

CLOSEDCIRCUIT

Official Publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative

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Volume 76 No. 3 | March 2016



Energy Smart: Renewable Energy Program

CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE OFFERS A RENEWABLE energy program that gives individual member-owners the ability to voluntarily contribute to a fund. All of the money collected from member-owners will be used for the development of alternative energy production facilities in Iowa. Alternative energy production facilities may include wind energy, biomass, solar, and other nontraditional generation technologies.

Through this program, member-owners will not be directly purchasing alternative energy, but rather participating in the development of these resources. Contributions may be retained until they reach a sufficient level to pursue a particular development, make a grant to another entity pursuing alternative energy development in Iowa, or arrange for purchases from alternative energy production facilities. Renewable Energy Program highlights include:

- Available to member-owners within any of our rate classifications.
- Member-owners can contribute a one-time dollar amount or on a monthly basis. The minimum contribution is \$1.00.
- The forms of participation include: cash, check, credit card, ACH, or paying the additional amount with your monthly electric bill.
- Once you have signed up, your participation will continue at the same level until you notify us that you wish to change the amount of your contribution or end your participation in the program.

Renewable Energy Contribution Form

Yes, I will make a one-time contribution
 Yes, I will contribute \$ _____ per month
Name: _____
Account No. _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Reading pays! We have hidden two of our members' account numbers in this issue. If you find your member location number, call during March to have \$10 deducted from your monthly energy account.

Co-op Directors Earn Gold Credential

THREE CLARKE ELECTRIC directors, Frank Riley, Randy Gaumer and Larry

Jackson earned their Director Gold Certificates. The Director Gold Certificate is geared toward directors who are committed to continuing their education beyond the Cooperative Credentialed Director and Board Leadership Certificate and who desire a tangible credential that reinforces their commitment as part of an experienced and educated group of directors. Congratulations and thank you for your dedication to the cooperative and membership.



Photos: Clarke General Manager David Opie presents Frank Riley (top), Randy Gaumer (middle) and Larry Jackson (bottom) with their Director Gold Certificates.

Winter Moratorium Ends April 1

IF YOUR ACCOUNT IS PAST DUE, AND YOU HAVE NOT MADE payment arrangements by March 31, you will be subject to disconnection of your electric service. To avoid disconnection, you must pay your electric bill in full by April 1 or request a reasonable payment arrangement for your past due account(s). On and after April 1, we are not required to post a 48-hour disconnection notice on your premises. Call our office today to make arrangements or to request information at (641) 342-2173 or (800) 362-2154.



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

PO Box 161, 1103 N Main, Osceola, IA 50213-0161

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

It Takes a Balance Approach to Provide Power



DAVID OPIE
General Manager

EVERY DAY, WE PROVIDE OUR MEMBER-OWNERS WITH safe, reliable, environmentally responsible and affordable power. We're able to provide this essential service because we use many types of fuel to generate electricity. Having diversity in our power resources helps us keep costs affordable should one type of fuel spike in price or be in short supply.

You may occasionally hear about base load and non-base load power sources. How these resources work together to power your homes and businesses is important, and long-term planning plays a vital role in meeting your needs. Generation plants are typically long-term assets, which last for several decades.

In the Midwest, base load power plants are most commonly fueled by coal, nuclear or large hydropower. The plants operate nearly 24 hours a day, seven days a week and provide a consistent and steady amount of power. Natural gas also is considered a base load power source. However, because natural gas plants cost more to operate, those plants generally are used as additional base load during peak usage periods, such as hot summer days in Iowa.

