



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Volume 84, No. 2 | February 2024

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

How Extreme Weather Impacts Reliability

After weeks of mild weather, winter showed up in a fury for a few weeks in January as snow, wind and extreme cold temperatures settled across our region. You may have noticed during this time your furnace was running more than usual to keep up with keeping you warm. It wasn't just you – it was millions of people across the Midwest pushing their furnaces to the brink, staying inside and using electricity all at the same time, and effectively straining the electric grid.

Clarke Electric Cooperative works closely with our local power supplier to plan and develop resources and infrastructure to ensure you have the power you need when you need it. But in the winter months, it's more than

likely that electricity is being used at the same time.

Our power supplier works closely with our regional grid operator to monitor demand and adjust accordingly to relieve pressure on the grid during these times, which can mean curtailing, or "shedding" our load (electric use). When this happens, we have a plan to help minimize the disruption to our members. It's rare that we would ever have to curtail our residential members, but we have a plan in place to notify you if that ever happens.



DAVE OPIE
General Manager

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Welcome New Employee Chris Oberbroeckling

Clarke Electric Cooperative has a new apprentice lineman on staff. Chris Oberbroeckling began his on-the-job training in January. Chris will work under the supervision of our journeyman linemen to complete the required hours and gain the skills necessary for the journeyman exam which typically takes about four years.



Chris is a 2023 graduate of Marion High School and the Southeast Lineman Training Center in Trenton, Ga. He has two older sisters and a younger brother and enjoys hunting and fishing in his spare time. He is excited to begin his career with Clarke Electric and put his skills to work. He enjoys working in the outdoors and the challenging daily work of a lineman.

Welcome Chris!

Looking Out for You: December Outages

Equipment/maintenance failure: 6
Animal/bird: 1
Fire: 2
Trees: 2



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.

Apply for Youth Tour Trip by March 1

The deadline for applications for the 2024 Youth Tour is Friday, March 1. Clarke Electric Cooperative invites high school sophomores and juniors to apply for this once-in-a-lifetime free trip to Washington, D.C. June 15-21.

Important Dates

March 1: Application deadline. Visit www.cecnet.net/youth-tour to download.

March 15: Essay deadline. Everyone who applied must submit an essay if they wish to be considered. The essay should answer the question, "Of the seven cooperative principles, which two do you

feel are most important and why?"

Entries should be typed on one side of an 8.5"x11" paper, be no more than 500 words and a maximum of two pages.

March 27: Candidate judging and interviews at the Clarke Electric office.

Candidates will be notified in April and the winner will be announced in the May issue of this newsletter.

For complete details, visit www.cecnet.net/youth-tour or call Cori at (641) 342-2173.



You Can Help With Reliability... *continued from pg. 1*

As we face the challenges posed by winter weather, understanding its impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply. By adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme cold, not only can you save money on your electric bills, but you can also contribute to the resilience of the power grid, keeping our local community warm and connected. 40-34-05-01

BEST BETS FOR

Winter Savings

Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS

Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.



USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER

Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.



LOWER THE THERMOSTAT

Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).



UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE

Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.



MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT

Replace dirty, clogged filters and schedule an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.



Questions or Complaints?

Clarke Electric strives to provide you with the best service at the lowest possible cost. But sometimes you may 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 ask for assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling (515) 725-7321 or toll free (877) 565-4450, by writing to 1375 E. Court Ave., Room 69; Des Moines, IA 50319-0069, or by email to customer@iub.iowa.gov.

Annual Statement of Nondiscrimination


Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc., is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities. 18-15-13-01

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination

compliance efforts is David A. Opie general manager of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and /or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Stop 1510, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-1510; or the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

Get Your Member News by Email

If you would like to receive your membership newsletter via email, just let us know. You can call or email us at Clarke@cecnet.net. We will send it at the beginning of each month.



Co-ops Welcome Back Legislators

Severe winter weather couldn't stop employees and directors from Iowa electric cooperatives as they discussed concerns and priorities with state legislators during our 2024 Welcome Back Legislative Reception in downtown Des Moines. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives hosted the annual reception Jan. 9 in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Communications Alliance, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and FUELlowa.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to meet with state legislators at the beginning of the 2024 Legislative Session to



discuss issues that impact rural electric cooperatives and the communities we serve.

For example, we're concerned about the potential establishment of Integrate Resource Plans (IRPs) in Iowa Code. IRPs would essentially force the early retirement of carbon-based electric generation facilities, resulting in stranded costs

and reliability concerns for the member-consumers we serve. Iowa's locally owned and governed electric cooperatives continue to support an "all-of-the-above" power strategy.

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, Iowa electric cooperatives will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues as we work to power lives and empower communities. The next advocacy event will be REC Day on the Hill March 12. Learn more about our advocacy efforts at www.iaruralpower.org.

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

Storm Soldiers: Linemen Restore Power During Extreme Weather

▲ Work that requires us to access our lines from rural roads sometimes means we need to bring our own equipment to clear a path. Thankfully, we have a blade attachment for a CEC truck to help us get to these areas so we can efficiently restore power.



▲ Ice and wind aren't the only things that can bring down a power line - cold temperatures can make power lines constrict, even so far as to cause them to break. Members of our line crew repair a cold weather break in an overhead line conductor south of Chariton which resulted in outages in that area.

A detailed photo of a CEC track machine's safety outriggers buried in snow along a rural road ditch. The co-op uses the track machine in those hard-to-reach remote spots that haven't been plowed in order to continue restoring power.



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P.O. Box 161 | 1103 N. Main | Osceola, IA 50213-0161
(641) 342-2173 | (800) 362-2154
cecn.net

OFFICE HOURS

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

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Vice President: Randy Rouse
Secretary: Marni Kelso
Treasurer: Lydda Youmans
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Larry Keller
Cody Miller
Zach Robinson
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GENERAL MANAGER

David Opie

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.