



## ATTENTION MEMBERS: Use Caution When Burning Ditches

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

## TWO TIPS FOR SAFE BURNING

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

## Don't Forget to Apply for Your Nonbusiness Energy Property Tax Credit!

Installing a new air-source heat pump, central air conditioning, or an electric heat pump water heater? You'll increase your savings and return on investment if you combine ECI REC rebates with this extended tax credit!

**UPDATED JANUARY 2020: Nonbusiness Energy Property Tax Credits have been retroactively extended from 12/31/2017 through 12/31/2020.**

**Tax Credit\*:** 10% of cost up to \$500 or a specific amount from \$50–\$300

**Expires:** December 31, 2020

**Details:** Must be an existing home and your principal residence. New construction and rentals do not apply.

*\*If you think you may qualify contact your tax advisor.*



## Preparing for the 2020 Census

The U.S. Census Bureau is conducting a national census this spring. The census provides a picture of the nation that helps determine where to build new schools, hospitals, and businesses; how federal funding is distributed; and how congressional seats are apportioned. It also helps evaluate how communities have changed over time. An accurate count is vital.

In mid-March, most homes will begin receiving invitations to complete the 2020 census. As in past censuses, you can respond by phone or by mail. Alternatively, you can reply online, which is a new option.

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# Members Help Members by Contributing to RECare



With support from members like you, ECI REC's RECare program distributes funds to low-income members in Benton and Buchanan Counties. These donations are used to pay for heating bills or the cost of winterizing the homes of ECI REC members who need assistance.

In 2019, 69 members donated \$6,962 to RECare. Some donated once a year, while others had the Cooperative add a few dollars to their electric bills each month. No matter the size or frequency of the donation, it made a difference! We are proud our members are digging into their pockets to help others.

RECare funds are distributed to qualifying members through community action agencies. Donations from our northern service area are administered by Operation Threshold, while donations from our southern service area are administered by Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP).

If you would like to support RECare, visit [ecirec.coop](http://ecirec.coop). Hover over Your Electric Bill, look down the list for Member Programs, and click on RECare.



Scan to fill out form online.

## Preparing for the 2020 Census

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If no response is received, a census taker will come to your home to follow up in person. Census visits will occur from April through July, depending on circumstances. Those with a post office box address should expect a census field worker to bring a postcard or questionnaire directly to their residence.

We encourage you to reply to the census once you've been contacted to make sure our rural communities receive proper funding for resources. You are required by law to participate, and your personal information is kept confidential. Your data is only used for statistical purposes, and the Census Bureau will never ask for your Social Security number, your bank or credit card account numbers, money or donations, or anything on behalf of a political party.

Learn more online at [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov).

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



Your Co-op Connections® Card offers you Healthy Savings and local and national deals. Use your card to start saving today! Questions? Email [coopconnections@ecirec.coop](mailto:coopconnections@ecirec.coop).



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