

heartland LINK

A publication of East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

BOARD NOMINATIONS

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Now seeking candidates for Districts 1 and 9.

2023 REBATES

page 6

Energy efficiency rebates updated for 2023.



RATE CHANGES

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WINTER OPS UPDATE

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Progress in the face of material delays.



ECI REC Will Send Two High Schoolers on Youth Tour

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Photo credit: LAEC



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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connect with us

We've been sharing news and tips on Facebook for 11 years. Make sure to like us!



2023 pocket calendars

Members, stop by the Urbana office to pick up your free pocket calendar from ECI REC!

take the member challenge

1. **COMMUNITY CONNECTED:** This year, ECI REC is looking for two students to _____ on the trip, which will take place June 17-23.
2. **ENERGY WISE:** Iowa's electric cooperatives work in cooperation with other cooperatives to more effectively deliver energy efficiency _____ to members.
3. **KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON:** Due to ongoing _____ availability issues, some projects have been delayed or modified.

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 February 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 November/December 2022 *Heartland Link* entries. These members will receive a \$10 credit on their account.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Michael E. Wojcik | Sara M. Smith |
| Dustin Edler | Daniel K. Rewoldt |
| Elmer E. Spencer | Deb A. Dehaan |
| Claudia C. Waggener | Dennis J. Sullivan |
| Ron D. Bossler | Larry L. Burrage |
| EJM Farms, Inc. | Sharon Kokinos |
| Charles J. Hilleshiem | Mike A. Stafford |
| Gary A. Hippen | Melissa Seibert |

Calendar Notes

Happy New Year!

Contact ECI REC

EMAILS

memberservices@ecirec.coop
(rebates, product sales)

csr@ecirec.coop
(billing, new customers)

WEBSITE

www.ecirec.coop

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Teresa Floyd
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Ext. 450
teresa.floyd@ecirec.coop

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jennifer.schmitz@ecirec.coop

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Lisa Franck
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319-443-4343

TOLL FREE
877-850-4343

FAX 319-443-4359

HOURS

Monday-Friday
Office: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(closed Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays)

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

We Want You! ECI REC Will Send Two High Schoolers on Youth Tour

a Community Connected feature



EVERY YEAR, over a thousand high school students from across the country travel to Washington, D.C., for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. This year, ECI REC is looking for two students to sponsor on the trip, which will take place June 17–23.

To be eligible, students must be entering their sophomore or junior year and have parents or legal guardians who are members of ECI REC. Applications can be found on the Youth Tour page at ecirec.coop, under the Community & News menu. **They are due Wednesday, February 22, 2023.**

Youth Tour attendees participate in leadership training, engage in one-on-one conversations with elected officials, learn about electric cooperatives, and tour sites like the Washington Monument, U.S. Capitol, and Lincoln Memorial.

Iowa's electric cooperatives have been sending students on the Youth Tour for over 60 years. It's a program East-Central Iowa REC takes pride in participating in—after all, our teens are our future!

For more information about Youth Tour, email us at iowayouthtour@ecirec.coop or call toll free: 877-850-4343. Also, follow the Iowa Youth Tour on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and Instagram!

Did you know Youth Tour alumni are eligible for scholarships?

That's right! The Glenn English National Cooperative Leadership Foundation offers one \$10,000 scholarship and four \$1,000 scholarships to Youth Tour alumni. Applications typically become available early in the new year and are due in April. Visit electric.coop/our-organization/youth-programs/scholarships for more information. 📄

DUE DATE:
Wednesday,
February 22, 2023

GET THE APPLICATION: Go to ecirec.coop and choose Youth Tour from under the Community & News menu.

On the cover: In 2019, Jacob Ludeking and Kaylee Kleitsch were sponsored by East-Central Iowa REC on the annual NRECA Youth Tour.

Investing in Our Youth Through College Scholarships

a Community Connected article



THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT FUND, East-Central Iowa REC gives unclaimed patronage dividends back to the communities we serve. Our youth programs—college scholarships and the Youth Tour—are just two initiatives supported by this fund.

Every year, East-Central Iowa REC is proud to offer up to ten \$1,000 scholarships to students who will continue their education in college in any field. Up to two \$1,000 scholarships are also available to students accepted to the Powerline Technology program at Northwest Iowa Community College.

