

heartland LINK

A publication of East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative



Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pumps Offer Advantages

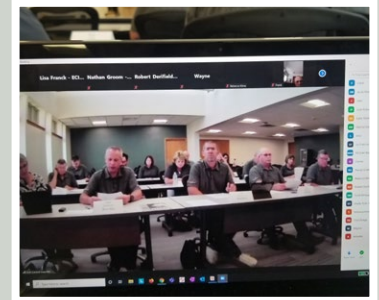
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Photo credit: Andrey Popov | Dreamstime.com

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Stop by and see us at the Iowa State Fair!



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives of Iowa

IowaStateFair
OFFICIAL
SPONSOR
AUG 12-22

Visit our booth in the newly renovated Rastetter 4-H Exhibits Building on the southwest end of the fairgrounds! We'll have plastic hard hats for kids (*while supplies last*) and a fun co-op safety selfie station.

Take a quick survey at our booth for a chance to win one of three great prizes:

- Breville Smart Oven Pro
- DEWALT 20V MAX VR Blower
- Roomba 614 Robot Vacuum



take the member challenge

1. COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE: An important piece of the Annual Meeting is the _____.

2. ENERGY WISE: ENERGY STAR®-certified ductless mini-split heat pumps use _____ energy than standard electric heating systems.

3. KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON: In late April, line crews finished replacing the low-side _____ at the Sumner substation.

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 August 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 May/June 2021 *Heartland Link* entries. These members will receive a \$10 credit on their account.

Bryce Cronbaugh

David & Deborah Ellingrod

Jack & Candice Davis

Dan Siemens

Jerry Jones

Jennifer Zahrt

Henry Zeien

Andrew Shannon

TJ Stecklein

Delbert Hillman

Carrie Oelrich

Donna Kinney

Judy Hettinger

Tom Kavalier

Denise Hilleshiem

Tom & Lori Oberreuter

Calendar Notes

CLOSED

Monday, July 5 for
Independence Day

Monday,
September 6
for Labor Day

Contact ECI REC

EMAILS

memberservices@ecirec.coop
(rebates, product sales)

csr@ecirec.coop
(billing, new customers)

WEBSITE

www.ecirec.coop

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teresa.floyd@ecirec.coop

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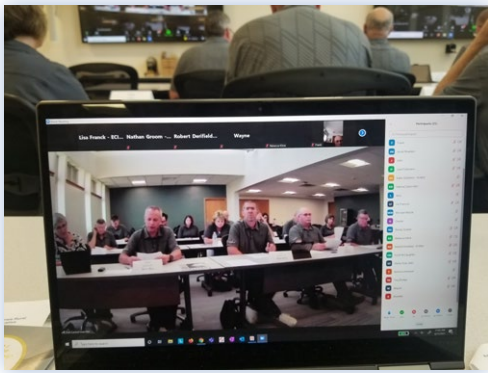
FAX 319-443-4359

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.



Left: The Annual Meeting was broadcast virtually for members to view.

Center: Former Director Allen Albers accepts his retirement gift from President Steve Rau. Photos by: Lisa Franck

Right: The Annual Report can be downloaded from ecirec.coop.



STEVE RAU
District 9
2021/2022
President



JEFF ELLIOTT
District 1
2021/2022
Vice President



RYAN KRESS
District 10
2021/2022
Secretary/
Treasurer



JULIE KESTER
District 2
2021/2022
Assistant
Secretary/
Treasurer

Annual Meeting of the Members in Review

a Cooperative Difference article

THE 26TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS of East-Central Iowa REC was held virtually on June 17. Typically, this event has an attendance around 300, but on the shirttails of the COVID-19 pandemic and the state reopening just a few months ago, the Board of Directors moved to hold the meeting virtually via Zoom for a second year.

An important piece of the Annual Meeting is the Board election. This year, members could vote by mail-in ballot, or they could vote online through our website or SmartHub. Donald Shonka (District 6), Nick Donlea (District 8), and Ryan Kress (District 10) were re-elected to serve another three-year term on the Board of Directors.

A Board reorganization meeting followed the election. Re-elected to office were Steve Rau, president; Jeff Elliott, vice president; and Ryan Kress, secretary/treasurer. Julie Kester was elected assistant secretary/treasurer.

