

heartland LINK

A publication of East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

**HONORING
85 YEARS**



**October Is National
Co-op Month!**

#PoweringAheadForYou

Story on page 3

Photo credit: Lisa Franck

WEATHERIZATION

page 4

Incentives for energy-saving home improvements.



VIDEO CONTEST WINNERS

page 7

Find out who the four winners are!



BUDGET BILLING

page 8

Sign up and get predictable monthly payments

HEAT PLUS

page 9

Save up to 50% on winter heating bills.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

CLOSED

Monday,
September 5
for Labor Day

Friday,
November 11
for Veterans Day

Contact ECI REC**EMAILS**

memberservices@
ecirec.coop
(rebates, product sales)

csr@ecirec.coop
(billing, new customers)

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(closed Saturdays,
Sundays, and holidays)

Get Your Newsletter in Your Inbox

Email Lisa Franck in
Member Communications
(lisa.franck@ecirec.coop)
to begin receiving the
Heartland Link as a PDF
in your inbox. We can also
stop postal delivery—just
indicate that preference
as well.



Scan
to email
Lisa.



take the member challenge

1. **COMMUNITY CONNECTED:** Participants will learn how to advocate for issues that are important to them and build _____ skills from a motivational speaker.
2. **COMMUNITY CONNECTED:** Donations help pay these members' _____ or weatherization costs.
3. **KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON:** Accounts are reviewed twice a year to ensure budget amounts match _____.

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. 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 October 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 July/August 2022 *Heartland Link* entries. These members will receive a \$10 credit on their account.

Steven A. Thompson

Loren Miller

Bryan J. Zaspal

Dennis C. Sommerfelt

John & Abigail Lynch

Robert E. Gosse

Albert L. Covington, Jr.

Matt Dulin

Michael Hild

Scott Dinderman

Bob L. Pedersen

Darwin & Cheryl Funk

Chelsea A. Bearbower

Dennis F. Mills

John R. Henson

Lelann Sommerfelt

Stay connected! We post operations news and outage updates at facebook.com/eastcentraliowarec.

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Beware of utility scammers this fall.

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Sign-up window open for low-income homeowners.

04 WEATHERIZATION INCENTIVES

Get money back on qualified energy-saving upgrades.

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09 ACRE/FORE SUPPORT**10 HARVEST SAFETY****10 ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH****10 THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY****11 BOARD OF DIRECTORS****12 MESSAGE FROM CEO TERESA FLOYD**

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH!

ECI REC is committed to #PoweringAheadForYou

THIS OCTOBER, ECI REC is celebrating the benefits and values cooperatives bring to our members and communities!

While cooperatives operate in many industries and sectors of the economy, there are seven principles that set us apart from other businesses:

7

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

1. Open and Voluntary Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training, and Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

On a national scale, cooperatives help build a more participatory, sustainable, and resilient economy. ECI REC is proud to be part of America's cooperative network, serving members with ideals and principles like our own. This network includes more than 831 distribution and 63 generation/transmission cooperatives. Together, we serve 42 million people, powering over 21 million businesses, homes, schools, and farms in 48 states. In fact, 56% of the nation's landmass is powered by cooperatives!

As more consumers seek out alternatives to "big box" businesses, the cooperative model stands out as a unique option rooted in local communities. Because ECI REC is not-for-profit, our mission is solely to serve you, our members. We thank you for being a member of East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative! 🌱



Photo credits: Lisa Franck



Fraudulent Phone Calls Continue

a Safety alert

ECI REC MEMBERS have continued to receive fraudulent calls in which the callers identified themselves as ECI REC employees. The callers told members they needed to pay their electric bills immediately, or they would be disconnected within the hour.

These calls did not come from ECI REC and serve as a reminder to all to be wary of phone scams. If you receive a call of this nature, do not give your personal information to the caller. Hang up and call our office directly to check the legitimacy of the call. ECI REC personnel will be able to provide members with specific account details, which scammers will not be able to do. 🌱



Photo credit: Watkinson Energy

State Releases 2022-2023 LIHEAP Requirements

an Energy Wise update

THE 2022-2023 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

If you are not sure where to apply, dial 211 or visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply> to contact your local community action agency.

You may also write to: **LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Human Rights, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319.** 

HOW TO APPLY FOR LIHEAP

WHEN TO APPLY

- » Elderly (60 and over) and/or disabled: October 1, 2022, to April 30, 2023
- » All other households: November 1, 2022, to April 30, 2023

WHAT TO TAKE

- » Proof of income for all household members age 18 and over; depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or the last calendar year—which ever is easier or more beneficial for you
- » Proof of Social Security Numbers for all household members (documentation required)
- » Most recent heat bill
- » Most recent electric bill

WAGE EARNERS

Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

FIXED INCOME

This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS

Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified. Additional income not listed here may be required.

