

● JUNE 2024

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

**Director candidates for
2024 election**

Anatomy of a power outage

Tasty turkey recipes

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ON THE COVER

Special thanks to Alicia Moss, whose parents are North West REC member-consumers, for supplying this month's cover image. Submit high-resolution photos for consideration to editor@ieclmagazine.com. You could receive \$100!

THE STORM HAS ARRIVED

BY KEVIN CONDON



With Iowa's 2024 Legislative Session in the rearview mirror, Iowa's electric cooperatives are looking back to note what did NOT pass the 90th General Assembly. While some pieces of legislation passed that are beneficial to rural electric cooperatives (RECs), it is fair to say that co-ops have been forced to take a defensive posture at the Statehouse for the past few years.

Notably, in 2023, lawmakers passed, and Gov. Reynolds signed into law a bill to help ensure reliable and resilient power generation sources (House File 248) and another that preserves local control over decision-making at the cooperative (House File 599). However, based on the last two legislative efforts at the Iowa Capitol, electric cooperative supporters should be aware that more concern is on the horizon.

Looming concerns

Service territory protections, integrated resource plans, government overreach into private contracts and weakening of safety protocols are among the troublesome topics that have surfaced at the Statehouse in the past few years. Perhaps of utmost concern is the barrage of out-of-state entities and national organizations that seem to be flocking to Iowa to push agendas of half-truths and scare tactics, all draped in the veil of "liberty" and "free market" principles.

One only needs to take a few minutes to research who is bankrolling these "consumer groups" to discover that a wolf is knocking at the door dressed in sheep's clothing. Outfits based in Texas, Florida, New York and California have all invested serious time and money into Iowa in an effort to weaken your cooperative's ability to provide safe and reliable power.

The only important question now is: Who will your lawmakers listen to?

A matter of trust

Without question, the storm is no longer brewing over these critical energy issues; it has arrived. And now, consumers and lawmakers will have a choice to make: trust your locally owned and governed electric cooperative or take the word of out-of-state corporations that are not locally owned or governed.

Your electric cooperative is guided by seven key principles, one being Concern for Community. The first electric cooperative to provide power in Iowa is more than 100 years old, and many others will celebrate their 90th anniversaries in the next few years. RECs aren't going anywhere. We have been here for decades, providing affordable and reliable service to our neighbors.

I realize that such a dire warning might seem like more political hysteria or hyperbole. I can assure you that it is not. The next decade of energy policy in the U.S. and Iowa will set electric co-op member-consumers on an energy course that could hurt our communities for generations to come if it's not managed with the local interests of consumers in mind.

Now is the time to become educated on energy issues that matter to your community so that you can help inform those you vote for on Election Day.

Please contact your local cooperative or visit www.iowarec.org and www.iaruralpower.org for more information on responsible energy policy.

Kevin Condon is the director of government relations for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

WIN AN ELECTRIC ICE CREAM MAKER!

When it comes to homemade ice cream, "the more, the better" is the motto of this family-friendly machine. Ideal for entertaining, it makes two quarts of your favorite frozen dessert in a single batch (in just 25 minutes). The clear plastic lid has an opening for adding mix-ins like chocolate chips and nuts.

Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting www.ieclmagazine.com no later than June 30. You must be a member of one of Iowa's electric cooperatives to win. There's no obligation associated with entering, we don't share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified. The winner of the \$100 garden center gift card from the April issue was Leland Kreimeyer, a Franklin REC member-consumer.



ENTER ONLINE BY JUNE 30!

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 16	Happy Father's Day
JUNE 20	Board meeting
JULY 2	Access Energy Cooperative 86th anniversary
JULY 4	Office closed for Independence Day
JULY 9	Annual Meeting voting materials mailed
JULY 9	Director election online voting available
JULY 18	Board meeting
AUG. 5	4:30 p.m. online voting closes
AUG. 6	5 p.m. Annual Meeting of Members

You can access your account information at any time using SmartHub on our website at www.accessenergycoop.com or through the SmartHub app for mobile devices. Use SmartHub to report outages to save time and ensure that it goes directly into our system to notify us. You can also call our office at 866-242-4232 for account information or to report service-related concerns.



Access Energy Cooperative is dedicated to exceeding members' expectations for safe, reliable and efficient service, while being a good citizen in our communities.

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EPA'S FINAL POWER PLANT RULES: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

BY KEVIN WHEELER



In a significant move on April 25, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) unveiled four final rules aimed at tightening regulations for power plants. These rules cover a spectrum of environmental concerns, including greenhouse gas emissions, mercury and air toxins, wastewater and coal ash. Associated Electric Cooperative is the electric utility responsible for generating electricity for Access Energy Cooperative and our member-consumers. Upon review of these new final rulings, Associated highlights the critical role of reliable, dispatchable generation, particularly in light of recent extreme weather events.

