

# heartland LINK

A publication of East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

## HONORING 85 YEARS

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**CLOSED**

Monday, July 4 for  
Independence Day

Monday,  
September 5  
for Labor Day

**Contact ECI REC****EMAILS**

memberservices@  
ecirec.coop  
(rebates, product sales)

csr@ecirec.coop  
(billing, new customers)

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4:00 p.m.

(closed Saturdays,  
Sundays, and holidays)

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ECI REC  
Energy Wise. Community Connected.  
A Heartland Energy Cooperative

## take the member challenge

1. ENERGY WISE: Washing a typical load of dishes in a dishwasher uses \_\_\_\_\_% less water.
2. KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON: In late spring, members may have seen the \_\_\_\_\_ team in the Jefferson, Aurora, and Crozier substation areas.
3. MESSAGE FROM THE CEO: Forecasts of above-normal temperatures and \_\_\_\_\_ are the main source of concern [for rolling blackouts].

Find the answers within the stories, features, and content of this newsletter and you could win a prize. Send your answers to [memberchallenge@ecirec.coop](mailto:memberchallenge@ecirec.coop). Or, print the word(s) at the top of the back page, cut it out, and send it to: ECI REC, PO Box 248, Urbana, IA 52345. You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember there is a deadline! Entries for this issue must be received by August 1. Sixteen names will be drawn from all correct entries. Members will not be allowed to win more than once per calendar year.

## last issue's challenge winners

The following names were drawn from the May/June 2022 *Heartland Link* entries. These members will receive a \$10 credit on their account.

James D. Hoffman	Randy & Teresa Scheel
Steve Runyan	James R. Green
James P. Kullmer	Steven B. Teel
Brent Sharff	Nyle & Burnadene Vargason
Kenneth Arp	Mike & Pam Ratchford
Dennis G. Williams	Kevin & Susan Davis
Sharon K. Happel	Doug & Cathy Earles
Thelma Rohlena	Thomas G. Wiese

# ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS IN REVIEW

a Cooperative Difference article

## Jeff Elliott Vice President

Director since 1990  
Board District 1



## Steve Rau President

Director since 2005  
Board District 9



## Julie Kester Assistant Secretary/ Treasurer

Director since 2019  
Board District 2



## Ryan Kress Secretary/ Treasurer

Director since 2009  
Board District 10



**THE 27TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS** of East-Central Iowa REC was held virtually on June 16! The meeting was recorded. Members can listen to it by visiting [ecirec.coop](http://ecirec.coop) and clicking on the link in the “2022 Annual Meeting Highlights” story in the News & Events section.

A primary piece of the Annual Meeting is the Board election. This year, members could vote by mail-in ballot, or they could vote online through our website or SmartHub. Julie Kester (District 2), Brian McNulty (District 3), and Gary McKenna (District 4) were re-elected to serve another three-year term on the Board of Directors.

A Board reorganization meeting followed the election. Re-elected to office were Steve Rau, president; Jeff Elliott, vice president; Ryan Kress, secretary/treasurer; and Julie Kester, assistant secretary/treasurer.

This year’s theme—Powering Ahead for You—was fitting for ECI REC. We have always striven to utilize innovative and forward-thinking opportunities to achieve what is in the best interest of you, our membership.

Members who cast a ballot in this year’s election were entered to win one of twelve \$50 bill credits and one of two \$100 bill credits. Members who attended the virtual meeting were entered to win the other \$100 bill credit. Winners were selected electronically and randomly. 🎉



Photo credit: Lisa Franck

The Annual Meeting was broadcast virtually via Zoom.



The Annual Report can be downloaded from [ecirec.coop](http://ecirec.coop).



## The following members won the \$50 bill credits. They will see their credit on their July billing statement:

Jim Alberts  
Anthony S. DeSousa II  
John Frazier  
Duane Gates

Robert Gihring  
Paula Hagenow  
Brad Jesse  
Mary Lorenz

Benjamin Lutz  
Ruth McDermott  
Bruce Purcell  
Norman Sackett

## The following members won the \$100 bill credits. They will also see their credit on their July billing statement:

Rich Zeis

Billie Jo Tonn


# Board Returns \$456,041 to Members Through Patronage Dividends

a Cooperative Difference announcement

**AT ITS MAY BOARD MEETING**, the ECI REC Board of Directors approved the retirement of \$456,041—100% of its 2007 margins—to members of the Cooperative. In June, 6,010 member-accounts that received electricity from East-Central Iowa REC in 2007 received money back. These dollars represent your share of the deferred patronage dividends (profits) the Cooperative earned that year. In the past 10 years, ECI REC has returned \$5,264,649 to its membership.

