

Building on the Past
to Grow the Future

Log in to ECI REC's Virtual Annual Meeting

a Cooperative Difference feature



We would also like to highlight the efforts of our Nominating Committee, who met on February 20. This committee made this election possible. Thank you to the following (pictured left to right): Gary Maurer (District 9), Carl Dodge (District 10), Don Shonka (District 6), John Frazier (District 4; virtual), Peggy Bearbower (District 2), Randy Merkel (District 8), and Clint Sandburg (District 3). Bob Hanson (District 1) is not pictured.

IT'S TIME TO VOTE! ECI REC's Board election will get underway on May 19, when voting opens. Voting will remain open until June 23. Results will be announced at this year's Annual Meeting of the Members, which will be held virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, June 25.

In today's challenging environment, cooperative leaders carry a significant responsibility. Over the past year,

we've been reminded how incredibly essential our utilities are. ECI REC is blessed to have a dedicated Board of Directors that supports innovation that builds on our past to grow our future.

"Members, your vote matters! Though we no longer gather in person, we offer an extended voting window, and members have three ways to cast their ballots," said CEO Teresa

Floyd. "We hope you'll join us for our livestream and take part in guiding our Cooperative's future!"

We've created a page on our website dedicated to the Annual Meeting. Look for the yellow button at the top of the home page at ecirec.coop. For more detailed information on how to attend the meeting, how to vote, and this year's prizes, see the back cover. 📖

2024 President & CEO Report

WITH GRATITUDE for our achievements and milestones, we can say 2024 was indeed a remarkable year for your Cooperative—filled with historically low outages, as well as strategic investments in our infrastructure, maintenance, and employees.

Global supply chain issues continued to improve, and lead times on most line materials improved as well. Connecting with local legislators remains very important for ECI REC's leaders, so there is an intentional effort on our behalf to reach out to our senators and representatives to inquire about get-to-know visits at the ECI REC administrative headquarters. It's essential that our legislators can count on ECI REC for credible information!

Let's take a moment to reflect on the successes of 2024 and share our vision for 2025.

Safety

Safety is a cornerstone of your Cooperative's operations and requires commitment at all levels. It's not just about ensuring compliance with regulations but also fostering a culture that prioritizes the well-being of employees and the community. The safety of our employees, members, and the public is our number-one priority. We continue to participate in ongoing education programs, conferences, and in-house training that's available to all Cooperative employees. We also conduct monthly safety meetings with the assistance of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC), which provides annually required training and other safety-related training to ECI REC.



STEVE RAU,
President



TERESA FLOYD,
CEO

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2024 President & CEO Report

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We also participate in the NRECA's Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP). In 2024, your Cooperative successfully completed the assessment and was awarded the Certificate of Safety Achievement. The over 200-point checklist included in the assessment revealed that we have no areas of critical concern, receiving exceeding expectations or satisfactory scores. One notable highlight was that ECI REC had zero employee lost time or vehicle accidents for five consecutive years (2019–2023). In 2024, your Cooperative reached more than 400,000 hours of work without a lost time accident.

These achievements underscore our steadfast dedication to maintaining a safe and secure work environment for each member of the ECI REC family. Our employees' unwavering commitment to safety ensures their own well-being and that of their colleagues. For that, we extend our deepest gratitude. Let's continue to uphold our commitment to safety as we work together toward even greater achievements in the coming year!

Keeping the Lights On

One of the key highlights of 2024 was a record-low outage total of 21.5 average minutes per member-account. (For perspective, the previous record was set in 2023, and it was 28.2 minutes!) This number is based on the outages we could control. It does not include planned or scheduled outages or outages caused by the public or power supplier.

Our continued investment in plant upgrades, proactive maintenance program, and good weather played a big part. Crews were busy replacing aged poles, changing out oil circuit reclosers with electronic reclosers, installing new services for members, and working on other maintenance projects. Contractors inspected approximately 6,300 poles and 1,030 pieces of underground equipment at 4 of our 35 substations. Contractors also carried out the Cooperative's vegetation management program throughout 376 miles of line in the Walker, Jesup, Shady Grove, and Van Horne substation areas.

As part of our overhead Work Plan projects, our contractor replaced approximately 31 miles of older conductor and poles in the Bryantsburg, Rowley, Shellsburg, Van Horne, and Homer substation areas, strengthening our infrastructure and providing more capacity for our distribution system.

Remotely controlled switches were added to five of our substations to help cut down on outage response times. During an outage, these remote switches will allow us to backfeed circuits that are without power and feed them from other substations that are still energized. They are also used

when a substation must be deenergized for maintenance. This can all happen remotely through our SCADA system.

