



CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

Volume No. 77 No. 12 | December 2017

The Power of Iowa's Electric Cooperatives

OWNEED BY THE MEMBERS WE SERVE, IOWA'S NOT-for-profit electric cooperatives power the lives of 650,000 people throughout all 99 counties and are committed to delivering power that is safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible.

Serving primarily rural areas, Iowa's electric co-ops serve 80 percent of the state's landmass and maintain enough power lines to wrap around the equator two and a half times!

Electric cooperatives aren't like other types of utilities; we're locally owned by the members we serve and governed by an elected board of directors who are member-owners of the cooperative. That's why those who receive electric service from us are called members, not customers. Without members, there would be no Clarke Electric Cooperative. Members democratically control our co-op by electing fellow members to serve on the board of directors. This is because co-ops are member-controlled and founded on seven cooperative principles that provide guidance and strategic direction. Through our guiding principles, Clarke

Electric is connected to you. As an owner of the co-op, you have a right to know how it operates and how decisions are made.

"We're committed to providing the best possible service to our members throughout the community," said Dave

continued on pg. 2

Iowa's electric co-ops maintain enough power lines to wrap around the equator

2.5 TIMES!

We serve

80%

of Iowa's land mass

Electric co-ops power the lives of 650,000 IOWANS throughout all 99 counties



Your cooperative family wishes you a safe and blessed holiday season.

Thank you for your support!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for an easy way to make your home cozier this winter? Try using an area rug to increase the insulation levels of your floors. Area rugs are stylish and can help keep cold air from entering through your floors. Your toes will thank you!

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



The Clarke Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 25 and Tuesday, Dec. 26 for Christmas, and Monday, Jan. 1 for New Year's.

Reading pays! We have hidden two of our members' account numbers in this issue. If you find your member location number, call during December 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 



Energy Smart: Energy Efficiency All Year 'Round

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO THIS WINTER? TAKE the initiative to increase the energy efficiency of your home for year-round comfort. And, you can trim your electric bill by taking a few simple steps.

"Saving money and finding energy efficiencies in the home is important to our members," said Jason Gibbs. "That's why Clarke Electric has energy efficiency programs to support and educate our members."

Here's a list of recommendations for year-round energy and money savings:

- Remember to lower your thermostat a few degrees in the winter. A programmable thermostat makes it easy to keep your home the right temperature all year long. As the weather cools down, pull up your window shades. Keeping blinds open during cold weather lets heat from sunlight in, reducing the need to turn up your home's thermostat.
- Stop air from escaping your home by sealing leaky ducts.



A little caulk can go a long way. Air leaks in your home add up. Caulking cracks and openings to the outside could save more than \$200 a year.

- Changing filters is important. Dirty filters can restrict air flow and reduce the overall efficiency of your HVAC system, forcing it to work harder on cold winter days or hot summer days.
- Fall is a great time to check the insulation in your attic. For those mild fall days, a fan is a much more energy-efficient choice than cranking up the air conditioning. Fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave.

Clarke Electric is dedicated to being an energy efficiency resource for our members. To learn more about how you can save money through energy efficiency practices, visit our web site at www.cecnet.net.

Power...from pg. 1

Opie, general manager. "When our members succeed, so does Clarke Electric."

We believe the cooperative business model is the best one on earth, but like any enterprise, it is up to the human beings who work at the co-op, who serve on the board and members like you to ensure that the principles and values do not fade over time. We welcome your input, ideas and participation so Clarke Electric can continue meeting your needs for years to come.

Committed to powering lives and empowering communities, electric co-ops have been guided by seven core principles since the beginning:



Voluntary and open membership



Democratic member control



Members' economic participation



Autonomy and independence



Education, training and information



Cooperation among cooperatives



Concern for community

We strive to be thought of as a member-owned cooperative that provides all members with safe, reliable, environmentally-friendly electricity at the lowest possible long-term cost. Through success, our community thrives and you will always value being a member – not a customer.

Do I Need a Power Strip or a Surge Protector?

EVERY DAY, OUR LIVES ARE DRAMATICALLY impacted by electronics and the need for electricity. Often times, we're short on power outlets, particularly in older homes. We end up using power strips and surge protectors, but which one is correct?

Choose a power strip for typical, and less expensive electronics. Look for power strips with a built-in circuit breaker. If you connect too many electronics and devices, the strip will kick out the circuit breaker rather than causing the breaker in your electric panel to trip. Consider getting a smart strip, where one outlet serves as a master, receiving power all the time. The other outlets do not receive power until the master device is turned on. This is ideal for home entertainment setups.

If you are connecting expensive electronics, you may want to consider a surge protector. Like power strips, there are some key factors to consider when buying a surge protector. Look for surge protectors with a higher joule rating, which measures how much energy it can handle. Your device should have an indicator light that shows if protection has burned out and act as a smart strip as mentioned before.