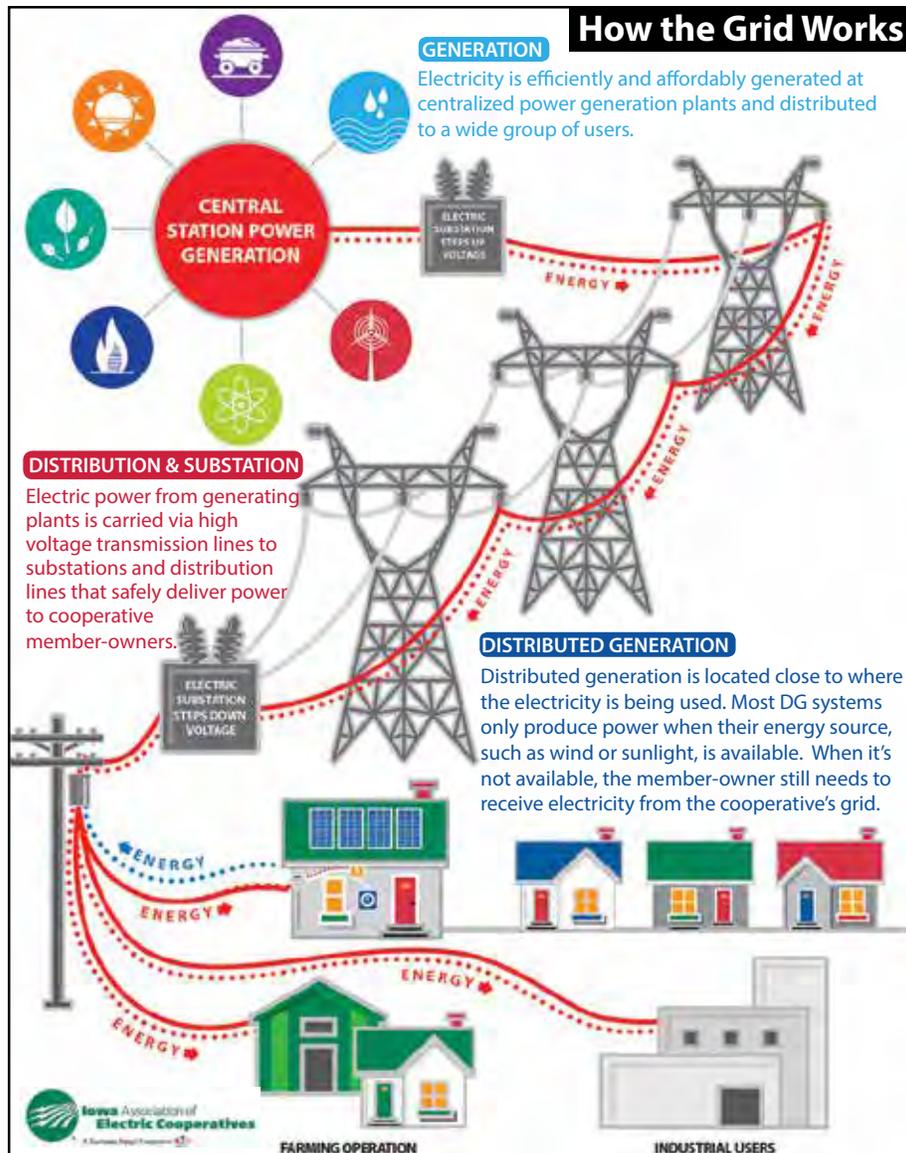
Based on our member-owners' annual and average daily usage requirements, we plan ahead to know how much power we need to generate or purchase to meet those needs. Base load power plants run at constant levels, allowing these plants to provide the lowest-cost generation in a safe and efficient manner. Throughout Iowa and the U.S., base load power plants supply the majority of the power used by consumers. In Iowa, as a testament to our commitment to being good stewards of our environment, we continue to invest in upgrades to these base load plants to ensure they meet strict and changing environmental standards.

As part of our balanced approach to providing you with power from a variety of sources, we supplement base load power with intermittent resources, such as wind and solar. These are considered non-base load power because we have limited control over their power generating ability. For example, on a sunny day, solar panels can produce maximum output. Or, when wind speeds

are steady and not too high or too low, wind turbines can generate a fairly consistent supply of power. However, during cloudy days or at night, we can't rely on solar power because it isn't generating a significant amount of energy. Because of the unpredictability of non-base load sources, we use them in tandem with base load plants to ensure when our member-owners flip the switch for power, they can count on a reliable and adequate power supply to meet those needs. 38-29-07-0

Base load power sources are the backbone of our system for a number of reasons, including the fact that energy cannot be effectively stored. Advancements in energy storage, such as batteries, have come a long way in recent years but it's still not economically feasible or in some cases, reliable enough, to meet our member-owners' needs. Through our national partners, we invest in ongoing research to determine when and if technologies, such as storage options, may be viable for our member-owners.

