

6,400 MEMBERS STRONG



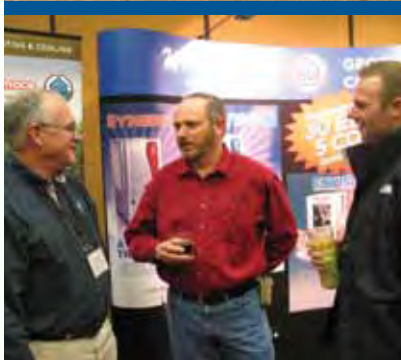
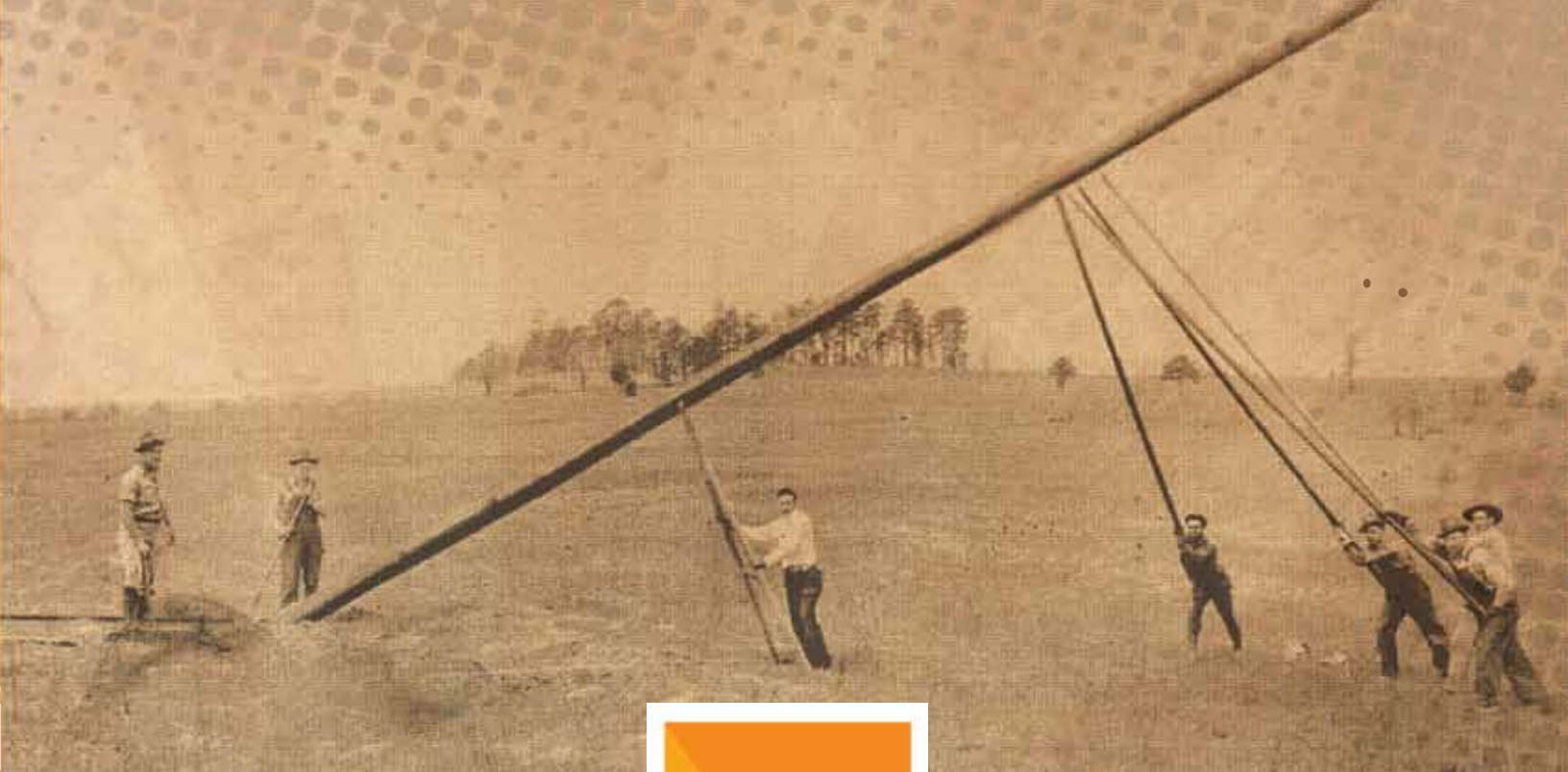
annual meeting PROGRAM