Greenhouse gas rule

Notably, the greenhouse gas rule mandates substantial investments in new technologies by 2032 to ensure continued operation, and the overarching incentive appears to be for all coal plants to retire by no later than 2032. Even new natural gas-fired plants are not exempt, with a requirement to capture 90% of their carbon emissions by 2032. While these rules aim for environmental improvement, they pose challenges for power suppliers like Access Energy Cooperative, impacting reliability and affordability for member-consumers.

Reliability, affordability and security concerns

Critics argue that the EPA's regulations overreach, stretching beyond its legal boundaries and disregarding practicality. Mandating the adoption of carbon capture and storage technology by set deadlines is deemed unrealistic, given its current developmental stage. Moreover, concerns are raised about the implications for national energy security. The focus on political agendas rather than reliability and affordability is criticized as shortsighted.

The debate extends beyond environmental concerns to the feasibility of energy generation. While renewable sources like wind and solar are promoted, their intermittency and transmission challenges raise doubts about their ability to replace dependable coal and natural gas plants.

Further insights

As stakeholders navigate these regulatory changes, the focus remains on ensuring a balance between environmental goals and maintaining a reliable, affordable energy supply for member-consumers. For further insights on navigating the dynamic energy landscape, resources from Associated Electric Cooperative are available at www.aeci.org.

Learn more on Page 14 of this issue.

Kevin Wheeler is the general manager/CEO of Access Energy Cooperative.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

Copies of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of Access Energy Cooperative are available to anyone who is interested, either members of the cooperative or the public. They are located in the lobby of our office in Mount Pleasant. They are also available at www.accessenergycoop.com under the "My Cooperative" tab. You may also call our office to request a copy at 866-242-4232.

DIVIDENDS ARE COMING

BY TAMMY SNAVELY



Each member of Access Energy Cooperative has a dividend account at the cooperative where your dividend allocations

accumulate. When the board allocates margins, your portion is allocated to your dividend account. Notices are then printed on your bill to let you know how much was allocated to your account.

Once financial statements for the year are reviewed, the board of directors determines if it is in the best interest of the cooperative to approve a dividend payment to the members from these accounts.

Payment details

In 2024, the board approved a dividend payment to the members in the amount of \$1,235,090. If you were a member of the cooperative during 2004, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2022 and/or 2023, you will receive a dividend payment.



Dividend checks will be available to pick up at the annual meeting on Aug. 6. Any checks not picked up will be mailed after the annual meeting. Checks will be sent to the most current address we have on file. The cooperative will not print checks for amounts under \$5. These amounts will be added to next year's refund.

Members also have the option to receive their dividend payments as a bill credit. To take advantage of this option, please call our finance department or email finance@accessenergycoop.com.

Tammy Snavely is the chief financial officer/assistant general manager of Access Energy Cooperative.

2024 BOARD CANDIDATES NAMED

The nominating committee has chosen candidates to run for a seat on the board of directors in the 2024 election. Election materials will be mailed to all members on July 9, and online voting will begin at 8 a.m. Online voting will end at 4:30 p.m. on Aug. 5. Members can attend the Annual Meeting of Members on Aug. 6 to cast their votes in person. To the right is the report of the nominating committee.

Nominating committee report

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Nominating Committee of Access Energy Cooperative, duly appointed by the Board of Directors, hereby nominates the following members of the Cooperative for the office of Director, all to be elected at the Annual Meeting to be held Aug. 6, 2024.

Chairman: Randy White

Secretary: Tina Mullin

THREE-YEAR TERM (Three to be elected)

DISTRICT I



Harold Cabbage

Marvin Larson

DISTRICT II



Mark Hotchkiss

Larry White

DISTRICT III



William (Bill) Benjamin

Robert Chesnut III

TWO-YEAR TERM (One to be elected)

DISTRICT II



Jerry Barker

Duane Graber

PRIVACY POLICY

Information we collect

Access Energy Cooperative will receive and retain information about member consumers/customers through applications or other forms; transactions with us, our affiliates or others; from a consumer-reporting agency; and advanced metering infrastructure.

Access Energy Cooperative will limit the use and collection of nonpublic personal information to that which is necessary to maintain and administer financial services, beneficial in designing, operating and maintaining the cooperative's electric system to offer affordable and reliable electric service.

This information will not be shared with third parties unless: the information is provided to help complete a member-consumer/customer-initiated transaction; the member-consumer/customer has requested it; the disclosure is required by law, warrant or court order; or the disclosure is required by banking regulation.