As a member-owner of your not-for-profit electric cooperative you may be thinking, why is all of this important to me? Having a balanced and diverse energy portfolio is similar to having a diversified personal financial plan. When it comes to savings, it's not prudent to put all of your eggs in one basket. The same is true with sources of power generation. To achieve the best mix of reliability, affordability, environmental responsibility and safety, we rely on multiple sources rather than just one type of power generation.





The Cooperative Difference: Kozak Has Amazing Experience with NRECA National Leadership Council

BLAKE KOZAK OF ST. CHARLES RECENTLY RETURNED from New Orleans where he served on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) during its 71st Annual Meeting, Feb. 14-17.

Kozak, sponsored by Clarke Electric, represented Iowa on the YLC, a national leadership group formed by NRECA and composed of 42 students from across the country. YLC members played an important role in NRECA's Annual Meeting, which drew more than 6,000 electric co-op leaders from around the country.

"It was really cool to be part of NRECA's Annual Meeting," Kozak said. "I learned so much about the energy industry and how public policy affects it. And I met people from all across the country. It was an amazing experience."

Kozak worked at the NRECA Congressional Action Center, encouraging cooperative members to contact their U.S. senators and representatives on key co-op issues, including protecting consumers and keeping electricity bills affordable.

The YLC kicked off the meeting by showcasing Kozak and his peers each carrying their state flag onto the stage to open the first general session.

Each state attending the Youth Tour selects a representative for the NRECA Youth Leadership Council. The YLC delegate then attends a weeklong summer Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., where participants take courses on leadership and deliver a speech

on what inspired them during the June Youth Tour. A national spokesperson is selected during this Leadership Conference to address both the NRECA Annual Meeting in the spring and the Youth Tour delegates the following summer in Washington, D.C.

NRECA is the service organization for the nation's more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, which provide electric service to 42 million people in 47 states.

Photo, top right: Blake Kozak with the Iowa flag he carried during the NRECA opening ceremony.

Photo, bottom left: Blake Kozak, second from left, during the flag ceremony.



Grand River Substation Gets a Boost

CREWS RECENTLY replaced three aged and failing single phase transformers with a rebuilt larger three phase transformer. This new transformer will give more capacity to the entire substation and perform better when the cooperative ties the load from one substation to another substation. This "tie" is used to shift load from an outage affected substation to keep power flowing to our members until the failure can be fixed.





Community Minded: Students Learn About Electric Utility Careers at Clarke Electric

RECENTLY STUDENTS from Clarke Community High School visited Clarke Electric to explore career possibilities in the electric utility industry. Lineman Doug Reasoner gave the students some hands on experience challenging them to use the, "tools of the trade" to perform simple tasks.



Photo, top right: Doug Reasoner demonstrates using a live line hot stick for the high school students.

Photo, bottom: Jason Gibbs, left, and Doug Reasoner, second from right, with the group of student visitors.

CLARKE ELECTRIC is always looking for ways to help its members stay safe around electricity. If you have a civic organization or even a group of friends looking for a speaker, please, contact Jason at Clarke Electric Cooperative, (641) 342-2173. The price is right...FREE.

Regulator Failure Causes Outage

EARLY IN THE MORNING HOURS ON Saturday, Jan. 30, a malfunction in a regulator, probably caused by moisture, at the Hopeville Substation caused an outage for members receiving power on the single phase line. The entire substation was shut down temporarily to safely remove the regulator. Additional crews were brought in to assist the call out crew. The linemen were able to replace the regulator with a reconditioned regulator and power restored. 05-21-07-02



January Outages

- Trees - 1
- Maintenance - 1
- Equipment failure - 3
- Customer caused - 2
- Fire - 1
- Unknown - 1



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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

David Opie, General Manager

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 7:30 am - 4 pm

Outside Depository Available 24 Hours

641.342.2173 | 800.362.2154

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider

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