



Energy Smart: Cooperative Unveils Solar Farm

CENTRAL IOWA POWER COOPERATIVE (CIPCO) AND Clarke Electric Cooperative showcased the Clarke Solar Farm, one of CIPCO's 5.5 MW utility-scale solar project sites, April 26.

The Clarke Solar Farm has the capacity to generate 636,780 kWh of energy in its first year, enough to fully power 63 homes. Solar adds an additional emission and carbon-free generation resource to the mix of power serving Clarke Electric Cooperative members.

"Clarke Electric is excited to be a part of the solar project," said David Opie, general manager. "Enhancing the diversification of the energy provided to our members strengthens the overall generation capacity."

CIPCO launched Iowa's first utility-owned solar project on five sites across the service delivery territory in early 2016. All sites were fully energized in late 2016 and the CIPCO 5.5 MW solar system is Iowa's largest operating solar energy system. This multi-site solar installation is the first phase in CIPCO's long-term plan to incorporate solar as an additional environmentally-friendly resource within the generation portfolio.

"CIPCO is proud to reveal the new solar field in Osceola," stated *continued on pg. 2*



Pictured, from left: Manager of Finance & Office Services Tim Marienau, Board President Kyle Kelso, General Manager David Opie, Manager of Engineering Brad Wilson, Manager of Operations Don Lange, former Board Members Tom Carson and Frank Riley and Board Member Randy Rouse.



David Opie addresses the crowd during the unveiling event for the Clarke Solar Farm April 26.



Community Invested: 2017 Youth Tour Winner

CLARKE ELECTRIC Cooperative proudly announces the selection of Ally Bedwell to represent the cooperative on this year's Youth Tour.

Ally is a junior at Interstate 35 High School in Truro. She will join 40 other students from Iowa on Youth Tour, and more than 1,500 from rural electric cooperatives all across the nation in Washington, D.C. in June.

Congratulations, Ally!



General Manager David Opie congratulates Ally Bedwell for earning a spot on Youth Tour.

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



The Cooperative Difference: Your Rates

CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE EXISTS TO SERVE OUR members by being safety driven, energy smart and community invested. This is the mission statement of your cooperative. At Clarke Electric, the people who receive electricity are not just customers, they are members of our cooperative. Members enjoy certain rights that customers don't have with other electric providers. For instance, as a member of Clarke Electric, you can choose to run for a board seat. Because you can vote in the annual election for the board candidates of your choice, our board is composed of people who live and work in the very territory that we serve.

Many people, however, don't understand the various ways their membership in a cooperative affects their rates. At Clarke Electric, our rates are based on two main components – the actual cost of the wholesale power we buy from the company that generates electricity, and the cost for us to get that power to you. Our power provider, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), (which also is a cooperative), sets their wholesale power costs. Clarke Electric has a seat on CIPCO's board of directors and a voice in their operations. As a cooperative, CIPCO works hard to keep rates low, while guaranteeing a stable supply of electricity.

The second component – the cost for Clarke Electric to get power to you – is all other operational costs, including the cost for poles and lines, the cost and maintenance of trucks and buildings, actual employee costs like wages and benefits, and the costs associated with maintaining records, like the printing and mailing of bills.

One of the biggest advantages of being served by a cooperative is that we work only for you; we don't have stockholders expecting a big quarterly dividend. We are a not-for-profit enterprise, which means we exist only to provide you with economical, reliable service. We do accumulate some money, which is figured into your rates, that is used for capital improvements. It helps us build many

of the expensive improvements required for us to provide a reliable service. Any money collected in excess of those required funds is allocated to each member account as patronage capital. Patronage capital, or capital credits as they are often called, represents your investment in the cooperative and all its assets. While capital credits are generally returned every year, our board of directors, that you elect, considers each year whether or not we have the ability to return some of these investment dollars to our members.