This year's theme—Powering Possibilities—was fitting for ECI REC. This ideal has been present throughout the life of your Cooperative, never more so than in the midst of the pandemic and the unexpected August 10 derecho. We continued to leverage innovative and forward-thinking opportunities to achieve the best interests of you, our member-consumers.

Members who cast a ballot in this year's election were eligible to win one of twelve \$50 bill credits and one of two electric leaf blowers. Members who attended the virtual meeting were entered to win the other electric leaf blower. Winners were selected randomly and electronically. 🍀

The following members won \$50 bill credits. They will see their credit on their July billing statement:

Bruce Tonn
Anthony Desousa
Bryan Lund
Linn Co-op Oil Co.

Gerald Petermeier
James Kavalier
G & W Grain & Livestock
Betty Loeb

Anita Arnold
John Bowden
Christine Maire
Donald Alden

The following members won the electric leaf blowers:

Donna Lohrer
Tina Dodge




Board Returns \$569,725 to Members Through Patronage Dividends

a Cooperative Difference announcement

AT ITS MAY MEETING, the ECI REC Board of Directors approved the retirement of \$569,725—100% (\$469,725) of 2006 margins and 12.35% (\$100,000) of 2015 margins—to members of the Cooperative. In June, 5,515 active member-accounts that received electricity from East-Central Iowa REC in 2006 or 2015 received money back. These dollars represented your share of the deferred patronage dividends (profits) the Cooperative earned in 2006 and 2015. In the past 10 years, ECI REC has returned \$5,635,395 to its membership.

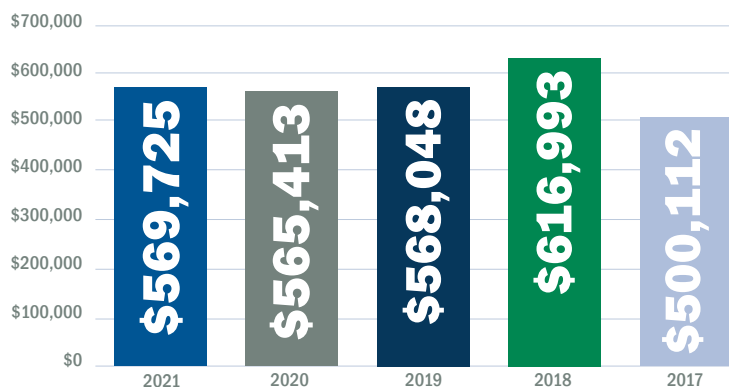
More than seventy-six percent (76.37%) of the 7,221 memberships that received money back are active member-accounts currently receiving electricity from ECI REC. These active member-accounts saw a credit on their June bills. The remaining member-accounts that are no longer active (not currently receiving electricity from ECI REC) received their credits in a mailed check. If you did not receive a credit on your June bill, you did not receive electric service from ECI REC in 2006 or 2015. Email the Urbana office at csr@ecirec.coop or call 877-850-4343 if you have any questions.

Since ECI REC is a nonprofit organization, members pay for their electricity at cost, and any margins left over at the end of the year after all expenses are covered are allocated in the form of patronage dividends. These margins include operating margins, which are generated directly by the sale of electricity to you. They also include non-operating margins, which consist of interest from our investment of spare cash and patronage dividend allocations. ECI REC receives these allocations through memberships with other cooperatives, from which we purchase goods and services.

As owners of the Cooperative, members provide equity by allowing ECI REC to hold on to these margins for a certain length of time. They are used to finance operations and system improvements, to cover the cost of maintaining the electric distribution system, and more. 

| Current Service Detail | | |
|--|------------------|----------|
| Balance Forward | | \$0.00 |
| Facility Charge | | \$36.50 |
| kWh Charges | 1000 kWh @ 0.105 | \$105.00 |
| | 151 kWh @ 0.093 | \$14.04 |
| County Tax | | \$1.56 |
| Total Electric Charges | | \$157.10 |
| Deferred Patronage Dividend | -\$46.85 | |
| Other Services & Credits | | -\$46.85 |
| Total Electric, Other Services & Credits | | \$110.25 |
| Total Amount Due 07/01/2021 | | \$110.25 |
| \$1.65 (1.5%) late charge applies after 07/01/2021 | | \$111.90 |

RETURNING YOUR INVESTMENT 5-Year Patronage History



5-Year Total: \$2,820,291

THREE SUMMER FIRE SAFETY TIPS

There's nothing like a delicious outdoor barbecue on a summer day! In fact, July is National Grilling and Picnic Month. But before you break out the blankets and baskets, here are three tips for preventing accidental fires when using camp grills and fire rings:



Never leave a fire unattended.



