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

Volume 86, No. 2 | February 2026

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

2026 Legislative Priorities

Every year, Clarke Electric Cooperative joins the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and rural electric cooperatives from across Iowa to work diligently at the Iowa State Capitol to protect the shared interests we have with our members.

We understand that providing safe, affordable, and reliable energy is central to both the physical and financial well-being of our members.

Each year, cooperative leaders identify potential issues affecting RECs like ours that may come up at the Statehouse while legislators are in session. Our years of experience lobbying on behalf of our members have taught us that sometimes we need to be proactive in proposing bills and sometimes we need to defend our stance on proposed bills and their provisions, as both are important to ensure we meet our objectives for serving our members.

JASON GIBBS
Manager Member Services

Three topics we are watching during the 2026 Legislative Session are:

Protect Iowa's defined electric service territories to ensure every corner of the state receives consistent, cost-effective electric service. Recently, Big Tech companies have been working through special interest

continued on pg. 2

Apply Now for the 2026 Scholarships!

DEADLINE: April 1, 2026

WHO: 2026 high school graduates with parents or legal guardians who reside within Clarke Electric's service territory and who receive electric service from the cooperative.

WHAT: The scholarships may be used for college or vocational technical school. Minimum amount is $500.

HOW: Apply online at www.cecnet.net/scholarships

INCLUDE: Applicants must include a copy of their transcript and a short essay on the topic, "Why are electric cooperatives important to you?"

CONTACT: Kim Griffin, (641) 342-2173; kgriffin@cecnet.net

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.

Priorities...from pg. 1

groups to draft legislation that could remove Iowa's electric service territory protections. Often referred to as "deregulation" or "customer choice," removing defined service areas could result in lower power costs for very large electric users at the expense of higher rates and lower reliability for everyone else. Over the past 20+ years, several states have deregulated their electric utilities, but the promises that competition would result in lower rates and improved reliability have not materialized.

Strengthen penalties to further protect utility workers who encounter threats, harassment and assaults while on the job. Although rare, CEC line workers have been threatened verbally, physically and with weapons in recent years. This is not okay. We would like them to get the same protection as similar groups get. While the state has laws that are meant to deter attacks on critical infrastructure like transmission lines, we support a policy that would increase penalties for anyone who carries out an attack on utility workers while performing the duties of their job. Violence against these heroes who power our communities with safe and reliable electricity should not be tolerated.

Third party solar (community solar) programs undermine defined electric service territory by allowing a non-utility to provide retail electric service within a public utility's territory. Despite claims of lower energy costs, these programs can increase costs for nonsubscribers, especially low-income customers, by shifting system expenses. In fact, 9 out of 10 states with the highest utility costs do not have service territory protections. Lawmakers should not allow out-of-state entities to operate within the established boundaries without the accountability, oversight or reliability standards that Iowa co-ops and other utilities are held and designed to preserve the integrity of our electric grid.

Eminent domain requires clarification and legislation surrounding hazardous liquid pipelines, specifically carbon pipelines. As electricity providers, we will be closely monitoring this extremely important issue for any potential legislation and how it may impact RECs and our ability to deliver safe and reliable power at the lowest cost possible.

Pictured, from left: Clarke Electric General Manager Dave Opie, Director Cody Miller, Member Services Manager Jason Gibbs, Senator Amy Sinclair and Representative Ray Sorensen.

Co-op Leaders Welcome Back Legislators

More than 150 senior staff and directors from Iowa's electric cooperatives, including Clarke Electric Cooperative, welcomed legislators Jan. 13 in downtown Des Moines.

The annual event draws co-op advocates to discuss upcoming priorities during the 91st Iowa General Assembly. The annual event is sponsored by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Communications Alliance, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and FUELIowa. 42-08-08-01

Questions or Complaints?

Clarke Electric strives to provide you with the best service at the lowest possible cost. But 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; 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 Commission 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@iuc.iowa.gov.

