



What's inside...

Message from the Manager	2
Electric Utility Regulations Perspective	3
Heat Pumps - Tax Incentives	4
Winter Moratorium Ending April 3	5
Nondiscrimination Statement	6
Iowa Youth Tour Contest News	7
\$25 Credit--Find Your Location #	8

ARE YOU READY TO SPRING FORWARD?



MARCH 12, 2023

SUMMER HELP WANTED

Western Iowa Power Cooperative is looking for summer help to assist our line crews in Denison and Onawa. The applicant must be at least 18 years old. The job is only for the summer months of 2023. Call 800-253-5189 or e-mail wipco@wipco.com to request an application or for more information. EEO

Western Iowa Power Cooperative's mission is to enhance our members' quality of life by providing safe and reliable electric services.

Frequently Asked Questions about Electric Vehicles

You've likely heard or read that most automakers are transitioning many or all of their new vehicles to electric-only models over the next 10 years. Regardless of the type of car you drive today, the electrification of the transportation sector is underway.

We continue to receive inquiries about electric vehicles from WIPCO members so thought it would be helpful to respond to some of the frequently-asked questions.

Q: Why is WIPCO communicating about electric vehicles?

A: It's no secret that consumer interest in electric vehicles (EVs) is growing, and WIPCO is providing information about EVs and charging requirements so that our members can make informed decisions when considering an EV purchase.

Q: Why does WIPCO have an EV?

A: We purchased our EV in 2020 as a fleet vehicle and for research. We also installed Level 2 chargers at both our Denison and Onawa facilities. Our EV and charging stations help us access key data and gain insights into how EVs operate and what infrastructure is needed to support them. We wanted to raise awareness and promote understanding of EV technologies. We also provide educational tools about EVs on our website and bring our EV to community events so folks have an opportunity to ask questions and form their own opinions.

Q: Can I charge my EV using an existing outlet or do I need a special outlet?

A: All EVs come with a 110-volt-compatible (Level 1) charging unit which can be plugged into any standard household outlet. For an eight-hour overnight charge, this will enable traveling around 36 to 40 miles a day. If you typically drive longer distances or are in a hurry, a Level 2 charger takes about half the time and provides about 180 miles of range over an eight-hour charging period. A Level 2 charger must be installed by a licensed electrician, such as one of our WIPCO electricians.

Q: Does the outside temperature affect the range of an EV?

A: Outside temperatures, particularly colder weather, can impact the range of an EV. Unlike a gas-powered vehicle, where the heat is mostly coming from the engine, an EV must produce cabin heat and manage an optimal battery temperature with energy that comes from the battery, which can reduce battery range.

Q: Will an EV meet my daily driving needs?

A: If you are like most Americans and drive an average of 30 miles a day, an EV can meet your daily needs.

Continued on page 7



*Marcus Rihner,
Executive Vice President
& General Manager*

Cybersecurity and Your Cooperative

Cybersecurity has been a hot topic for many years, but it seems to have become an even bigger topic recently as technology usage has continued to increase in nearly every sector. You have likely read or heard stories of information being stolen, scammers seeking fictitious payments, or hackers making demands after securing private data. In this day and age, one must be constantly alert and mindful of potentially unsecured situations in order to keep personal information safe.

Just as you need to protect your own data and information from cyber attackers, your electric cooperative faces challenges with protecting data and the power grid from attempts to disrupt service. WIPCO and our partners are constantly at work to protect our members and the infrastructure that allows us to provide your power securely, reliably, and affordably.

Electric cooperatives in every state, county, and community--no matter how large or how small--must protect their equipment and electrical system from possible sources of disruption. We strive to do this while also ensuring an affordable, reliable, and secure energy supply. Cybersecurity has become a household word and is something we take very seriously. We're committed to protecting our members at every point along our power lines.

At WIPCO, our strategy for protecting our members' data and access to reliable power revolves around creating a culture of cybersecurity awareness among our employees, directors, and members. We provide proactive training and awareness in cybersecurity, and we work with our industry partners to be sure that we are up to date

on policies, procedures, and protections.

When it comes to cybersecurity, we know that there is not a one-size-fits-all approach. Through our state and national electric cooperative associations and their programs, we work with industry partners and government agencies to develop effective approaches to protecting our members and your access to affordable, reliable, and secure power.