CLARKE ELECTRIC CREWS finished working in the Williamson area making a system improvement to alleviate failing underground infrastructure. The three miles of line were identified as a problem area in the cooperative's construction work plan during our annual planning. Our field staking engineer begins the work by assessing the area to determine the most efficient route to locate the poles and lines while balancing the load the lines will carry to the end user, you, our member.

The underground and aged 8A copper weld single phase line was replaced with #2ACSR multi-phase line and approximately 60 new poles set in the three mile span.

In the photo above, crews are "dead ending" the line which means this is where the service will stop. In the picture to the right, crews work to sag in newly constructed multi-phase line.



The Cooperative Difference: Check Out the SmartHub App

MANY OF US ARE ON THE GO AND WANT TO BE ABLE to get the information we need and want from the convenience of our smart device.

Clarke Electric Cooperative now has a way to give our members this information via the SmartHub app. You can go to the App Store for iOS users, the Google Play store for Android users or visit www.smarthubapp.com to download the SmartHub app.

Once installed, you can search by cooperative name or location to find your electric provider (Clarke Electric Cooperative, Osceola, IA). If you are a current e-bill user, you can access your account information by logging in with your current username and password. If you are a new user, click "new user" to set up a new account, then click "register." You will need your billing account number, your last name and an email address to register. You will need to answer a security question and confirm zip code. A temporary password will be emailed to you. Enter the temporary password at login and then you can change the password to one you want. Then, simply launch the app. 57-36-01-08

On the SmartHub app, members can:

- Check their kWh usage (for the week, year or previous year)
- See current and past bills
- View the outage map
- Contact Clarke Electric
- Pay their bill on-line
- Report an outage
- Access several other reports and features



Clarke Electric wants to make sure our members have access to the information they need no matter what time of day. We hope this makes your experience with Clarke Electric a little bit better.

October Outages

- Equipment failure - 6
- Maintenance - 1
- Trees - 2
- Wind - 1
- Lightning - 9
- Animal/bird-2
- Motor vehicle - 2
- Unknown - 2

Looking Out
for You

Sometimes, keeping up with the Joneses is about keeping your electric bills down.

When you save energy, it helps our entire co-op lower its costs. Find out what you can do at TogetherWeSave.com, and spread the word to your neighbors.



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

100% Renewable Energy Cooperative

Safety Driven: Winter Weather



Be Ready! Winter Weather

Weatherproof your home to protect against the cold.

- Install a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector in your home.
- Have your chimney or flue inspected every year.
- Make sure the batteries are working!
- Insulate walls and attic.
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.

Check out more tips on winter weather indoor safety.

Never leave lit candles or other flames unattended.

Bring your pets indoors as temperatures drop!

Prepare yourself for exposure to winter weather.

- Dress warmly and limit exposure to the cold to prevent frostbite.
- Avoid getting wet to prevent hypothermia.

If power lines are down, call your local utility and emergency services.

Make sure your car is ready for winter travel.

- Check antifreeze level and have radiator system serviced.
- Replace worn tires and check tire air pressure.
- Keep gas tank full to avoid ice in tank and fuel lines.
- Make a winter emergency kit to keep in your car.

If power lines fall on your car, warn people not to touch the car or power lines.

www.cdc.gov

Clarke Electric cares about our members and we want to help ensure your safety during the upcoming winter weather season. It's important to stay safe and warm during a winter weather emergency.



LEDs Cut Cost of Christmas Cheer

THOMAS EDISON DISPLAYED THE FIRST STRAND OF electric Christmas lights in 1880 outside his Menlo Park, New Jersey laboratory. Two years later, his partner, Edward H. Johnson, hand-wired 80 red, white and blue bulbs together and wrapped them around his Christmas tree. 27-35-03-02

For more than a century, incandescent bulbs dominated holiday lighting, but more recently, light emitting diodes (LEDs) have caught on with how consumers decorate for the holidays. Seasonal decorations are a \$12 billion annual market, which now

includes consumer lighting, ornaments, inflatables, artificial trees and table or mantle displays. LEDs are enticing consumers to buy more, and go bigger and brighter, even as they use far less energy. A 1,000-bulb string of incandescent miniatures consumes about 408 watts of energy compared to an equal LED string's 48 watts. Since most residential circuits operate at a maximum load of 15 to 20 amps, up to three outlets might be needed for the incandescent strings to prevent overload, while the LEDs would use a single outlet. Incandescent bulbs are rated to perform for up to 2,000 hours while LEDs have been designed and tested to last 20,000 hours or more.



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
PO Box 161, 1103 N Main, Osceola, IA 50213-0161
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Board of Directors
Randy Barnard, New Virginia
Larry Jackson, Clío
Larry Keller, Osceola
Kyle Kelso, Weldon
Cody Miller, Thayer
Randy Rouse, Corydon
Ed White, Osceola
Bill Willis, New Virginia
Lydda Youmans, Indianola

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 and employer.

www.cecnet.net