Cooperative Difference

Unlike investor-owned utilities that maximize profits to pay dividends to shareholders, not-for-profit electric cooperatives like ECI REC provide members with "at cost" electric service. At the end of the year, after all operational expenses have been covered, a portion of any excess funds is allocated back to our members in the form of capital credits. With a positive outlook for 2024, your Board of Directors elected to retire over \$600,000 in patronage dividends. Over 64% of the retirement was returned to current members via credit on their June 2024 energy bills.

We continue to foster a culture of excellence and continuous improvement for our 34 employees, who have 613 combined years of service. In 2024, we invested over 2,573 hours in employee development. We also invested in invaluable education and training for your eight Board directors, helping them make informed decisions as they determine the strategic direction and priorities of your Cooperative. Four ECI REC directors have received Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificates. Three of these four have also obtained Board Leadership and Director Gold Certificates.

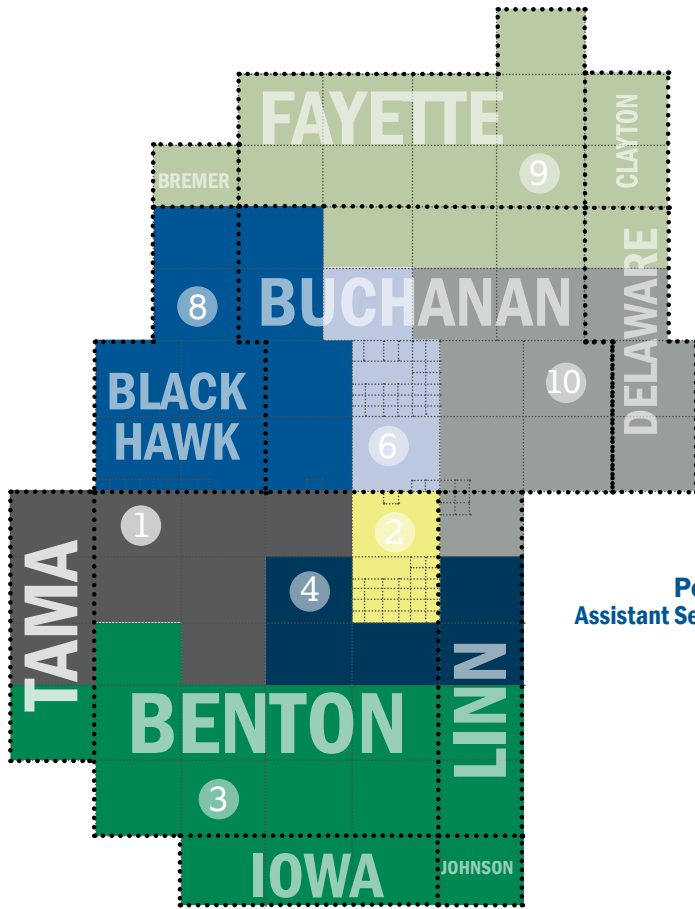
Finally, in 2024 we updated our survey format, making the new survey available to all members, all the time. We understand you are busy and receive many solicitations for your opinion. With that in mind, we've kept the survey questions short, and there is a comments section for your feedback. Your input is invaluable to us; your feedback will guide our efforts and ensure we continue to meet your needs.

Commitment to Community

In 2024, we participated in two Junior Achievement curriculum presentations at local elementary schools. We also awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 12 graduating seniors at 11 different high schools. We sponsored two high school students on the 2024 Iowa Youth Tour, an all-expense week-long trip to Washington, D.C.

In June, Line Foreman Brian Reidy traveled to Guatemala with 13 other lineworkers from Iowa and Minnesota electric cooperatives. They volunteered with an international project affiliated with the NRECA, with a goal of bringing electricity and clean water filtration to the village of Las Penas, which sits at an elevation of approximately 6,000 feet and is made up of about 35 homes scattered on the crests and flat areas of the mountainside. Crews helped build more than three miles of power lines and wired homes for electric service.

Your District Map & Board of Directors



Jeff Elliott
Vice President
Director since 1990
Board District 1



Julie Kester
Secretary/Treasurer
Director since 2019
Board District 2



Brian McNulty
Director since 2021
Board District 3



Gary McKenna
Director since 2016
Board District 4



Pete Burmeister
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Director since 2024
Board District 6



Nick Donlea
Director since 2018
Board District 8



Steve Rau
President
Director since 2005
Board District 9



Gary Cook
Director since 2024
Board District 10



2024 President & CEO Report continued from page 8

ECI REC had a great time at the Benton and Buchanan County Fairs in 2024. We contributed \$1,026 to the county Cattlemen's Associations, Pork Producers, and Dairy Producers through vouchers for pork and beef burgers and ice cream cones. We brought a "live line" trailer for lineworkers to perform demonstrations on the hazards of overhead power lines. We also passed out 200 swag bags and 196 toy hard hats to fairgoers, and 10 lucky members who visited our booth received a \$50 electric bill credit.

