

living with energy

IN IOWA



AUGUST 2016

Win a security camera to watch your home when you're not there! ▶ See page 5

Electrical overloads are a major source of **home fires**

Try a new **fresh from the garden** recipe

Is there still a role for **coal?**

Ducts offer a hidden opportunity to **boost energy efficiency**



Action Alert

Go green, save a tree and win!

Sign up for SIEC's Paperless Billing program, and your name will be entered in a special prize drawing. Already using SIEC's Paperless Billing? No worries – your name will be included in the drawing too.



Don't miss your chance to win one of these great prizes.

- Prize #1: \$100 Electric Bill Credit
- Prize #2: TCL 32" Smart LED TV

Are you ready to sign up? Go online to www.mysiecaccess.com or call us at 800-607-2027. **The deadline for entering the drawing is Sept. 8!** ⚡



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

Greg Proctor, COO

Jo Altheide, CFO/Key Accounts Manager

Lori McAllister, CCO/Member Services Manager

Lindsay Smith, Office Manager

Ross Hunter, Systems Analyst

Board of Directors

Darrell Downing, President

Travis Harris

David Hopkins, Vice President

Earl Trachsel

Joy Evans, Secretary

Paul Wells

Dave Yahnke, Treasurer

Ben Koellner

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	\$50
Meter Tampering	\$150
Overtime Service Call.....	\$150
Disconnect.....	\$50
Posting	\$50
Returned Check	\$30
Reconnect.....	\$75
Trip Charge	\$50

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Mark Your Calendar!

Find us at the Iowa State Fair and sign up for a chance to win

You'll want to be sure to stop by the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa booth in the Bruce L. Rastetter 4-H Exhibits Building during this year's Iowa State Fair.

While there, you can register to win a Nest Learning Thermostat, a state-of-the-art, self-programming thermostat that learns the temperatures you and your family like and then automatically follows those preferences. The thermostat turns itself down to save energy when nobody's home, and you can also connect it to Wi-Fi to control temperatures remotely from your phone, tablet or laptop. One winner will be chosen at random following the close of the fair.

While visiting our booth, take pride in your cooperative by placing a magnetic marker showing where you're from on a large map of Iowa. Additional energy efficiency and savings information will be displayed in the booth.

Be sure to visit the Touchstone Energy display when you're at the State Fair Aug. 11-21, and visit www.touchstoneenergy.com for more information on saving energy and the value of cooperative membership. ⚡

**FOCUSED ON YOUR STREET.
NOT WALL STREET.
YOUR SOURCE OF POWER.
AND INFORMATION.**

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative® is owned by our members, not shareholders.

Visit the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa booth to learn more and register to win a Nest Smart Thermostat!

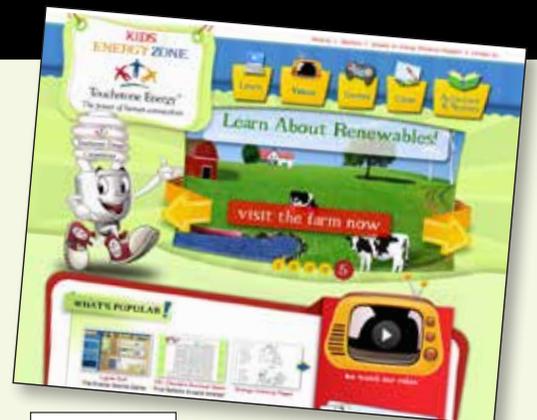
Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives of Iowa

Iowa State Fair OFFICIAL SPONSOR
AUG 11-21

Just for Kids

Hey, Kids!

Check out the Touchstone Energy® Kids Zone for some cool summer activities. You can watch videos, print coloring pages, play online games, read stories and learn some great energy-saving tips you can pass on to your parents! Just log on to www.kidsenergyzone.com (with your parents' permission, of course) and join the fun! ⚡



Scan this QR code to go directly to the Touchstone Energy Kids Zone.

Join fellow co-op members at the 2016 annual meeting

It's that time of year again: Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., is gearing up for the 2016 annual meeting, which will be held Thursday, Sept. 8, at SIEC's office at 22458 Highway 2 in Bloomfield.

The annual meeting is a special time for co-op members to gather, share experiences, hear from co-op leadership and, perhaps most importantly, vote to elect your new board members. SIEC employees work hard to host this fun event, and we encourage you to attend and exercise the many rights you have as a member of an electric cooperative. We know the food, games and prizes are the best parts of the meeting, but there's so much more to the event!

Did you know, for example, that the annual meeting is an occasion to discuss and learn more about issues affecting our community? This is an opportunity to learn more about the topics that impact you and talk about what we as a community can do to

address our most pressing challenges and take advantage of available opportunities.