In our daily work, we stay alert so that we can quickly identify and act on potential security issues. Cybercrime comes in many forms--those we can witness and others that can happen remotely from far away locations. Grid security is not a new challenge, but the manner in which cybercrimes can occur is constantly evolving. WIPCO has decades of experience working together with other industry professionals to protect our shared infrastructure, and we are constantly re-evaluating threats and taking steps to protect our system.

The importance of electricity in our daily lives is something we don't take for granted, and while we know that it's impossible to entirely eliminate



The nation's nearly 1,000 electric co-ops work closely together to protect the power supply and utility data from Internet cyber hackers.

cyber issues from our daily lives, we can be certain to implement due diligence into every aspect of our business culture. We will continue to take a proactive approach to cybersecurity so that you, your data, and your power are well-protected!

How Electric Utility Regulations Benefit Rural Iowans



By Ethan Hohenadel, Director of Regulatory Affairs for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives

During the 2023 Iowa Legislative Session, proposals have been introduced with the intent to deregulate electric service territories in Iowa. Iowa's electric cooperatives are concerned about the negative economic impacts of deregulation for rural Iowans because we know firsthand how exclusive service territories provide stability. Exclusive service territories also provide consistency and reliability through a utility's obligation to serve its assigned service territory. I'd like to provide some background on how rural Iowans benefit from these regulations.

In 1976, the Iowa Legislature passed Senate File 1258 which created assigned electric service territories. The legislation's goal was "to encourage the development of coordinated statewide electric service at retail, to eliminate or avoid

unnecessary duplication of electric utility facilities, and to promote economical, efficient, and adequate electric service to the public."

Let's break this down. First, the Iowa Legislature desired a coordinated statewide retail electric service system ready to serve Iowans. This was accomplished with SF 1258 by ensuring that every square foot of Iowa had an electric utility obligated to provide electric service upon request. This means electricity is available to every Iowan no matter where they chose to live, work, vacation or adventure.

Second, the Iowa Legislature wanted to eliminate or avoid unnecessary duplication of electric utility facilities. SF 1258 achieved this by assigning a single electric utility to serve within the assigned service territory. This means that only one set of substations, power lines, and transformers are installed to serve every home and business in a service territory. Imagine the cluttered landscape of several sets of equipment in your community if multiple utilities provided electric service. 17-01-1535

Finally, the Iowa Legislature set out to promote economical, efficient and adequate electric service to the public. SF 1258 promoted economic electric service by reducing potential expenses related to duplication of electric facilities. Additionally, the legislation promoted efficiency by reducing the

electric facilities installed and by establishing service territories based upon existing facilities already installed.

Although the Iowa Legislature didn't set out to increase reliability by creating assigned service territories, SF 1258 accomplished that as well. According to a 2021 utility report published by the highly respected law firm Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP, "Deregulation may make power cheaper for some major electricity buyers like Big Tech, but it increases costs for the average consumer, all while sacrificing reliability. In fact, nine out of ten states in the continental United States with the highest utility costs have fully restructured markets with retail choice. Deregulation proponents also claim that the approach is clean and green. In reality, these restructured models offer little incentive for the kind of large-scale investment in clean energy technology that we'll need to meet the demands of a changing climate."

Additionally, a recent investigation on electric deregulation by *The New York Times* concluded that on average, residents living in a deregulated market pay \$40 more per month for electricity.

For over 45 years, Iowa's assigned service territory laws have reinforced reliable and affordable electric utility service. Efforts to weaken or eliminate these laws will only harm rural Iowans.

4 Looking out for you...

Members with Load Control Switches and Sub-meters

WIPCO members that participate in the Switch Makes Cents program have radio-controlled switches and sub-meters installed. The member saves money because special rates or credits are available on equipment connected to Switch Makes Cents.



There is a cost to the member for installation of load control switches and sub-meters; however the equipment is owned by WIPCO and should not be installed or removed by anyone other than WIPCO employees.

If you make any changes to your heating/cooling system or water heater, your Switch Makes Cents needs to be wired back up by WIPCO--not your contractor.

In addition, if you leave for an extended period of time, please do not shut off the breaker to your water heater. If your breaker is shut off, your sub-meter will not register, and qualifying kWhs will be billed at the higher rate.



