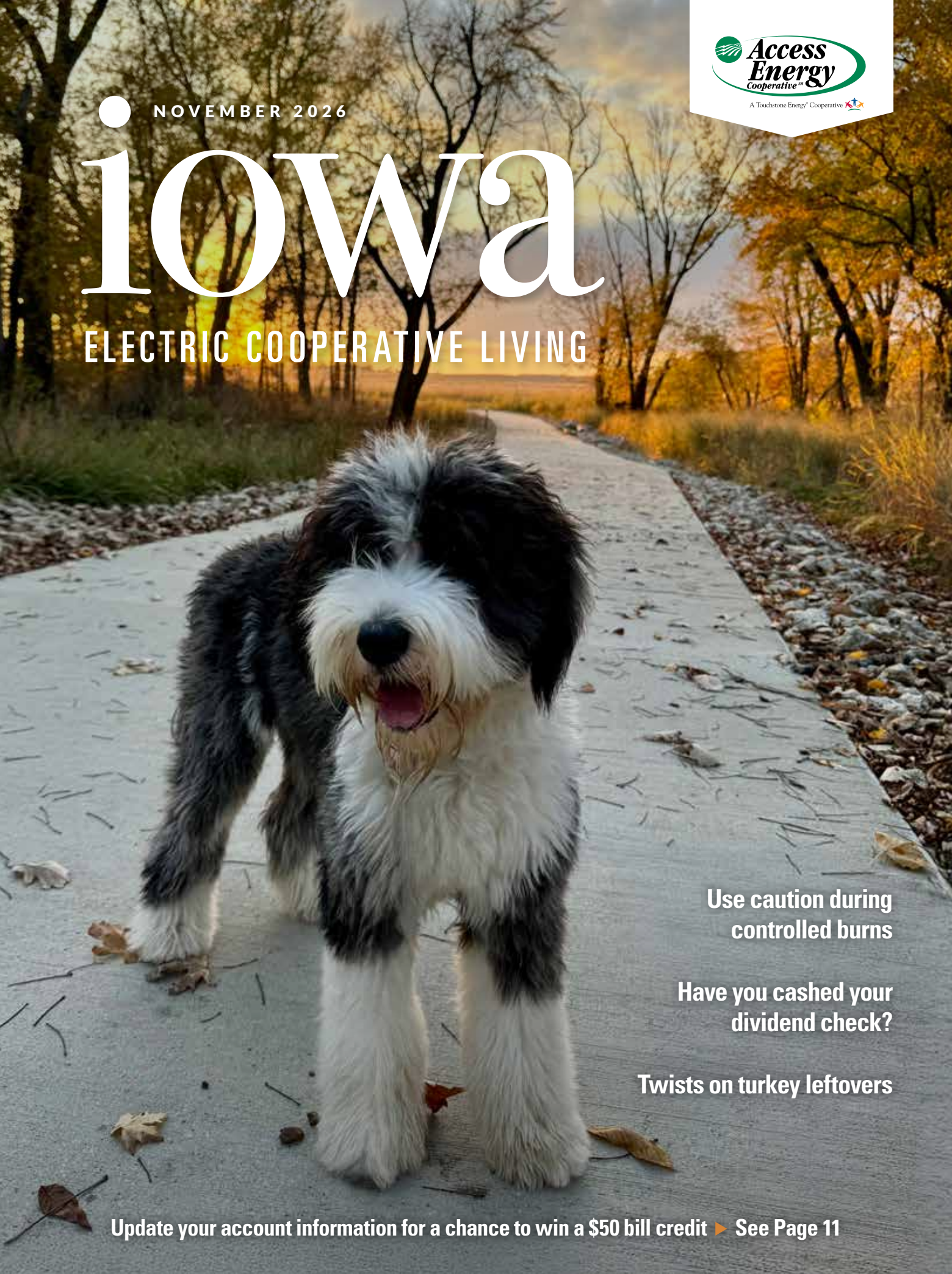
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NOVEMBER 2026

iowa

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING



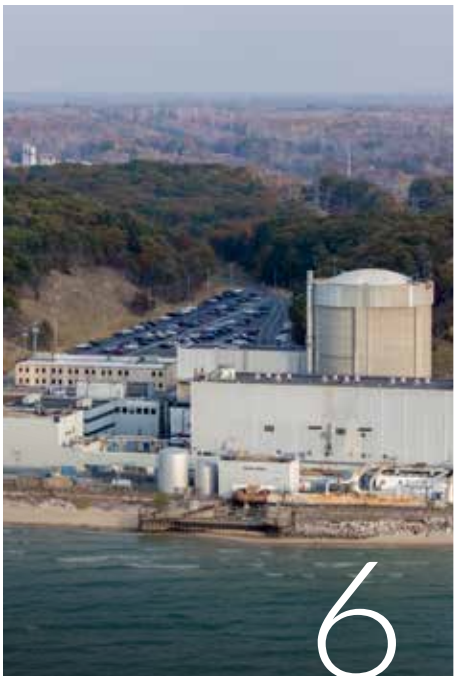
Use caution during controlled burns

Have you cashed your dividend check?

Twists on turkey leftovers

Update your account information for a chance to win a $50 bill credit ▶ See Page 11

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ON THE COVER

Special thanks to Karen Kayser-Kemp, a Butler County REC member-consumer, for supplying this month's cover image. Submit high-resolution photos for consideration to editor@ieclmagazine.com. You could receive $100!

BRINGING ELECTRICITY AND HOPE TO GUATEMALA

BY SCOTT MEINECKE





"So, what was it like?"

That's the most common question I've been asked since returning home from three weeks in Guatemala. My quick answer has been, "It was extremely hot!" And it was. But that answer doesn't begin to capture what the experience was really like or what it meant to help bring electricity to families who had been living without it.

I was part of a team of 18 linemen from electric co-ops in Iowa, Oklahoma and Colorado who volunteered to build an electric distribution system and bring electricity to more than 80 homes, an elementary school and a health center in a rural Guatemalan community.

A different kind of line work

In Guatemala City, where we landed, roads were busy and modern. At our jobsites, roads were narrow, rocky switchback paths through the mountains. It rained nearly every night, creating muddy conditions and adding to the unrelenting humidity.

The line construction was very different from what we are used to in Iowa. In Guatemala, we built long spans across deep valleys. Local villagers set the poles and dug most of the anchors. We watched in amazement as they helped string wire across the valleys.

My primary focus during the project was wiring homes for electricity. Each home received an electrical panel with two breakers, two outlets, two switches and four lights. We worked with an interpreter to communicate with the homeowners and determine where everything should be located. It was humbling to think that something as simple as flipping on a light switch would become part of daily life for these families. I was continually amazed by how appreciative they were to have us there.

