

heartland LINK

A publication of East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

Best Wishes to Three ECI REC Board Members

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Cooperatives band together to recover from April storm.



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Board of Directors approves retiring \$568,048 back to members.

REGISTER FOR SMARTHUB page 8

A step-by-step guide to make signing up simple!



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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our members say thank you

“Thank you for your GREAT service!!!”

NANCY COVENTRY

“Thank you for an informative newsletter.

I always enjoy reading it.” **BRENDA VANDEVOORDE**

“Your crew did an outstanding job installing my pole.” **STEVEN BERNIS**

“We are impressed with the usage ease of the SmartHub payment portal. Kudos to ECI REC for making our lives easier. Thanks again!”

ION MEDIA TELEVISION, INC.

take the member challenge

1. LOOKING OUT FOR YOU: Issues discussed include protecting cooperatives' not-for-profit status, rightsizing pension premiums, protecting Iowa's power supply, and improving rural _____ and broadband access.

2. KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON: Fortunately, after millions of dollars in improvements, _____ our members' lights stayed on.

3. CEO MESSAGE: Data from the Environmental Protection Agency shows homeowners using _____ heat pumps save 30%-70% on heating costs and 20%-50% on cooling costs.

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 2019 *Heartland Link* entries. These members will receive a \$10 credit on their account.

Michael Hild

Bryan Zaspal

Mark Mcavan

Ruth Wieditz

Eli Raue

Janet Venneman

Howard Pohlmann

Denise Hillshiem

Peter Kalb

Dorothy Blocker

Kenny Bernis

Bronson Wierck

Melvin Pennington

Richard Greiner

Richard Griswold

Randall March

Calendar Notes

Thursday, July 4 - Closed for Independence Day

Monday, Sept. 2 - Closed for Labor Day

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(closed Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays)

 **OPERATIONS NEWS
OUTAGE UPDATES**

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COVER STORY

Best Wishes to Three ECI REC Board Members

a Cooperative Difference spotlight

THREE ECI REC BOARD MEMBERS are retiring from their posts. We would like to take a moment to recognize and thank them for their combined 32 years of service. From everyone at ECI REC—thank you, Jim, Burt, and Chris! Best wishes to you in the years to come.



Jim Alberts – Jim has been a Board member since June 2007, representing members in and around Black

Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, and Fayette Counties (Board District 7). He acted as Secretary/Treasurer for seven of his twelve years of service.



Burt Byers – Burt has been a Board member since June 2007, representing members in and around Benton,

Iowa, Johnson, and Linn Counties (Board District 5). He acted as Vice President for three of his twelve years of service.



Chris Sackett – Chris has been a Board member since June 2011, representing members in and around

Benton, Buchanan, and Linn Counties (Board District 2). He acted as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer for three of his eight years of service. 🙌

**4 GRAND
KIDS
2 YEARS
FROM
RETIREMENT**

**35
FEET IN
THE AIR**

**BUT RIGHT NOW IT'S
YOU I'M WORRIED ABOUT.**

**Join ECI REC as we
recognize Move Over Iowa
Day Saturday, August 10.**

Log onto iowadot.gov/rules to
learn the Rules of the Road.

HIS JOB IS DANGEROUS ENOUGH. The last thing he needs is for you to drive into his utility truck because you ignored the flashing lights, cones and signs. When you see utility crews at work, slow down and move over. You have the power to protect a life.



**MOVE OVER
SLOW DOWN**



ECI REC Director Flies to Capitol for NRECA Legislative Conference

a Looking Out For You article


ECI REC director Don Shonka and other Iowa electric cooperative representatives with Iowa Representative Abby Finkenauer.

THIS SPRING, over 40 Iowa electric cooperative representatives flew to Washington, D.C., to participate in the 2019 NRECA Legislative Conference. Along with more than 2,000 fellow cooperative representatives from across the nation, Iowa managers, directors, and employees spent three days sharing the electric cooperative story in Washington.