Collect On Your 2025 Investments

If you invested in energy efficiency improvements to your existing home in 2025, be sure to visit www.energystar.gov/about/federal-tax-credits or talk to your tax preparer. You may be eligible for credit on your taxes.

Renters who make eligible improvements may also claim some of the available tax credits. Landlords or property owners may not claim the credits if they do not live in the home in which the improvements were made.

Here is a short list of common items that may qualify (this is not a complete list):

- ENERGY STAR air-source heat pumps
- ENERGY STAR central air conditioners
- ENERGY STAR exterior doors
- ENERGY STAR windows and skylights
- Electric panel upgrade
- Electric vehicles
- Geothermal heat pumps
- Heat pump water heater
- Insulation

2026 Rebates

Clarke Electric Cooperative has a long history of encouraging the use of energy efficient appliances. When our members invest in their homes by purchasing and installing energy efficient equipment, it helps to reduce demand during times of extreme weather.

If you purchased any of the following equipment for your home, you may be eligible to receive a rebate.

Geothermal unit

Air-source heat pump

Central air conditioner

Electric water heater

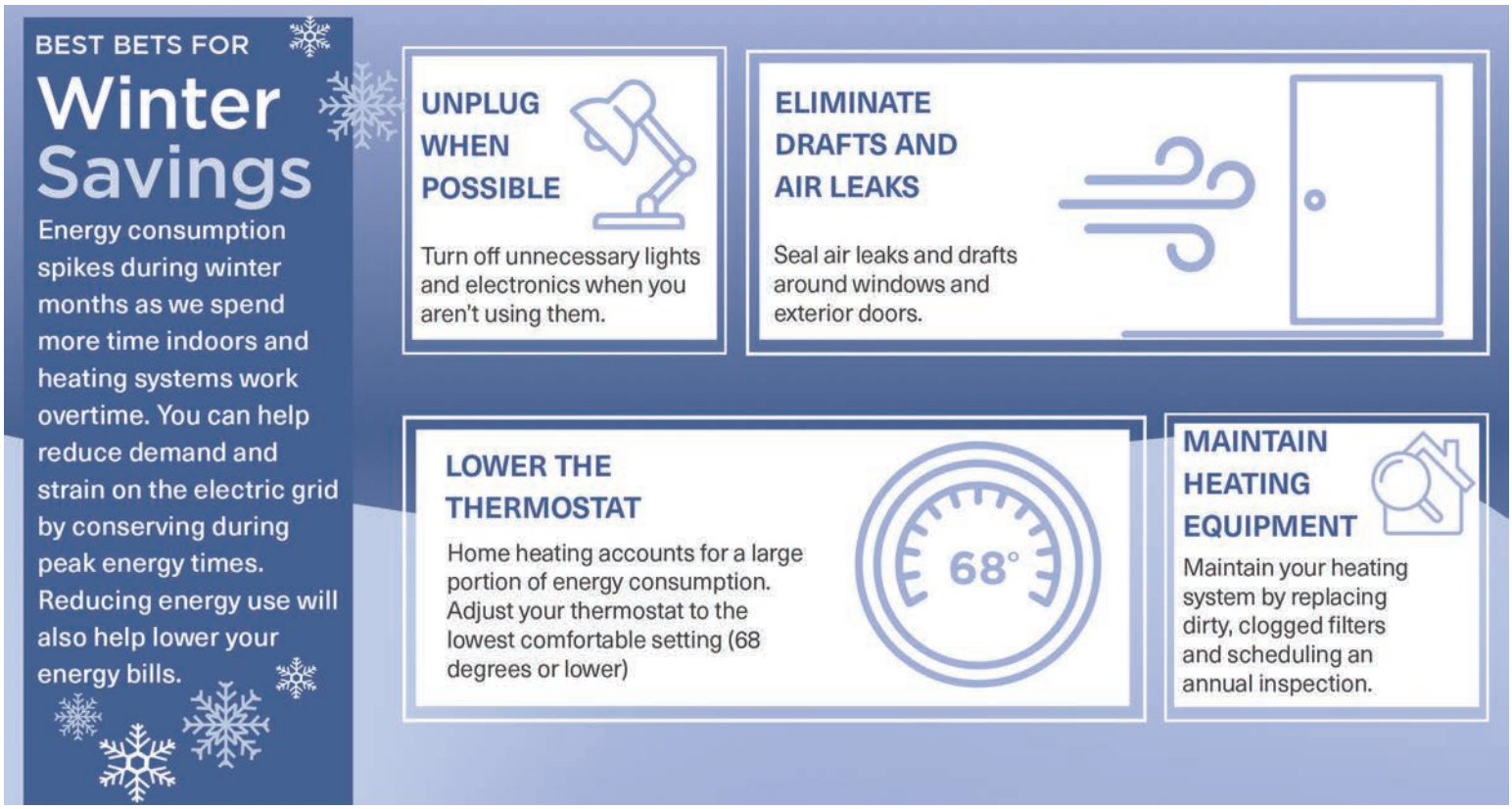
Heat pump water heater

Insulation on homes built prior to 2000

Heat recovery ventilator

EV Charger

Please visit www.cecnet.net for complete details and rebate forms. For agricultural and commercial rebates, please call or visit our website: www.cecnet.net.