INCOME MAXIMUMS

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$27,180
2	\$36,620
3	\$46,060
4	\$55,500
5	\$64,940
6	\$74,380
7	\$83,820
8	\$93,260

For households with more than eight members, add \$9,440 for each additional member.

Members Save With ECI REC Weatherization Incentives

an Energy Wise reminder

Requirements (with or without LIHEAP)

- » Must have electric heat and/or central air (homes with natural gas do not qualify).
- » Home must be built prior to 2000.
- » Must be upgrade to existing home (new additions do not qualify).
- » Project cost must be \$150 or more (labor costs for self-installed projects cannot be included).

Electric Heat (with or without air conditioning)

- » Attic/Ceiling Insulation - 60% up to \$600
 - » Wall Insulation - 60% up to \$600
 - » Foundation Insulation - 60% up to \$600
 - » Infiltration Control - 60% up to \$200
 - » Duct Insulation/Sealing - 60% up to \$200
- Maximum rebate per home \$2,200*

Central AC Only (non-electric heating)

- » Attic/Ceiling Insulation - 15% up to \$150
 - » Wall Insulation - 15% up to \$150
- Maximum rebate per home \$300*

LIHEAP QUALIFIED

(See LIHEAP weatherization income guidelines to the left)

Electric Heat (with or without air conditioning)

- » Attic/Ceiling Insulation - 80% up to \$800
- » Wall Insulation - 80% up to \$800
- » Foundation Insulation - 80% up to \$800
- » Infiltration Control - 80% up to \$200
- » Duct Insulation/Sealing - 80% up to \$200

Maximum rebate per home \$2,800

Central AC Only (non-electric heating)

- » Attic/Ceiling Insulation - 20% up to \$150
 - » Wall Insulation - 20% up to \$150
- Maximum rebate per home \$300*

Calling All High School Students Interested in Public Service and Leadership!

Webinar series offers chance to win AirPods and \$1,000 college scholarship

a Community Connected announcement

GUIDED BY OUR commitment to community, ECI REC has a long history of supporting students through scholarships and leadership opportunities. We've also been sending deserving high school students to Washington, D.C., every summer for years as part of the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program.

This October, ECI REC is pleased that students can once again participate in the Iowa Youth Leadership Academy—a three-part webinar series that gives rural students the opportunity to learn about advocacy, electric cooperative career opportunities, and the cooperative business model. The course is open to any high school student in our service area. Students are invited to register at www.iowaYouthTour.com through October 1.

“This new program is perfect for rural Iowa students who have a passion for public service, leadership, or government,” remarked ECI REC CEO Teresa Floyd. “We want to raise students’ awareness of how local electric cooperatives power people’s lives and empower communities. We also want to talk about exciting cooperative career paths that are available in smaller communities.”

Once students register online for the Iowa Youth Leadership Academy, they can attend the webinars on their own computers or mobile devices. Each Zoom session will be around an hour and will focus on a specific topic:

- » Thursday, Oct. 6, 7:00 p.m. – Cooperative Business Model
- » Tuesday, Oct. 18, 7:00 p.m. – Rural Iowa Advocacy
- » Thursday, Oct. 27, 7:00 p.m. – Civic Involvement and Leadership



WANTED:
Rural Iowa high school students who have a passion for leadership

Attend our webinar series in October for a chance to win Apple AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship! Learn more at IowaYouthTour.com



At the end of each live session, one lucky attendee will be selected at random to win a pair of Apple AirPods. Students who attend all three sessions will be entered into a random drawing for two \$1,000 college scholarships. All students who register online by October 1 will receive a special box of cooperative goodies in the mail.

During the Zoom sessions, students will be inspired by our lineup of speakers and presenters. Participants will learn how to advocate for issues that are important to them and build leadership skills from a motivational speaker. Attendees will also hear from former Iowa Youth Tour students who pursued their passion for government service and leadership after attending the weeklong trip to D.C. The next Youth Tour is slated for June 17–23, 2023.

Learn more at www.iowaYouthTour.com or contact us at 877-850-4343 or ecirec@ecirec.coop.



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| » Bill's Pizza & Smokehouse | » Michael & Dowd | » Subway |
| » Cy & Charley's Tire & Appliances | » Styles Unlimited | » Viking Sewing Center |
| » E & T NAPA Auto Parts | » Berry's Lanes, Inc. | » The NEWS/Buchanan County Review |
| » Fabulous Fridays | » In the Country Garden & Gifts | |

Download the mobile app to use your card via your smartphone!