Advocates heard speeches from high-ranking policymakers, including several Members of Congress and Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Neil Chatterjee. They also participated in breakout sessions in which NRECA staff gave policy briefings and tips on how to effectively advocate on Capitol Hill.

In addition to NRECA-sponsored activities, advocates were able to lobby members of the Iowa Congressional

Delegation and their staff, staff from the Executive Office of the President, and USDA Under Secretary Bill Northey. Issues discussed include protecting cooperatives' not-for-profit status, rightsizing pension premiums, protecting Iowa's power supply, and improving rural infrastructure and broadband access.

The group was well-received in every meeting, underscoring the continuing success of Iowa electric cooperatives' advocacy efforts. Not only were advocates successful in sharing the cooperative point of view on important federal issues, they were also effective at maintaining and building relationships with Washington policymakers. Iowa's electric cooperatives will return to Washington, D.C., in September. 


2019 Iowa Legislative Session Wraps

a Looking Out for You update from Kevin Condon, IAEC's Director of Government Relations

THE 2019 SESSION of the Iowa legislature adjourned on April 28, spanning 104 days from the time lawmakers took their seats at the Statehouse in mid-January. For the first time in nearly a decade, the Legislature wrapped up business before reaching their allotted threshold to conduct the policymaking process. With 20% of the Senate being new and 22% of the House being sworn in for the first time, this session was full of activity and passion from both parties.

For Iowa's electric cooperatives, this session was less intense when compared to the 2018 session, which saw the passage of comprehensive energy legislation. While the issues we supported on behalf of electric cooperatives weren't necessarily news-making headlines, they were still relevant.

We're proud of our advocacy to restore Iowa's geothermal installation tax credit, which was unnecessarily eliminated last year. The credit was restored through a provision on a tax bill. Iowa's Rural Power advocates can be proud of the role they played in voicing our support for geothermal as an important energy efficiency tool.

As we close the chapter on the 2019 session and turn our attention toward planning for next year, electric cooperative members can rest easy knowing we're looking out for your interests at the Capitol. The state's lawmakers care about how their decisions impact you. The next time you see your legislators, be sure to thank them for their service! 



Iowa's member-owned electric cooperative advocates have an authentic, American story to tell and are banding together to promote safe, reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy for Iowans. Iowa Rural Power takes pride in representing the interests of the rural families and businesses electric co-ops provide electricity to.

Sign up for Rural Power updates from your electric cooperative at www.iaruralpower.org. Follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/iaruralpower.

2018 CIPCO Power Supply Report

a Cooperative Difference feature by Allen Albers

2018 WAS A YEAR OF BREAKING NEW GROUND for Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), ECI REC's power supplier. The dynamic level of change was unheard of, yet I'm proud of how we handled the challenges and opportunities. I believe CIPCO is well-positioned to serve its members now and well into the future.

The year began with the unplanned announcement of the early closure of Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC). This carbon-free resource currently provides 33% of our energy portfolio and will take time to replace. However, forward planning by CIPCO launched Heartland Divide Wind, a 103.5 MW wind farm, where CIPCO purchases 100% of the output. It is now our largest wind project. CIPCO's continuing goal to provide a diverse, 24/7 energy portfolio led to two additional generation announcements. We will work with Clēnera LLC as they develop Wapello Solar, a 100 MW facility on 850 acres in Louisa County. The new project incorporates the latest solar technologies and will be the largest solar site in Iowa. Finally, the existing Summit Lake Generating Station in Creston is undergoing an \$85 million repowering project. The steam engines will be retired and 55 MW of efficient natural gas-fired reciprocating engines will be added into CIPCO's portfolio.


ECI REC and CIPCO are committed to providing safe, affordable, and reliable electricity to our members. Ensuring the quality of our transmission lines is an important part of that commitment, which is why CIPCO implemented the New-to-Replace-Old (NTRO) program in 1986, with the goal of reconstructing the original 34.5 kV subtransmission system. This work is nearly complete. In 1995, the program was expanded to include the 69 kV system. To date, more than 650 miles of 34.5 kV line and 180 miles of 69 kV line has been replaced.

