



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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TELL CITY, IN 47586

## PHONE NUMBERS & HOURS

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Toll Free.....800-323-2316  
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Long Distance  
Phone Service ..... 888-302-3003  
E-mail .....sinpower@sinpwr.com  
Web Site.....www.sinpwr.com  
Call Before You Dig.....811

Office hours: 7 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Monday-Friday

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman, Gary Waninger — District 3  
Carter and Harrison twps. (Spencer Co.)..... 357-2264  
Vice Chairman, Leon Meyer — District 2  
Grass, Clay and Jackson twps. (Spencer Co.)  
and cooperative territory in Warrick Co. .... 359-4632  
Secretary/Treasurer, Jeff Vogel — District 1  
Luce and Ohio twps. (Spencer Co.)..... 649-4275  
Don Braun — District 4  
Hammond and Huff twps. (Spencer Co.)..... 529-8155  
Randy Kleaving — District 5  
Anderson and Troy twps. (Perry Co.) ..... 836-2536  
Kevin Waninger — District 6  
Leopold, Tobin and Union twps. (Perry Co.).. 836-4646  
Michelle Lynch — District 7  
Clark and Oil twps. (Perry Co.)  
and cooperative territory in Dubois Co. .... 843-5214

## CUSTOMER CONTACTS

**Michael E. Hammack**  
President/Chief Executive Officer

**Steve Seibert**  
Manager of Operations

**Gary Palmer**  
Manager of Office Services

**Don Etienne**  
Manager of Member  
and Corporate Services

## CREDIT CARD PAYMENT



Southern Indiana Power offers our customers the option of paying their electric bills with a Visa or MasterCard debit or credit card by phone, in person, or on our Web site [www.sinpwr.com](http://www.sinpwr.com).



Touchstone Energy®

# CO-opNews

Information from your electric cooperative

## CEO COMMENTS

### Rebates and tax credits available to members investing in energy efficiency

The economic uncertainty we're facing these days has many of us putting money into something we feel comfortable with: our homes. Making a few upgrades around the house generally pays big dividends. And when boosting energy efficiency is one of them, the decision becomes a no-brainer.



**Michael Hammack**  
CEO

#### Federal tax credits

For any energy efficiency work made at your residence during the coming year, Uncle Sam may foot 30 percent of the bill ... not a bad deal! Through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act — better known as the stimulus bill — the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) offers a personal tax credit of up to \$1,500 for energy efficiency improvements made to existing homes during 2009 and 2010.

The credit covers 30 percent of the cost of adding insulation materials and exterior doors, windows, and roofs designed to help reduce a home's heat loss or gain. It also includes efficient central air conditioners, air-source heat pumps, hot water boilers, and biomass stoves.

For weatherization-related work, the credit covers only the cost of materials. With heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, as well as biomass stoves, installation costs also count toward the credit.

So how does the math work out? Say you spend \$1,000 on new insulation. You would get, in the form of a tax credit, \$300 back. If you spend \$3,000 to purchase a new HVAC system and have it installed, you'd have a \$900 tax credit to show for it.

To take advantage of the program, a home improvement must have taken place after Feb. 17, 2009 (the day the stimulus bill was signed into law), and products must meet specific energy efficiency criteria. A few rules of thumb will help you determine those criteria.

For exterior windows and skylights, rely on the Energy Star label. For other efficiency upgrades, request what's called a "Manufacturer Certification Statement" that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit. Many manufacturers post these on their Web sites, but be sure to verify that the product does qualify before making a purchase. You can also visit [www.irs.gov/recovery](http://www.irs.gov/recovery) to review guidelines for eligible purchases.

Energy tax credits reduce taxes owed, dollar for dollar, and can be carried forward to fol-

lowing years. While they can help boost any refund you receive, you won't receive a check directly for the credit amount. You can file for energy tax credits using IRS Form 5695, with a total maximum value of \$1,500 for improvements made in 2009 and 2010.

#### State tax credits

The State of Indiana offers a tax credit to individuals and small businesses for the costs associated with purchasing Energy Star qualified air conditioners, furnaces, programmable thermostats and water heaters (collectively heating and cooling equipment). The credit

may be claimed against the state income tax, insurance premium tax, or financial institutions tax. The amount of the tax credit is set at 20 percent of the expenditures for qualified heating and cooling equipment up to \$100 per taxable year. More information is available at [www.dsireusa.org/](http://www.dsireusa.org/)

#### State rebates for HVAC equipment

The State of Indiana is also offering the State Energy Efficiency Appliance Rebate Program (SEEARP), which will provide rebates to Hoosiers for the purchase of energy efficient heating and cooling equipment. Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), \$5,807,850 is allocated for rebate fulfillment and is expected to reach approximately 19,500 participants. The program will launch on Feb. 1, and last until funds are expended, which is anticipated to be approximately six months. More information is available at the [www.in.gov/oed/](http://www.in.gov/oed/) Web site.

