



CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative



SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED **Volume No. 81 No. 11 | November 2021**



Office Closed

The Clarke Electric Cooperative office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans Day and Thursday-Friday, Nov. 25-26 for Thanksgiving. From the board of directors, general manager and employees, we hope your Thanksgiving holiday is an enjoyable one. We thank you for your support, and we pledge to do our best each day to serve you.

Considering Solar?

If you are a CEC member-consumer who is considering installing solar at your home or farm, please contact the cooperative before signing any contracts. We want to be sure you understand how a solar interconnection with our system can impact your current account and billing rate. 48-12-01-02

Looking Out for You: September Outages

- Animal/bird: 5
- Equipment/Maintenance failure: 3
- Trees – 2
- Unknown - 2
- Customer Caused – 1



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

Are You Eligible for a Discount Heat Rate?

THE CHANGE IN WEATHER reminds us that winter and colder temperatures is upon us. Many of us have already turned on our heat to warm up our homes and businesses. I want to remind folks about Clarke Electric Cooperative's Heat Rate program and how it works.

Clarke Electric Cooperative members who use electric heat as their primary heat source, and use an electric water heater for their hot water needs, qualify for a special discount on the energy they use to heat their home or shop.

Every year beginning Oct. 1 and ending May 31, all of the heating kilowatt-hours used are calculated at a rate of 5.8 cents per kilowatt-hour (\$0.058/kWh) instead of the regular retail price of 11.3 cents per kilowatt-hour (\$0.113/kWh). This is a very good discount that will save qualifying member-consumers up to 50% on their winter heating bills. Additionally, in order

to utilize the heat rate, a separate meter must be installed.

You qualify for the heat rate if you have any of the following heating systems:

- Geothermal
- Air-Source Heat Pump (mini-split)
- Electric furnace
- Electric boiler
- Electric baseboard heat




JASON GIBBS

If you are a member who already has a heat meter it is important that the breaker powering the meter is always left on. This is because it allows the cooperative to read your meter and also prevents it from indicating there is an outage.


The heat rate is primarily for residential customers, but your business may also qualify. For more details, please visit www.cecnet.net or call me at (641) 342-2173.

Use Space Heaters Safely


DON'T: Leave your space heater unattended. Always unplug it before you leave the house or go to bed.




DON'T: Place your space heater near curtains, clothing, furniture or bedding.



DON'T: Use an extension cord to plug in your space heater. It can cause the heater to overheat, and can be a tripping hazard.





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

It's a Matter of (Co-op!) Principles

FOR ME, THIS IS A TIME OF YEAR for reflection, and topping my list of things I'm grateful for is our wonderful community. Businesses such as United Farmers Cooperative, Agriland FS, and Clarke Electric Cooperative all share something in common: we're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our member-consumers and helping our communities thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. As we look at things we are thankful for, this is the perfect time to reflect on the principles that have stood the test of time and also provide a framework for the future.



#1 Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, Clarke Electric was created out of necessity to meet a need

that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1939, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain: the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. By doing this, we can improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.



#2 Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our member-consumers

because we are locally governed. Each member-consumer gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. Many of Clarke Electric's

employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who help set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you.

#3 Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our member-consumers. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Member-consumers contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of Clarke Electric.

At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Member-consumers allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.



#4 Autonomy & Independence

The fourth principle means that the co-op operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its member-consumers, reflecting the values and needs of our local community.

#5 Education and Training

The fifth principle focuses on enhancing the knowledge of co-op employees and board members, which enables them to contribute to the development of the co-op.

By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment not just to individual professional and personal growth, but to the future of the co-op and the high quality of service our member-consumers expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

We also strive to inform our member-consumers (that's you!) and the public about the mission and operations of the co-op. In fact, that's why you receive this newsletter every month, so we can share

the latest co-op news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips.

#6 Cooperation Among Cooperatives

The sixth principle fosters the way co-ops work together to address bigger challenges. Clarke Electric puts this principle in action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages. When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts, and we of course extend the same help to them when they need us. I can't think of a better example of cooperation among cooperatives.

In addition, because we are part of the national electric co-op network, we can connect and collaborate with other electric co-ops to tackle industry-related challenges, like cybersecurity and an everchanging energy landscape.



#7 Concern for Community

The seventh principle, Concern for Community, is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our community not only by being an essential service, but by helping to power our local economy. Whether through economic development, volunteerism or donations to local causes, we invest in this community because it's our home too.

