



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Hi-Lites



Manager's Notes

Luke Johnson
General Manager

2023 Plan of Work

Tri-County Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors recently approved the annual plan of work for 2023. Each year, a number of line projects which should improve the reliability of the electric distribution system are selected and prioritized. Some lines are replaced due to age and condition. Other lines will be replaced with a larger conductor due to load growth.

The following are items included in our 2023 plan of work:

- Pole Replacements - Approximately 400 poles will be replaced in 2023. Poles are inspected on an eight-year rotation cycle and poles that fail inspection are replaced. This year, the poles being replaced are located in east Washington County.
- Patoka West - Upgrade 2 mile of aged three-phase with larger

conductor needed to reduce voltage drop at peak use times and increase reliability.

- Irvington North - Upgrade 1 mile of aged three-phase conductor to strengthen the tie line.
- Sectionalizing - Upgrade regulators, capacitors, and OCR (oil circuit reclosers).
- Substation Improvements - Maintenance to help improve reliability will be conducted on various substations. This work should also prolong equipment life and increase efficiency.

The goal of all of the above mentioned system upgrades is to improve service reliability for the membership.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative distributes energy to 16,428 meters across 3,409 miles of energized line over 62,000 poles, averaging 4.82 members per mile of line.

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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

MERRY
christmas

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

Cooperative Caring

Annual Employee Fundraiser Donations

Tri-County Electric Cooperative employees recently donated funds from the sale of Mascot Pecans and Specialty Nuts. Our appreciation is extended to the community for supporting this annual fundraiser which allows employees to give back to the communities the cooperative serves.

This year, your electric cooperative's employee fundraiser was able to support five different agencies throughout the community!

- **SSM Good Samaritan Foundation Cancer Care Initiative** - Cancer has touched all of our lives, and we want to do our part to improve cancer care for our neighbors, family, and friends.
- **Irvington U.C.C. Food Pantry** - The U.C.C. food pantry serves the greater Washington County area for emergency food needs. Putting food on the tables of families in our community is a cause that is important to us.
- **Angels on Assignment** - Angels on Assignment provides assistance for basic family needs — including rent, food, & utilities — for Jefferson County residents.
- **Dolly Parton Imagination Library** - The Imagination Library provides a book each month to children birth to five. This donation was able to sponsor 120 children!
- **Salem Ministerial Alliance** - The Salem Ministerial Alliance provides rental, utility, and nutritional needs to the residents of Marion County.



Irvington U.C.C. Food Pantry



Angels on Assignment



Salem Ministerial Alliance



SSM Good Samaritan Cancer Care



Dolly Parton Imagination Library

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2023 Rates - What You Can Expect

Power costs and how they affect rates is something that your cooperative board continually evaluates. As an owner in Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), our Generation and Transmission Cooperative, we have hedged the majority of our power needs over the next 20 years, as long as legislation does not call for them to shut down any more baseload generation.

As most industries are, SIPC faces challenges such as the rising costs of materials, fuel prices, and supply chain shortages. Ultimately, those costs and repercussions will lead to rate changes. Our ownership in SIPC has allowed us to be less volatile in the energy market and avoid rate increases that investor-owned utilities have been subjected to this year. However, during the budgeting process for 2023, SIPC has seen a significant increase in the cost of fuel along with rising costs of material and other commodities.

This will lead to a rate increase here at the cooperative. We are currently evaluating to what extent and whether it will be a wholesale power cost adjustment only or a combination of both rate increase and power cost adjustment.

The "Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment" (WPCA) line item on your billing statement represents costs to generate electricity that are different from what was projected at the beginning of each calendar year, and that would normally be collected in our published rate structure. The WPCA absorbs the volatility of generation fuel costs and aims to spread it over the projected kilowatt-hour sales that remain in the year that helps mitigate the impact to members by spreading the price spikes. Calculated monthly, the WPCA can be zero, positive or negative, based on actual power purchases and the estimated prices for future generation fuels.

Your board will continue to evaluate the cost of energy at SIPC in relation to your rates at Tri-County Electric Cooperative, and keep you posted as decisions are made. We are no stranger to these issues and we will continue working to "safely provide our member-owners with reliable electric service, superior customer service, and practical energy solutions, all at reasonable prices."

Deadline for IEC Memorial Scholarship Applications

The deadline to apply for scholarships awarded by Illinois electric cooperatives is December 31, 2022. A total of fifteen scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded.

- Nine 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 for more information.

**Tri-County Electric Cooperative
offices will be closed for:
Christmas - Observed Monday, December 26th
New Year's - Observed Monday, January 2nd**

Farmers, First Responders, and Large Equipment Operators Safety Luncheon

Date: Friday, December 9th, 2022

Time: 10:30 a.m.

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

Note: Attendees must be previously registered.