"Third Party" is defined as any person or entity other than: employees of the cooperative; the cooperative's designated legal counsel; or any entity contractually bound to the cooperative to provide billing or collection services

for electric cooperative accounts. When member-consumer/customer information is provided to any third parties, that third party must be bound by appropriate confidentiality and non-disclosure obligations.

Access Energy Cooperative limits employee access to member consumer/customer information to those with a business reason for knowing such information. All employees are educated on the importance of confidentiality and member-consumer/customer privacy. Any employee that violates the privacy of our member-consumers/customers will be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures and possible termination.

Appropriate physical, electronic and managerial procedures to safeguard and secure information are put in place to prevent unauthorized access, maintain data accuracy, and to ensure the correct use of information.

Right to be informed

Information regarding operational aspects of the cooperative's advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) and related programs will be made available to members as requested.

Member-consumers will be better informed about their electricity consumption.

Member-consumers will have access to information that helps explain available billing rate structures and options, outage information, peak demand and the impact of energy consumption habits with the AMI.

The purpose of the collection, use, retention and sharing of energy consumption data shall be made known to the member-consumers in a clear and transparent manner.

Member-consumers will be informed of the available choices and consent options regarding the collection, use and disclosure of energy consumption data.

Requests to correct inaccurate information will be responded to in a timely manner.

Member-consumers who wish to file a privacy violation complaint have the right to submit the same to the cooperative for resolution. If not satisfied with the resolution proposed by the cooperative staff, the same may be submitted to the cooperative's board of directors for a resolution.

If the issue is still not resolved to the member-consumer's satisfaction, the member-consumer may pursue alternative remedies.

GETTING STARTED WITH SMARTHUB IS EASY

Don't have a SmartHub account? Create one today.

Follow these simple steps:

1. Look up your account number
2. Go to our website: accessenergycoop.com
3. Click "Access Account Online" in the banner at the top
4. Find "New User?" and click the link to enroll



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SmartHub on the GO!

The app is also available from the Apple App Store and Google Play. Simply use the camera on your smart device to scan the QR code below or search for SmartHub (by National Information Solutions Cooperative).



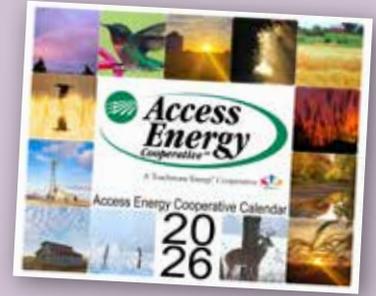
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

This year marks 20 years of the Access Energy Cooperative photo contest! Contest winners have been selected, and the photos will appear in the 2025 Access Energy Cooperative Calendar. Winners receive \$75 each, plus an additional \$25 bill credit if they are members of the cooperative.

The calendar will be distributed at the Annual Meeting of Members on Aug. 6. Photos will also be featured on our Facebook page once the calendar is complete and ready for distribution. If you cannot make it to the annual meeting, the calendar will also be available in our office beginning in August until copies run out.

Showcasing our region and community

We appreciate all the artists who have submitted entries to this annual contest since it began 20 years ago. These photos have helped build a wonderful library of images we can use to showcase southeast Iowa in publications, advertisements and on social media. Access Energy Cooperative is locally owned and controlled by our members. Using images from our own surroundings shows our people, our land and our heritage. Thank you for helping make this possible!



2025 PHOTO CONTEST BEGINS

WIN UP TO \$100!

Where one door closes, another opens. The photo contest for this year has closed. Thank you for so many wonderful entries!

But don't stop taking photos! We are already accepting photos for the 2026 Access Energy Cooperative calendar. Color and horizontal photos work best for calendar entries. Submissions can be sent to mktg@accessenergycoop.com before March 31, 2025.

Thirteen photos will be chosen as featured photos and winners will be awarded \$75, plus an additional \$25 bill credit if they are a member of the cooperative.

Visit www.accessenergycoop.com for complete rules.

MONTH TO BE FEATURED	ARTIST NAME	PHOTO TITLE
DECEMBER 2024	Kim Kingery	Royal Takeoff
JANUARY 2025	Diane Jennings	Lake Odessa
FEBRUARY 2025	Christy Vickerman	Fall Sunrise
MARCH 2025	Sara Isenhower	Good to Be Home
APRIL 2025	Bill Graeser	Tangled Tails
MAY 2025	Moni Hayne	What! Who Me!
JUNE 2025	Larry Yaley	Reflection of later summer evening
JULY 2025	Belinda Allen	Standing Tall
AUGUST 2025	Hollie Nelson	Enjoy the Ride
SEPTEMBER 2025	Sofia Adams	Sweetest of Sunflowers
OCTOBER 2025	Lindi Harryman	Foxtail Sunset
NOVEMBER 2025	Sherry Taglauer	Fall Reflected on the River
DECEMBER 2025	Sami Wibben	Sky on Fire



tasty turkey

RECIPES



KALE PESTO TURKEY BURGERS

- 2 pounds ground turkey
- ½ cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- ¾ cup prepared pesto, divided
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup kale, finely chopped
- ½ cup mozzarella cheese
- ½ cup sun-dried tomatoes, julienned
- ½ cup light mayonnaise
- hamburger buns

