



# Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# The Amp

November 2021

Our mission: Providing Safe, Reliable Electricity.

Office: 22458 Highway 2, PO 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: 800-292-8989

Website: www.sie.coop

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00am-4:30pm  
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays  
Management:

Greg Proctor, CEO/General Manager  
Jo Altheide, CFO/Economic Development  
Ross Hunter, COO/Systems Analyst  
Lindsay Smith, Office Services/Accounting Mgr.  
Kelly Moore, Human Resources Manager  
Board of Directors:

Darrell Downing, President    Travis Harris  
Paul Wells, Vice President    Earl Trachsel  
Beth Sullivan, Secretary    Trent Gregory  
Dave Yahnke, Treasurer    Fred Zeitler  
Rodney Reck

### 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 at (641)-664-2277 or (800)-607-2027.

### Service Charges:

	No Charge
ACH (Electronic Payment)	No Charge
Bill Collection	\$ 50
Disconnect	\$ 50
Posting	\$ 50
Returned Check	\$ 30
Reconnect	\$ 75
Trip Charge	\$ 50
Meter Tampering	\$150
Overtime Service Call	\$150

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Reaching Out to Help Others

Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative has always extended a helping hand to people in need. That's why we've established RECare, a program of members helping members. You can help needy people weatherize their homes and pay their winter heating bills. If you're interested, please complete and return this form to our office.

We currently have a balance of \$5,551.98 in the RECare fund. Disbursements are made to low-income members on a case-by-case basis by local community action agencies.

Any amount you give will be appreciated!



### RECARE MEMBER AUTHORIZATION FORM

**Yes, I want to contribute to RECare.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will make a one-time contribution to RECare.  
My check is enclosed.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month for \_\_\_\_\_  
months to RECare. I understand this  
amount automatically will be added to my  
monthly electric bill.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: RECare  
Southern Iowa Electric Coop, Inc.  
P.O. Box 70, Bloomfield, IA 52537-0070



# Happy Thanksgiving

SIEC will be closed  
Thursday Nov 25th &  
Friday Nov 26th for the  
Thanksgiving Holiday.



Winter is approaching and with it comes the potential for winter storms. When large outages occur, SIEC may have to temporarily switch our phone lines over to our On-Call Dispatch Service during regular business hours. This is due to the high call volume experienced during large outages. When this is necessary, you will not be talking directly to a local SIEC employee. SIEC's On-Call Dispatch Service is very proficient in getting critical outage information to our Operations Manager so he can effectively dispatch crews in the safest and quickest means possible to get your power restored. Please know your calls are very important to us, especially during outages. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause our members and appreciate your patience.

## Tree Trimming to Start Soon

Evidence for the need to control growth of vegetation along power line right-of-way is easy to see in many rural areas. Overgrown right-of-way can cause problems during severe weather and can make it difficult to reach trouble spots to make repairs.

In a continuing effort to control brush growth, Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative has hired contractors to cut and trim trees in the Christianburg and Ottumwa substation areas. The contractors will be performing maintenance trimming and mowing, removing re-growth vegetation, and clearing areas that may have been missed in previous years. The work will be done as an attempt to improve system reliability, provide a safer work environment, establish a more accessible right-of-way to the cooperative's facilities, and to maintain clearance of brush and tree limbs from the power lines. Generally, the contractors will be trimming up to 20 to 25 feet on each side of the pole centerline and removing any additional "danger" trees that may be a potential threat to the power lines. Yard trees will be reviewed separately and a determination will be made on the best course of action for those trees. The contractors will also be mowing and brush cutting underneath the power lines. In most cases, you should expect to see less vegetation cut and removed than in prior years, depending on the re-growth activity in your area. You should also expect delays on clean up work depending upon the weather conditions. For additional information please visit our website at [www.sie.coop](http://www.sie.coop) or give us a call at 800-607-2027.

The contractors working in your area will make an attempt to contact all landowners, either personally or with the use of a "door hanger", in advance of cutting in your area. If no response is given after a good faith effort to contact you, the contractors will proceed with their trimming activities as required. Please respond if you are contacted by a contractor or your cooperative as soon as possible. Contractors are scheduled to begin working after December 15, 2021, and will continue throughout the 2022 calendar year. Any questions or concerns should be directed to SIEC.



## Engine heaters can wreck your electric bill

Trucks and tractors often have engine block heaters installed to help start the engines in cold weather. These heaters are often a necessity to get your vehicle going in frigid temperatures, but they can also add a wallop to your electric bill. Typical block heaters can use from 600 to 1,000 watts of electricity, and usually don't have any type of thermostat control. So, when you plug in your heater, you're drawing a continuous flow of energy that may equal the light bulbs in your whole house! If used 6 hours a day (during off-peak hours) a heater can add up to 150 kilowatt hours a month, costing around \$17 on your bill. If you need an engine heater, install a timer to start warming the engine an hour before you plan to drive it. If possible, stay completely out of the On-Peak hours (7-8 a.m. and 4-8 p.m. Monday through Friday) to avoid On-Peak Demand charges. That will save energy and help keep your electric bill under control.

## MEMBER SURVEY

During the month of November, SIEC will be sponsoring a survey that is conducted every three years to measure the quality of service provided to you, our member. This survey will ask several questions about your satisfaction with the cooperative and energy usage. In this random survey of members, a mixture of online & phone interviews will be conducted. You may be sent an email invitation to participate in the survey OR you may be sent a postcard in the mail inviting you to participate. Members may also be randomly selected to complete a phone interview that should take approximately 12 minutes to answer all questions. The call center conducting the survey will identify themselves as calling on behalf of the cooperative. Calls will be conducted Mon.-Fri. 5:00-8:30 pm and Saturday 10:00 am-5:00 pm. If you have any questions or concerns, contact us at 641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027.