Financial strength is integral to our success. CIPCO's financial strength has led to strong credit ratings, stable rates among the lowest of G&Ts in the Midwest, and

access to borrowing capital to cost-effectively complete system upgrades and enhancements. CIPCO's 2018 average system rate was the lowest in more than 10 years. The DAEC closure highlights actions taken over many years to manage risk and position CIPCO to withstand the loss of such an important generation resource. Because of these actions, CIPCO was able to absorb the impairment loss and keep rates stable.

In 2018, CIPCO returned patronage totaling \$817,708.03 to East-Central Iowa REC. Returning patronage capital is a fundamental component of the cooperative business model. CIPCO remains committed to sound financial practices that allow the return of margins to its members.

In today's energy-conscious world, CIPCO and ECI REC are committed to ensuring members use energy wisely and utilize available options to reduce excess consumption. CIPCO and its member systems issued energy-efficiency rebates that saved approximately 12,764,812 million kWh of energy in 2018, including 1,206,207 kWh savings for ECI REC members. In comparison, the average house uses nearly 11,000 kWh a year according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

I'm privileged to serve as your representative on both the ECI REC and CIPCO Board of Directors. I'm proud of the actions taken in 2018 to secure CIPCO's position in the rural electric industry. Our actions have strengthened CIPCO's commitment to provide cost-effective, safe, and reliable energy to power our communities, state, and economy into the future. 

ECI REC Board Director Allen Albers is our representative on the CIPCO Board of Directors.



Watts\$mart
energy and environment e-tips

5 Ways to Get Your Home Ready for Summer



As an ECI REC member, you have access to a free monthly e-newsletter that focuses on green living and energy efficiency. Watts\$mart is full of useful money-saving tips, including an energy usage calculator. There are four ways to sign up:

1. Scan the QR code with your smartphone.
2. Contact Director of Member Services Adam Abertsen at 319-443-3578 or adam.albertsen@ecirec.coop.
3. Click on the Watts\$mart button located on the ECI REC home page.
4. If you are a SmartHub user, you can click on the Watts\$mart quicklink on the left-hand sidebar of your ECI REC account home page.






Cooperatives Power Through Perilous Spring

a Keeping the Lights On article

IN APRIL, WINTER STORM WESLEY ravaged the Midwest—including the ECI REC service territory. At the height of the storm, the National Weather Service forecasted winds 25 to 35 mph, with gusts up to 45 mph. The storm also delivered substantial ice accumulations, causing broken poles and ice-packed conductor wires to fall to the ground. Overburdened branches and broken trees also caused outages. In the end, just over 4,400 meters served by Iowa's electric cooperatives were without power, most along the state's northern border.

Fortunately, after millions of dollars in improvements, nearly all our members' lights stayed on. The ECI REC team at the Urbana headquarters can see every line and customer in the system, so when outages happen in our service territory, it's immediately pinpointed. "When there are high winds like Winter Storm Wesley, we're not out checking the lines—we're responding to outages," said ECI REC CEO Steve Marlow. "In one of the few outages that did occur, a building roof came off and went through our line. We have to watch for dangers like that. Other outages were caused by trees going through the line."

Once the storm had passed, more than 70 lineworkers from Iowa's electric cooperatives—including Lineworkers Jared Grover and Colton Wolfe from ECI REC—headed north to help Heartland Cooperative as they worked to restore power. The pair worked in St. Ansgar starting April 11 and returned April 14.

Safety is always ECI REC's highest priority in dangerous situations like Winter Storm Wesley. We remind our members to avoid downed power lines or broken poles. Always assume power lines are energized and dangerous unless otherwise indicated by the authorities or utility workers. As crews are working on roadways to restore power and make repairs, please follow the law and move over or slow down so they have room to work safely. 

