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

Volume 85, No. 1 | January 2025

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

2025 Work Plan Focuses on Tech Investments

Every fall, our staff presents the upcoming construction work plan projects to the Board of Directors to seek budgetary approval. This detailed plan outlines a multi-phase strategy focused on upgrading outdated infrastructure, expanding the delivery network, and incorporating innovative technologies to ensure reliable and sustainable electric service for both current and future members.

"We are eager to close the chapter on a productive year and to tackle the upcoming projects on the horizon," said Clarke Electric Manager of Engineering Brad Wilson. "The focus of the current construction work plan is to upgrade some of our most critical aging infrastructure: main overhead feeder lines and substations.

CHAD MCINTOSH
Manager of Operations

BRAD WILSON
Manager of Engineering

A continued effort to harness technology investments is also underway which is making us more proactive than ever in our efforts to provide reliable and dependable service."

continued on page 2

Students, apply today for a free trip to Washington, D.C. June 15-21!

See details on pg. 3

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.

Member Communication is Top Priority as 2025 Work Plan Projects Get Underway ...from pg. 1

Infrastructure Upgrades

2025 major initiatives are:

- Approximately six miles of three-phase overhead powerlines will be rebuilt on the Osceola south and Medora west circuits;
- 133 rejected poles out of the Murray substation will be replaced;
- Aging underground cable will continue to be replaced on a performance basis;
- Four underground feeder exits will be replaced at the Clio substation;
- Animal guards and low side air break switches will be installed at the Hopeville and Murray substations; and
- Four substation circuit breakers will be retrofitted with modern relays.

Expansion of Service Areas

- An estimated 76 new electric services will be constructed;
- 30 service uprates are anticipated; and
- A site for a future substation in our northern territory will continue to be explored.

Integration of Smart Grid Solutions

The automated metering infrastructure replacement project will be completed early in the year and the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system will be upgraded in the spring. Embracing the innovation built into these systems, the cooperative will use smart grid solutions aimed at optimizing energy delivery, detecting faults, and facilitating real-time monitoring to proactively respond to disruptions to your electric service.

Maintenance Schedule

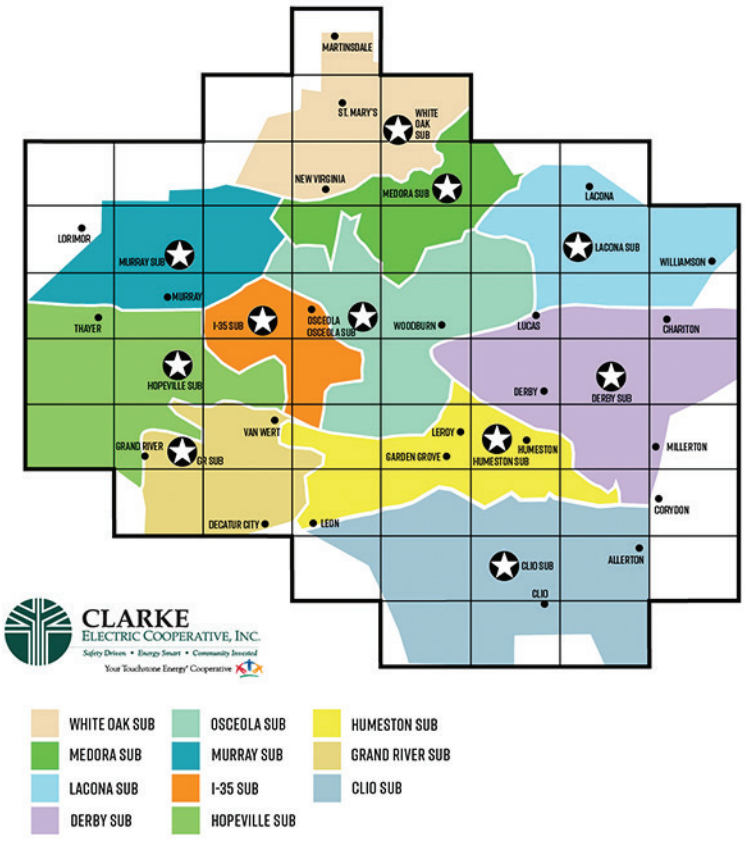
- Right-of-way spraying will take place out of the Hopeville, Murray, and I-35 substations;
- Hydraulic recloser maintenance will be performed out of the Clio and Grand River substations;
- General overhead and underground line maintenance will be performed out of the Osceola substation; and
- Two aging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

