

heartland LINK

A publication of East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

Celebrating

JOHN
TEGLER

RETIREMENT
OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, November 13

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2026 pocket calendars

Members, stop by the Urbana office to pick up your free pocket calendar from ECI REC!



take the member challenge

1. KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON: The _____ policies of Iowa's cooperatives are a great benefit of being served by a cooperative!

2. ENERGY WISE: Before you sign an equipment _____ for renewables, call ECI REC at 877-850-4343.

3. COMMUNITY CONNECTED: ECI REC has awarded them each a _____ donation from our Community Reinvestment Fund.

Find the answers within the stories, features, and content of this newsletter and you could win a prize. Send your answers to memberchallenge@ecirec.coop. Or, print the word(s) at the top of the back page, cut it out, and send it to: ECI REC, PO Box 248, Urbana, IA 52345. You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember there is a deadline! Entries for this issue must be received by December 1. Sixteen names will be drawn from all correct entries. Members will not be allowed to win more than once per calendar year.

last issue's challenge winners

The following names were drawn from the September/October 2025 *Heartland Link* entries. These members will receive a \$10 credit on their account.

Laverne D. Halstead
E J M Farms, Inc.
Jean Woods
John D. Rhinehart
Alicia M. Brislawn
Louis G. Kristjanson
Janet K. Merta
Bronson W. Wierck

Nicholas J. Nie
Dale H. Meister
Billie Jo Tonn
Kenneth Schares
Wilda M. Ingamells
Loras Overmann
Judy K. Irish
Anthony Schmitt

Calendar Notes

CLOSED – Tues., Nov. 11, Veterans Day

CLOSED – Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 27–28, Thanksgiving

CLOSED – Wed. & Thurs., Dec. 24–25, Christmas

CLOSED – Thurs., Jan 1, New Year's Day

Contact ECI REC

EMAILS

memberservices@ecirec.coop
(rebates, product sales)

csr@ecirec.coop
(billing, new customers)

WEBSITE

www.ecirec.coop

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Teresa Floyd
Chief Executive Officer
Ext. 450
teresa.floyd@ecirec.coop

Jennifer Schmitz
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Ext. 427
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Lisa Franck
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Nathan Groom
Information Services Manager
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HOURS

Monday-Friday
Office: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(closed Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays)

Stay connected! We post operations news and outage updates at facebook.com/eastcentraliowarec.



COVER STORY

CELEBRATING 31 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

John Tegler retires from East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

a Cooperative Difference spotlight

MEMBER SERVICE ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN JOHN TEGLER is hanging up his hard hat and retiring after more than three decades of dedicated service. John has been a familiar and trusted face at your Cooperative—known not just for his technical skill but for his passion for service, safety, and community. He has always gone above and beyond, whether he was responding to a member's call, assisting with energy efficiency questions, or giving electrical safety demonstrations.

John began his career with ECI REC's parent cooperative—Buchanan County REC—in May 1994. Throughout his career, he shared vital safety messages with thousands of grade-schoolers, emergency responders, and community members across our service territory. His engaging and memorable demonstrations—complete with live line tools and heartfelt storytelling—made a lasting impact. Local teachers and first responders often said they looked forward to seeing “John and the sparks” each year.

Respected by his peers and appreciated by our membership, John earned a reputation as someone who could be counted on in fair weather or foul. He has been the go-to person for both members and co-workers, offering not only electrical expertise but also mentorship, friendship, and a steady presence in a constantly evolving industry.

“John has been a pillar of this Cooperative,” said Manager of Member Service Adam Albertsen. “His knowledge, dependability, and care for others reflect the very best of what it means to work at a cooperative.”

In retirement, John plans to spend more time with his family, travel a bit, and no doubt continue to lend a hand in his community—as he's always done. We thank John for his years of commitment, leadership, and service, and we wish him all the best in this next chapter. Congratulations! 🎉

John Tegler photos courtesy of the ECI REC archives. Cover design accents from kromkrathog & Orange Sky, adobe.stock.com.

Please Join Us!

We're hosting a retirement open house celebration to honor John's 31 years of contributions to and lasting impact on East-Central Iowa REC.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

» 3:30 P.M.–6:00 P.M.

