

Electric Water Heaters: Make the Right Choice

Are you in the market for a new water heater? Here are a few points to ponder.

Safety – An electric water heater requires no venting, no gas line, and offers no CO₂ concerns.

Space – An electric water heater installation requires zero clearance.

Maintenance – Electric water heaters are very low maintenance.

Price – Electric water heater rates are considerably more stable than gas and installation costs are also less with an electric water heater.

Energy Efficiency – Consider an air source heat pump water heater, which is the most efficient water heater on the market today.

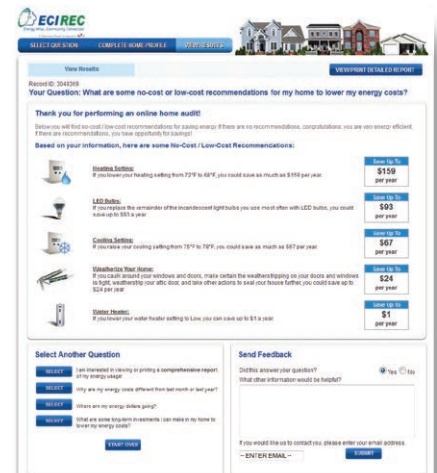
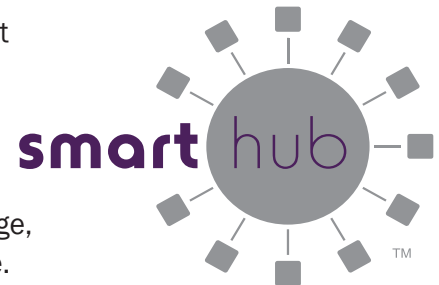
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QUICK - GREEN - FREE Do Your Self-Energy Audit WITH HomeEnergyCalculator

SmartHub, ECI REC's online program that allows members to access their account information from a computer or smartphone, offers a dynamic **My Usage** section with many tools to analyze your past and current energy usage, as well as plan and conserve in the future.

Compare your energy use and costs, set markers to monitor changes in your usage from the Analyze Your Usage tab, and get energy-saving tips from the **Explore Usage Management** tab. One of the most useful features is the **HomeEnergyCalculator**, which allows you to perform a free self-energy audit: go to **My Usage**, click on **Usage Management**, then click on the blue "Get Started" arrow and your actual ECI REC energy usage will automatically upload into the **HomeEnergyCalculator** so you can complete an analysis of your home's energy usage.

Members do not need to pay their bills through **SmartHub** in order to access their usage data, but registration is necessary. A free phone app can be downloaded from iTunes or the Android app store, so you can access your account 24/7; links to these downloads can be found on the SmartHub home page.



Other SmartHub features include:

- ECI REC Outage Map link
- Electronic bill inserts
- Online bill payment
- Detailed billing charts including month-to-month and year-to-year comparisons and temperature data

Electric Water Heaters *continued*



Incentives – Buy a new, energy efficient electric water heater and receive a \$50 rebate. Receive a \$650 rebate for the purchase of an air source heat pump water heater.

Still can't decide? Give us a call and let us help. As a member-owned cooperative, we work for you, offering friendly, local, reliable, no-cost help with all your energy-efficient household decisions.

Image source: Rheem Manufacturing Company



In 2014, ECI REC Youth Tour alum Dustin Toale, a University of Northern Iowa real estate and finance major, received one of the \$1,000 scholarships

YOUTH TOUR ALUMS: WIN \$10,000 toward your undergrad

- » The Glenn English National Cooperative Leadership Foundation is offering one \$10,000 and four \$1,000 scholarships.
- » Applicants must be students and Youth Tour alumni working on their first undergraduate degree.
- » Apply by April 1 at www.nreca.coop/what-we-do/youth-program.
- » Contact Rebecca Hill at Rebecca.Hill@nreca.coop or 703-907-5794 for more information.



Photo credit: iStock.com/GeorgeBurba

ATTENTION MEMBERS: Use Caution When Burning Ditches This Spring

Burning helps clean things up, but it can also cause extensive damage to Cooperative property, resulting in electric service problems. Members involved in such fires may be invoiced for damage they cause to Cooperative property.

TWO TIPS FOR SAFE BURNING

- 1 Green, or newer poles, are more susceptible to burning—use extra caution.
- 2 Always be aware of the locations of poles, anchor guy assemblies, underground cabinets, and other important Cooperative equipment when burning.

SUPPORT RENEWABLES IN IOWA > You can volunteer to support the development of renewable energy production facilities in Iowa via your monthly bill. In 2015, an average of 100 ECI REC members contributed an average of about \$4/month each to support the production of renewable energy in Iowa. Member support for the year totaled \$4,851.

- Cost is \$2.10 for each 100 kWh. Purchase only 100 kWh or any multiple of 100 kWh.
- All voluntary contributions from members to this fund will be used for the development of alternative energy production facilities in Iowa. Alternative energy production facilities may include wind energy, biomass, solar, and other nontraditional generation technologies.
- Once you have signed up, your participation continues until you notify us that you wish to make a change.

IOWA RENEWABLE CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Name: _____

ECI REC Account #: _____

Email: _____

Daytime phone #: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

I wish to support the purchase of:

100 kWh for an extra \$2.10 per month

200 kWh for an extra \$4.20 per month

300 kWh for an extra \$6.30 per month

_____ kWh at \$2.10 per 100 kWh per month

Please return to: East-Central Iowa REC
PO Box 248 | Urbana, Iowa 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! 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.