Our construction workplan focuses 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 also encourage community engagement and feedback throughout the construction process to ensure that the project aligns with local needs and concerns.

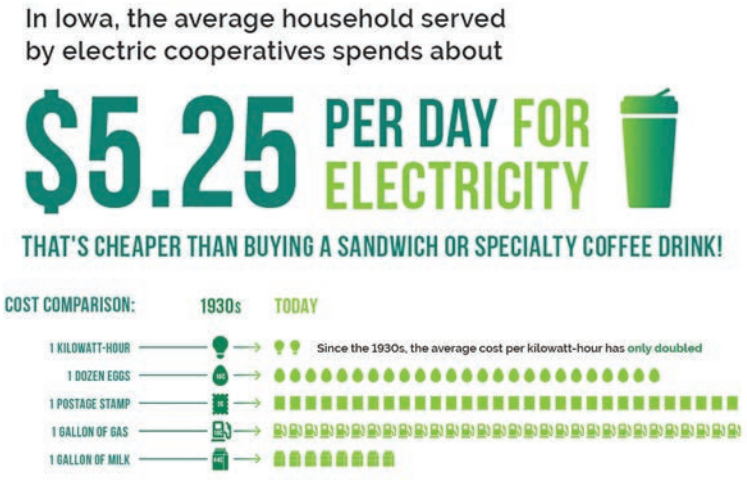
"We understand the importance of transparent communication and community involvement in such endeavors," said Manager of Member Services Jason Gibbs. "We encourage our members to reach out, ask questions, and provide their valuable insights as we move forward together."

Watch for updates in future newsletters or on our Facebook page and website.



THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE

The Value of Electricity



Electricity provides benefits that we often take for granted. In light of all of the significant impact it has on our daily lives, electricity has remained relatively cost-stable even amidst increased inflation.

As a member-owned cooperative, Clarke Electric does everything in our power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains a great value for our members. 28-20-02-02

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment, maintenance and operational expenses. Weather patterns also contribute, affecting both demand and generation capabilities, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. Your electric co-op considers all these aspects when adjusting rates, and because we're a cooperative, we consider the impact of those costs on our members as well.

As we continue to adapt to these challenges, there will be a modest rate increase necessary to maintain the reliability and quality of service you've come to expect. The rate adjustment is carefully considered by the board of local directors, with transparency and your needs as the guiding principles.

As our community continues to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. You can be assured, Clarke Electric always puts you top of mind and works each day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money.

COMMUNITY INVESTED

Youth Tour 2025

CORI SMITH
Customer Service/ Cashier

It's time for our cooperative to put out the word about the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour 2025! It all takes place in June, when hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send participants to Washington, D.C., for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing.

The application and more information can be found on our website at www.cecnet.net/youth-tour. Application deadline is Friday, March 3. Applicants must write an essay on the topic, "Which of the seven cooperative principles is most important to you and why," which will be due Friday, March 14.

While in D.C., participants have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Without a doubt, Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Brianna Fantz, a student at I-35, was selected to attend the 2024 National Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

In March, Clarke Electric will begin the interview process to select local students to attend Youth Tour 2025. If you are a high school junior interested in traveling to Washington, D.C. to experience the trip of a lifetime, please contact Cori Smith for more information.

