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

Where History Lives

Operation Round Up Donation Supports Lucas County Veterans Memorial Park

Pictured, from left: Earl Comstock, Richard Warren, Bob Phillips, Roger Blunk and Cori Smith with Clarke Electric.

The Lucas County Veterans Memorial Park is more than a collection of monuments and memorials. It is a living tribute to the men and women who answered the call to serve, many of whom left the familiar landscapes of southern Iowa to defend freedom in distant corners of the world. Every stone, marker, and display tells a story of courage, sacrifice, and devotion to country.

A recent addition to the park, "A Walk Through the States," was made possible in part through a $3,275 donation from Clarke Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up

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ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, Sept. 15

3:30-5:30 PM

1103 N. Main, Osceola

Drive-thru event with free meal + business meeting

Interested in serving on the co-op board? Call us! (800) 362-2154

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

History...from pg. 1

program. The feature adds another educational and interactive element to the park, encouraging visitors to explore the nation while reflecting on the shared history that unites all Americans.

Visitors entering the park quickly discover that it is designed to be experienced rather than simply observed. As they walk the pathways, they encounter reminders of America's military history and the generations of veterans whose service has protected the freedoms we often take for granted. The park invites quiet reflection and offers lessons that cannot be found in a textbook.

For many families, the park is deeply personal. Names etched in stone represent fathers, mothers, grandparents, neighbors, classmates, and friends. Behind every name is a story—a young person leaving home for basic training, a soldier enduring hardship overseas, or a veteran returning home to build a life and strengthen the community.

As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, the park serves an especially important role. While the semiquincentennial is a time to recognize our nation's achievements and accomplishments, it is also an opportunity to remember those who made those achievements possible. For 250 years, Americans have stepped forward in times of uncertainty and conflict to preserve the ideals upon which our country was founded.

The Lucas County Veterans Park helps connect those historic sacrifices to future generations. Children visiting the park today may not fully understand the meaning of service and sacrifice, but they leave with a greater appreciation for the freedoms they enjoy. Veterans find a place where their service is acknowledged and respected. Families discover a tangible connection to their heritage and to the values that have shaped America for generations.

Whether you visit for a few minutes or spend an afternoon exploring its many features, the Lucas County Veterans Park leaves a lasting impression. It stands as a testament to the service of our veterans, the strength of our community, and the enduring spirit of the USA.

Action Today, Impact Tomorrow

RANDY ROUSE
Representative on the CIPCO Board of Directors

As a representative of Clarke Electric Cooperative on the Central Iowa Power Cooperative Board of Directors, I've had the opportunity to see firsthand the significant progress CIPCO made in 2025 to strengthen the reliability and future of our power supply system. CIPCO is committed to pursuing cooperative solutions to the generation challenges facing us.

Guided by its Integrated Resource Plan, CIPCO moved forward with several major generation projects last year that will help meet growing energy demand, support economic development, and ensure long-term reliability for the communities it serves. Together, these projects will add nearly 400 MW of generation resources to CIPCO's portfolio in the years ahead.

One of the most important developments was the announcement of a new 240 MW natural gas-fired peaking facility in eastern Iowa. This plant will provide dependable energy during periods of high demand and help balance intermittent resources like wind and solar generation. Significant progress has already been made and, once completed, the plant will become the largest capital project in CIPCO's history and a critical reliability resource for Clarke Electric. 12-18-04-02

CIPCO also reaffirmed its commitment to the Coggon Solar project, a 100 MW solar facility in Linn County. After overcoming regulatory and legal hurdles, the project is now moving forward with construction expected to begin soon and completion targeted for 2028. This project reflects CIPCO's continued commitment to a balanced, all-of-the-above generation strategy.

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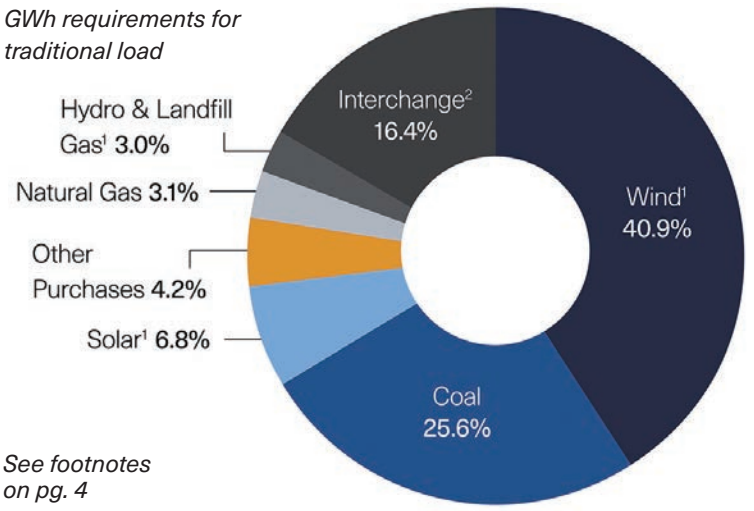
A Balanced, Responsible Energy Portfolio

Represents 3,209 GWh requirements for traditional load



See footnotes on pg. 4

Why Vegetation Management Matters

When the power goes out, the cause is often something many people don't think about on a daily basis: trees and vegetation growing too close to power lines.