We celebrated two local volunteers—Michael Kramer of Vinton and Yvette Vogel of Jesup—who were nominated in the Shine the Light contest by making a monetary contribution to their individual community causes.

Looking Out for You

Iowa's electric cooperatives regularly coordinate meetings with state and federal legislators through the IAEC. During

the week of September 23, approximately 20 electric cooperative representatives traveled to Washington, D.C. These advocates were able to meet with every member of the Iowa congressional delegation.

Looking Ahead to 2025

ECI REC has already started working toward a great 2025. As soon as the new year began, our crews were busy designing and staking projects, replacing poles, doing annual line inspections, and working on other maintenance projects. Our overhead construction contractor has begun work to replace 22–25 miles of older line with new conductor and poles, which is one of the 2025 Work Plan projects. Our tree contractor has begun trimming trees. Pole inspections and underground Work Plan projects are in motion and will continue throughout the remainder of the year. 🌱

Financials

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSE

REVENUE	2024	2023
Operating Revenue and Patronage Capital	\$25,734,523	\$25,644,490
EXPENSE		
Purchased Power	\$13,495,724	\$13,883,043
Distribution Expenses - Operations	\$2,702,577	\$2,631,241
Distribution Expenses - Maintenance	\$649,953	\$614,502
Customer Accounts Expense	\$514,353	\$488,563
Customer Service and Informational Expense	\$522,158	\$608,887
Administrative and General Expense	\$1,611,213	\$1,528,667
Depreciation	\$2,840,973	\$2,690,219
Taxes - Property and Other	\$0	\$(21,608)
Interest on Long-Term Debt	\$1,753,604	\$1,556,840
Other Deductions and Interest Expense	\$60,819	\$91,891
Total Expense	\$24,151,374	\$24,072,245
Operating Margins	\$1,583,149	\$1,572,245
Non-Operating Margins	\$121,744	\$91,870
Generation and Transmission Capital Credits	\$1,125,007	\$994,801
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	\$255,082	\$290,271
Total Operating and Non-Operating Margins	\$3,084,982	\$2,949,187

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	2024	2023
Current Assets and Other Debits	\$16,974,520	\$15,442,326
Fixed Assets (Net Utility Plant)	\$74,719,608	\$71,556,945
Total Assets and Other Debits	\$91,694,128	\$86,999,271

LIABILITIES

Total Current and Accrued Liabilities	\$4,487,835	\$4,359,605
Total Fixed Long-Term Debt and Deferred Credits	\$42,656,862	\$40,476,868
Total Margins and Equities	\$44,549,431	\$42,162,798
Total Liabilities and Other Credits	\$91,694,128	\$86,999,271

COMPARATIVE OPERATING STATISTICS

Miles of Line Energized	2,301	2,298
New Services Connected	85	100
Total Services in Place	9,900	9,869
kWhs Purchased From CIPCO	224,030,543	228,723,401
Cost Power Purchased	13,475,292	13,861,698
Percent Line Loss	4.42%	4.42%

OPERATING REVENUE

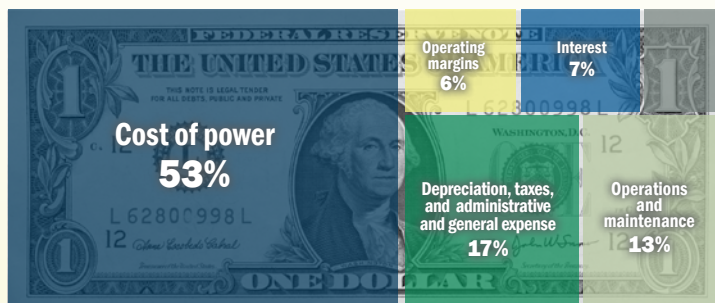
Average kWh Used per Month per Consumer	\$25,680,991	\$25,576,250
Average Monthly Bill	2,024	2,073
Average Monthly Bill	\$232.01	\$231.77
Average Cost per kWh to Consumer	\$0.1146	\$0.1118

LOAN FUNDS

CFC	\$41,317,748	\$39,127,754
Other	\$629,916	\$678,319
Total Loan Funds	\$41,947,664	\$39,806,073

2024 REC DOLLARS AT WORK FOR YOU

Consumer accounts, service,
and information
4%



\$5.51

The average our residential
members spend per
day on electricity.