Maintain and extinguish fires responsibly. Allow hot coals to burn completely to ash if possible. Pour lots of water on the fire, or use sand or dirt to bury it.



Watch out for dry conditions and pay attention to the strength and direction of the wind. Both things can increase the risk of fires spreading. Visit dps.iowa.gov/divisions/state-fire-marshal for current burn bans.

Sources: smokeybear.com, reserveamerica.com

The Advantages of Electric Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pumps

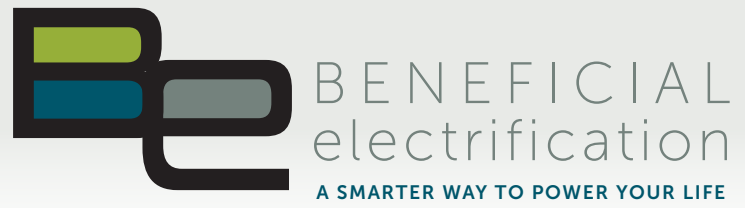
ELECTRICITY IS A CHEAPER, GREENER, AND SMARTER

way to meet energy needs. If you're looking to plug in and save on your electric bill, ductless mini-split heat pumps might be for you! They differ from traditional home heating and cooling systems by:

1. **Providing heating and cooling through a single device—a heat pump.** Heat pumps have been used for decades, mainly in southern climates.
2. **Avoiding ductwork.** Instead of difficult-to-install, leaky, and bulky ductwork, they use an indoor unit connected to an outdoor unit via refrigerant lines, which only need a three-inch hole in an outdoor wall for installation. Up to eight indoor units can be attached to one outdoor unit.
3. **Allowing different climates in each room.** Each indoor unit can provide customized heating and cooling—adjustable through wall consoles, remote controls, and smart phone apps—in each conditioned space.
4. **Cutting heating costs in half compared to conventional electric heating systems.** Because they transfer heat instead of generating it, ENERGY STAR®-certified ductless mini-split heat pumps use 60% less energy than standard electric heating systems.
5. **Cutting cooling costs by 30% compared to conventional room air conditioners.** ENERGY STAR-certified ductless mini-split heat pumps use more sophisticated compressors and fans that adjust speeds to save energy.

Common Applications of Ductless Heat Pumps

1. Homes with electric heat (e.g., baseboard, furnace, wall heaters, electric radiant) that will also benefit from cooling.
2. Older homes with no ductwork (e.g., radiators or baseboard heat) that have never had central air conditioning before.
3. Homes with expensive central heating systems due to high fuel costs or low system efficiency.

