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

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HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

Navigating Seasons and the Energy Landscape

As summer fades into fall, we find ourselves reflecting on a season marked by extremes. Summer has been exceptionally hot and wet—challenging conditions for our community, especially our local farmers. Timing hay cycles around unpredictable rainstorms was a frustrating gamble, as many watched freshly mowed and raked hay get drenched by sudden downpours.

To stay cool, our members turned on the air conditioning for relief from heat and humidity spikes. While the increase in electricity consumption led to higher revenue for the cooperative, it also brings to mind important questions about long-term sustainability and reliability.

Higher energy demand puts additional pressure on our aging electric grid. Coupled with the retirement of base load generation and evolving governmental mandates, the energy sector is facing significant hurdles in maintaining consistent power delivery.

Recently, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) released a statement urging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to swiftly repeal the Biden administration's 2024 greenhouse gas rule for power plants. The regulation, which mandates existing coal-fired plants and many new natural gas plants to capture 90% of carbon emissions,

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Remember to exercise caution around power poles and lines. CEC linemen were called out on a weekend to replace a broken pole after a farmer mowing the ditch hit the guy wire and broke it off the pole. We love it when our members help keep our right of way clear, but remember to stay aware of utility lines and poles around you.

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

Energy Landscape...from pg. 1

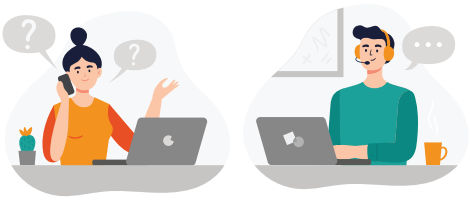
presents steep costs and reliability risks for electric cooperatives nationwide.

"Repealing the unlawful power plant rule is an essential step to ensure the reliability of the electric grid and meet skyrocketing energy demands," said NRECA CEO Jim Matheson. "Always-available generation is critical to keeping the lights on at a cost local families and businesses can afford."

The rule also requires certain coal plants to be 40% co-fired with natural gas by 2030—standards that NRECA argues are unachievable in real-world operations. These mandates could force the early retirement of essential generation assets and restrict new natural gas capacity at a time when demand is surging, especially with the rise of data centers and other large loads.

This is not a new battle for us, and we will continue to support national efforts to repeal these unworkable mandates. Locally, Clarke Electric remains steadfast in our mission: to keep your power flowing and your lights on. For the past 85 years, we've proudly served our membership, and we remain committed to doing so with reliability, affordability, and care. 62-06-11-55

Thank you for your continued trust and support.



Do You Have Questions or a Complaint?

Clarke Electric Cooperative 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 about Clarke Electric's service rather than its rates, you can reach a representative of the cooperative by contacting us during normal business hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at (641) 342-2173 or (800) 362-2154, or by email at clarke@cecnet.net. You can also write to: Member Advocate, Clarke Electric Cooperative, 1103 N. Main Street, Osceola, IA 50213.

If your complaint is not resolved, you may ask for help from the Iowa Utilities Commission, Customer Service, 1375 E. Court Ave., Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069; (877) 565-4450 or customer@iuc.iowa.gov.

On the move! Clarke Electric is often called to assist with large load moves that may come into contact with overhead lines in our territory. In this case, one of our linemen uses an insulated extending stick to safely create enough clearance for the house to pass through.

Clarke Electric is frequently assessing the condition of aging infrastructure across our territory, and taking steps to replace and update equipment when possible. Earlier this spring, CEC crews rebuilt a section of three-phase line feeding from the White Oak substation as part of our aging infrastructure plan. It was identified as one of the last remaining copper three-phase feeder lines in this substation. Upgrades like these help maintain reliable service delivery to our co-op members.

Looking Out for You:
July Outages

Lightning: 27
Animal/bird: 9
Equipment/Maintenance: 6
Undetermined: 6

Trees: 4
Customer Caused: 4
Maintenance: 3
Motor Vehicle: 1

Show You Care: RECare

This winter, many Clarke Electric Cooperative member-consumers will struggle to pay their winter heating bills.