#### Rebates from Southern Indiana Power

Your cooperative also has an extensive rebate incentive program to help cover the cost of purchasing new HVAC equipment. Full details and rebate amounts can be found on our Web site, [www.sinpwr.com/rebate.html](http://www.sinpwr.com/rebate.html). Even if you qualify for the state rebate program, the federal energy equipment tax credit and/or the state tax credit, you may also qualify for the Southern Indiana Power equipment rebates.

For suggestions on how you may make your home more energy efficient while taking advantage of these tax credits, please don't hesitate to give us a call. Contact Don Etienne at 800-323-2316 with any questions you may have.

## CO-OP NOTES

### Rate schedule

Shown below is the rate schedule information needed to figure your bill for electric use in January.  
Wholesale power cost tracker ..... \$0.01761  
Indiana sales tax ..... \$0.07

#### Rate 101 — Residential and Farm Service

Facility charge ..... \$18.50 per month  
First 400 kwh ..... \$.0940 per kwh  
Next 400 kwh ..... \$.0820 per kwh  
Over 800 kwh ..... \$.0720 per kwh

#### Rate 102 — Residential Total Electric

Facility charge ..... \$18.50 per month  
First 300 kwh ..... \$.1000 per kwh  
Next 700 kwh ..... \$.0780 per kwh  
Next 1,000 kwh ..... \$.0720 per kwh  
Next 2,000 kwh ..... \$.0670 per kwh

#### Rate 103 — Off Peak Heating Systems

Facility charge ..... \$22.65 per month  
First 400 kwh ..... \$.0890 per kwh  
Next 400 kwh ..... \$.0790 per kwh  
Over 800 kwh ..... \$.0670 per kwh  
Energy used for off-peak heating systems between 11 p.m.-7 a.m. (EST)  
All kwh ..... \$.0490

#### Rate 501 — Monthly Security Light Billing

175-watt mercury vapor ..... \$7.50 per month  
100-watt H.P. sodium ..... \$7.50 per month  
400-watt mercury vapor ..... \$11.50 per month

**Electric bills due by the 27th of each month.**

## \$50 monthly drawing

Would you like to win a \$50 credit on your electric bill? You could if you follow these simple rules:

1. Clip out the coupon below.
2. Fill out and return to our office along with your monthly payment before the 20th of the month. (Delinquent payments are not eligible.)
3. Coupons are dated monthly and are not available at the office.

You are automatically entered in the drawing if you have your bill withdrawn from your bank's checking or savings account (ACH) or if you pay your bill on-line by the 20th.

The winner will be notified and the name published in the following monthly publication of *Electric Consumer*.

December's winner was Eugene Hedinger.

## \$50 monthly drawing

**FOR BILLS DATED  
Feb. 10, 2010  
Paid by Feb. 20, 2010**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_

## Operation Round Up grants awarded

Southern Indiana Power recently awarded grants totaling \$14,424.87 to local organizations during the most recent round of grant disbursements. Photos of some of the recipients are published below and at right.

The funds for grants are generated by Southern Indiana Power members who voluntarily "round up" their electric bills to the next whole dollar. On the average, each participating customer contributes about \$6 per year. All contributions are tax deductible.

All Operation Round Up donations are placed in a trust and administered by an independent board of trustees operating on behalf of the SIREC Community Trust, Inc. The seven-member board of trustees serves on a voluntary basis and geographically represents the Southern Indiana Power service territory. For more information about Operation Round Up, visit [www.sinpwr.com](http://www.sinpwr.com).



The Chrisney Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., received a \$1,900 Operation Round Up grant to purchase an auto transfer switch for its generator. Above, Fire Chief Kent Groves accepts the grant from Donna Harpenau, Operation Round Up board member.



The Rockport-Ohio Township Volunteer Fire Department received a \$1,500 grant to purchase a Stihl Rescue Saw to replace one that is 20 years old. James Ahl, Ohio Township fire chief, accepts the grant from Roger Hurm, Operation Round Up board member.