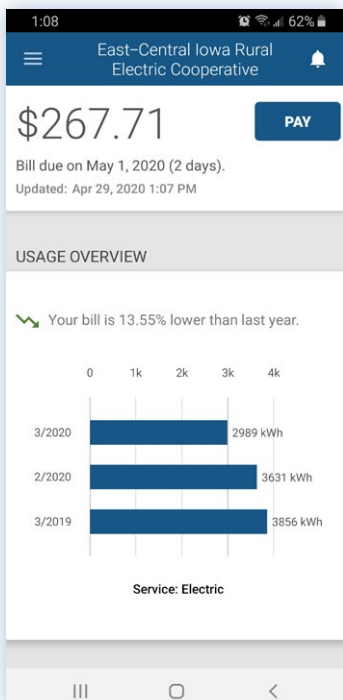
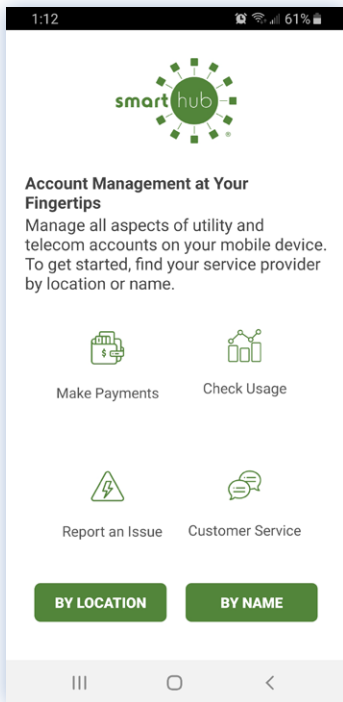
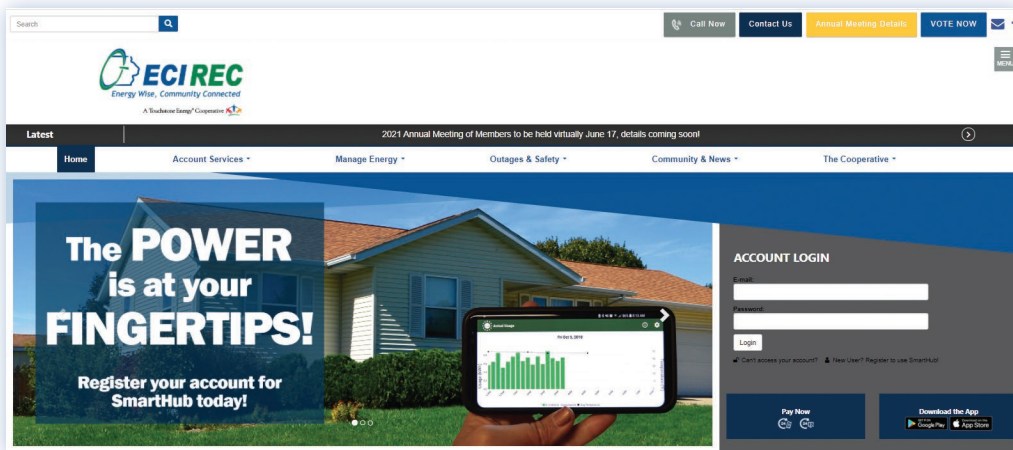


4. Additions or outbuildings (e.g., shed, barn, garage) where extending ductwork or cooling/heating capacity is not feasible.
5. Rooms that are not regularly occupied (indoor unit can be turned off to save money).
6. Spaces adjacent to unconditioned spaces where ductwork would be exposed to harsher temperatures (e.g., a guest room above a garage).
7. Newly constructed homes in areas with high fuel costs.
8. Older commercial buildings with no existing ductwork for air conditioning or expansions.

Cold Climate Heating and Alternative Indoor Units

In the past, consumers worried whether heat pumps could perform well in cold climates. As temperatures drop, the heat pump must work harder to extract heat from the outdoor air. Many heat pumps now utilize advanced compressors and refrigerants that allow improved low-temperature performance. Look for ENERGY STAR models with a higher heating seasonal performance factor (HSPF).

Another concern may be the aesthetics. U.S. consumers, accustomed to barely noticeable vents in walls and ceilings, can sometimes find the look of the floor or wall-mounted units unappealing. Ductless system manufacturers offer ceiling-recessed and short-run horizontal duct-based air handlers to provide a more compact look. 🏡



Stay in the Know with SmartHub

a Keeping the Lights On article

SMARTHUB HELPS YOU stay in the know about your energy usage. With a SmartHub account, you can quickly view and file bills, enroll in budget billing, monitor your energy usage, check ECI REC's online outage map, and much more.

Not sure how to register for SmartHub? We've got you covered!

