



# Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

October 2024

# News



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
*The power of human connections®*



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## 84th SAC OSAGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING WAS A SUCCESS!

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Members began with over 600 members participating in the Member Appreciation Drive Through to collect their door prize and a delicious ice cream sandwich.

As the drive through concluded, our business meeting began in the Community Room. Members were not only in attendance in person but were also in attendance on our Sac Osage Electric Cooperative Facebook page live video feed.

Board President Ken Hacker called the meeting to order and gave the prayer of invocation. He then led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chris Hoberock, the Cooperative's General Counsel, declared quorum had been established and the business meeting would proceed. He provided information in reference to this year's meeting, to include the proposed bylaw amendment to allow electronic voting for future Board of Directors and bylaw amendments. General Manager, Aaron Ash, followed Chris Hoberock and provided his manager's report to the members.

Just over 1000 members voted in this year's bylaw amendment proposal that was mailed to each member. The Inspectors hand counted each ballot that was received from the members. At the end of the night, the proposed bylaw amendment passed.





## THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

You might be surprised to learn that your local electric cooperative doesn't generate the electricity you use in your home or business. For more than 800 electric cooperatives across the country, the source for electricity is a different kind of cooperative. Referred to as "G&Ts," these Generation & Transmission cooperatives exist to help electric co-ops serve their members as reliably and affordably as possible. Their only members are local electric co-ops, so G&Ts are actually cooperatives that serve - you guessed it - cooperatives.

Across the nation, 64 G&T cooperatives provide access to wholesale (at cost) power at a better price than each of their member co-ops could obtain on their own. Most G&Ts go beyond the delivery of power to provide sophisticated business resources that would normally be out of reach for local co-ops.

Like your local co-op, G&Ts are not-for-profit organizations that exist to serve the needs of their members. G&Ts generally serve all the co-ops in a specific geographic area. In Missouri, Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AECI), based in Springfield, generates power for their six transmission cooperative member-owners in Missouri, Iowa, and Oklahoma. Those six transmission cooperatives are: NW Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. in Cameron; Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative in Palmyra; Central Electric Power Cooperative in Jefferson City; KAMO Power in Vinita, Oklahoma; Sho-Me Power Electric Cooperative in Marshfield; and M&A Electric Power Cooperative in Poplar Bluff. AECI relies on a diverse array of power sources including two coal-based power plants, three combined-cycle gas-based power plants, four peaking gas-based power plants and one fuel oil plant, hydroelectric power from federal dams, and the wind energy that comes from eight different wind farms.

G&Ts employ a leadership team of experts in data, finance, engineering, economic development, environmental management and other important specialties that are essential for electric co-ops. The G&T operates behind the scenes to support the local co-op's teams, and although G&Ts may be largely unseen, they operate with complete transparency.

G&Ts are best known as the source for at-cost electricity that is generated elsewhere, then delivered to your local co-op over high-voltage transmission lines. Associated and its member-owner G&Ts own and operate more than 10,200 miles of transmission lines. Your co-op uses distribution power lines and transformers to then deliver that electricity to your home or business.

The nation's energy landscape is changing rapidly. G&Ts constantly work to study and forecast power needs. They consider how growing communities might affect the demand for electricity in the future and work closely with local co-ops when power reliability is challenged, such as times when electricity demand outpaces supply or during a major weather event.

In addition to obtaining the electricity local co-ops need, G&Ts improve and maintain the reliability of the infrastructure co-ops and their communities depend upon. By working with local co-op staff to upgrade transmission lines and deploy substations, they make sure the power will be there for members like you when you need it. G&Ts also work closely with government agencies that monitor and manage the nation's electric grid. So, while your co-op may not own the power plant that generates the electricity you use every day, it's part of an even bigger not-for-profit cooperative whose mission is to make your service even more reliable and affordable. As the power behind your power, just like your electric co-op,

G&T cooperatives exist to serve you.

### HOW POWER REACHES YOU

Missouri has a well-defined and well-run system of electric cooperatives that generate, transmit and distribute electric service to members across Missouri.



#### MEMBER-CONSUMERS

Electric cooperatives electrify nearly 80% of Missouri's landmass and provide electric service to over 2 million people.



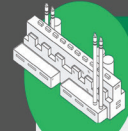
#### DISTRIBUTION COOPERATIVES

Forty distribution cooperatives provide electric service directly to homes, businesses, farms and more in Missouri.



#### TRANSMISSION COOPERATIVES

Power is transmitted throughout Missouri by six regional transmission cooperatives.



#### GENERATION COOPERATIVE

Associated Electric Cooperative Inc. generates power for Missouri members from natural gas, coal, hydropower and wind.



