



# CLARKE REC Headlines

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SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

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## Clarke Solar Farm Unveiling April 26

**M**EMBERS OF CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE AND the public are invited to attend the unveiling event of the Clarke Solar Farm Wednesday, April 26, 2017.

The event will begin at 2 p.m. at the site, located at 215 Leann Drive in Osceola.

In 2016, Clarke Electric and our power provider, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), launched a utility-based solar project to serve members throughout CEC's service territory. Clarke Solar Farm is part of Phase One of the CIPCO project that includes four additional solar sites across the state.

Quick facts about the Clarke Solar Farm:

- **1,584:** number of solar panels
- **44:** number of racking tables
- **636,780 kWh:** amount of energy produced in first year
- **63:** number of homes fully powered

Solar energy is an emission-free source of power and is a great addition to CIPCO's generation mix.

Please plan to join us April 26!



**IT'S APRIL AND THAT MEANS IT'S TIME TO THANK OUR** extraordinary line workers who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. At Clarke Electric, 10 dedicated line workers maintain over 1,800 miles of line in our service territory. Without them, our world would be dark.

Your cooperative has a hard working staff that helps keep everything running smoothly. But on April 10, we honor all line workers who often find themselves in dangerous and challenging situations, so our lives may be a little bit brighter and safer every day. These brave men repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for our rural communities. Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive.

"No matter the time of day or weather conditions, Clarke Electric linemen go out when the power goes out," said David Opie, CEC General Manager. "They work around the clock when needed, not quitting until power is restored to every last member. If you see our trucks in your area, be sure to thank them for keeping your lights on."

Remember, your power works because they do. Use #ThankALineman on social media to show your support.

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



**CLARKE**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Community Invested: Show You Care with RECare

**A** S A COOPERATIVE, CLARKE ELECTRIC TAKES PRIDE in being able to help our neighbors in need, and we encourage others to do the same. One easy way to make a difference is through the Clarke Electric RECare program.

### What is RECare?

RECare is a voluntary program available to all members of Clarke Electric Cooperative. Members may choose to make a one-time donation or a monthly donation in an amount that is added to your electric bill each month. Every year, the funds are distributed to community action agencies in our area for the purpose of helping low income members pay their heating bills or cover the cost of winterizing their homes.

### Where does my money go?

Your contribution stays in the community and is distributed to qualifying families by the area community action agencies. In 2016, Clarke Electric Cooperative members donated \$961 to RECare.

### How can I help?

Simply fill out the participation form shown here and send it to Clarke Electric Cooperative with your bill.

Thank you for your donation!

### Member Authorization Form

*Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members through the RECare program.*

- Enclosed is a check with a one-time donation.
- I would like to make a monthly donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail to: RECare, c/o Clarke Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 161, Osceola, Iowa 50213*



## + Safety Driven: Ditch Burning



**E**VERY YEAR ABOUT THIS time, Iowa farmers and other land managers use controlled burns to put nutrients back into the soil and revitalize the land. Clarke Electric would like to remind anyone who is burning to use caution in ditches where power poles are located because it can cause extensive damage to cooperative property and result in electric service issues.

In addition to endangering power poles, you should also be aware of any anchor guy assemblies or underground cabinets in the vicinity of the burn. Call the cooperative office at (641) 342-2173 if you have questions about what equipment is located in the area where you plan to burn.



### TYPES OF UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

Facilities are color-coded for easy identification, matching the flags that mark their location.

- Natural gas, oil, steam, petroleum, or other gaseous materials
- Potable water
- Sewer and drain lines
- Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit
- Electric power lines, cables, conduit, lighting cables

April is National Safe Digging Month

**811** Know what's below. Call before you dig.

**CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**  
Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested  
Your Tomorrow's Energy Cooperative



## The Cooperative Difference: Grassroots Efforts in Action



**DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES OF CLARKE ELECTRIC** Cooperative were at the State Capitol March 22 for the annual REC Day on the Hill.

Sponsored by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, REC Day on the Hill brings together electric cooperatives from across Iowa to the Capitol for an opportunity to meet face-to-face with elected officials. These meetings help lawmakers understand important issues facing Iowa's electric cooperatives and also gives cooperatives a chance to thank them for their efforts on behalf of their members. 20-03-04-00

While there, Clarke Electric representatives discussed the following:

- Utility owned solar: We are supportive of environmentally responsible power and are focused on incentives rather than mandates. Solar energy must be deployed in a way that works for all member-owners, not just some.
- Line personnel safety: We support any and all legislation that is focused on the safety of our line personnel.
- Skilled workforce policies: We support policies that will attract and retain skilled workers in the state of Iowa.

