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## WIPCO Offers Scholarship Opportunities

Western Iowa Power Cooperative (WIPCO) in conjunction with Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) will be awarding six scholarships for the 2025-2026 school year. This program, now in its 35th 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 7th, 2025

## WESTERN IOWA POWER COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

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



## Understanding Your 2025 Electric Rates

As your trusted local electric cooperative, WIPCO believes in transparent communication about factors affecting your electric service. We want to inform our members that we have been notified of a rate adjustment to our co-op of approximately 10% by our wholesale power provider, which will take effect on January 1, 2025.

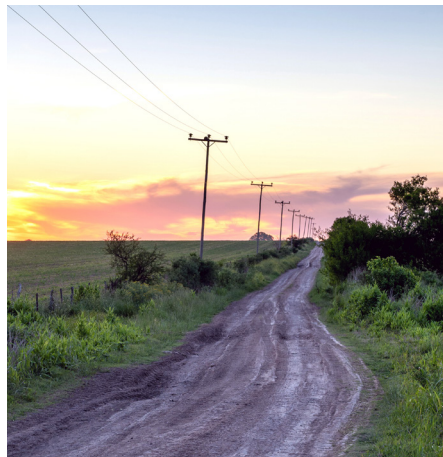
### What's Driving the Change?

**Wholesale Power Costs:** WIPCO purchases its wholesale power and transmission services from Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO), which sources its power from two suppliers: Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, ND, and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), who markets power generated from the Missouri River dam system. Each of these power suppliers has announced significant rate increases for 2025. Basin Electric, which provides nearly 80 percent of NIPCO's power, will implement a 6.5% rate increase. WAPA has also announced a 7.4% rate increase. Factors contributing to these increases from power suppliers include investments in generation and transmission resources to accommodate load growth and reliability, inflationary impacts, and market volatility. 06-09-1123

**Critical Infrastructure Updates:** NIPCO's transmission infrastructure, used to deliver power from the generation source to homes and businesses, was installed over 70 years ago during the foundational efforts of rural electrification across Iowa. As part of NIPCO's Renewal and Replacement Plan, this aging infrastructure has been strategically upgraded throughout its western Iowa service area. These upgrades improve the transmission grid's security and power reliability, enhanc-

ing resilience against storm outages and expediting restoration efforts by moving transmission lines for ease of access. However, supply chain challenges and rising material costs have impacted these critical improvements.

**Rising Operational Costs:** NIPCO, like many utilities, faces higher costs for general operations and maintenance to retain reliable service across its rural infrastructure. Some of these efforts include vegetation management, line inspections, and costs associated with promoting energy-efficiency programs, to name a few. NIPCO has also experienced inflationary impacts in areas that improve crew safety and retain its skilled workforce who work around the clock to keep the lights on.



### Industry Challenges

Several broader industry factors are also applying pressure to NIPCO's rates:

**Growing Energy Demand:** Our region is experiencing unprecedented growth in electricity consumption, particularly from emerging technologies coming online, like data centers and other large industrial loads. While this growth can benefit our

area economically, it also requires an increased demand on the already compromised power supply capacity and significant infrastructure investments to ensure reliable, affordable service for all members.

**Regulatory Requirements:** New EPA Power Plant regulations under Section 111 may impact our ability to use reliable, affordable fossil fuel resources. Implementing the EPA's Clean Air Act Section 111 poses significant operational and financial challenges, requiring substantial investments in unproven technologies to meet the 90% emissions reduction target. The mandate to retrofit existing coal-fired plants for natural gas co-firing, combined with the absence of necessary infrastructure – including carbon capture storage sites and pipeline systems – creates a complex burden. Additionally, any reduction in generation capacity from affected facilities must be offset with replacement power sources, potentially leading to stranded assets and increased system costs.

### Our Commitment to You

We understand that any rate increase affects our members' budgets. As a not-for-profit, cost-of-service electric cooperative, we don't seek to generate profits – our rates reflect only what's necessary to maintain reliable service and keep our cooperative financially healthy and rates as stable as possible.

At WIPCO, we continue implementing cost-saving measures and operational efficiencies wherever possible to minimize these impacts to our members.

*(Continued on the next page)*

## Looking Ahead

We remain committed to providing reliable, affordable electricity to our rural communities. While we navigate these industry challenges, we're also exploring innovative solutions to help control costs long-term. Members interested in finding ways to manage their energy costs can contact our office for energy efficiency consultations and information about our cost-saving programs. We will continue to work on your behalf to advocate for the safe, reliable, and cost-effective power supply you have come to depend on to power your lives. We are dedicated to maintaining transparency in our leadership and communications with our members and to remain a trusted partner in our community.

