



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Volume 84, No. 1 | January 2024

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

Board Approves 2024 Work Plan

In an effort to fortify and enhance our service reliability while meeting the growing energy demands of the Clarke Electric Cooperative service territory, the Board of Directors has approved the construction work plan for the new year.

The work plan outlines a multi-phase initiative targeted at upgrading aging infrastructure, expanding the distribution network, and integrating newer technologies to ensure adequate and reliable electric service for our new and existing members.

"We are excited to begin our strategic construction work plan that continues our commitment to modernizing our infrastructure and providing reliable, sustainable

electricity to our members," said Manager of Engineering Brad Wilson. "This initiative reflects our dedication to meeting the evolving needs of our community while embracing electric utility sector advancements." 39-29-04-00

The construction work plan, set to commence this month, includes several components:



CHAD MCINTOSH
Manager of Operations



BRAD WILSON
Manager of Engineering

continued on page 4



As we bid farewell to the old and embrace the new, it is with great pleasure and optimism that I extend my warmest greetings to each and every member of our cooperative. As we stand at the threshold of a brand-new year, I am filled with gratitude for the trust and support you have bestowed upon us throughout the past year.

Let's carry the spirit of unity forward, learning from 2023 and embracing new opportunities. With your continued support, I am confident 2024 will be filled with shared successes.

Wishing you joy, prosperity, and fulfillment in the coming year.
Happy New Year!



DAVE OPIE
General Manager

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.

Apply Now for 2024 Youth Tour

Clarke Electric is now accepting applications from high school sophomores and juniors who are interested in attending the 2024 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour June 15-21.

Interested students should visit our web site, cecnet.net to find the application and more information under the "News & Community" tab.

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.

Important Dates to Remember

March 1: Application deadline. Those who submit an application will be sent a packet of information on next steps and essay topic.

March 15: Essay deadline

March 27: Candidate judging at the Clarke Electric office.

Who's eligible: Current sophomores or juniors from the following school districts: Central Decatur, Chariton, Clarke, Indianola, Interstate 35, Mormon Trail, Murray, Wayne and Martensdale

- St. Marys 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 a leader, and as a result, they put these skills to use right here in our community. 17-01-06-01

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.



JASON GIBBS
Manager Member Services

Need help with heating bills?

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can help. Visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/liheap> for details.

Statewide Association Celebrates 2023 Achievements

The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC), the trade association for Iowa's electric cooperatives, held its 2023 Annual Meeting Dec. 7-8 in West Des Moines, with more than 350 registered attendees.

Clarke Electric board members and employees attended the event to receive informative updates from statewide board and staff in addition to learning about industry trends and best practices from invited speakers.

The event included recognition for achievements in 2023. The following individuals from Clarke Electric were honored:

25 Years of Service to an Electric Cooperative

Manager of Operations Chad McIntosh

Maintenance Foreman Rob McCoy

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)

The national association provides a robust educational program for electric cooperative leaders and recognizes their commitment to education and training.

Ed White, Director Gold Credential

Cody Miller, Director Gold Credential

Larry Keller, Board Leadership Certificate



During the IAEC Annual Meeting, Clarke Electric General Manager Dave Opie introduced speaker and CEC member-consumer Sen. Amy Sinclair, who spoke during the Iowa FORE (Friends of Rural Electrification) political action committee breakfast. Sen. Sinclair provided an update on the state's legislative climate moving into the 2024 Legislative Session and answered questions from the audience.

The event raised more than \$16,000 to support FORE, funds that will stay in Iowa to aid state legislators and candidates who support electric cooperatives.

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/CECIowa



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

Looking Out for You: November Outages

Equipment failure: 4
Animal/bird: 1
Customer Caused: 1
Motor Vehicle: 2
Unknown: 2
Trees: 1



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

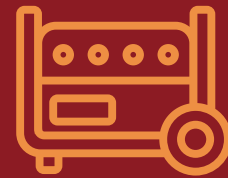
During winter months, ensure your home is well sealed to reduce the need for excessive heating. Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% on annual energy bills.

Install weather stripping on exterior doors and apply caulk around windows. Check attic insulation levels and hire a qualified contractor if additional insulation is required.

Source: energystar.gov

SAFETY DRIVEN

What to do before using a PORTABLE GENERATOR



Prepare

Install battery operated carbon monoxide (CO) alarms throughout your home; ensure they are working properly.