I think you'll find that most cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric co-op.

On behalf of everyone at Clarke Electric Cooperative, we're thankful for your membership, and we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.



DAVE OPIE
General Manager



CEC Leased Light Program Offers Energy Efficient Option with New LED Lights

WITH THE ONSET OF SHORTER daylight hours, you might want to consider leasing a light from Clarke Electric so when you come home and it is dark outside, you won't have to worry about how to get to the door.

Clarke Electric offers the leased light program to our member-consumers without the hassle of repairs or maintenance.

For a low monthly fee of \$7.50, we will install and maintain an LED light on your property and make repairs when needed. LED fixtures are an extremely efficient, brighter and long-lasting light source. All you do is pay for the electricity, it's just that simple.

Qualifications for our leased light program:

- You must be a CEC member-consumer.

- The light must be on the meter pole, or any member-owned pole on the member-consumer's side of the meter provided they arrange for 120-volt electric service to the pole.
- CEC will furnish, install and maintain the light and fixture during normal cooperative working hours.
- The light will be turned on and off using a dusk-to-dawn photo cell (it cannot be controlled by a switch).
- The Cooperative may remove the light at its discretion. 13-02-02-01
- These qualifications must be understood and agreed to by the member-consumer upon the request for installation of the leased light.

Call for more details. (800) 362-2154.

KEEP UTILITY POLES CLEAR

They may seem like good places to post signs for events or sales, but posting signs on utility poles is not permitted.

Staples, nails, pins or other metal materials post hazards to line workers. Help us keep our poles clean and our lineworkers safe!



Community Invested: Show You Care with RECare

THIS WINTER, MANY OF OUR member-consumers will be wondering how they're going to pay their winter heating bills. Now more than ever, Clarke Electric encourages member-consumers to help their neighbors and community by participating in RECare.

A one-time or monthly contribution to the RECare program can help offset high bills for those who need it. RECare funds can also be used to weatherize the recipient's home and help make electricity usage more efficient. Your donation is directed to local community action agencies for distribution to low-income families near you.

Consider contributing to RECare and help your neighbors and your community with high heating expenses. It's an easy way to show you care!

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

Car vs. Pole: Would You Know What to Do?

RECENTLY A CAR STRUCK A UTILITY pole owned by Clarke Electric Cooperative.

Whether it's a light pole or a utility pole, drivers should take extra precaution and know what to do in order to stay safe when coming in contact with any pole carrying electricity. Although your natural inclination will be to flee a dangerous situation, Clarke Electric recommends that you stay in your vehicle, call 911 and wait until the co-op or electric utility can get to the scene to ensure the lines have been de-energized.

Exiting the vehicle when it has come in contact with an energized line can have tragic results. If you must get out of the vehicle because it is on fire, do so by

making sure no part of your body touches the ground and the vehicle at the same time. This prevents any electric current from using your body as a conduit. Once out of the vehicle, "bunny hop" to safety at least 40 feet from the scene.

We want all our member-consumers to be safe and avoid making a bad situation worse. If you're unsure what to do in the event of an accident, call 911 for guidance. It could mean the difference between life and death.

Pictured at right are Apprentice Linemen Zach Stewart and Dominic Cresta working on replacing the three-phase pole hit by the vehicle.



Energy Smart: Weatherstrip Your Way to Efficient Comfort

FALL IS THE PERFECT TIME TO PREP your home for the upcoming winter chill by taking advantage of the remaining warmer days to seal up your home against the inevitable cold temperatures on the way.

One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing.



According to the U.S. Department of Energy, sealing up drafty windows and doors can maximize your comfort and savings anywhere from 5 to 10%. Sealing gaps can also prevent melted ice or snow from rotting exterior features.

Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors

and ceilings for additional energy savings. Take some time before the temperatures really dip to caulk joints between walls and window frames and door frames, and place weatherstripping around window sashes.

Choose a type of weatherstripping that will withstand the friction, weather, temperature changes, and wear and tear associated with its location. For example, when applied to a door bottom or threshold, weatherstripping could drag on carpet or erode as a result of foot traffic.

Choose a product for each specific location. Felt and open-cell foams tend to be expensive, susceptible to weather, visible, and inefficient at blocking airflow. However, the ease of applying these materials may make them valuable in low-traffic areas.

You can use more than one type of weatherstripping to seal an irregularly shaped space. Also, take durability into account when comparing costs. For more tips, visit www.energy.gov/energysaver/weatherstripping.



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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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www.cecnet.net

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