Mascot Pecans make the perfect stocking stuffer!



16 oz. Mammoth Pecan Halves	\$10.50
16 oz. Medium Pecan Pieces	\$10.25
12 oz. Salted Jumbo Cashews	\$8.00
4 oz. Pecan Log	\$4.00
12 oz. Chocolate Covered Pecans	\$8.00
8 oz. Pecan Caramel Clusters	\$6.50

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

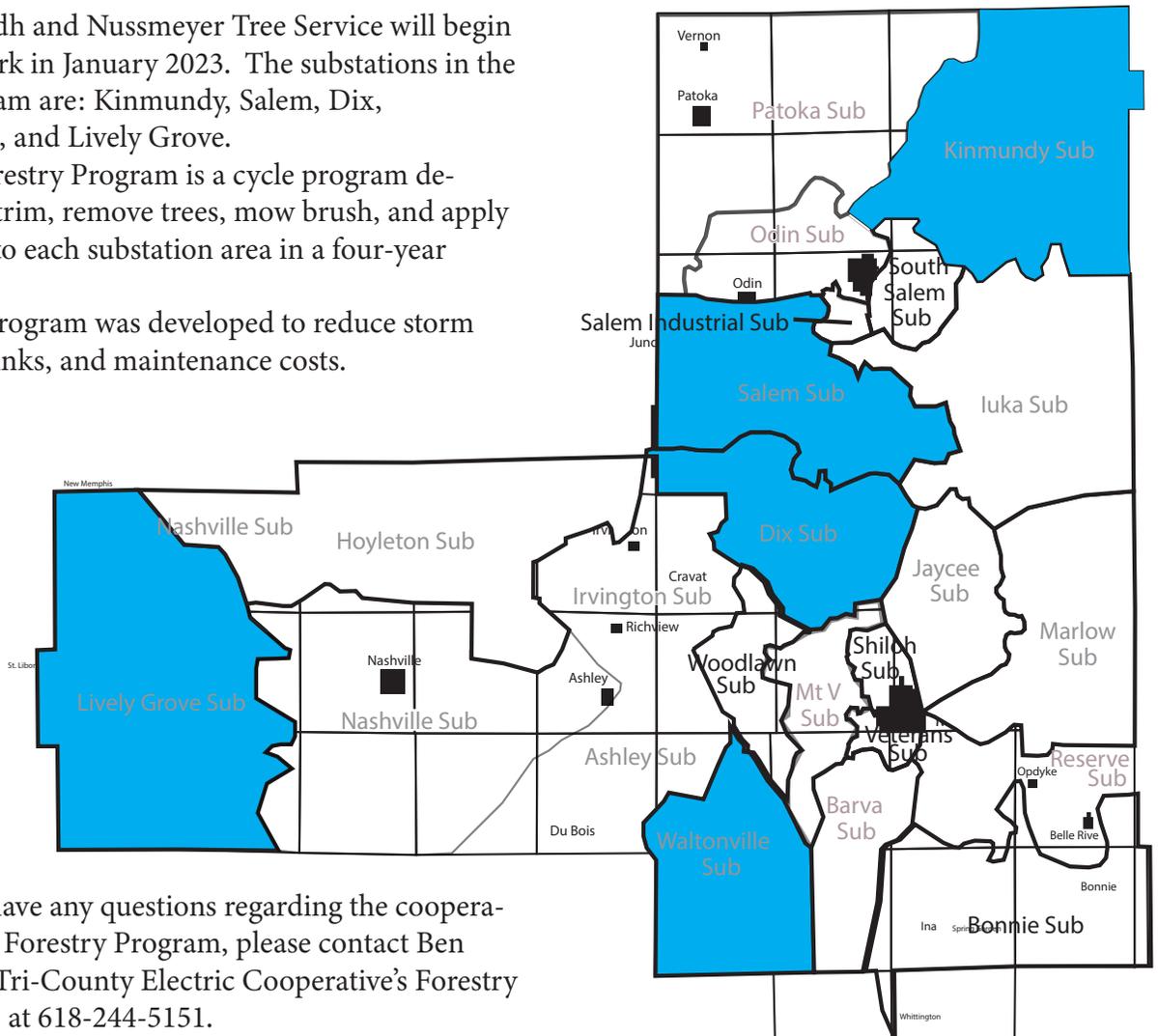
The proceeds from the employee Mascot Pecan Fundraiser are donated to community organizations that serve the membership of Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

2023 Forestry Cycle

Asplundh and Nussmeyer Tree Service will begin forestry work in January 2023. The substations in the 2023 program are: Kinmundy, Salem, Dix, Waltonville, and Lively Grove.

The Forestry Program is a cycle program developed to trim, remove trees, mow brush, and apply herbicides to each substation area in a four-year cycle.

This program was developed to reduce storm damage, blinks, and maintenance costs.



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.