Our obligation to our members is to provide, improve and maintain safe and reliable electricity across our territory while ensuring financial stability. We continue to seek and learn new technologies, enhance and rebuild electric distribution infrastructure, advance physical and cyber security initiatives, achieve strategic objectives, and provide you with a cleaner, more efficient power while maintaining electric rates. Like so many things in our lives, continuing to do all of these things has a cost and those costs continue to increase along with our cost of living.

During the past year, Clarke Electric has been scrutinizing revenue and operational expenses. Key metrics that help us manage revenue and expenses are financial forecasts, annual budgets, cost of service studies, environmental regulations and what others are seeing in the industry. These key metrics are signaling to us that we will likely need to raise our rates.

Over the next several months, individuals from Clarke Electric, CIPCO (our power supplier), and CFC (our financial lending institution) will continue to review revenue and expenses. The bottom line is that we will balance the obligation to cover our cost of providing you safe, affordable and environmentally responsible electric service while maintaining the financial integrity of the cooperative. As we complete the studies and forecasts, we will keep you informed. Look for more information in future Clarke REC Headlines newsletters.



DAVID OPIE

The Clarke Electric office will be closed Monday, May 29, in observance of **MEMORIAL DAY**

March Outages
Trees – 5
Maintenance – 1
House move – 4
Lightning – 3
Wind – 3
Motor vehicle – 2
Animal/bird – 3

Looking Out for You

Solar Farm...from pg. 1

CEO Dennis Murdock. "Partnering with our member, Clarke Electric Cooperative, provided access to an exceptional site for solar generation."

Utility-scale solar provides reliable, clean electricity generation and complements CIPCO's existing energy generation portfolio. The development and installation costs for utility-scale systems have fallen significantly in recent years creating an opportunity for CIPCO to invest in this alternative, carbon-free resource. CIPCO's current generation portfolio is nearly 60 percent emission and carbon-free.

Director Election Time

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS ELECTED BY AND FROM the membership of Clarke Electric Cooperative. Being a director for Clarke Electric is a great opportunity to learn more about your cooperative, work with local legislators and give back to your community. A director must have the time to attend monthly board meetings, other special meetings and educational seminars designed to keep them informed about the cooperative and utility industry.

Three seats are up for election this year and will be elected at the Annual Meeting September 11. You can exercise your right to vote by mailing in a ballot or coming to the meeting to vote, enjoy a free meal and entertainment. 21-19-01-05

If you are interested in serving as a board member, call (800) 362-2154.

Districts up for election this year are:

- District 1 – Bill Willis
- District 3 – Randy Gaumer
- District 7 – Larry Jackson

The following are excerpts from the Cooperative Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation regarding director elections.

Article III Section 2 Qualifications and Tenure, From and after the annual meeting in 2014, "No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative, whose primary residence is not served by the Cooperative, or who is in any way employed by or who is married to an employee of the Cooperative or who has been an employee or married to an employee of the Cooperative within the past three years or who is financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative."

Article III, Section 3. Nomination and Election of Directors, It shall be the duty of the board to appoint, not less than 60 days and not more than 90 days before the date for the meeting of members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations. Said committee shall consist of two members from each of the districts where the terms are to expire following the annual meeting. A director of the Cooperative, who is ineligible to be a candidate because of tenure, may be appointed to the nominating committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the cooperative, at least 45 days before the meeting a list of the nominees for directors. The committee shall be encouraged, but shall not be required, to nominate not less than two candidates for each district for which a director is to be elected.

Any fifteen or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition not less than 45 days prior to the meeting and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted, providing that said nominations made by petition shall be limited to members from the district for which a director is to be elected and the petitioners must also be from said district.

(b) Election of Directors "Election of directors shall be by printed ballot. The ballot shall list the candidates nominated by the committee on nominations and by petition, if any, arranged by the districts. The secretary shall mail a ballot marked, "Ballot for Election of Directors" and a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee andby petition. The statement shall also contain and inform the members of the manner in which they may vote by mail for directors as provided in this section."