» INDEPENDENCE
OPERATIONS CENTER,
1707 1ST ST. EAST

*The clock's been punched
for the last time.*

*The daily grind has
been left behind.*

*No more meetings
or pages to fax.*

*It's time to kick back
and relax!*

2025 ECI REC Year-End Operations Report

a Keeping the Lights On article

HELLO FROM THE OPERATIONS TEAM AT ECI REC! We hope 2025 has been a great year for all our members.

For your Cooperative, this year was a little more active compared to the last couple of years due to frequent thunderstorms during the spring and summer. Multiple storms hit the ECI REC territory. While outage minutes are higher than they have been, we are feeling positive about how your Cooperative's facilities weathered the storms. We will continue to evaluate how to keep improving our facilities to increase our reliability.

Before we move on to the rest of the report, we'd like to extend a big thank-you to our line crews, who brave the worst weather conditions to restore service to our membership. We know they take great pride in their restoration work.

Highlights From 2025

JANUARY-MARCH

At the beginning of the year, we mainly focus on annual line inspections and recloser maintenance. ECI REC is required to patrol, document, and repair any safety issues or facilities that need repair. Replacing rejected poles is also a focus during the winter. Badgerland Utility Solutions of Wisconsin inspected poles in the Shady Grove and Shellsburg substation areas in 2025. As of the time of this article, your Cooperative crews have replaced approximately 260 poles.

Our overhead Work Plan construction started early in 2025. Highline Construction was again awarded the overhead Work Plan contract and did the majority of the rebuilds, finishing up in March. ECI REC crews also did a couple of the overhead projects in 2025.

In March, we sent a crew to Western Iowa Power Cooperative in Denison to assist in restoring power after an ice storm hit the area near the

Missouri River. Several rural electric cooperatives from around the state assisted in the storm restoration. The mutual aid policies of Iowa's cooperatives are a great benefit of being served by a cooperative!

APRIL-SEPTEMBER

These are typically considered the "busy months" of the year. Thunderstorm season is in full swing, while new service activity picks up and our underground portion of the Work Plan gets going.

CRC Trenching of Watkins, Iowa, won the bid for the underground work. They began in the southern portion of our service territory, near Vinton. They finished up cable installation down south in June, then headed to our northern territory near Independence. They will continue through the fall, likely working right up until the ground freezes.

The vegetation management and spraying program also takes place during this time of year. Zielies Tree

Service was back again in 2025. They trimmed the Jesup and Walker substation areas, with work being completed in August. ECI REC crews also helped with tree trimming. If you see any tree issues, please contact us.

In these months, ECI REC crews were busy terminating cable and cutovers and retiring overhead lines in accordance with our Work Plan projects. New service installations, along with upgrades to existing services, also took up a lot of the crew's time.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

In this last portion of the year, ECI REC crews continue to put the final touches on the underground Work Plan cutovers and retirements. Pole replacement work is again a priority, and our in-house underground work is wrapping up. This is also the time when vehicle and equipment inspections are carried out to ensure everything is in good order for the upcoming winter months.



Photo credit: Katie Stadheim

Lineworker Trent Koopmann secures a safety mannequin mimicking a disabled co-worker during pole-top rescue training, which took place in September at ECI REC's Independence Operations Center.

We hope you have a great 2026! As always, if you see something that looks hazardous or just out of place on or near ECI REC facilities, stay away and give us a call as soon as possible. 🌱



APPLY BY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Attention Students

It's Time to Reap the Benefits of Cooperative Membership

a Community Connected feature



APPLY BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

Sophomores & Juniors: Apply Now for Youth Tour 2026!

ECI REC IS LOOKING for two eligible students to sponsor on this once-in-a-lifetime trip to Washington, D.C. The event will take place this summer. To apply, students must be heading into their sophomore or junior year of high school and have parents or legal guardians who are members of ECI REC. Applications are due **Wednesday, February 25, 2026**, and can found on our Youth Tour page at ecirec.coop.

Youth Tour is one of the most important programs ECI REC takes part in. Our teens are our future, and our future is looking brighter every day. For more information about the Youth Tour program, email us at iowayouthtour@ecirec.coop or call us toll free at 877-850-4343. Also, follow the Iowa Youth Tour on Facebook, X, Snapchat, and Instagram!