Connections beyond electricity

My best memories all revolve around the children. I see my own grandchildren in their faces. Team members had packed small items to give to the kids, including Hot Wheels cars, hair clips and soccer balls. The children would smile and hold out their hands as we went past, not just at the jobsite but along the roads between town and the worksite. Our daily commute soon took on a parade-like atmosphere. The kids took great joy in saying "thank you," "hello" and "goodbye" in English!

At one home we were preparing to wire, several toy cars we had given out earlier were lined up on the covered porch, just like my grandson lines up his cars back home. The girls had made small beds for the dolls they had received. Those little moments reminded me how much children are alike, no matter where they live.

The homes are very small, generally two rooms with beds in both. You could literally pack most of what many of the families own in the trunk of a car. I pray that having electricity will make daily life a little easier and open new opportunities for these families.

When people ask me what Guatemala was like, I can tell them about the heat, the mountain roads and the work. But what I'll remember most are the people, especially the children, and how grateful they were to receive something most of us rarely stop to think about: electricity.

The experience was also a powerful reminder of just how much electricity can change daily life. It was an honor to work alongside such a great team of cooperative linemen to bring power to this community. Thank you for your support and prayers for our safety while we were there.

Scott Meinecke is the director of safety and loss control for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

WIN A BREVILLE BURR SMART COFFEE GRINDER



The perfect cup of coffee starts with a precise dose of freshly ground beans. The Breville Smart Grinder™ takes precision grinding to a new level, offering 60 grind settings from the finest espresso to the coarsest French press. Stainless steel conical burrs minimize grinding heat and protect the essential oils in the coffee beans, preserving flavor.

ENTER ONLINE BY NOV. 30!

Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting www.ieclmagazine.com no later than Nov. 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 Cosori air fryer oven from the September issue was **Tyler Metzger**, a **Lyon REC** member-consumer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV. 1	Holiday Giving Drive begins
NOV. 16	Holiday coloring contest deadline
NOV. 19	Board meeting
NOV. 26-27	Office closed for Thanksgiving
DEC. 10	Deadline to submit member account information updates for drawing
DEC. 15	Board meeting
DEC. 24-25	Office closed for Christmas
JAN. 1	Office closed for New Year's Day

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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Call Before You Dig (Iowa One Call): 8-1-1

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SEASON OF GRATITUDE, TRADITIONS AND TOGETHERNESS

BY KEVIN WHEELER



As the holiday season arrives, many of us look forward to gathering with family and friends to share precious time together. It is a season filled with laughter, stories, traditions and memories that remind us of what matters most. It is also a time when we pause to think about loved ones who are no longer with us and cherish the impact they continue to have on our lives.

For some, the holidays bring challenges. Distance, schedules, logistics or circumstances beyond our control can make gathering with loved ones more difficult. Yet somehow, this time of year has a way of bringing people together, whether around a table, through a phone call, on a video chat or simply through shared memories.

The holidays hold special meaning for each of us. For many, it is the one time of year we get to spend time with people we may only see once or twice a year. We catch up on life's events, reminisce about old times, tell familiar stories and create new memories that will be shared for years to come.

Traditions that bring us together

No matter how different our traditions may be, one thing seems universal: We always eat too much! There is something special about a holiday meal. Why is it that turkey and ham seem to taste better during the holidays, even when they're prepared using the same recipe we enjoy throughout the year? Perhaps it's not the food itself, but the people gathered around the table that make it so memorable.

Some of us will travel this holiday season, while others will enjoy the comfort of home. Regardless of where we celebrate, there is something unmistakable about the holidays. It might be the aroma that greets you when you open the front door, the sounds of family conversations or the excitement of seeing familiar faces. Those moments become part of the memories we carry with us long after the season has passed.

For sports fans, Thanksgiving also brings another cherished tradition: football. The Detroit Lions began hosting their annual Thanksgiving Day game in 1934, and the Dallas Cowboys joined the tradition in 1966. For many families, gathering around the television to watch football has become just as much a part of the holiday as the meal itself.

Making memories that last

Traditions come in many forms, and each one is special. Whether your holiday includes family gatherings, traveling, favorite recipes, football, volunteering, quiet reflection or simply spending time with those you care about, these traditions help make the season meaningful.

As we celebrate this holiday season, I want to wish each and every one of you a wonderful Thanksgiving and a joyful holiday season. May you enjoy time with loved ones, whether they are family, lifelong friends or even someone you've only recently met. May your days be filled with gratitude, warmth, laughter and memories that will last a lifetime.

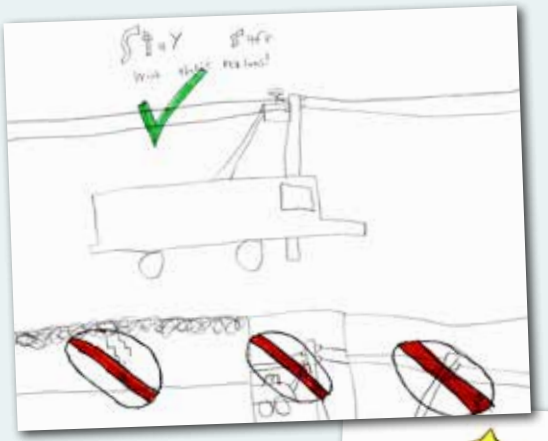
Happy Holidays, and may your season be filled with blessings and togetherness.

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



2026 ACCESS ENERGY COOPERATIVE SAFETY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Below are the final winning posters from the safety poster contest for the November and December pages of the 2027 Access Energy Cooperative calendar. Calendars can be picked up at our office until they are gone. This month's featured winners include:



November 2027
Andrew Mullen | Mount Pleasant
Stay safe with these reasons!



December 2027
Ainsley Hudson | Mount Pleasant
Don't leave your Christmas lights unattended.

HOLIDAY GIVING DRIVE

Access Energy Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

NOV. 1 – DEC. 8

Drop off nonperishable food or personal items in our office lobby at 1800 W. Washington St. in Mount Pleasant.

Donations will go to the Mount Pleasant Fellowship Cup for families in need.

Visit accessenergycoop.com for more details.



RECARE: HELP OTHERS BY ROUNDING UP YOUR BILL

RECare
Because You Care

RECare is a voluntary energy assistance program that offers funds to local families who need assistance with their electric bills. Your contribution can help one of these local families!

In the 2026 fiscal year for the program, 52 people contributed a total of $3,987.91 to the Access Energy Cooperative RECare fund. The money collected is distributed to help pay electric bills for members who are experiencing financial, physical or other hardships.

You may make a one-time contribution or a monthly pledge. Monthly pledges can be a fixed amount or **you may have your bill rounded up to the nearest dollar to donate the difference.** Any contribution will help others, and it's easy to give! Simply write your contribution on your payment stub and include it with your payment or contact us if you would like to have contributions set up as part of your monthly bill. The program is administered by the Iowa Community Action Program, and recipients must meet their guidelines.