10:30 a.m. - Registration

11:00 a.m. - Business Meeting

1. Call to Order
Steve Rau, President
2. Invocation
Steve Rau, President
3. Introduction of Directors
Steve Rau, President
4. Reading of the Notice of Annual Meeting
Jim Alberts, Secretary/Treasurer
5. Reading of Affidavit of Mailing of Notice of Annual Meeting
Jim Alberts, Secretary/Treasurer
6. Approval of Agenda (Annual Meeting Program)
Jim Alberts, Secretary/Treasurer
7. Minutes of Last Annual Meeting
Jim Alberts, Secretary/Treasurer
8. Reading of the Nominating Committee Minutes
Howard Miller, Nominating Committee Chairman
9. Introduction of Attorney
Steve Rau, President
10. Introduction of CEO
Steve Rau, President
11. Drawings for Door Prizes (must be present to win)
Steve Rau, President

Adjournment of Business Meeting



MOVING FORWARD
in the face of a slow economic recovery

EAST-CENTRAL IOWA REC
2011 annual report



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



ECI REC Celebrates Platinum Anniversary

East Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative became a reality in 1995, born from two independent county electric cooperatives. Before they voted for consolidation, these cooperatives, Buchanan County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) and Benton County Electric Cooperative Association (ECA), had operated separately for nearly 60 years. Today, ECI REC serves over 6,400 member-consumers with over 2,250 miles of electric lines in 11 counties.

This present prosperity would never have been possible without the vision and commitment of the Cooperative's earliest leaders: those who founded ECI REC's two parent cooperatives. With the 75th anniversaries of its parent cooperatives in 2012 and 2013, ECI REC celebrates the determination of these early pioneers for rural electrification. The strong foundation laid by Benton County ECA and Buchanan County REC has made it possible for the cooperative spirit to live on today. ECI REC continues to make positive contributions to the communities it serves and to demonstrate the benefits of receiving electricity from a utility that you, our member-consumers, own.

Today, ECI REC is focused on meeting the challenges of providing its member-consumers affordable, reliable electricity in a changing world. With the Cooperative principles guiding the way, ECI REC will continue to be an asset to the families and businesses in our region of Iowa for another 75 years and beyond.

In mansion or in cottage small,
It lights our work and play,
And gives us carefree power, too—
Thank God for R.E.A.

Gus A. Carlson, director, Benton County ECA, acknowledging the importance of the R.E.A. loans for the early cooperative



Your Board of Directors



11 Jeff Elliott
Director since 1990



12 Chris Sackett
Director since 2011



13 Allen Albers
Vice President
Director since 1985



15 William Frazier
Director since 1985



17 Burt Byers
Director since 2007



21 Donald Shonka
Assistant Secretary/
Treasurer
Director since 2006



23 Jim Alberts
Secretary/Treasurer
Director since 2007



24 Lloyd Bathen
Director since 1994



26 Steve Rau
President
Director since 2005



27 Ryan Kress
Director since 2009

KEY

Green: Geographic District 1 - Benton County Area

Blue: Geographic District 2 - Buchanan County Area

Board District 11: Big Creek (Sections 31-36) and Spring Creek (Sections 31-32) Townships in Black Hawk County; Jefferson (Section 34) Township in Buchanan County; Geneseo, Clark, and Oneida Townships in Tama County; Bruce, Cedar, Harrison, Monroe, and Jackson Townships in Benton County.

Board District 12: Cono (Sections 31-32) and Homer (Sections 35-36) Townships in Buchanan County; Polk (all Sections less Section 4) and Benton (Sections 1-4, 9-16, and 21-24) Townships in Benton County; Grant (Sections 5-8) Township in Linn County.

Board District 13: York Township in Tama County; Homer, Kane, Union, Eldorado, Fremont, Iowa, Leroy, and St. Clair Townships in Benton County; Marengo and Washington Townships in Iowa County.

Board District 15: Taylor, Benton (Sections 5-8, 17-20, and 29-32), Big Grove, and Eden Townships in Benton County.

Board District 17: Benton (Sections 25-28 and 33-36), Canton, and Florence Townships in Benton County; Washington, Fayette, Clinton, and Fairfax Townships in Linn County; Lenox Township in Iowa County; Monroe Township in Johnson County.