## WIPCO Rates

As you will see on p.6, the WIPCO Board has approved a net 8% rate increase which will be effective January 1, 2025. This increase aligns in full with the results of WIPCO's most recent cost of service study. For more information on these studies and how their results are analyzed and implemented, please see the WIPCO Informer issues dated January and February 2024 (available on our website at [www.wipco.com/communications-resources](http://www.wipco.com/communications-resources)).

Power costs are by far our largest expense year-over-year, and as described above, these are currently increasing at levels not seen in decades. At WIPCO, we have managed to control several other expenses, but these purchased power costs carry a large amount of weight regardless of any decisions we may make or controls we may implement elsewhere. Other expenses necessary for providing safe and reliable electric service have continued to rise rapidly as well.

There is a large level of uncertainty surrounding power costs in 2026 and beyond, and we would anticipate that additional power cost increases, and the accompanying electric rate increases, will continue as the energy industry continues to change at an unusually rapid pace.

The majority of our members utilize single-phase electric service, and the impact on this specific rate as a result of this increase will be approximately 6.5%, which equates to \$11.75 per month in a home with average usage on our system.

We will continue to do all we can to control the costs, to advocate for wise and prudent energy policy, and to provide opportunities for you, our members, to maximize the energy efficiency in your homes and businesses. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have about this increase or anything related to your electric service from WIPCO.

## A Message from General Manager, Marcus Rihner

It is with many conflicting emotions that I am announcing my resignation from the General Manager position at WIPCO. I have accepted a position with another organization in the area, and will transition into this position in early December. Serving this cooperative and our members has been one of the greatest privileges of my career, and I will always be grateful for the opportunity. I am thankful for the trust our Board and members placed in me, and for the dedication of our employees as they serve you. As a WIPCO member, I look forward to continuing to see our Cooperative grow and thrive in the future!

*-Marcus Rihner*

## Happy Holidays from Western Iowa Power Cooperative!

As the holiday season approaches, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our members for their trust and support. Whether you're celebrating with loved ones or enjoying the cozy comforts of home, we hope your season is filled with warmth and joy.

Thank you for letting us serve you. Wishing you a happy and bright holiday season!





**Leslie Kaufman**  
*Executive Vice President  
and General Manager of the  
Iowa Association of Electric  
Cooperatives*

## Defined Electric Service Areas Protect Rural Iowans

At the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, we are constantly monitoring issues that could impact the people and rural communities served by Iowa's electric cooperatives. Our state's 2025 Legislative Session will begin on January 13 and IAEC will prioritize efforts to ensure Iowa's law regarding defined service areas is not undermined. I'd like to explain why this law has been so crucial to our mission to serve co-op member-consumers.

### What are defined service areas?

In Iowa, where you live determines which electric utility will serve you. This regulatory protection is called defined electric service territory and the State of Iowa wrote Senate File 1258 into law almost 50 years ago to efficiently ensure that every square foot of our state has an electric utility obligated to provide service upon request.

### Why do Iowa's electric cooperative support defined service area?

Electric co-ops are committed to safeguarding defined service areas because they protect rural Iowans by supporting affordable electric rates, securing a resilient electric grid and encouraging economic development.

Defined service areas provide a high degree of certainty to Iowa's electric cooperatives because we can confidently make long-term investments in power generation to maintain affordable rates, finance major grid upgrades to ensure resiliency and utilize new technologies to enhance service. Electric co-ops can also be proactive in maintenance and vegetation management to improve reliability for the homes, farms and businesses we serve every day. Additionally, defined service areas allow electric co-ops to robustly support economic development efforts in the communities we serve, which retain and create local jobs and provide needed services and tax revenue.

Any efforts to remove or weaken Iowa's defined service areas could result in higher electric bills and decreased reliability for Iowans. This issue is non-negotiable for Iowa's not-for-profit electric cooperatives, which are mission driven to power lives and empower communities by providing electricity that is safe, reliable and affordable.

Since the 1990s, several states have deregulated their electric utilities, but the hopes that competition would result in lower rates and improved reliability have not materialized. In fact, according to a 2023 New York Times investigation, "Deregulation has resulted in increased rates/fees in every state where it has been introduced." The report goes on to conclude that "On average, residents living in a deregulated market pay \$40 more per month for electricity..." This outcome is unacceptable for the Iowans we serve.

We invite you to learn more about this issue at [www.ProtectRuralIowa.com](http://www.ProtectRuralIowa.com) where you will also find links to research and studies on deregulation. Your locally owned electric cooperatives are working hard to safeguard defined service area protections that have benefited Iowans since 1976.

## Holiday Savings, Efficiency, and Safety Tips

As the holidays draw near, many of us are eager to enjoy the warmth, lights, and festivities of the season. However, with this increased energy use comes a rise in electricity bills. Western Iowa Power Cooperative (WIPCO) reminds members that there are simple yet effective ways to save energy and enhance safety without sacrificing holiday cheer.