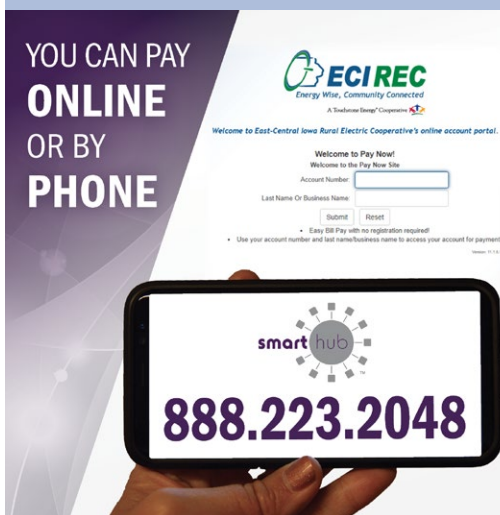
1. Go to www.ecirec.coop. Near the top of the page, you'll see an Account Login section. Click on the link that says, "New User? Register to use SmartHub!"
2. The user registration screen will appear. Enter your ECI REC account number as printed on your bill. Also enter your last name or the business name associated with your account. Enter your email address; this will become your username. Click the Submit button. A secondary account-related registration screen will appear.
3. Enter the last four digits of your social security or business ID number and your billing zip code. Check to confirm you are not a robot. Agree to the terms and conditions. Click Submit.
4. Check your email for a message with a temporary password from ecirec@smarthub.coop.
5. Clicking the login link takes you to the Change Your Password screen. Create a new password and click Submit.
6. The Security Phrase screen appears. This is a second way to protect your information once you've logged in with your password. You need your security phrase to change payment or other account-related information. Enter at least a five-character word or phrase and click Save.

Quick Ways to Pay Your Electric Bill

Did you know you can make quick automated payments through SmartHub ... without creating an online account?

Here's how:

- » Call SmartHub's automated system toll-free number: 888-223-2048.
- » Use the Pay Now application. Go to www.ecirec.coop. In the Account Login section of the home page, click the Pay Now button. Then enter your account number and last name or business name to access your account and pay your bill.



Take SmartHub Mobile!

Download the SmartHub app in the Apple Store® or in the Android® Market so you can access your account 24/7. You can register for the first time using the app, too! Scan the QR codes below, or use the Download the App button in the Account Login section of our home page.



Android Users



Apple Users

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



Don't Assume You Know What's Below

a Safety guide

AUGUST 11 IS NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING DAY!

Whatever your summer-time projects may be—whether you're putting in a fence, planting a tree, or starting a garden—Iowa One Call is here to help you dig safely. Always call 811 or file your locate requests online before you get started, so they can mark your underground utility lines.

Things to Remember

You must contact Iowa One Call at least 48 hours (not including weekends and holidays) in advance of your plans to excavate. A ticket is valid for 20 calendar days from the time of the call. ALWAYS check the yard markings and your Iowa One Call Positive Response ticket status before you excavate.

When you contact Iowa One Call with a locate request, you'll be asked a series of questions:

- » What is your name, address, and phone number?
- » What type of work will you be doing (i.e., planting a tree, installing a fence)?

- » What is the dig location's address (city, county, and nearest intersecting street)?
- » At the dig location, where will you be digging (i.e., east side of house, within a five-foot radius of the white stake)?
- » When will you be digging (i.e., in three days, next week)?

What Does NOT Get Marked by Iowa One Call?

Only the buried facilities registered with Iowa One Call will be located and marked. Private facilities will not be marked. These can include LP gas lines, sprinkler systems, gas grill lines, and more. Homeowners may call private locating companies to have their private facilities marked.

What Is the Tolerance Zone?


Paint and flag markings are approximate. The tolerance zone is 18" on

either side of the markings. You should hand dig with caution in the tolerance zone to expose the facility.

What Do the Paint and Flag Colors Indicate?

Underground facilities will be marked according to the APWA Color Code:

- » Red – Electric power lines, cables, and conduit and lighting cables
- » Yellow – Gas, oil, steam, and petroleum or gaseous materials
- » Orange – Communication, alarm or signal lines, and cables or conduit
- » Blue – Water, irrigation, and slurry lines
- » Green – Sewers and drain lines
- » Pink – Temporary survey markings
- » White – Proposed excavation
- » Purple – Reclaimed water

Before Iowa One Call arrives, it is extremely helpful for you to outline your proposed excavation site in white paint or with white flags to reduce any confusion as to where the proposed excavation will occur. 



WE PAY YOU TO PULL THE PLUG

Recycle your old appliances through ECI REC's Pull the Plug partnership with CLEAResult out of Marion, Iowa.

- Refrigerators (full size), \$35 each
- Freezers, \$25 each
- Window air conditioners, \$25 each

Call CLEAResult at 855-838-7817 to schedule your pick-up today. Appliances must be operable at the time of pick-up.

There is a limit of three appliances per year, per address.