THINGS YOU'LL SEE AND DO ON YOUTH TOUR

Washington Monument | World War II Memorial | Albert Einstein Memorial | Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial | Vietnam Veterans Memorial | National Mall | Potomac River Boat Cruise | Holocaust Memorial | Madame Tussauds Wax Museum | Ford's Theatre | Korean War Veterans Memorial | Lincoln Memorial | Washington National Cathedral | Mount Vernon | Iwo Jima Sunset Parade | White House | U.S. Capitol | Newseum

Three Scholarships for Seniors

ECI REC Scholarship Program – Up to ten \$1,000 scholarships are available to students who will continue their education in college in any field. Up to two \$1,000 scholarships are also available to students accepted to the Powerline Technology program at Northwest Iowa Community College. The deadline for applications is **Wednesday, March 4, 2026**. Visit ecirec.coop for more details. Look for the Scholarships page in the Community & News menu.

Youth Tour Alumni Scholarship – One \$10,000 and four \$1,000 scholarships are available to Electric Cooperative Youth Tour alumni. Visit electric.coop for details.

Engineers of the Future Scholarship – \$2,000 scholarships are available to students pursuing a career in engineering. Visit electric.coop for details. 📄

THANK YOU

for your years of service!



JENNIFER SCHMITZ
Manager of Finance
30 years
NOVEMBER



LISA FRANCK
Manager of Communications
24 years
NOVEMBER



TANYA ELLIS
Member Service Representative
5 years
NOVEMBER

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS ⚠️

Scammers will try anything to pressure customers into providing their personal information. If you are ever asked to pay your utility bill through a third-party transaction app, such as Cash App or Venmo, it's a scam. Remember, utilities will never request a payment through a third-party app. Always use authorized payment methods when paying your utility bills.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams



Merry
Christmas &
Happy
New Year

Give the Gift of Electricity!

Giving the gift of electricity may not be at the top of your list of ideas this holiday season, but it may be the perfect fit. Having a winter heating bill covered or partially covered could be a great, unexpected surprise for a friend or family member, and it's easy to do with the Power Boost Gift Certificate from ECI REC. Simply fill out the form online at **ecirec.coop/power-boost-gift-certificate**. Both check and credit card payments are accepted. You may also access the form by scanning the QR code.



Photo credit: 1586356446: Nongnuch Leetanwong - iStockphoto.com

Give Some Extra Sparkle This Holiday Season With Help From Your Cooperative!



Support these local businesses by shopping with your Co-op Connections® Card.

- ★ Cy & Charley's Tire & Appliances
- ★ Fabulous Fridays
- ★ Heartland Acres Agribition Center
- ★ Cameron Clothing Company
- ★ Styles Unlimited
- ★ Berry's Lanes, Inc.
- ★ In the Country Garden & Gifts
- ★ Frazier Nursery
- ★ Henkle Creek Mercantile
- ★ Subway (Vinton)
- ★ Viking Sewing Center

About to Sign Up for Renewable Equipment? Call Us First!

an Energy Wise reminder

IF YOU RECEIVE an offer on equipment like solar panels or small wind electric systems that sounds too good to be true, it probably is! Don't be swayed by aggressive sales tactics or a nontransparent sales rep. Be especially wary if you hear phrases like:

- » You don't need to work with your cooperative.
- » You won't have an electric bill.
- » Your cooperative is against renewables.
- » Your utility will pay you!

Before you sign an equipment contract for renewables, call ECI REC at 877-850-4343. Our team is always here to provide the information you need and answer your questions.

Meet ECI REC's 2025 Shine the Light Nominees

a Community Connected spotlight

DRIVEN BY THEIR commitment to community, the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa held their fifth annual Shine the Light contest this summer to celebrate local volunteers.

In June, employees and member-consumers of Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives were invited to nominate someone who makes a positive difference in their community. The judging committee reviewed essays highlighting 88 outstanding nominees. The full list of nominees was published in the August issue of *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine, and the three winners were revealed in the recent September issue.

This year, ECI REC was very excited to have four Shine the Light nominees within our service area:



Ricky Davis

RICKY DAVIS has been a leader with Golf for Injured Veterans Everywhere (GIVE) since 2012. This organization is committed to teaching disabled veterans how to play golf, no matter their disability. After completing the program, these veterans can play for free or for a cart fee at over 60 different golf courses in Iowa. Ricky himself is a Vietnam era service-connected disabled veteran. He was nominated by Joyce Davis of Marengo.