The Lincoln Hills Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. received a \$1,000 grant to help pay for a dry hydrant demonstration by the U.S. Forest Service. Houston Smith, Operation Round Up board member, presents the grant to Don Richmer, president of Lincoln Hills RC&D.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Operation Round Up** — Applications to receive Operation Round Up grants are being accepted until Feb. 15. If you or your organization are interested in applying for an Operation Round Up grant, please visit the Southern Indiana Power office or download the forms from the [www.sinpwr.com](http://www.sinpwr.com) Web site. If you have any questions please contact the cooperative office at 800-323-2316 or 812-547-2316 or send an e-mail to [sinpwr@sinpwr.com](mailto:sinpwr@sinpwr.com).

**Almanacs and Festival Guides** — 2010 Farmers' Almanacs and Festival Guides are available for a limited time from the Southern Indiana Power office.

**Member survey** — SMRI will be conducting a Customer Satisfaction Survey in February and March.

**Portable heater safety** — If you are using a space heater this winter, place it out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard, non-flammable floor surface — NOT on carpets, furniture or countertops. Remember to keep space heaters at least three feet from all combustible liquids like fuel, spray cans and paint, as well as flammable items such as draperies, blankets and sofas.



**YOU CAN SAVE \$73 BY  
TURNING YOUR WATER  
HEATER DOWN TO 120°**

Learn more energy-saving tips at our FREE energy efficiency seminar, Feb. 2 at the Ferdinand Community Center. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Program begins at 6:30 p.m. (EST)

Visit our web site [www.sinpwr.com](http://www.sinpwr.com) for more details. Visit [www.togetherwesave.com](http://www.togetherwesave.com) for energy saving techniques and videos.

## Regional member meetings continue

This winter, regional meetings continued for members who receive service from the Evanston and Newtonville substations.

Members served by the Evanston substation met at St. John's Lutheran Church hall on Dec. 1. Southern Indiana Power CEO Mike Hammack welcomed the crowd. New Boston Tavern catered the meal.

Members served by the Newtonville substation met on Dec. 15 at the Grandview Civic Association building. A meal was catered by Moonlight Bar-B-Q.

Members who were invited to attend these meetings were selected at random by computer and those who attended had a chance to win \$50 off their electric bill. Gene Hood was the winner of the \$50 bill credit at the Newtonville meeting and Harry Lindauer won the \$50 bill credit at the Evanston meeting. Various other prizes were also given away at each meeting, including CFL bulbs to each membership in attendance.

Southern Indiana Power will continue reaching out to members served by all eight substations during the coming months. Don Etienne, manager of member and corporate services, educates consumers during the meetings with an informative PowerPoint presentation. Recent meetings have focused on the "Our Energy, Our Future" campaign, which is an ongoing effort to get members to communicate with elected officials about the future of energy prices and availability as cap and trade legislation looms on the horizon. Other topics included energy efficiency and demand side management.

If you receive an invitation, please take advantage of the opportunity to see what your electric co-op can do for you. This is also the ideal time to ask questions.



Members served by the Evanston substation met at St. John's Lutheran Church hall. Southern Indiana Power CEO Mike Hammack was on hand to welcome the attendees.



Members served by the Newtonville substation enjoyed a meal catered by Moonlight Bar-B-Q at the meeting held at the Grandview Civic Association Building.

## What is the Energy Management Program?

The Energy Management Program is an innovative program that puts technology to work to save energy. Cycling the water heaters and air conditioners or heat pumps of participating members throughout our service territory helps reduce the demand for electricity during hours of peak energy use. Listed below are some of the frequently asked questions about the program.

### What is the goal of the Energy Management program?

This program will help your electric cooperative better manage costs, conserve energy, reduce the need to build new power plants, help the environment and lessen the impact of rate increases. By participating, you allow your electric co-op to install a device that allows us to control your water heater and air conditioner during times when demand for electricity is at its peak.

### What are the benefits of the Energy Management program?

By managing energy use when demand is high (when you and your neighbors are using the most electricity), our supplier can reduce demand during those times when energy is most expensive. This can also result in a reduction of greenhouse gases, which will have a positive impact on our environment.

### Will I see a savings on my energy bill if I participate?

The impact per consumer is small, so you really won't notice a difference on your power bill. But with thousands of people enrolled across the region, the Energy Management Program can help us avoid purchasing power during those times when it's most expensive.

### How does the program work?

Our power supplier sends a signal to a device connected to your water heater and air conditioner. This signal instructs the device to cycle your unit, powering down the heating/cooling elements for a short period of time and bringing them back up in time to ensure you have adequate hot water and air conditioning.

### Will I run out of hot water?

### Will I feel uncomfortable when the air is cycled off?

You should have plenty of hot water in your tank to handle your showers, chores and other household tasks. The air conditioner is not cycled to "off." The unit will be cycled for brief periods while the circulation fan continues to operate. You should notice no difference in the amount of hot water available, and should notice little difference in the air temperature of your home.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP.