Help us find the next generation of leaders by sharing the Youth Tour experience with a promising student. Students can call Cori Smith at (641) 342-2173 or (800) 362-2154, or email csmith@cecnet.net for more information.

TIMELINE

March 3: Youth Tour application deadline

March 14: Essay deadline

April 2: Youth Tour judging, 4:30 p.m., Clarke Electric office

June 15-21: Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C.

Sept. 9: Clarke Electric Annual Meeting

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU? Visit cecnet.net to find out more about these services and more!

Statewide outage map | Leased Light Program | SmartHUB | Rebates & Online Forms | Operation Round-UP | Call Before You Dig | Email newsletters | RECare

Statewide Annual Meeting Recognizes CEC Employees

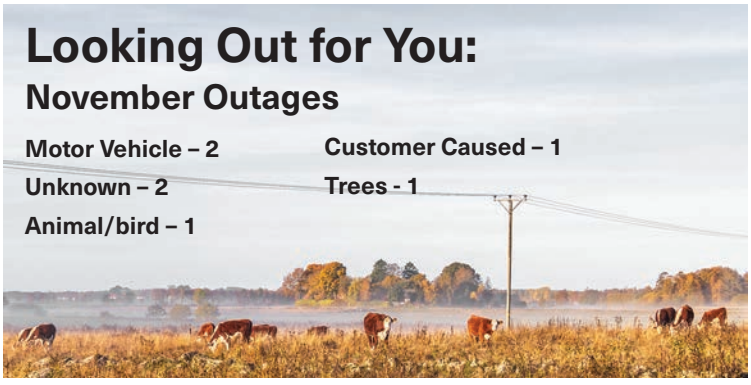
The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) held its annual meeting Dec. 5-6 in West Des Moines. The event included recognition for electric cooperative employees who have achieved 25 years of service to their cooperative, as well as employees who completed the IAEC's Cooperative Leadership in Iowa Program (CLIP).

From left: IAEC EVP Leslie Kaufman, Dave Opie, Jodee Eckels, Kevin Foley, Brad Wilson, and IAEC Board President Kenny VandenBerg.

Manager of Communications/HR Jodee Eckels and GIS Mapping & SCADA Tech Kevin Foley were both recognized for 25 years of service to Clarke Electric. 51-07-03-52

"Jodee brings so much to Clarke Electric Cooperative," said General Manager Dave Opie. "She has worked hard to make our cooperative more professional, effective, compliant, and probably most importantly, a great place to work. She is always thinking of ways to improve our culture, invest in our employees and help our Board. I am blessed to get to work with Jodee as a key person on our team."

"Kevin brings so many positive attributes to our Cooperative," said Opie. "Especially in the technology arena, Kevin has the natural ability to work the many details, whether it's hardware or software, to create integrated systems that are effective and useful. Much of his work takes hours of extreme detailed work, but the end results are impressive. Kevin will take on projects that no one else will touch, but the project gets done."



From left: IAEC EVP Leslie Kaufman, Dave Opie, Cori Smith, Jason Gibbs, and IAEC Board President Kenny VandenBerg.

Cori Smith, customer service/cashier, recognized for completing the 2024 Cooperative Leadership in Iowa Program (CLIP), along with 17 other graduates. Cori committed to a year-long calendar of in-person, virtual and on-demand training sessions where she gained leadership skills and learned about various co-op roles during the program.

"I am so proud of Cori for taking the initiative and time to invest in her future through the CLIP program," said Opie. "She is amazingly friendly and helpful, in person and on the phone. Cori is a natural leader, and she is putting in the effort to improve and grow. I feel lucky to have Cori on our team."

Congratulations to these Clarke Electric employees for their service and dedication to our cooperative!

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President: Randy Rouse
Secretary: Randy Barnard
Treasurer: Lydda Youmans
Asst. Sec./Treasurer: Larry Keller

Directors
Liz Beck
Cody Miller
Zach Robinson
Natalie Rydl

GENERAL MANAGER
David Opie

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.