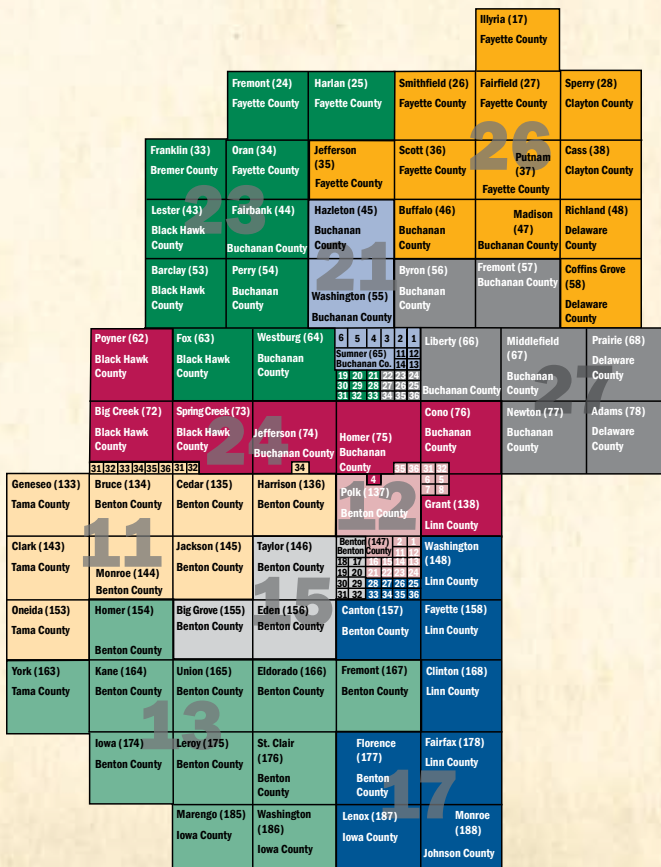
Board District 21: Hazleton, Washington, and Sumner (Sections 1-18) Townships in Buchanan County.

Board District 23: Fremont, Harlan, and Oran Townships in Fayette County; Franklin Township in Bremer County; Lester, Barclay, and Fox Townships in Black Hawk County; Fairbank, Perry, Westburg, and Sumner (Sections 19-21 and 28-33) Townships in Buchanan County.

Board District 24: Poyner, Big Creek (less Sections 31-36), and Spring Creek (less Sections 31-32) Townships in Black Hawk County; Jefferson (less Section 34), Homer (less Sections 35-36) and Cono (less Sections 31-32) Townships in Buchanan County; Polk Township (Section 4) in Benton County; Grant Township (less Sections 5-8) in Linn County.

Board District 26: Ilyria, Smithfield, Fairfield, Jefferson, Scott, and Putnam Townships in Fayette County; Sperry and Cass Townships in Clayton County; Madison and Buffalo Townships in Buchanan County; Richland and Coffins Grove Townships in Delaware County.

Board District 27: Byron, Fremont, Liberty, Middlefield, Newton, and Sumner (Sections 22-27 and 34-36) Townships in Buchanan County; Prairie and Adams Townships in Delaware County.





Steve Rau
President



Harry Ruth
CEO

President and CEO Report

Moving Forward in the Face of a Slow Economic Recovery

As our economy slowly recovers, many continue to struggle. At ECI REC, we have felt the effects of the economic downturn—sales have decreased a total of 2,891,000 kWh since 2008 and continued to decrease slightly in 2011 compared to the previous year. Your Board and the employees of the Cooperative have fought to reduce expenses, eliminating two positions and lowering operating expenses in 2011.

However, we have run out of places to cut without affecting reliability and customer service. Because of this, a 2.5% rate increase took effect in May. Increased sales and revenue next year could render the increase unnecessary, but if sales are down again in 2012, the rate increase would have to be bigger in 2013. The Board believes that it is better to implement a small increase now than a bigger increase later. If sales do improve this year, we will cut the energy cost adjustment to lower rates.

The best way to keep your monthly bill low is to use energy wisely. Your Cooperative has more than 40 rebates to encourage our members to use energy more efficiently. Call us or visit our Web site, ccirec.coop, to learn more.

Energy Supply

Last year we reported that electric utilities were facing a number of new regulations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. We support a clean environment, but we have concerns about the impact these regulations will have on the price of electricity. Utilities may not be able to hire contractors to install the necessary equipment in the time allowed and would then be forced to shut down power plants until improvements were completed. Less power availability could cause an increase in prices.

We are happy to report, however, that these regulations should not have a major impact on our energy supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO). CIPCO anticipated these more stringent

regulations and has already installed the equipment necessary for compliance.

Your Board will continue to talk with elected officials to ensure that they understand that legislation and administrative rules affect our members—and their constituents. We now distribute the *Iowa Policy Post* to those interested in what is happening in the state and national capitols. It is already clear, however, that quarterly updates are not sufficient. We are studying how methods such as Facebook or twitter could help us keep you informed.