Over sixty-three percent (63.13%) of the 6,010 member-accounts that received money back are active and currently receiving electricity from ECI REC. These active member-accounts saw a credit on their June bills. The remaining 2,216 member-accounts that are no longer active (not currently receiving electricity from ECI REC) received their credits in a check mailed on June 17. If you did not receive a credit on your June bill, you did not receive electric service from ECI REC in 2007. Email the Urbana office at [csr@ecirec.coop](mailto:csr@ecirec.coop) or call 877-850-4343 if you have any questions.

Since ECI REC is a nonprofit organization, members pay for their electricity at cost, and any margins left over at the end of the year after all expenses are covered are allocated in the form of patronage dividends. These margins include operating margins, which are generated directly by the sale of electricity to you. They also include non-operating margins, which consist of interest from our investment of spare cash and patronage dividend allocations. ECI REC receives these allocations through memberships with other cooperatives, from which we purchase goods and services.

As owners of the Cooperative, members provide equity by allowing ECI REC to hold on to these margins for a certain length of time. They are used to finance operations and system improvements, to cover the cost of maintaining the electric distribution system, and more. 

Current Service Detail		
<b>Balance Forward</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
Facility Charge		\$36.50
kWh Charges	1000 kWh @ 0.105	\$105.00
	151 kWh @ 0.093	\$14.04
County Tax		\$1.56
<b>Total Electric Charges</b>		<b>\$157.10</b>
Deferred Patronage Dividend	-\$46.85	
<b>Other Services &amp; Credits</b>		<b>-\$46.85</b>
<b>Total Electric, Other Services &amp; Credits</b>		<b>\$110.25</b>
<b>Total Amount Due 07/01/2022</b>		<b>\$110.25</b>
<small>\$1.65 (1.5%) late charge applies after 07/01/2022</small>		<small>\$111.90</small>



**AUGUST 11 IS NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING DAY!**

**Don't ruin a beautiful day by digging unsafely**

If you're tackling outdoor DIY projects this summer, make sure you call 811 prior to digging so you don't hit an underground utility line.

Call 811 or visit [Call811.com](http://Call811.com) before digging.



# Busted!

## 5 Common Home Energy Myths

an Energy Wise message

**SOME IDEAS ARE SO WIDELY HELD** that we barely give them a second thought. Although often factual, such common wisdom may be based on outdated or false information. Widespread misconceptions about energy use can increase utility bills and reduce comfort. Here are five energy myths that may be costing you.

### 1. Setting the thermostat higher or lower will heat or cool a room faster.

Most furnaces and air conditioners work at the same speed, no matter the thermostat setting. Unless you have a variable speed blower, more energy may be wasted as the system continues to run to reach the higher or lower set point.

### 2. Leaving lights on uses less energy than turning them on and off.

In most cases, the small surge of power needed to turn a light on is much less than the power that is wasted by leaving it on when it's not needed.

### 3. Closing off vents will reduce heating and cooling costs.

Closing vents is not a good way to save on energy costs. Heating and cooling systems are designed to distribute air evenly; closing vents throws the system off balance. This causes pressure to build up, resulting in duct leaks that waste energy.

### 4. Leaving a ceiling fan on will cool a room.

Ceiling fans circulate air, making your skin feel cooler. This allows you to save energy by raising the thermostat. However, ceiling fans don't cool the air. Leaving them on in empty rooms wastes energy.

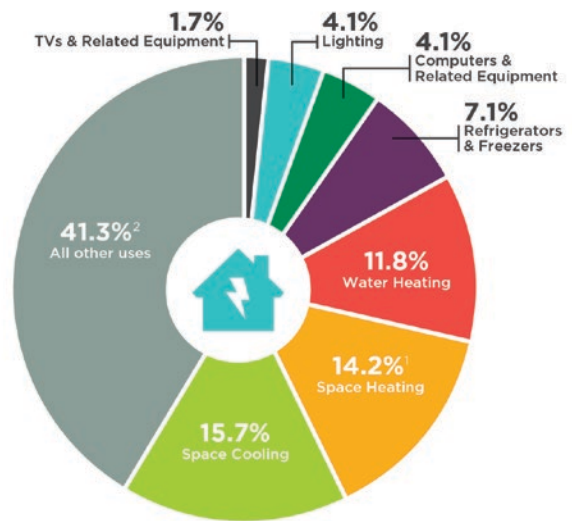
### 5. Washing dishes by hand is cheaper than using a dishwasher.

It's widely believed that dishwashers are convenient but use more water and energy than washing by hand. In fact, washing a typical load of dishes in a dishwasher uses 37% less water. Also, according to ENERGY STAR®, using a certified dishwasher instead of hand washing can cut your annual energy costs by more than \$40.