You can use SmartHub to have a monthly amount included on your electric bill:

1. Log in to your SmartHub account. Go to the Bill & Pay dropdown on the left. Select RECare, and follow instructions; or
2. Use the form below and mail to:

   RECare
   c/o Access Energy Cooperative
   P.O. Box 440
   Mount Pleasant, IA 52641

   Or, include the form below with your payment.

RECare Consumer Authorization Form

I would like to make a (check one):

☐ One-time contribution of $ _____

☐ Monthly contribution of $ _____
(That will be added to my bill)

☐ Set up automatic round up of my bill

Name _____

Address _____

_____

City _____

State/Zip Code _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Account # (if known) _____



Today's nuclear facilities operate like high-tech industrial campuses that are clean, continuously monitored, extremely secure and designed with multiple, overlapping layers of safety. The Vogtle Electric Generating Plant in Georgia is the largest nuclear power station in the U.S. *Photo Source: Oglethorpe Power*

MODERN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES

BY ANTHONY BUCKLEY

"Nuclear energy" often conjures images from TV and movies, such as towering cooling structures, glowing green substances and busy control rooms. In reality, modern nuclear power plants are far removed from these portrayals.

Today's nuclear facilities operate more like high-tech industrial campuses that are clean, continuously monitored, extremely secure and designed with multiple, overlapping layers of safety.

In the U.S., nuclear plants are among the most heavily regulated facilities of any kind, with an extensive framework of state and federal oversight governing reactor licensing, fuel handling, plant maintenance, material disposal and emergency preparedness to ensure nuclear plants operate safely and responsibly.

Layers of safety

Safe operation begins in the control room. Plant operators must pass demanding written and operational examinations administered by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission before they are licensed to operate a reactor, and training doesn't stop once operators are licensed.

Personnel are regularly tested on routine plant operations and rare but high-consequence emergency scenarios. As nuclear facilities modernize, operators are also trained using advanced digital systems that are replacing older analog equipment. These upgrades improve automation, diagnostics and situational awareness.

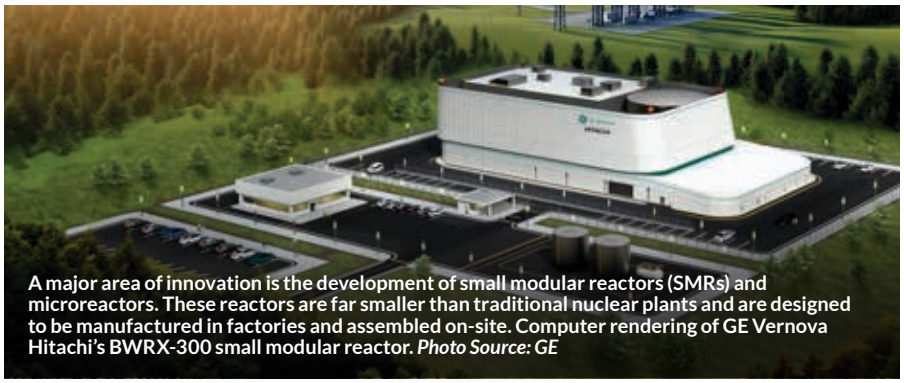
Safety extends far beyond the control room. Organization and discipline define how nuclear plants are designed and run. Facilities have clearly established security perimeters, controlled access points and rigorous maintenance programs to ensure reliability while protecting workers and surrounding communities. Critical components are housed in reinforced concrete and steel structures and are accessible only to essential personnel.

Decades of operating experience have also led to advances in reactor safety. One of the most significant is the increased use of "passive safety" systems, built-in safety features that work automatically. Earlier reactors relied heavily on pumps, motors and operator intervention to perform critical functions such as circulating cooling water. While modern designs still include active systems, they also integrate passive features that do not require external power or immediate human action.

Instead, natural forces such as gravity, pressure and convection keep the reactor stable and cooled during an emergency or loss of power. Passive safety increases resilience during grid outages and extreme weather events.

Another major area of innovation is the development of small modular reactors (SMRs) and microreactors. These reactors are far smaller than traditional nuclear plants and are designed to be manufactured in factories and assembled on-site. Existing U.S. nuclear plants typically produce between 600 and 1,500 megawatts (MW). By comparison, SMRs are expected to generate about 70-350 MW, while microreactors would produce just 1-20 MW. Their smaller size and standardized designs could shorten construction timelines and allow capacity to be added incrementally as energy demand grows.

SMRs and microreactors remain emerging technologies in the U.S. Widespread adoption is unlikely before the end of the decade, but interest remains strong. The U.S. Department of Energy and numerous private investors, including large technology companies, are committing significant funding to accelerate research, licensing and deployment.



A major area of innovation is the development of small modular reactors (SMRs) and microreactors. These reactors are far smaller than traditional nuclear plants and are designed to be manufactured in factories and assembled on-site. Computer rendering of GE Vernova Hitachi's BWRX-300 small modular reactor. ***Photo Source: GE***

A role in an evolving energy mix

At a time of rapid growth in electric demand, nuclear power offers carbon-free, around-the-clock generation. That could make it an increasingly valuable resource as fossil fuel plants retire, renewable generation expands and utilities work to maintain a reliable supply of electricity.

Electric cooperatives are tracking nuclear developments as part of their long-term planning. For co-ops and their member-consumers, nuclear energy can provide reliable, cost-effective, carbon-free electricity.

Cooperative involvement in nuclear energy is not new. Nationwide, generation and transmission cooperatives, which provide wholesale power to local electric cooperatives, partially own or contract for power from 16 operating nuclear reactors. Those include the nation's two newest reactors at Plant Vogtle in Georgia.

IOWA'S ONLY NUCLEAR PLANT PREPARES FOR RESTART

After more than five years offline, Iowa's only nuclear power plant could once again generate electricity. The Duane Arnold Energy Center (Duane Arnold), located near Palo in Linn County, about 8 miles northwest of Cedar Rapids, began commercial operation in 1975 and shut down in August 2020.

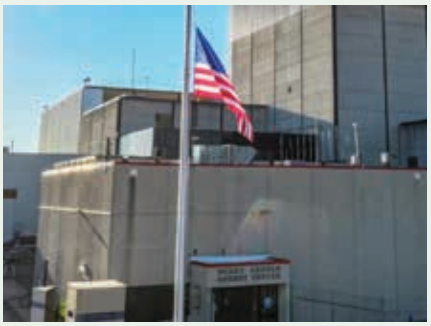
NextEra Energy is working to restart the 615-MW facility. If approved, Duane Arnold would return around-the-clock electricity generation to the regional grid at a time when electricity demand is growing.

A long-standing co-op connection

Iowa's electric cooperatives have a long history with Duane Arnold. Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) previously held a 20% ownership interest in the plant, while Corn Belt Power Cooperative held 10%. NextEra Energy has since acquired the cooperatives' ownership interests, giving the company full ownership of the facility.

