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Tips for a Safe Harvest



Harvest season brings hard work and can be an exhausting, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous (even deadly!) when working near overhead power lines. We urge farm operators and workers to keep the following safety tips in mind:

-  Use care when operating large machinery near power lines.
-  Inspect the height of equipment to determine clearance.
-  Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away (in all directions) from power lines.
-  Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
-  If a power line is sagging or looks to be dangerously low, please call us immediately.

Source: [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.safeelectricity.org)

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

Growing Reliability Threats



BY JIM MATHESON, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

American families and businesses expect the lights to stay on at a cost they can afford. But that's no longer a guarantee. Nine states saw rolling blackouts last December as the demand for electricity exceeded available supply.

This is no longer a theoretical conversation. And unless policymakers change course, it's going to get worse.

Warnings and challenges mount

In May, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a rule to regulate power plant emissions. This proposal will further strain America's electric grid and undermine decades of work to reliably keep the lights on across the nation. It's just the latest instance of EPA failing to prioritize reliable electricity as a fundamental expectation of American consumers.

It shouldn't have to be this way. When you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop digging. But instead of putting down the shovel, EPA wants to bring in an excavator.

But don't just take my word for it. Warnings about the threat of reliability challenges have snowballed in recent months. The 2023 North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) summer reliability assessment recently highlighted that more of the country is at risk of blackouts than last year. NERC says that the EPA proposal will accelerate the reliability challenges.

In May, several Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) leaders warned the U.S. Senate about threats to reliable electricity. In March, Manu Asthana, who is the CEO of PJM Interconnection - a regional transmission organization that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity in 13 states - said that the regional transmission organization needed to slow the pace of generation retirements to avoid reliability problems by the end of the decade.

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*Marcus Rihmer,
Executive Vice President
& General Manager*

Annual & District Meetings - Connecting with our Members

At the end of August, WIPCO held our District & Annual Meetings. These events are a great opportunity for us to show our appreciation to you, our members, each year, and to connect with you in many ways. This month, I wanted to use this space to recap these meetings and provide details on the information

provided and the connections made through them.

WIPCO Mobile App -

Earlier this year, we introduced our WIPCO mobile app. As a WIPCO member, you can now make a payment, review your energy usage and statements, or sign up for notifications from your mobile device. At our annual meetings this year, we helped many of our members to install the WIPCO app and provided additional information on how our members can utilize the app to serve their needs. 23-04-22537

If you missed the meetings or didn't get a chance to install or learn more about the app, please feel free to call us anytime for assistance. Links to download the app directly to your mobile device can be found on our website, www.wipco.com, or you can search for "WIPCO" in your app store. As described at our meetings, any WIPCO member who downloads the app and registers as an app user by September 15th will be entered into a drawing for one of three \$100 bill credits!

Ways to Pay your Energy Bill -

Another area we highlighted at our annual meetings is the many methods WIPCO now offers to pay your energy bill. Whether you prefer to pay automatically via bank draft or credit card, online via our app or online portal, or via mail, phone, or in person, we have a payment method designed to meet your needs. If you would like more information on any of these ways to pay, or need any assistance signing up for automatic payments or an online account, please contact our offices.

Electric Vehicles -

For the second consecutive year, WIPCO offered

the chance for our members to take a close look at electric vehicles at our annual meetings. As your electric service provider, we know that education on this relatively new transportation method is critical. As with anything going on in the energy industry, we want to be your trusted resource for any questions you may have regarding electric vehicles, and this area at our annual meetings allows us to do just that.

There were many other highlights of our annual meetings, including the results of our director elections, awarding of prizes to our coloring contest winners, lots of activities for kids, and updates on the year we had at WIPCO. As always, we are incredibly grateful to our partners who help to make these events possible each year. Our employees, directors, venue hosts, caterers, and many others come together each year to make these events a success - and, of course, none of this would be possible without you, our members! Thank you!

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**Electricians ready to
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418 E. Iowa Ave., Onawa, Iowa 51040 712-263-2943

Committed to Our Community - Serving Member Owners with Integrity, Innovation and Accountability

www.wipco.com

Do you know a student that is interested in public service and leadership?

High schoolers who attend our Zoom sessions in October will have a chance to win AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship!

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, WIPCO has a long history of supporting students in the communities we serve through scholarships and leadership opportunities.