Donna Delagardelle and
ECI REC Manager of
Finance Jennifer Schmitz

DONNA DELAGARDELLE kick-started the Scrip Program for St. Athanasius School in Jesup over 30 years ago and continues to coordinate it today. Through the sale of gift cards, this initiative raises funds for the school and supports families with tuition costs. Donna was nominated by Monica Bengston of Fairbank.



Steve and Jodie Ries with
ECI REC CEO Teresa Floyd

STEVE RIES founded the Aiming for a Cure Foundation with his son, Ben, when Ben was diagnosed with a brain tumor at just eight years old. The foundation supports pediatric oncology patients and their families in many ways, from covering travel and lodging expenses to offsetting medical costs and bringing a little joy to a hospital room with toys and comfort items. Ben passed away at just 12 years old. This year marks 20 years since his passing. Steve was nominated by his niece, Katie Stadheim, the human resources director for ECI REC.



Randy Scheel and ECI
REC Information Services
Manager Nathan Groom

RANDY SCHEEL helps enhance our natural resources through the Benton County Conservation Foundation. As an avid sportsman, he is passionate about education, conserving Iowa's wildlife, and preserving our natural areas. He's involved in many organizations, including serving on the Benton County Conservation Board since 2013. He was nominated by Becky Van Wey of Vinton.



While these nominees were not selected as one of the three state-wide winners, your Cooperative was very happy to celebrate these four Community Connected volunteers by making donations to their causes in their honor. ECI REC has awarded them each a \$500.00 donation from our Community Reinvestment Fund. Our power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative, has offered to match our contribution—bringing in a total donation of \$1,000.00! 💡

Help Us Find These Former Members

Photo credit: 167420610
©Darren4155 - dreamstime.com

a Cooperative Difference report

IN MAY, the Board of Directors of East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative voted to retire \$601,038 in patronage back to its members. These margins represent 100% of its 2010 allocated patronage dividends and 8.4% of its 2016 allocations. They were credited to current members on their June bills. Former members were sent checks. The 90-day window to cash these checks has now passed, and the people listed below have not yet cashed their checks. These dividends will be forfeited to the Cooperative if not claimed within one year.

If you know someone listed below, please contact that person, or their next of kin, and ask them to contact our office. ECI REC will require personal identification and/or legal documentation from these people to confirm their membership before dividends can be claimed. Please do not contact ECI REC unless you have the necessary documentation for the member listed. This list was current at the time of this printing.

Patronage represents the margins, or profits, that the Cooperative earns on electricity purchased by its member-accounts. These margins are the member-accounts' equity in East-Central Iowa REC. The Cooperative uses this equity to maintain its poles and wires, rebuild its distribution system, and pay expenses. When ECI REC's financial condition allows, these margins are returned back to the members who generated them. In the past 10 years, ECI REC has returned \$5,443,390 to its members. 