ECI REC Director Earns NRECA Certificate

a Cooperative Difference story



Julie Kester

DIRECTOR JULIE KESTER of East-Central Iowa REC recently earned her Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate (CCD). The CCD Certificate is a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) curriculum that consists of five core courses that provide cooperative directors with essential knowledge and skills. The certificate is earned by attending all five required courses and successfully completing a learning assessment for each.

In obtaining this certificate, Julie has demonstrated to ECI REC members and other stakeholders her commitment to advancing her knowledge and performing her fiduciary duty. Congratulations, Julie! 🎉



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH



During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler. This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.



ON THE GO THIS SUMMER?

DON'T FORGET! Your Co-op Connections® Card gets you discounts on everything from hotel stays and garden supplies to auto repairs and prescription drugs.
www.connections.coop

Download the free app to save without your card.



Misplaced your card?
Call us toll-free at
877-850-4343
or email
ecirec@ecirec.coop.



August is Move Over or Slow Down Month

a Safety reminder



**MOVE OVER
SLOW DOWN**

A Safety Message from Iowa's Electric Cooperatives

2021 Mid-Year Operations Update

a *Keeping the Lights On* feature

WE'RE OVER HALFWAY THROUGH

2021! ECI REC has been hard at work all year, performing maintenance, completing the Work Plan, and conducting safety projects. Here are some key updates for our members.

Preventive and Ongoing Maintenance Projects

In late April, line crews finished replacing the low-side switch at the Sumner substation. To keep up with future demand, the old 600-amp switch was updated to a 1,200-amp switch. The derecho damaged three SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) tie switches. This equipment allows ECI REC to shorten outage times by switching remotely. All three switches have been replaced.

ECI REC subcontracted Badgerland Utility Solutions, LLC, of Wisconsin to inspect 4,851 poles and 348 pieces of underground equipment. Members may have seen the Badgerland team in the past few months, checking to ensure ECI REC's distribution equipment is safe and reliable. Badgerland has completed inspections in the

Quasqueton and Watkins substation circuits. ECI REC will start replacing rejected poles and making needed repairs.

Work Plan Projects

Highline Construction, Inc., continues to work on our 16-mile overhead line construction project. They have completed five miles to date and are working near the Van Horne area.

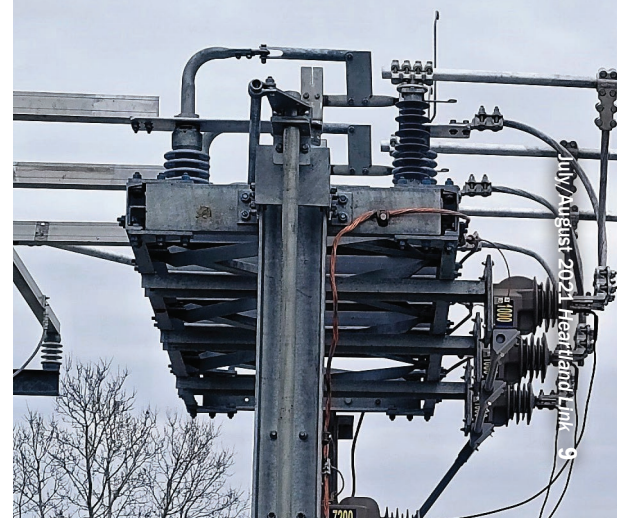
CRC Trenching Co. has been working on our 18-mile URD construction project. To date, they have completed four miles. They are currently working in the Brandon area.

Safety

Our commitment to monthly safety meetings and training continues. Annually, we complete a combination of on-site meetings and prepared programs designed to cover OSHA-required training and other necessary safety topics. Mayday procedures, bucket rescue, and climbing competency training was completed at the May safety meeting. 🙌



Above: Colton Dietrick working on replacing the old 600-amp switch at the Sumner substation. Below: The new 1,200-amp switch was installed in late April. Photos by: Brian Reidy



2020 Central Iowa Power Cooperative Power Supply Report



Central Iowa Power Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

From Gary McKenna, Representative on the CIPCO Board of Directors
a Cooperative Difference feature



2020 WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED

as the year of coronavirus—a pandemic that became the center of our world. We watched it unfold country

by country, then coast to coast in the U.S. Initially, we all battled fear and a lack of information. At ECI REC, we wondered when and how COVID-19 would affect our members, employees, families, and friends. It didn't take long to feel the pandemic's impact in our communities.

