



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Volume 83, No. 4 | April 2023

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

Do You Want the Good News or Bad News First

The *bad* news is rates are going up. It isn't what you want to hear, and it isn't what we want to tell you. Raising rates is generally the last thing we consider when our revenue stream begins to weaken. As a not-for-profit cooperative, we recover just enough revenue to pay the bills and invest in the system. The rest we return to our member-consumers. The official notice was mailed March 23 to all members affected by the rate increase that will go into effect May 1.

The *good* news is that the board elected to raise your monthly service charge without increasing the cost per kWh of your electric service in order to satisfy our financial metrics. This means the increase you see on your

bill will not change from month to month, so you can better budget for your electricity expenses. All rate classes will see the increased monthly service fee charge beginning May 1.



DAVE OPIE
General Manager

As a cooperative, we don't increase rates to make a profit for outside investors, like an investor-owned utility does. We raise rates to safeguard our co-op's financial health while we invest in infrastructure to keep your electric service reliable.

In considering this rate change, the board and staff

continued on pg. 3



CELEBRATE

The people behind your power.

Lineworker Appreciation Day
April 10, 2023

Dominic Cresta
Cory Dommer
Hunter Koehn

Rob McCoy
Adam McCuddin
Eric Page

Doug Reasoner
Zach Stewart
Jarad Taylor

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

Board Members Earn National Credentials



Board President Ed White, left, receives his Director Gold Certificate from CEO Dave Opie. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Director Gold credential is given to electric cooperative board members who demonstrate their ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability.



Board Secretary Larry Keller, left, receives his Board Leadership Certificate from CEO Dave Opie. The NRECA Board Leadership credential focuses in greater depth on specific electric industry and governance issues.

Looking Out for You: February Outages

Equipment failure: 3
Maintenance: 2
Motor vehicle: 2
Unknown: 1

Your Small Change Can Make a Big Difference

Launched in 1989 by an electric cooperative in South Carolina, Operation Round-Up® is now a national program adopted by electric cooperatives across the country. The premise is simple: allow co-op members to round their monthly electric bill up to the nearest dollar. The difference is then placed into an account and money is distributed locally to nonprofit organizations.



JASON GIBBS
Manager Member Services

Clarke Electric began offering Operation Round-Up for our member-consumers in 2019 as a way to financially support our rural communities and the many volunteers that work hard to improve the places we live. The cost is minimal; the most the co-op could possibly collect from one account in any given year is \$11.88, though the average is just \$6.

Contributions are generally made to nonprofit civic or community-based organizations that demonstrate a commitment to enhance the quality of life in our region. The organizations must apply for these funds and meet eligibility requirements. A board of community members then meets to review applications and determine how funds will be dispersed. 06-19-01-00



March 5, 2023 marked the one-year anniversary of a tornado that absolutely obliterated the little league ball fields located on the east side of Allerton. Although the city of Allerton had insurance that covered most of the rebuilding expenses, it didn't cover everything. The City of Allerton applied for a \$5,000 Operation Round-Up grant to help complete the project including a new and improved concession stand. We wish all the area kids a great spring ball season! Pictured is Missy Niday and Jason Gibbs from CEC.

By The Numbers

59%: Percentage of CEC members who participate in Operation Round-Up.

23: Number of grants awarded since inception.

\$51,071: Total Operation Round-Up dollars invested in our communities since inception.

If you would like to sign up for Operation Round-Up or for more information, visit www.cecnet.net/operation-round.

Rates...from pg. 1

studied the impacts of supply chain issues that have raised our costs and lengthened our lead times. It has been extremely frustrating to see costs for some materials and equipment spike through the roof and yet still wait months or years for delivery rather than days or weeks.

But here is some more good news: Very few new members to our distribution system had to wait for special equipment to arrive so we could complete our new service installations. Our staff was able to successfully find and negotiate what we

needed in order to minimize the frustrations of these new members.