Abbott, Daniel Achey, Chris L. Achey, Curtis Adair, Dean Adair, Jacy Albertsen, Caleb L. Allen Sr., Robert L. Alta Vista Properties LLC Alvarez, Kathrine Amelon, Nicholas D. Amos, Ronald Anderson, Dean B. Anderson, Robert Andes, Tracy M. Andrews, Brett W. Anthony, David E. Armstrong, Kerrie Ashlock, Donn Avant, Jordan Avenson, Donald Backer, Harry L. Bailey, Maurice Baker, Ryan Ball, Ashley M. Ballard, Mildred Bange, Jennifer L. Bankers Bonded Services INC Bantz, Megan M. Barfield, Candace K. Bartholomew, Brock J. Baskerville, Patsy Bauer Fisher, Vincent Beatty, Nicole M. Beau, Tara Beck, Jacie Becker, Bernice Beermann, Christy J. Beesecker, Brian Belfield, Mitchell Bennett, Robert F. Bennett, Susan F. Bentley, Shawn E. Bernier, Kathy M. Berry, Elizabeth A. Beyer, Raneae Bickal, Mark Billings, James A. Bilsland, Clarence Bird, Andrew Bird, Carolyn J. Bishop, Randall J. Bleuer, Jacqueline E. Boddicker, Vanessa D. Boelter, Velma Bohnsack, Dale Bonefas, Larry P. Bonnert, Dewayne A.	Borrett, Kyle L. Bosier, Connie S. Bosman, Daniel Brandhorst, Timothy A. Brandley, Sonia Brazil, Randi L. Brecht, Brandee Brecht Sr., Ronald Bright, James H. Brinkema, Jack E. Brown, Dennis L. Brown, Ron L. Brown, William Buchtela, Donald W. Buchtela, Ronda K. Buck, John Burch, Douglas Burnell, Dona J. Burnell, Keith Burns, Brian A. Busch, Samantha J. Carr, Katelynn Butler, Crystal K. Butterfield Jr., Dale L. Cain, Robby S. Calef, Bernie Campbell, Hunter Campbell, Michael T. Carr, Katelynn Carr, Steve L. Carter, Jay Casey, Angie Cedar Ridge Trading Cedar Valley Egg Farm Chaffee, Mark Channell, April Chapman Trust Chensvold, Shawn Cherry, Philip R. Childers, Lonny Childers, Vicki Chinchar, Brent Cibula, Nancy Claeys, Sara J. Clapp, Trent Clark, Greg M. Clark, Roberta Coast to Coast Logistics Coleson, Megan M. Cono Christian School Copp, Jeremy D. Cornwell, Mark A. Countryman, Betty J. Courtier, Lynn Cox, Dana Crabtree, Stacey J. Cram, Kelly M. Crawford, Carolyn A.	Crawford, Malinda S. Crawford, Rick J. Criswell, Brent Crock, John J. Cromer, Sammie D. Csongradi, William Cue, Robert M. Cummins, Mary Cunningham, Brooke Cunningham, Richard L. Curry, Chinna A. D & T Logistics Inc Daugherty, Lucille H. Davis, Erik A. Deardorff, David Decker, Ryan R. Dengler, Rod Dettbarn, Amanda R. Domeyer, Keith Dooly, Victoria I. Doyle, Douglas Drafahl, Vinnie Drinovsky, Dawn M. Driscoll, Todd C. Dunakey, David D. Dunham, Terry L. Dunkel, Angela N. Dunlap, Marilyn L. Dunn, Chris Dvorak, Joshua K. Dzurenka III, John J. Eagle Ridge of Iowa Eaves, Wyatt Eckes, William C. Eckman, Gregory Edgewood Feedmill Edwards, Caitlin A. Edwards, Wanda R. Edwards, Wilford J. Ehlers, Kurt E. Ehlert, Steve R. Ehr, Steve P. Eiben, Nancy Elliott, Jeff J. Emerson, Rick H. Enos, Bobbi R. Erger, Donald D. Ericson, Jordan N. Erlandson, Matt J. Etten, Shawn D. Evans, Pearl Faith Bible Institute Farrell, Kristina L. Farris, Rachel L. Feauto, Dale Fencel, David P. Ferguson, Seth R. Fessler, Denise	Fettkether, Stephanie R. Fiebelkorn, Tim J. Fink, Aaron J. Fisher, Gretchen K. Fisher, Karen Fitzpatrick, Jerry Five Star Farms Inc Fleming, Allen Fleming, Molly A. Fleming, Roger Floyd, Roland Foels, Mark Ford, Jack Estate Fowler, Cassandra W. Fowler, Julia A. Fowlkes Jr., Arthur P. Fowlkes, Ronald L. Fox, Roger Frieden, Jeremy J. Friends of the Shelter, Inc Fritsch, Cynthia Frost, Greg Frost, Stanley R. Fruchtenicht, Jeffry J. Fuchs, David J. Fuller, Jeff P. Fullilove, Susan L. Galbraith, Jonathan D. Gancarz, Christopher Garbers, Karen Gardner, Chad Gardner, Joe M. Garvin LP Gas Getty, David D. Gibson, Gary J. Ginter, Cory J. Gioimo, Stephanie J. Glendenning, Ron A. Goedken, Dean A. Goodall, Ray B. Goodell, Monica L. Graeser, Elizabeth Graves, Robert D. Green, Kent Greenback LLC Greene, Jerome P. Greene, Nicole E. Greenhalgh, Rick Greiner, Craig Griffith Home Builders, Inc Griffith, Bernice F. Griffith, Craig Grimm, James B. Grimm, Marvin L. Grimm, Nick P.	