Applications are now available on the Scholarships page at ecirec.coop, under the Community & News menu. **The deadline for applications is Wednesday, March 1, 2023.**

Attention future electrical engineers

The Glenn English National Cooperative Leadership Foundation offers \$2,000 scholarships to college students pursuing careers in electrical engineering, specifically those who plan to return to rural areas to work. Applications typically become available early in the new year and are due in May. Visit electric.coop/engineers-future-scholarship for more information. 📄

Set Up Your Online Co-Op Connections® Account!

Did you know you can set up a personalized dashboard for your Co-op Connections experience? With an account, you can see your savings history and save offers. Just head to the Co-op Connections website at www.connections.coop and click "Sign Up."

On the Co-op Connections website, you'll also find the current lists of offers for cooperative members to save on everything from insurance and travel to movies and medicines.

Don't forget to download the Co-op Connections app for even easier ways to shop and save.


Committee Now Taking Nominations for 2023 Board Elections

a Cooperative Difference announcement

AT A RECENT BOARD MEETING, each ECI REC Director selected a member-consumer from their District to serve on ECI REC's Nominating Committee. The committee's purpose is to nominate one to two ECI REC members as candidates for the Director positions that are up for election this year. The vote will take place at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Members.

There are two positions up for election. You can find more information about these Board Districts to the right.

If you are interested in being a candidate for one of the positions, would like to make a recommendation, or have a petition nominating a member, please contact the Nominating Committee member representing the District you or the nominee could represent. Nominations may also be submitted to the Urbana office.

Nominations by petition must have 35 names. Candidates must live in the Board District they could potentially represent. All nominations must be registered at the Urbana Administrative Headquarters before 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 16, 2023. On that date, all candidates will be reviewed and nominations confirmed at a meeting of the Nominating Committee. 

Resilient Roots, Sustained Commitment

SAVE THE DATE!

ECI REC's Annual Meeting of the Members

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

Registration begins at 10:30 a.m.

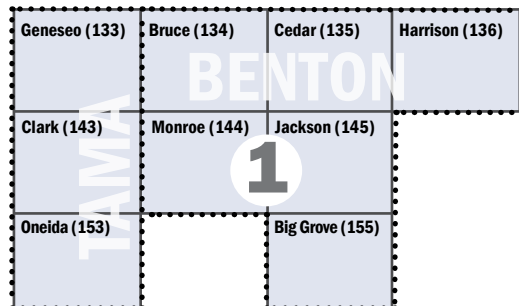
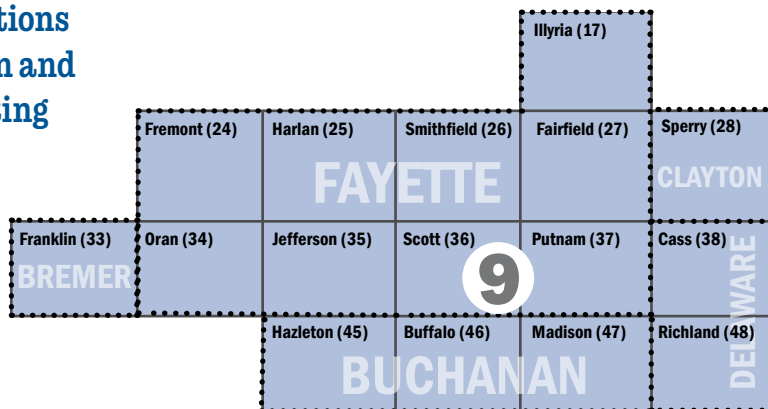
Business meeting begins at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting will be held virtually.

In August 1938, one of East-Central Iowa REC's parent cooperatives, Buchanan County Rural Electric Cooperative Association, was founded.