Investing for the Future

Over the past several years, ECI REC has made upgrades to our system to improve the reliability of our service, and there are more upgrades to come.

After the 2007 ice storm, ECI REC rebuilt 246 miles of distribution lines. Last December the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved a grant to rebuild another 246 miles of distribution lines over the next three years. We were awarded this grant because we were able to demonstrate that it is cheaper to rebuild these lines now rather than rebuild them after another natural disaster. Work should be underway by the time you read this in June.

We are also in the process of building a new communications network. New towers were built at our Urbana, Independence, and Vinton facilities, and equipment is being installed at every substation and each automated switch so that the flow of power can be monitored throughout the system and power rerouted as soon as there is a power interruption.

Finally, we will begin modernizing many of our substations this year, increasing their capacity and installing more modern controls and circuit breakers. The Winthrop and Quasqueton substations will be upgraded this year; Fairbank, Rowley, and Shady Grove are scheduled to be upgraded later this year (2012).

The History of Your Electricity

Customer Service

Speaking of upgrades, we are always looking for new ways that technology can make it easier for you to connect with East-Central. Bills can already be paid by phone or online by computer, and an automatic payment option is available.

Currently, an “app” is being developed that will enable you to pay your bill, see your billing and payment history, make changes to your account, or send and receive messages including voice, e-mail, or twitter feed, all from your smartphone or tablet. The app will hopefully be ready by the end of this year.

We also plan to launch an add-on to our Web site that can bring up your usage and payment history with the purpose of making recommendations customized for your home. This will also be available by the end of 2012.

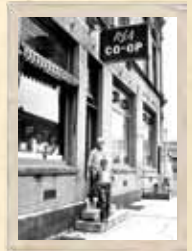
Platinum Anniversary – 75 Years

Coming up next year is a huge milestone for us—the 75th anniversary of the Buchanan County Rural Electric Cooperative. This cooperative, along with Benton County Electric Cooperative Association, was one of the parent cooperatives of ECI REC. We wonder what the founders of those cooperatives would think of ECI REC today—a \$22 million business with 8,500 meters, 24 substations, and over 2,250 miles of energized lines.

Many of their values are still ours. ECI REC is a locally owned and controlled organization. Its Board cares not only about delivering reliable, affordable, safe electric power in an environmentally responsible way, but also about the quality of life of its members and the communities in its service territory. Hopefully, we will still be here 75 years from now.

1923 - Committee on the Relation of Electricity to Agriculture formed to demonstrate value of electricity to rural America.

1930 - By 1930, 46 consumer-owned cooperatives organized in 13 states. Most serve just 10 to 360 members.



May 11, 1935 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt establishes the federal Rural Electrification Administration (REA). Loan applications from farmer-based cooperatives pour in, and REA soon realizes electric cooperatives would be the entities to make rural electrification a reality.

1935 - Annual agricultural census finds that only 10.9 percent of the 6,812,350 farms in the United States are receiving central station electric service.

May 23, 1935 - Morris L. Cooke becomes first REA administrator.



April 9, 1936 - Bill passed giving official status to REA as a lending agency for electric cooperatives.

May 21, 1936 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 into law.

1935 - First REA loans issued and first REA-financed pole erected.

1936 - First REA-funded cooperative line is energized.

October 1, 1936 - REA approves first loan for financing consumer wiring and equipment. Poor farm families needed financial assistance to buy household appliances. Without it, rural electrification might have failed for lack of use.



Fall 1936 - Representatives meet to discuss possibility of an electrical cooperative in Benton County.

Dec. 8, 1936 - Benton County ECA holds first Annual Meeting of the Members. (photo circa 1939)



March 1937 - Benton County ECA is incorporated. (photo shows Cooperative's first members)

1938 - Federal court upholds the right of five electric distribution cooperatives in Iowa to organize a federated cooperative to generate power for themselves.



Allen Albers
ECI REC
Representative
on CIPCO Board
of Directors

2011 CIPCO Power Supply Report

Last year marked the 65th year of operation for Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), ECI REC's wholesale power supplier. A lot has changed in the electric utility business since 1946, but CIPCO's commitment to providing reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible electricity has remained the same.

As a member of the CIPCO Board of Directors, I have a responsibility to ensure CIPCO can meet the power supply needs for all 13 member electric cooperatives and associations, including ECI REC. We maintain a balanced and diverse generation portfolio. Without that diversity, member cooperatives could experience sharp price spikes based on the availability or price of a given fuel.

