

THE MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS OF SOUTHERN IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.



living with energy IN IOWA

JANUARY 2012

Copper Theft is a dangerous game!

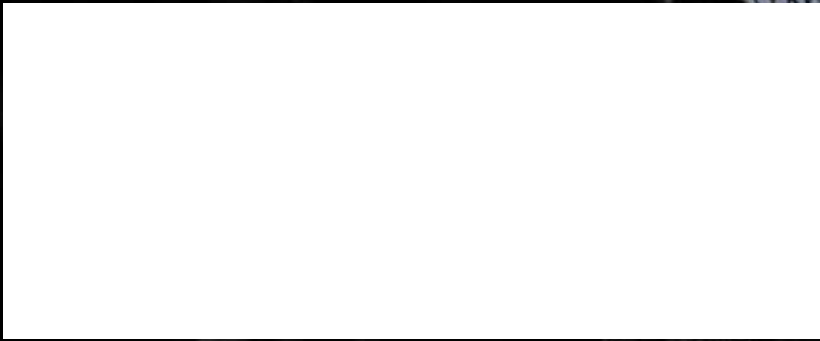
Plug air leaks
from inside
your home

See Page 5

Weigh all
the options
before buying a
new heating
system

Explore
new flavors
for beef recipes

Electric co-ops
join global
celebration of
member-owned
businesses



Employee of the Month

Congratulations, Wayne Glosser!

Wayne Glosser was SIEC's Employee of the Month for December. He's maintained our building and grounds for 22 years!



Wayne obviously is very dedicated to his job, and he goes out of his way to keep our building in tip-top shape year-round. For example, if a snowstorm is coming, you can bet Wayne will be ready with the snow-removal equipment to make way for employees and members to get into the co-op's offices.

Wayne and his wife, Bonnie, live on an acreage south of Ottumwa. In his spare time, he enjoys helping his cousin on his farm. Wayne also is a Sunday school teacher and is involved with the singing program at Midway Calvary Baptist Church. ⚡



Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Our mission is to serve our members and community by safely providing reliable and environmentally responsible power and other services efficiently and at a competitive price to benefit members and improve the quality of life in the areas that we serve.

Office: 22458 Highway 2, P.O. Box 70, Bloomfield, IA 52537-0070

Phone: 641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027

Phone Payments: 800-927-5341

Report Outages: 800-607-2027

Call Before You Dig – Iowa One Call: 800-292-8989

Website: www.sie.coop

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

Management

Mark Aeilts, Manager/CEO

Tami Weilbrenner, Finance and Admin. Manager/CFO

Jeremy Wilcox, Operations Manager/COO

Board of Directors

Darrell Downing, President Dean Black

David Hopkins, Vice President Trent Gregory

Joy Evans, Secretary Paul Wells

Dave Yahnke, Treasurer Donnie White

Fred Zeitler

What to Do in Case of Trouble

- ▶ Check for blown fuses or tripped breakers.
- ▶ Check with your neighbors. Ask if their electricity is off and whether they have reported the outage. If not, call Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., and report the problem 24 hours a day: 641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027.

Service Charges

ACH (Electronic Payment).....	No Charge
Bill Collection.....	\$30
Meter Tampering.....	\$150
Overtime Service Call.....	\$150
Convenience Charge (Online or Phone Payment).....	\$5
Disconnect.....	\$30
Posting.....	\$30
Returned Check.....	\$30
Reconnect.....	\$75
Trip Charge.....	\$30

How Your Co-op Works

Advisory Committee Touchstone group tours hydro plant

SIEC's Advisory Committee Touchstone (ACT) group recently visited the Clarence Cannon Power Plant at Mark Twain Lake, just southeast of Monroe City, Mo. Mark Twain Lake is part of a 55,000-acre land and water project that's used for flood control, water supply, recreation and hydroelectric power generation.

The 60-megawatt hydroelectric power plant is a peaking plant that's turned on remotely by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers when there's an increased demand for electricity or voltage support. The plant ties into the transmission lines of Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative in Palmyra, Mo., SIEC's power supplier.

One interesting fact the group learned on its tour of the plant is that one of its two generators can be used as a reverse pump, if needed, to pump water back into the lake; however, this feature only has been used one time as a test when the plant opened in 1984.

From a visitor's standpoint, one of the more interesting stops in the area is the M.W. Boudreaux Memorial Visitor Center that's only been open a year. The center includes information on the construction of the dam, hydroelectricity, the history of the area and environmental stewardship activities there. The view of the lake from this location is beautiful any time of the year.

SIEC's ACT group chose to tour the hydro plant last fall. During the past 2 years, the group also has visited the Bluegrass Ridge Wind Farm near King City, Mo., and the Thomas Hill Energy Center, a low-sulfur, coal-powered plant near Clifton Hill, Mo.

Currently made up of 56 members, SIEC established the ACT group in 2008 with the goal of creating a sounding board for evaluating the cooperative's programs and activities – and as a way to keep members informed about issues that are of interest to the membership. The feedback received has been of great value to SIEC's employees and directors during the past few years. ⚡



SIEC's public relations coordinator Lori McAllister talked with members of the facility's team before the tour. Shown are (from left) Cory Graupman, plant electrician; Andrew Ray and Ben Sapp, park rangers; McAllister; and Kevin Long, head of maintenance.



