.

They said since they were a ground mount that they would fall under our personal property coverage under our homeowner's insurance. The solar company has taken care of sending all the paperwork for the Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs). They did say it could take up to a year before we receive our check for those.

Have your electric use habits changed?

Yes, I would say a little bit. We're more aware of what is running and when. We try to do as much as we can during the day when the sun is out. We'd rather use as much as we can than sell it back. We also haven't added any additional appliances. Our main reason for getting solar was to have a lower electric bill and it is doing just that. It is working exactly how we expected it too. However, we have worked with members that were not pleased with their unit's output or their payback timeline. Solar isn't right for everyone and that's why it's good to find a solar company that is going to be honest and not promise you all kinds of things that aren't true. TCEC has a skilled group of engineers that can provide the information that you need to make an informed decision that is right for you.

Do you have any advice for homeowners that are considering solar?

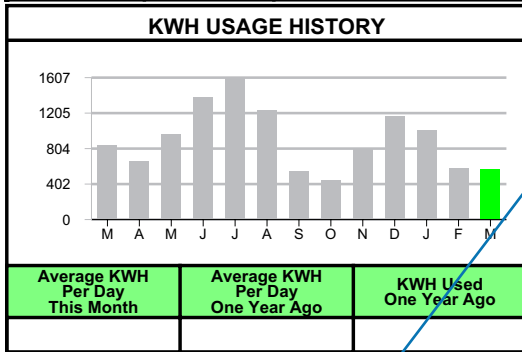
Do your RESEARCH! Call your electric utility first and ask them how it's billed, how it works, and see what information you need to give to them. I would highly recommend getting 2 or 3 different quotes to make sure you are getting the best system that is right for you. If you are looking into financing, make sure to ask about all the fees they add in because it is A LOT!



The **Service Availability** charge is a fee you pay to have everything there, ready and waiting for the switch to be turned on. All members have a service availability charge on their utility bill, including members with solar.

Example Utility Bill with Solar

Meter	Rate	Reading Dates		Previous Reading	Present Reading	No. of Days	Multiplier	Usage
	11	03/01/2023	04/01/2023			31		573
SOLAR		03/01/2023	04/01/2023			31		889

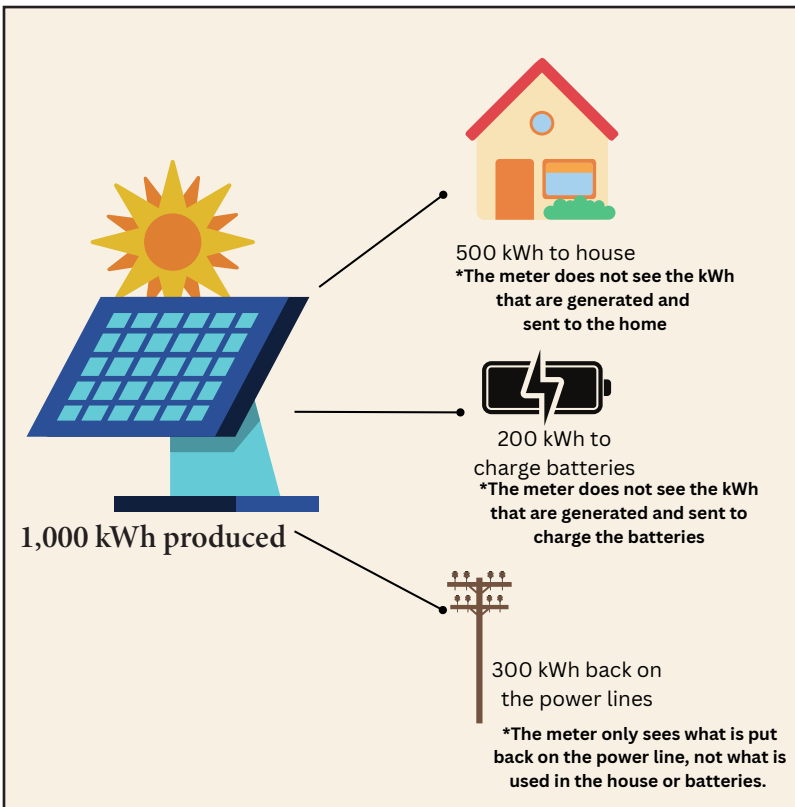


Service Availability		\$48.00
KWH Charge	573 KWH @ .108000	\$61.88
KWH Sold	889 KWH @ -.037750	\$33.56CR
Wholesale Pwr Cost Adj		\$6.47
Cost of Electricity Used		\$82.79
State Utility Tax	573 KWH @ .003200	\$1.83
Air Evac Membership		\$5.00
Total Current Bill		\$89.62

The **Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment** is a fee based on the cooperative's wholesale power cost from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC). When the average cost the cooperative pays on a per kWh basis varies, the increase or decrease will be shown as a line item on the bill.

KWH Sold indicates the amount of excess generated kilowatt hours sold back to the cooperative that could not be used at the immediate time by the home or to charge batteries.

KWH Charge indicates the amount of kilowatt hours purchased from the cooperative while the solar unit was not producing.



Solar Energy and Batteries

A new example to the left shows the progression of how solar energy makes its way back to the grid to be sold back to the utility.

This solar unit produced 1,000 kWh. Of the 1,000 kWh produced, 500 kWh of that went to offset the home's electrical use.

Our meter does not see what your solar unit produces or what solar energy your home uses. If the home is not able to use the solar energy, it will charge any batteries on site (if applicable).

After the solar energy has met both the needs of the home and the batteries, the remaining kWh's will go back on the power line to be sold. For this reason, members who have solar installed have a special meter that reads forwards and backwards.