Pictured, from left: Board Member Larry Jackson, Journeyman Lineman Tim Lupkes, Manager of Member Services Jason Gibbs, General Manager David Opie, Board Members Kyle Kelso and Randy Rouse, Senator Amy Sinclair, Board Members Randy Barnard and Randy Gaumer.

To pay by phone call  
(844) 241-0266 and  
follow the prompts to  
hear your current  
balance and pay your bill.



# SAVE THE DATE

## Annual Meeting Sept. 11, 2017

**A** COOPERATIVE FUNCTIONS MOST EFFECTIVELY WITH strong leadership. Your board of directors is democratically elected from the membership to represent your interests and to provide long-term vision and directions.

Be sure to mark your calendar to attend your cooperative's annual meeting Monday, September 11 at the Clarke County Event Center.

During this meeting, members will have the opportunity to vote for three board seats up for election in Districts 1, 3 and 7. In May, a nominating committee representing those districts will be selected to nominate members for the board seats. Directors serve three-year terms and represent all cooperative members at monthly meetings.

If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, please contact Clarke Electric at (641) 342-2173. For a district map, visit [www.cecnet.net/content/service-territory](http://www.cecnet.net/content/service-territory).

## Working for You



CEC linemen stay ahead of a house move, removing overhead lines as the house passes through our service territory to its destination south of Allerton.



CEC linemen string and pull new wire on a section of our system south of Osceola and just west of I-35 near the County Road H45 exit. The heavier wire is part of a larger project to complete a three-phase tie line between the Hopeville, Osceola and I-35 substations. This will improve system reliability and provide redundancy on our system in order to backfeed power between substations.

## Help Your Cooperative Stop Copper Theft

**T**HE HEADLINES ARE EVERYWHERE – COPPER THIEVES can be relentless when it comes to taking risks just to make a few extra bucks. Electric utilities are typically targeted because electrical wire contains copper and it can be found in abundance left in areas such as in and around substations. That combined with high market prices per pound and a relatively easy way to convert copper to cash by selling it to scrap metal yards make copper theft tempting.

The payoff isn't worth risking a life, however. Substations are extremely dangerous because of the high transmission voltage they contain. As if the risk of serious injury or death isn't enough, theft of copper wire and equipment from electric utilities can be responsible for power outages, additional maintenance and expenses, and diminished service reliability.

"To a would-be thief, stealing copper may seem like a quick way to make a buck," said Don Lange, manager of operations. "But it's illegal, it's costly and it's not worth a life. Working with any metal and electricity is a dangerous combination, even for trained employees using proper equipment. The cost to members to replace a piece of \$3 junk wire costs \$125 for labor and materials to replace the stolen copper."

Here are ways you can help Clarke Electric prevent copper theft:

- Never enter or touch equipment inside a substation; stay away from power lines and anything touching a power line.
- If you notice anything unusual with electric facilities, such as an open substation gate, open equipment, or hanging wire, contact your electric co-op immediately.
- If you see anyone around electric substations or electric facilities other than co-op personnel or contractors, call the police.
- Store tools and wire cutters in a secure location, and never leave them out while you are away.
- If you work in construction, do not leave any wires or plumbing unattended or leave loose wire at the job site, especially overnight.
- Help spread the word about the deadly consequences that can result from trying to steal copper or aluminum.

If you notice anything unusual, call Clarke Electric Cooperative immediately at (641) 342-2173. If you see anyone other than co-op personnel or contractors around substations or other electric facilities, call the police. 51-10-01-01



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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

[www.cecnet.net](http://www.cecnet.net)

## A GUIDE TO LIGHTNING SAFETY

Each year, thunderstorms produce around 25 million cloud-to-ground flashes of lightning.

Here's what you need to know to stay safe.

### SEEK SHELTER

No place outside  
is safe during a thunderstorm.

#### WHEN YOU HEAR THUNDER



Move to a substantial building or an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle with windows up.



Stay in shelter at least 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder.



Stay off corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment.



Avoid plumbing – sinks, baths and faucets.



Stay away from windows and doors.

#### WHEN CAUGHT OUTSIDE WITH NO SAFE SHELTER

- Crouch down resting on the balls of your feet, get as low as possible but **never lay down**.
- Touch your heels together to minimize the chance of electricity traveling through your body.
- Place your hands over your ears to minimize hearing loss.
- Don't touch any possible conductors.

## WHEN LIGHTNING STRIKES

Persons injured do not carry electrical charge.  
You can help without being shocked.



#### CALL 911 & GIVE FIRST AID

Start CPR if the person is unresponsive or not breathing.

Sources: National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Artwork courtesy of Marshfield Clinic.

#### Board of Directors

Randy Barnard, New Virginia  
Randy Gaumer, Murray  
Larry Jackson, Clío  
Larry Keller, Osceola  
Kyle Kelso, Weldon  
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