SIEC's ACT group makes its way to the Clarence Cannon Power Plant at Mark Twain Lake.

Low-interest home loans are now available

BY MARK AEILTS

A new Regional Housing Trust Fund (RHTF) has been implemented by Area 15 Regional Planning/AHEAD.

Low-interest loan funds are available for qualified homeowners in the Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., service area, including residents in participating communities within Davis, Jefferson, Keokuk, Mahaska, Van Buren and Wapello Counties.

Funding is available to provide various repair/rehab activities such as roof replacement, new siding/windows/doors, electrical/heating/cooling system upgrades, water heater replacement/plumbing repair, insulation, accessibility and more.

“Essentially any project that increases the value of your home would be eligible,” said Stacey Reese, executive director of the Villages of Van Buren County and an RHTF board member. “The program is designed to improve the condition of homes in our area with an affordable financing option for homeowners and rental-property owners.

“Interest rates are 0-2 percent, and deferred loans also are available depending on household size and income. Applications are ongoing – no deadlines – and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for each

county. This is a great program and more people need to be taking advantage of it.”



To be eligible for this program, your household income must be at or below 80 percent of MFI guidelines. (See charts.) You must provide proof of property ownership and proof of paid-to-date property taxes and mortgage payments. In addition, the property must

be clear of any mechanics’ liens or encumbrances and have a taxable value of \$20,000 or greater. Applicants below the 30 percent MFI must have at least 25 percent equity in their property; applicants above the 30 percent MFI must have at least 10 percent equity.

For additional information, application forms, guidelines and brochures, go to www.area15rpc.com/rhtf, or call your county’s coordinator: Davis (641-664-2300), Jefferson (641-472-2111), Keokuk (641-622-2902), Mahaska (641-672-2625), Van Buren (319-293-7111) or Wapello (641-682-4563). ↗

Mark Aeilts is the manager/CEO of Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc.



Available projects

New Construction

- Up to \$6,000 per housing unit
- Max. \$24,000 per development
- Low-interest loans
- Matching funds required

Repair & Rehabilitation (Owner-Occupied)

- Up to \$7,500 per home
- Matching funds may be required
- 2%, 1%, 0% and deferred loans

Rental Improvements

- Up to \$6,000 per unit
- Max. \$24,000 per development
- Requires 1-to-1 matching funds
- Low-interest 2% loans

Demolition/Redevelopment

- Up to \$5,000 per project
- Matching funds may be required
- 18-month loans
- Requires replacement of affordable owner-occupied housing unit

Urgent/Emergency Repair (Owner-Occupied)

- Up to \$6,000 per housing unit
- Matching funds may be required
- 2%, 1%, 0% and deferred loans

Special Projects

- Case-by-case funding and terms
- Matching funds may be required

Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until all funds are committed.

Income limits

Renter-Occupied Housing Repair/ Rehabilitation Projects	
Number of Persons in Household	Maximum Household Income
1	\$32,800
2	\$37,450
3	\$42,150
4	\$46,800
5	\$50,550
6	\$54,300

Owner-Occupied Housing Repair/ Rehabilitation Projects	
Number of Persons in Household	Maximum Household Income
1-2	\$54,718
3-6	\$62,797
7	\$63,500
8	\$67,600

Editor's Choice Contest

Plug outdoor air leaks from inside



Win a kit for detecting and fixing cold spots in your home. For details on this month's contest, go to www.livingwithenergyiowa.com by Jan. 31, 2012.

Are you taking advantage of prescription savings?

Great news: SIEC members who used their Co-op Connections Cards when purchasing prescriptions experienced a 59 percent savings during November. Since the card was issued to members in September, total sav-

ings for SIEC members has totaled \$2,712.29. Please keep pulling out your Co-op Connections Card, so we can watch the savings grow!



To view a complete list of offers from all the pharmacies and

other local and national businesses in the Co-op Connections Card program, go to www.sie.coop and click on the Co-op Connections Card; then click on "Save in your area" and the "View all" tab. To receive the special discounts, all you have to do is show your card or key fob at participating local businesses. ⚡



Leave it to the Pros.

To keep your electrical system safe and efficient, let a professional handle it. Repairing any electrical problem requires a great deal of knowledge, and caution. Only those with special training should install and repair electrical fixtures.



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Operations Update

Bad insulator was a needle in a haystack



Here's one of those things that can be a source of irritating power blinks: an insulator with mechanical damage caused by a natural breakdown of its materials, a lightning strike or a variety of other reasons. For lineworkers, locating a problem component like this is especially difficult when it's high in the air or located on a line off the roadway. That's why your cooperative has a comprehensive maintenance plan – to try to stay ahead of damaged components and repair them before they cause trouble. ⚡

Rebates



Check these rebate changes

SIEC's clothes washer and dishwasher rebate programs will end June 1, 2012. Be sure to take advantage of our \$100 clothes washer rebate and our \$50 dishwasher rebate while they're still available!

Rebates for ground-source heat pumps will continue to be offered at \$750 per ton installed, for units rated at Energy Star® Plus 2 with a 19.1 EER, beginning this month.

For details on all our rebates, call our office at 641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027. ⚡