

heartland LINK

A publication of East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative



Attention Future Stars: Apply for Youth Programs

Story on page 3

Photo credit: LAEC

ECI REC SUPPORTS ENERGY EFFICIENCY page 4

Cooperatives have a long history of helping drive energy savings.



NEW 2019 REBATES ANNOUNCED page 5

ECI REC offers a full lineup of incentives to save you money.

WATER HEATERS: THE ELECTRIC ADVANTAGE page 6

A new water heater can add up to big savings.



CIPCO ANNOUNCES MAJOR INVESTMENTS page 10

Infrastructure and generation projects to meet customer demand.



03 ENERGY SAVINGS IN HOME AUTOMATION

Some products are capable of delivering energy savings.

04 ECI REC SUPPORTS ENERGY EFFICIENCY**04 GEOTHERMAL CREDIT REINSTATED****05 NEW REBATES FROM ECI REC**

Rebates available for residential, commercial, and ag members.

06 WATER HEATERS: THE ELECTRIC ADVANTAGE

Electric water heaters offer numerous benefits for homeowners.

07 NOMINATIONS FOR 2019 BOARD ELECTIONS

Committee now taking nominations.

08 CO-OP CONNECTIONS®

Log onto the Co-op Connections card website to see updated interface.

08 TIPS TO SAFELY CHARGE ELECTRONICS**09 STEPS TO RESTORE POWER****09 UPDATE YOUR MEMBER CONTACT INFO****10 INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS**

CIPCO announces moves to meet customer demands.

11 SPACE HEATER SAFETY**11 YEARS OF SERVICE HONOREES****12 RESOLVE TO STAY OFF THE PEAK****06 ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH****09 THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY****11 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

2019 pocket calendars

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



like us on Facebook



Help us celebrate seven years on Facebook by checking out our page! Go to facebook.com/eastcentraliowarec and like our page to get our posts about outages, safety tips, and more on your News Feed today!

take the member challenge

- 1. ENERGY WISE:** In 2016 your electric cooperative invested \$0.0019 per kWh, or ___% of its total revenue in energy efficiency programs.
- 2. ENERGY WISE:** In fact, an ENERGY STAR® rated electric water heater can reduce your entire utility bill by up to ___%.
- 3. KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON:** CIPCO will purchase ___% of the energy and capacity output for 25 years from Wapello Solar, a 100-megawatt solar facility to be located on approximately 800 acres in Louisa County.

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 2018 *Heartland Link* entries. These members will receive a \$10 credit on their account.

Jim L. Walker

Thomas G. Wiese

David Pippert

Tim & Marsha Fannin

Jimmy Crumes

Robert Duello

John Frese

Susan Harder

David & Tara Mohlis

Marcella Ortner

Fred Staton

Mike & Susie Stafford

David J. Kayser

Merle D. Wilson, Jr.

Kenneth Knebel

James R. Dolan

Calendar Notes

1/1 – Closed for New Year's Day

Contact ECI REC

EMAILS

memberservices@ecirec.coop
(rebates, product sales)

csr@ecirec.coop
(billing, new customers)

WEB SITE

www.ecirec.coop

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Steve Marlow
Chief Executive Officer
Ext. 421
steve.marlow@ecirec.coop

Teresa Floyd
Manager of Finance and Consumer Service
Ext. 450
teresa.floyd@ecirec.coop

Tom Schmitt
Line Superintendent
Ext. 519
tom.schmitt@ecirec.coop

Adam Albertsen
Director of Member Service
Ext. 503
adam.albertsen@ecirec.coop

Lisa Franck
Manager of Communications
Ext. 472
lisa.franck@ecirec.coop

Nathan Groom
Information System Administrator
Ext. 410
nathan.groom@ecirec.coop

ADDRESS

2400 Bing Miller Lane
PO Box 248
Urbana, IA
52345-0248

PHONE

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)

 OPERATIONS NEWS
OUTAGE UPDATES

facebook.com/eastcentraliowarec

Applications Now Available

Both scholarship and Youth Tour opportunities are available to students whose parents are members of ECI REC. Read more about both programs at ecirec.coop.



Want to spend a week in Washington, D.C., this summer—for free? Apply to attend the Youth Tour, made possible by ECI REC. We'll send two area juniors to this fun-filled week. On your trip, you'll meet Iowa's members of Congress, spend a day on Capitol Hill, tour historical sites, and more.

APPLY BY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27.