### Climate change legislation should be:

**Fair. Affordable.  
And Achievable.**



## Our Energy, Our Future A Dialogue With America

Senators are drafting climate change legislation NOW, and you can impact the outcome. Go to [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) to make your voice heard.



## Congratulations to the Goffinet family

Jackson Goffinet welcomed a baby sister, Jenna Claire, on Dec. 2, 2009. Jenna weighed 8 pounds, 13 ounces, and was 20½ inches long. Jackson and Jenna are the children of Southern Indiana Power journeyman lineman Travis Goffinet and his wife, Amy.

# Highlights of the Dec. 15 board meeting

In an effort to keep you informed of your cooperative's operations and activities, the following are highlights of the Dec. 15 board meeting.

1. All directors were present along with President/CEO Michael Hammack and Administrative Assistant Lisa Hinton.
2. The Nov. 24 board meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.
3. The November membership certificates and vouchers were reviewed and approved.
4. Hammack reported the 2010 strategic planning retreat will be held March 17-18. Hoosier Energy and Indiana Statewide will participate in the retreat that will be facilitated by Scott Luecal of Luecal Consulting.
5. The CEO report was the first item of new business with Hammack reporting the following items:
  - a. Hammack reported on member information meetings. A meeting was held at St. John's Church in December for randomly selected members who receive their power from the Evanston substation. There were 72 attendees. A meeting is scheduled at the Grandview Civic Association on Dec. 15 for randomly selected members who receive their power from the Newtonville substation.
  - b. Hammack informed directors the 20 Demand Response Unit (DRU) pilot installations are nearly complete. DRUs are being installed on water heaters and air conditioning units. Feedback from participants will be necessary.
  - c. Hammack reported the December CFL bulb promotion has been very successful so far. To date 200 members have received 1,200 bulbs in a promotion that allows members to receive a CFL bulb in exchange for a nonperishable item with a limit of up to six per day.
  - d. Hammack informed directors a new forklift was delivered Nov. 25. The new forklift was a budget item.
  - e. Hammack reviewed the borrower statistical profile with the board.
  - f. Waupaca is seeking a monofill site. The Board of Zoning Appeals hearing scheduled for Dec. 10 was postponed.
  - g. A motion was made by Director Braun, seconded and carried by the board to approve a resolution for the amendment and restatement of the Employee IRS Section 125 Plan.
  - h. Hammack informed directors the Spencer County Regional Chamber of Commerce

annual meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 21.

6. Hammack reviewed the 2008-2009 strategic plan noting items that have been completed and those that still need attention.
7. Terry Adkins, senior loss control risk management specialist with Indiana Statewide, conducted a grounding program and grounds testing on Dec. 9. Hammack advised there were no lost time accidents and no public liability claims to report. Hammack also noted the safety committee is currently reviewing recommended safety updates.
8. Hammack and Budget Committee Chairman Lynch reported on the budget committee meeting held Dec. 8. Following discussion the board approved the 2010 budget as presented.
9. A listing of bad debt accounts to be written off was reviewed and approved by the board.
10. Director Braun reported on a Hoosier Energy board meeting held Dec. 14.
11. Director Meyer was selected delegate and Director Braun alternate to the NRECA annual meeting to be held Feb. 15-17. Director Kleaving was selected delegate and Director Braun alternate to the CFC annual meeting to be held in February in conjunction with the NRECA annual meeting.
12. The 2010 board meeting schedule was reviewed and approved by directors.
13. The next regularly scheduled board of directors meetings will be held Wednesday, Jan. 27, and Feb. 24, 2010. (Subject to change.)

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Fresh Apple Cake (Diabetic)

2 ½ cups sifted flour  
4 t. baking soda  
2 t. cinnamon  
1 t. salt  
½ t. nutmeg  
1 cup soft butter

2 t. vanilla  
2 eggs  
1 t. sugar substitute  
4 cups fresh grated apples  
1 cup black walnuts

Mix and sift all dry ingredients. Add butter, vanilla, eggs and sugar substitute. Beat until well blended. Stir in grated apples and nuts. Pour into well-greased 13- by-9-inch pan. Bake at 375 F for 40-45 minutes. — Provided by [cooks.com](http://cooks.com)

### February Sudoku Puzzle — Medium

1	7	9	4					6
					6		7	
		2				4		
6				4				8
	3		6		7			5
	5			2				1
		6					5	
	9		5					
5						1	3	6
								2

Supplied by [Sudoku-Printable.com](http://Sudoku-Printable.com)

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Standard Long Distance (Paper bill, no term)	6.8¢*	6.8¢*

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