Mix turkey, Parmesan cheese, ½ cup pesto, salt and kale. Form into six patties and grill or fry until they reach an internal temperature of 165 degrees F. Top with mozzarella cheese and sun-dried tomatoes for the last 5 minutes of cooking. Mix mayonnaise and ¼ cup pesto. Spread on buns and add burgers.

Jacquilyn Hearn • Batavia
Access Energy Cooperative

HOT TURKEY SALAD

- 2 cups turkey, cooked and cubed
- 2 tablespoons minced onion
- 1 cup celery, finely diced
- ½ green pepper, finely diced
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 1½ cups cheddar cheese, grated (or preferred cheese)

Mix ingredients together and bake at 350 degrees F for 20 minutes. Serves 4-6

Amy Martens • Wellman
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

TYE'S TURKEY MARINADE

- ¾ cup orange juice
- ¾ cup soy sauce
- ¼ cup honey
- ½ cup onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 teaspoons black pepper
- 2 teaspoons ginger
- 4 pounds turkey (tenderloin or other cut)

Combine all ingredients except for turkey. Place turkey into marinade and let stand for 1 hour. Grill turkey until done and serve. Serves 4-6

Alicia Pacha • Brighton
Access Energy Cooperative

TURKEY STIR FRY

- 1 cup brown rice
- 1½ tablespoons olive oil
- 1 package coleslaw mix
- 2 carrots, grated
- 2 stalks celery, cut up
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 8-ounce can water chestnuts
- 3 cups turkey, cooked and shredded
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce

Cook rice until tender, set aside. Heat oil in saucepan and add coleslaw, carrots, celery and onion. Cook until just tender. Add water chestnuts, turkey and soy sauce. Heat for about 3 minutes then serve over a bed of rice.

Mary Gropper • Chelsea
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

TURKEY NOODLE VEGGIE CASSEROLE

- 8 ounces noodles
- ¼ cup celery, chopped
- ¼ cup onion, chopped
- ½ cup peas
- ½ cup carrots, cut
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- ½ soup can of milk
- 2 cups turkey, cooked and cut
- 1 cup Velveeta cheese, cubed

Cook noodles, celery, onion, peas and carrots in chicken broth. Do not drain. Add all other ingredients. Place in greased baking dish and bake at 350 degrees F for 40 minutes.

**Steph Messner • Rock Rapids
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative**

OVERNIGHT TURKEY CASSEROLE

- 2 cups macaroni, uncooked
- 3 cups leftover turkey
- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 2 cans broth
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 cup mild cheese, diced
- ½ cup green pepper, chopped
- ½ cup celery, chopped
- 1 small can water chestnuts
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 4-ounce can mushrooms

Mix in order above. Put in greased 9x13-inch pan. Refrigerate overnight then bake uncovered at 350 degrees F for 1 hour. Freezes well. *Serves 15*

**Ardine Dillingham • Hartley
Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

PIZZA ROLLUPS

- 1 pound ground turkey, browned
- 2 cups mozzarella
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1 tablespoon fresh parsley, chopped
- 1 loaf frozen bread dough, thawed
- 4 cups Italian tomato sauce

Mix turkey, cheese, salt, pepper and herbs. Roll out dough into 14x24-inch rectangle. Spoon mixture over dough. Roll up lengthwise and cut into 24 pieces. Place on greased cookie sheet, about 1 inch apart. Let sit for about 10 minutes then bake at 400 degrees F for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. Serve with warmed Italian tomato sauce.