Grindley, Gary A. Guaranty Bank Gutknecht, Hans Hackett, George A. Hainstock, Richard L. Haisman, Shelley M. Hallberg, Matt C. Halstead, Ken Hancor of Iowa Hansen, Tom Hanson, Edward R. Hanzlik, Kaye J. Hard, Tonja S. Harder, Jerrine Hupfeld, Melvin Hargrafen, Jim J. Harkin, Adam M. Harkin, Patricia Harris, Denise Hart, Brian L. Hartnett, Joanne Hartnett, Kevin Hartson, Stephanie M. Hawley, Brian A. Hedeman, Richard J. Heidemann, Jeremy K. Heise, Stephan Heiserman, David J. Heit, Brian J. Heitshusen, Herbert Helbert, Michael Hellentall, Rebecca Henderson, Dianne M. Henderson, Heather J. Henderson, Jason R. Henke, Ashley A. Henkle, Blake Henry, Richard W. Hersom, Stanley Hertzberg, G. Pauline Hertzberg, Veronica Herwig, Michael A. Herzog, Mary E. Hesson, Blake Hettinger, Dan D. Heyer, Barbara E. Hicks, Jaystin D. Hicks, John Ed Hill, Brian E. Hill, Debbie Hilleshiem, Laura L. Himmel, Nathan A. Hinton, Galen Hobbs, Amos D. Hocken, Vicki J. Hockey, Linda Hockey, Richard Hodgson, James Hoeck, Susan	Hogan, Miles H. Holland, Robert O. Holthaus, Russell Holub, Gary L. Hootman, Paul Hoppenworth, Kreg Horsefield Construction Howard, Bryan L. Hughes, Barrey Hughson, Richard L. Hulse Farm Trust Hummel, Gloria Hummell, Jason L. Hunter, John Hupfeld, Melvin Hutchinson, Michele Hutton, Angela M. Huttons RV Center Inc Iowa Custom Embroidery Iowa Wireless Irvine, Randy P. Ites, Scott Jackson, David E. James, Charles E. James, Krista M. Jammal, Abdul Janecek, Louis Mii Jansen, Ryan K. Jebe, Mary Estate Jefferis, Glenn H. Jenkins, Joe W. Jennings, John L. Johnson, Eulesa Johnson, Fred Johnson, Kate Johnson, Robert K. Johnson, Sara Johnson, Trey G. Johnson, Van R. Jones, Bradley A. Jones, Darwin D. Jones, Donna Jones, Robert W. Jones, Terry L. Jordan, Kurt E. Jordan, Kurt E. JR's Home Repair Juergens, Jerry Kahle, Raphael J. Karr Mobile Concrete Karr, Angie L. Karsten Real Estate Kearney, William Keel, Bob Kelly, Thomas Kemps, William	Kenney, Leland Key, Kim K. KFMW-FM Broadcasting Kies, Bill Kiler, Randall K. Kinder Morgan Energy Partners Kintzel, Travis Kivell, James C. Kleiman, Mike W. Klein, Vivian M. Klein, Vivian M. Estate Klendworth, Jeremy L. Klimes, Liz A. Klink, Monte Knapp, Beverly A. Knight, Velma Knipp, Mary Knudsen, Cole R. Knudsen, Jeni R. Koenen, Roxanne K. Kolsto, Gina Kono, William D. Koopman, Dustin Koutny, Lyle Estate Kraft Pizza Kramer, Alice Krivanek, Chas J. Krum, Beverly M. Kubik, Kathleen S. Kuch, Donald A. Kuennen, Kathleen Kuhn, Darrell E. Kunch, Donald M. Kupka, Curt Kurt, Barbara L. Kusel, Scott L. Kwapil, Chris J. Lala, Michelle M. Lala, Mike Landon-Boubin, Jamil C. Lane, Donald Lane, Ronald W. Lang, Evelyn Lang, Neil J. Lapage, Michael Larimer, Michael A. Larson, Rick G. Leckness, Emily A. Leckness, Emily Estate Lee, Marcus A. Leighton-Dick, Edouard L. Leroy, Amy D. Lewis, Melody Lewis, Pamela E. Lilja, Clarice M.
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- Lindsay, Melissa
Lindsey, Richard
Lokenvitz, Kelley R.
Long, John S.
Long, Teri R.
Lorenz, Larry D.
Lortz, Paul L.
Loutsch, Robert L.
Loy, Rich H.
Luloff, Janet M.
Lunkley, Tom
Mahoney Jr., Dan D.
Mahoney, Edward J.
Maile, Inez P.
Manley, Dennis R.
Mann, Zach
Marise, Lacey A.
Marquart, Natasha L.
Martin, Dean G.
Martin, Samantha L.
Martin, Wayne D.
Mason, James P.
Mason, Luke P.
Mathews, Dan
Mathis, Sarah A.
Mattson, Eric
McAllister, Steven D.
McCann, Kevin
McCarty, Donald E.
McCleary, Stephen J.
McConoughey, Margaret A.
McCord, Thomas R.
McCormick, Robert J.
McCurdy, Philip
McGreevy, Nicole L.
McKinley Hilmer, Janet
McMahan, Don
McMurrin, Doris M.
McMurrin, Kellie M.
Mead, Greg
Meek, Dawn M.
Menefee, Paul
Merchant, Matt A.
Meredith, Bruce
Meredith, Justin M.
Merritt Farms
Merriweather, Ernest J.
Metcalf, Linda C.
Michael, John
Michel, Larry J.
Michels, Lowell
Midwest Welding & Fabrication
Miller, Aaron T.
Miller, Darla J.
Miller, Duane
Miller, Tamara
Miller, Teresa M.
- Milnes, Dan S.
Monsanto
Moore, David
Morgan, Dean R.
Moroney, Robert J.
Morris, Mike
Morrissey, Nick J.
Morrow, Vernon L.
Mullan, Brian L.
Mullnix, Leslie R.
Mulvaney, Rex
Munson, Mitch
Munz, Alice K.
Murdock, Ron M.
Murphy, Candice
Murphy, Danette A.
Murray, Mark C.
Murray, Peter
Musallam, Maher J.
Myers, Brenda L.
Nabholz, Glenda Estate
Nabours, Kenneth
Neighbors, Joseph C.
Neill, Joanne C.
Nelson, Frank
Newhoff, Roxanne L.
Newman, Justin
Newman-Koester, Donna
Nextel Partners Inc
Nezerka, Adolph
Noe, Melvin
Noe, Ryan P.
Noe, Sharon K.
Northeast Iowa Restaurant Manag
Nosbisch, Jaime S.
Novak, Brent E.
Novak, Duane
Novak, Janet L.
O'Brien, Tom A.
O'Connor, Carl
O'Connor, John R.
O'Connor, Kelly J.
Oldridge, Kamie L.
Oliphant, Dale E.
Olivas, Hector
Omega INC
One Site Development LLC
Oneill, Edward
Osborn, Nicole M.
Osmundson, Jonah J.
Ostby, Leah E.
Ostlie, Linda
Owen, David L.
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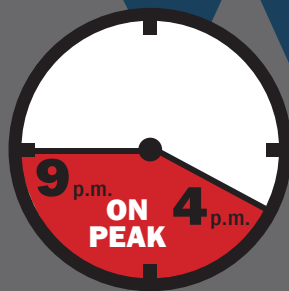