As an electric cooperative, Clarke Electric is invested in helping our communities thrive, and that means supporting our low-income member-consumers, too. 37-02-03-03

RECare is a nationwide program exclusive to rural electric cooperatives that encourages fellow member-consumers to make a one-time or monthly donation that can help alleviate the stress for other member-consumers straining to pay their winter heating bills. Funds may also be used to weatherize the recipient's home to make electricity use more efficient.

And don't worry; your donation is directed to a local community action agency for distribution to low-income families in your community.

You can feel good that the dollars you donate are helping your friends and neighbors. It's an easy way to show you care!

Member Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members through the RECare program.

_____ Enclosed is a check with a one-time donation.

_____ I would like to make a monthly donation of $_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Mail to: RECare, c/o Clarke Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 161
Osceola, Iowa 50213

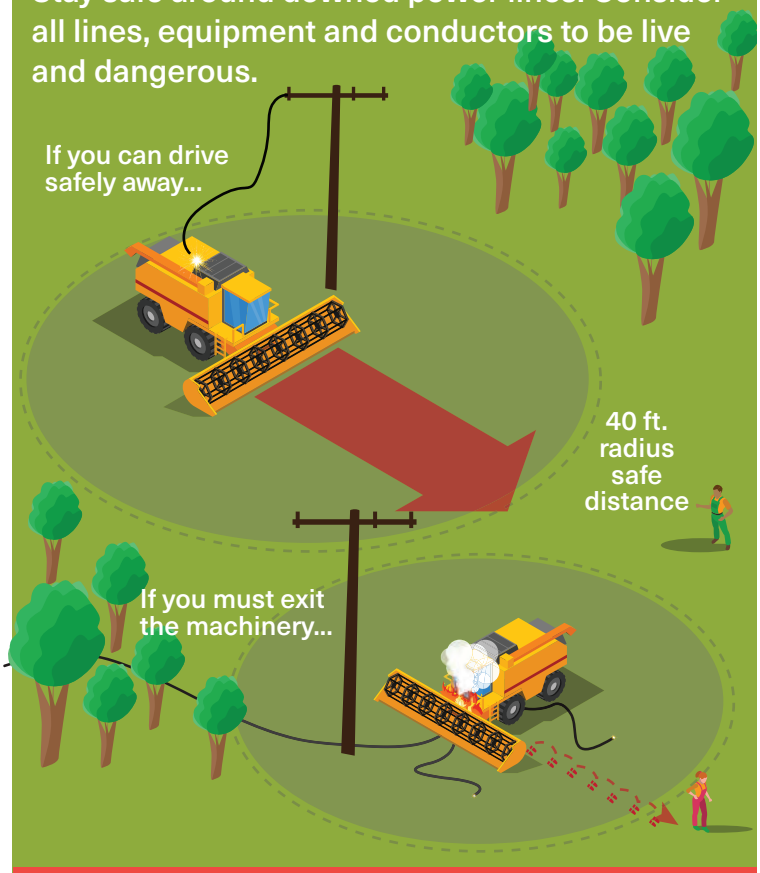
WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU? @ cecnet.net

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

ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW

HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY

Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.



If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 feet before exiting.

If the vehicle is on fire:

- Jump clear without touching the ground and the vehicle at the same time
- Land with feet together and hop away in small steps
- Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away
- Call for help and keep others away
- Do not re-enter the area until it is deemed safe by emergency responders and Clarke Electric.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of "shoulder months," the transitional periods between peak heating and cooling seasons typically occurring between September and November. Look for simple ways to boost indoor comfort without running your heating and cooling system. Use ceiling fans and open windows on breezy days to ventilate your home. On cooler days, add a layer of clothing and avoid running the heat.

Sometimes even the best technology runs into trouble. Recently, a spray drone found itself tangled in one of our distribution lines — a reminder that safety always comes first around power equipment. Whether it's farming equipment, construction machinery, or recreational drones, keeping a safe distance from power lines protects not only your equipment but also the reliability of your electric service.

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