Missouri Electric Cooperatives





## CAN I SAVE MONEY BY INSTALLING A SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM?

This question is being asked more and more as members look for ways to reduce energy costs. The answer is maybe, depending on many factors, and how fast you want to see a return on your investment.

### Start with energy efficiency

Before installing a solar energy system, consider reducing your energy use by making your home more energy efficient. Many energy efficiency measures have a faster return on investment, and the initial investment is less than that of a renewable energy system. Contact Sac Osage Electric Cooperative for energy efficiency rebates as well.

### Keep safety in mind

Most solar systems are connected to the grid. Because of the two-way flow of electricity, excess energy the system collects during the day flows into your cooperative's lines. Improper connection and maintenance of the system may endanger people and the reliability of the grid. There are also safety considerations for rooftop solar you should discuss with your local fire department prior to installation, such as the layout of panels on your roof.

### Is solar energy right for me?

If you have made your home as energy efficient as possible and now want to install a solar energy system, contact Sac Osage Electric Cooperative in the initial planning stages. Be sure to conduct thorough research on all aspects of any system before making the investment. Determine what your goal of the system is. For example, do you want to install solar energy because you believe it is the right thing to do? Or are you looking to save money? If you want to save money, carefully examine all the financial

considerations first. And keep in mind, if you want to ensure you have power, even if your cooperative has an outage, a battery system is required. This is an added expense, and takes about 30 percent of the system's power to keep the batteries charged.

### Financial considerations

When evaluating the potential of installing a solar electric system at a home or business, considerations should include:

1. Solar access: Missouri is fairly good in comparison to other parts of the country. Site specific access depends on installing the system so it is not shaded. See your location on the map below for average output.
2. Retail cost of residential electricity: Missouri is low in comparison to many other parts of the country. A lower electric rate makes the return on investment length longer than a

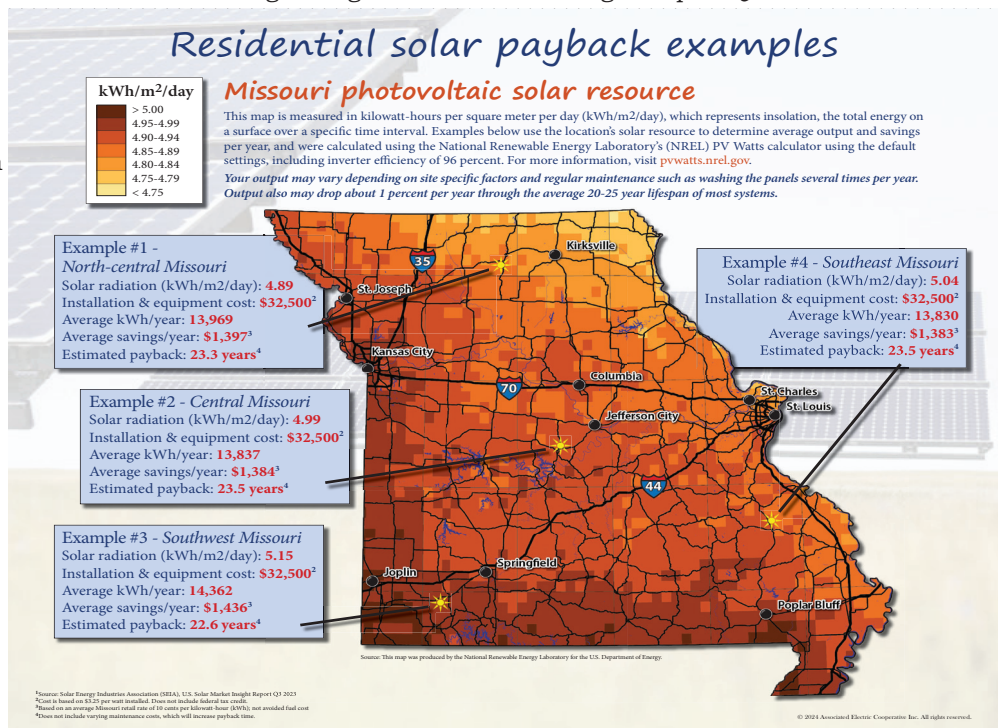
higher electric rate.

3. Available incentives: Solar energy systems may qualify for a federal tax credit of 30% now until 2032, 26% in 2033 and 22% in 2034.

4. The total cost of the system: The average installed cost of residential solar photovoltaic (PV) is \$3.25/watt, or about \$32,500 for a 10-kilowatt grid tie-in system. In addition, there may be other costs to consider, such as liability, homeowners' insurance and property taxes.

Given the information listed above, evaluate your situation to ensure installing a solar system makes sense financially for you. Talk to Sac Osage Electric Cooperative and qualified, reputable solar contractors to help evaluate your feasibility for solar energy.

Source: Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), U.S. Solar Market Insight Report Q3 2023



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