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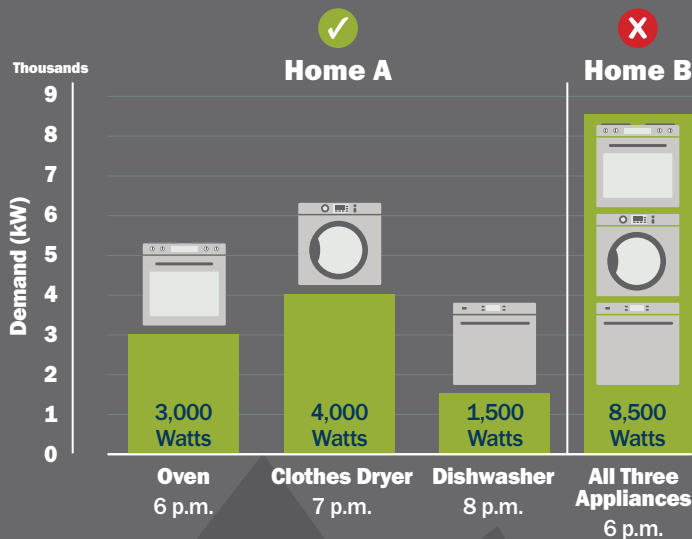
IN 2026, MAKE A RESOLUTION TO