Apple



Android




RECare Supports Members in Need

a Community Connected article

CONTRIBUTING TO RECare is an easy way to help your fellow members! The program distributes funds to low-income energy consumers in Benton and Buchanan Counties via community action agencies. Donations help pay these members' heating bills or weatherization costs.

ECI REC would like to thank all the members who are giving to others in our communities. Even a small amount can help those less fortunate. From July 2021 to June 2022, 68 members contributed to RECare through monthly contributions, and 10 members contributed via one-time donations. In total, members contributed \$7,858. Those donations assisted 13 members in need, with an average assistance of \$399.46 going to each household.

Help ECI REC reach our goal of exceeding that number of participants in 2022–2023! To sign up for RECare or make a one-time donation, call 877-850-4343 or fill out and return the form below or on ecirec.coop (under Account Services, Member Programs, RECare Program). 



Scan to fill out form online.

YES, I want to contribute to RECare.

- I will make a one-time contribution to RECare.
- I will contribute \$ _____ per month to RECare. (I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.)
- My check is enclosed. (Make payable to ECI REC.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Account Number: _____ Email Address: _____

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




Revolving Loan Fund Supports Local Economy

a Community Connected reminder

BUSINESS OWNERS TAKE NOTE—your project may be eligible for a loan through the ECI REC Revolving Loan Fund. Anyone may apply for a loan for any community or economic development project that benefits the rural area, such as new or expanding private businesses, non-profit groups, and city or county governments. Loan recipients are not required to re-ceive electric service from ECI REC.

“One of ECI REC’s core goals is supporting the growth and development of our members’ hometowns,” said CEO Teresa Floyd. “The recipients of these loans are assets to their communities, and they’re key to helping ensure the long-term viability of the rural economy.”

The Loan Review Committee and the ECI REC Board of Directors consider the financial need of the project; the probability of success; the benefits of the project to the rural area, including the number of jobs to be created or retained; diversification of the economy; quality job creation in terms of pay scale and benefits packages; and community development projects and improvements to the community infrastructure.

Please call 877-850-4343 for more information on loan requirements and terms. 

Announcing Our Video Contest Winners!

a Cooperative Difference feature

THIS SUMMER, ECI REC released a video on how to check circuit breakers, featuring Manager of Member Service Adam Albertsen. We'd like to thank all our members who provided such great feedback on the video! These members were entered for a chance to win one of four \$25 bill credits.



Winners

CALLY GIPPER, FAIRBANK

"Thank you for the video. It is very helpful, and I am glad I am able to watch the video when the time comes to be able to determine if the issue is on my end or not in the event of a power outage."

LORETTA VOGT, BLAIRSTOWN

"The circuit breaker video by Adam was very helpful. Thank you. I took notes to keep in my file."

These members received their \$25 credit on their bill for July, which arrived in August. The credit was labeled "Survey Winner." Congratulations to Cally, Kathy, Loretta, and Monica!

KATHY FLAUCHER, INDEPENDENCE

"The video was very informative and easy to follow. The information regarding the meter and breaker on the pole was new to me and will be another option to help troubleshoot during an outage."

MONICA BENGSTON, FAIRBANK

"Thank you for the video. It was not too long and was very easy to understand. Hope you can leave it on your site for quick reference in case we ever need to use it."

Feedback from Other Members

BRENDA VANDE VOORDE, AURORA

"I want to thank you, and Adam, for the informative video on how to check your circuit breakers in an outage. While I was aware of the location and how to check my circuit breaker in the basement, I forgot the circuit breaker at the pole! Thankfully, I don't have any issues right now, but it was a great refresher. Thank you to all our electric power workers (including office staff!) who work very hard to deliver clean electric power to your members. Stay safe and God bless!"

LARRY CHESMORE, ROWLEY

"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."

LAURIE LAMPILA, CENTER POINT

"I enjoyed the video! What I learned by watching it is that you need to flip the breaker to 'off' prior to flipping back to 'on.' I didn't know that. Usually, my husband deals with those issues, but if he isn't home when an event occurs, I feel a bit better that I can address it myself. Thanks." 🙌

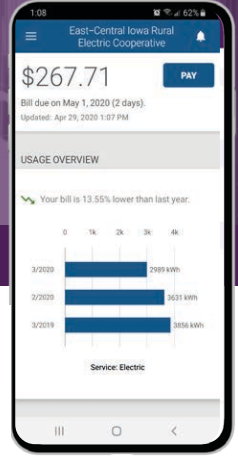
**CALL
BEFORE
YOU
DIG**
IT'S THE LAW!