**Bethany Van Wyhe • Lester
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative**

GRILLED TURKEY BURGERS

- 20 ounces ground turkey
 - ¼ cup non-fat Greek yogurt
 - 2 tablespoons mushrooms, finely chopped
 - 2 cloves garlic, peeled and finely minced
 - 1 green onion, finely chopped
 - ½ teaspoon seasoned salt
 - ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
 - 2 tablespoons parsley or cilantro, finely chopped
- hamburger buns**
Optional toppings: pepper jack cheese, lettuce, tomato, avocado, red onion, ranch dressing

Mix the first eight ingredients together until thoroughly blended. Divide into four equal balls, roughly ½ pound each, then form into patties ¾-inch thick and 4-5 inches in diameter. Preheat grill to 400 degrees F (medium high). It should be at this heat at least 5 minutes prior to grilling to preheat the grates. Grill the burgers until the bottom cooks through and juices start to pool on top of the patties, about 5 minutes. Flip and cook until the patties reach an internal temperature of 165 degrees F, about 3-5 minutes. If desired, top with a slice of pepper jack cheese at the last minute or two of grilling. Remove and rest on a raised rack and toast buns on the grill. Assemble the burgers with additional optional items: lettuce, tomato, avocado, red onion and ranch dressing. *Serves 4*

**Jackie Netherton • Ida Grove
North West Rural Electric Cooperative**

WANTED:

FAMILY DINNER FAVORITES

THE REWARD:
**\$25 FOR EVERY
ONE WE PUBLISH!**

Deadline is June 30.

Please include your name, address, telephone number, co-op name and the recipe category on all submissions. **Also provide the number of servings per recipe.**



EMAIL: recipes@ieclmagazine.com
(Attach your recipe as a Word document or PDF to your email message.)

MAIL: Recipes

Iowa Electric Cooperative Living • 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48,
Des Moines, IA 50322-2992

ANATOMY OF A POWER OUTAGE

BY SCOTT FLOOD

Imagine that a stray bolt of lightning connects a menacing cloud with a power pole about a mile east of your home. Your lights flicker briefly before going out. Things become eerily quiet as all your home's devices equipped with motors and fans stop providing their constant symphony of background noise.

Locating the issue

You're experiencing a power outage, so you reach for your phone and call your electric co-op. Good move. Sometimes, member-consumers don't call because they assume their neighbors will. However, the more

members who do make the call, the more quickly the co-op will be able to pinpoint the outage location.

Back at the office, the co-op's grid system operator noticed the sudden pause at the moment 300 million volts of lightning danced around a transformer, and they're able to triangulate the location of the outage. The system estimates just over 500 members are in the dark as a line crew tosses their dinner aside and steers their trucks in that direction.

Thirty minutes later, the lineworkers slowly drive along a stretch of road,

keeping one eye on traffic while inspecting every pole, wire and transformer. In another 8 minutes, they stop and step out for a closer look. The mystery is solved with one glance at the burn mark across the surface of the transformer. Ready to move closer to the line.

Deliberate work ensures safety

If you watch the lineworkers, you might mistakenly assume they're not very motivated. After all, you're dealing with a power outage, you want it to end as soon as possible, and it looks like they're simply



Photo Source: Midland Power Cooperative



Outages can occur from a variety of causes, including fallen trees, vehicle crashes and even curious critters, like snakes and squirrels.

Photo Source: Corn Belt Power Cooperative

taking their sweet time while you're missing the ballgame. But there's a good reason the lineworkers aren't rushing or running around.

Those power lines carry high-voltage electricity. It's safe when all elements of the system are in good working order, but it's potentially deadly when that's not the case. Lineworkers approach what they do deliberately, efficiently – and, most of all, safely. Every action they take is carefully planned so they can spot potential hazards. When performing tasks, they follow standard procedures and safety requirements to ensure the repair is effective and sound. Working that way may take a little extra time, but it means they'll make it home safely at the end of the day (or night).

Power is restored

Less than an hour after finding the cause of the outage, the lineworkers load their tools and gear back onto the trucks. This time, the problem was easy to spot, the repair was fairly straightforward, and the weather cooperated.

Driving back to the co-op, the lineworkers watch the passing homes and smile because the warm glow coming from the windows means the power's back on again. A couple of members in their yard wave as the trucks pass by. They may not know why the electricity went off and what was involved in

bringing it back, but thanks to the lineworkers, life is back to normal.

Preparing for the unknown

Lightning streaks across the world's skies roughly 8 million times every day, and power poles, lines and other infrastructure provide attractive targets for helping lightning connect with the ground. But outages can occur from a variety of causes, including fallen trees, vehicle crashes and even curious critters, like snakes and squirrels.

And no two outages are exactly alike. The next one could be in severe weather or a remote segment far off the main road. It could involve a fallen tree that needs to be cut with chainsaws or a broken utility pole that needs to be replaced. The situation doesn't matter because lineworkers will always get to the location and fix the problem as quickly as safety allows.

This is why your electric co-op invests in the right technologies and equipment designed to protect the power grid and prevent outages from plunging your home into darkness. And it's also why the lineworkers, who put themselves at risk to return your life to normal, are some of our favorite people.

Scott Flood writes for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 900 electric co-ops.

