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Upcoming Holiday Hours

The Cooperative's offices and warehouses will be closed Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th, for the Thanksgiving holiday. From all of us at Western Iowa Power Cooperative, we wish you all a blessed

Thanksgiving!



Cooperatives foster Iowa's growth

Written by Chuck Soderberg (IAEC), Dave Holm (Iowa Institute of Cooperatives), and Murray Williams (Iowa Credit Union League)

In the heart of the Midwest, Iowa is known for its sprawling fields, tight-knit communities and a spirit of collaboration that has long been a hallmark of its success. While often associated with agriculture and its iconic cornfields, the state boasts a different kind of growth story – one driven by cooperatives. Co-ops are more than businesses; they are pillars of empowerment, resilience and sustainable development that are shaping Iowa's local economies.

Many Iowans associate cooperatives with agriculture; however, co-ops also include rural electric service, credit unions, rural telephone, farm credit, petroleum and more. Co-ops are not-for-profit organizations that are owned and democratically controlled by their members. In fact, nearly one out of every two Iowans is a member of a cooperative.

As part of National Co-op Month, Gov. Kim Reynolds has declared October as Co-op Month in Iowa. During this month, cooperatives of all types and from all industries reaffirm their member-owned mission and commitment to the communities they serve.

In a state where rural communities hold a special significance, cooperatives play a pivotal role in keeping these areas vibrant and alive. Rural cooperatives extend essential services such as energy, financial services, connectivity and healthcare to regions that might otherwise be overlooked.

Collectively, Iowa cooperatives pay more than \$75 million in property taxes to Iowa communities each year. Property taxes paid, especially in rural counties, have a big impact on county budgets and help support critical infrastructure. By pooling resources and sharing expertise, these cooperatives provide a safety net, effectively turning adversity into opportunity.

Iowa's rural electric cooperatives remain committed to powering lives and strengthening their communities. Locally elected co-op directors make informed decisions on behalf of their fellow members and neighbors to ensure reliable, affordable service for years to come. The average household served by an electric cooperative pays about \$5.25 a day for power, which is an incredible value in a world increasingly reliant on electricity and connectivity. Locally owned and governed electric co-ops also embrace an "all-of-the-above" generation strategy as they face potential reliability challenges due to federal mandates.

The cooperative movement in Iowa is a testament to the power of community-driven endeavors. It embodies the spirit of collaboration, the commitment to sustainability and the pursuit of shared prosperity. As co-ops continue to shape local economies and empower communities, they remind us that growth is about fostering a better future for everyone. It's a future that Iowa's cooperatives are helping to build, one collective effort at a time.



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



Chuck Soderburg
*Executive Vice President
& General Manager of the
Iowa Association of Electric
Cooperatives*



Randy Feenstra
*Iowa Congressman
representing Iowa's 4th
District*

A Storm is Brewing: Electric Reliability is in Jeopardy

By Chuck Soderburg, executive vice president and general manager of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, and Congressman Randy Feenstra, representing Iowa's 4th District

Supply chain delays. Disorderly retirements of dispatchable electric generation. Complex regulations on power plant emissions. Regional warnings about a lack of generation capacity to cover electric demand. Permitting delays for needed electric transmission infrastructure.

Individually, any one of these issues is enough to seriously impact reliability of electric service. But all these scenarios are playing out simultaneously across the nation and a perfect storm may be on the horizon.

Electric reliability across America is in serious jeopardy, and frankly, it's unacceptable. Here are the facts:

Dispatchable sources of electric generation like coal and nuclear are being retired far too early. And their generation capacity is being replaced by intermittent sources of generation like wind and solar. The downside: These intermittent sources only work when the wind blows and the sun shines.

Battery storage is not yet feasible for longer durations on a utility-scale level. For all practical purposes, electricity must be generated as it is being consumed. This becomes a problem when the wind isn't blowing or the sun isn't shining and energy consumption is high.

Demand for electricity continues to grow as our society becomes increasingly reliant on electricity.

Locally owned electric cooperatives work hard to provide reliable and affordable electricity for the member-consumers they serve. Co-ops are mission driven to power lives and empower communities and they make long-term decisions to ensure power is available when it's needed.

That's why we believe in a power generation strategy that prioritizes energy diversity. The same adage used for sound financial investing also applies to power generation: don't put all your eggs in one basket. Iowa's electric cooperatives use dispatchable sources of power like coal and natural gas because they can control the output and ramp up generation when needed to match sudden increases in electric demand. But our ability to provide reliable electricity is in jeopardy.

In May, the Environmental Protection Agency released its proposed rule to limit greenhouse gas emissions from new and existing fossil-fuel-fired electric generating units. The proposal is part of the current administration's misguided regulatory agenda to create a carbon-free power sector by 2035 and net zero emissions economy-wide by no later than 2050. We believe this proposal will further strain America's electric grid and undermine decades of work to reliably keep the lights on across the nation.

But that's not the only threat we face. The 2023 NERC summer reliability assessment is just the latest in a series of alarming reminders about the new electric reliability challenges facing the nation. Nine states experienced power interruptions last December as the demand for electricity exceeded available supply.

