



CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative



SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED **Volume No. 82 No. 2 | February 2022**

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip all windows to seal air leaks. When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

Source: Dept. of Energy

Get Your Membership Newsletter by Email

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, just let us know. Call our office or email us at clarke@cecnet.net. The newsletter is distributed at the beginning of each month.



Looking Out for You: December Outages

- Wind: 48
- Construction: 14
- Equipment/maintenance failure: 4
- No cause code: 3
- Trees: 3
- Unknown: 3
- Animal/bird: 2
- Power Supply: 1



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

Renew, Review and Adjust



DAVE OPIE
General Manager

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY TYPICALLY TEND TO BE A BUSY time for cooperative employees. We begin the year taking inventory to reconcile the quantity of materials used over the course of the year with what remains in stock.

The accounting department then looks at year-end performance numbers by comparing them to the previous years' numbers and the budget numbers. After all the books are closed, they begin to prepare for the official audit of the cooperative records.

It is also a good time for the management team to review the cooperative's overall performance and make adjustments as necessary to continue to provide our members with a safe and reliable power source. We consider many metrics in this process, including growth in new electric service accounts, kWh sales and income and expenses. Here's a quick summary of the numbers:

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Operating Revenue	13,105,242	12,993,116	13,243,284	13,364,906	12,114,488
Expenses	12,591,189	12,310,529	12,842,287	12,630,424	12,024,655
kWh Sold	110,028,299	109,433,153	112,975,320	112,649,073	101,018,824

Operationally, 2021 was a productive year for building new services and adding miles of new line. Our crews were busy with maintenance projects and constructing 11 commercial accounts. We are close to breaking our record of 1,800 miles of energized lines. We ended the year with 1,899.95, as close as you can get to 1,900. Some of the highlights for 2021 include:

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
New Services	101	90	80	91	81
Retired Services	25	30	38	21	19
Leased Lights Installed	28	45	30	39	67
System Improvements	50	47	32	51	35
Poles Replaced	148	15	205	100	116
Miles of Energized Lines	1,899.95	1,888.75	1,885.71	1,815.65	1,808.51

Rest assured, while we review last year's numbers and anticipate our future needs, our goal is to provide our members with a cooperative that members can depend on to provide the power they need, when they need it.

Reading pays! We have hidden two 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.

Community Invested: Welcome to the Neighborhood!



JASON GIBBS

CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

would like to welcome The Roost Grace-Grits-Gifts, a new business located in Afton. Found in the historic former Rexall Drug building on the



southwest corner of the downtown square, The Roost is an excellent place to enjoy homemade soup, sandwiches, fresh pie and ice cream.

To support this new venture, the cooperative provided business owner Jennifer Seales with a \$20,000 low-interest loan through the cooperative's Community



& Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund. This fund is used to improve the quality of life in rural areas by contributing to long-term improvements in local communities. 51-08-07-01

Seales has fond memories of going into the old drug store with her family.

"It's just too nice of a building and landmark for someone to not want to restore it," she said. When she found out the current owners had

an interest in selling the old building, she jumped at the opportunity to purchase it.

The rustic shop has a little bit of something for everyone. In addition to some great home cooking, she offers women's clothing, fashionable jewelry, and home décor and products. Additionally, Seales relocated her hair salon to the north side of the building and rents space to a massage therapist



in the rear of the building.

It's an excellent place to gather with friends and family to get a bite to eat and experience a blast from the past. You can even sit on a stool around the

original ice cream bar.

To date, Clarke Electric's Revolving Loan Fund has loaned more than \$1.2 million to support local businesses and development

in southern Iowa. As funds are repaid, they become available for relending. For more information on this program, visit www.cecnet.net and click on News & Community, Economic Development, Loan Programs.

We certainly wish Jennifer all the best! Give her a follow on Facebook or Instagram, @theroostgracegritsgifts, or give her a call at (515) 250-4695.