Separating myth from reality can save you money and increase your comfort! 🧼

## How Americans Use Electricity

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, small appliances, and other electrical equipment (noted as "all other uses" below) accounts for the largest percentage of electricity consumption in American homes.



Source: Energy Information Administration 2021

<sup>1</sup>Includes consumption for heat and operating furnace fans and boiler pumps.  
<sup>2</sup>Includes miscellaneous appliances, clothes washers and dryers, stoves, dishwashers, heating elements, and motors.

## How to Outsmart Utility Scammers

a Safety feature

**UTILITY SCAMMERS** like to target consumers by phone, email, and text. They claim to be from your local utility, and sometimes they even manage to make the caller ID or email address look legitimate.

The best defense against these scammers is to slow down and refuse to give in to urgent demands, verify any information against your latest bill, and dismiss any requests for immediate payment or payment via bitcoin, prepaid cards, or third-party payment apps.

If you receive a suspicious call, email, text, or even an in-person visit, please contact the local police and ECI REC right away. Share any details about the scammer or their message that might help with a criminal investigation. 🧐

**KNOW THE SIGNS.**

#StopScams

UTILITIES UNITED  
AGAINST SCAMS



### Slow down

Take your time. Scammers pressure customers to act fast.



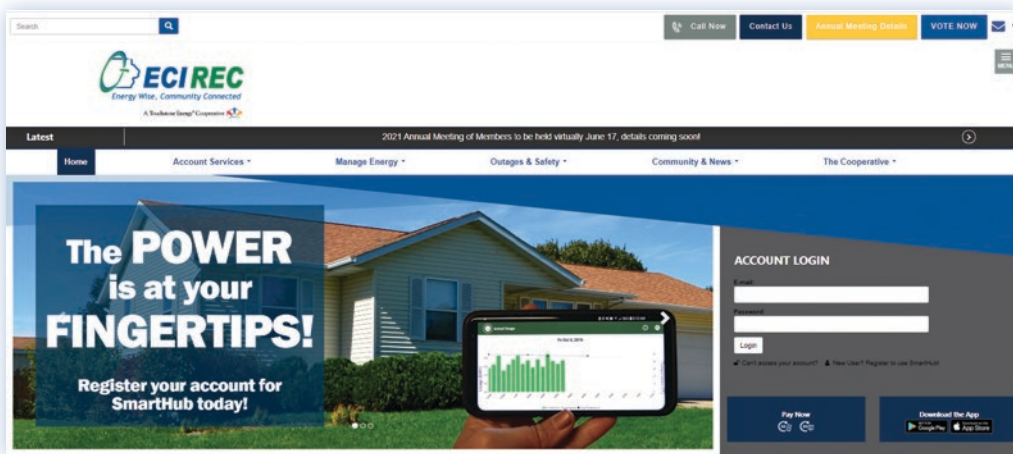
### Verify

Scammers often pose as the utility. Always verify the info being provided to you matches your latest bill.



### Stop

Utilities never demand immediate payment and do not accept bitcoin, prepaid cards, or third-party payment apps.

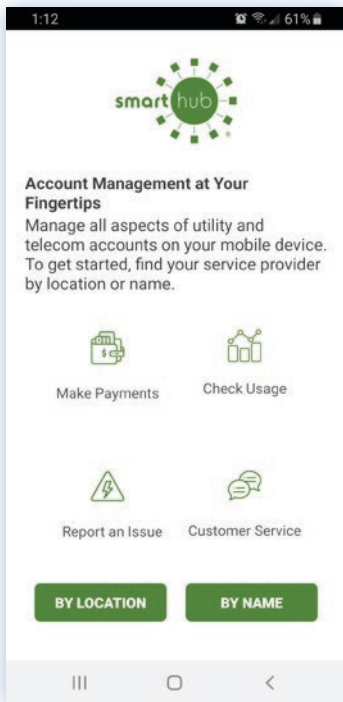


## Quick Ways to Pay Your Electric Bill

Did you know you can make quick automated payments through SmartHub ... without creating an online account?

Here's how:

- » Call SmartHub's automated system toll-free number: 888-223-2048.
- » Use the Pay Now application. Go to [www.ecirec.coop](http://www.ecirec.coop). In the Account Login section of the home page, click the Pay Now button. Then enter your account number and last name or business name to access your account and pay your bill.



