

Connections



October 2021

Changes coming to Trimont

Growing energy needs in Trimont have led to the need for a new substation. South Central Electric is in the process of building a new substation south of the new Crystal Valley feed mill. The new Galena substation will have a capacity of 7500kVA an increase of 5000kVA.

The need to increase electric capacity with the new substation has triggered other changes. The current substation located on Hwy 4 will be removed. With the removal of the current substation, a transmission line coming from the west to the substation will

also be removed. The poles will remain as they also carry our distribution lines for the northwest side of town. The larger transmission line (on top) will be removed and the poles will be shortened.

The new substation should be energized in summer 2022.



The transmission line (top line) on the west side of Hwy 4 through the alley to the current substation will be removed. The poles carrying the transmission line will stay in place. These poles also carry our distribution feed for the northwest side of Trimont. The lines on top will be removed and the poles will be shortened.



New Galena Substation

A new 7500kVA substation will be located south of the Crystal Valley feed mill on the southwest corner of Trimont. The new substation increases electric capacity for the city by 5000kVA.



The current substation located on Hwy 4 in Trimont will be removed. A junction box will be put in its place. In addition, some of the poles near the substation will be removed.

Local Organizations Can Apply for Funds



Are you a local organization that helps improve the lives of the residents of Watonwan, Cottonwood and Martin counties? Your organization can apply for funding from the South Central Electric Association Trust.

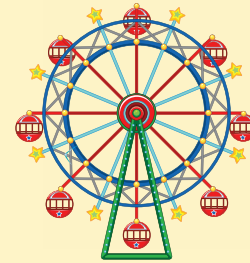
The South Central Electric Association Trust distributes funds contributed by South Central Electric members through its Operation Round Up program. The independent Trust Board, which consists of South Central Electric members, evaluates local funding requests and distributes the funds. The South Central Electric Trust has provided over \$70,000 to local organizations and student scholarships since the program began in 2015.



The Trust Board is seeking applications for its fall round of funding. Local organizations that improve the lives of area seniors, educate, provide emergency response, community service and other charitable programs may be eligible for funds. The deadline for submitting applications is October 29, 2021. You can download the application from South Central Electric's Operation Round Up page under the Community tab on our website: www.southcentralelectric.com or call South Central Electric at 375-3164 to request an application.

Congratulations to
 Deb Saunders,
 Butterfield and
 Geof Johnson,
 Windom!

They were the winners
 of our Cottonwood
 County Fair
 \$25 bill
 credit
 drawings.



ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW: HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY



Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.

If you must exit the machinery...

If you can safely drive away...

40 ft. radius safe distance

If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 ft. before exiting.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.

SCEA Water Heater Program

SCEA's peak shave water heater program provides members with a Marathon water heater at a discounted price for participating in the load management program. The cost for water heaters is \$500. This is a great value for members. SCEA pays the cost of the electrician to wire the water heater and radio control. The member would pay any costs incurred by a plumber.



South Central Electric 2021 REBATE PROGRAMS

Recipient must be a South Central Electric member. Any checks or credits will be made in the name or account of the member. The program will end when funds are exhausted; additional rebates may be added at a later date. The completed applications will be processed on a first come first served basis as they are received in our office. Rebate applications can be requested by calling the St. James office or available on line at www.southcentralelectric.com.

Appliance Rebates: Please see rebate applications for details.



MUST BE AN ENERGY STAR® APPLIANCE TO QUALIFY.

- Dehumidifier** \$20 Credit applied to the energy bill
- Air Source Heat Pumps**..... \$500 - \$800
- Ductless Heat Pump** \$500 - \$800
- Ground Source Heat Pump**..... \$400/ton
- Air Conditioner Tune Up**..... \$30
- Managed Electric Heat**..... \$20/kW
Radio controlled, qualifies for discount of \$.031/kWh on system usage. Stored or dual fuel heat.
Heat pumps are not eligible for this program.



Commercial and Industrial Rebates: Rebates are available on a custom basis. Rebates will be based on kW reduction on retrofit projects. To be eligible for a rebate the project must have a minimum savings of 1kW. We do not have rebate programs for new construction. Call SCEA for information on these rebates.