ECI REC offers \$1,000 scholarships to ten students each year to continue their education in any field. If you're interested in a career as a lineman, the Cooperative offers two additional \$1,000 scholarships to those who are accepted to the Powerline Technology Program at Northwest Iowa Community College.

APPLY BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6.

Energy Efficiency for the Modern Family

an Energy Wise feature

THE TYPICAL AMERICAN FAMILY is well-connected and owns a variety of electronic devices. This growing array of smart home appliances and technology has slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles. The increased reliance on our many devices has new implications for home energy use and efficiency.

How can we save energy when we are using more electronics?

In many cases, energy savings are a touchscreen away. From the convenience of your mobile device, smart technologies can maximize your ability to manage electricity use across several platforms—controlling your thermostat, appliances, water heater, home electronics, and other devices.

One of the easiest ways to make an impact on energy efficiency is with a smart thermostat, like Nest models. Using your mobile device, you can view and edit your thermostat schedule and monitor how much energy is used and make adjustments accordingly. For example, program your thermostat for weekday and weekend schedules so you are not wasting energy when no one is home. Or, make use of the Auto Away feature. If your connected phone is out of range for a while, it will default to the more efficient Away mode.

You can also ensure efficiency by purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified appliances. Many include smart-technology features, like refrigerators that can tell you when maintenance is required or a door has been left open. New washers, dryers, and dishwashers allow you to program when you want the load to start. You can program your task for off-peak hours—a smart choice for ECI REC members since how much we pay for your electricity is based on time of use.

“Old school” energy savings for new devices

Time-tested methods of energy efficiency can still be applied to today's devices and screens. Computers, printers, phones and gaming consoles are notorious “vampire power” users, meaning they drain energy (and money) when not in use. If items can be turned off without disrupting your lifestyle, consider plugging them into a power strip that can be turned on and off or placed on a timer.

We're your best resource

While modern life involves greater dependence on technology, your best resource for saving energy and money remains your local electric co-op. Regardless of your level of technical expertise, East-Central Iowa REC can provide guidance on energy savings based on your account information and energy use. 

One of the easiest ways to make an impact on energy efficiency is with a smart thermostat, like Nest. You can easily view and adjust your thermostat schedule and monitor how much energy is being used.
Photo Credit: Nest



ECI REC Supports 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. East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative (ECI REC) also offers programs designed to reduce electric demand, such as our residential, agricultural, and commercial rebates and incentives.

Additionally, your electric 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. First, the participant cost test determines whether the program is cost-effective from the perspective of the participant in the program. Second,

the utility cost test determines whether the program is cost-effective from the perspective of ECI REC. Third, the ratepayer impact cost test, also referred to as the RIM test, determines whether the program is cost-effective from the perspective of co-op members who do not participate in the program. 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 2016 your electric cooperative invested \$0.0019 per kWh, or 1.8% of its total revenue in energy efficiency programs.

If you have questions, concerns, or would like to learn more about energy efficiency, please contact us at 319-443-4343 and ask to speak with a member service representative. 

Reminder: Geothermal Federal Tax Credit Available

an Energy Wise update

ON FEBRUARY 9, 2018, a bill was passed and signed by President Trump reinstating geothermal heat pump tax credits retroactive to January 1, 2017; the credits had been left to expire in 2016.

The bill also extended the credits to December 31, 2021. Homeowners who bought a geothermal heating, cooling, and hot water system between January 1, 2017, and the present still qualify for a 30% tax credit.

To save the most on installation, homeowners will want to act fast. The credit is set to decrease each year, dropping to 26% in 2020 and 22% in 2021. Please contact your tax advisor or visit www.energy.gov/savings/residential-renewable-energy-tax-credit to learn more about the federal tax credit.

ECI REC also offers rebates and incentives on geothermal systems. Please contact us for more information on how to save on geothermal system installation. 

New Year Means New ECI REC Rebates an Energy Wise feature

GET 2019 OFF TO A GREAT START by taking advantage of ECI REC's extensive rebate incentive program. We offer rebates for residential, commercial, and agricultural Cooperative members.

Residential rebates are listed below. Ag members can get cash back on things like livestock ventilation equipment, and commercial members can save when choosing efficient kitchen equipment, amongst other things.

Because rebate qualifications vary, review the appropriate rebate form for the requirements prior to purchase. In general, members planning to apply for rebates should keep receipts and must fill out the appropriate rebate form. If you have any questions about qualifying products, please contact ECI REC's member service department at 877-850-4343. 