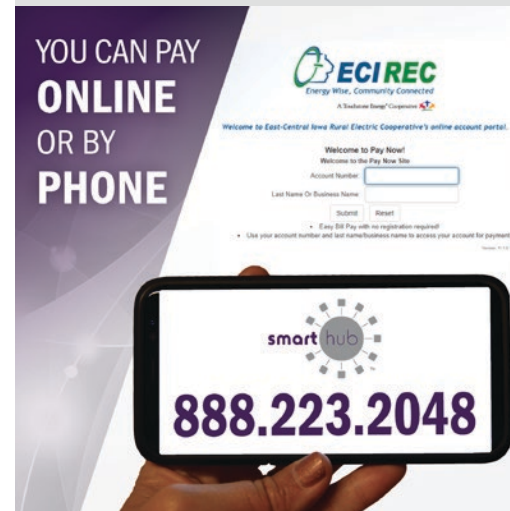
## Stay in the Know with SmartHub

*a Keeping the Lights On article*

**SMARTHUB HELPS YOU** stay in the know about your energy usage. With a SmartHub account, you can quickly view and file bills, enroll in budget billing, monitor your energy usage, check ECI REC's online outage map, and much more.

### Not sure how to register for SmartHub? We've got you covered!

1. Go to [www.ecirec.coop](http://www.ecirec.coop). Near the top of the page, you'll see an Account Login section. Click on the link that says, "New User? Register to use SmartHub!"
2. The user registration screen will appear. Enter your ECI REC account number as printed on your bill. Also enter your last name or the business name associated with your account. Enter your email address; this will become your username. Click the Submit button. A secondary account-related registration screen will appear.
3. Enter the last four digits of your Social Security or business ID number and your billing zip code. Check to confirm you are not a robot. Agree to the terms and conditions. Click Submit.
4. Check your email for a message with a temporary password from [ecirec@smarthub.coop](mailto:ecirec@smarthub.coop).
5. Clicking the login link takes you to the Change Your Password screen. Create a new password and click Submit.
6. The Security Phrase screen appears. This is a second way to protect your information once you've logged in with your password. You need your security phrase to change payment or other account-related information. Enter at least a five-character word or phrase and click Save.



## Take SmartHub Mobile!

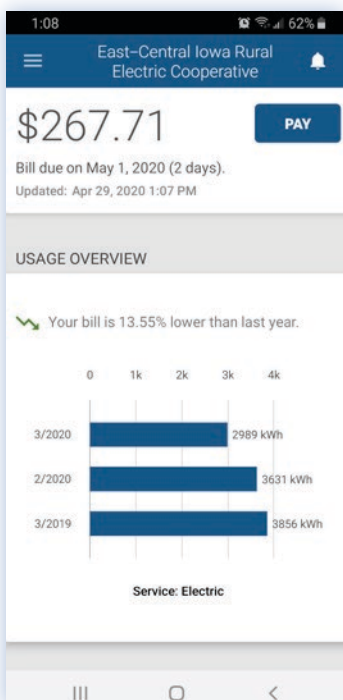
Download the SmartHub app in the Apple and Android stores so you can access your account 24/7. You can register for the first time using the app too! Scan the QR codes below, or use the Download the App button in the Account Login section of our home page.



Android Users



Apple Users



# Continuing Education to Better Serve You

*a Cooperative Difference story*

**WE'RE EXCITED TO SHARE** that ECI REC Board President Steve Rau and Vice President Jeff Elliott recently earned their Director Gold Renewal Certificates!

Director Gold is an NRECA certificate program geared toward directors who are committed to continuing their education and desire a tangible credential that reinforces their stature as part of a group of experienced and educated directors.

To maintain their Director Gold Certificate, directors must earn three credits from the NRECA Approved List of Continuing Education Programs (see below) within a two-year period. A maximum of one credit can be earned by attending a conference or non-NRECA program; the remaining two credits must be earned by taking NRECA's BLC courses.

## NRECA Approved List of Continuing Education Programs

- » Any NRECA Board Leadership Certificate Course
- » NRECA Directors Conference (provides 1 credit)
- » CFC Forum (provides 1 credit)
- » CoBank Energy Directors Conference (provides 1 credit)
- » Mid-America Cooperative Council (MACC) (provides 1 credit)
- » Gettysburg Leadership Program (provides 2 credits)

Congratulations, Steve and Jeff! Thank you for your dedicated service to ECI REC and our membership! 🙌



**STEVE RAU**  
2022/2023  
President



**JEFF ELLIOTT**  
2022/2023  
Vice President



Board President Steve Rau (right) presents Vice President Jeff Elliott (left) with his Director Gold Renewal Certificate.

*Photo credit: Teresa Floyd*

## Ever Wonder How to Check Your Circuit Breakers?

Watch our NEW video for a crash course!

*an Energy Wise message*

### POWER OUTAGES CAN OCCUR FOR MANY REASONS.

If your lights go out, consider checking your circuit breakers—you might just get your power back sooner!

If you don't know how to check your circuit breakers (or if you just need a refresher), we have some helpful tips for you. Watch our new tutorial video—featuring Manager of Member Service Adam Albertsen—by scanning the QR code or visiting the Outage Center at [ecirec.coop](http://ecirec.coop).