SAFETY TIPS

If a power outage occurs:

- Call your local electric cooperative to report your outage – even if you think a neighbor has already called it in. The more calls received, the easier it is to identify the issue and determine the extent of the outage.
- Stay away from downed power lines and poles. Always assume all power lines are energized and dangerous unless told otherwise by an authority.
- Turn off the stove, oven and other appliances (except refrigerators and freezers with food) to prevent heavy startup loads that could cause secondary blackouts when power is restored.
- Unplug sensitive electronic equipment, such as computers, TVs and other home entertainment equipment, to avoid damage to them when power is restored.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to prevent food from spoiling.
- Leave a light turned on so you'll know when the power is restored.
- Use flashlights during outages instead of candles to avoid fire risks.

WHAT IS MUTUAL AID AND WHY DOES IT MATTER

BY JENNAH DENNEY

Electric cooperatives employ a variety of methods to reduce the likelihood of power outages, from regular tree trimming to equipment maintenance and repairs to local grid updates. But outages do occur, and when they do, co-ops are ready to respond.

Another way co-ops prepare for major outages and disasters is through mutual aid, which is a collaborative approach to emergency planning. The mutual aid model allows electric co-ops to help one another during times of need. This approach permits co-ops to “borrow” restoration workers from other co-ops, thereby increasing the workforce response to areas impacted by a major outage event. It’s essentially about neighbors helping neighbors, even when those neighbors are fellow co-ops located hundreds of miles away.

Cooperative values in action

Electric co-ops operate according to seven principles, and principles six and seven, Cooperation among Cooperatives and Concern for Community, are directly connected to the mutual aid model.

Electric co-ops were formed to provide reliable electric service to their members at the lowest reasonable cost, and mutual aid has been a fundamental part of our DNA since

co-ops were formed. The concept of mutual aid originated with the rural electrification efforts in the 1930s. From the beginning, electric co-ops relied on each other to assist in times of need, and mutual aid provides an essential safety net in times of crisis.

Mutual aid ultimately benefits co-ops’ member-consumers. During major outage events, co-ops can increase their workforce and respond more quickly, leading to shorter outage times for members.

Managing personnel and equipment

Electric co-ops and their statewide organizations, such as the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, manage disaster response and mutual aid. The statewide organizations assist with coordination between states and ensure the necessary personnel and equipment, which are the key ingredients of the mutual aid recipe. These efforts require effective logistics management and experts who fully understand resource allocation and have the know-how to respond under pressure.

During major outage events, a variety of equipment is necessary to complete repairs, including bucket trucks and other specialized vehicles, utility

poles, transformers and wires. Skilled lineworkers, tree trimmers, damage assessors and other key personnel are also often shared among co-ops. These experts provide critical skills and workforce to speed up the restoration process.

Because the national network of transmission and distribution infrastructure owned by electric co-ops has been built to federal standards, line crews from any electric co-op in the U.S. can arrive on the scene ready to provide emergency support and secure in their knowledge of the system’s engineering.

Achieving the ultimate goal together

Today, mutual aid continues to be a vital part of how electric co-ops operate and serve members of their local communities. The goal of mutual aid is to restore power as quickly and safely as possible after a major outage event. By sharing resources, co-ops can significantly enhance their response capabilities. In essence, mutual aid embodies cooperation among cooperatives and ensures that members receive reliable electricity despite major challenges.

Jennah Denney writes for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.



NOMINATE A COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER BY JUNE 30

Your nominee could win \$3,000 for their local charity

Iowa's electric cooperatives are excited to announce the return of a statewide contest, which celebrates our cooperative commitment to community. Called **Shine the Light**, the contest will accept nominations in June and award three winners with a \$3,000 check to their local charity or community organization.

"Now in our fourth year, we're excited to once again provide this cooperative effort to shine the light on local volunteers," says Erin Campbell, director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. "So many people throughout the areas served by Iowa's electric cooperatives deserve to be recognized for making a positive impact."

Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, the Shine the Light contest will accept contest entries online during the month of June. In addition to receiving a \$3,000 donation for their charity or nonprofit of choice, the winners will also be featured in the September issue of *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine.

How to nominate

Member-consumers, employees and retirees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers. If you receive electricity from an electric cooperative in Iowa, you're a co-op member-consumer and invited to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member-consumer. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians.



Step 1:

Go to www.IowaShineTheLight.com from June 1-30 to make a nomination and to review the contest rules. You can also learn about past winners of the contest.

Step 2:

As a nominator, provide your contact information and answer the following question in 500 words or less.

How has your nominee made a difference in the community, and how might their local charity use the \$3,000 donation?

EPA RULES THREATEN RELIABILITY

On April 25, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its long-anticipated final rules aimed at existing coal and new natural gas power plants.