Honoring 85 Years

Director positions up for election and the representing Nominating Committee members:



BOARD DISTRICT 1

Currently represented by Jeff Elliott, La Porte City

Serving: Geneseo, Clark, and Oneida Townships in Tama County; Bruce, Cedar, Harrison, Monroe, Jackson, and Big Grove Townships in Benton County

Nominating Contact:

Robert Hanson
5071 15th Ave.
La Porte City, IA 50651
Text/Call: 319-560-9933
Email: robert.hanson@plantpioneer.com

BOARD DISTRICT 9

Currently represented by Steve Rau, Stanley

Serving: Franklin Township in Bremer County; Illyria, Fremont, Harlan, Smithfield, Fairfield, Sperry, Oran, Jefferson, Scott, and Putnam Townships in Fayette County; Sperry and Cass Townships in Clayton County; Hazleton, Buffalo, and Madison Townships in Buchanan County; Richland Township in Delaware County

Nominating Contact:

Gary Maurer
1559 Lawrence Ave.
Independence, IA 50644
Call: 563-920-7050

Directors Matter—Let's Make a Difference Together!

a Cooperative Difference message from Board President Steve Rau

THE ECI REC BOARD OF DIRECTORS makes decisions that impact key issues like service rates, rights of way, and work plans. It's important to have a pool of strong candidates, which is why we encourage members to run in our Board elections.

DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- » Regular Board meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month. They normally begin at 8:00 a.m. and last three to four hours. Directors are also expected to attend the Annual Meeting of the Members and the reorganizational meeting that follows.
- » Directors are encouraged to attend meetings of affiliated organizations on a state, national, and regional level.
- » Directors are encouraged to seek training so they can fulfill their responsibilities to the best of their ability.
- » Directors serve a three-year term before seeking re-election.
- » Directors are compensated per monthly meeting, plus mileage expenses for their service.

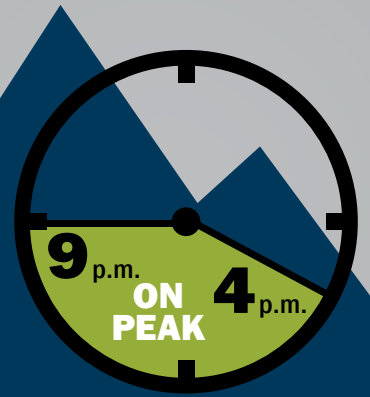
DIRECTOR ELIGIBILITY

Article VII, Section 3 of the Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative list the eligibility requirements for an individual to be nominated, elected, or appointed to the Board of Directors.

To learn more about the ECI REC Board of Directors, visit ecirec.coop, call 877-850-4343, or email ecirec@ecirec.coop.

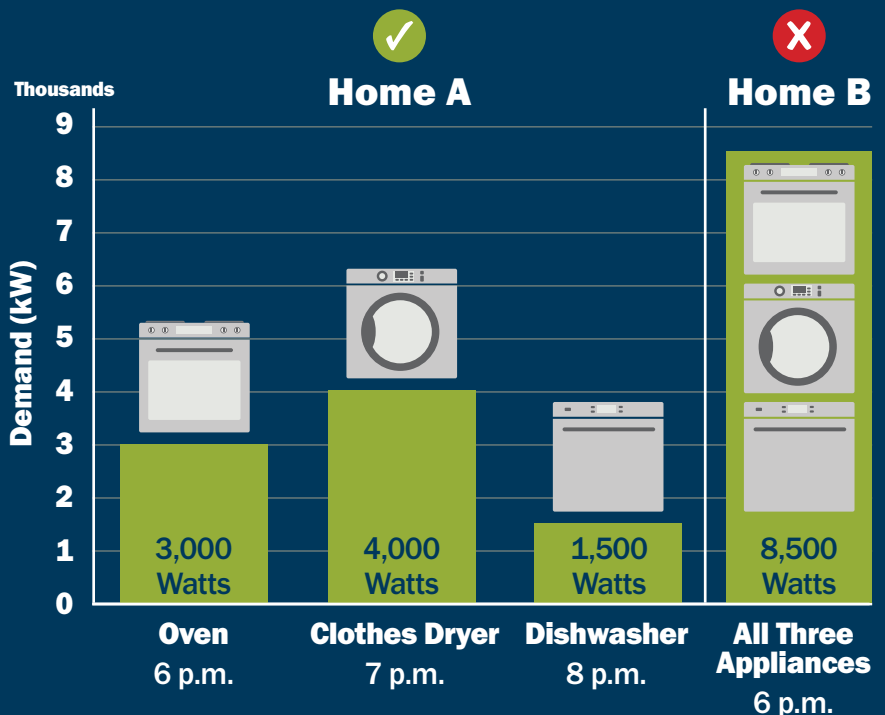
In 2023, make a resolution to

TAKE A LOAD OFF THE PEAK



Frigid winter temperatures increase 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.