Operations Update

a Keeping the Lights On update

OSMOSE POLE INSPECTION COMPLETE -

In mid-April, ECI REC contracted Osmose Utility Services, Inc., to conduct pole inspections. They began in the Benton County service territory, near the Big Grove substation.

Next, they inspected the Maryville substation area in Buchanan County. The inspection of 3,990 poles took about five weeks to complete. Osmose identified 52 poles with non-priority issues. ECI REC crews will work to service or replace these poles. They did not identify any critical-priority issues.



The Osmose crew inspected poles throughout our territory in April and May.

HIGHLINE RESUMES OVERHEAD REBUILD - In June, Highline crews returned to work on the 45.3 miles of overhead rebuild outlined in the 2019 Work Plan. They started the work in January, completing over 16 miles in the Rowley, Quasqueton, Aurora, Maryville, and Bryantsturg substation areas. Due to the inclement weather that hit the Midwest in April and May, crews were pulled away to assist with storm recovery. To stay on schedule, Highline has added staff. They remain on target for completion in November, if not sooner, with the additional crew.

SUMMER VEGETATION MANAGEMENT - Members may see vegetation contractors out spraying ECI REC's substations and other critical areas near Cooperative equipment. 

Safety Matters!



ECI REC was proud to have the opportunity to promote electric safety to nearly 1,000 kids during the 2018/2019 school year. We performed safety demonstrations for six different youth events in and around our service area: La Porte City Elementary, Progressive Ag Safety Day, Benton County 3rd Grade Ag Day, Garrison Kid's Day, Benton County Safety Day, and Amish Safety Day. We also presented for 20 adults at the Urbana Fire Department.

Board Returns \$568,048 to Members Through Patronage Dividends


a Cooperative Difference article

AT ITS MAY BOARD MEETING, the ECI REC Board of Directors approved the retirement of \$568,048—100% (\$468,048) of its 2004 and 10.77% (\$100,000) of its 2015 margins—to members of the Cooperative. In June, 5,969 member-accounts that received electricity from the Cooperative in 2004 or 2015 received money back.

These dollars represent your share of the deferred patronage dividends (profits) the Cooperative earned in 2004 and 2015. In the past 10 years, ECI REC has returned \$5,504,061 to its membership.

Eighty-four and a half percent (84.5%) of the 7,065 memberships who received money back are active member-accounts receiving electricity from ECI REC. These active member-accounts saw a credit on their June bills. The remaining member-accounts, which are no longer active (not receiving electricity from ECI REC), received a check for their credits in the mail. If you did not receive a credit on your June bill, you did not receive electric service from ECI REC in 2004 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. 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 as a member of 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 07/01/2019		\$110.25
\$1.65 (1.5%) late charge applies after 07/01/2019		\$111.90



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 time of pick-up.

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

Cool Off/Calm Down:

Turn off unnecessary lighting and electronics that generate heat, and resist the urge to turn down the thermostat.





SMART PAYMENTS

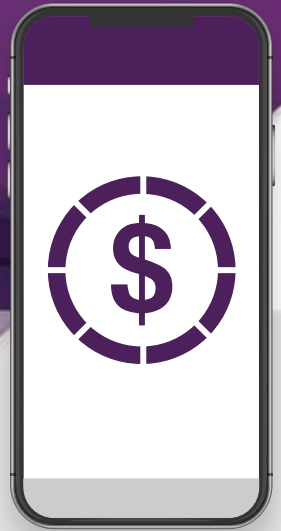
SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.

Save time. Avoid service interruptions. Eliminate late fees.

With SmartHub, you'll be notified when your bill is due and can pay securely online or in the app, anytime, anywhere.

Sign up for autopayments, set up your secure preferred payment method and let account management go into autopilot.

