



Volume 83, No. 1 | January 2023

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

Energy Smart

The beginning of a new year is an exciting time for Clarke Electric. We spend the last four months of the year developing our business plan for the upcoming year, including our construction work plan and long-range plan that help us anticipate our member-consumer's energy needs. Now is the time those plans come to fruition.

Each of our five departments work together to embody our mission statement of "Safety Driven, Energy Smart and Community Invested." It seems especially prudent this year to focus on the "Energy Smart" statement given the circumstances we faced this year.

Our ability to meet the energy demand of our member-

consumers has many components: rate structure, right-of-way maintenance, updated meter technology, replacing old lines, building tie lines, and increasing substation capacity while ensuring safety, affordability and reliability.

In 2022, ordering and receiving supplies, materials and equipment challenged our bottom line and our work plans. Additionally, we faced the complexity of trying to balance potential power short falls, regulations,



DAVE OPIE
General Manager

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Board Approves 2023 Budget



SAM WALKUP
Mgr. of Finance

Clarke Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors approved the 2023 budget during the November Board of Directors meeting. Each year, the Board of Directors provide oversight for the work plan, and consider recommendations made by cooperative leadership. They do this with a focus on providing reliable electric service to you, the member-consumer, while maintaining the

financial integrity of the cooperative.

The management staff at Clarke Electric submit information regarding their work plans and needs for the coming year. This information is compiled to generate our budget which serves

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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.

Keeping Lights On During the Energy Transition

The following includes excerpts and key points from an article written by Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

The ability to keep the lights on is a cornerstone of our economy. No one recognizes that more than America's electric cooperatives. The co-op focus on local communities lends us clarity on these issues that few other organizations have. That's why NRECA continues leaning into our role as truth-tellers amid the ongoing conversation about the energy transition.

Other organizations have recently sounded a similar alarm about reliable electricity in the months and years ahead. Electric co-ops have been voicing grid reliability concerns for years, while simultaneously rising to the challenge to keep affordable, reliable electricity a constant in rural America.

Some are quick to blame these reliability threats on changing or more extreme weather patterns. That's certainly part of the story, but there's a deeper problem that must be acknowledged.

Spurred by policy and market factors, the ongoing energy transition has prioritized the disorderly and premature closure of baseload power plants without considering the collective impact on the power grid and the availability of feasible technology to fully replace them. That's proving

to be a misstep with potentially severe effects.

Driven by keeping the lights on, America's electric cooperatives have demonstrated what a responsible energy transition can look like. Electric co-ops lowered their carbon emissions by 23% between 2005 and 2020. Co-ops also continue investing in energy innovation technologies to help meet tomorrow's electricity needs with speed and flexibility.

Policymakers play a critical role in our energy future. As they establish energy policies, legislators and regulators must consider threats to reliability before setting arbitrary dates and deadlines. This must include allowing adequate time, technology development and the construction of desperately needed transmission lines.

NRECA and our member co-ops consistently push policymakers to recalibrate their focus on a commonsense energy transition that recognizes all of the factors above and doesn't jeopardize reliability or punish families already struggling to make ends meet.



JIM MATHESON
NRECA

SAFETY DRIVEN

ICE ON POWER LINES IS A WEIGHTY SUBJECT

ICE ON DISTRIBUTION LINES

Ice can quickly lead to broken power poles and other pole equipment. Ice can also make falling tree branches 30x heavier and much more likely to break power lines.

ON A 300-FOOT SPAN OF 1-INCH-THICK POWER LINES

- 1/2" of ice adds 281 pounds
- 1" of ice adds 749 pounds
- 2" of ice adds 2,248 pounds

WHEN ICE MELTS

Melting ice can cause power outages. If ice on the bottom (neutral) line melts before the lines above, it can cause the lines to touch.

OTHER ICE FACTS

- Damage can begin when ice exceeds 1/4"
- 1/2" of ice can cause a line to sag up to 12"
- Pressure can also be caused by a broken tree limb
- Both ice and melting ice can cause power outages

Source: Jerri Imgarten-Whitley and Victory Electric Cooperative

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know that insulating your electric water heater can reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%? This could save you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs. Insulating your electric water heater is an easy, inexpensive project that can improve energy efficiency and save you money each month. The Dept. of Energy rates this project as medium difficulty, meaning most homeowners can tackle this project on their own. You can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets for about \$20 at most home improvement stores. Visit energy.gov for project tips and additional considerations. *Source: energy.gov*



Seeking Student Leaders

We're looking for the next generation of rural Iowa leaders with a passion for government and public service to apply for a chance to win a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital in June.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is an annual event that draws students

from electric cooperatives across the country for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Washington, D.C.

While there, students learn more about the cooperative business model, meet with legislative leaders, and visit museums, monuments and other landmarks.

Clarke Electric is now accepting applications from high school sophomores and juniors who are interested in attending the 2023 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour June 17-23. Interested students should visit our web site, www.cecnet.net to find the application and more information under the "News & Community" tab.

Important Dates to Remember

March 3: Application deadline. Those who submit an application will be sent a packet of information on next steps and essay topic.