New 2023 Energy Efficiency Incentives Are Available for You!

an Energy Wise special feature



Photo credit: Cooperative.com, Scott Van Osdol

IS IT TIME to replace your water heater, upgrade old appliances, or change out your heating or cooling system? Maybe you're planning to tackle some remodeling or build a new home. Don't forget about ECI REC's energy efficiency rebate programs when it comes to these types of home projects! As a Cooperative member-consumer, these incentives are right at your fingertips! 🏡

WEATHERIZATION INCENTIVES

LIHEAP and Non-LIHEAP Requirements

- » Rebates based on heating source.
- » 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).

Non-LIHEAP Members

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 Incentive per Account: \$2,200

Central AC Only

Non-electric heating.

- » Attic/Ceiling Insulation: 15% up to \$150
- » Wall Insulation: 15% up to \$150
- » Maximum Incentive per Account: \$300

LIHEAP-Qualified Members

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 Incentive per Account: \$2,800

Central AC Only

Non-electric heating.

- » Attic/Ceiling Insulation: 20% up to \$150
- » Wall Insulation: 20% up to \$150
- » Maximum Incentive per Account: \$300

NEW EQUIPMENT/APPLIANCE INCENTIVES

Air-Source Heat Pump, Including Mini-Splits

- » Cold Climate Heat Pump: \$350/ton
- » Standard Air-Source Heat Pump: \$250/ton
- » Hybrid Air-Source Heat Pump Bonus: \$50/ton

Ground-Source Heat Pump

- » Closed-Loop System: \$450/ton
- » Open-Loop System: \$300/ton (no "pump & dump" systems)
- » Hybrid System with Gas Backup: Additional \$50/ton
- » Unit Replacement: \$150/ton

ENERGY STAR® Central Air Conditioning

- » ENERGY STAR-Qualified: \$100/unit (min. SEER 15.0 & EER 12.5)
- » Limit two A/C rebates per account.

Indoor Air Quality

Equipment must serve the entire conditioned space of the home.

- » Energy/Heat Recovery Ventilator (ERV/HRV): \$250/unit
- » Limit two HRVs per account.

Heat Pump Water Heater (HPWH)

- » ENERGY STAR Integrated Unit: \$500/unit

High-Efficiency Electric Water Heater

- » Electric Resistance Unit: \$75/unit (40 gal. tank min., EF \geq 0.90)
- » Geothermal Assisted Storage Unit: \$150/unit (40 gal. tank min., EF \geq 0.90)

Beneficial Electrification (BE) Incentive

Available when a resistance or HPWH unit is replacing a natural gas or LP unit, or for new accounts.

- » Go-Electric Bonus: \$100

ENERGY STAR-Qualified Appliances

- » ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer: \$40/unit (must have electric water heater)
- » ENERGY STAR Electric Clothes Dryer: \$20/unit

Electric Vehicle Chargers

The primary charging location of the vehicle must be at the home address of the member served by ECI REC. Account must be on time-of-use rate to be eligible.

- » Level II Charger (240/208-volt input supply) installation: 50% up to \$500

NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION

- » All-Star Home \$500/home

Requirements:

- » Energy-Efficient Home Construction: High-performance insulation and windows.
- » High-Efficiency Heating and Cooling: Requires geothermal, cold climate air-source heat pump, or ENERGY STAR air-source heat pump.
- » Efficient Electric Water Heating: Requires the installation of a heat pump water heater or geothermal assisted electric water heater.
- » Electric ENERGY STAR appliances for clothes washer, clothes dryer, dishwasher, and refrigerator.

Our rebate forms are online at: ecirec.coop/rebate-forms-and-specifications.