Stay tuned for more educational videos from ECI REC! 🙌



*Photo Credit: Photo 116943631 © Alena Satterstock.com*

**“Thank you for the video. It could save you a trip and get our power on sooner in case of a power outage! It was very informative.”**

LARRY CHESMORE  
ROWLEY

### We'd love to hear what our members think of the video.

After watching, please email [ecirec@ecirec.coop](mailto:ecirec@ecirec.coop), reference the circuit breakers video in the subject line, and let us know if you feel it was helpful. Please include the street address where you receive electric service in the email. The names of members who provide feedback will be placed in a drawing for a chance to **win one of four \$25 bill credits!** Winners will be announced in the September/October Heartland Link.

*One bill credit per membership/household.*

*Feedback must be submitted by July 30 to be entered in the contest.*



July/August 2022 Heartland Link 7

# 2021 Central Iowa Power Cooperative Power Supply Report



Central Iowa Power Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

From Gary McKenna, Representative on the CIPCO Board of Directors  
a Cooperative Difference feature



Gary McKenna

## AFTER A TUMULTUOUS PANDEMIC, 2021

was a year of normalizing operations, creating new ways to work, and propelling ambitious projects to

completion. CIPCO reaffirmed its commitment to moving forward with operations and strategies that ensure safe, reliable, and cost-effective power for its 13 member-owners.

In 2021, multiple new generation sources came online to support the power needs of CIPCO's member systems, like Consumers Energy. The \$85 million Summit Lake expansion—the largest project in CIPCO's 75-year history—had a successful “first fire” of the new natural gas reciprocating engines. Full commercial operation of the new engines was achieved on April 15, after CIPCO tested electrical systems, tuned emissions-control equipment, and completed the final performance test. The repowered facility has performed well. It will produce 110 MW of power to assist during peak energy usage.

The commercial operation achievements of Wapello Solar, LLC, and Independence Wind added to CIPCO's generation mix through Power Purchase Agreements (PPA). Wapello Solar, a 100 MW<sub>AC</sub> solar facility, is owned by Clēnera; Independence Wind, a 54 MW facility in Delaware County, is owned by BHE Renewables. Both projects enhance CIPCO's generation mix as

sources of low-cost power, providing needed energy and capacity across the system. This diversity in generation is critical to CIPCO's ability to effectively serve East-Central Iowa REC.

On the heels of Wapello Solar's launch in April, CIPCO and Clēnera announced plans for a new 100 MW<sub>AC</sub> PPA called Coggon Solar, located in northern Linn County. The announcement drew resistance from local residents who made a public push to retain the solar site's 640 acres of land for agricultural use. Diligent work between CIPCO and Clēnera moved the project forward.


East-Central Iowa REC and CIPCO strive to provide safe, affordable, and reliable power to our members across the system. High-profile generation projects are often in the news, but projects essential to CIPCO's transmission operations are key components of CIPCO's mission. Each year, CIPCO completes a number of line and substation projects to ensure safe and reliable electric delivery across the system. For example, CIPCO completed nearly 44 miles of transmission line work in 2021.

Weather continues to test rural electric cooperatives across the state, and 2021 was no exception. In February, a large portion of the United States experienced a major snow and ice event, followed by record cold temperatures that debilitated utilities across the country. Energy demand and associated prices quickly moved upward as a number of generation assets were rendered unusable in areas not accustomed to such cold weather. While CIPCO and

its members largely escaped power outages, the financial impacts were felt throughout the year. Toward the end of the year, Iowa experienced the first-ever recorded derecho in the month of December, as well as tornadoes. While system damage did not equal that of the August 2020 derecho, the one-day event caused significant damage to 69 kV and 161 kV lines and structures.

CIPCO's commitment to reliability led to a system-wide outage rate of 0.29 hours per consumer without the December derecho. With the derecho included, the number was 1.31 hours. For 2021, East-Central Iowa REC's outage rate was 0.21 hours per customer without the December derecho, and 0.25 hours with the weather event.

Despite rising energy costs in 2021, both Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings maintained CIPCO's A rating, confirming CIPCO's financial strength. Returning patronage capital is a fundamental component of the cooperative business model. CIPCO remains dedicated to sound financial practices that allow margins to be returned to its members in the form of patronage. In 2021, CIPCO returned patronage totaling \$699,222 to East-Central Iowa REC.

Finally, CIPCO celebrated its seventy-fifth year in 2021! I want to thank you for the privilege of serving on both the East-Central Iowa REC and CIPCO Board of Directors. The actions we take are designed to strengthen the systems and ensure CIPCO is well-positioned to serve members now and into the future. 