**Iowa One Call:
811 or 800-292-8989**

Photo Credit: Photo 11/09/2021 by Adam Albertsen



SMART USAGE



SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.

Saving money just got easier.

Track your usage and take the guesswork out of your bill with SmartHub.

Through detailed graphs, you'll be able to monitor usage 24/7 and track your consumption, finding ways to reduce and save.

...all in the palm of your hand and online.

Did you know that with SmartHub, you can also set up email alerts so you can stay on top of energy usage?

To create your alerts, log in at ecirec.smarthub.coop and select "Manage Notifications." From there, create a usage alert to receive an email when you use more than a set amount of electricity. You can customize these thresholds to work for your household energy needs and budget.

DOWNLOAD THE SMARTHUB APP

Manage your account like never before with the SmartHub mobile app! The intuitive app design features an enhanced, user-friendly experience. Members can download the app in the Apple and Android stores.

Bonus tip: You can register for SmartHub using the app.



APPLE USERS:
Scan to download the SmartHub app.



ANDROID USERS:
Scan to download the SmartHub app.

Budget Billing Makes Monthly Planning Easier

a Keeping the Lights On article

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 reviewed twice a year to ensure budget amounts match usage.

There are several ways you can enroll:

- » Go to ecirec.coop and complete the budget billing form, then submit by email or USPS mail.
- » 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.
- » Complete and mail in the budget billing form to the right.

Note: Budget billing only applies for members who have an ECI REC usage history of less than 3,000 kWh/month.

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 | Billing | PO Box 248 | Urbana, IA 52345-0248.




Choose the Heat Plus Rate for Winter Savings

an Energy Wise update

FROM OCTOBER 1 TO MAY 31, ECI REC offers a special Heat Plus rate that can save qualifying members up to 50% on winter heating bills. If you're making HVAC upgrades or building new, this rate helps earn you a faster return! The current rate is .0485 cents/kWh. To qualify for the Heat Plus rate, your heating system must:

- » Be electric and metered separately.
- » Use the primary electric heating source first, with the backup system operating only when the primary system is unable to satisfy the indoor thermostat setting.
- » Use the primary electric system to heat an area of 400 square feet or more.
- » Use an electric water heater to provide 100% of the domestic water heating for the home (except for the energy supplied from an electric heat pump desuperheater).

Call 877-850-4343 to see if your home, office, business, or shop qualifies for these savings! 


Help Influence Energy Policy

a Looking Out For You article

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. Return form to:

ACRE/FORE - ECI REC
 2400 Bing Miller Lane
 PO Box 248
 Urbana, IA 52345-0248 

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: _____

Celebrating 100 years of Fire Prevention Week!



Fire won't wait. Plan your escape.™



October 9-15, 2022
firepreventionweek.org

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**PROTECTING
AGRICULTURE'S
FUTURE**
NATIONAL FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK
SEPTEMBER 18-24, 2022

www.necasag.org



Harvest Safety Tips For Farmworkers

a Safety reminder from Safe Electricity

- » **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- » **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- » **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- » **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe, and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment. 

QUESTIONS OR COMPLAINTS

ECI REC strives to provide you with the best service at the lowest possible cost. But sometimes you have questions regarding your electrical service or billing, or possibly a complaint. We would like to know. Please contact us! Our office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Local phone: 319-443-4343
Toll free: 877-850-4343
Fax: 319-443-4359

Email: ecirec@ecirec.coop

Mail: 2400 Bing Miller Lane, PO Box 248, Urbana, IA 52345

If you have a complaint related to East-Central Iowa REC's service, rather than its rates, and the complaint is not resolved, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board.

Toll free: 877-565-4450

Fax: 515-725-7398

Email: customer@iub.iowa.gov (in subject area, note customer service)

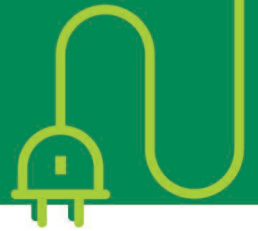
Mail: Customer Service, Iowa Utilities Board, 1375 E. Court Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

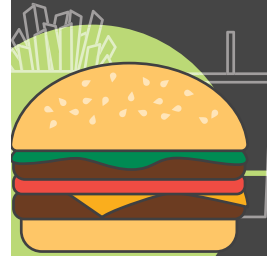
An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back.

Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Dept. of Energy



THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY



\$5.04

average cost of a Big Mac® sandwich

\$4.01

average daily cost of power



Electricity is expressed on a daily basis using EIA 2021 Average U.S. Monthly Residential Bill of \$122. Big Mac® is a registered trademark of McDonald's Corporation. McDonald's Corporation does not endorse or sponsor this material.