2019 RESIDENTIAL REBATES

Air-Source Heat Pump

- » Standard Air-Source Heat Pump: \$200/ton (including mini-splits)
- » Hybrid Air-Source Heat Pump: \$300/ton
- » ENERGY STAR® Bonus: \$250/unit (min. 1.5 ton, SEER 15.0, HSPF 8.5, EER 12.5)

Geothermal Heat Pump

- » Closed-Loop System: \$400/ton
- » Open-Loop System: \$300/ton (no "pump & dump" systems)
- » 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

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

Heat Pump Water Heater

ENERGY STAR Integrated Unit:
\$650/unit

High-Efficiency Electric Water Heater

- » Electric Storage Unit: \$75/unit (45-55 gal. tank ≥ 90% EF)
- » Geothermal Assisted Storage Unit: \$150/unit (45-55 gal. tank ≥ 90% EF)

Additional incentives may apply for first-time Heat Plus members.

Drain Water Heat Recovery Systems

Heat Recovery Pipe System:
\$450/unit
Not to exceed cost of system. Must have an electric water heater. Homemade systems are not eligible.

ENERGY STAR Appliances

ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer

- » Unit replacement, and water heater is electric: \$40/unit

ENERGY STAR Clothes Dryer

- » Unit replacement: \$20/unit

Interior Lighting

- » ENERGY STAR Hard-Wired or LED Fixtures w/screw-in adaptors: 50% of price up to \$5/fixture
Account limit of \$600 applied over a 5-year period (installs prior to 1/1/15 are exempt).

Outdoor Security Lighting

ENERGY STAR or DesignLight Consortium Qualified LED Fixtures

- » 20-34W: \$10/fixture
- » 35-49W: \$20/fixture
- » 50-74W: \$40/fixture
- » 75-124W: \$50/fixture
- » ≥ 125W: \$60/fixture

NEW! Electric Vehicle Chargers

- » Level II Charger (240/208 volt input supply) installation: 50% up to \$500
- Limit one rebate per account.*

BUILDING A HOME? Learn more about additional incentives for new home construction at www.ecirec.coop.

WEATHERIZATION

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*

REQUIREMENTS (LIHEAP AND NON-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).



Your water heater might be sending money down the drain.



SAVINGS
WITH
STAYING
POWER

EFFICIENT | CLEAN | SAFE | ELECTRIC

In most homes, the cost of water heating is second only to the overall heating and cooling expense. An efficient electric water heater is a great way to save money on your home's utility bill. In fact, an ENERGY STAR® rated electric water heater can reduce your entire utility bill by up to 15%.

For the ultimate in energy efficiency, consider an air source heat pump water heater. With an efficiency rating of at least 2.4 (240%), they are the most efficient water heaters on the market today.

Water Heaters: The Electric Advantage *an Energy Wise feature*

When it comes to water heater selection, electric water heaters offer numerous benefits over their propane (gas) counterparts.

Air quality & safety

Since electric water heaters don't burn gas, there's zero risk of unburned hydrocarbons or other toxic gasses affecting the air your family breathes. An electric water heater requires no venting and poses no CO₂ concerns.

Space & versatility

The water heater space allotment in your home often determines what will work best. An electric water heater installation requires zero clearance. Because electric water heaters require no connection to a gas line, they can be installed in almost any area of your home, and they integrate seamlessly with most heat pump systems.

Accessibility & durability

With no pilot light to worry about, you can simply and safely switch off your electric water if you're planning to leave home for an extended period or just want to save energy. Since there are no

moving parts and no pilot light, electric water heaters are very low maintenance. They are constructed of non-rusting materials designed to last longer—and many even include a lifetime warranty.

Affordability

An energy-efficient (rating .95 and above) 50-gallon electric water heater will cost a family of four about \$40 per month to operate. Electric rates are considerably more stable than gas. For example, East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative's price per kilowatt-hour has increased 4.6% (less than a half a cent) over the past 10 years. Installation costs are also considerably less with an electric water heater.

Incentives

Buy a new, energy-efficient electric water heater and receive a \$75 rebate. Receive a \$650 rebate for the purchase of an air source heat pump water heater.



The Rasmussen family, ECI REC members, chose electric water heating for its numerous benefits over gas and qualified for a rebate. Member Service Technician John Tegler gathered information to complete the rebate form. Find more about ECI REC rebates on page 5.