...All in the palm of your hand and online.



www.smarthubapp.com

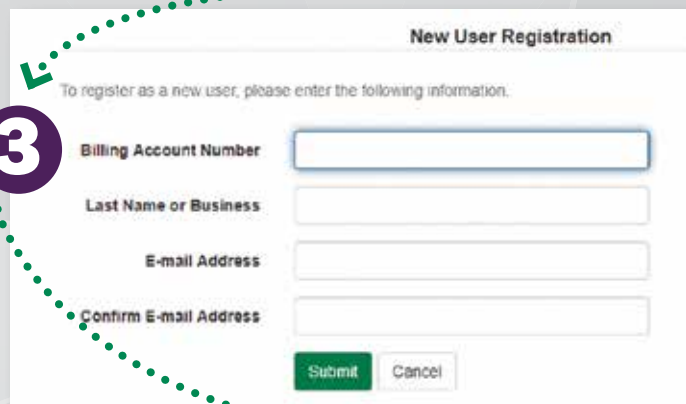
Not Sure How to Register for SmartHub? We've Got You Covered!



Go to www.ecirec.coop and click the purple SmartHub icon near the footer.

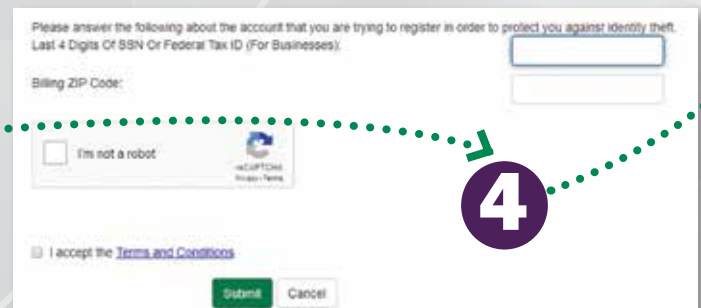


From the SmartHub login page click: **New User? Sign up to access our Self Service site.** The new user registration screen appears.



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 appears.



Enter last 4 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**.



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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



SmartHub Registration

ecirec@smarthub.coop
to jane.smith

You have successfully registered with the SmartHub web portal for East-central Iowa Rec.

Please use this temporary password upon your first login: Your temp password is: **AjSqFha8**

[Login >>](#)

Check your email for a message from SmartHub Registration at ecirec.smarthub.coop with a temporary password.

Please change your password

E-Mail Address:

New Password:

Confirm Password:

[Password Strength:](#)

4-character minimum; 10-character maximum; at least one numeric character

Clicking the [Login >>](#) link takes you to a **Change Your Password** screen; create a new password. Click **Submit**.

Security Phrase

Please choose a Security Phrase before proceeding. This phrase is required to be set up before you can make payments, store or update credit cards and bank accounts for future payments, or sign up for Auto Pay.

When entering your financial information, if the Security Phrase displayed on the form does not match your chosen phrase, please DO NOT enter any personal information and contact customer service.

You can update your Security Phrase at any time by selecting 'Update My Security Phrase' under the 'My Profile' tab.

Security Phrase

Minimum of 5 characters in length

☐ What's a good security phrase?

A **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 5-digit word or phrase and click **Save**.



YOU CAN ALSO GO MOBILE!

www.smarthubapp.com

Download the SmartHub mobile app in the Apple Store® or in the Android® Market. You can register for the first time using the app, too!



Learn more about cooperative careers at the Iowa State Fair

Stop by our booth in the Rastetter 4-H building on the south side of the fairgrounds to find out why it's a great time to pursue a career in the electric cooperative industry!



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives of Iowa



Visit ECI REC at the Iowa State Fair!

a Community Connected reminder

AT THE 2019 IOWA STATE FAIR, the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa will again sponsor the Rastetter 4-H Building on the south side of the fairgrounds. We're looking forward to connecting with fairgoers and rural 4-H families at our booth in the air-conditioned building. With a new interactive display, we'll be talking about cooperative careers and our commitment to leadership development with the national Youth Tour program.