Schedule Upcoming Projects With Your WIPCO Member Services Team.

We are ready to handle any size project you may have. Please give us as much notice as you can so we can schedule your project in a timely manner.

- Wiring your home remodeling project or your entire new home
- Wiring your garage, shop or livestock building
- Wiring grain handling systems
- Wiring irrigation systems
- Sell, install and service Marathon® and Bradford White® water heaters
- Sell, install and service air-to-air heat pumps, geothermal heat pumps and central air conditioning
- On-site solar anywhere in Iowa, Community solar for WIPCO Members
- Briggs & Stratton® generators
- All your lighting needs

Give us a call at 800-253-5189



10 EASY WAYS TO \$AVE

Here are 10 habits you can tweak to save energy:

1. Use cold water to wash your clothes.
2. Unplug battery chargers when not in use.
3. Skip the heat-dry setting on your dishwasher.
4. Unplug appliances and electronics not in use.
5. Run full loads of laundry instead of several smaller ones.
6. When drying clothes, include a dry towel for the first 20 minutes.
7. Keep your refrigerator at 35° to 38°F and your freezer at 0°F.
8. Reduce the setting on your hot water heater.
9. Use smart power strips that shut off power to items not in use.
10. When buying new appliances, consider ENERGY STAR versions.



Learn more at:

Safe Electricity.org

Iowa's winter home heating moratorium protects customers certified for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), from electric service disconnection from November 1 through April 1. This year, the winter energy assistance disconnection moratorium ends on April 3. Western Iowa Power Cooperative members who are behind on their utility payments are urged to contact us at 712-263-2943 or 800-253-5189 to work out payment options to avoid disconnection. Iowa's not-for-profit electric cooperatives are willing to work with member-owners who have fallen behind on payments to find an agreeable solution; disconnection of service is always a last resort.

Budget Billing - For member-owners with tight budgets, seasonally high electric bills can cause financial strife. WIPCO's "budget billing" payment option ensures consistent electric bills month-to-month, making it easier to budget. If your home utilizes electric heat and/or air-conditioning, this is a great way to avoid those larger seasonal bills that can fluctuate with changes in the weather. To enroll in this billing option, contact WIPCO's billing department or speak to a customer service representative.

State of Iowa Resources - We also encourage anyone who has fallen behind on payments to contact the Iowa Department of Human Rights at (515) 281-3861 regarding eligibility for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP is a federally funded program that provides a one-time per year payment to assist with household heating costs for eligible households. LIHEAP funds are limited, but applications are still being accepted through April 30, 2023. A federally funded Weatherization Assistance Program is also available, which provides long-term financial relief by improving energy efficiency in homes and educating consumers about energy consumption.

Contact your local community action agency outreach office for assistance.

Crawford County (LIHEAP and Weatherization information)

West Central Community Action

145 N 7th Street

Denison, IA 51442

Phone: 712-263-3538

Hours: M - F 8:00-4:30 by appointment only

Website: www.westcentralca.org

Monona County (LIHEAP and Weatherization information)

West Central Community Action

801-B 10th Street

Onawa, IA 51040

Phone: 712-423-2603

Hours: M - F 8:00-4:30 by appointment only

Website: www.westcentralca.org

Notice Irrigators

We have been notified of several irrigation tenant changes for the 2023 season.

If you know of or anticipate any changes for the billing of your irrigation(s), please notify the office immediately so we can have the accounts updated and billing sent to the proper person.



**ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG**



**IOWA
ONE CALL**SM

800-292-8989

Warmer weather brings spring projects. At least 48 hours before digging or excavating in your yard, call 800-292-8989 or dial 811 to have underground utilities properly located. It's the law! Only buried facilities registered with Iowa One Call will be located and marked free of charge. Contact WIPCO at 800-253-5189 to schedule a locate for member owned line. There is a charge for this.

6 Looking out for you...

Congratulations to Our Latest Smart Choices Prize Winner!



Congratulations to Jerry Stanwick, the winner of our 4th quarter Smart Choices prize drawing. Pictured above is Jerry with his prize of a Presto Pizza Pizzazz Plus.