Still have questions?

Give us a call and let us help. As a member-owned cooperative, we work for you, offering friendly, local, reliable, no-cost help with all your energy-efficient household decisions. 

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Source: energy.gov

Committee Now Taking Nominations for 2019 Board Elections

a Cooperative Different announcement

AT A RECENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING,

each Director of ECI REC selected a member-consumer from their individual board district to serve on ECI REC's Nominating Committee. The committee's purpose will be to nominate 1-2 East-Central Iowa REC member-consumers to be placed on the ballot as a candidate for a Director of each Director District to be voted on at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Members.

There are two/three positions up for election. 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 (contact information to the right) representing the applicable Director District that you or the nomination 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 before Thursday, February 21, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. at Urbana Administrative Headquarters.

All candidates will be reviewed, and nominations confirmed at the Nominating Committee meeting on Thursday, February 21, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. at the Administrative Headquarters in Urbana. 

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

BOARD DISTRICT #2

Currently represented by Chris Sackett

Serving: Benton and Polk Townships in Benton County.

Nominating Contact:

Peggy Bearbower

5358 30th Ave
Vinton, IA 52349
Phone: 319-443-2218

BOARD DISTRICT #3

Currently represented by Allen Albers, Keystone

Serving: York Township in Tama County; Homer, Kane, Eldorado, Florence, Fremont, Iowa, Leroy, St. Clair, and Union Townships in Benton County; Lenox, Marengo, and Washington Townships in Iowa County; Clinton and Fairfax Townships in Linn County; Monroe Township in Johnson County.

Nominating Contact:

Michael Silhanek

1103 72nd St
Elberon, IA 52225
Phone: 319-439-5309

BOARD DISTRICT #4

Currently represented by Gary McKenna, Vinton

Serving: Taylor, Canton, and Eden Townships in Benton County; Washington and Fayette Townships in Linn County.

Nominating Contact:

David Inman

6413 26th Ave
Vinton, IA 52349
Phone: 319-472-5025

					Polk (137) 2
			Taylor (146) 4	Benton (147)	Washington (148)
	Homer (154)		Eden (156)	Canton (157)	Fayette (158)
York (163)	Kane (164)	Union (165)	Eldorado (166)	Fremont (167)	Clinton (168)
	Iowa (174)	Leroy (175)	St. Clair (176) 3	Florence (177)	Fairfax (178)
		Marengo (185)	Washington (186)	Lenox (187)	Monroe (188)

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting of the Members

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Vinton-Shellsburg High School, Vinton

Registration begins at 10:30 a.m.

Business meeting begins at 11:00 a.m.

**BUILDING
BEYOND
THE LINES**



Co-op Connections® Site Gets a Boost

a Community Connected update

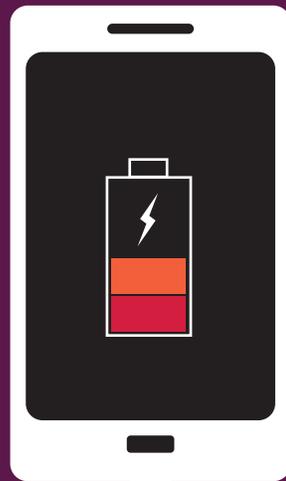
THE CO-OP CONNECTIONS WEBSITE has been re-energized with a new, more robust interface that puts members first.

To log into your re-vamped Co-op Connections account, visit www.connections.coop and enter the email address and password you originally registered with. This will take you to your account's new homepage. In the upper righthand corner, you'll find a My Account button that takes you to a personalized dashboard featuring your profile information, your history of savings and cash back, and your saved offers.

Back on the homepage, you'll find buttons that give easy access to:

- » Healthy savings, co-op deals, and national discounts
- » Online shopping platforms with cash back
- » Resources for booking hotels, concerts, and sporting events

If you do not have a Co-op Connections account, visit www.connections.coop. In the top righthand corner, you'll find a Sign Up button that will take you through the steps of setting up your personalized dashboard. If you have questions, please call 877-850-4343 or email ecirec@ecirec.coop. 



TIPS TO SAFELY CHARGE YOUR ELECTRONICS



Don't buy cheaply made, off-brand charging cubes and cables. They can be **potential fire hazards**, cause electrocution, or damage the device.



Throw away charger blocks and cords that are worn or damaged and **make sure they are not hot** when charging devices.