The four new rules to regulate power plants represent “the wrong approach at a critical time for our nation’s energy future,” says Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). NRECA represents nearly 900 local electric cooperatives throughout the U.S., including those in Iowa. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation’s landscape.

Matheson adds, “The path outlined by the EPA is unlawful, unrealistic and unachievable. It undermines electric reliability and poses grave consequences for an already stressed electric grid. The American economy can’t succeed without reliable electricity. Smart energy policy recognizes that fundamental truth and works to help keep the lights on. This barrage of new EPA rules ignores our nation’s ongoing electric reliability challenges and is the wrong approach at a critical time for our nation’s energy future.”

Specifically, NRECA believes the final rule is problematic for the following key reasons:

1 Disregards the law and Supreme Court decisions.

The rule violates the Clean Air Act because the EPA asserts vast new authority of major economic and political significance without a clear statement from Congress. It disregards the “major questions doctrine” and is inconsistent with the text, structure and context of Clean Air Act Section 111.

2 Requires the use of inadequately demonstrated technology.

While carbon capture and storage (CCS) is a promising technology, it is not yet widespread nor commercially available and thus has not been “adequately demonstrated” as is required. No units in the country are currently achieving the EPA’s required 90% capture rate consistently and while operating at baseload levels.

3 Mandates unrealistic and unachievable timelines.

There needs to be more infrastructure in place, especially massive pipeline networks, to support CCS and hydrogen, even assuming the technologies work as the EPA envisions.

The necessary infrastructure cannot reasonably be expected to be in place in time to meet the EPA’s requirements.

4 Jeopardizes reliability and affordability.

The final rule will reduce key generating resources, magnifying today’s reliability challenges with grave consequences for an already stressed electric grid. All of this will occur while the demand for electricity skyrockets as we electrify more of the American economy.

The EPA finalized its rule against a backdrop of daunting threats to reliability, as electricity demand surges at the same time supply is decreasing.

The Energy Information Administration projects that power demand will reach record highs in 2024 and 2025, increasing by 2.5% and 3.2%, respectively. Grid planners forecast electricity demand to grow by 38 gigawatts through 2028, the equivalent of adding another California to the grid.

Meanwhile, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation has warned that more than 110 gigawatts of always-available generation, enough to power about 35 million homes, will retire by 2033. Over the next five years, all or parts of 19 states are at high risk of rolling blackouts during normal peak conditions.

“

This barrage of new EPA rules ignores our nation’s ongoing electric reliability challenges and is the wrong approach at a critical time for our nation’s energy future.”

NRECA CEO Jim Matheson



The rule is unlawful. It violates the law, exceeds EPA’s authority, and disregards Supreme Court rulings.

The technology isn’t ready. The rule mandates the widespread adoption of technology that is promising, but not ready for prime time.

The timelines are unrealistic. The rule gives neither existing coal units nor new gas units enough time to reach compliance.

NRECA CEO Jim Matheson

WINNERS OF THE LINEWORKER SCHOLARSHIPS



HUNTER GREGORY



BRENDAN HUDSON

Congratulations to Hunter Gregory and Brendan Hudson for each being awarded a 2024 Access Energy Cooperative \$2,000 Lineworker Scholarship!

Hunter will graduate from Central Lee High School. He plans to attend the powerline program at Northwest Community College. Brendan will graduate from WACO High School. He also plans to attend the powerline program at Northwest Community College, as well as Des Moines Area Community College.

About the scholarship

In addition to the \$9,000 in scholarship money awarded to students whose parents or guardians are members of Access Energy Cooperative, up to two \$2,000 lineworker scholarships can be awarded to students planning to pursue a career as a lineworker. Winners are chosen based on their academics, achievements, community involvement and a personal interview. They must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a qualifying lineworker educational program.

2024 ANNUAL MEETING IS AUG. 6

Save the date for our annual meeting!
You could win a \$250 bill credit!

Tuesday, Aug. 6 at 5 p.m.

McMillan Park, Mount Pleasant

The grand prize is a \$250 bill credit. The name of the member whose name is drawn must be present to win. If the member is not present at the time of the drawing, no grand prize will be awarded this year. However, if the \$250 bill credit is not awarded it will be added to the 2025 grand prize.



SAVE THE DATE! TUESDAY, AUG. 6

3 WAYS TO SEAL IN COMFORT

In addition to increased comfort, weatherizing your home is an excellent way to save energy and lower your cooling and heating costs. Here are three ways you can seal in comfort *and* savings.



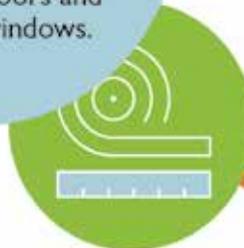
1 Caulk

Apply caulk around cracks and openings between stationary components like door frames and window frames.