### In Your Home

First and foremost, it's important to be mindful of how you decorate your home. While string lights are a hallmark of the holiday season, switching to energy-efficient LED lights can drastically reduce energy consumption. LEDs use up to 75% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and last much longer. Additionally, turning off your lights when you're not home, or using timers, can help further reduce unnecessary energy use. Heating costs can also add up quickly during the colder months. By adjusting your thermostat even a few degrees, you can save a significant amount on your heating bills. Setting it lower when you're away or asleep is an easy step to take, and using a smart thermostat can help manage temperature fluctuations while keeping your home

### Energy Safety & Efficiency Tips

- ✓ Unplug Unused Electronics
- ✓ Use the Oven Efficiently
- ✓ Seal Gaps in Windows and Doors
- ✓ Use Ceiling Fans for Circulation
- ✓ Practice Space Heater Safety

This holiday season, small adjustments can help save energy and improve safety. Unplug unused electronics, and avoid opening the oven door to keep heat in. Sealing gaps around windows keeps warmth inside, while ceiling fans help circulate warm air. If using space heaters, ensure they're on stable surfaces and turn them off when not in use. These simple changes can help keep your home cozy and energy-efficient.

comfortable. These small adjustments add up, and you'll be surprised at how much you can save over the winter.

As you prepare for holiday meals, remember that cooking can be a large contributor to energy costs. When possible, opt for using a microwave, slow cooker, or toaster oven instead of the stove or oven. These appliances typically consume less energy and can help you prepare holiday dishes without running up your energy bill. If you are considering any upgrades, energy-efficient appliances can also make a big difference in your energy use, particularly those that are ENERGY STAR certified. 49-04-16539

### Keeping Safety Top of Mind

Safety is key this holiday season. Follow instructions for holiday lights, avoid overloading outlets, and turn off lights when leaving or going to bed. If using space heaters, place them on stable surfaces away from flammable materials. Check cords for damage and never run them under rugs.

By focusing on energy efficiency and safety, you can enjoy a cozy, cost-effective holiday. For more tips and details on WIPCO's programs, visit our website or give us a call. Stay safe and save smart!



## Upgraded Your Home in 2024? Apply for WIPCO Rebates by December 31, 2024!

The holidays are a great time to invest in energy-efficient upgrades. Consider Energy Star-rated appliances that use less energy and reduce your bills. WIPCO offers rebates on a variety of energy-efficient products to help make your home more efficient. Take advantage of these savings this season to lower both your energy consumption and costs. For more details, visit WIPCO's website or contact member services.

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# Official Notice of Rate Increase

November 21, 2024

Dear Member:

On November 20th, 2024, Western Iowa Power Cooperative's Board of Directors approved an increase in rates and charges affecting prices for electric service that you receive. The increase will apply to your usage beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

The increase in annual revenues will be approximately \$1,143,196 or 8.0%.

Although the effect of the increase on your bill will vary depending upon the type and extent of usage, the average monthly increase per customer for the primary customer classes are:

<b><i>Customer Class</i></b>	<b>Percentage Increase</b>
<i>Single Phase</i>	6.5%
<i>Multi-Phase</i>	4.8%
<i>Interruptible Controlled</i>	15.0%
<i>Dual Heat</i>	14.8%
<i>Electric Heat Uncontrolled</i>	15.0%
<i>Controlled Irrigation</i>	15.0%
<i>Uncontrolled Irrigation</i>	6.3%
<i>Large Power</i>	9.0%
<i>Generator Interruptible Single Phase</i>	5.5%
<i>Generator Interruptible Multi-Phase</i>	15.0%

A written explanation of current rate schedules and charges is available without charge from our local business office. If you have any questions, please contact our business office at 712-263-2943.

A rate chart is provided on page 7 of this newsletter. The chart lists the current rates and the new rates effective January 1, 2025.

Sincerely,

Janet Iversen  
Board President

Marcus Rihner  
Executive VP & General Manager

# Official Notice of Rate Increase

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## OLD RATE

Western Iowa Power Cooperative  
Effective Date 4/1/2024

### SINGLE PHASE

Base Charge \$40.00  
First 2,000 KWH @ \$0.1374 per KWH  
Balance KWH @ \$0.1201 per KWH

### MULTI PHASE

Base Charge \$80.00  
First 2,000 KWH @ \$0.1261 per KWH  
Balance KWH @ \$0.1078 per KWH

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY RATES

Base Charge \$6.00  
Dual Heat \$0.0710 per KWH  
Interruptible Controlled \$0.0710 per KWH  
Electric Heat \$0.9200 per KWH

### IRRIGATION SERVICE – CONTROLLED

Annual HP Charge HP @ \$18.50 per HP  
Energy Charge KWH @ \$0.0985 per KWH

### IRRIGATION SERVICE – UNCONTROLLED

Annual HP Charge HP @ 18.50 per HP  
Energy Charge KWH @ \$0.0985 per KWH  
Monthly HP Charge HP @ \$10.50 per HP