NOT IN BED

Only charge devices on a **hard, flat, noncombustible surface** to allow for adequate ventilation.



Do not touch any electronic devices that are charging **when you are wet** or standing in water.

Learn more at

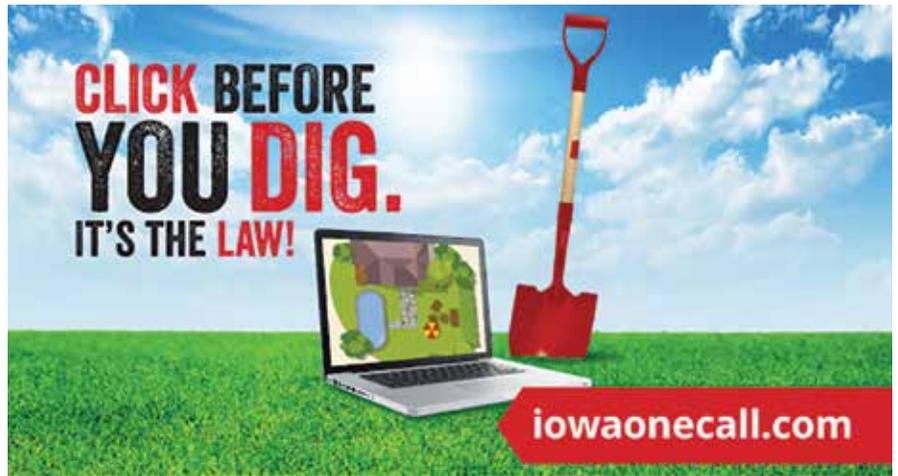
 **Safe Electricity.org**

the VALUE of ELECTRICITY

Electric co-op households pay

\$5 DAY on average for safe, reliable electricity

That's cheaper than most coffee drinks



You're Not Alone in the Dark

When a power outage happens, ECI REC springs into action. Here's the process we follow to ensure power is restored quickly and safely. It all starts with identifying what distribution equipment in what location has been damaged or is experiencing an interruption.



Scan to watch a video from National Rural Electric Cooperative Association explaining the steps co-ops go through to restore power.



Occasionally during a major storm, transmission towers are damaged. Repairing these is the responsibility of our power supplier and is top priority.



High-voltage transmission stations power ECI REC's 25 distribution substations. If the issue is isolated and can be resolved here, thousands of members get their power restored at once.



Next, crews inspect distribution lines between substations and the meters they serve. If the distribution lines can be repaired, power can be restored to the meters on those lines.



If your lights are out but your neighbors' are blazing, call ECI REC at 877-850-4343 right away so we can send a line crew to your home.



Help Us Help You: Update Your Account Info

Did you know our system links your account status with your phone number? If you call in to report an outage or with a concern, our personnel can help you more quickly if your contact information is current. So if any of the below apply, please fill out the form below and return it to: **ECI REC, Info Update, PO Box 248, Urbana, IA 52345.**

- ✓ Update your contact information with any recent changes.
- ✓ List accounts that you wish to follow the same notification process.
- ✓ If an account under your name should require a different notification process, please note this account number in the second space provided.



SCAN THE CODE TO ACCESS AN UPDATE FORM ONLINE.

Member Account Notification Update

Name on account(s) below:

Member account #: _____

Notification device 1: Home # Cell # Work # Email

Device # or address: _____

Member account #: _____

Notification device 2: Home # Cell # Work # Email

Device # or address: _____

Member account #: _____

Notification device 3: Home # Cell # Work # Email

Device # or address: _____

Please list the cell phone number(s) to the right that would be acceptable to send text messages to with outage and electric service-related information when that service becomes available.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

I do not wish to be notified via text of outages and electric service-related information.

Yes, I agree to receive periodic autodialed or prerecorded calls and/or text messages from East-Central Iowa REC at the number(s) identified above. I understand that such calls and/or texts may relay information about planned and/or unplanned power outages and/or service interruptions, or other important service-related information, and that I can opt out of receiving such calls and/or texts at any time. I further understand that I am not required to provide consent as a condition of purchasing any property, goods, or services. I agree to notify East-Central Iowa REC immediately in the event that I voluntarily or involuntarily relinquish any number(s) identified above.

SIGNATURE

CIPCO Announces Major Generation Infrastructure Investments

a Keeping the Lights On update



ON THE HEELS OF ACTIONS this summer by NextEra Energy Resources and Alliant Energy, who petitioned the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) to close the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) in Palo in 2020—14 years before the plant’s operating license was set to expire—Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) is making key investments in generation to ensure it continues to meet its customers’ demands.

