

REMINDER: Heat Plus Rate Offers Winter Savings

ECI REC's Heat Plus rate will take effect October 1, 2017, and is available through May 31, 2018. Even with propane prices on the decline, our Heat Plus rate of **.0485 cents/kWh** remains a great value for members using primarily electric heating. Call 877-850-4343 or visit ecirec.coop to see if you qualify for the Heat Plus rate.



Image source: thinkstock.com - Mikko Lemola



BUILDING A SMARTER COOPERATIVE

Get to Know Three Great Smart Meter Benefits

As ECI REC prepares to install smart meters on all member accounts, one of our main objectives is to help educate members on the benefits of this new technology.

Smart meters put our Cooperative in an excellent position to reap the affordability, efficiency, and reliability advantages of the smart electric grid of the future. How? They collect energy usage data daily and allow two-way communication between the ECI REC computer system and the meter. Additionally, ECI REC's current meters are nearly 17 years old, which is beyond the recommended life cycle of this equipment. Smart meters are state-of-the-art and complement the newer technologies ECI REC has implemented over the past several years.

Smart meters' ability to record daily usage data has some great benefits. After enough data is gathered, ECI REC can use it to minimize subsidization. Eventually, ECI will have the information required to offer rate options that will provide members the opportunity to lower their electric bill by using energy during less expensive times of the day.

Making our system more efficient also helps our Cooperative keep operating costs down. With smart meter technology, ECI REC can read meters remotely from the office and spend less time uploading meter readings into the billing portal. We no longer have to hire a contractor or send out line crews to gather readings, which saves us approximately \$175,000 per year and lowers our

carbon footprint.

Finally, smart meters make our system more reliable. The new technology allows us to detect problems more quickly and locate outages more precisely. In some cases, we will be able to fix the problem before you know your power has been out.

Smart meter installation is set to begin in November 2017 and finish in July 2018. ECI REC will send out an installation schedule, which will also be available on our website's new page dedicated to smart meters and the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system.

The ECI REC team is here to address any questions you may have about the new meters. If you need more information, please call or email us.

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Email: ecirec@ecirec.coop | Web: www.ecirec.coop | [facebook.com/eastcentraliowarec](https://www.facebook.com/eastcentraliowarec) 

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



Program Offers Members a Helping Hand

If your electric bill is often late, consider enrolling in East-Central Iowa REC's free Helping Hand Reminder program.

When the account of an enrolled member becomes delinquent, ECI REC notifies their designated contact person. The contact person then reminds the member who missed their payment.

Enroll by filling out the Helping Hand Reminder authorization form online at ecirec.coop under Your Electric Bill, Member Programs. You can access the page by scanning the QR code to the right. You can also enroll in the program by mailing in the form below. Members can withdraw from the program at any time by contacting an ECI REC customer service representative at 877-850-4343.



Yes, I want to enroll in the Helping Hand Reminder program.

Member Name: _____

Member Acct #: _____

Phone: _____ Other Contact Phone: _____

Name and address of person to be contacted in case of delinquent payment:

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Member's Signature for Authorization: _____

Contact Person's Signature: _____

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



Your Support Can Help Influence Energy Policy

Today more than ever, what is happening in Des Moines, Iowa, and Washington, D.C., can impact your cost of power and its reliability. Through political action committees (PACs), members can support the campaigns of those officials who have shown themselves supportive of our goals. Because it is illegal for cooperative funds to be contributed to election campaigns, these PACs rely on donations from cooperative employees, directors, and members like you.

The two PACs members can consider donating to are the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE), which sends funds to candidates for federal elections, and the Friends of Rural Electrification (FORE), which supports candidates running for state office. Sign up today by filling out the form below.

Yes, I will support ACRE and FORE.

I will make a one-time contribution of \$_____. My check is enclosed. *Make checks payable to REC Transmittal Account.*

I will contribute monthly. Please add \$_____ each month to my electric bill.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Account Number: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

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! Discover, 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 free tools: television and lighting calculators, a HomeEnergyCalculator to break down your monthly energy costs, a Kids Komer, and more.