In 2011, CIPCO took steps to add new generation resources to our portfolio. We started with the purchase of an additional 4.4 megawatts of baseload generation from Walter Scott Energy Center #4. We also added new wind energy through the completion of Elk Wind Farm located in Delaware County. In addition, CIPCO signed long-term contracts with 36-megawatt Hawkeye Wind Farm and 50-megawatt Rippey Wind Farm, which will double CIPCO's wind energy once they come online later this year.

More than 95 percent of our electricity is generated right here in Iowa, and roughly 45 percent comes from carbon-free and emissions-free resources. This reduces our impact on the environment and minimizes costs to our members resulting from new

environmental regulations.

And now for the numbers. CIPCO sold 2.79 billion kilowatt hours in 2011. The average system rate was 62.03 mills per kilowatt hour, which was down slightly from the year before. We reported total assets of \$646 million and member equity at \$144.6 million, resulting in 23 percent equity-to-asset ratio. CIPCO's net margin for the year was \$20 million based on total operating revenue of \$179 million. CIPCO returns leftover margins to its 13 members in the form of patronage allocations, and the Board recently authorized payment of \$272,548.18 to ECI REC.

So what do all of these numbers mean? They confirm for me that CIPCO remains in a position of financial strength. This is reinforced by "A" credit ratings from Standards & Poor's and Fitches credit agencies.

I realize that members are always concerned about cost, and so am I. Any new electric generation that we build is going to be more expensive, regardless of the fuel source, than what we currently have in operation. The best we can do is manage cost increases, provide some stability in rates, and give rate relief when possible. In 2011, we returned roughly \$4 million to members through a rate decrease.

After 65 years of successful operation, you can rest assured that CIPCO will continue to meet the power supply needs of ECI REC. Our objective is to provide high quality electric power to our membership at the lowest possible long-term cost. As a CIPCO Director, you have my commitment to do just that.



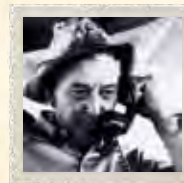
1938 - REA Farm Equipment Tour—a circus tent and trucks loaded with electric-consuming devices and appliances for farm and home use—begins a three-year nationwide trek to acquaint rural residents with electricity.



1940 - REA movie, *Power and the Land*, premieres. Shot in the summer and early fall of 1939, the film chronicles two dawn-to-dusk days on the Parkinson family's dairy farm: one day before the lights came on and one day after.

1940 - REA approves loan to serve the one-millionth electric cooperative member in October.

1942 - Electric cooperative leaders organize the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in Washington, D.C.



1946 - Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) formed. Nationally, electrified farms pass the 50 percent mark during the year.

1949 - Having already helped launch more than 800 electric cooperatives, the federal Rural Electrification Administration (REA) takes on another daunting challenge: improving rural telephone service.

1950 - Willie Wiredhand, the official electric cooperative mascot, steps into the spotlight.



Financials

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSE

REVENUE	2011	2010
Operating Revenue & Patronage Capital	\$20,516,357	\$20,570,939
EXPENSE		
Purchased Power	\$12,546,833	\$12,579,335
Distribution Expenses - Operations	\$1,590,077	\$1,798,841
Distribution Expenses - Maintenance	\$562,131	\$569,475
Consumer Accounts Expense	\$492,583	\$482,270
Customer Service & Information Expense	\$413,019	\$374,247
Administrative & General Expense	\$1,239,905	\$1,276,631
Depreciation	\$1,432,282	\$1,363,453
Taxes - Property & Other	\$20,496	\$20,486
Interest on Long-Term Debt	\$1,144,554	\$1,082,007
Other Deductions and Interest Expense	\$18,904	\$13,955
Total Expense	\$19,460,784	\$19,560,700
Operating Margins	\$1,055,573	\$1,010,239
Non-Operating Margins	\$44,638	\$27,827
Generation and Transmission Capital Credits	\$122,419	\$465,365
Other Capital Credits	\$91,760	\$141,132
Total Operating & Non-Operating Margins	\$1,314,390	\$1,644,563

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	2011	2010
Current Assets & Other Debits	\$14,911,652	\$12,676,516
Fixed Assets (Net Utility Plant)	\$36,260,484	\$34,360,915
Total Assets & Other Debits	\$51,172,136	\$47,037,431
LIABILITIES		
Total Current & Accrued Liabilities	\$3,511,327	\$3,278,870
Total Fixed Long-Term Debt & Deferred Credits	\$24,103,313	\$20,959,475
Total Margins & Equities	\$23,557,496	\$22,799,086
Total Liabilities & Other Credits	\$51,172,136	\$47,037,431