The cooperative connection will continue. CIPCO has agreed to purchase 50 MW of Duane Arnold's output when it restarts. CIPCO says the purchase will add baseload generation to its diversified energy portfolio and support safe, reliable and cost-effective service to its member cooperatives. CIPCO is owned by 13 member cooperatives and associations that together serve more than 300,000 Iowans in 58 counties.

The project could also provide economic benefits for the region and state. An economic impact study estimates Duane Arnold would generate more than $9 billion in economic benefits for Linn County and Iowa over 25 years of operation and support approximately 400 long-term jobs. The study also estimates the facility would generate about $346 million in economic activity statewide each year.



Safety at the center of the restart

Restarting a nuclear facility after it was out of service for several years is an extensive process. Equipment and systems must be restored, tested and inspected before the plant can begin generating electricity again. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission will review the plant and conduct inspections to ensure it meets rigorous safety, security and environmental requirements. NextEra Energy expects Duane Arnold to return to service no later than the first quarter of 2029, pending regulatory approvals.

Anthony Buckley is an energy research analyst for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



TWISTS ON TURKEY LEFTOVERS

TURKEY CARNITAS

- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 teaspoons brown sugar, divided
- 2 cups leftover Thanksgiving turkey
- ½ cup orange juice
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion, sliced into slivers
- 6 small flour tortillas
- shredded cheese
- sour cream

In a bowl, combine garlic powder and 1 teaspoon brown sugar. Slice or shred the turkey, add to the bowl, then add orange juice. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Mix until combined. In a large pot, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add the turkey and slivered onion. Cover and simmer for 10-15 minutes. Lift the lid, stir and sprinkle remaining brown sugar on top. Cook for another 5 minutes, until browned and crispy to your liking. Remove from stove and divide into the tortillas. Serve with shredded cheese and sour cream. *Serves 6*

Crystal Hammes • Libertyville
Access Energy Cooperative

CRAN-ORANGE TURKEY

- 1 14-ounce can cranberry sauce, jellied or whole berry
- 1 cup orange juice
- 1 packet onion soup mix
- 1 3-4 pound turkey breast

Mix cranberry sauce, orange juice and onion soup mix. Pour half of mixture into a slow cooker. Add turkey, then pour the remaining cranberry mixture over top. Cook on low for 4-6 hours, until turkey is at least 165 degrees F on a digital thermometer. Remove turkey to platter and slice. *Serves 4-6*

Barb Sowers • Fredericksburg
Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative

SLOPPY TURKEY SANDWICHES

- 1 turkey breast, roasted
- 2 cups Velveeta cheese, cubed
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 2 stalks celery, diced

Shred turkey and combine all ingredients in a slow cooker. Cook on low for 3-4 hours. *Serves 10-12*

Pat Lynch • New Hampton
Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative

SECOND TIME TURKEY

- 1 cup elbow macaroni
- ¼ cup butter
- ¼ cup onion, diced
- ¼ cup flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- dash thyme
- 2 cups milk
- 1½ cups turkey, chopped
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
- ½ cup breadcrumbs
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- parsley, to taste

Cook and drain macaroni. Melt butter, add onion and cook over low heat for 3-5 minutes. Stir in flour, salt, pepper and thyme. Gradually add milk, stirring constantly until thick. Arrange half of the macaroni in the bottom of a lightly greased 2-quart casserole dish. Place half of the turkey over the macaroni. Sprinkle cheese on top of turkey. Repeat layering once. Pour onion mixture over cheese. Mix breadcrumbs, butter and parsley. Sprinkle over top and bake at 350 degrees F for 35 minutes. *Serves 4*

Brenda Newell • Sully
Pella Cooperative Electric Association

LEFTOVER TURKEY ROLLUPS

- **1 container refrigerator pizza dough**
- **¼ cup cranberry sauce**
- **1 cup mozzarella cheese, shredded**
- **1 cup leftover turkey breast pieces**
- **1 teaspoon seasoning**
- **2 tablespoons butter, melted**

Spread pizza dough into a large rectangle, about 9x12-inch size. Spread cranberry sauce over the dough. Sprinkle shredded mozzarella cheese over cranberry sauce. Layer with turkey breast and top with seasoning. Roll dough into a log, starting at the 12-inch side. Stretch the final edge over the top of the roll and pinch dough together. Using a serrated knife, slice the roll into 1-inch segments. Place slices on a greased cookie sheet and brush with melted butter. Bake at 350 degrees F for 25-30 minutes. *Yields 12 rollups*

Marilyn O'Brien • Geneva
Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative

FRUITED TURKEY SALAD

- **1 orange, or 1 can mandarin oranges**
- **1 cup grapes, halved**
- **½ cup almonds, slivered or sliced**
- **1 apple, diced**
- **1 banana, sliced**
- **3 cups white turkey meat, diced**
- **1 cup mayonnaise**

Peel and cut orange into bite-size pieces. If using mandarin oranges, drain the can. Combine all ingredients in a large bowl and mix well. Chill and serve. *Serves 4-6*

Kate Hindin • Hampton
Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative

LEFTOVER TURKEY AND DRESSING CASSEROLE

- **2-3 cups turkey, cut up**
- **1 tablespoon cornstarch**
- **1 can cream of chicken soup**
- **½ soup can milk**
- **1 chicken bouillon cube**
- **leftover dressing**

Place turkey in the bottom of a greased 9x13-inch pan and sprinkle with cornstarch. Mix soup, milk and bouillon. Heat mixture, then spread over turkey. Top with dressing. Bake at 350 degrees F for 30-60 minutes, or until thoroughly warmed.

Lauren Zollinger • Rock Rapids
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

TURKEY BOATS

- **1 turkey breast, white meat**
- **salt, to taste**
- **1 can cream of celery soup**
- **1 can cream of chicken soup**

Cut turkey breast into 2x4-inch pieces, 1-inch thick. Cover the bottom of a greased 9x13-inch pan with the turkey, then salt. Mix soups thoroughly and pour over turkey boats. Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees F. *Serves 4-6*

Denise Anderson • Ocheyedan
Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Visit www.ieclmagazine.com and search our online archive of hundreds of recipes in various categories.

TURKEY SUPREME

- **1 10.5-ounce can cream of chicken soup**
- **2 cups water**
- **1 teaspoon salt**
- **¼ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce**
- **dash pepper**
- **1⅓ cups Minute Rice**
- **1½ cups turkey, cooked and diced**
- **1½ cups green beans or peas, cooked**
- **3 tablespoons diced pimento, optional**
- **2 tablespoons parsley, chopped, optional**

Combine soup, water, salt, Worcestershire sauce and pepper in a saucepan. Cream of mushroom soup could be used in place of cream of chicken soup. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Remove from heat and add remaining ingredients. Pour into a greased 2-quart casserole dish. Bake at 450 degrees F for 15 minutes. *Serves 6*

Bonnie Miller • Eldon
Access Energy Cooperative

WANTED:

ONE-POT WONDERS

$25 BILL CREDIT REWARD FOR EVERY ONE WE PUBLISH!