# August is Move Over or Slow Down Month



**MOVE OVER  
SLOW DOWN**



## 2022 Mid-Year Operations Update

*a Keeping the Lights On feature*

### **IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT WE'RE OVER HALFWAY THROUGH 2022!**

The ECI REC crew has been hard at work all year, performing maintenance, moving forward with Work Plan projects, conducting safety training, and more. Here are some key updates for our members.

### **Preventative and Ongoing Maintenance Projects**

ECI REC has contracted with Badgerland Utility Solutions, LLC, of Wisconsin to inspect 5,161 poles and 490 pieces of underground equipment. In late spring, members may have seen the Badgerland team in the Jefferson, Aurora, and Crozier substation areas. They'll be returning to these areas later on to finish up. ECI REC has been busy this summer replacing and repairing deficient poles and equipment identified during these inspections.

### **Welcome to New Team Members**

In March, we welcomed Trent Koopmann, our new apprentice lineworker, at the Vinton Operations Center. Brady Ortner joined the team as summer help in Vinton this May. In the fall, Brady is set to begin the Powerline Technology program at Northwest Iowa Community College. 🌱

Maurer Tree Service has completed tree trimming in the Urbana area and is currently working in the Maryville area. All ground vegetation control scheduled for 2022 has been completed by Landmark Turf Services.

### **Work Plan Projects**

Highline Construction, Inc., continues to work on 34 miles of overhead construction. They recently completed work in District 2 and are working on projects in the Shellsburg area.

CRC Trenching has finished up their work in District 1 and is currently working near La Porte City on cable replacement projects. This work is happening in conjunction with the Spring Creek substation circuit breaker upgrades.



*Photo credit: Badgerland Utility Solutions, LLC*

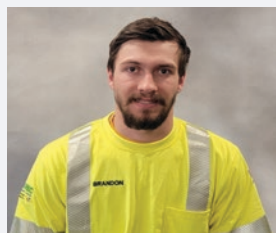
Badgerland Utility Solutions has been inspecting poles and underground equipment around the Jefferson, Aurora, and Crozier substations.

### **Safety**

Our commitment to employee safety is ongoing. Recently, our employees completed Mayday emergency training, a climbing review, and bucket rescue training. First aid and CPR training was completed earlier this spring.

### **Material Availability**

Global supply chain issues continue to affect ECI REC. If you have any electrical work planned in the next year that may affect ECI REC, please contact us as soon as possible so we can be prepared to meet your needs.



*Photo credit: Lisa Franck*

*Trent Koopmann, our new apprentice lineworker.*



*Photo credit: Lisa Franck*

*Brady Ortner, our summer help.*

# Message From the CEO

continued from page 12

I am sure you have heard predictions in the media of rolling blackouts this summer. Rolling blackouts are actual *planned* events that effect a small amount of load; they usually last less than an hour, and they can come with short notice. The likelihood of this type of “planned” power disruption in our area is *very rare*.

Nevertheless, ECI REC was recently notified by CIPCO about the potential risk for rolling blackouts with Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). MISO is the regional authority in a multi-state area that sets the rules and markets for large transmission lines and power generation for CIPCO. MISO serves portions of the southern and upper Midwest, and it acts like an air traffic controller of the electric grid to manage real-time generation within its footprint. Their goal is to ensure electric supply and demand are balanced, and CIPCO participates in MISO to buy and sell generation as needed.

ECI REC takes great pride in the investments we have made in our distribution system to reliably serve our members. As you know, service is always subject to potential outages due to extreme weather or other events beyond our control. The same can be said for CIPCO, which provides its member distribution cooperatives with adequate generation and transmission resources so we can meet the energy demands of our members. CIPCO is not aware of any imminent physical fuel supply problems that would threaten the availability of power.

So, if CIPCO has adequate generation and *contracted* supplies of energy, why the concern for rolling blackouts? Here are the two driving factors:

- » Forecasts of above-normal temperatures and drought conditions are the main source of concern.
- » The country is transitioning from dispatchable, baseload generation sources like coal-fired and nuclear power plants—cornerstones of reliability—to intermittent, non-dispatchable resources like wind and solar. While ECIREC is not opposed to wind and solar, they are not the same type of power generation; the sun doesn’t shine and the wind doesn’t blow all the time. This transition will continue to result in reliability and availability concerns.

Like our members, ECI REC cannot predict the weather. However, what we can try to do is keep our members informed and stand ready to respond. ECI REC will increase our messaging to help educate members on energy-saving measures for their daily routines (see infographic on the next page for some tips).