2 Weatherstripping

Install weatherstripping around components that move, like doors and operable windows.



3 Insulate

Adding insulation is an effective weatherization strategy, especially for older homes. Consider additional insulation in areas like an unfinished attic, exterior walls and floors above uninsulated spaces.

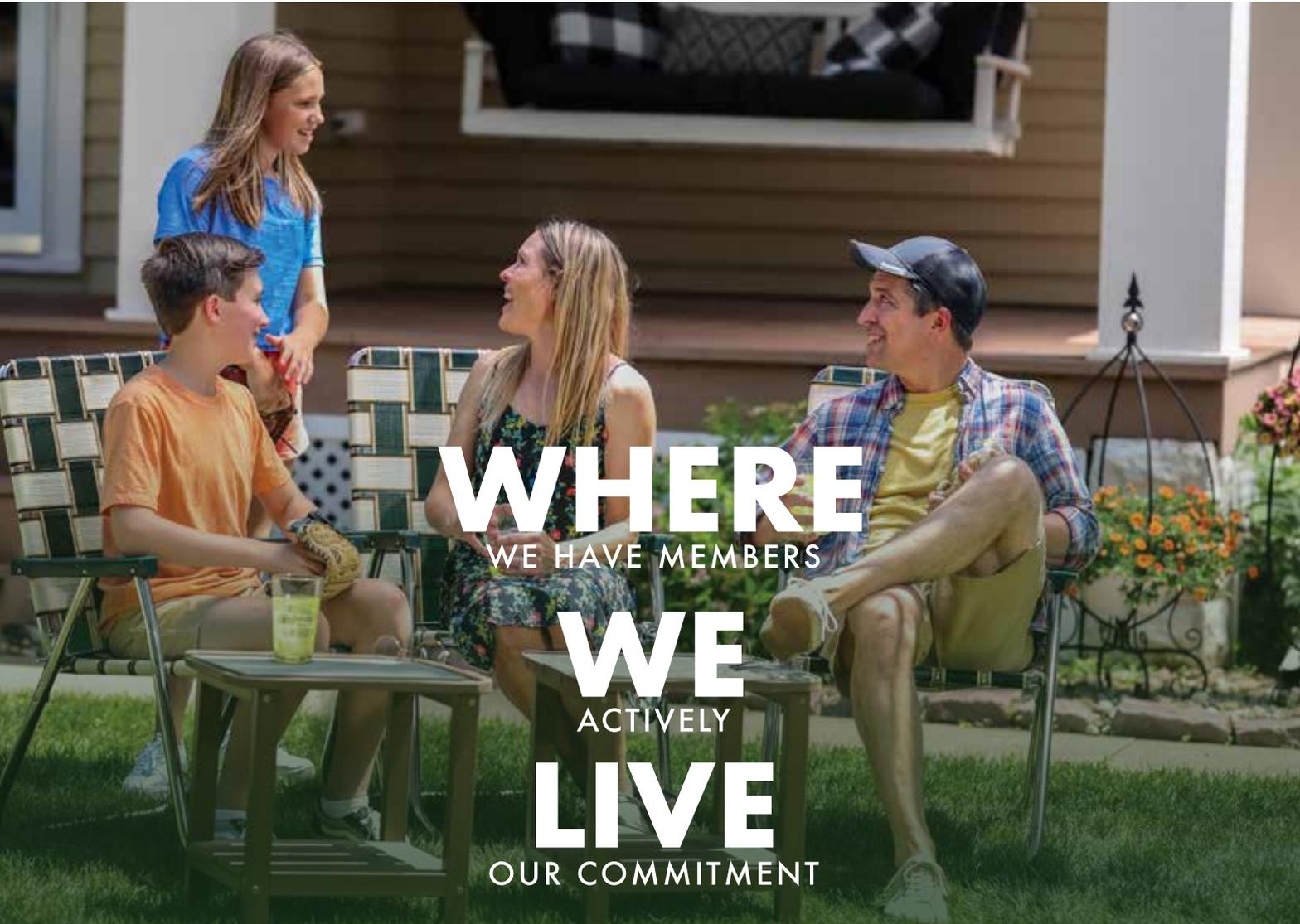


IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

The magazine
for members of
Iowa's electric
cooperatives.

June 2024

Visit our website at www.accessenergycoop.com



WHERE
WE HAVE MEMBERS
WE
ACTIVELY
LIVE
OUR COMMITMENT

We're not just a service provider – we're active members of our community. We take pride in serving our members and going the extra mile in everything we do. Get closer to your **local cooperative** for ways we support you and strengthen our community.