CIPCO is ECI REC’s power supplier and is 20% owner of the nuclear plant.

Investing in Iowa’s Largest Solar Project

CIPCO plans to partner with Clēnera, LLC, to develop the largest solar project in Iowa and the Midwest. CIPCO will purchase 100% of the energy and capacity output for 25 years from Wapello Solar, a 100-megawatt solar facility to be located on approximately 800 acres in Louisa County. This area is served by Eastern Iowa Light and Power, a CIPCO member cooperative.

“We are thrilled to partner with Clēnera to bring low-cost, clean energy to our members,” said CIPCO’s Executive Vice President and CEO Bill Cherrier. “This is a milestone project as we look to strike a meaningful balance with energy cost, reliability, and stewardship for our members. Energy produced by the sun provides an excellent complement

to wind energy. Energy from Wapello Solar will be produced during our daily and seasonal peak demand times. This is an innovative way for us to offer reliability and efficiency within CIPCO’s energy portfolio.”

The project will incorporate the latest in solar-array technology to provide cleaner, more cost-effective electric energy. Cutting-edge solar panel technology will be paired with efficient solar inverters and a single-axis tracking system to maximize energy generation.

Clēnera, based in Boise, Idaho, will develop and operate Wapello Solar with the facility retaining all associated renewable energy credits. The completion date for Wapello Solar is expected to be December 2020.

Repowering Creston-Based Summit Lake Generating Station

A second project is an \$85 million investment to repower the natural gas-fired Summit Lake Generating Station in Creston. It entails demolishing the 70-year-old steam plant, installing efficient natural gas-fired reciprocating engines capable of generating up to 60 megawatts of electricity, constructing a new operations and dispatch center, and upgrading substations. The plant was built in 1948 and has been a reliable source of electricity in southwest Iowa.

“After 70 years, the time

has come to update the plant to ensure continued safe and reliable operations,” said Cherrier. “This repowering project adds greater diversity to CIPCO’s portfolio and complements our planned buildout of additional wind and solar resources with dispatchable, quick-start natural gas capacity to run when the wind and sun aren’t producing electricity. Keeping the lights on for our members 24/7 is our top priority.”

Last month, CIPCO filed a petition of waiver with the IUB; upon approval, the project is slated to begin in mid-2019 and be completed by late 2022.

Harnessing Wind Energy

In addition, the Heartland Divide Wind Energy Center is scheduled to be energized by the end of December. CIPCO is purchasing 100% of the energy produced by the 103.5 megawatt wind farm, making it CIPCO’s largest wind energy project to date.

“We’re pleased to add these cost-effective energy projects to our portfolio,” said Cherrier. “Our members and their member-consumers benefit from advantageous pricing on these next generation resources. Not only do members insist on cost efficiencies, they also demand reliability. It’s exciting to provide both through complementary generation projects powered by the wind and the sun.”

Space Heater Safety Tips

Space heaters are a great way to warm specific rooms in your home without having to crank up the thermostat, but using space heaters doesn't come without risk! Use the tips below to keep your home safe.

DO: Plug your space heater directly into the wall outlet.

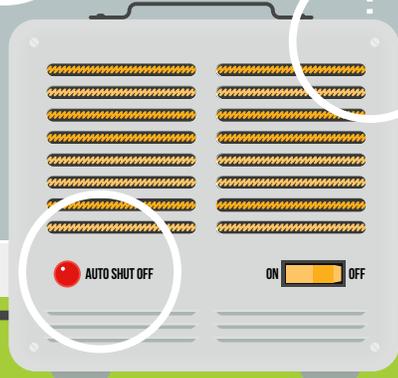


DO: Keep your space heater in low-moisture rooms.

DO: Keep your space heater at a safe distance (at least 3 feet) from kids, pets and flammable items.



DO: Buy a unit with an automatic shutoff in case the unit tips over, or you forget to shut it off.



DO: Always follow the directions and take a broken space heater to a qualified appliance service center.



DON'T: Leave your space heater unattended. Always unplug it before you leave the house or go to bed.



DON'T: Use an extension cord to plug in your space heater. It can cause the heater to over-heat, and can be a tripping hazard.