Position

Place a portable generator at least 20 feet from windows and doors; do not use one in a garage or carport.



Read

Carefully review and then follow all manufacturer's instructions.



Protect

If it is wet outside, keep it dry by placing it on a tarp. Position it under a portable canopy (not a carport).



Refuel Safely

Turn off your portable generator and let it cool down before refueling.



Inspect and Maintain

Inspect a portable generator before each use and make sure it is properly maintained.



Using a portable generator can be useful during an outage; however, use one correctly to prevent CO poisoning and to stay safe.

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

2024 Work Plan Focuses on Upgrades, Reliability

continued from pg. 1

Infrastructure Upgrades

- Approximately 5 miles of overhead powerlines will be rebuilt in the Lacona area;
- 172 rejected poles serving the I-35 and Hopeville substations will be replaced;
- Aging underground cable will continue to be replaced on a performance basis;
- Three feeder exits will be replaced and reconfigured at the White Oak substation; and
- Animal guards and low side air break switches will be installed at the Medora and Murray substations.

Expansion of Service Areas

- An estimated 79 new electric services will be constructed;
- 23 service uprates are anticipated; and
- A site for a future substation in our northern territory will be explored.

Integration of Smart Grid Solutions

- The automated metering infrastructure replacement will begin, and new meter data management and analytics software will be deployed;
- Our Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system will be upgraded;
- The conversion to a cellular communications backhaul for our distribution

automation switches will be completed;

- Embracing innovation, the cooperative will introduce smart grid solutions aimed at optimizing energy distribution, detecting faults, and facilitating real-time monitoring to proactively address service disruptions.

Maintenance Schedule

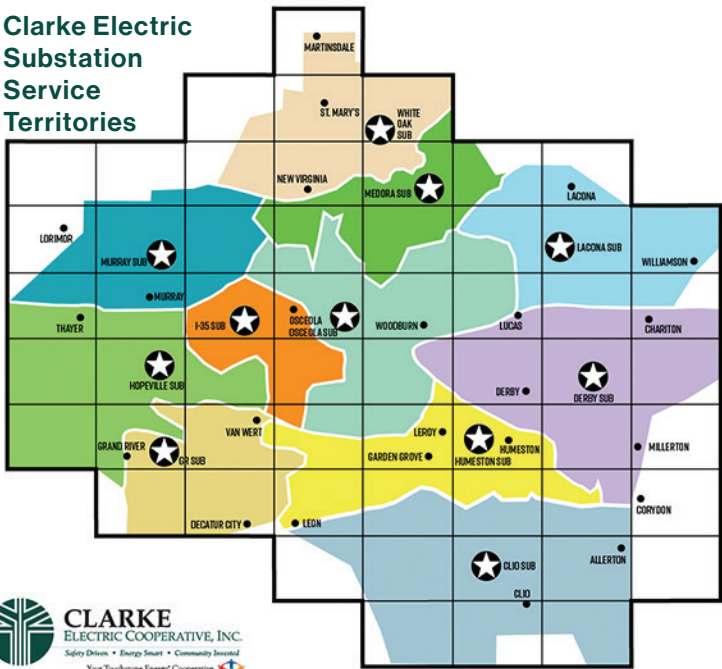
- Right-of-way spraying will take place out of the Clio and Grand River substations;
- Hydraulic recloser maintenance will be performed out of the Derby and Humeston substations;
- General overhead and underground line maintenance will be performed out of the Hopeville and I-35 substations; and
- Two aging substation battery banks are to be replaced.

The construction work plan is designed with a focus on minimizing disruptions to consumers during the implementation phase. Residents and businesses will receive timely notifications regarding any planned maintenance or temporary service interruptions.

"We understand the importance of transparent communication and community involvement in such endeavors," said Jason Gibbs, manager of Member

Services. "We encourage our members to reach out, ask questions, and provide their valuable insights as we embark on this journey together."

Clarke Electric Substation Service Territories



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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

OFFICE HOURS

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Ed White
Vice President: Randy Rouse
Secretary: Marni Kelso
Treasurer: Lydda Youmans
Asst. Sec./Treasurer: Randy Barnard

Directors
Larry Keller
Cody Miller
Zach Robinson
Natalie Rydl

GENERAL MANAGER

David Opie

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.