



CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative



SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

Volume No. 82 No. 1 | January 2022

Happy New Year

Energy Efficiency



Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system.

Looking Out for You: November Outages

- Unknown – 5
- Construction – 4
- Equipment failure – 2
- Lightning – 2
- Maintenance – 2
- Trees – 2
- Wind - 1



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Community Invested: 2022 Youth Tour! *Apply between Feb. 1 and March 31*

ONE WAY CLARKE ELECTRIC invests in the next generation of rural Iowa leaders by participating in the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program. After both the 2020 and 2021 trips were cancelled, the program is back in 2022! We're looking for high school sophomores or juniors with a passion for government and public service to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital this June.

One student will be selected from eligible candidates to attend the 2022 Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., June 18-24 along with 40 other student leaders from Iowa. The Iowa Youth Tour group will join hundreds of students from across the country as they learn more about electric cooperatives and American history and come home with a greater understanding of their role as an American citizen. Students will also learn about U.S. government and meet with their members of Congress. On the trip, students take in the sites of D.C. as they visit monuments, museums, and historical landmarks. Students who go on Youth Tour often call it the trip of a lifetime!

Current sophomore or junior high school students from the following school districts are eligible: Central Decatur, Chariton, Clarke, Indianola, Interstate 35, Martensdale-St. Marys, Mormon Trail, Murray and Wayne school districts. Applicants must compose an essay that answers the following question: Which of the seven cooperative principles is the most important to you and why? Applications are available at www.cecnet.net under the "News & Community" tab.



JASON GIBBS

continued on pg. 3



Students can apply now for a trip to Washington, D.C., from June 18-24!

Local high school students interested in public service & government are encouraged to apply now! Learn more at IowaYouthTour.com



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

With a New Year Comes New Work Plans and a Renewed Focus

AS PART OF ITS DUTIES, THE BOARD of directors provide oversight and guidance of the capital budget and operational budget. They review the workplan developed by the management team with a focus on strengthening our system to provide a reliable power source for our members, now and into the future.

The budget is reviewed over the course of several months and involves numerous formal and informal meetings. The process begins when members of the management team discuss their budget needs with their department employees and receive feedback and suggestions. Managers then meet with the board finance committee, then the full board of directors with their recommendations.

We often look to the past as we plan for the future. Using what we know from history, we can make projections for the coming year for things like the power we purchase from our power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), electricity usage, our workplan, and other capital and operational needs.

Maintaining the financial integrity of the cooperative and meeting industry benchmarks are a major focus of the budgeting process because it serves as the cooperative's financial guide for the upcoming year. There are also active components of the budget that may extend

as far into the future as 10 years from now. This year, one of our projects is to relocate our pole yard from the old wooden cribbing on the north side of the cooperative property to concrete bunkers located on the south side that are more durable and provide easier access for loading and unloading poles. We do not plan to replace any trucks this year as ongoing supply chain issues continue to affect our ability to secure supplies and materials. Instead,



we will stretch our vehicle rotation schedule for another year. However, we plan to add a Can-Am UTV to help with right of way work, and we plan to purchase a John Deere mini excavator to use when we work on underground services and maintenance projects.

Our cooperative crews have budgeted to build or replace 100 services for the year. In addition to the new services, we will

work on the White Oak three-phase substation project that will include a tie line between White Oak and Medora to create redundancy of service when we need to perform maintenance and repairs. This ensures power reliability for the members north of Osceola who are served by White Oak. Crews will also rebuild a four-mile single phase span in the Lacona substation to improve service reliability. They are scheduled to replace 250 rejected poles in the Humeston and Clio substation area.

Coddington's will be the contractors who perform our right-of-way clearing while spraying will be performed by Midwest Spray Teams and pole testing by SBS. We have utilized each of these contractors in the past and are confident they will do good work for the cooperative at a fair price. Contracting for these services allows us to utilize our line crew for building lines and services, which also keeps our cooperative linemen familiar with the location of equipment and consistent building specs.

Overall, it is shaping up to be a busy year for your cooperative. We enjoy serving our members and look forward to another successful year.

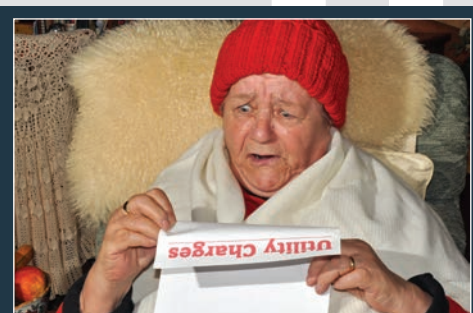


DAVE OPIE
General Manager

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. 15-20-03-05



NEED HELP WITH HEATING BILLS?

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

Energy Smart: Changes to 2022 Rebate Program

FOR YEARS, CLARKE ELECTRIC HAS rewarded its member-consumers for investing in energy efficient equipment. For those who are interested in taking advantage of money-saving rebates when considering energy efficient options should take note of changes to the co-op's 2022 rebate programs offerings, including

the elimination of LED lighting incentives due to the increased availability and lower costs of these items. Incentives listed below are effective as of Jan. 1. 50-10-01-01

Your cooperative encourages you to research available rebates when considering purchasing new equipment.

Thankfully, technological advancements in energy efficient products on the market make it easy to choose new equipment with energy savings in mind.

Please contact Jason Gibbs at (641) 414-1117 with any questions or to discuss your rebate options before making a purchase.

GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMP (must be AHRI listed)

Closed Loop System	\$400/ton
Open Loop System <i>(no pump & dump)</i>	\$300/ton
Hybrid System - Gas Backup <i>(must have integrated controls)</i>	add \$100/ton
Replacement Unit	\$150/ton
Contractor Rebate <i>(must be new installation, not eligible if replacing like system)</i>	\$200/home

AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP (including mini-splits) - must be AHRI or NEEP listed

Cold Climate Air Source Heat Pump <i>(must be NEEP listed; https://ashp.neep.org)</i>	\$400/ton
ENERGY STAR rated Air-Source Heat Pump <i>(15.00 SEER, 12.50 EER, 8.5 HSPF min.)</i>	\$200/ton
ENERGY STAR bonus	\$200
Standard Air-Source Heat Pump	\$200/ton
Hybrid System - Gas Backup	add \$100/ton
Contractor Rebate <i>(must be new installation, not eligible if replacing like system)</i>	\$200/home

ELECTRIC WATER HEATING - must be AHRI listed

Heat pump water heater	\$650/unit
Geothermal desuperheater	\$150/unit
Resistance Storage Unit <i>(min. 40 gallon)</i>	\$75/unit
Go Electric! Bonus <i>(new construction or switching from a gas unit)</i>	add \$125/unit

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING UNIT

Residential Level II <i>(must be installed by a qualified electrician)</i>	50% of costs (up to \$500)
EV Ready - New Residential Construction	\$50/home

(240/280 NEMA 6-50 or 14-50, in garage fed by #6-gauge wire attached to 50-amp breaker)

CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING

Must be AHRI listed and ENERGY STAR rated

Central Split System	\$100/unit
<i>(15.00 SEER, 12.50 EER min.)</i>	

APPLIANCES

ENERGY STAR rated	\$40/unit
Clothes Washer <i>(must have electric water heater)</i>	
ENERGY STAR rated Clothes Dryer	\$20/unit

RECOVERY VENTILATION

Heat/Energy	\$250/unit
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HEAT PLUS REBATE

Only available if member/contractor supplies appropriate metering equipment \$100

WEATHERIZATION & INSULATION

Contact us or visit our web site for details.

ALL STAR HOME BONUS-New Construction

Contact us or visit our web site for details.

COMMERCIAL / AG REBATES

Contact us or visit our web site for details.

Youth Tour...from pg. 1

Finalists selected from the essay contest will be invited to an in-person interview at the cooperative office. Any questions should be directed to Jason Gibbs, (641) 414-1117 or jgibbs@cecnet.net.

For more than 60 years, Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives have sent deserving students to D.C. This program is a great resume builder for student leaders and a wonderful opportunity to kickstart one's passion for government affairs or advocacy. Apply for Youth Tour 2022 between Feb. 1 and March 31!



CONNECT WITH US!



Service requests, rebate forms, programs and more:
www.cecnet.net



Account info, pay your bill, view outages: cecnet.smarthub.coop



Notify utilities before you dig at www.iowaonecall.com or call 8-1-1



Find co-op news and updates at facebook.com/CEIowa



Email clarke@cecnet.net to receive your monthly newsletter electronically

Record Setting Winds Cause Outages in December

LOCAL NEWS HAD BEEN PREDICTING the high wind storm for several days before it happened. The morning of the storm, all CEC crews were strategically positioned throughout our territory doing daily work in anticipation of the storm.

We weren't disappointed; winds of more than 80 mph blew through most of our eight-county territory causing widespread outages. Our dispatching services began receiving outage calls around 6 p.m.

Wednesday night as high wind speeds caused poles to snap and debris to get thrown into our lines causing most of the damage. We had some tree issues, but more debris than anything.

Further challenges came when our linemen drove the high-profile utility trucks to damaged areas, battling the wind at every mile. When they arrived at their destination, they no longer had the interior of the truck for protection, but rather the bucket that would extend them into the air to reach and repair damaged lines.

Clarke Electric linemen are used to wind, cold, snow, and ice, but not the excessive winds of this storm.

"It was one of the worst sustained wind storms I've seen in my 20-year career as a lineman," said Journeyman Lineman Cory Dommer.

Crews worked throughout the night and into the next day to restore all power to our members. At the height of the storm, we had about 1,200 members without power, mainly in Clarke County, due to our power supplier losing a transmission line. By the end of Thursday, all members had power.

Covering 1,900 miles of line can prove to be challenging when there are pockets of outages all over the system. CEC was

fortunate we sustained minimal damage to our system. The next several weeks will be spent going back to the areas with poles broken to replace them and restringing damaged wire. It takes the support of all cooperative employees to successfully manage a storm like this.

"We are so fortunate to have dedicated employees serving our members," said Dave Opie, general manager of CEC.



Journeyman Lineman Adam McCuddin, foreground, and Apprentice Zach Stewart, load new poles onto a truck for pole replacements during the storm.



Linemen surveyed damaged poles to prioritize replacements. A pole dangerously leaning towards the road was one of many identified.



Crews were out Thursday to continue replacing broken poles across the service territory.

5 TIPS FOR GENERATOR SAFETY

- 1 TAKE IT OUTSIDE.**
 Direct the exhaust away from openings to your home.
- 2 BE IN THE KNOW.**
 Read the owners manual before operating.
- 3 WHEN IN DOUBT, HIRE IT OUT.**
 Hire an electrician to install a transfer switch to wire your portable generator power to your household circuits. This helps avoid creating back-feed to power lines, which can injure neighbors or utility workers.
- 4 KEEP IT DRY.**
 Do not operate generator in the rain or in standing water.
- 5 GIVE IT A BREAK.**
 Follow manufacturer's instructions to avoid overloading and damaging household appliances and electronics.



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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

www.cecnet.net

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