March 17: Essay deadline

March 29: Candidate judging, 4:30 p.m. at the Clarke Electric office.



JASON GIBBS
Manager Member Services

Who's eligible: Current sophomore or junior high school students from the following school districts: Central Decatur, Chariton, Clarke, Indianola, Interstate 35, Martensdale-St. Marys, Mormon Trail, Murray and Wayne school districts.

Youth Tour is much more than a sightseeing trip. Students have repeatedly shared that this experience has helped them grow into successful professionals. It has also benefited our local communities. Youth Tour participants return home with a deeper understanding of what it takes to be leader, and as a result, they put these skills to use right here in our community.

Help us find the next generation of leaders by sharing the Youth Tour experience with a promising student. For more information, contact me at (641) 342-2173 or (800) 362-2154.

as the guideline for the coming year's operations.

With costs rising in every facet of doing business in the last few years, including our cost of power, Clarke Electric Cooperative is going to have to increase the availability rate across all rate classes to meet the new demands. This is an essential step so we can continue to provide you safe, reliable and affordable electricity. More information will be coming regarding the rate increase in the coming months.

The projects and improvements budgeted for 2023 reinforces the cooperative's commitment to service reliability and safety. Project and improvements for 2023 are budgeted for approximately \$5,500,000.

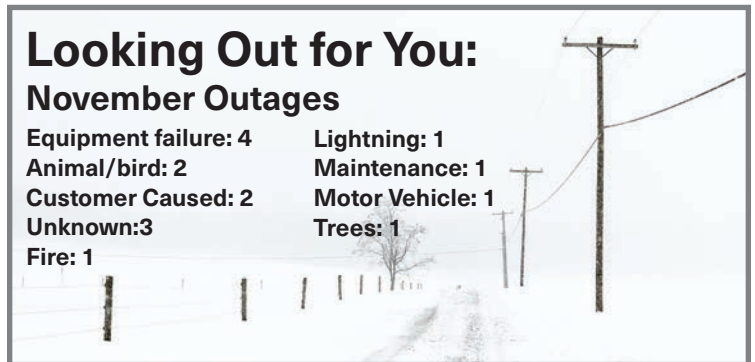
Included in the cooperative's 2023 budget are:

- Purchasing a new Dur-A-Lift bucket truck;
- Purchasing a new equipment trailer;
- Continuing our pole inspection program and replacements (4,500 poles to be inspected);
- Right of Way Clearing (ROW) and spraying (over 315 miles of line);
- Improvements to the White Oak substation, including adding feeder exits and installing new regulators;
- New system-wide advanced metering infrastructure (AMI);
- Building two miles of 3-phase, double circuit line, which includes adding a circuit to the Osceola substation; and
- Completing a tie line between the White Oak and the Osceola substation. 3-23-01-50

As member-consumers, your support and loyal patronage is essential to the success of this cooperative as we continue efforts to provide you safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

Looking Out for You: November Outages

Equipment failure: 4	Lightning: 1
Animal/bird: 2	Maintenance: 1
Customer Caused: 2	Motor Vehicle: 1
Unknown: 3	Trees: 1
Fire: 1	



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

Toys for Christmas!

Again this year, Clarke Electric employees "adopted" a local family through the Toys for Christmas program.

Toys for Christmas is a nonprofit charitable organization that encourages donations of new clothes or toys, wrapping paper and tape, or cash that can be used to purchase gifts for families. 27-18-04-00

Clarke Electric donated both items and pop can money to the program. This is a great way for Clarke Electric and its employees to support our local communities and make the holidays extra special for deserving families.

We are happy to take part in this worthwhile and successful program.



Pictured is Cori Smith, customer service/cashier, preparing to deliver the donations to our local Toys for Christmas dropoff site.

Energy Smart...from pg. 1

renewables, early closures of baseload power plants and so on. You get the picture – everything is shifting and uncertain.

Our job as your electric cooperative is to provide you a safe, affordable and reliable energy source. To do this, we stay informed on trends in energy and promote good relationships with policy makers. We attend grassroots meetings to speak with our local state legislators about issues important to our member-consumers, and how their leadership decisions affect our cooperative and the people we serve.

To be sure you continue to receive a safe energy source, we are studying how a rate increase will impact you while meeting the needs of the cooperative. So far, we have been able to absorb rising costs, but as a not-for-profit cooperative, we only collect enough to cover our expenses and return the rest to our member-consumers. Watch this newsletter for more information to come.

Delivering power is our area of expertise and we look forward to our continued partnership for many years to come. We wish you all a happy and blessed New Year. Thank you for your support!

CEC Board Tours Creston Summit Lake Facility



The Clarke Electric Cooperative Board of Directors took a road trip to Creston to visit Central Iowa Power Cooperative's (CIPCO) new Summit Lake Generating Station. As CEC's power provider, CIPCO's investment in up to 60 megawatts of efficient natural gas-fired reciprocating engines provides quick start generation during peak periods to help meet the energy demand of our member-consumers.

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 the co-op at (800) 362-2154 to discuss your options before investing in solar.



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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OFFICE HOURS

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

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