East-Central Iowa REC Promotes Energy Efficiency

an Energy Wise feature

IOWA'S LOCALLY OWNED electric cooperatives have a long history of supporting energy efficiency; in fact, we've been offering cost-effective energy efficiency programs since the late 1980s. These programs include rebates and incentives for various energy-efficient products, such as ENERGY STAR® appliances, water heaters, LED lighting, and heating and cooling systems. ECI REC also offers programs designed to reduce electric demand, such as our residential, agricultural, and commercial rebates and incentives.


Additionally, your Cooperative continues to upgrade facilities to maximize efficiency, including more efficient transformers and upgrades to substations. Generating, transmitting, and distributing electricity more efficiently helps ECI REC manage costs more effectively, ultimately resulting in lower utility bills for our members.


Iowa's electric cooperatives work in cooperation with other cooperatives to more effectively deliver energy efficiency programs to members. By partnering with other cooperatives, energy efficiency programs can be developed and delivered more effectively and at a lower cost than ECI REC could do alone.

Working together with other community-focused cooperatives, ECI REC assesses the costs and benefits of each program to determine what to offer to our members. Standardly, we perform four benefit-cost tests to determine the cost-effectiveness of the program.

1. The participant cost test determines whether the program is cost-effective from the perspective of the participant in the program.
2. The utility cost test determines whether the program is cost-effective from the perspective of ECI REC.
3. The ratepayer impact cost test, also referred to as the RIM test, determines whether the program is cost-effective from the perspective of Cooperative members who do not participate in the program.
4. Finally, the societal test determines whether the program is cost-effective from the perspective of society in general.

Ultimately, ECI REC invests in energy efficiency programs to benefit the communities we serve. In 2021, your electric cooperative invested \$0.00092691 per kWh of its revenue, in energy efficiency programs.

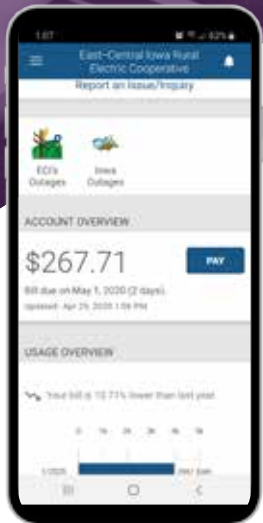
If you have questions or concerns, or if you would like to learn more about energy efficiency, please contact us at 877-850-4343 and ask to speak with a member service representative. 



SMART PAYMENT

Save time.
Eliminate late fees.
Avoid service interruptions.

Sign up for auto payments, set up your secure preferred payment, method and let account management go into autopilot ... all in the palm of your hand and online.



With SmartHub, you'll be notified when your bill is due and you can pay securely online or in the app, anytime, anywhere.

You can make quick payments through SmartHub without creating an online account. Call SmartHub's automated system toll-free number, 888-223-2048, or use the Pay Now application: ecirec.smarthub.coop/PayNow.html.

SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.



CLICK BEFORE YOU DIG. IT'S THE LAW!

iowaonecall.com

CLICK BEFORE YOU DIG!
Go to www.iowaonecall.com at least 48 hours before excavating to have underground utilities properly located.
You can also call 811.

Message From the CEO

continued from page 12

ing with our rate consultant on our cost-of-service study, which looked at current rates and costs, as well as the future needs of the Cooperative. From these projections, it was determined whether our current rate structure would support the increased expenses and margin requirements to provide safe and reliable energy to our members.

The results of the study were not a surprise: Electric rates must increase. It is the only way for ECI REC to continue investing in distribution system upgrades and maintenance, fleet maintenance, and technology improvements, as well as retain quality employees and meet our financial obligations while navigating increased industry costs and supply chain issues.

Members can expect to receive their official rate increase notices via mail in late January. Revised Energy and Facility Charges will be published on our website around the same time.

In the meantime, members can review the rate tables on pages 8 and 9 or utilize the new rate calculator on our website. You can find a link to the calculator on our home page at ecirec.coop or scan the QR code below. To use the calculator, select your rate class and current Facility Charge, then input your typical usage (kWh) in the box labeled kWh. These items can all be found on your electric bill. The calculator will show your current rate, new rate, and the difference between them.

As always, if you have any questions, please call ECI REC at 877-850-4343 or email ecirec@ecirec.coop.