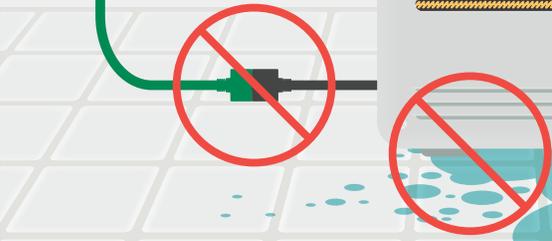
DON'T: Place your space heater near curtains, clothing, furniture or bedding.



DON'T: Try to repair a broken space heater yourself.



DON'T: Put your space heater in your bathroom. The moisture can damage the unit, which could cause it to malfunction.



YOUR BOARD



Board District 1 - Jeff Elliott
(2018/2019 Vice President)

Board District 2 - Chris Sackett
(2018/2019 Asst. Secretary/Treasurer)

Board District 3 - Allen Albers

Board District 4 - Gary McKenna

Board District 5 - Burt Byers

Board District 6 - Don Shonka

Board District 7 - Jim Alberts

Board District 8 - Nick Donlea

Board District 9 - Steve Rau
(2018/2019 President)

Board District 10 - Ryan Kress
(2018/2019 Secretary/Treasurer)

CLASSIFIEDS: Free to members only

FOR SALE: Frontier RB5072- 6' Standard-duty rear blade for 3-point hitch, purchased new in 2015, used twice. \$350. PH: 319-540-9095.

FOR SALE: John Deere 828 snow blower, 28" wide, electric start, excellent condition, \$500. Skid loader, Mustang OMC 342, 1.6L Ford engine, 56" bucket and 38" forks, asking \$6,000. 4" adjustable steel columns, 7'6" to 7'10" tall. PH: 319-436-2053 or 319-270-4649.

FOR SALE: Boer goat kids available early 2019. Good quality, friendly, and super cute. Will start kidding mid-January through March. Make great 4-H projects, and we like to help 4-H kids. Price is dependent on type, lineage, and quantity. PH: 319-350-3978 (text or call).

Please email your ad to classifieds@ecirec.coop. Ads for the March/April Heartland Link must be received by February 1, 2019.

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.

Years of Service Honorees



MIKE ADAMS
Inventory/
Maintenance
Technician
20 years



DOUG APPELGATE
SCADA
Technician
20 years



SCOTT MCLAUGHLIN
Engineering
Technician
5 years



DANE PETERSON
Lineman
5 years

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

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

Phone: (319) 443-4343
Ownership: East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative
Publisher: Steve Marlow
Editor: Lisa Franck

East-Central Iowa REC is an equal opportunity employer.

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.

Members get connected at www.ecirec.coop



24-Hour Bill Pay With SmartHub

See account information at ecirec.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.



Facebook

Find news and updates at facebook.com/eastcentraliowarec.



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.



FREE Monthly Energy Tips

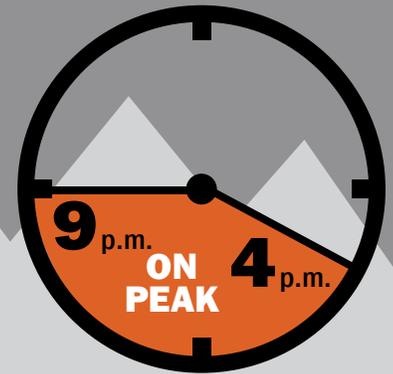
Sign up at www.myenergytips.com to get the Watts \$mart e-newsletter.



Iowa Rural Power

Join grassroots advocates for Iowa's electric cooperatives. Visit www.iaruralpower.org.

TAKE A LOAD OFF THE PEAK



THIS YEAR Resolve to Curb Energy Use During Peak Hours

Peak hours are the busiest times for your local electric cooperative since many people are using electricity at the same time. In addition, it costs your co-op more to generate electricity when demand soars during peak periods—and the cost of your electricity may also rise. Obviously, using less electricity during peak periods can save your co-op—and you—money.

Here's how you can help during peak hours, which generally are on the coldest winter days between 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

- » Shift household chores and activities away from peak periods. Wait to run your dishwasher until you go to bed, for instance.
- » Use the most energy-efficient appliances you have. Your microwave oven, for example, uses considerably less energy than your stove or cook-top.
- » If you're buying a new appliance, make sure you get a highly efficient one. Look for ENERGY STAR® labels when you're evaluating different models.
- » Be aware of your energy consumption and try to get in the habit of using energy efficiently year-round.