It's imperative that policymakers work to prioritize reliability in every energy policy discussion. Federal policies must recognize the compromised reliability reality facing the nation before it's too late.

The families, farms and businesses served by electric cooperatives deserve affordable AND reliable electricity to power their lives.



Justin Van Houten Presented with HVAC License

Justin Van Houten recently obtained his Iowa HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) license! Obtaining an Iowa HVAC license requires strict training and a thorough understanding of HVAC systems. To earn this license, individuals must complete a comprehensive training program, accumulate a specified number of on-the-job hours, and pass a challenging exam. Justin's achievement not only benefits our Cooperative, but also underscores our commitment to providing the highest level of service to our members. We are immensely proud of Justin's accomplishment and look forward to see what more he will accomplish. Congratulations, Justin! *Pictured is Assistant Manager Stephanie Wiese presenting Iowa HVAC license to Justin.*

Welcoming Dany Aguilar

In September, we welcomed Dany Aguilar to the Western Iowa Power Cooperative team as one of our electricians. Dany was born in El Salvador and moved to the United States when he was nine-years old. He has lived in Denison ever since. Dany graduated from Iowa Central Community College in 2018. In his free time, he enjoys playing soccer, biking, working out, and spending time with family and friends. He is engaged and has two beautiful kids. His son is 2 years old and his daughter is four months old! "I am blessed, and I thank God every day for everything that happens to me," says Dany.

Join us in extending a warm welcome and wishing Dany much success in his new role!



Safety Spotlight

On October 11th, WIPCO held a staff safety day where all office personnel and crews actively participated in comprehensive safety training, ensuring that each one of us is well-prepared to handle any potential office or field-related incidents. We practiced various scenarios that can unfold in our daily operations. Our line crews, who are out in the field day in and day out, received valuable training and practice in their pole-top and bucket rescue skills, enhancing their capabilities to respond effectively in emergency situations. At WIPCO, safety is our top priority, and Staff Safety Day reaffirms our commitment to keeping our team and community safe. *Pictured is Foreman Mark Trotter performing a pole top rescue as the rest of the crew observes.*



Download the WIPCO App!



Google Play Store



Apple App Store

Welcoming Kay Sorensen

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to Kay Sorensen, our newest team member at the Onawa office. Kay grew up and graduated from Ida Grove Community School. She and her husband, Les, owned and operated a store for many years. Kay has recently retired from the postal service. Kay states that she is pleased to find a position where she is able to work with customers. She has two beautiful granddaughters and enjoys going to their activities in her free time.

Join us in extending a warm welcome to Kay and wishing her much success in her new role!

Onawa Office Hours

Mari Miller, our Onawa office supervisor (among other titles and responsibilities) with 34 years of experience with the Cooperative, is getting closer each day to her well-deserved retirement. Many of our members have had the chance to interact with Mari over the years, and we know she will be greatly missed by WIPCO members, employees, and directors.

As shown above on this page, we are very pleased to welcome Kay Sorensen to WIPCO as our new part-time receptionist. With Kay coming on and Mari transitioning into retirement, we are making the following changes to our Onawa office hours, effective Monday, November 6th.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7:30am - 4:00pm	8:00am-11:00am	7:30am - 4:00pm	8:00am-11:00am	7:30am - 4:00pm

I would like to take this opportunity to remind our members that our Denison headquarters' office hours have recently expanded to 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. Any of our members can call us anytime and we will work to assist you. Even outside of our normal office hours, our after-hours call service is active 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can be utilized to report outages or any other matters that need to be addressed before the next business day.

If you have a need for assistance in Onawa outside of these office hours, please let us know in advance whenever possible and we will do everything we can to accommodate your needs. For materials you may wish to purchase, even on short notice, please call the office and we will work with our employees based out of our Onawa office. For any payments you would like to make, the drop box in Onawa will still be available 24/7, and we offer many electronic methods of payment as well. We would be happy to discuss these further with you or to assist with setup as needed.

These changes will allow us to serve our members more consistently moving forward, and we will continue to keep you informed of any further changes in the future. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us!

Marcus Rihner, General Manager



NEW Denison Office Hours

7:00am - 4:00pm
Monday - Friday

Western Iowa Power Cooperative has recently made an important change to enhance member convenience. At our Denison headquarters, our operating hours are now from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, providing an extra half hour in the morning to cater to our members' needs. While we continue to remain closed on weekends, our commitment to exceptional service remains unwavering. Rest assured, our customer service hotline is available 24/7, ensuring that our members can always reach out for assistance and support. 59-11-29084



Serving up Savings this Holiday Season

The holiday season is just around the corner and soon, festive music will flood the airwaves, sparkling lights and decorations will adorn homes and businesses, and good tidings will abound. The holidays also bring a frenzy of decorating, cooking and family gatherings, and amid the hectic hustle and bustle, you may receive higher-than-usual energy bills.

Programs designed to help you save.