Cooperative Careers - In rural Iowa, more than 1,200 people are employed full-time by locally owned electric cooperatives. We hire skilled workers like lineworkers and mechanics, as well as professionals like accountants, engineers, communicators, human resources managers, economic development officers, administrators, and customer care representatives. Electric co-ops offer competitive pay and generous benefits in an exciting and challenging industry. Stop by to learn more about scholarships, job openings, and internships.

Youth Tour - For over 60 years, Iowa's electric cooperatives have been sending high school students to Washington, D.C., for leadership development at the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. On the weeklong trip, students with a passion for government, leadership, and service meet with elected officials, learn more about American history, visit dozens of monuments and museums, and come home with a greater understanding of electric cooperatives. Over 25 high school juniors have represented ECI REC over the past 11 years. Learn more about this incredible program and sign up for more information at our booth during the fair.

ECI REC is excited to share our story at the Iowa State Fair—stop by our booth and say hello! 🌱

ATTENTION: MEMBERS WITH 2019 GEOTHERMAL INSTALLATIONS

Iowa Tax Credit Reinstated

In addition to the Federal Geothermal Heat Pump Tax Credit, taxpayers can now apply for the state tax credit with the Iowa Department of Revenue. Here's what members need to know:

- Geothermal heat pumps installed on residential property in Iowa are eligible for a tax credit equal to 20% of the federal tax credit. This tax credit can be applied retroactively to January 1, 2019. The deadline to apply is May 1 following the year of installation.
- Taxpayers must apply for and receive approval for the Geothermal Heat Pump Tax Credit with the Iowa Department of Revenue before claiming the tax credit for tax year 2019 and later. Claims made on the IA 1040 without an award will be denied.
- The Geothermal Heat Pump Tax Credit is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. Completing an application does not guarantee you will be awarded a Geothermal Heat Pump Tax Credit; application approvals are contingent upon availability of tax credits in that particular tax year. Funds are limited.
- The application for the Geothermal Heat Pump Tax Credit can only be completed within the Tax Credit Award, Claim, & Transfer Administration System (CACTAS). Visit the Geothermal Heat Pump Tax Credit page at tax.iowa.gov/heat-pump-tax-credit for full details. 🌱



Check your boats and docks.

Prepare for a safe summer on the water.

Poor wiring creates hazards that can electrocute swimmers, boaters, and people on the dock.



Save Money With Restored State Geothermal Tax Credit

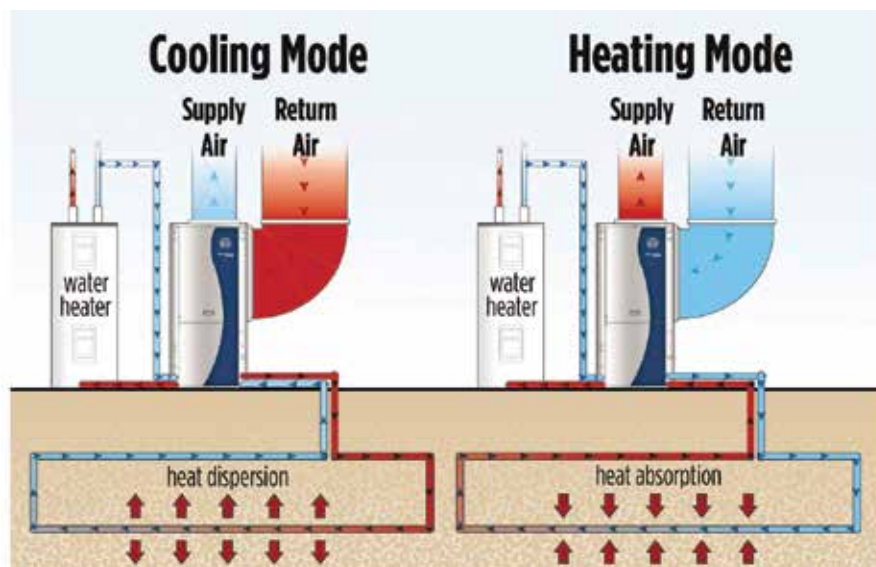
from page 10

Association, State Senator Waylon Brown (District 26), and State Representative Jane Bloomingdale (District 51) for championing this cause. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives also supported this initiative and organized electric cooperative advocates across the state to contact their local legislators.