Your annual meeting also is the place to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being an electric co-op member: voting for the upcoming year's board of directors. Your electric cooperative isn't owned by far-away investors, and it's not run by an appointed board of directors. Your electric cooperative is run by a democratically elected board that's given the privilege to serve because of your vote.

So, at this year's annual meeting, not only will you have a blast (and maybe win a great prize!), but you'll also feel good knowing that you had a voice in a very important decision that impacts one of our most vital resources, electricity.

From all of your friends at Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, we hope to see you in September at the annual meeting! ⚡

Win a security camera to watch your home when you're not there!



When you're away, you'll see what's going on at home, day or night, with the Nest Cam. If the device sees or hears someone in your home, it immediately sends a message to your smartphone so you can call the proper authorities. The camera plugs into a wall outlet and connects to your Wi-Fi system – and there's even a speaker so you can scare the intruder away with a live message like, "You'd better get out now. The sheriff is on the way."

Retail price is about \$200 at big-box home centers, computer retailers and www.nest.com.

To enter this month's contest for a Nest Cam, complete the entry form at the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website (www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) by Aug. 31, 2016. ⚡

Help us celebrate SIEC's 77th Anniversary!

Mark your calendar for Sept. 8 and make plans to attend our annual meeting celebration!

Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc.
22458 Highway 2
Bloomfield

You won't want to miss this fun-filled night of great food, entertainment and prizes!

4:00 p.m. Registration
5:30 p.m. Meal
6:30 p.m. Business Meeting

- Registration Gift: 15-foot Pro-Glo Extension Cords
- Free Blood Pressure Checks by Davis County Public Health
- Meal: Bailey's BBQ Barn and Ice Cream by Davis Co. Fair Board
- Entertainment: Bridge City Country, plus Bucket Rides and Bounce House for the kids!

Prize drawings throughout the meeting!
You must be present to win.

Vote by mail for your Directors, and you'll be entered in a special prize drawing to win a \$100 Bill Credit! Watch for your Annual Meeting packet, with your ballot and voting information, to arrive in the mail around mid-August.



Certified photovoltaic (PV) products for roof-mounted solar power generating systems generally

are reliable. Manufacturers test PV panels for hail impact, high wind and freeze cycles that represent annual weather conditions. Unless your PV system uses a tracking device, it has no moving parts – but be sure to pay attention to the warranty. Most manufacturers offer at least a 20-year warranty for their PV panels.

Inverters usually have warranties between 5 and 10 years, with extended warranties available at extra cost. The warranty should cover all parts and labor, including the cost of removing any defective component, shipping it to the manufacturer and reinstalling the component after it's repaired or replaced.

Local student gains new perspective during cooperative trip to nation's capitol

Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., sent a local high school student to Washington, D.C., in mid-June as part of the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Sara Lawson, (*photo center*) daughter of Lonnie and Sue Lawson of Bloomfield, traveled to the nation's capital with a delegation of 34 students and five chaperones, all of whom represented electric cooperatives across Iowa.

Statewide electric cooperative associations and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) coordinate the national

Youth Tour program. Since 1958, Iowa's electric cooperatives have been sending student leaders to the nation's capital each summer, where they get an up-close look at the political process while also touring national museums, monuments and memorials. Students also learn more about the role not-for-profit electric cooperatives play in providing safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable power to member-owners.

"Electric cooperatives are about more than poles and wires – they're about people and communities,"



said SIEC employee Lori McAllister. "We're proud to support this youth leadership program as we educate a new generation of co-op member-owners."

On the Youth Tour, students engaged in one-on-one conversations with their elected officials, talked to staff from NRECA and other organizations, and gained a personal understanding of American history and their role as an American citizen. Most of the students were financially sponsored by their local co-op and were selected to attend based on their community involvement, interest in government and academic performance. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many rural students who were visiting Washington, D.C., for the first time.

Students apply and are selected for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour by their local electric cooperative. A total of nearly 50,000 students have participated in this program since its creation. For more information, visit www.youthtour.coop. ⚡



Help your kids understand the dangers of climbing a tree that's near a power line. Even if the lines don't touch the tree, the branches could move under a child's weight and come in contact with energized power lines. Keep them safe.

Summer Safety Tips

Never climb a tree near power lines.

Never fly a kite in an area close to power lines.

Always call your local utility if your kite or belongings get caught on power lines or equipment.

Never play on or around utility equipment.

For more safety tips and games to help teach kids about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



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641-664-2277 • sie.coop

Office Closing

Labor Day
Monday, Sept. 5