Despite the pandemic, CIPCO had planned an ambitious year, including the continued repowering of the Summit Lake plant, CIPCO's largest construction project in the history of the cooperative. Wapello Solar, LLC, was under construction by Clēnera, with an anticipated early 2021 completion date. Due to the planned closure of the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC), CIPCO worked to identify the right, cost-effective generation resources through power purchase agreements and market buys, which would fill anticipated gaps in the resource plan.

While the pandemic tested our strength, the massive derecho that swept across the state with hurricane-force winds in August 2020 tested our systems. The storm also demonstrated


the power of cooperation. CIPCO received overwhelming support from Dairyland Power Cooperative, Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative, Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative, and Corn Belt Power Cooperative. They all assisted with exhaustive restoration activities for critical transmission lines. Unfortunately, the derecho brought an additional casualty: the early loss of the DAEC due to catastrophic storm damage.

Despite unexpected challenges—including lower energy sales and derecho costs topping \$5 million—CIPCO's financial results reflect another year of stability and competitive rates. 2020 represents the fifth consecutive year of declining rates and the lowest rate in more than 10 years. We successfully executed on the long-term strategy of reinvesting in the system to maintain and improve reliability. Capital expenditures for the year were more than \$93 million, one of the largest capital additions in CIPCO's history. Expenditures included significant work on Summit Lake.

East-Central Iowa REC and CIPCO strive to provide safe, affordable, and reliable power to our member-consumers across the system. Despite the attention given to high-profile issues and events, other 2020 projects were crucial to the successful operation of the CIPCO system. A number of substation projects were completed throughout the year. And

despite the disruption of the derecho in the second half of 2020, CIPCO finalized work on more than 32 miles of line. CIPCO's commitment to reliability led to a system-wide outage rate of 0.34 hours per member-consumer without the derecho and 23.19 hours with the derecho included. Without the derecho, 2020 would have been the ninth consecutive year in which CIPCO's average outage total was below the target of one hour per member-consumer.

Returning patronage capital is a fundamental component of the cooperative business model. CIPCO remains dedicated to sound financial practices that allow margins to be returned to its members in the form of patronage. In 2020, CIPCO returned patronage totaling \$764,825 to East-Central Iowa REC.

I'm proud of the actions taken to sustain and grow our connections within the rural electric industry during a tumultuous year. Our actions have strengthened CIPCO's mission to provide member-consumers with wholesale power and services in a safe, reliable, and cost-effective manner. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your representative on both the ECI REC and CIPCO Board of Directors. I am proud to say that as a result of decisions made and actions taken in 2020, East-Central Iowa REC's member-consumers—as well as the entire CIPCO system—are well-served now and into the future. 

Message From the CEO continued from page 12

Investors in commercial utilities put their money to work and expect growth to produce a return. Members participate financially in their cooperatives. When cooperatives produce a margin—revenue that exceeds the cost of providing service—it is reserved as capital credits. The reserves are used to build and maintain the cooperative's infrastructure and facilities and provide for other service needs. At an electric cooperative, each member is allotted an amount of capital credits based on how much energy they use. This consumption is called "patronage." When it's deemed appropriate by the electric cooperative's board, a portion of those capital credits may be paid to members, according to the cooperative's bylaws. In other words, while investor-owned utilities return a portion of any profits back to their investors, electric cooperatives periodically issue patronage dividends.

Subject to law, our articles of incorporation, and our bylaws, the allocation and retirement of capital credits is at the sole discretion of the ECI REC Board of Directors. Your Board also follows a Board and Administrative Policy, which they developed for allocating patronage capital and retiring capital credits. The policy includes key objectives to allocate patronage capital and retire capital credits in a manner that:

- » Is fair and reasonable to our patrons and former patrons.
- » Provides ECI REC with sufficient equity and capital to operate effectively and efficiently.
- » Protects ECI REC's financial condition.

All this is to say that as a member of East-Central Iowa REC, you may have deferred patronage dividends coming your way. When you signed up to receive electric service from ECI REC, you most likely signed a membership agreement. You provide continuous capital by consuming and paying for electricity, which makes you an owner of ECI REC.

ECI REC members can rest assured your Board of Directors takes their fiduciary responsibilities very seriously and does a fantastic job guiding how your Cooperative's money and assets are used to fulfill our mission. They do it all in ways that protect ECI REC and the interests of all our members.