Deadline is Nov. 30
Sometimes less is more! Send us your favorite **one-pot recipes** – think skillet dinners, Dutch oven dishes or other meals that keep cooking (and cleanup!) simple. Selected recipes will appear in our March issue. Please include your name, address, telephone number, co-op name, recipe category and number of servings on all submissions.

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

MAIL: Recipes
Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine
8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48
Des Moines, IA 50322

DO YOU KNOW ANY OF THESE PEOPLE?

BY TAMMY SNAVELY



We are searching for these members whose dividend checks did not reach them. If you know the whereabouts of any of these people, please contact our billing department at billing@accessenergycoop.com or by calling 866-242-4232.

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

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Allen, Brandon/Miller, Shawn	Belgrade MT
Allen, Cheryl/Mark	Durango CO
Alltel Corporate Services	Little Rock AR
Anderson, Annie/Art	Bigelow AR
Anderson, John (Deceased)	Denmark IA
Anderson, William E (Deceased)	Brighton IA
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Briggs, Robert W (Deceased)	Muscatine IA
Brown, Anna L (Deceased)	Burlington IA
Bugg, Henry D/Patricia L (Deceased)	South Jacksonville IL
Burky, Carl E	Mt Pleasant IA
Burt, Joyce/Michael	Waukee IA
Burton, James/Patton, Lisa G	Cleveland TX
Bush, Jason	Quincy IL
Calhoun, Joe	Downing MO
Carel, Robert	Pleasant Valley IA
Carson, Raymond	Wever IA
Casteel, Dennis L/Hachey, Carol C	Birmingham IA
Caves, Valerie/Crabb, Robert	Ormond Beach FL
Celestica Inc	North York Ontario
Chance, Deb/Jason	Ottumwa IA
Chorpening, Dave (Deceased)	Wayland IA
Church, Samantha/Juhl, Dave	Mt Pleasant IA
Clear Channel Communications	Burlington IA
Companions of St Luke	Shreveport LA
Conger, Millie M (Deceased)	West Point IA
Contreras, David/Dorene	Oconomowoc WI
Corder, John	Oskaloosa IA
Countryman, Rhonda/Kurka, Randy	Birmingham IA
Craig, Delbert E	Donnellson IA
Crawford, Jennifer	Richland IA
Crossroad Well	Burlington IA
Crouse, Bryan	West Point IA
Dalarna Farms	New London IA
Daly, Jennifer/Timothy	Iowa City IA
Davis, Donald A	Santa Barbara CA
Dawson, Kelly	Mt Pleasant IA
Deao, Connie	Stockport IA
DeVore, Clint L	Jay FL
DHL Express	Ft Lauderdale FL
Dickey, Shawna L	Packwood IA
Dickinson, Diana (Deceased)	Danville IA
Dillbeck, Michael	Fairfield IA
Dirks, Max/Renee	Canby IA
Discount City	Wever IA
Dolberg, Dale	Hedrick IA
Dowell, Mindy (Deceased)	Wever IA
Downing, Kathi	Wever IA
Dumas, Diane A	Fairfield IA
Ebert, Betty J	San Tan Valley AZ
Edminster, Julie L	Chillicothe IL
Elder, Robert/Sara	Agency IA
Elmore, Sandra S (Deceased)	Laquey MO
England, Russ D	Fairfield IA
Engler, Robert/Teresa	West Burlington IA
Erickson, Barbara H (Deceased)	West Branch IA
Experian	Long Island City NY
Farm Credit/New London Dairy	New London IA
Fedler, Christy	Ft Madison IA
Feinberg, Lisa/Phillip	Oxford IA
Fintel, Daniel D	Kerrville TX
Fleischman, Michael	Fairfield IA
Fowler, Ronald	Burlington IA
Fox, Thelma M (Deceased)	Riverside IA
Franklin, Charles (Deceased)	Fairfield IA
Frisbie, Brian D	Fairfield IA
Fritz, Wanda (Deceased)	Brighton IA
Garretson Farms LTD	Washington IA
Gaylord, Shane	Packwood IA
Goodrich, Brad/Kelly	Mt Pleasant IA
Gore, Susan	New York NY
Granneman, Becky	Fairfield IA
Gregg, Shannon/Losey, Mike	Donnellson IA
Greiner, Jodi/John P	Packwood IA
Grogan, Thomas	Danville IA
Grove, Larry L	Eldon IA
Hammer, Teresa L/William D	Brainerd MN
Hanna, Ellis W (Deceased)	Fairfield IA
Harris, Dwight A/Karen	Ft Bragg CA
Harris, Sean/Huebner, Judy	Ft Madison IA
Hart, Gary D (Deceased)	Mt Pleasant IA
Hart, Scott	Mt Pleasant IA
Hartman, Kenneth N (Deceased)	Burlington IA
Haubert, Wayne (Deceased)	Mediapolis IA
Hay, Kathy A	Mt Pleasant IA
Henderson, Paul W	Ft Madison IA
Heston, Leonard	Agency IA
Hickenbottom, Dave/Moore, Ashley	Washington IA
Higdon, DeAnna M/Stephen M	North Liberty IA
Hoel, Gregory/Worth, Jill	Owosso MI
Holton, Tyra	Keokuk IA
Horras, Mary M	Fairfield IA
Horton, Connie M	Lukeville AZ
Horton, Larry (Deceased)	Lockridge IA
Hunter, Nellie M	Mt Pleasant IA
Ickes, Dorothy/Scott	Ft Madison IA
Iris City Antique Mall	Mt Pleasant IA
Iris Motel	New Paltz NY
Iverson, Deanna	West Burlington IA
Jacob, Daniel	Eugene OR
Jaeger, Anita J	Burlington IA
Jarvis, Danette/Lawson, Danny	West Point IA
Jay, Lynn/Ronald	Ottumwa IA
JCH Farms Inc	Sigourney IA