ONLINE PAYMENT AND BILLING WITH SMARTHUB

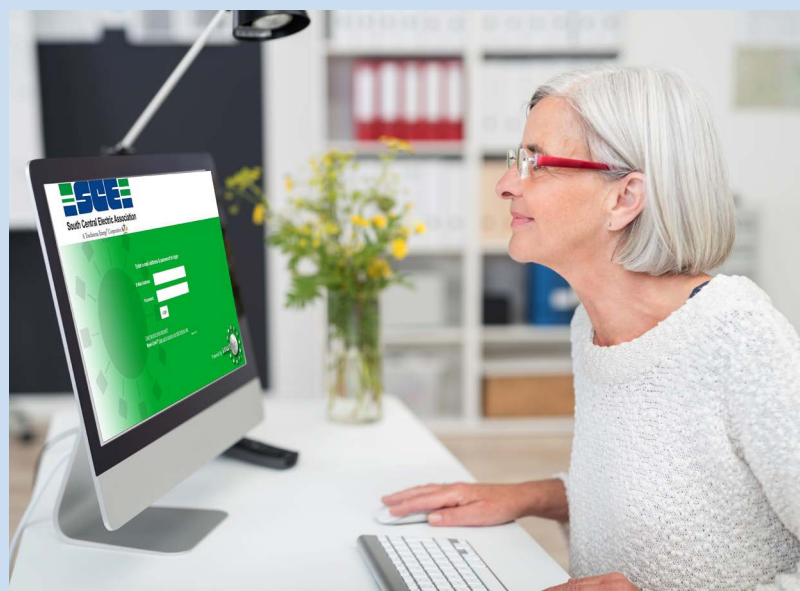
Members can now pay their bills on-line with South Central Electric's new on-line bill payment system; SmartHub. You can even download the SmartHub app for your mobile device or tablet.

To get started visit our web site southcentralelectric.com and click on the SmartHub logo. Once you are at the SmartHub site you'll have to sign up as a first time user by clicking the "New User" link and follow the prompts.

Once you're signed up, you can:

- Pay your bill immediately with a secure on-line payment.
- View monthly electric usage and history.
- Manage account information and track payment history from mobile devices or the web.
- Submit meter readings.
- Receive emails regarding bills.
- Sign up for automatic payments.

For your mobile device or tablet download the free "SmartHub" app from the APP Store or Google Play.



Cooperatives Build Community

The cooperative business model has a history of building community from the ground up. Nearly a century ago when utilities chose not to serve rural areas of America, it was farmers and ranchers who banded together to create the electric cooperatives that would power not only their homes and businesses, but also opportunities for the communities they live in.

That's because while the main product electric co-ops like South Central Electric Association supply is energy, that isn't our sole business purpose. More than just power lines, co-ops build jobs, trust, communities and hope. They work to improve the quality of life for those they serve; donate time, energy and resources to organizations that help those in need; and take a leadership role in community development projects.

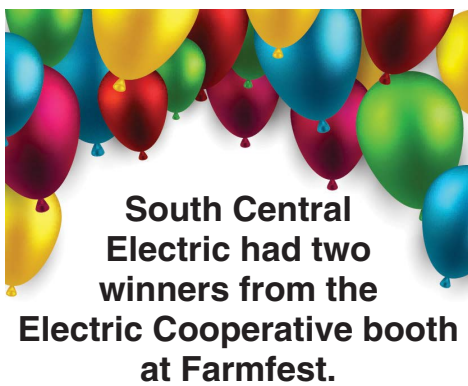


In addition to delivering safe, reliable and affordable electricity to members, electric cooperatives adhere to seven guiding principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusion, and service to the greater good of the community.

These values are demonstrated when South Central Electric supports local 4-H Clubs, presents scholarships to students on a path to receive higher education and when we help coordinate loans for small businesses to expand in the area.

As a member, you contribute to the success of our communities, too, by participating in Operation Round Up. This voluntary program rounds up your electric bill to the next dollar, which your cooperative pools into a trust fund until it's disbursed to a variety of charitable, educational, community and youth-related programs and events.

Maintaining a thriving community is a team effort — neighbors helping neighbors. You built us, and we'll continue working to serve you.



NORMAN SKARPOHL, MADELIA, won the EGO battery operated lawn mower.

LOWELL MATHISTAD, BUTTERFIELD, won the EGO battery string trimmer.

Congratulations!



Know what's below. Call before you dig.



Official monthly newsletter

South Central Electric

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Ron Horman, General Manager

Board of Directors
Mark Sandberg, President
Ron Jorgenson, Vice President
Mike Miest, Secretary
Brad Asendorf, Treasurer
Brent Imker, Director
William Kunz, Director
Matt Peters, Director

The Board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at South Central Electric's building at 71176 Tiell Dr., St. James, MN.

Please see our website for a summary of the board meetings.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

South Central Electric Association is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S.

Department of Agriculture (USDA). In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program_intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.