ECI REC has been very fortunate to be able to retire deferred patronage for 22 of the past 25 years. This year was no exception. In June, current members who received electric service from ECI REC in 2006 and/or 2015 saw a line item on their bill called "deferred patronage dividends." The amount of this line item was based on how much

the member paid ECI REC for electricity used during those years. Former members received a check in the mail.

June was a busy month for your ECI REC Board of Directors. Not only did they retire patronage dividends, they held a virtual Annual Meeting of the Members, participated in the Cooperative's strategic planning event, and wrapped the month up with their monthly Board meeting. If you see an ECI REC Director in your travels, tell them thank you and let them know they are doing a great job guiding the business of your Cooperative. 🙌

YOUR BOARD

Board District 1 - Jeff Elliott
(2021/2022 Vice President)

Board District 2 - Julie Kester
(2021/2022 Asst. Secretary/Treasurer)

Board District 3 - Brian McNulty

Board District 4 - Gary McKenna

Board District 6 - Don Shonka

Board District 8 - Nick Donlea

Board District 9 - Steve Rau
(2021/2022 President)

Board District 10 - Ryan Kress
(2021/2022 Secretary/Treasurer)

CLASSIFIEDS: Free to members only

FOR SALE: 72" finishing mower, three-point, PTO-driven. Used very little. \$1,200. Ph: 319-540-7661.

FOR SALE: Cub Cadet® XT2 mower. 50" deck. Three years old and in excellent condition. Contact Dick Flickinger, Garrison. Ph: 319-477-8423.

Please email your ad to classifieds@ecirec.coop. Ads for the Sept./Oct. 2021 Heartland Link must be received by Aug. 1, 2021.

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.

How Patronage Dividends Work



When you become a member and purchase energy from ECI REC, a portion of your payment is your contribution to support the Cooperative's operating costs.



We use the capital to maintain and improve our system and fund power line construction and equipment purchases.



ECI REC tracks your contribution to the Cooperative and allocates patronage to you annually based on the amount of energy purchased.



Each year, the Board of Directors evaluates margins remaining after expenses have been paid. When it is financially advisable, the Board retires patronage from certain years.



Members who purchased power in retired years receive a check from ECI REC as a return on your investment. 82% of ECI REC's current members receive patronage dividends.*

*Based on a 5-year average and an average membership of 7,150

ECI REC's 5-year average is \$564,058 in patronage dividends returned to 8,377 current and past members.

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East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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.

Find tools for members at
www.ecirec.coop



24-Hour Bill Pay With SmartHub
See account information at ecirec.smarthub.coop or download the app.



Outage Center & Map
View current outages via SmartHub or at outages.ecirec.coop:81.



Online Forms
Access rebate, service request, and program sign-up forms.



Call Before You Dig
Notify utilities before you dig at www.iowaonecall.com or call 811.



Co-op Connections®
Get discounts on everyday expenses. Visit www.connections.coop or download the mobile app.



Heartland Link E-Newsletter
Email ecirec@ecirec.coop and ask to receive our newsletter via email.



Iowa Rural Power
Join grassroots advocates for Iowa's electric cooperatives. Visit www.iaruralpower.org.



CEO TERESA FLOYD

Message From the CEO: ECI REC is Proud to Return Profits to You

THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENCES between electric cooperatives and investor-owned or public utilities—the most important being that a cooperative's consumers are member-owners; they're not just customers. Cooperatives like East-Central Iowa REC also follow a democratic process, while investor-owned utilities (IOUs) are owned by stockholders, and public systems are owned by the city, state, or federal government. They are for-profit entities, and only shareholders have any say in running the company. But with the cooperative business model, every member can make their voice heard. Every member can vote, and you have the right to participate in the policy-making process and elect the ECI REC Board of Directors. You take part in shaping our policies and influencing our business.

Unlike commercial utilities, cooperatives focus on service, not profits. We bring electricity to rural Iowa because for-profit electric companies are reluctant to serve areas where customers may be miles apart. In cities and towns, where homes and businesses are close together, power companies make more money per line mile. Cooperatives don't ignore the need to make a reasonable profit, but we focus on our member-consumers because we exist to provide service.

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