Jeffrey, Joyce K (Deceased)	Fairfield IA
Jensen, Dan/Gail	Burlington IA
Johnson, Kimberly K	Ft Madison IA
Johnston, Gregg/Jana	Lucas IA
Jones, Dale/Patricia A	Hawkeye IA
Keller, Michael J	Winfield IA
Kelley, Britton (Deceased)	Mt Pleasant IA
Kern, Jean/Phillip H	Fairfield IA
Kerr, Lynn A/Richard V	Douds IA
Ketterer, John J	Ft Madison IA
Kevin Inc	Clinton IA
Key Outdoor Inc	Grand Rapids MI
Keyser, Christine	North Liberty IA
Kirchner, Melodie (Deceased)	Sunrise Beach MO
Kurtz, Jim N	Galena IL
Lankford, Cheryl/Richard	Batavia IA
Larkin, Robert (Deceased)	Burlington IA
Ledger, Mark	Washington IA
Liberato, Oscar/Meicanos, Sara E	Mt Pleasant IA
Lieberg, Robert (Deceased)	Galesburg IL
Lind, James/Susan	Fairfield IA
Lockridge Arena	Keosauqua IA
Lopp, Eric	Springfield IL
Luko, Bill (Deceased)	Packwood IA
Maddox, Vicki L (Deceased)	Burlington IA
Manes, Linda K	Burlington IA
Martin, Gary/Vicki	Burlington IA
Mauck, Darrell (Deceased)	Donnellson IA
Mauck, Donna D	Pulaski IA
McComb, John H	Fox Lake IL
McDonald, Curtis H	Broomfield CO
McLain, Jayne/Richard A	Stockport IA
McQuiston, Tina	Fairfield IA
Meardon, Kathleen W	Ft Madison IA
Mefford, Dave/Wendy	Ottumwa IA
Menke, Tom L (Deceased)	West Point IA
Michael, Pamela	Keosauqua IA
Mid America Advertising	Springfield IL
Miner Manufacturing Inc	Donnellson IA
Moeller, Kathy/Ray (Deceased)	Cotopaxi CO
Mokri, Mandana/Nader	Fairfield IA
Mook, Michelle	Walla Walla WA
Moore, Mrs. J Brown (Helen)	Mt Union IA
Moore, Sharon J	Danville IA
Morris, Allen D (Deceased)	Batavia IA
Morrison, Joyce	Ft Madison IA
Moynahan, John R/Judith A	Eau Claire WI
Mt Pleasant Warehouse	Burlington IA
Murray, Diana/Raymond B	Palmyra MO
Nash, Laurel L/Peter F	Dickinson TX
Nelson, Travis	Donnellson IA
New London Dairy LLC	New London IA
Norwood, Denise L/Neil	Prescott AZ
Osborn, Mike H (Deceased)	Burlington IA
Otto, Malak/Nathan	Boulder CO
Parcell, Linda/Randy	Libertyville IA
Patel, Sunilkumar	New Paltz NY
Peters, Debra/Thomas K	Ft Madison IA
Pilcher, Brian/Melinda	Owatonna MN
Plantation Village Owners Inc	Burlington IA
Polton, Edward M (Deceased)	Mt Pleasant IA
Potratz, Julie A	Washington IA
Pulis, Rhonda	Ft Madison IA
Radhakrishnan, Jay	Evans GA
Rains, Lewis/Reena	Aledo IL
Rains, Robert Jr (Deceased)	Birmingham IA
Ran/Kel Farms LLC	Wayland IA
Reitz, Barbara	Burlington IA
Reschly, Chad/Mindy J	Washington IA
Rich, Larry J (Deceased)	New London IA
Riffel, Barbara E	Burlington IA
Riverside Paper	Mt Pleasant IA
Roberts, Lisa (Mosley)/Timothy D	Ainsworth IA
Rubison, Gary	Springfield IL
Rudy, Lori/Thomas	La Quinta CA
Ruesch Inc	Mount Vernon IA
Russell, James L	Burlington IA
Sandoval, Jose	Wever IA
Schmidgall, Brad	Burlington IA
Schmitt, Roderick E	Bull Shoals AR
Schwartz, Connie/Keith J	Sperry IA
Schwendinger, Anthony	Clinton IA
Seuferer, Donna/Kevin	Osceola IA
Sherwood, Shawn	Highland IL
Shier, Steven	Fairfield IA
Shultz, Shirley	Mt Pleasant IA
Sinn, James R/Vicky	Winfield IA
Slaney, Susan/William	Hedrick IA
Smith, Charles L JR/Elizabeth	Fairfield IA
Smith, Christina/Matthew J	Mt Pleasant IA
Sp Grove Mobile Homes	Burlington IA
Spicer, Carolyn	Fairfield IA
Spitz, Gary M	Boynton Beach FL
Stark, Thomas E	Fairfield IA
Stevenson, Loretta (Deceased)	Burlington IA
Stoermer, Larry G (Deceased)	Davenport IA
Super 8 Motel	Norfolk NE
Supertel Hospitality Inc	Battle Creek NE
Swanson, Catherine/Chester	Fairfield IA
Sweeney, Kelly/Peder	Asheville NC
Sypherd, Carrie/Lee	Washington IA
Taylor, Kevin/Sarah	Buffalo MN
Tedrow, Grace K	West Point IA
Templeton, Eleanor K/Scott	Donnellson IA
Thar, Patty/Tim	Deland FL
Thompson, John	Ft Madison IA
Thruston, Morgen	Mesa AZ
Tillman, Loretta A	Jackson TN
Tolander, Aaron/Shari	Winfield IA
Townsend, Dee	Fairfield IA
Townsend, Harry E (Deceased)	Farmington IA
Tramontana, Kylie	Fairfield IA
Uber, Ronald	Kingston TN
Underwood, Virginia F (Deceased)	Keosauqua IA
VanNiewaal, Randy (Deceased)	Burlington IA
Vetter, Fred/Lisa	Olathe KS
Wagler, E Jean (Deceased)	Mt Pleasant IA
Waite, Carl	Burlington IA
Waite, Paula	Eldon IA
Warner, Richard S (Deceased)	Ankeny IA
Weber, David L	Clive IA
Welsh, Jerald R	Henderson NV
Whaley Waste Systems	Des Moines IA
Wheeldon, Travis	Keosauqua IA
Wheeler, Salrina	Fairfield IA
White, Betty J (Deceased)	Mt Pleasant IA
Widmer, Jackie/Rex	Wever IA
Wilson, Gerald A Jr/Martha	Ft Madison IA
Wilson, Jordan/Kim	Eugene OR
Winfrey, Jeff J	Gainesville MO
Winn, Michele R (Deceased)	Ft Madison IA
Wittkamp, Kevin	Burlington IA
Young, Mark L	Kalona IA