2001 International bucket truck

153,321 miles
Failed DOT and unit inspection
\$6,500 (pictured top, right)



2008 International bucket truck

204,769 miles
Bad engine
\$2,000 (pictured bottom, right)



Call the cooperative to inquire,
(800) 362-2154.

Use SmartHub as Resource for Taxes

IF YOU'RE ELIGIBLE TO DEDUCT A portion of your utility bill because you have a home office, your SmartHub account will have the information you need at your fingertips.

SmartHub offers a history of your electric bills and payments, making it easy for you to collect this information as you prepare your 2021 taxes. Simply visit www.cecnet.net and click on the SmartHub portal to log into your account.

Once logged in, click on the "Billing and Payments" tab, then "Payment History" to see a list of your payments.

Consult your tax advisor for more information.



The Cooperative Difference: Welcome Back, Legislators

REPRESENTATIVES from Clarke Electric joined more than 160 directors, managers and employees from Iowa's electric cooperatives Jan. 11 to welcome back legislators.



From left: Clarke Electric General Manager David Opie, Senator Amy Sinclair, CEC Board Member Cody Miller, and Member Service Manager Jason Gibbs.

The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives hosted the Welcome Back Legislative Reception in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Communications Alliance, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and FUEL Iowa. Nearly 90 state legislators attended the event held in downtown Des Moines.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to meet with state legislators at the beginning of the 2022 Legislative Session to discuss issues that impact rural electric cooperatives and the communities we serve.

In the coming months, the Iowa General Assembly will be addressing a multitude of issues, including energy-related matters that are central to Iowa's rural economy. Beginning with the Welcome Back Legislative Reception, electric co-op directors, managers and staff will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues.



From left: Opie, Rep. Joel Fry and Gibbs.



Important Dates!

March 2: Application due

March 14: Essay due

March 30: Youth Tour judging (in person at co-op office)

June 18-24: Youth Tour Trip

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

for this year's Youth Tour is fast approaching! High school sophomores and juniors are invited to apply for this opportunity to earn an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. this summer.

The deadline for applications is Wednesday, March 2. Applications can be downloaded from www.cecnet.net/youth-tour.

Applicants must also complete an essay on the topic, "Of the seven cooperative principles, which two do you feel are most important and why?"

Essays should be typed on one side of an 8.5 x 11" paper and a minimum of 500 words in length and no more than 1 1/2 pages.

For more information check out www.cecnet.net or call Jason at (641) 342-2173.

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.

As solar gains popularity, we want to be sure you understand how a solar interconnection with our system can impact your current account and billing rate. Call us at (800) 362-2154 to discuss your options before investing in solar.



Required Statement of Nondiscrimination

IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS LAW AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, USDA, its Mission Areas, agencies, staff, offices, 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.

Program information may be made available in language other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible Mission Area, agency, or staff office; the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY); or the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of the alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Asst. Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- (2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Questions
or
Complaints?

CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE strives to provide you with the best service at the lowest possible cost. But sometimes you have questions regarding your electrical service or billing, or possibly a complaint.

If you have a complaint, you can reach a representative by contacting us or by writing to:

Member Advocate
Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.
1103 N. Main St.
Osceola, IA 50213

Or by telephone at (641) 342-2173 or toll-free at (800) 362-2154

If you have a complaint related to Clarke Electric's service rather than its rates, and your complaint is not resolved, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling (515) 725-7300, or toll-free (877) 565-4450, by writing to 1375 E. Court Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069, or by email to customer@iub.iowa.gov.



Contractor to Help with Storm Recovery

CLARKE ELECTRIC HAS HIRED A pole contractor to work on storm damage and pole replacements.

Highline Construction, Inc. from Paynesville, Minn., will be in those areas from February through May. They will work long hours, so if you see bucket and digger derrick trucks in your area, you will know they are working on your behalf. 16-24-01-01



NEED HELP WITH HEATING BILLS?

Visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/liheap> for details.



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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

www.cecnet.net

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