COMPARATIVE OPERATING STATISTICS

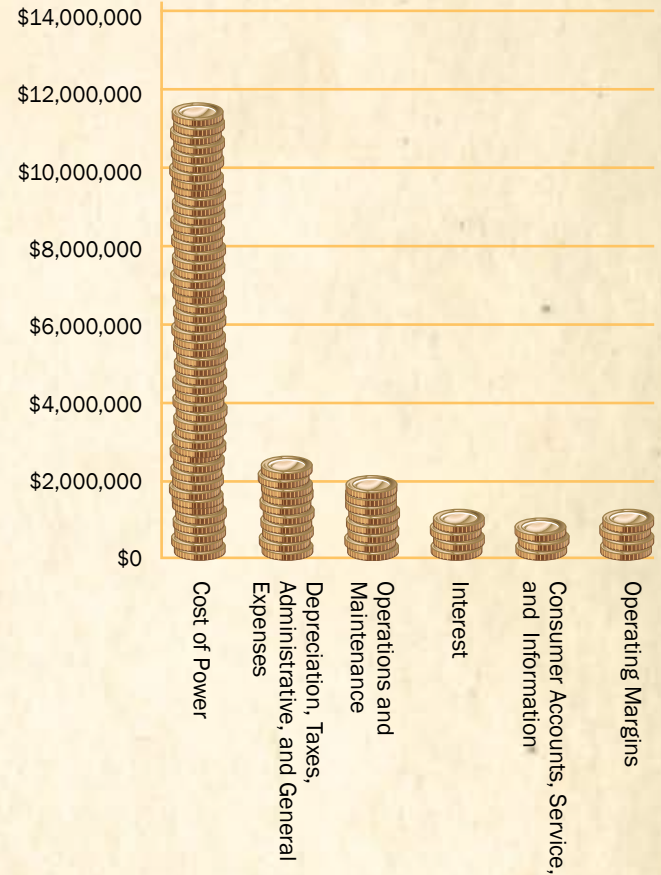
Miles of Line Energized	2,266	2,266
New Services Connected	77	103
Total Services in Place	9,333	9,301
kWh's Purchased From CIPCO	205,647,699	203,755,854
Cost of Power Purchased	\$12,541,474	\$12,572,211
Percent Line Loss	6.80%	5.71%
OPERATING REVENUE		
Average kWh's Used Per Month Per Consumer	\$20,445,231	\$20,503,186
Average Monthly Bill	\$1,868	\$1,876
Average Cost Per kWh To Consumer	\$199.55	\$200.61
Average Cost Per kWh To Consumer	\$0.1068	\$0.1069

LOAN FUNDS

<i>Our Loan From RUS Is Being Paid Back With Interest</i>		
We Owe RUS	\$18,743,225	\$15,224,115
<i>Our Loan From CFC Is Being Paid Back With Interest</i>		
We Owe CFC	\$4,677,560	\$5,169,814

HOW YOUR REC DOLLARS WERE SPENT

Total 2011 Operating Revenue and Patronage Capital: \$20,516,357



1953 - First Benton County ECA general manager, Ivan Trottnow (with Board, circa 1949), leaves to manage CIPCO. John D. Ruehle is selected to take his place.



1957 - Rural Electric Youth Tour started by electric cooperatives.



November 1, 1962 - President John F. Kennedy witnesses the signing of an agreement between NRECA and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to carry the successful U.S. electric cooperative model overseas.

1959 - REA kicks off its 25th year having made \$3.8 billion in loans to 1,030 electric systems, mostly co-ops, an amount that has provided new or improved service to 4.5 million consumers across 1.4 million miles of line.

1963 - Sister Cooperative Partnership Program launched by NRECA International Programs, allowing U.S. electric cooperatives to provide support to cooperatives in developing countries.



May 1966 - Macy E. Garwood is selected as third Benton County ECA general manager.

ECI REC Staff



Harry Ruth
CEO
8 years



Mike
Inventory/
Maintenance
Technician
14 years



Adam
Member
Services
Technician
12 years



John retired
in 2011.
Thank you for
your decades
of service to
ECI REC!
John
Lineman
42 years



Molly
Consumer
Services
Representative
11 years



Ben
Lineman
8 years



Rod
Lineman
24 years



Teresa
Manager of
Finance and
Consumer
Services
20 years



Dave
Engineering
Design
Technician
17 years



Pat
Lineman
22 years



Paul
Lineman
9 years



Larissa
Staff
Assistant
8 years



Kelly
Consumer
Services
Coordinator
13 years



Scott
Inventory/
Maintenance
Technician
6 months



Brian
Lineman
13 years



Travis
Lineman
10 years



Kevin
Lineman
16 years



Frank
Member
Services
Director
41 years



*Operations
personnel for
Benton County
ECA in 1990*

1993 - Rural Electrification Loan Restructuring Act adopted to establish a new interest rate structure for insured electric loans.