Online Rate Calculator Available!


2023 RATE CALCULATOR

Service Rate Changes

kWh
0

Rate	Current	New rate	Difference
Rate 31			
Rates	Current total +\$36.50	New rate total +\$44.00	Difference +\$7.50
	Facility charge \$25.50 / month Energy charge + \$0.093 / kWh (0 - 1000) + \$0.093 / kWh (1001+)	Facility charge \$44 / month Energy charge \$0.0922 / kWh	

Scan the QR code to use the new rate calculator.



What Is the Facility Charge?

The Facility Charge is the monthly charge that represents the fixed costs of making electricity available to your meter all day, every day. Regardless of how many kilowatt-hours you use, there is a cost associated with having power available to you. The Facility Charge is set based on the equipment you need to meet your energy demands. Your Cooperative minimizes cross-subsidies when setting Facility Charges.

You may recall that rates were restructured in 2015. East-Central Iowa REC collected no more revenue as a result of this restructuring. Instead, we began to collect 75% of the fixed cost (Facility Charge) and lowered the energy component (which covers the cost of power). In allocating costs across all members in an equitable manner, we minimize subsidies among members—everyone pays their fair share.

How Will the Rate Changes Impact You?

Rate 11: If you currently pay a \$25.50 Facility Charge:

PRESENT RATES		NEW RATES - MARCH 1, 2023		
Facility Charge	\$25.50	Facility Charge	\$36.50	
Energy Charge		Energy Charge		
All kWh	\$0.093	All kWh	\$0.0922	
kWh/Mo.	Present Bill	New Bill	Change	% Change
0	\$25.50	\$36.50	\$11.00	43%
500	\$72.00	\$82.60	\$10.60	15%
750	\$95.25	\$105.65	\$10.40	11%
1,000	\$118.50	\$128.70	\$10.20	9%

Rate 7 - Heat Plus: If you currently pay a \$3.75 Facility Charge and are a single-phase account:

PRESENT RATES		NEW RATES - MARCH 1, 2023		
Facility Charge	\$3.75	Facility Charge	\$5.00	
Energy Charge		Energy Charge		
All kWh	\$0.0485	All kWh	\$0.05	
kWh/Mo.	Present Bill	New Bill	Change	% Change
0	\$3.75	\$5.00	\$1.25	33%
1,000	\$52.25	\$55.00	\$2.75	5%
1,500	\$76.50	\$80.00	\$3.50	5%
3,000	\$149.25	\$155.00	\$5.75	4%

Rate 31: If you currently pay a \$36.50 Facility Charge and are served by a 1.5 - 15 kVA transformer:

PRESENT RATES		NEW RATES - MARCH 1, 2023		
Facility Charge	\$36.50	Facility Charge	\$44.00	
Energy Charge		Energy Charge		
0 - 1,000 kWh	\$0.105	All kWh	\$0.1022	
Over 1,000 kWh	\$0.093			
kWh/Mo.	Present Bill	New Bill	Change	% Change
0	\$36.50	\$44.00	\$7.50	21%
500	\$89.00	\$95.10	\$6.10	7%
1,000	\$141.50	\$146.20	\$4.70	3%
1,500	\$188.00	\$197.30	\$9.30	5%

Rate 31B: If you currently pay a \$39.00 Facility Charge and are served by a 25 - 50 kVA transformer:

PRESENT RATES		NEW RATES - MARCH 1, 2023		
Facility Charge	\$39.00	Facility Charge	\$47.50	
Energy Charge		Energy Charge		
0 - 1,000 kWh	\$0.105	All kWh	\$0.1022	
Over 1,000 kWh	\$0.093			
kWh/Mo.	Present Bill	New Bill	Change	% Change
0	\$39.00	\$47.50	\$8.50	22%
500	\$91.50	\$98.60	\$7.10	8%
1,000	\$144.00	\$149.70	\$5.70	4%
1,500	\$190.50	\$200.80	\$10.30	5%

Rate 31C: If you currently pay a \$52.00 Facility Charge and are served by a 75 - 167.5 kVA transformer:

PRESENT RATES		NEW RATES - MARCH 1, 2023		
Facility Charge	\$52.00	Facility Charge	\$65.00	
Energy Charge		Energy Charge		
0 - 1,000 kWh	\$0.105	All kWh	\$0.1022	
Over 1,000 kWh	\$0.093			
kWh/Mo.	Present Bill	New Bill	Change	% Change
0	\$52.00	\$65.00	\$13.00	25%
500	\$104.50	\$116.10	\$11.60	11%
1,000	\$157.00	\$167.20	\$10.20	6%
1,500	\$203.50	\$218.30	\$14.80	7%

Rate 31D: If you currently pay a \$60.00 Facility Charge and are served by a multi-phase account:

PRESENT RATES		NEW RATES - MARCH 1, 2023		
Facility Charge	\$60.00	Facility Charge	\$67.25	
Energy Charge		Energy Charge		
0 - 1,000 kWh	\$0.105	All kWh	\$0.1022	
Over 1,000 kWh	\$0.093			
kWh/Mo.	Present Bill	New Bill	Change	% Change
0	\$60.00	\$67.25	\$7.25	12%
500	\$112.50	\$118.35	\$5.85	5%
1,000	\$165.00	\$169.45	\$4.45	3%
1,500	\$211.50	\$220.55	\$9.05	4%

Rate 20: If you currently pay a \$39.25 Facility Charge and are served by a 25 or less kVA transformer:

PRESENT RATES		NEW RATES - MARCH 1, 2023		
Facility Charge	\$39.25	Facility Charge	\$42.00	
Energy Charge		Energy Charge		
0 - 12,000 kWh	\$0.0914	All kWh	\$0.0923	
Over 12,000 kWh	\$0.086			
kWh/Mo.	Present Bill	New Bill	Change	% Change
0	\$39.25	\$42.00	\$2.75	7%
1,500	\$176.35	\$180.45	\$4.10	2%
2,000	\$222.05	\$226.60	\$4.55	2%
3,000	\$313.45	\$318.90	\$5.45	2%

Rate 20B: If you currently pay a \$46.50 Facility Charge and are served by a 37.5 - 75 kVA transformer:

PRESENT RATES		NEW RATES - MARCH 1, 2023		
Facility Charge	\$46.50	Facility Charge	\$48.50	
Energy Charge		Energy Charge		
0 - 12,000 kWh	\$0.0914	All kWh	\$0.0923	
Over 12,000 kWh	\$0.086			
kWh/Mo.	Present Bill	New Bill	Change	% Change
0	\$46.50	\$48.50	\$2.00	4%
1,500	\$183.60	\$186.95	\$3.35	2%
2,000	\$229.30	\$233.10	\$3.80	2%
3,000	\$320.70	\$325.40	\$4.70	1%

Rate 20C: If you currently pay a \$71.00 Facility Charge and are served by a 100 - 300 kVA transformer:

PRESENT RATES		NEW RATES - MARCH 1, 2023		
Facility Charge	\$71.00	Facility Charge	\$71.00	
Energy Charge		Energy Charge		
0 - 12,000 kWh	\$0.0914	All kWh	\$0.0923	
Over 12,000 kWh	\$0.086			
kWh/Mo.	Present Bill	New Bill	Change	% Change
0	\$71.00	\$71.00	\$0.00	0%
1,500	\$208.10	\$209.45	\$1.35	1%
2,000	\$253.80	\$255.60	\$1.80	1%
3,000	\$345.20	\$347.90	\$2.70	1%

Rate 20D: If you currently pay a \$129.50 Facility Charge and are served by a 500 or greater kVA transformer:

PRESENT RATES		NEW RATES - MARCH 1, 2023		
Facility Charge	\$129.50	Facility Charge	\$129.50	
Energy Charge		Energy Charge		
0 - 12,000 kWh	\$0.0914	All kWh	\$0.0923	
Over 12,000 kWh	\$0.086			
kWh/Mo.	Present Bill	New Bill	Change	% Change
0	\$129.50	\$129.50	\$0.00	0%
1,500	\$266.60	\$267.95	\$1.35	1%
2,000	\$312.30	\$314.10	\$1.80	1%
3,000	\$403.70	\$406.40	\$2.70	1%

Thank You!

