



CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED **Volume No. 79 No. 2 | February 2019**

Youth Tour Contest Deadlines

If you're a high school junior considering applying for the 2019 Youth Tour trip offered by Clarke Electric Cooperative, don't wait! Apply today!

March 4: Application deadline.
March 15: Essay deadline. Topic: *Of the seven cooperative principles, which two do you feel are most important and why?* Entries should be typed on one side of an 8.5x11" paper, no more than 500 words and a maximum of two pages.

April 3: Candidate interviews.
June 14-20: Youth Tour!

To download the Youth Tour application and find more information, visit www.cecnet.net or call Jason at (641) 342-2173.

Looking Out for You: December Outages

- Animal/Bird: 4
- Equipment/maintenance failure: 4
- Customer Caused: 1
- Maintenance: 1
- Trees: 1

Get Your News by E-Mail

If you would like to receive "Headlines" by email, just let us know. You can call or email us at Clarke@cecnet.net. Newsletters are issued at the beginning of each month.



**P.O. Box 161 1103 N. Main
Osceola, IA 50213-0161
www.cecnet.net**

Adjustments Keep Cooperative Balanced

I T IS NOW THE SECOND MONTH OF 2019 and the cooperative is putting our business plan into action. Each department is working under the budget approved by the board of directors at its December board meeting.

Sometimes a business plan calls for adjustments. Those adjustments are necessary to keep the cooperative on the right track. We make adjustments in our personal lives all the time. When our back hurts from shoveling snow, we may need a chiropractor's adjustment. If our car slips on icy roads and runs into a curb or embankment, it will need an alignment before too long.

Similar to our body or our vehicles, our cooperative's rates or components of rates need adjustments from time to time. Your cooperative staff and board continually review and analyze all the components of our rates, and we have outside consulting entities that help us, too. The goal is to find balance between charging what's fair

without overcharging and making sure we charge enough to cover our operational costs.

Our initial analysis revealed two areas to address: the first is our Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) that is unchanged since 2006. The second is our Heat Rate that hasn't changed since 2012. Both of these rate components need minor adjustments to create consistency and parity for our members.

After we complete the analysis review, we will communicate to our members the appropriate course of action, which will likely include adjustments. We believe these small adjustments will better align our revenue, just like aligning our back or a vehicle's front end. When we are aligned, our cooperative can move forward in a healthy manner.



DAVE OPIE
General Manager

Annual Notice of Complaint Procedure

CLARKE ELECTRIC STRIVES TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE BEST SERVICE AT the lowest possible cost. But sometimes you may have questions regarding your electrical service or billing, or possibly a complaint. If you have a complaint, you can contact us at: (641) 342-2173 or toll-free at (800) 362-2154; or write to Member Advocate, Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc., 1103 N. Main St., Osceola, IA 50213. 15-04-01-05

If you have a complaint related to Clarke Electric's service rather than its rates, and your complaint is not resolved, you may ask for assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling (515) 725-7321 or toll-free (877) 565-4450, by writing to 1375 E. Court Ave., Room 69; Des Moines, IA 50319-0069, or by email to customer@iub.iowa.gov.

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

Farm Bill Provisions Support Rural Economic Development

AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE 2018 Farm Bill was signed into law in late December, providing some certainty and stability for the years ahead. Clarke Electric would like to recognize the efforts of Senator Joni Ernst, who served on the 2018 Farm Bill Conference Committee, for her tireless work in securing key provisions that will boost Iowa's ag industry. We are also thankful to the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association for their advocacy efforts on our behalf. 40-24-01-04

There are several provisions within the \$867 billion Farm Bill that are very helpful to electric cooperatives as we work to modernize rural communities. Specifically, funding for economic development efforts has been secured that will help electric co-ops across the country retain and create jobs in rural areas. In fact, Iowa's electric co-ops have been working with the USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG) for decades to



Committed to the future of rural communities.

support economic development and job growth in rural Iowa. The REDLG program provides funding for rural projects through zero-interest loans to local electric cooperatives, which they, in turn, pass through to local businesses for projects to create and retain employment in rural areas. The local businesses repay the lending co-op directly, and the co-op is responsible for repayment to USDA.