Winter months typically bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. Making minor, low-cost improvements, like weatherstripping exterior doors and caulking around old, drafty windows can make a positive impact on energy bills. If you're not sure where to start, contact Western Iowa Power Cooperative to schedule a home energy audit. 25-18-30832

Our team of member service representatives is available to help, so we encourage you to give our office a call if you'd like to learn about specific programs and services that can lower your bills.

Be festive without breaking the bank.

LED holiday lights use 88% less energy than incandescent holiday lights. To put that into perspective, the Department of Energy estimates that with standard holiday decorations, LED lights typically increase energy bills by about \$5 to \$7. But with incandescent lights, energy bills will typically increase by \$33 or more. For homes that go above and beyond with incandescent holiday lighting (think Clark Griswold), energy bills could increase by as much as \$350. Beyond energy savings, LEDs provide additional benefits, such as being shock-resistant, shatterproof and cool to the touch, making them safer for the home.

You can also lower energy use by conveniently managing holiday lighting. Smart light timers can help you save energy by connecting to a smart phone app or voice assistant to program lights to turn on and off at set times. If you don't use smart home technology, you can still save energy by using traditional timers.

Additional easy ways to save during the holiday season include turning off overhead lights and using your Christmas tree to illuminate your home. If you have a fireplace, remember to close the flue when you're not burning a fire to ensure heat doesn't escape through the chimney.

Cook up energy savings in the kitchen.

If you plan to have family and friends over this holiday season, you can cook up energy savings by using small counter-top appliances like microwaves, air fryers and slow cookers when possible, as they use much less energy than the stove-top or oven.

When using the oven, bake multiple dishes at once for maximum efficiency. After all, it takes as much energy to cook one dish as it does to cook several. Turn the oven off a few minutes before the recipe's end time and allow the residual heat to finish baking the dish. Once the food is done, leave the stove door ajar to allow the residual heat to warm the room. When using the stove top, match the pan size to the burner to maximize the stove top's efficiency.

Keep these tips in mind as we approach the holiday season. Remember, we're here to answer any questions you have about managing energy use or your monthly bills. With a little planning up front, you can find efficient ways to save on everything from holiday décor to your favorite soup recipes.

From your friends at Western Iowa Power Cooperative, we hope you have a wonderful holiday season!



Scholarship Opportunities

Western Iowa Power Cooperative (WIPCO) in conjunction with Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) will be awarding **six** scholarships for the 2024-2025 school year. This program, now in its 34th year, recognizes and encourages academic and community achievements of students whose parents are WIPCO members.

BEPC will award one \$1,000 scholarship and WIPCO will award one \$1,000 and four \$500 scholarships. Two of the \$500 scholarships will be designated specifically for students enrolling in vocational and/or technical schools.

The scholarship must be used for educational costs, and the student must enter college in the fall of the school year for which the scholarship is given. Scholarships will be awarded without regard to other awards, loans, or financial assistance the applicant may have obtained. Previous scholarship award winners are not eligible.

A selection committee will choose the recipients of the scholarships. The selection committee's decisions are final. Awards are based on the following criteria: grade point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, a personal statement of career goals, and a written recommendation by a third party. We ask that if the student has taken a college entrance exam (ACT and/or SAT), that score be included with their application materials. Should a student plan to attend a college that does not require ACT/SAT, please indicate that on the application form.

Applicant must be a US citizen and the dependent of a WIPCO member. Applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate or graduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school.

Applications must be received at a WIPCO location (Denison or Onawa) no later than February 9th, 2024.

To learn more, visit our website at www.wipco.com/scholarships.

WIPCO & BEPC

2

\$1,000 Scholarships

4

\$500 Scholarships

Visit www.wipco.com for more information.

2023-2024 Iowa Home Energy Assistance Program

ATTENTION: RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS NEED HELP WITH YOUR HEATING BILL?

The 2022-2023 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 Human Rights
Capitol Complex
Des Moines, IA 50319

INCOME MAXIMUMS	
Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$27,180
2	\$36,620
3	\$46,060
4	\$55,500
5	\$64,940
6	\$74,380
7	\$83,820
8	\$93,260

For households with more than eight members, add \$9,440 for each additional member.

WHEN TO APPLY:

- **Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled:**
October 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023
- **All other households:**
November 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023

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**

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

WIPCO maintains an RECare program facilitating assistance for members in need through winter heating bill payments and home weatherization via local community action agencies. Donations, which are tax-deductible, can be made as one-time contributions, monthly pledges added to electric bills, or as part of a matching fund initiative. Even small pledges like a dollar per month can make a significant difference.

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

(USPS 9340)

Contact Us

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**“This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and
employer”**

Safety Tip

A safe work environment increases efficiency and productivity, reduces injury and illness costs, boosts morale, decreases employee turnover and builds a stronger, more resilient safety culture.



Safe
Electricity.org



Welcome To
Co-op Connections
The free membership program that gives you incredible discounts on everyday expenses.

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google play

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 October newsletter belonged to Ryan Eischeid and James Jones.

**SAVE
\$25**

**DOWNLOAD OUR
MOBILE APP!**

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google play