Regardless of the potential challenges we face, electricity remains a good value. ECI REC members can rest assured that your Cooperative’s Board of Directors and employees remain steadfast in serving our membership with safe, reliable, and environmentally friendly electricity. 🌱

## How Will ECI REC Alert Members to MISO Events?

- 1. ENERGY CONSERVATION EVENT:** ECI REC will post the below notice to our website home page and Facebook page.  
“An all-member peak alert event has been issued for our area (per MISO) for [date]. ECI REC is asking all members to voluntarily conserve energy from [time to time].”
- 2. POSSIBLE POWER INTERRUPTION EVENT:** ECI REC will post the below notice to our website home page and Facebook page. If time permits, ECI REC will do its best to send out a pre-recorded message to members who may experience a power interruption. Please note that these load sheds may come with little notice, and it is possible there may not be time to generate phone notifications to our members.

“A controlled short-term power interruption/outage may occur. Due to extreme events, electric grid operators (MISO) have called for short-term power outages to protect the grid. ECI REC member-consumers may experience short-term power disruptions today.”

**Have you disconnected your landline or changed your cell phone number or provider?**

Consider updating the primary and secondary phone numbers that are linked to your ECI REC account, so you can receive ECI REC voice messages. Scan the QR code or choose Member Information Update Request under the Account Services menu at [ecirec.coop](http://ecirec.coop).



## WILL WE SEE YOU AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR?

a Community Connected invitation



**THE TOUCHSTONE ENERGY® COOPERATIVES OF IOWA** are excited to sponsor the 4-H Exhibits Building for another year at the Iowa State Fair!

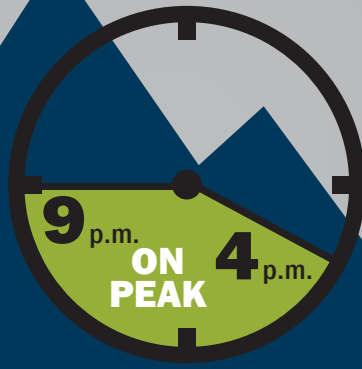
ECI REC is proud to be a Touchstone Energy member, which means we’re part of a nationwide network of locally owned cooperatives that provides resources and leverages partnerships to help members use energy wisely.

If you’re planning a visit to the Iowa State Fair between August 11–21, make sure to stop by

and see us in the air-conditioned 4-H Exhibits Building on the southwest corner of the fairgrounds. Electric cooperative staff from across the state will hand out plastic hard hats and suckers to the kids while supplies last. Kids can also try on some lineworker safety gear and take fun photos in our cooperative safety selfie station.

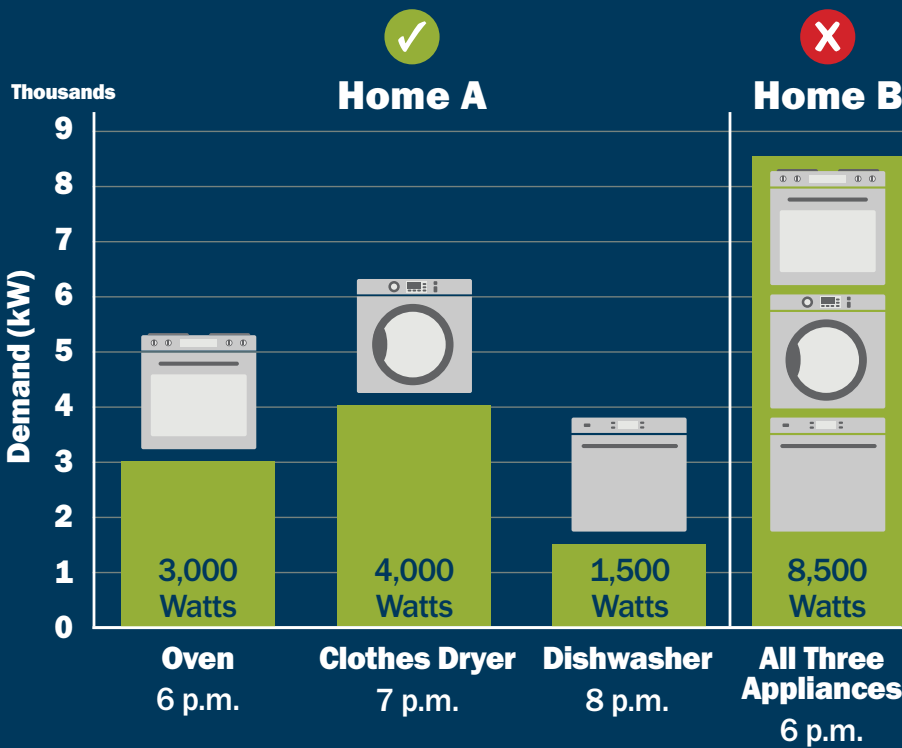
We look forward to connecting with our members at the Iowa State Fair this summer. Please stop by our booth and say hello! 🌱

# Switch your thinking and TAKE A LOAD OFF THE PEAK



Extreme summer weather increases electricity usage for everyone. However, there are ways you can help ECI REC (and your fellow members) save money!