Sources: Economist.com and EIA, 2021 data.

Message From the CEO

continued from page 12

Here is our vision: "Improve ECI REC's safety culture via improved safety programs and employee communications." Below are the goals and action items the ECI REC management team and Board of Directors included in our 2021-2022 strategic initiatives:

- » **Evaluate and introduce a wellness component.** To achieve this goal, we have started holding quarterly wellness events.
- » **Monitor and guide safety culture consistency between all locations.** There will be ongoing manager outreach to each location, and we will continue monthly joint safety meetings.
- » **Enhance our safety culture by upgrading our current safety curriculum to IAEC's Safety Gold Program.** This program includes nine onsite training events and three jobsite visits throughout the year. We will further enhance our safety culture by:
 - » Implementing two annual onsite safety inspections conducted by our insurance provider, Federated.
 - » Encouraging a Board member to attend two all-employee safety meetings per year.
 - » Holding quarterly Safety Committee meetings.
 - » Updating ECI REC's emergency response document.

Our Commitment to Employee Safety

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. ECI REC has established safety protocols based on leading national safety standards and practices for the utility industry. Our lineworkers follow specific protocols when dealing with electricity and are required to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines.

Our Safety Committee focuses on keeping employees and the community safe around electricity. The committee meets regularly to discuss upcoming projects from a safety perspective. It

also monitors and tracks accident near-misses to understand what happened and share any lessons that will help the Cooperative improve in the future.

Just as important, we encourage all our crews to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem-solving and not a blame game. We examine the information and data gleaned from near-misses and accident reports to discern patterns and use safety metrics to improve in areas where we have fallen short. As appropriate, we brief contractors on our safety protocols and set expectations for their engagement.

Our Commitment to Community Safety

Because we live and work in the communities we serve, we care about our neighbors. ECI REC conducts electrical safety demonstrations in schools and for community events. When asked, we also present at public authority events on special topics like disaster recovery and general electrical safety.

Each year, thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents, and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. There is much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity. Here are just a few tips:

- » Don't attempt electrical DIY projects.
- » Don't overload your outlets.
- » Report downed power lines, unlocked substations, or pad-mount transformers that look amiss.

The ECI REC team is your resource for additional electrical safety tips. If you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or community event, please call 877-850-4343 or email memberservices@ecirec.coop. Remember to always be mindful when it comes to electricity—take the time to plug into safety! 🌱

July Fire Extinguisher Training

a Safety feature



In addition to hazard recognition training, all ECI REC employees underwent an annual hands-on fire extinguisher training at their July safety meeting, directed by Job Training and Safety Instructor Jim Wolfe of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. ECI REC Lineworker Josh Cox is pictured above.

Photo credit: Lisa Francis

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: 50" smart TV, \$100; soundbar, \$40. Ph: 563-920-4338.

FOR SALE: Shark Professional vacuum, Professional rotator, excellent condition, \$75; 24" Insignia flat-screen TV, \$30. Ph: 319-654-4151.

Please email your ad to classifieds@ecirec.coop. Ads for the November/December 2022 *Heartland Link* must be received by October 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.

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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



24-Hour Bill Pay With SmartHub

See account information at ecirec.smarthub.coop or download the app.



Outage Center & Map

View current outages via SmartHub or at outages.ecirec.coop:81.



Online Forms

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Call Before You Dig

Notify utilities before you dig at www.iowaonecall.com or call 811.



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Heartland Link E-Newsletter

Email 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.



CEO TERESA FLOYD

Message From the CEO: Safety Above All Else

“SAFETY” IS A WORD that’s mentioned often and used loosely. Communities large and small, as well as companies across all industries, state that they are committed to safety. Sports leagues at every level declare that they take safety seriously. Unfortunately, when it really counts, steps to keep the public, workers, athletes, and our loved ones safe are often ignored in the interest of expediency or convenience.

However, safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety. At East-Central Iowa REC, safety is our number-one priority. That is not empty talk. Over time, ECI REC has created a culture in which we place the safety of our employees and our communities above all else.

Our Mission, Vision, and Goals

At its core, ECI REC’s mission is to provide *safe, affordable, and reliable* electricity to our members. As we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity, it is equally important to us that our team members return home safely to their loved ones every day. Accomplishing this mission requires ongoing focus, dedication, and vigilance. That’s why “Promote Safe Culture” is one of the seven initiatives your Board of Directors approved for ECI REC’s strategic plan document.

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