WIPCO uses this monthly newsletter, our website, Facebook page, member meetings, messages on billing statements and bill stuffers, and the Smart Choices e-newsletter to help inform and educate.

So what is Smart Choices? Smart Choices is a FREE, monthly newsletter digest delivered to subscribers via e-mail each month. Articles feature local news from your Cooperative, electric safety information, and energy efficiency tips to help you save money! 51-23-19083

Subscription sign up is required to receive Smart Choices. Scan the QR code below with your mobile device

or visit our website: www.wipco.com/smart-choices-sign-up.



Statement of Nondiscrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, USDA, its Mission Areas, agencies, staff, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Program information may be made available in language other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible Mission Area, agency, or staff office; the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY); or the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, *USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form*, which can be obtained online at: <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of the alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- (2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Official Contest Rules

If you're a high school student and meet the qualifications, you can enter to win an all-expenses-paid trip in the 2023 Youth Tour Contest. Check the rules, and enter at www.IowaYouthTour.com today!

The 2023 Youth Tour Contest is open to any Iowa high school sophomore, junior or senior whose family is served by an electric cooperative, OR any Iowa high school sophomore, junior or senior who attended all three Iowa Youth Leadership Academy sessions in October 2022. One all-expenses-paid trip will be awarded by *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine for this contest.

To enter the *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* Youth Tour Contest, you must submit an official entry form plus a short (250-word maximum) essay in

response to this statement:

Tell us about an issue that impacts the quality of life in your community. Entry forms are available at www.IowaYouthTour.com. You can submit your essay online at that address or email it to youthtour@iowarec.org. Entries must be received by **March 25.**

Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine and IAEC staff will judge all essays anonymously. The decision of the judges will be final.

The winner of the *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* Youth Tour Contest will be announced

April 4, 2023, which is after all sponsoring local electric cooperatives will have chosen their 2023 Youth Tour participants.

This year's Youth Tour participants will travel to our nation's capital and meet their U.S. representatives and senators – and watch history come alive as they explore museums, memorials and monuments. They'll also meet student leaders from nearly every state and hear dynamic speakers during Youth Day. Best of all, students will have a lot of fun, make friendships that last a lifetime and become part of a group that has more than 50,000 alumni in every walk of life, including U.S. senators and CEOs.



Continued from page 1 - Frequently Asked Questions about Electric Vehicles

Q: What kind of incentives are available for EVs?

A: WIPCO offers a rebate on Level 2 chargers of 50% of the cost with maximum rebate not to exceed \$750 per charger and a maximum rebate of two chargers per household. Visit our website: www.wipco.com/rebates for more details. There are a variety of tax credits, rebates and other incentives available for EV purchases. Visit www.afdc.energy.gov to learn about state and federal incentives available through the Clean Vehicle Credit program.

Q: Should I let WIPCO know if I purchase an EV?

A: Yes, please let us know if you purchase an EV so we can better serve you. As more WIPCO members buy EVs, it's helpful to know where they're located in our area so we can ensure we have the necessary infrastructure in place to meet charging needs and provide reliable power to our local homes and businesses.

We understand making the switch to an EV is a big decision. Whether you're ready to make an EV purchase or wondering if an EV can meet your needs, we're here to help you make an informed decision. Give us a call at 800-253-5189 or e-mail us at wipco@wipco.com. We are here to help!

WIPCO Informer

from your member-owned Western Iowa Power Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

(USPS 9340)

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www.wipco.com

Office & Warehouse Hours

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



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*"This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and
employer"*

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Washing windows and screens is a great way to practice energy efficiency during spring cleaning. Clean windows and screens make your home brighter by allowing more sunlight in, reducing the need for lamps and fixtures. Clean screens also allow more fresh air in the home when the windows are open to recycle indoor air. Natural light and clean air are energy savers, and they enhance overall health and productivity.

Source: energy.gov

SAVINGS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY THIS EASTER



The One Card That Does It All.[®]
Connections.coop



Save \$25.00 on your REC bill

Read this newsletter carefully. Hidden somewhere within these pages are two Member location numbers. Find your location number in this newsletter, call the REC office by the 20th of the month, and you will receive a \$25.00 credit on your energy bill.



The location numbers in the February newsletter belonged to Dustin Pope and Scott McCandless.