HOLIDAY COLORING CONTEST

DEADLINE IS NOV. 16

Show off your creativity and participate in our Holiday Coloring Contest for **a chance to win $25.**



WHERE TO SUBMIT

Please submit entries by Nov. 16, 2026, via one of the following methods:

Deliver to:
Access Energy Cooperative
1800 West Washington Street
Mount Pleasant, IA 52641

Mail to:
Holiday Coloring Contest
Access Energy Cooperative
PO Box 440
Mount Pleasant, IA 52641

ACCESS AND DOWNLOAD THE COLORING SHEET AND CONTEST RULES

Download the coloring sheet by scanning the QR code to the right or visit **www.accessenergycoop.com/news/holiday-safety-coloring-contest.**

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Stay alert for fraudulent utility calls. Scammers can spoof caller ID to make a phone call appear to come from your electric utility — even when it doesn't. They may threaten disconnection, demand immediate payment or ask for personal information. Don't rely on caller ID alone to verify a caller's identity. If you receive a suspicious call, hang up and contact your utility using the phone number printed on your bill or listed on the official website.

Source: FTC



UPDATE YOUR ACCOUNT INFORMATION FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A

$50 BILL CREDIT

Deadline Dec. 10

Keeping your Access Energy Cooperative account information up to date is important for many reasons. It can help with faster outage restoration, texting for outages, paying your dividends, plus general communications. You can update your account information by emailing **billing@accessenergycoop.com**, calling our office at **1-866-242-4232,** submitting the form below or completing this form online.

Name _____

Primary Phone # _____

Additional Phone #(s) _____

Email _____

Mailing Address _____

_____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Account # _____

Do you have an electric vehicle charging station? _____

Do you have any solar panels installed? _____

TO SUBMIT AN ENTRY FOR THE DRAWING BY DEC. 10:

- **Return this form with your monthly payment**
- **Mail it to:**
  Access Energy Cooperative
  Info Update
  P.O. BOX 440
  Mount Pleasant, IA 52641
- **Email it to:** billing@accessenergycoop.com

OR

- **Call our office:** 1-866-242-4232

To complete online, use the QR code to the right or visit the co-op news section at accessenergycoop.com.

Only one submission per member will be entered. The drawing will be Dec. 11.

LIHEAP APPLICATION PERIOD IS OPEN

The 2026-2027 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel and type of housing.

Besides meeting the income guidelines, you must furnish the Social Security numbers of all household members and a copy of recent heating and electric bills. You also must show proof of income for all household members age 18 and older. Additional countable income and/or income verification not listed above may be required for eligibility determination.

If you're a wage earner, you should bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period before the date of application or a copy of your federal income tax return. If you're self-employed or a farmer, provide a copy of your most recent federal income tax return. And if you're on a fixed income – Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance and pensions – take copies of check stubs from the last 30 days.

In Iowa, applications for the program will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis from Nov. 1, 2026, through April 30, 2027. The start date is Oct. 1, 2026, for elderly (60 and over) and/or disabled applicants. If you're not sure where to apply, visit **hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/liheap.** To contact your local community action agency, call 211 or write: LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Health & Human Services, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319. For more information visit accessenergycoop.com.



WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT PLUG-IN SOLAR

Plug-in solar systems are becoming increasingly popular in the U.S. While these systems can be an accessible way to explore solar energy, there are important safety factors consumers should consider.

Before purchasing, consider whether your home's wiring can safely handle the system, how it will be installed and how much energy it can realistically produce.

Improperly installed systems can create shock or fire hazards, and electricity can flow back onto power lines, creating serious risks for lineworkers. Understanding safety considerations, installation requirements and potential savings can help you make an informed decision about whether plug-in solar is right for your home.

Thinking About Plug-In Solar?



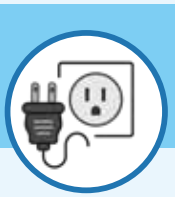
Looks Simple

Plug-in solar systems are marketed as DIY products that plug into a standard wall outlet to help reduce your electric bill.

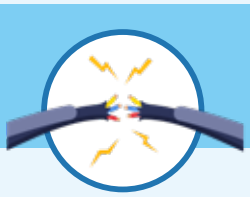
What You Should Know

Plug-in solar systems may look simple, but they come with important safety and financial considerations.

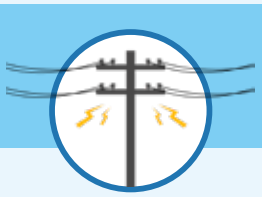
Important Considerations Before You Buy:



1. Your home's electrical wiring may not be suitable for plug-in solar. Systems must be connected to a GFCI outlet on a dedicated circuit.



2. Improper installation or use may overheat wiring causing shock or fire hazards.



3. Electricity can flow back onto power lines if the panels aren't properly managed, creating dangerous shock hazards for lineworkers.



4. Solar panels continue producing electricity in sunlight. An unplugged system could still be energized.



5. Plug-in solar systems do not require professional installation, making it important to keep safety in mind.



6. Plug-in solar systems can cost $500-$1,000+ but may only save 40-80 cents per day, depending on conditions.

ENERGY-SAVING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RENTERS

BY MIRANDA BOUTELLE

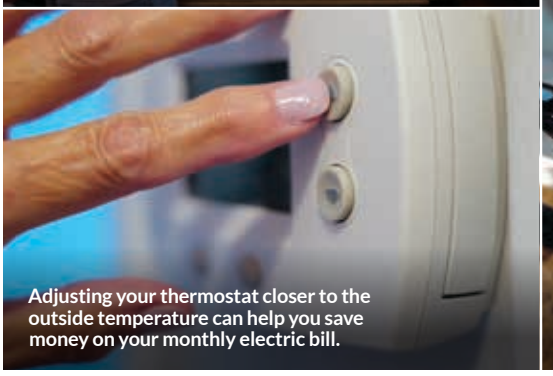
Renting a house or apartment can put you in a challenging spot when it comes to energy efficiency. As a renter, you can't make all the decisions about energy-efficient upgrades in your home. At the same time, renters are usually responsible for paying the electric bill. That means if the home has inefficient equipment, you're going to use and pay for more energy.

Typically, it is the owner's responsibility to make energy-efficiency upgrades, such as adding insulation or new heating and cooling equipment. Don't assume they won't make upgrades. If the home needs upgrades, just ask. I've had landlords let me pay for an upgrade and then they provided a credit on my rent to offset the cost.

In a situation where you don't have control over all the decisions, focus on what you can control.



Thick curtains can help keep heat out in the summer and make the room feel warmer in the winter.



Adjusting your thermostat closer to the outside temperature can help you save money on your monthly electric bill.



Use a kitchen thermometer to test the water heater temperature. If it is over 120 degrees F, lower the heat setting.

Everyday ways to save energy

The thermostat is a great place to save energy. Adjusting the thermostat a few degrees closer to the outdoor temperature can help you save money. Adjust the settings when you aren't home or at night when you're sleeping. Adding thick curtains can help keep heat out in the summer and make the room feel warmer in the winter. A rug can make a cold floor feel warmer in the winter.

These additions can make changing the thermostat a few degrees more comfortable.

Make sure your property owner follows through with annual maintenance and HVAC filter changes. Ignoring these can lead to unnecessary energy waste.

Lighting is another element you can typically control. If your home has incandescent or compact fluorescent bulbs, switch to efficient LEDs. If you can't change the lighting installed in your home, consider using plug-in LED lighting or lamps instead.

Check whether your water heater is wasting energy. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends setting it to 120 degrees F. This can help reduce energy use while also lowering the risk of scalding. I recommend calling the owner or property management company to request an adjustment.

One benefit of renting is that you aren't on the hook when equipment breaks down. If the water heater is older than 10 years or is showing signs of possible failure, such as leaking, unusual noises or discolored water, let the owner know. Upgrading to a heat pump water heater could be a great fit for your home, saving energy and preventing possible damage caused by a failed water heater.