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

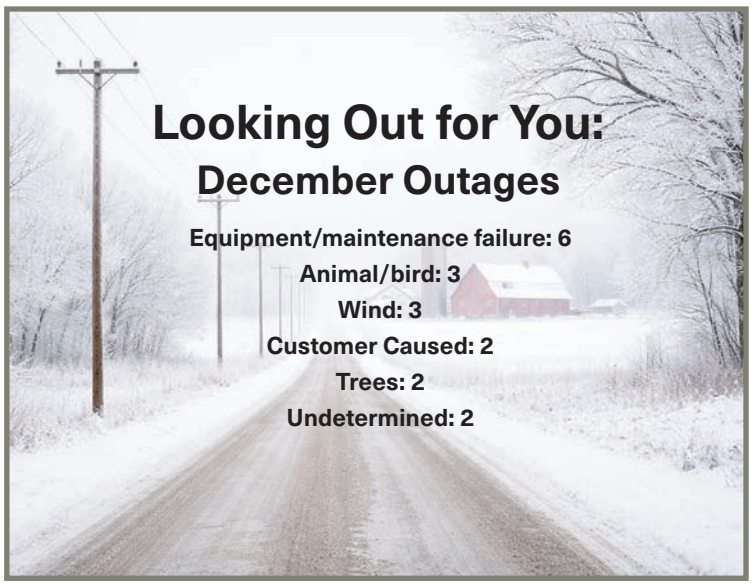
Email newsletters

RECare

Required 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.

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.



Time to Update Your Contact Information

We are updating member-consumer information. If your phone number or email address has changed, please notify us by phone, (800) 362-2154 or email us at clarke@cecnet.net. You can also scan the QR code at right to go to our website and update the member form. 09-15-03-00

It is important for Clarke Electric to have your most current contact information. This helps us to identify who you are when you call in to report an outage or request a service. It allows us to get important information to you as necessary. The information is not sold or given to others. We do share the information with our billing affiliate, but it is done in a secure environment.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

Replace or clean furnace filters to keep your furnace or heat pump running efficiently. Listen for strange noises and check for uneven heating - these signs indicate the system may need servicing. Ensure vents and radiators aren't blocked by furniture or rugs for airflow.

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: Cody Miller
Treasurer: Lydda Youmans
Asst. Sec./Treasurer: Randy Barnard

Directors
Liz Beck
Larry Keller
Zach Robinson
Natalie Rydl

GENERAL MANAGER
David Opie

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.