Job Shadow

LINEMAN CHAD MCINTOSH'S SON, HUNTER, AND DOUG Reasoner's son, Matthew, had an up close and personal look at "a day in the life" of a lineman recently. The two youth took advantage of a job shadowing opportunity made available through the Murray Community Schools and spent the day watching their fathers' daily responsibilities.

Safety Driven: Car vs. Pole

RECENTLY A CAR LOST control on a wet highway and struck a pole, breaking it into two pieces. Remember to stay in your vehicle if you hit a utility pole until a utility worker arrives on the scene or unless the scene becomes unsafe, such as if there is a fire.

Be careful of downed power lines and assume all wires are energized and could seriously injure or kill you. An electrical current doesn't always turn off when a power line is down.

If you've been in an accident, passersby may run over to help you. However, you should warn people to stay away if you're able. Power lines are dangerous and no one should come near them until the power has been cut by Clarke Electric or another electric utility.

If you must leave the vehicle jump with both feet landing on the ground at the same time and hop with your feet together to safety. Keeping your feet together minimizes the path of electricity through your body to the ground.



McIntosh and Dommer Ready to Take Charge

CLARKE ELECTRIC WILL SEE A SHIFT IN DUTIES MAY 1st when Chad McIntosh takes over as the Manager of Operations. Chad will work alongside Don Lange until he retires at the end of June.

Chad has over 22 years of experience in the utility industry; the last 18 years have been with the cooperative. He is a native of Osceola and he and his family reside just outside of town.



Chad is a graduate of Clarke Community High School and Northwestern Iowa Community College. From 1995 to 1998 he worked for contractors. In 1998, he was hired as an apprentice lineman at Clarke Electric and quickly moved up the pole to journeyman lineman, and then as foreman, a position he has held for the last 14 years.

Chad will make the transition smoothly as he already has extensive knowledge of the system and our members. He will be responsible for leading a team of ten employees to safely and efficiently maintain the integrity of the system. Replacing aged infrastructure, maintaining the right-of-way program, improving reliability and efficiently handling outage restorations are at the top of the list in providing great member services.

Dommer Fills Foreman Position



Cory Dommer will step into the role of Foreman that will be vacated by Chad McIntosh. Cory began his career with the cooperative in 2002 as an apprentice lineman and achieved his journeyman status in 2006. He is a graduate of Moravia High School and Northwest Iowa Community College. He was also a reservist in the Army National Guard, serving one deployment in Afghanistan. He is very familiar with the responsibilities of foreman and is eager

to get started. He, his wife Kelsie, and their two daughters live south of Osceola near Woodburn.

Please join us in congratulating Chad and Cory on their new positions!

Call Us First if You're Planning to Upgrade or Build a New Electric Service

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING INCREASING THE SIZE OF an existing electric service, or requesting a new service, Clarke Electric Cooperative has a questionnaire you should



NICK GANNON

review. Your answers to these items will help your cooperative meet its electrical needs. We don't want to waste your time, so be sure to have your questionnaire handy prior to your first call to us. 52-20-01-00

New Service:

1. Where is the new property located?

Address:

Township, range and section number:

2. Is the new home/building staked out on the property?

3. Is the driveway also staked or laid out?

4. What type of heating and appliances will be utilized? Electric / Gas / Wood (heat)

5. What is the KW size of the heating unit?

6. Will there be any other outbuildings constructed now or in the foreseeable future?

Existing Service Upgrade:

If you are making any changes to your existing service, you may need to upgrade. Consult both your electrical contractor and Clarke Electric Cooperative as you plan your project so that we can work together to meet your expectations. You may need to upgrade if you are:

- Building a new home to replace your existing home
- Adding an addition to your current home
- Building a new outbuilding/shop
- Adding a grain bin or large motor load to your existing service
- Updating your panel size in your home

It is important to us to know any additional electric load you plan to add to your existing service. If you are not sure of the size of your service don't hesitate to call in and request that information. This will assure that Clarke Electric continues to provide you with proper and reliable electrical service.



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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

www.cecnet.net

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