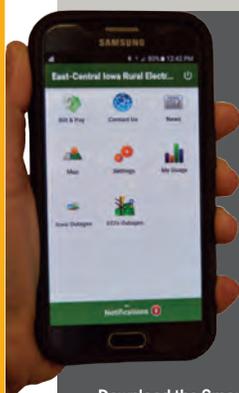


Stay in the Know During an Outage via SmartHub

ECI REC's online outage map, which offers near real-time information to members during an outage, is accessible from the **SmartHub** app. **SmartHub** powers ECI REC's online payment platform. For updates during an outage, download the **SmartHub** app today for free after registering with **SmartHub**.

"Making the outage map available on smartphones, tablets, and other mobile, battery-powered devices is one way ECI REC strives to make your account information and other ECI REC-related resources available to members 24/7, even during an outage," said CEO Steve Marlow.



Android users:
Scan to download
the SmartHub app



Apple users:
Scan to download
the SmartHub app

Download the SmartHub app from the iTunes or Android app store so you can access your account 24/7 for updates.

START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT: Combine SmartHub and Budget Billing

The start of a new year is a great time to make changes and check things off your to-do list. If you've been looking for a way to make payments easier and quickly access your crucial account and usage information, **SmartHub** is the answer.

Using **SmartHub**, ECI REC members can quickly view and file bills using any computer or smartphone. After registering, you can receive your electronic bill via email.

You can also use **SmartHub** in combination with direct payment and budget billing to significantly streamline your month-to-month financial planning. With direct payment, you automatically make a direct electronic payment each month from a bank account or credit card. The direct payment form can be found online at ecirec.coop.

Then, add budget billing so you know what amount you will pay each month. Your monthly payment is calculated based on your 12-month usage history or the usage history of the past occupants of your residence. Accounts are periodically reviewed to ensure that payments match actual usage so you do not face a large debit or credit payment at the end of the year.

There are several ways you can enroll in budget billing:

- » Complete the budget billing form below and mail it in
- » Email: csr@ecirec.coop
- » Make an inquiry via SmartHub, under the Contact Us section
- » Call our toll-free number: 877-850-4343
- » Visit our Urbana headquarters building

YES, tell me my monthly budget amount.

Name: _____

ECI REC Account No.(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail form to: ECI REC | PO Box 248 | Urbana, IA 52345-0248

WIN A
WEEK-LONG
TRIP TO



2017 IOWA YOUTH TOUR

YOUTH TOUR
APPLICATION
DEADLINE IS
FEB. 24!

JUNE 9-15

Apply Now for 2017 Youth Tour to D.C.

Each year, ECI REC sponsors two high school juniors on the expenses-paid Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Approximately 1,500 youth participants visit historical sites, explore the Smithsonian Museum, meet congressional leaders, spend a day on Capitol Hill, cruise down the Potomac River, and learn about American history and government. This year's Youth Tour is June 9–15. To be eligible, students must have parents or legal guardians who are members of ECI REC. Applications are available at ecirec.coop. Scan the QR code to the right to read more about the Youth Tour and get your application.



Powering Safely During an Outage



Given our dependence on electricity, it's understandable that portable generators are so popular. However, generators can cause more harm than good if not used properly. To protect yourself and the linemen who work to restore your power after an outage, keep the following safety guidelines in mind.

Never plug a portable generator directly into one of your home's outlets unless you have had a licensed electrician install a transfer switch in your home. If you don't have a transfer switch, the generator can backfeed along power lines, which can electrocute a lineman working on those lines.

Generators create carbon monoxide, so they must go outside in a dry area at least 15 feet away from your home's vents, windows, and doors. Attached garages with an open door don't count—the carbon monoxide can still seep indoors and poison inhabitants.

Plug appliances directly into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords, but don't overload. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for maximum load.

Shut off the generator before refueling, or a fire could start—and it's a good idea to have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby, just in case.

Safety is a top priority at ECI REC, for our employees and members alike. Contact us at 877-850-4343 if you'd like to learn more about how to properly install and use a portable generator.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: Bank Bucks for College

In 2017, the Cooperative will award up to ten students \$1,000 scholarships to continue their education in college in any field. Up to two \$1,000 scholarships are offered to those who are accepted to and attend the Powerline Technology Program at Northwest Iowa Community College. To be eligible for scholarships, students must have parents or legal guardians who are members of ECI REC. Applications can be downloaded from ecirec.coop. Scan the QR code to the right to read more about the scholarships and get your application.



SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION
DEADLINE IS
MARCH 2!



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



Your Co-op Connections® Card offers you Healthy Savings and local and national deals. Use your card to start saving today! Questions? Email coopconnections@ecirec.coop.



Use SmartHub to pay for FREE online! Visa and MasterCard accepted. While you're there, view your monthly usage data in helpful chart formats.



Click this icon at ecirec.coop to access these free tools to break down your monthly energy costs, use television and lighting calculators, find a Kids Korner, and more.