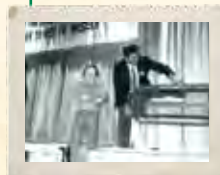
1966 - NRECA creates the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE®).

1973 - Signed into law by President Richard Nixon on May 11, the Rural Electrification and Telephone Revolving Fund provides standard 5% insured loans as well as 2% hardship insured loans to electric cooperatives and rural telephone systems.

*Benton
County ECA
Board of
Directors in
1967*



1984 - NRECA publishes *The Next Greatest Thing*, an illustrated book that provides the definitive history of the first half-century of rural electrification.



July 1985 - Martin K. Gardner (shown at Annual Meeting) selected as fourth Benton County ECA general manager.

Oct. 1, 1995 - Member-consumers of Benton County ECA and Buchanan County REC cooperatives approve consolidation and East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative is formed. (directors of both Co-ops below)





Doug
SCADA
Technician
14 years



Dave
Line
Foreman
25 years



Ann
Accounting
Clerk
10 years



Holly
Consumer
Services
Representative
6 years



Lisa
Manager of
Communications
10 years



Sam
Engineering
Design
Technician
37 years



Carl
Line
Foreman
32 years



Nathan
Information
Services
Administrator
5 years



Gary
Operations
Supervisor
37 years



Steve
Manager,
Operations/
Engineering
31 years



Robin
Consumer
Services
Representative
1 year



Greg
Marketing
& Economic
Development
Director
19 years



Tom
Lineman
21 years



Jennifer
Cost Records
Administrator
16 years



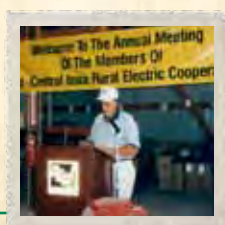
Teresa
Operations
Assistant
33 years



John
Member
Services
Technician
19 years

1995 - NRECA established the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) to keep electric cooperative directors/trustees apprised of industry developments.

June 1996 - ECI REC holds its first Annual Meeting of the Members.



1998 - Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives branding program is unveiled to raise consumer awareness about the benefits of belonging to an electric cooperative.

Aug. 4, 2003 - Harry Ruth becomes new general manager and CEO.



Dec. 2002 - ECI REC CEO Martin Gardner retires.

Dec. 14, 1998 - ECI REC Urbana Administrative Headquarters officially opens.

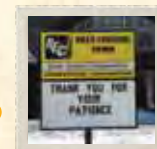
2004 - ECI REC joins the Touchstone Energy alliance.



2008 - Our Energy, Our Future® grassroots awareness campaign kicks off to reach out to elected officials and discuss the complexities associated with providing safe, reliable, and affordable power in an environmentally responsible fashion.



Feb. 2007 - A devastating ice storm encases distribution lines throughout ECI REC service territory. Outages number 6,000.



May 25, 2008 - An EF5 tornado rips through parts of ECI REC's territory, damaging about 30 homes and leaving 2,100 members without power.

2012 - ECI REC celebrated the 75th anniversary of parent cooperative Benton County ECA.

2011 ECI REC Highlights

Energy Wise

- ECI REC's power supplier CIPCO announced it would purchase more renewable power from a third Iowa wind farm.
- ECI REC co-hosted a Model Home open house with Joe and Lisa Bahe. The home features state-of-the-art technology in the areas of environment, indoor air quality, enhanced indoor and exterior lighting, water quality, personal safety and security, and energy efficiency.
- The GE GeoSpring water heater, an ultra-efficient option, was added to the Cooperative's lineup of water heater products.
- Starting in September, ECI REC again offered rebates on CFLs purchased in-store from participating retailers as well as free CFL kits with seven bulbs.
- ECI REC helped 8 members install wind turbines, giving the Cooperative a total of 18 interconnections at yearend.
- The Cooperative expanded its energy-efficiency rebate programs for residential, agricultural, and commercial members. Many members took advantage and purchased new appliances that use less electricity, netting them these great savings.
 - \$23,240 for 240 energy-efficient electric water heaters
 - \$97,182 for 63 geothermal heating and cooling systems
 - \$44,424 for 53 air source heat pumps
 - \$9,420 for 485 ENERGY STAR appliances
 - \$3,382 for 78 high-efficiency outdoor light fixtures
 - \$1,334 for 42 high-efficiency central air conditioning systems
 - \$16,623 for 151 recycled appliances

