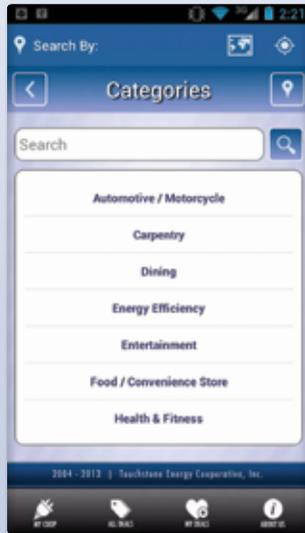


## CONNECT ON THE GO WITH THE CO-OP CONNECTIONS® APP



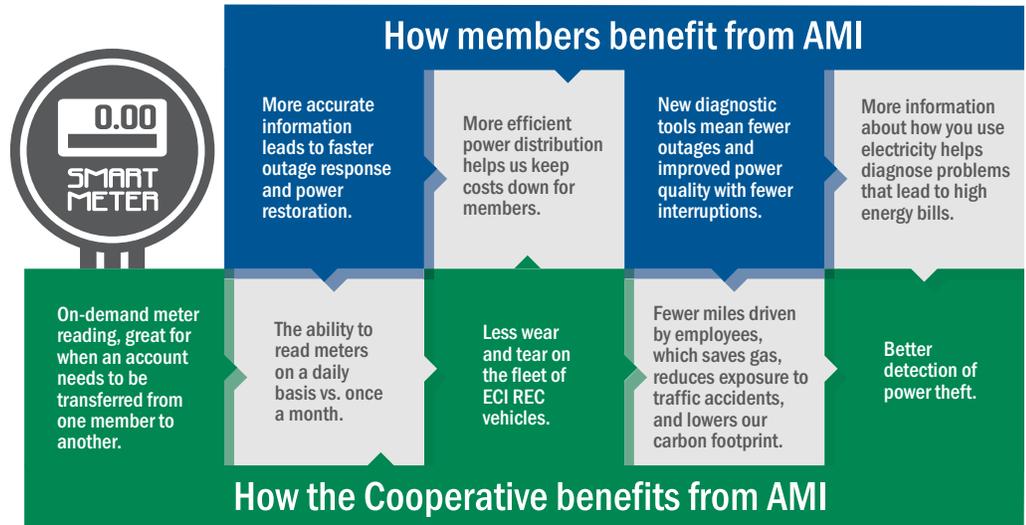
The free ECI REC Co-op Connections app is available on your favorite app store.

- » Save with the app, even if you forget your card.
- » Have a virtual card (front and back) with vital prescription discount info.
- » Use the GPS feature to find businesses that accept the card.
- » Identify and save your favorite deals in My Deals for easy access.



SCAN TO ACCESS THE  
CO-OP CONNECTIONS  
PAGE AT ECIREC.COOP!

## New Meters Will Help Us Serve You Better



At ECI REC, we are always looking out for new technologies to help us provide our members with affordable, more reliable power.

As some of you may recall, in early 2016 CEO Steve Marlow announced the Cooperative was working on a plan to upgrade our existing automated meter-reading (AMR) system to an advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system.

AMI smart-metering technology is capable of constantly sending and receiving signals by radio frequency. These signals provide continuous meter readings, along with a treasure trove of other data that can be used for billing, identifying power outages, and providing personalized energy data for members.

As previously communicated, ECI REC met with five AMI vendors. At the April Board meeting, your Board of Directors voted to go with Elster, an AMI vendor out of North Carolina.

The Cooperative's information services, engineering, and operations personnel have been working with Elster for the past several months to craft both a technical and an equipment implementation plan...and the time for putting those plans into action is drawing near.

This September and October, ECI REC will begin installing the necessary computer servers and field equipment. In November or early December, your Co-operative plans to deploy approximately 100 meters. After successful testing of this pilot, full deployment will begin. It is expected to take six months, pending weather and equipment availability.

We are also wrapping up the member communications plan, which will include a page dedicated to the AMI system on the ECI REC website. This page will feature a meter change-out schedule for each service area, as well as an FAQ document and other related resources.

Look for more details about the new system in the upcoming September/October *Heartland Link*, as well as on our website, on our Facebook page, and in future bill inserts.

2400 Bing Miller Lane | PO Box 248 | Urbana, IA 52345-0248 | Toll Free: 877-850-4343  
Email: [ecirec@ecirec.coop](mailto:ecirec@ecirec.coop) | Web: [www.ecirec.coop](http://www.ecirec.coop) | [facebook.com/eastcentraliowarec](https://www.facebook.com/eastcentraliowarec) 

**East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**



# ON THE GO THIS SUMMER?



**DON'T FORGET!** Your Co-op Connections® Card gets you discounts on everything from hotel stays and garden supplies to auto repairs and prescription drugs.

[www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop)

Use your Co-op Connections Card at these participating businesses and discover the value of being an ECI REC member!

#### Automotive/Motorcycle

- » E & T NAPA Auto Parts

#### Dining

- » Bill's Pizza & Smokehouse
- » Okoboji Grill
- » Subway

#### Entertainment

- » Heartland Acres Agribition Center

#### Health and Fitness

- » Clingman Pharmacy, Inc.
- » Styles Unlimited

#### Home and Garden

- » Cy & Charley's Tire & Appliances
- » Frazier Nursery
- » In the Country Garden & Gifts
- » Michael & Dowd

#### Media

- » THE NEWS/Buchanan County Review

#### Office/Professional Services

- » Office Towne, Inc.,
- » Radio Shack

#### Recreation/Sports

- » Berry's Lanes, Inc.
- » Viking Sewing Center

#### Retail

- » Emmy Lou Candles
- » Cameron Clothing Company
- » Fabulous Fridays
- » Henkle Creek Mercantile
- » Polar Blair's Den

#### Travel

- » BEST WESTERN PLUS Independence Inn & Suites
- » Modern Motel

Misplaced your card? Call us toll-free at 877-850-4343, or email [ecirec@ecirec.coop](mailto:ecirec@ecirec.coop).

## Budget Billing Levels Monthly Payments for Members

ECI REC offers budget billing to make financial planning easier and help members anticipate monthly costs. We calculate your monthly payment based on your 12-month usage history. Accounts are periodically reviewed to ensure payments match actual usage so you do not face a large debit or credit at the end of the year.

There are several ways you can enroll:

- » Go to [ecirec.coop](http://ecirec.coop) and complete the budget billing form; submit by email or USPS mail
- » Email [csr@ecirec.coop](mailto: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
- » Complete the budget billing form below and mail it to ECI REC | Billing | PO Box 248 | Urbana, IA 52345-0248



### YES, tell me my monthly budget amount.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ECI REC Account No.(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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](mailto:coopconnections@ecirec.coop).



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



Click this icon at [ecirec.coop](http://ecirec.coop) to access free tools: television and lighting calculators, a HomeEnergyCalculator to break down your monthly energy costs, a Kids Komer, and more.