TAKE A
LOAD OFF THE
PEAK



Frigid winter temperatures increase electricity usage for everyone. However, there are ways you can help ECI REC (and your fellow members) save money!

- Keep electricity usage to a minimum between 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.** ECI REC pays the most for electricity used in these peak hours. If you cut back during this window, everyone saves.
- Coordinate the number of appliances you operate at once.** Staggering the use of appliances reduces the demand on our system, which means lower costs.



Results

Home A staggered the use of their appliances during peak hours, creating less of a demand on the Cooperative's system.

Home B used all three appliances at once during peak hours, creating higher demand, which could increase costs.

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ECI REC Member-Consumer Information			
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* If you are mailing electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not mailing electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

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Lisa Franck, Manager of Communications/Editor

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Twinkle up the trim **SAFELY**

- Use only lights, cords, animated displays, and decorations **rated for outdoor use**.
- When decorating outside, **look up and around** for power lines. **Never throw lights** or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself **at least 10 feet away** from power lines.
- Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)**.

For more **holiday safety tips**, visit:



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)

Privacy Policy for East-Central Iowa REC

Our Commitment to Privacy: At East-Central Iowa REC, confidentiality is very important to us. As we continue to improve and expand our services and delivery channels, we recognize our customers' need and desire to preserve their privacy and confidentiality. East-Central Iowa REC recognizes the trust you have placed in us and is committed to safeguarding the privacy of our customers' information. The following policy affirms our continued commitment to preserving customer confidentiality.

The Information We Collect: We receive and retain information about our customers through many sources:

- » Information we receive from you on applications or other forms;
- » Information about your transactions with us, our affiliates, or others; and
- » Information we receive from a consumer-reporting agency.

The Way We Use Information: We limit the use and collection of nonpublic personal information to that which is necessary to maintain and administer financial services. We do not share this information with outside parties unless:

- » The information is provided to help complete a customer-initiated transaction (such as credit reporting agencies, document processing companies, etc.);
- » The customer has requested it;
- » The disclosure is required by law (e.g., subpoena, investigation of fraudulent activity, etc.); or
- » The disclosure is required by banking regulation (e.g., Fair Lending Reporting Act, Home Mortgage Disclosure Act).

When customer information is provided to any of the third parties just mentioned, that third party must agree to adhere to privacy principles that provide for keeping such information confidential.

Limiting Employee Access to Information: East-Central Iowa REC limits employee access to customer information to those with a business reason for knowing such information. All of our employees are educated on the importance of confidentiality and customer privacy. Any employee who violates the financial privacy of our customers will be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures and possible termination.

Protection of Information via Established Security Procedures: To prevent unauthorized access, maintain data accuracy, and ensure the correct use of information, we have put in place appropriate physical, electronic, and managerial procedures to safeguard and secure the information.

Maintaining Accurate Information: We have established procedures so that our customers' financial information is accurate, current, and complete in accordance with reasonable commercial standards. East-Central Iowa REC will respond to requests to correct inaccurate information in a timely manner.

At East-Central Iowa REC, we value our customer relationships. We want you to understand how we use the information you provide and our commitment to ensuring your personal privacy. If you have any questions about how East-Central Iowa REC protects your information, please contact us at 877-850-4343 or email ecirec@ecirec.coop.

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East-Central Iowa REC will publish non-commercial advertisements as a service to our members. All ads are free. They may be submitted by any member or employee of East-Central Iowa REC. Ads should contain a phone number, name (if desired), a brief description of items with price if applicable. Each ad is limited to maximum of 50 words; please type or print clearly. Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad. No ads will be taken over the telephone—please email, mail, or bring your ad to the office.

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CLIP AND MAIL

See page 2 for the Member Challenge questions.

Answers: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Please note: NO ANSWERS will be taken over the phone.

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CEO TERESA FLOYD

AS NOVEMBER ARRIVES and the season of gratitude is upon us, all of us at East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative are reminded of how truly thankful we are for you, our members. Month after month, we receive kind notes, calls, and messages from members expressing appreciation for the service we provide and for our involvement in the communities we call home. Each word of thanks means more than we can say—it's a reminder of why we do what we do.

At the heart of your Cooperative is service. Electricity may be the product we deliver, but service is the only thing we truly provide. Without our members, there is no ECI REC. Your trust and support make it possible for us to keep the lights on, respond quickly when outages occur, and invest in programs and events that strengthen our communities.

This Thanksgiving season, we want to return that gratitude. Thank you for allowing us to serve you, for being part of our Cooperative family, and for making ECI REC what it is today. We are here because of you—and for that, we are thankful every single day. 🍁