2022 Years of Service Honorees



Teresa Floyd,
CEO – 30 years



Travis Schellhorn,
Lineworker – 20 years



Nathan Groom,
Information Services
Manager – 15 years



Jared Grover,
Lineworker – 10 years



Robert Derifield,
Information Services
Technician – 10 years



Braxton Clubb,
Lineworker – 5 years



Bryce Burroughs,
Lineworker – 5 years

Safety Tip

Heating equipment accounts for 13% of home fires. Place a space heater on a hard surface and make sure clothing, papers, and other combustible items are at least three feet away from the heater.

 Safe
Electricity.org®



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning, or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system.

Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters, and warm-air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Winter Operations Update

a Keeping the Lights On article

THE OPERATIONS TEAM at ECI REC remained very busy through the end of 2022, working to complete Work Plan projects as well as maintenance, new service installations, and service upgrades. Due to ongoing material availability issues, some projects have been delayed or modified.

Additionally, our labor contractors—like many other businesses—continue to struggle to maintain adequate staffing levels. By the time this newsletter reaches you, our overhead contractor will have completed work for the year, and cold conditions will have paused our underground work for 2022.

Progress continues at our Vinton Operations Center—we are making final repairs from the March tornado. As with our distribution system equipment, we have encountered challenges with building materials and construction labor. Longer-than-desired lead times have slowed our recovery.

Nevertheless, we continue to serve our members by responding quickly to outage calls. Our ongoing investment in our distribution system continues to pay off, as our outage statistics have returned to pre-2020 derecho levels. Look for a complete summary of 2022 outage statistics in the next newsletter.

Plans are underway for continued replacement of aged overhead lines, poles, and underground cable in 2023. Work is also planned on the Watkins and Crozier areas of District 1, as well as the Jefferson, Bryantsburg, and Winthrop areas of District 2. We will also complete annual tree trimming, contracted pole and underground equipment inspections, annual systemwide visual line patrols, meter testing, and OCR (oil circuit recloser) maintenance.

Finally, we continue to work safely. As a result of our team's commitment to safety, 2022 was another year with no lost time accidents by our employees. 🍀

Lineworker Travis Schellhorn works with a local electrician on a service upgrade at a member's home near Rowley.

Photo credit: Lisa Franck



Are Your Account Phone Numbers Current?



To access the form online, scan the code or choose Member Information Update Request from the Account Services menu at ecirec.coop.

Did you know our consumer software links your account information with your primary and secondary phone numbers? If you call to report an outage or a concern, our personnel can help you more quickly if your numbers in these two fields are current. In today's mobile world, you may want to consider updating your primary and secondary phone numbers, especially if you have:

- Disconnected your landline, or you do not use it as a primary point of contact
- Changed your cell phone number or provider

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

WANTED: Electric Royal hand-held vacuum, Dirt Devil (red cloth bag). Ph: 319-636-2938. Leave a message.

Please email your ad to classifieds@ecirec.coop. Ads for the March/April 2023 *Heartland Link* must be received by February 1, 2023.

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



Call Before You Dig
Notify utilities before you dig at www.iowaonecall.com or call 811.



Co-op Connections®
Get discounts on everyday expenses. Visit www.connections.coop or download the mobile app.



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: Board Approves Rate Increase for 2023

AT THE NOVEMBER 2022 MEETING, your Board of Directors approved an overall rate increase of 5%. The increase will apply to your electric usage beginning on March 1, 2023, and it will appear on the bill you receive in April. The cost of security lights leased from the Cooperative will also increase 50 cents (\$0.50) per month.

Your Cooperative restructured electric rates—but did not raise them—in 2015. The last rate increase occurred in May 2012.

Beginning on March 1, most rate classes will see an increase in the Facility Charge. You can find more information on the Facility Charge in the sidebar on page 8. Additionally, all rate classes will move to one Energy Charge (kWh). (Currently, many rate classes rely on two rate blocks, applied based on usage.)

Your Cooperative's strategy is to work toward recovering our fixed costs via the Facility Charge and to simplify the Energy Charge (or electric rates). These two changes align with this goal.

East-Central Iowa REC has spent several months work-