WHY IS A GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMP SO ENERGY EFFICIENT?

A geothermal heat pump is a highly efficient renewable energy technology for both residential and commercial buildings. Geothermal heat pumps are used for space heating and cooling, as well as water heating.

The technology relies on the fact the earth remains a relatively constant temperature throughout the year—warmer than the air above it during the winter and cooler in the summer. The geothermal heat pump efficiently transfers heat stored in the earth or ground water into a building during the winter and transfers it out of the building and back into the ground during the summer.



USING A GEOTHERMAL SYSTEM IS ALSO GREAT FOR YOUR WALLET!

Data from the Environmental Protection Agency shows homeowners using geothermal heat pumps save 30%–70% on heating costs and 20%–50% on cooling costs. This translates to roughly \$400–\$1,500 in annual savings. Installing a geothermal system involves adding an underground loop system, which makes the installation cost more expensive upfront compared to conventional HVAC systems. Homeowners can utilize federal and state geothermal tax credits to help offset these costs. ECI REC also offers rebates on geothermal equipment. Members may be eligible for ECI REC's special Heat Plus rate of \$0.0485 per kWh from October 1 to May 31.

To learn more about geothermal heat pumps and the costs involved, contact Director of Member Service Adam Albertsen at adam.albertsen@ecirec.coop or 877-850-4343, extension 503. We'll explain the installation process and answer your questions. At ECI REC, we're here to help you use energy wisely! 🌱

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

IT'S THE LAW!



YOUR BOARD



Board District 1 - Jeff Elliott
(2018/2019 Vice President)

Board District 2 - Chris Sackett
(2018/2019 Asst. Secretary/Treasurer)

Board District 3 - Allen Albers

Board District 4 - Gary McKenna

Board District 5 - Burt Byers

Board District 6 - Don Shonka

Board District 7 - Jim Alberts

Board District 8 - Nick Donlea

Board District 9 - Steve Rau
(2018/2019 President)

Board District 10 - Ryan Kress
(2018/2019 Secretary/Treasurer)

CLASSIFIEDS: Free to members only

Please email your ad to classifieds@ecirec.coop. Ads for the Sept./Oct. *Heartland Link* must be received by Aug. 1, 2019.

FOR SALE - PH: 319-654-4151

- 18" girls bike, new tires, bearings repacked, \$18
- 20" girls bike, bearings repacked, one new tire, \$18
- 20" boys Huffy bike, bearings repacked, two new tires, \$25
- HP 4520 printer still in box, instant ink good until 2020, extra color and black ink cartridges 2020, \$60

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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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Heartland Link, 2400 Bing Miller Lane, PO Box 248, Urbana, IA 52345.

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Editor: Lisa Franck

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.

Members get connected at www.ecirec.coop



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Message From CEO Steve Marlow

Save Money With Restored State Geothermal Tax Credit

IF YOU'RE LOOKING for an energy-efficient upgrade that saves money on your electric bills, consider a geothermal heating and cooling system. With a state tax credit back in place, this HVAC option is more affordable than ever.

Governor Reynolds recently signed HF 779 into law, which reinstated a geothermal tax credit that was eliminated in 2018. Geothermal heat pumps installed on residential property in Iowa are again eligible for a tax credit equal to 20% of the federal tax credit. With the federal tax credit set at 30% of the installation cost until the end of the year, the state tax credit is currently equal to 6% of the installation cost. This state tax credit can be applied retroactively to January 1, 2019.

We're thankful to the Iowa Geothermal