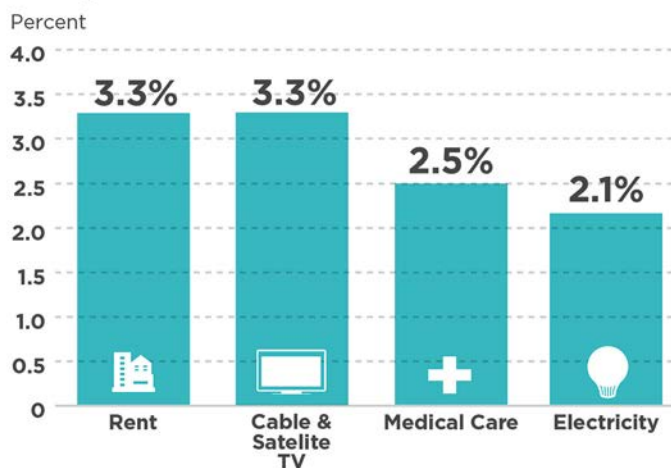
Thank you for understanding that this rate increase will continue to allow the cooperative to fulfill our commitment to you. Clarke Electric Cooperative will continue to work hard to control our costs and continue to invest in our electric distribution system, so that we can continue to provide safe, affordable, and reliable electricity to you.

And when it comes down to it, that really is good news.

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value.

Average Annual Price Increase 2016-2021



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Consumer Price Index



Clarke Electric joined more than 300 employees and elected directors from Iowa's locally owned rural electric cooperatives March 15 for REC Day on the Hill.

The annual event allows RECs to advocate for issues moving through the 2023

Legislative Session that would impact REC members. The opportunity to meet face-to-face with our state's elected leaders is a valuable way to share our local perspective on issues that impact our rural communities and rural economic development.

Advocates also educated legislators on the benefits of the cooperative business model, including local ownership, cost-based rates and democratic governance.



Jason Gibbs with Sen. Amy Sinclair



Jason Gibbs, Dave Opie and Board Member Larry Jackson.

Additionally, co-op representatives discussed the dangers of electric service deregulation and how it would negatively impact rural Iowa businesses and communities. Service territory protections have been in place for more than 40 years

in Iowa to ensure that citizens in sparsely populated areas have access to reliable and affordable power. In fact, electric cooperatives were formed in the 1930s and 40s because the investor-owned utilities at the time refused to serve unprofitable rural areas.

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU? @ cecnet.net



Statewide
outage map



Leased Light
Program



SmartHUB



Rebates &
Online Forms



Operation
Round-UP



Call Before
You Dig



Email
newsletters



RECare

Operations Corner: By The Numbers

Clarke Electric has reviewed the operations and maintenance projects for 2022 and the numbers are in.

We had an extremely busy year with three large projects completed that were unscheduled but became a priority early in the year. An extensive remodel of the campgrounds at Lake Ahquabi required CEC to build seven new services. Roeslein Alternative Energy needed six new three-phase line services to manage its gas capturing system. And Iowa Select Farms required 11.5 miles of new three-phase line construction for its newest confinement.

Those projects were in addition to our scheduled annual workplan, which included pole replacements in the Clio substation, testing 2,206 poles in the Grand River substation as well as right-of-way maintenance in the I-35, Murray and White Oak substations. Breaker maintenance was performed

in the Medora substation. Our linemen also converted single phase lines to three-phase lines in the Grand River north circuit. And, of course, there are daily items that come up such as storm restoration or car vs. pole accidents. 30-17-01-02

In 2022, we connected 104 new services with more than 1,908 miles of line in service. We retired 47 services and sold more than 116,279,105 kWh (see table below). We had a busy year operationally.

All of the work performed is necessary to provide our member-consumers with a safe, affordable and dependable power source.



CHAD MCINTOSH
Manager of Operations



Considering Solar? Call Us First

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.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home. Source: energy.gov



kWh Sales		New Services	
2012	91,167,238	2012	57
2013	98,261,961	2013	67
2014	100,882,337	2014	49
2015	96,768,048	2015	56
2016	98,281,064	2016	68
2017	101,018,824	2017	81
2018	112,649,000	2018	91
2019	112,975,000	2019	80
2020	109,433,153	2020	91
2021	110,028,299	2021	101
2022	116,279,105	2022	104



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Mon.-Fri.: 7:30 AM - 4 PM | Outside depository available 24/7

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Asst. Sec./Treasurer: Randy Barnard

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Marni Kelso
Cody Miller
Natalie Rydl

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David Opie

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