

# THE AMP

September 2024

YOUR MONTHLY CONNECTION



**Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**OUR MISSION:**  
PROVIDING SAFE, RELIABLE ELECTRICITY

**OFFICE:**  
22458 HIGHWAY 2, PO BOX 70  
BLOOMFIELD, IA 52537  
**OFFICE HOURS:** MON. - FRI. 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
**PAYMENTS BY PHONE: 800-927-5341**  
OFFICE: 641-664-2277 / 800-607-2027  
WEBSITE: WWW.SIE.COOP

**WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF TROUBLE:**  
\*CHECK FOR BLOWN FUSES OR TRIPPED BREAKERS AT THE METER POLE.  
\*CHECK WITH NEIGHBORS AND ASK IF THEIR ELECTRICITY IS OFF AND IF THEY HAVE REPORTED THE OUTAGE. IF NOT, CALL SIEC AND REPORT THE PROBLEM 24 HOURS A DAY AT **641-664-2277 OR 800-607-2027**.

**SERVICE CHARGES:**

- BILL COLLECTION \$ 50.00
- DISCONNECT \$ 50.00
- POSTING \$ 50.00
- RETURNED CHECK \$ 30.00
- RECONNECT \$ 75.00
- TRIP CHARGE \$ 50.00
- METER TAMPERING \$150.00

**MANAGEMENT:**  
GREG PROCTOR, CEO/GM  
ROSS HUNTER, COO/SYSTEMS ANALYST  
LINDSAY SMITH, OFFICE/ACCOUNTING MGR  
KELLY MOORE, HR MGR

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**  
DARRELL DOWNING, PRESIDENT  
TRAVIS HARRIS, VICE PRESIDENT  
EARL TRACHSEL, SECRETARY  
DAVE YAHNKE, TREASURER  
TRENT GREGORY  
RODNEY RECK  
SUSAN KNAPP  
JASON WELLS  
RYAN DAVIS



## ATTENTION RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

### NEED HELP WITH YOUR HEATING BILL?



The 2024-2025 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing. If you are not sure where to apply you can **Dial 2-1-1**, visit <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/liheap> to locate and contact your local community action agency, or write to: LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Health & Human Services, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319.

#### WHEN TO APPLY:

- **Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled:** October 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025
- **All other households:** November 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025

#### WHAT TO PROVIDE:

- **Proof of Income** (for all household members age 18 and over) Depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you.
- **Proof of Social Security Numbers for all household members** (documentation required)
- **Most recent heat bill**
- **Most recent electric bill**

Household Size	Annual Gross Income	Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$30,120	5	\$73,160
2	\$40,880	6	\$83,920
3	\$51,640	7	\$94,680
4	\$62,400	8	\$105,440

For households with more than eight members, add \$10,760 for each additional member.

LIHEAP is a program of Sieda Community Action.

### ARE YOUR GRAIN BINS READY FOR HARVEST

Harvest season is just around the corner...be sure to have your electrician check your grain bin electrical services **BEFORE** harvest season to be sure they are in proper working order. Planning ahead will help eliminate delays during the harvest. Please contact SIEC to schedule any needed assistance to you or your electrician in getting your equipment ready.



### COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY



Our Shine The Light contest returned for its fourth year, recognizing the invaluable contributions of local volunteers across Iowa's electric cooperatives. This year, an impressive 75 nominations were received from 24 cooperatives during June, showcasing the dedication of individuals who make a significant positive difference in their communities. Employees, retired employees, and members of Iowa's locally-owned electric cooperatives were invited to nominate these unsung heroes. Joye Lore-Lawson of Bloomfield nominated Sandy Warning for her tireless work with the Davis County Tourism Corporation. Joye praised Sandy as a key figure whose volunteer efforts are essential to the community's welfare and survival. Additionally, Thomas O'Donnell of Keosauqua nominated Bruce and Becky Whitaker of Bonaparte, highlighting their vital role in the Bentonsport Improvement Association and describing them as the "glue" that cements the society together. Although Sandy, Bruce, and Becky were not among the three contest winners, their unwavering commitment and positive impact are deeply appreciated. We extend our heartfelt thanks to these outstanding volunteers for their dedication and hard work, which continue to enrich their communities.



## \$400,000 PATRONAGE REFUND



The SIEC Board of Directors approved returning capital credits (patronage dividends) to the membership at the July 2024 meeting in the amount of \$400,000. This will be returned as a credit to the electric bills received in SEPTEMBER for August energy use to approximately 4,700 SIEC accounts from the years 2007 and 2023. The act of returning capital credits is what differentiates cooperatives from other organizations. Each member is an owner with an investment in our electric distribution system as well as the community. Each year, the SIEC Board of Directors allocates any financial margin that exceeds the expenses of the Cooperative for the prior year. This is where the funds originate that enabled this month's bill credit. In an effort to help our newer members understand the cooperative difference, 30% of this year's capital credits refund came from the year 2023. The remaining 70% of the capital credits being returned are from financial margins created in 2007. Even if you move off of SIEC's lines, your membership and investment is not forgotten. You are entitled to receive capital

credits, based upon your financial contribution, for the years of SIEC membership. If the Board of Directors elects to return capital credits from the year(s) that you were an SIEC member, a check will be issued for the proportional amount of your cooperative investment. So stay in touch! Please let us know your current address and/or contact information so we can efficiently return capital credit funds to you. In the event a member of record passes, capital credits are refunded to the surviving spouse, heirs or estate in the same manner as former members. The SIEC Board of Directors is tasked with closely monitoring the financial condition of the Cooperative. This includes analyzing the need for capital and understanding the cost of debt. These factors determine when and how many capital credits can be returned to the membership each year. Since our origin in 1939, SIEC members have built over 1,700 miles of electric distribution infrastructure serving our community all the while continuing to function as a not-for-profit organization that returns any available funds to the members.



**In Iowa, the average household served by electric cooperatives spends about \$5.25 per day for electricity. That's cheaper than buying a sandwich or specialty coffee drink!**



## LANDOWNERS: Know the Facts Before Signing a Solar Project Lease

If you're a landowner in rural Iowa, you may have received solicitations in the mail offering land lease options for proposed solar projects. Often, these letters offer attractive per-acre rental payments for various phases of a long-term proposed project, promising steady and predictable income. However, like with all contracts, the devil is in the details. Before signing an agreement, we encourage you to do some homework and seek legal counsel to protect your rights.

Most of these letters are coming from companies outside of Iowa looking to lease land for future solar projects. We have noticed that many of these letters refer erroneously to Iowa law; referencing legislation (Senate File 2356) that did not pass last session. In fact, Iowa's electric cooperatives and other groups registered in opposition to the legislation due to its likely negative impact on electric co-ops and our members.

Some solicitations falsely claim local support for their solar initiative or that the electric output would somehow benefit your neighbors or the local electric cooperative. We have also seen letters that deceptively include endorsements attributed to the Iowa Farm Bureau. IFB's legal team is working to remove these perceived endorsements.

Please consult your legal counsel before signing any agreement or contract. Your legal counsel can help explain the benefits and disadvantages of these agreements, answer any questions you have, and help negotiate fair and equitable terms. These are long-term agreements that can give the solar company exclusive options and control of your land for decades. Spending some extra time up front to better understand the terms and conditions of the proposed agreement can save you significant time, money and headaches in the future.