


TCEC TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Hi-Lites

October is Cooperative Month!

Electric cooperatives operate differently than other utilities. Tri-County Electric Cooperative's decisions are made locally, by directors who also live right here in our community. Everyone who pays to receive electricity from the co-op is a member. When you pay your electric bill each month, your money stays here – to pay for the electricity used, or to make improvements to our local system to strengthen service reliability. The money you pay the co-op doesn't line the pockets of shareholders five states away. We're a co-op, and we exist to provide a service to you, our local members.

Our success lies in your satisfaction, which is why we offer opportunities to engage and listen to what you have to say. Co-ops adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service.

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values. The roots of the principles can be traced to the first modern cooperative founded in Rochdale, England in 1833. These principles are a key reason the America's electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of their members first.

In celebration of Co-op Month, your employees will be collecting donations throughout this month for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization that provides beds to children in our community that do not have one. Donations of new sheets, pillows, and blankets can be dropped off at our Mt. Vernon and Salem offices. We would like to give a special thank you to the generous members that have already donated!

Your co-op employees will also be getting together to build twenty-five beds with Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This act of service falls in line with our 7th cooperative principle, Concern for Community.

We exist to serve you and provide the quality, reliable, friendly service you expect and deserve. While we've grown over the years, we're still driven by the same guiding principles to serve our community. This cooperative was created for you, the members. The power is in your hands.



NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

Donations Accepted at our Mt. Vernon and Salem offices:

- *New Twin Sheets & Comforters*
- *New Twin Pillows*
- *Monetary Donations*

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

Sam Phillips - Salem

Vice-President

Doug Knolhoff - Hoyleton

Secretary/Treasurer

Kathy Withers - Mt. Vernon

Michelle Barbee - Salem

Tom Beyers - Odin

Jordan Brink - Richview

Phil Carson - Oakdale

Donnie Laird - Waltonville

Larry Manning - Belle Rive

2024 Scholarships Available!



Illinois electric cooperatives will award 16 scholarships in 2024 to financially assist deserving students in the electric cooperative family. The 16 scholarships, \$2,000 each, will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Ten scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors whose parent(s) are an Illinois electric co-op member. In addition, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the child of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. Five additional scholarships are reserved for high school seniors enrolling full time at a two-year Illinois community college whose parent(s) are an Illinois electric cooperative member, employee or director.

The 16th scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, will help pay for costs to attend lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL. Children of co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or directors, and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for this scholarship.

Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2023.

The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2024. For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Lynn Hutchison, Director of Member Services at 618-244-5151 or lhutchison@tricitycoop.com. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available online at tricitycoop.com/scholarships.

Shelled Georgia Mascot Brand Pecans are in stock at Tri-County Electric Cooperative!



In stock:

16 oz. Mammoth Pecan Halves \$10.25

16 oz. Medium Pecan Pieces \$10.00

Other nuts to be shipped
in November include:

12 oz. Roasted & Salted Jumbo Cashews

4 oz. Pecan Log

8 oz. Pecan Caramel Clusters

12 oz. Chocolate Covered Pecans

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

Salem Office

Tuesday - Thursday

Closed for lunch (12 p.m. - 1 p.m.)

1631 E. Main St., Salem, IL

Mt. Vernon Office

Monday - Friday

3906 Broadway St., Mt. Vernon, IL

Mascot Pecans are great for baking, gift-giving, or snacking! The proceeds from the employee Mascot Pecan Fundraiser are donated to community organizations that serve the membership of Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

Attention Teachers and Administrators!

Have a project you'd like funded?

**\$4,000 available through
Touchstone Energy
Classroom Empowerment Grants**



Enter **Touchstone Energy's Classroom Empowerment Grant Competition** and your submission could win a \$500 grant for classroom and education enhancement projects!

Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants totaling \$4,000 (8 grants at \$500 each) are being funded by **Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TCEC)** for the 2023-2024 school year. For more information about Touchstone Energy, log on at www.touchstoneenergy.coop. To apply for grants, send a **double-spaced typewritten 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 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 and supporting data are optional. Grant applications must be received at TCEC by November 10, 2023. For questions, please call TCEC at 618-267-0321 or email Lynn Hutchison at lhutchison@tricountycoop.com. Applications will be evaluated by an impartial panel of judges. Awards will be announced mid-December.



Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. & Touchstone Energy 2023/2024 Classroom Empowerment Grant Application

Applicant's Name _____ Title _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone Number () _____ E-mail _____

Electric Cooperative Territory: **Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc**

Name of Project Submitted _____

Eligibility is limited to schools located in Tri-County Electric Cooperative service areas. Teachers and administrators of K-12 public and private schools may apply. Eight \$500 grants will be awarded. For more information about Touchstone Energy, log on at www.touchstoneenergy.coop. Touchstone Energy and Tri-County Electric Cooperative reserves the right to photograph the grant winners and use the photos for publicity purposes. Projects must be completed by the time school is out for the summer. Incomplete entries will be deemed ineligible and will not be judged. **Recipients must provide written proof of completion detailing how the grant funds were used within six months of the project's completion.**

Deadline: Application forms must be received by your local electric cooperative by mail, e-mail or fax no later than **November 10, 2023**. Awards will be announced mid-December 2023.

For additional questions, please call Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. (618) 244-5151 or e-mail Lynn Hutchison at lhutchison@tricountycoop.com.

Mail grant applications to:

TCEC, Attn: Lynn Hutchison, 3906 Broadway St., Mt. Vernon, IL 62864.

Judging Process:

Applications will be reviewed by an impartial panel of judges. If necessary, applicants may be contacted for additional information.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

(Teacher or Administrator)

If I receive the grant, I pledge to follow all completion requirements and provide written proof of completion within six months of my project's end.