- 1. Keep electricity usage to a minimum between 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.** ECI REC pays the most for electricity used in these peak hours. If you cut back during this window, everyone saves.
- 2. Coordinate the number of appliances you operate at once.** Staggering the use of appliances reduces the demand on our system, which means lower costs.



## Results

**Home A** staggered the use of their appliances during peak hours, creating less of a demand on the Cooperative's system.

**Home B** used all three appliances at once during peak hours, creating higher demand, which could increase costs.

## SUMMER Energy Efficiency Tip

When possible, run large appliances (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) after 9:00 p.m. This will take a load off the peak and minimize indoor heat during the day.



## YOUR BOARD

- Board District 1** - Jeff Elliott  
(2022/2023 Vice President)
- Board District 2** - Julie Kester  
(2022/2023 Asst. Secretary/Treasurer)
- Board District 3** - Brian McNulty
- Board District 4** - Gary McKenna
- Board District 6** - Don Shonka
- Board District 8** - Nick Donlea
- Board District 9** - Steve Rau  
(2022/2023 President)
- Board District 10** - Ryan Kress  
(2022/2023 Secretary/Treasurer)

## CLASSIFIEDS: Free to members only

**FOR SALE:** Two 1950 metal lawn chairs, \$50. Dark, solid wood 60" x 50" entertainment center, 26" x 22" TV area, two glass doors, and two storage areas, \$150. Ph: 319-551-5771, Rowley/Brandon.

**FOR SALE:** Two-hole plastic pig waterer, \$50. Ph: 319-551-2839, Rowley/Brandon.

Please email your ad to [classifieds@ecirec.coop](mailto:classifieds@ecirec.coop). Ads for the September/October 2022 *Heartland Link* must be received by August 1, 2022.

East-Central Iowa REC will publish non-commercial advertisements as a service to our members. All ads are free. They may be submitted by any member or employee of East-Central Iowa REC. Ads should contain a phone number, name (if desired), a brief description of items with price if applicable. Each ad is limited to maximum of 50 words; please type or print clearly. Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad. No ads will be taken over the telephone—please email, mail, or bring your ad to the office.

Heartland Link (USPS No. 313-160) is published bimonthly for \$3.30 per year by East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative, 2400 Bing Miller Ln., Urbana, IA 52345-0248 with outposts located at 1707 First St. E. Independence, IA 50644 and 1600 West D. St., Vinton, IA 52349. Periodicals class postage paid at Independence, IA, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Heartland Link, 2400 Bing Miller Lane, PO Box 248, Urbana, IA 52345.

Phone: (319) 443-4343

Ownership: East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

Publisher: Teresa Floyd

Editor: Lisa Franck

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

CLIP AND MAIL

See page 2 for the Member Challenge questions.

Answers: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: NO ANSWERS will be taken over the phone.

## Find tools for members at [www.ecirec.coop](http://www.ecirec.coop)



### 24-Hour Bill Pay With SmartHub

See account information at [ecirec.smarthub.coop](http://ecirec.smarthub.coop) or download the app.



### Outage Center & Map

View current outages via SmartHub or at [outages.ecirec.coop](http://outages.ecirec.coop):81.



### Online Forms

Access rebate, service request, and program sign-up forms.



### Call Before You Dig

Notify utilities before you dig at [www.iowaonecall.com](http://www.iowaonecall.com) or call 811.



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### Heartland Link E-Newsletter

Email [ecirec@ecirec.coop](mailto:ecirec@ecirec.coop) and ask to receive our newsletter via email.



### Iowa Rural Power

Join grassroots advocates for Iowa's electric cooperatives. Visit [www.iaruralpower.org](http://www.iaruralpower.org).



CEO TERESA FLOYD

## COVER STORY

# Message From the CEO: Rising Energy Prices, Weather Forecasts, Power Grid Reliability—What Do These Issues Mean for ECI REC Members?

**LIKE OUR MEMBERSHIP**, ECI REC has been impacted by inflation. We are also navigating increasing costs and supply chain issues. High, volatile natural gas prices caused our wholesale power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), to increase our cost of purchased power by \$0.0025/kWh as of May 1 (though we are still purchasing power more cheaply than we did four years ago).

What does this increase mean for ECI REC members?

The estimated increase of \$350,000 in wholesale power costs will be passed to the membership via the energy cost adjustment (ECA). For over four years, members have received an energy cost adjustment credit monthly on their energy bills. Following this cost of power increase, members can expect a smaller credit. For example, in the past a member who used 1,000 kWh had an ECA credit of \$7.00 on their energy bill; that credit would now be reduced by \$2.50. If costs continue to increase, ECI REC would be forced to pass on those costs in the energy cost adjustment.