Before passage of the bill, future funding for the REDLG program was in question. But with the 2018 Farm Bill now signed into law, REDLG funding has been secured so electric co-ops can continue to provide financing for job growth projects within and beyond our service areas. After the current formula for REDLG funding expires

in 2021, the \$5 million of mandatory funding that Sen. Ernst helped secure will kick in. These funds will be in addition to the traditional discretionary



JASON GIBBS

funds that are typically appropriated to the program, ensuring Iowa's electric co-ops can help fuel economic development well into the future.

This is great news for Clarke Electric and for the Iowa Area Development Group, the business and community development organization for Iowa's electric cooperatives, which provides technical assistance and development services to Iowa businesses and communities. Participating in the REDLG program is a major component of our core cooperative principle to invest in the communities we serve.

To learn more about REDLG eligibility and economic development services in our area, contact me at jgibbs@cecnet.net or at (641) 342-2173.

The Cooperative Difference: Clarke Electric Leaders Attend Legislative Reception

CEC BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF were among 150 representatives from Iowa electric cooperatives Jan. 15 to attend the Annual Welcome Back Legislative Reception in Des Moines.

Pictured below, from left: Jason Gibbs, manager of member services; Board Members Larry Jackson and Kyle Kelso, Sen.

Amy Sinclair; Rep. Scott Ourth; Dave Opie, general manager; Sam Walkup, manager of financial services; and Board Member Cody Miller. The event is sponsored by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives, the Iowa Communications

Iowa's electric cooperatives will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues that allow Iowa's member-owned electric cooperatives to continue providing safe, reliable, affordable, and environmentally-responsible power to more than 650,000 Iowans.

Electric cooperative representatives from all parts of the state will travel to the state capitol for the annual REC Day on the Hill March 20, another opportunity to discuss important issues with Iowa legislators.



Pictured, from left: Jason Gibbs, Rep. Joel Fry, and Dave Opie.



Alliance and the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Stores of Iowa.

In the coming months, the Iowa General Assembly will discuss topics pertinent to Iowa's rural economy. Beginning with the Welcome Back Legislative Reception,



Energy Smart: Take Advantage of CEC's 2019 Rebates

CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE PROVIDES OUR MEMBERS with ways to save on your energy budget. We offer rebates on the following products that will provide substantial savings for your home. Visit www.cecnet.net for more information on how to apply!

APPLIANCES: When replacing appliances always look for ENERGY STAR®-qualified appliances. Appliances can account for 13 percent of your energy bill. ENERGY STAR-qualified appliances incorporate advanced technologies that use 10-50 percent less energy and water than standard models.

ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer	
With electric water heater	\$40/unit
ENERGY STAR Clothes Dryer	\$20/unit

PULL THE PLUG APPLIANCE RECYCLING: Contact Clarke Electric to request collection and recycling of your old, working refrigerator, freezer or window air conditioner and receive an incentive for up to three operable units per address. Curbside pick up and recycling is done by the cooperative's contractor.

Refrigerator	\$35/unit
Freezer	\$25/unit
Window Air Conditioner	\$25/unit

INDOOR AIR QUALITY: Equipment must serve the entire conditioned space of the home. Limit of two air quality systems per home.

Heat Recovery Ventilator (HRV)	\$250/unit
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HEATING AND COOLING: As much as half of the energy used in your home goes to heating and cooling. So making smart decisions about your home's heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system can have a big effect on your utility bills – and your comfort.

Geothermal Heat Pump	
Closed loop system	\$450/ton (AHRI listing)
Open loop system	\$300/ton (AHRI listing; no "pump & dump" systems)
G.S.H.P. Replacement	\$150/ton
Air-Source Heat Pump	\$200/ton (ASHP units over 3/4 ton, including mini-split system)
Hybrid System	\$300/ton
ENERGY STAR Bonus	\$250/unit (Min. SEER 15.0, EER 12.5, HSPF 8.5)
ENERGY STAR Central AC	\$100/unit (Min. SEER 15.0 & EER 12.5)

LIGHTING: Lighting is one of the easiest places to start saving energy. With up to 12 percent of your energy use at home attributed to lighting, replacing your five most frequently used light fixtures or the bulbs in them with ENERGY STAR-qualified lights can save \$70 a year in energy costs.