Iowa's electric cooperatives are pleased to once again offer a virtual opportunity for rural students to learn more about advocacy, electric cooperative career opportunities and the cooperative business model with a three-part webinar series in October. The Iowa Youth Leadership Academy is open to any high school student in our service area and they are invited to register at: www.IowaYouthTour.com by October 1.

"This new program is perfect for rural Iowa students who have a passion for public service, leadership or government," remarked Marcus Rihner, WIPCO Executive Vice President & General Manager. "We want to raise students' awareness of how local electric co-ops power people's lives and empower communities. We also want to talk about exciting cooperative career paths that are available in smaller communities."

Once students register online for the Iowa Youth Leadership Academy, they can attend the webinars from their own computer or mobile device. Each Zoom session will last around 45-60 minutes and focus on a specific topic:

- Tuesday, October 3, 7:00 p.m. - Cooperative Business Model
- Thursday, October 19, 7:00 p.m. - Rural Iowa Advocacy
- Thursday, October 26, 7:00 p.m. - Civic Involvement and Leadership

At the end of each live session, one lucky attendee will be selected at random to win a pair of Apple AirPods. Students who attend all three sessions will be entered into a random drawing for a \$1,000 college scholarship. All students who register online by October 1 will receive a special box of co-op goodies in the mail.

During the Zoom sessions, students will be inspired by our lineup of speakers and presenters. Participants will learn how to advocate for issues that are important to them and build leadership skills from a motivational speaker. For more information, contact Mari Miller at 800-253-5189, send e-mail to wipco@wipco.com, or visit www.IowaYouthTour.com.



**WANTED:
Rural Iowa
high school
students
who have a
passion for
leadership**



Attend our webinar series in October for a chance to win Apple AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship! Learn more at IowaYouthTour.com

WELCOME!



Meet **Colby Frederick**, our newest WIPCO team member. Hailing from Lancaster, Missouri, Colby is a graduate of Schuyler County High School and holds an associates degree in electrical distribution from Ozark Community College. Beyond his profession achievements, Colby is an avid hunter and sport enthusiast. We are excited to have Colby on our team!

4 2023 Energy Trail Tours Hit the Road

Flip a switch, and the lights come on. Behind this simple action is a complex network of people, power plants, and transmission lines that work around the clock. Their mission: to ensure safe, affordable, reliable electricity flows to more than 140 member cooperatives in nine states.

WIPCO, through its generation and transmission cooperative Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO), is a member of Basin Electric Power Cooperative's power supply system. This regional wholesale power supply cooperative has nearly 7,000 megawatts of generating capacity and 2,500 miles of high-voltage transmission lines - all managed with you, the member-owner, in mind.

This summer, WIPCO members joined members from thirteen other western and north central Iowa electric cooperatives on a three-day excursion through the Dakotas to learn about where their electricity comes from and have some fun along the journey.



Tour 1: (L to R) Dennis Backhaus, Carol Peterson, Joe Schierbrock, Harry Long, Wendy Chase, and Richard Chase

Tour 2: (L to R) Leonard Hanson, Shirley Hesse, Linda Friis, and Mike Friis (Mike is also a WIPCO Board Director)



Tour 3: (Back Row L to R) Roger Schneider, Lance Nelson, Colton Johnson, and Virgil Johnson (Front Row L to R) Karin Schneider and Sandy Nelson

The tours are part of WIPCO's commitment to provide education for directors, employees and members. If you would like to be a part of this experience next year, watch this newsletter, our website, and our Facebook page for the opportunity to enter the drawing. 57-03-42098

Energy Tour Stops

OAHE POWER PLANT AND DAM
On the first electric-generation stop of the three-day tour, guests visited Pierre, South Dakota, to learn about hydroelectric generation and the innovative rolled-earth dam creating Lake Oahe, the fourth largest U.S. reservoir.

ANTELOPE VALLEY STATION
The tour encompassed a model room introduction and a guided walk through the power plant featuring visits to the turbine deck, control room, boiler, and 17th-floor observation deck.

THE COTEAU PROPERTIES COMPANY FREEDOM MINE
Tour guests learned how lignite coal is produced at a surface mine and how the land is returned to its original state. A guided drive-through tour took members through active mining areas where they witnessed giant earthmoving equipment in action.

The trip also offered insight into operations at **GREAT PLAINS SYNFUELS PLANT** and how coal can be refined into natural gas and a variety of other products.