### LARGE POWER SERVICE

Base Charge \$100.00  
Energy Charge  
    First 100 KWH @ \$0.0510 per KWH  
    Excess KWH @ \$0.0433 per KWH  
Demand Charge @ \$21.00 per KW  
Minimum Monthly Charge @ 0.7500 per KVA

### GENERATOR INTERRUPTIBLE SINGLE PHASE

Base Charge \$40.00  
Penalty Charge \$300.00  
Energy Charge KWH @ \$0.0790 per KWH

### GENERATOR INTERRUPTIBLE MULTI PHASE

Base Charge \$80.00  
Penalty Charge \$300.00  
Energy Charge KWH @ 0.0790 per KWH

## NEW RATE

Western Iowa Power Cooperative  
Effective Date 1/1/2025

### SINGLE PHASE

Base Charge \$40.00  
First 2,000 KWH @ \$0.1488 per KWH  
Balance KWH @ \$0.1315 per KWH

### MULTI PHASE

Base Charge \$80.00  
First 2,000 KWH @ \$0.1326 per KWH  
Balance KWH @ \$0.1143 per KWH

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY RATES

Base Charge \$6.00  
Dual Heat \$0.0825 per KWH  
Interruptible Controlled \$0.0825 per KWH  
Electric Heat \$0.1069 per KWH

### IRRIGATION SERVICE – CONTROLLED

Annual HP Charge HP @ \$20.50 per HP  
Energy Charge KWH @ \$0.1200 per KWH

### IRRIGATION SERVICE – UNCONTROLLED

Annual HP Charge HP @ \$20.50 per HP  
Energy Charge KWH @ \$0.1200 per KWH  
Monthly HP Charge HP @ \$10.50 per HP

### LARGE POWER SERVICE

Base Charge \$100.00  
Energy Charge  
    First 100 KWH @ \$0.0563 per KWH  
    Excess KWH @ \$0.0486 per KWH  
Demand Charge @ \$22.50 per KW  
Minimum Monthly Charge @ 0.7500 per KVA

### GENERATOR INTERRUPTIBLE SINGLE PHASE

Base Charge \$40.00  
Penalty Charge \$300.00  
Energy Charge KWH @ \$0.0841 per KWH

### GENERATOR INTERRUPTIBLE MULTI PHASE

Base Charge \$80.00  
Penalty Charge \$300.00  
Energy Charge KWH @ 0.0939 per KWH



(USPS 9340)

### Contact Us

*Denison Office*  
809 Highway 39 North - P.O. Box 428  
Denison, Iowa 51442  
712-263-2943 OR 800-253-5189  
FAX 712-263-8655  
wipco@wipco.com

*Onawa Office*  
418 East Iowa Avenue - P.O. Box 115  
Onawa, Iowa 51040  
712-433-1622 OR 800-253-5189  
FAX 712-433-2725  
wipco@wipco.com

[www.wipco.com](http://www.wipco.com)



@westerniowapowercoop

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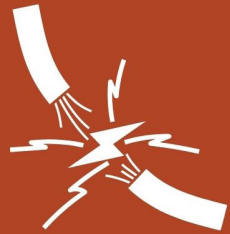
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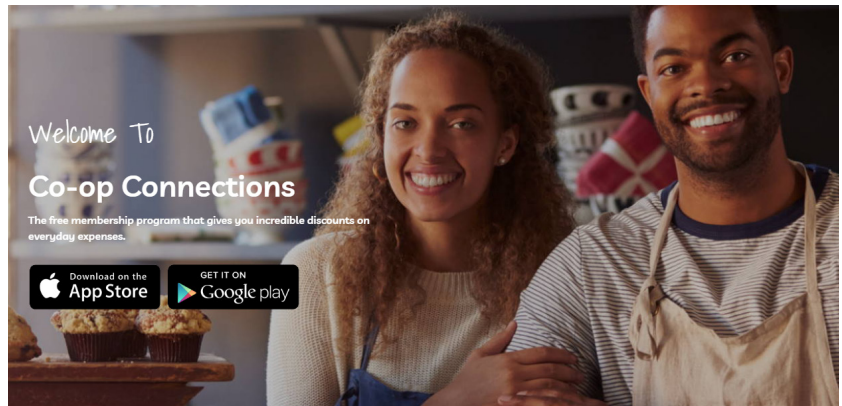
**“This institution is an equal  
opportunity provider and  
employer”**

### Safety Tip

Individuals attempting to steal copper from electrical equipment can lose their life over what they believed to be ‘easy’ money. If you see suspicious activity, contact your electric utility.



Safe  
Electricity.org



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 November newsletter belonged to Jeff Kragel and Curtis Havick.

**SAVE  
\$25**