Interior Lighting	
Residential ENERGY STAR Hardwired and Screw-in Fixtures	50% of price paid for qualified products (up to \$5/fixture)

Lighting, continued...

Qualified products include: ENERGY STAR LED fixtures, and ENERGY STAR ceiling fans with light kits

Maximum incentive of \$5 per fixture and \$600 per home. Household limits applies to a 5-year period. (Installs prior to 1/1/2013 are exempt.) Minimum 4 watts per unit.

OUTDOOR SECURITY LIGHTING

ENERGY STAR LED or DLC Qualified Fixtures	\$10/fixture (20-34W)
	\$20/fixture (35-49W)
	\$40/fixture (50-74W)
	\$50/fixture (75-124W)
	\$60/fixture (125W +)

New lighting fixtures must be more energy efficient (lower wattage) than original installed fixtures.

WATER HEATERS: From warm showers to clean dishes, we count on hot water. In fact, the average household spends \$400-\$600 per year on water heating – making it the second largest energy expenditure behind heating and cooling. Depending on the technology you choose, you can cut your water heating costs in half!

ENERGY STAR Heat Pump Water Heater	\$650/unit
Electric Resistance Storage Tank Water Heater	\$50/unit (45-55 gal. tank-min. EF 0.90)

WEATHERIZATION: Weatherizing your home will put money back in your pocket every month. It's that simple. On average, weatherization helps homeowners reduce their energy consumption by 25-30 percent – a savings of \$600 per year, every year. Older homes save even more – around 35 percent or more!

Requirements are you must have electric heat and/or central air conditioning.

- Home must be built prior to 1996.
- Must be upgrade to existing home (new additions do not qualify)
- Project cost must be \$150 or more (labor costs for self-installed projects cannot be included).

Maximum incentive per home	\$2,200 (w/electric heat; with/without AC)
	\$300 (w/ central AC only and non-electric heat)

NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION: Building an All-Star Home is the maximum goal you can obtain toward energy efficiency and will result in putting the most money back in your pocket.

All-Star Home	\$500/home (new construction, all electric heat, water heating and appliances)
Premier Electric Home <i>(new construction, heat pump, electric water heating, and appliances)</i>	\$200/home

OTHER PROGRAMS

Electric Vehicle Level II Charger	\$500/vehicle
	\$500



Community Invested: Supporting Wayne Co. Housing Development



Clarke Electric presents a check for \$1,000 to Wayne County Housing Development to aid with the cost of a housing study. Pictured, from left: CEC Manager of Member Services Jason Gibbs; Caleb Housh, Denise Becker and Dave Dotts, Wayne Co. Housing Development committee members; CEC Director Larry Jackson; Wayne Co. Housing Development Committee Member Jared Chambers; and CEC Director Randy Rouse.

Your February Bill Might Surprise You

YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED that your February energy bill is higher than what you would normally expect. The cold snaps we experienced in January were a contributing factor to this. Not surprisingly, sub-zero temperatures and wind chills kick our furnaces into high gear. Sometimes during these periods of extreme cold we add other heat sources such as space heaters, stock tank heaters, vehicle/tractor heaters, electric blankets or even long, hot showers or baths.

The best thing you can do to prepare for higher bills is to understand your energy use and habits. It's easy to do if you log in to

your account online at www.cecnet.net and view your kWh usage. And if you haven't done so yet, download the SmartHub app to view your usage, track and pay your bill, view current and past bills and access several other reports and features. 39-01-01-03

As always, if you have questions regarding your energy use or electric bill, contact CEC Member Service Manager Jason Gibbs, (641) 342-2173.



Statement of Nondiscrimination

IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL CIVIL

rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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

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

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