At CEC, we maintain 2,000 miles of power lines that serve our members, and maintaining reliable electric service requires year-round attention to encroaching vegetation. 14-28-04-03

The importance of this work was clearly demonstrated during the powerful mid-June storm that swept through our area. Strong winds brought down countless tree limbs and, in many cases, entire trees. Across our system, trees were blown into and through power lines, causing outages, damaging equipment, and creating hazardous conditions for both the public and utility crews.

Vegetation management is not simply about convenience; it is about reliability and safety. Trees contacting energized power lines can cause power outages, equipment failures, fires, and serious safety hazards. Maintaining adequate clearance around electrical infrastructure helps reduce these risks and allows crews to restore power more quickly after severe weather.

We understand that trees are an important part of our rural landscape and that members may be reluctant to see them trimmed. Our crews and contractors work to balance the health and appearance of trees with the need to maintain safe clearances around electrical facilities. Every trimming decision is made with reliability, safety, and industry standards in mind.

When cooperative personnel request access to trim trees or manage vegetation within utility rights-of-way, we ask for your cooperation and understanding. These proactive efforts help protect the electric system before storms strike and reduce the likelihood of prolonged outages when severe weather occurs.

The mid-June storm served as a reminder that Mother Nature can be unpredictable and powerful. By allowing vegetation management work to be completed as scheduled, members play a direct role in helping keep the electric system reliable, improving public safety, and ensuring our communities recover more quickly when storms occur.

Together, we can help keep the lights on and maintain a safe, dependable electric system for everyone.

Sheets of steel from a nearby hog barn were blown into CEC powerlines just north of LeRoy.

Storm Recovery

In the early hours of June 11, a severe weather system with strong winds and hail worked its way across much of our system. By the time it passed, more than 450 of our members across six counties were impacted. From the first outage call at 6:58 a.m., CEC took an all-hands-on-deck approach. Office staff took calls and dispatched linemen to where they were needed. And the linemen worked tirelessly in very challenging conditions until all power was restored at 8:05 p.m.

"We are committed to restoring power as quickly and safely as we can each and every time" said Rob McCoy, Operations Manager.

You can find where outages are occurring across the state anytime by visiting www.iowarec.org/outages.

ENERGY SMART

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

Running multiple major appliances at the same time can spike energy demand and strain the electric grid, especially during peak hours – late afternoon / early evening. Spread appliance use throughout the day, or shift chores to "off-peak" hours when demand is lower to improve efficiency and reduce your energy costs.

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

Power Supply...from pg. 1

Another major milestone came with the announcement that Duane Arnold Energy Center, Iowa's only nuclear facility, will return to service through a collaboration involving CIPCO, NextEra Energy, and Google. CIPCO secured a long-term agreement to purchase a portion of the plant's output once operations resume in 2029. Nuclear energy has long played an important role in Iowa's energy mix, and restarting DAEC will provide CIPCO Member-owners like Clarke Electric with reliable, carbon-free baseload generation for decades to come.

CIPCO's strong financial performance in 2025 also demonstrates responsible stewardship of member resources. Strong margins allowed CIPCO to defer revenue and create financial flexibility that will help maintain stable and affordable rates while these major investments move forward. Both Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings affirmed CIPCO's 'A' rating as a result of this financial strength. In 2025, CIPCO realized a net margin of $28 million, well ahead of budget. This in turn allowed margins to be returned to CIPCO Member-owners in the form of patronage, a key component of the cooperative business model. For 2025, CIPCO returned patronage totaling $378,855 to our cooperative.

We are already seeing the impact of increased electric demand throughout our communities. CIPCO's energy sales reached an all-time high in 2025, driven by growth and economic development opportunities across the system. With this in mind, CIPCO maintained an overall outage rate of 0.26 per consumer, well under the target of 1.00 hour per consumer. In 2025, Clarke Electric's was 0.00 hours per member-consumer.

At the heart of all this progress is cooperation. CIPCO exists to serve its Member-owner cooperatives, and these accomplishments reflect what can be achieved when cooperatives work together with a shared purpose. I am confident that together, CIPCO and Clarke Electric will remain steadfast in delivering stable power at stable rates today and in the decades to come.

1 CIPCO invests in the development of renewable energy projects in several ways. We operate six small-scale solar arrays near communities we serve and retain the renewable energy certificates associated with each. We also contract with energy producers for the electricity output from wind, solar, hydro, and methane gas from a landfill (converted into electricity). CIPCO cannot claim these resources as renewable within our supply portfolio as we have either sold to third parties or do not receive the renewable attributes associated with the electricity produced from these renewable power sources. By selling these attributes (RECs), we not only support other organizations in meeting their renewable energy goals, we also generate revenue to help us lower our wholesale power rate to our 12 Member-owner distribution cooperatives and 15 municipalities.

2 A percentage of market purchases exist within the portfolio to meet additional supply needs not covered by existing contracts or CIPCO-produced generation. Weather volatility and unplanned operational events at power plants may also impact market purchases.

Working for You

A tree limb crashed through the power line near Hopeville during the June 11 storm.

Unable to reach the pole that was in a corn field, apprentice lineman Max Hunter climbed the pole to splice the line back together.

Our line crews work hard to restore power after a storm as quickly and safely as possible.

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cecnet.net

2026 SUMMER OFFICE HOURS
May 4 - August 21
Monday-Thursday, 7 AM - 4 PM
Outside depository available 24/7

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President: Randy Rouse
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Asst. Sec./Treasurer: Randy Barnard

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Zach Robinson
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CEO / GENERAL MANAGER
Chad McIntosh

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