



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Hi-Lites



Manager's Notes

Luke Johnson
General Manager

Tri-County Electric Cooperative is one of seven electric cooperative member-owners of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC). SIPC is a generation and transmission cooperative (G&T), which means they generate or acquire all the power needs of their member cooperatives and send the electricity to our local substations, which is then distributed by Tri-County Electric Cooperative to your electric meter.

SIPC is part of the MISO (Mid-continent Independent System Operator) regional transmission organization (RTO). As a member of MISO, they utilize a mix of owned assets as well as short and long-term agreements to meet members' electricity needs.

This is done through:

- Owning and operating generation facilities
- Power Purchase Agreements that include wind, solar and hydroelectric

As a member-owner, TCEC and the other members have tasked SIPC with providing affordable and reliable electricity, while minimizing members' exposure to

the real-time, up-and-down prices of the MISO market. In MISO – and other RTOs – the price for electricity changes throughout the day depending on the amount of electricity that is available vs. how much electricity is needed by consumers (supply and demand). Because of the risk involved with an ever-changing power market, SIPC and other utilities tell MISO what they anticipate their electricity needs will be the day before it's needed. This is called the day-ahead market.

MISO agrees to provide SIPC with the electricity needed for a set price based on what they forecast power costs to be the following day. With that data, MISO communicates with generation facilities throughout its territory covering 15 states and Manitoba, Canada, to establish how much electricity is needed from each generation facility.

MISO dispatches the lowest-cost units until energy needs are met. Factored into SIPC's day-ahead power needs are power purchase agreements (PPAs). When a generation facility (wind farm, solar array, etc.) is built, a utility can agree to purchase a certain amount of the output from the facility at a pre-determined price. So, no matter what the real-time

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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price is for the power in the market, SIPC will pay the price set in the PPA for the electricity generated from that facility each day. Throughout the year, that can mean they might pay more for electricity at certain times of the day when demand is low. However, these PPAs provide critical protection for SIPC and their member cooperatives during times of high demand.

A lack of generation has created a situation where when we have extreme temperatures, the cost of electricity skyrockets – take for instance Winter Storm Elliott, when prices went from \$500/MW to \$2,000 per MW, which translates to \$2/kWh. During Winter Storm Elliott, 4,000 MW of wind energy was supposed to be available, but didn't show up. Right now, we may have enough generation to keep the lights on, but not enough to keep the costs down because it's unstable. Is it going to get worse? It may or it may not, but we must face the reality that this is the 'new normal'.

Looking out for members, SIPC takes measured approaches as it builds and diversifies its generation resource mix. Below is a list of SIPC's generation resources.



Midcontinent Independent System Operator Territory Map



MISO's reliability footprint and regional control center locations.

Source: <https://www.misoenergy.org>

Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) Power Supply Portfolio

Marion, IL

120 MW circulating fluidized bed boiler (coal fired)
Two 70 MW simple cycle combustion turbines (natural gas or oil)

Tennessee Valley

28 MW of hydro-power from the SouthEastern Power Administration

Lively Grove, IL

125 MW representing 7.9% ownership in Prairie State Energy Campus (mine mouth coal units)

Paxton, IL

10 MW Pioneer Trail Wind Farm

White County, IL

100 MW Big River Solar, White County, IL

Rates Effective March 2023

As mentioned in last month's Hi-Lites Newsletter, to account for rising costs in energy, beginning with March 2023 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 10.7 cents to 10.8 cents or 1/10ths of a cent increase.

Members on Rate 1 using over 1,000 kWh will see an increase from 8.64 cents to 9.24 cents for kilowatts used after the first 1,000 kWh.

Members on Rate 7 using over 1,000 kWh will see an increase from 7.64 to 8.24 for kilowatts used after the first 1,000 kWh in the winter, and an increase from 9.64 to 10.24 in the summer.

Monthly example as follows:

| | | |
|------------------|---------|----------|
| Zero usage | \$3.00 | increase |
| 500 kWh usage | \$3.50 | increase |
| 700 kWh usage | \$3.70 | increase |
| 1,000 kWh usage | \$4.00 | increase |
| 2,000 kWh usage | \$10.00 | increase |
| 3,000 kWh usage | \$16.00 | increase |
| 5,000 kWh usage | \$28.00 | increase |
| 7,000 kWh usage | \$40.00 | increase |
| 10,000 kWh usage | \$58.00 | increase |

Cooperative Calendar

April 10, 2023

Petitions must be filed in person along with an affidavit stating that the person filing the petition meets the qualifications to become or remain a board member. Petitions must be filed at our Mt. Vernon office no later than close of business on Monday, April 10, 2023

May 20, 2023

American Red Cross Blood Drive - Mt. Vernon

July 8, 2023

Annual Meeting - Mt. Vernon

Smoked Sausage Casserole

Ingredients

24 oz. fresh cauliflower, cut into 1 in. pieces
1 lb. smoked kielbasa, chopped
8 oz. Cabot® Extra Sharp, grated & divided
¾ cup Prairie Farms® sour cream
2 Tbsp. Land O' Lakes® butter, cut small pieces
2 cloves garlic, minced
¾ tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
Chopped chives or parsley for garnish

Directions

1. Lightly grease a 4 to 6 quart slow cooker
2. Add the cauliflower, kielbasa, 4 ounces of cheddar, the sour cream, butter, garlic, salt, and pepper to the bottom. Toss to combine.
3. Cook on low for 3 hours. Stir to mix everything up well.
4. Sprinkle the remaining cheddar on top and replace the lid. Cook another 30 to 60 minutes, until the cheese is melted and the cauliflower is fork tender.
5. Sprinkle with the chives or parsley and serve. You can serve it straight out of the slow cooker or transfer to another serving dish, as desired.

This month's recipe features brands that you may not be aware are distributed by cooperatives. There are more cooperative businesses in the nation than most people realize. Do you recognize these cooperatives listed below?

- Cabot Creamery
- Prairie Farms
- Land O' Lakes
- Sunkist Growers, Inc.
- ACE Hardware
- Bob's Red Mill
- Florists' Transworld Delivery (FTD)
- GROWMARK (FS)
- Welch's



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 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



New Employee

Welcome, Zachery Merrit!



Please join us in welcoming our newest Journeyman Lineman, **Zachery Merrit!** Zachery worked construction linework prior to TCEC, and he is looking forward to serving the members of the cooperative.

TCEC Apprentice Linemen Promotions

Congratulations, Chad Wynn!



Please join us in congratulating **Chad Wynn** and welcoming him as one of our newest apprentice lineman. Chad previously served the cooperative as a contracted line clearance journeyman and later joined TCEC as a line clearance journeyman. We congratulate him on his promotion!

Congratulations, Jackson Mays!



Please join us in congratulating **Jackson Mays** and welcoming him as one of our newest apprentice lineman. Jackson previously served the cooperative as a part-time student intern while he attended Rend Lake College. We congratulate him on his promotion!