Shining the Light on Local Volunteers



To celebrate local volunteers, the Shine the Light contest returned for a third year and received 126 volunteer nominations during June, an 85% increase from last year! Employees and members of Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives were invited to nominate someone who makes a positive difference in their community.



Three winners from the 126 nominations will be awarded a \$2,500 donation to their charity of choice and will be featured in the September issue of the *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine. Please join us in celebrating WIPCO's area nominees for their outstanding commitment to community and thanks to their nominators:

- **Marcia Bachmann** of Denison for her work with CCHappycats, Inc. (nominated by Richard Meyer and Clayton Ullerich)
- **Ron Halbur** of Manning for his work with Manning Community Foundation (nominated by Karen Kienast)
- **Geri Johnson** of Onawa for her work with Food 4 You, Inc. (nominated by Arthur Weston)
- **Jerry Jors** of Ricketts for his work with Brushy Creek Area Honor Flight, Inc. (nominated by Randy Bohlmann)
- **Jean Stadlander** of Manning for her work with IKM-Manning Community School Foundation (nominated by Tim and Joni Kienast)
- **Kathy Struck** of Denison for her work with Goodfellows (nominated by Rita Eggers)

"WIPCO is pleased to partner with the IAEC to shine the light on our local volunteers," said Marcus Rihner, Executive Vice President and General Manager. "Thank you to Marcia, Ron, Geri, Jerry, Jean, and Kathy for their volunteer efforts and for making a positive impact in their communities!"

YOUTH TOUR INVESTS IN YOUNG LEADERS



Shay Hamblen (pictured left) from Moorhead and Lauren Jones (pictured right) from Onawa spent a few educational and fun-filled days in Washington, D.C. from June 18 to 23 as part of a group of 38 Iowa student leaders attending the National Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Shay wrote the winning essay in the Iowa Youth Tour essay contest, and Lauren was selected as the winner of the Youth Tour

at-large drawing sponsored by Iowa's electric cooperatives.

The week-long leadership development program provides high school students opportunities to learn about government, the electric cooperative business model and today's pressing issues in the energy industry. Students met their elected representatives in the U.S. House and Senate, toured historic sites and ran their own Snack Cooperative.

Continued on Page 6

6 Looking out for you...

Youth Tour - Continued from Page 5

Shay said she was thankful to be chosen for the trip. "I wasn't quite sure what to expect and was nervous when meeting everyone the first day but as the week went by, we all got to know each other and had a lot of fun together," Hamblen said.

Some of Shay's favorite D.C. places and landmarks visited were the Air and Space Museum, Ford's Theater, and the Holocaust Museum. "The Capitol visit was amazing, and the changing of the guard and seeing all the gravestones at Arlington Cemetery was a humbling experience," Hamblen said. "Thanks so much for the amazing opportunity!"

Lauren said that coming from a small town to a big, diverse city was amazing, as was meeting new people. "I enjoyed learning about important times and people in our nation's history," Jones said. "Thanks for making this happen. So many great memories are being made thanks to you," Jones said.



The Iowa Youth Tour delegation visiting the Iwo Jima Monument in Arlington, Virginia.

Growing Reliability Threats - *Continued from Page 1*

Voicing reliability concerns

America has a reliability problem. With the help of co-op leaders across the nation, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has been a leading voice in sounding the alarm on reliability. Today's energy decisions will determine if there are sufficient resources to keep the lights on tomorrow. Five issues are impacting the reliable delivery of electricity across the nation.

1. Increasing demand for electricity as other sectors of the economy are electrified.
2. Decreasing electricity supply due to the disorderly retirement and insufficient replacement of existing generation.
3. Permitting delays that prevent new electric infrastructure from being built and connected to the grid.
4. Supply chain challenges.
5. Problems with natural gas availability.

Commitment to member-consumers

None of these challenges will be easy to address, but we can start by asking ourselves these questions:

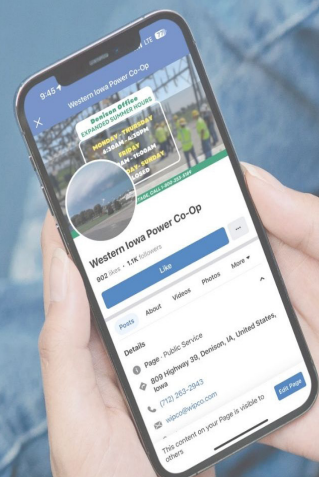
- Is this what American is supposed to be?
- Should the threat of rolling blackouts be a permanent facet of U.S. energy policy?