Explore rebates and upgrades

Another way to save is by finding available rebates and incentives for your home. Because renters typically pay the electric bill, a landlord doesn't see the financial benefit of monthly energy savings. You can make it easier for them by finding opportunities for energy-efficient upgrades in your home. Your rental might be eligible for insulation, water heater or HVAC upgrades. You might also be eligible for discounts on products you can buy yourself, such as air purifiers, dehumidifiers or other small home appliances.

If your home has electric heat, adding either a ducted or ductless heat pump, also called a mini-split, provides more efficient heating as well as air conditioning.

Energy-efficient upgrades could benefit the homeowner by increasing the property's value or keeping a good renter from looking for another place to live. It doesn't hurt to ask for upgraded equipment and provide information on eligible rebates or incentives. Partnering with your landlord on projects is a great opportunity to benefit both of you.

Miranda Boutelle writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

IOWA'S ELECTRIC CO-OPS URGE CAUTION DURING CONTROLLED BURNS

BY ABBY BERRY

Iowa farmers play an essential role in keeping communities across our state thriving, and we appreciate their hard work and dedication year-round. As the harvest season comes to a close and fields are prepared for the year ahead, we remind farmers to exercise safety when conducting controlled burns near utility poles and other electrical equipment.

Over the next few months, many farmers will conduct controlled burns to clear crop stubble and weeds and prepare fields for spring planting. While controlled burns are an effective way to manage agricultural land, they can also pose serious risks to nearby utility poles, power lines and other electrical equipment. Iowa's electric cooperatives urge farmworkers to use extreme caution when planning and conducting burns near electrical infrastructure.



Controlled burns are an important part of managing farmland, but they should be conducted safely.



As harvest ends and many farmers prepare their fields for the next season, remember to exercise caution when conducting controlled burns near utility poles.

Hidden damage can create serious risks

Every year, utility poles are damaged during controlled burns in fields, along roadsides and in ditches. The danger is compounded by the delayed visibility of pole damage after the fire has passed. Most wooden utility poles are treated with chemical preservatives, including creosote, to protect them from decay. When exposed to fire, the pole can sustain hidden damage. Embers can become lodged in cracks or other openings and continue burning inside the wood long after the flames have disappeared. In some cases, a utility pole can burn from the inside out and collapse hours or even days after a controlled burn has ended.

A damaged utility pole can create a dangerous situation for farmworkers, co-op crews and the public. Repairing or replacing a utility pole can be expensive and time-consuming. More importantly, a weakened pole can fall unexpectedly, potentially bringing power lines down with it. Depending on the location and extent of the damage, a single compromised pole can result in power outages affecting homes, farms and entire communities.

Take precautions before you burn

Farmers planning controlled burns should keep the following safety measures in mind:

- **Maintain a safe distance from utility equipment.** Avoid burning directly beneath or near utility poles, guy wires, transformers and other electrical equipment.
- **Monitor the weather.** Avoid burning during dry, windy conditions when flames and embers can spread quickly.
- **Create firebreaks.** Clear vegetation and other combustible materials around the area to keep the fire contained.
- **Have water and firefighting equipment nearby.** Be prepared to respond if the fire moves beyond the intended burn area.
- **Monitor the fire until it is completely extinguished.** Never assume a fire is out simply because flames are no longer visible.
- **Inspect nearby utility poles after the burn.** If a pole is actively burning, call the fire department. If a pole appears scorched, damaged or otherwise compromised, contact your electric cooperative. Never attempt to repair electrical equipment yourself.

Controlled burns are an important part of managing farmland, but they should be conducted safely. If you have questions about how a planned burn could affect nearby electrical equipment, contact your electric co-op before you begin.

Iowa's electric cooperatives appreciate everyone doing their part to protect themselves, their neighbors and the electrical infrastructure that helps power our communities every day.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

MAXIMIZE SYSTEM PERFORMANCE. MINIMIZE ENERGY WASTE.

Whether your heating and cooling system is brand new or 10 years old, regular maintenance can help your system run efficiently, keep energy costs in check and extend its life.

Filter Care
Every 2-3 months

Check your air filter and replace it as recommended. A dirty filter can restrict airflow and make your system work harder.

Keep return and supply vents clear of furniture, rugs and other obstructions. Dust them regularly.



Outdoor Unit Care
Once or twice a year

Keep leaves, grass and other debris at least 2 feet away from the outdoor unit.

Gently rinse dirty condenser coils with a garden hose, following your manufacturer's recommendations.



Proactive Service
Twice a year

Schedule professional tune-ups in spring for cooling and fall for heating.

Have ductwork checked for leaks or disconnected sections, and seal leaks with mastic or foil-backed tape.

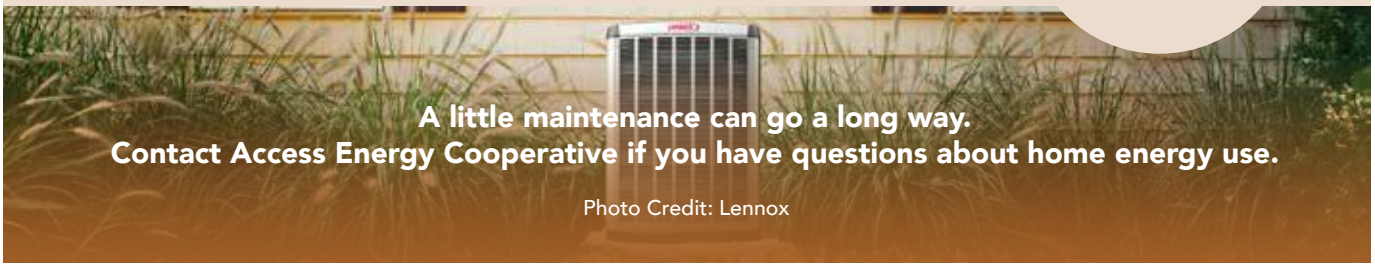


Thermostat Smarts
Year-round

Adjust your thermostat when you're asleep or away. In summer, set it a little higher; in winter, a little lower.

Consider a programmable or smart thermostat to automatically manage temperatures and save energy.





A little maintenance can go a long way.
Contact Access Energy Cooperative if you have questions about home energy use.

Photo Credit: Lennox

2027 ACCESS ENERGY COOPERATIVE PHOTO CONTEST



Show off your creativity and share your best shots with us! Participate in our annual photo contest for a chance to showcase your talent and win up to $100. Whether it's capturing breathtaking landscapes, memorable moments or community spirit, we want to see your unique perspective of southeast Iowa.

We will choose 13 photos to appear in the annual Access Energy Cooperative 2028 calendar. Each winning artist will receive $75 plus an additional $25 bill credit if they are a member of the cooperative.

CONTEST DETAILS

Complete details and rules can be found on our website at **www.accessenergycoop.com/photo** or use the QR code.

Scan the QR code for more information:

Access Energy Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

The magazine for members of Iowa's electric cooperatives

November 2026

Visit our website at www.accessenergycoop.com