ECI REC IS AMONG IOWA'S
**LOWEST
RATES**
for cooperative residential electricity.



11,372 AMI meters
AT WORK SERVING
7,264 memberships
9,224 member accounts

Invested in Efficiency

\$0.00070327

per kWh

of 2024 revenue
invested in energy
efficiency programs

\$44,666

 donated to **43** causes

\$12,000

(via \$1,000
scholarships)
to **12** graduating
seniors

\$6,775

to Youth Tour

\$4,000

to health/safety
organizations

\$15,850

(including \$5,000 to
Little Knights Learning Center)

to local/county
economic development

\$4,291

to community organizations

\$1,750

to school functions

2024 CONSTRUCTION WORK PLAN ACTUALS

31.1 miles of line replacement	\$2,092,822
Pole, equipment, and conductor replacement	\$1,397,620
New transformers, meter, and special equipment	\$384,517
SCADA technology	\$98,252
Sectionalizing equipment	\$178,589
Service upgrades	\$792,395
New service construction	\$187,653
Outdoor lights	\$25,694
Substation investment	\$69,065

2024 ECI REC Year-End Stats



4,010

REGISTERED SMART
HUB USERS

2,360

AVERAGE MONTHLY
MOBILE/ONLINE
PAYMENTS

1,294

EBILL (PAPERLESS)
MEMBER-ACCOUNTS

2024 \$602,382

2023 \$453,324

2022 \$456,041

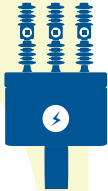
3-YEAR PATRONAGE HISTORY

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

1. Open and Voluntary Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training, and Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

ECI REC
owns and
maintains

24
substations



Empowering
Energy Savings

\$83,903

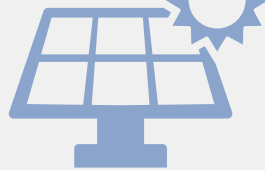
in energy efficiency rebates
to ECI REC members

402,542 kWh

energy saved by
ECI REC members
through energy
efficiency
rebates



94



interconnected
member-owned
onsite generation facilities

HELPING MEMBER
FAMILIES IN NEED

62 members
gave **\$7,313**



CARE with
RECare

YOUR BOARD

Board District 1 - Jeff Elliott

2024/2025 Vice President

Board District 2 - Julie Kester

2024/2025 Secretary/Treasurer

Board District 3 - Brian McNulty

Board District 4 - Gary McKenna

Board District 6 - Pete Burmeister

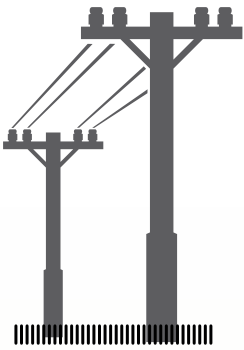
2024/2025 Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Board District 8 - Nick Donlea

Board District 9 - Steve Rau

2024/2025 President

Board District 10 - Gary Cook



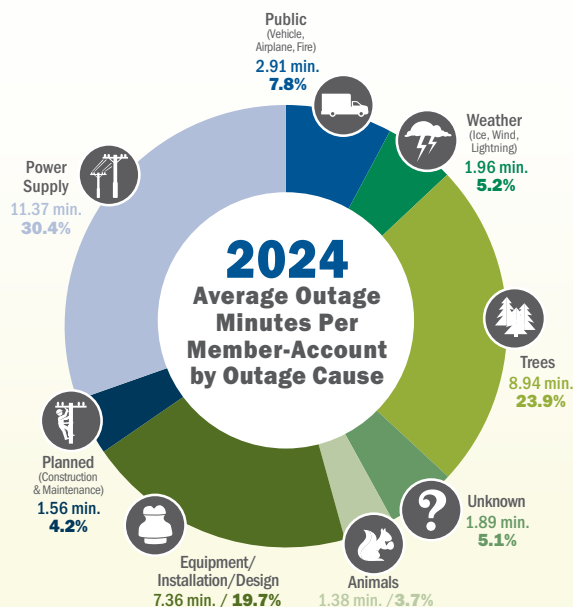
2,301
miles

of overhead and
underground line
maintained

Members
Support
Renewable
Energy Production
in Iowa



65 members
\$2,954.70 total



CLASSIFIEDS: Free to members only

Please email your ad to classifieds@ecirec.coop. Ads for the July/August 2025 *Heartland Link* must be received by June 1, 2025.

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.