The answer to both of those questions is a resounding no for electric co-ops and the communities we serve.

The long-term solution requires policymakers and regulators to recognize the need for time, technology development and new transmission infrastructure. These are the essential ingredients for an energy future that prioritizes reliable electricity for all consumers, including the 42 million Americans served by electric cooperatives.

Want to Stay up-to-
Date on WIPCO
News?

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Facebook!



2023-2024 IOWA HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**ATTENTION: RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS
NEED HELP WITH YOUR HEATING BILL?**

The 2023-2024 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.

If you are not sure where to apply, **Dial 2-1-1**, or visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply> to contact your local community action agency, or write to:

LIHEAP
Iowa Department of Health & Human Services
Capitol Complex
Des Moines, IA 50319

WHEN TO APPLY:

- **Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled:**
October 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024
- **All other households:**
November 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024

WHAT TO TAKE:

- **Proof of Income** (for all household members age 18 and over) Depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you.
- **Proof of Social Security Numbers for all household members** (documentation required)
- **Most recent heat bill**
- **Most recent electric bill**

INCOME MAXIMUMS	
Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$29,160
2	\$39,440
3	\$49,720
4	\$60,000
5	\$70,280
6	\$80,560
7	\$90,840
8	\$101,120

For households with more than eight members, add \$10,280 for each additional member.

WAGE EARNERS:

Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

FIXED INCOME:

This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:

Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified. Additional income not listed here may be required.

RECare - Members Helping Members

Your Rural Electric Cooperative has always extended a helping hand to those needing it. In response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your REC has established RECare, a program of Members helping Members.

RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income consumers.

You may make a one-time contribution or you may make a monthly pledge that will be automatically added onto your monthly electric bill. You may also make your contribution part of a matching fund, if there is one established. Your contribution is tax deductible. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others!

Member Authorization Form

- Yes, I want to be part of Members helping Members and contribute to RECare.
- I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.
- I will contribute \$_____ per month to RECare. I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.
- My fund is a matching fund gift.
- The matching fund is _____
- Name: _____
- Address: _____
- City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
- Account No. _____
- Mail to: Western Iowa Power Cooperative, PO Box 428, Denison, IA 51442-2705

WIPCO Informer

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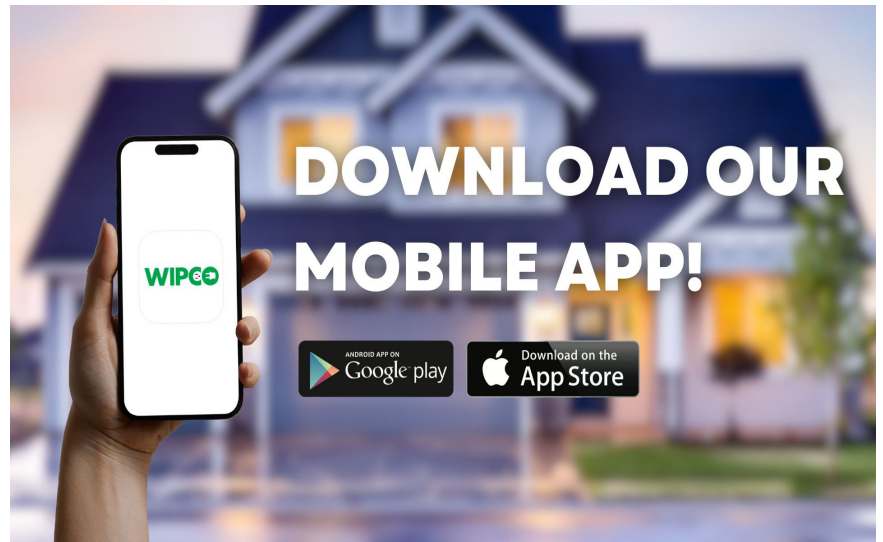


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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall is an ideal season to arrange a heating system tune-up, as it significantly impacts winter energy costs. Maintaining and upgrading your heating equipment, along with recommended insulation, air sealing, and thermostat adjustments, can lead to approximately 30% savings on energy bills, considering that home heating constitutes a substantial portion of winter energy expenses.



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 August newsletter belonged to David Hass and Janelle Gray.

\$25
ENERGY
BILL
CREDIT