Looking Out for You

- In order to provide Cooperative members with balanced information on the need for increased baseload generation, ECI REC began distributing a new publication, the *Iowa Policy Post*, to members who opt in.
- Cooperative leaders attended REC Day on the Hill on March 29.
- In May 2011, ECI REC's Steve Marlow and 30 other representatives from Iowa's RECs visited Washington, D.C., to talk to Iowa's congressional delegation about the important issues to be addressed by Congress: Rural Utility Service funding, FEMA funding, and legislation regulating the burning of coal ash.
- The state legislature adjourned on June 30, more than two months late. Key cooperative-related issues were: 1) The power of the State Historic Preservation Office was limited so that electrical repairs can be made in a timely manner after storms; 2) Legislation made it a felony to enter the property of electric utilities for the purpose of stealing copper; 3) Efforts to pass legislation allowing MidAmerican Energy to collect money from ratepayers to study the feasibility of nuclear power as a means to meet Iowa's need for baseload generation was blocked in the Senate.
- CEO Harry Ruth and 29 other representatives from Iowa rural electric cooperatives visited Washington, D.C., on September 20, 2011, to discuss energy, economic development, and storm recovery issues with Iowa's congressional delegation.

Keeping the Lights On

- The Lindalh substation was repaired using a gently used transformer from Linn County REC. The substation will get a new transformer in 2014 when transmission utility ITC makes upgrades.
- In mid-June, Scott Rast was hired as an inventory maintenance technician for ECI REC's Vinton operations center.
- A July 11 storm left 3,300 ECI REC members without power. By July 14, power had been restored to every member. The severely damaged BECCA substation temporarily operated with a smaller transformer, and in September the larger, permanent transformer was placed into position.
- The Urbana headquarters converted paper files to a digital format and now stores those files on a server. In the secure system, documents can be checked in and out, email alerts can be set up, and automatic deletion of outdated files can be scheduled.
- New communications towers at all ECI REC buildings were completed in August 2011. The upgraded infrastructure replaced outdated and unsafe towers and will enable efficiencies throughout Cooperative operations.
- In December, the Cooperative announced that it had been awarded an \$8,436,237 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to rebuild 246 miles of distribution lines throughout its service territory.



Community Connected

- Nine high school seniors received \$500 or \$1,000 scholarships from ECI REC.
- Clickstop, an ECI REC business member-consumer, was named one of eight recipients of the annual Iowa Area Development Group Venture Award.
- Logan Halverson and Dustin Toale of Independence participated in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program in June 2011 in Washington, D.C., sponsored by ECI REC. Connor Roth, a 2010 Youth Tour participant, completed her tenure on the Youth Leadership Council.
- In July 2011, Iowa educators participated in a Character Counts! Making an Impact training session. East-Central Iowa REC and its power supplier CIPCO sponsored the program for the eighth year in a row.
- RECare donation in 2010-2011 exceeded goals, with \$8,150 in donations and 107 members participating.
- Summer interns Phillip Miller and Dane Peterson worked with linemen.
- In 2011, the Cooperative gave a total of \$21,039 to 30 organizations. These organizations included community organizations, economic development groups, youth and education groups, and health and safety groups.

The Cooperative Difference

- ECI REC continued to enhance the Cop Connections' program. Participating local businesses get promotion of incentives offered to Cooperative members. In addition to these local discounts, members can save at online retailers and pharmacies. In 2011, ECI REC members took advantage of discounts on prescription drugs to save a collective \$1,664. (In 2012, the program added a Healthy Savings discount program.)
- At its May 2011 Board meeting, the Board of Directors voted to retire \$500,000 in patronage back to its member-consumers.
- Member advisory committees met throughout the year to give feedback on members' needs and expectations to Cooperative leadership.

Safety

- Safety demonstrations were made in April and May to grade schoolers.
- In September, electronic re-closure controls were installed at the BECCA substation. They are an important piece of safety equipment for ECI REC line personnel working on the Cooperative's distribution system.
- The Cooperative held monthly safety meetings attended by both field and office personnel. Pole-top rescue exercises, fire extinguisher handling, CPR, and first aid training were all reviewed in 2011.

Communications Report

In 2011, the Communications Department dedicated time to the creation of a Facebook page for the Cooperative. It provides energy-efficiency and safety tips as well as outage information to fans.

