

iNtouch



WITH MEMBERS OF PRAIRIE ENERGY COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Prairie Energy Cooperative Honored for Economic Development Leadership

Impacting communities and sustaining economies through local partnerships are at the foundation of Iowa's consumer owned utilities. Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) annually recognizes their electric utility sponsors for outstanding commitment, contribution, and participation in business development projects and local community initiatives.

At Corn Belt Power Cooperative's annual meeting in Fort Dodge six member electric utility systems were recognized for their economic development accomplishments and commitment to their local communities. With the success of these development projects, the rural electric cooperatives and municipal electric systems are making a significant contribution to the quality of life and the economy of Iowa.

Prairie Energy Cooperative has been instrumental and supportive of numerous development projects in northern Iowa for many years. In recognition of their leadership and support Prairie Energy was presented with an Impact Award for project development. The cooperative recently became involved in one of the state's largest economic development and value-added agriculture projects, assisting the Hawkeye Pride project near Corwith. The \$100 million egg laying facility is complete with its own feed mill and egg breaking facilities. The cooperative assisted with the site selection work, as well as securing the utility infrastructure necessary, to support the project that will employ nearly 80 people. Hawkeye Pride also purchased and renovated a building in downtown Corwith to serve as its main office for the egg production and processing facility.

The Iowa Area Development Group is the marketing and business development office for Iowa's member-owned rural electric cooperatives and select municipal electric utilities. IADG has assisted with over 1,600 successful business expansions and start-up projects. This growth represents capital investment of more than \$5.6 billion and 40,000 jobs for Iowa. The Iowa Area Development Group was established in 1985 to promote and strengthen rural Iowa development opportunities.



Left to right: Jim Vermeer, vice president, business development, Corn Belt Power Cooperative; Darrell Goff, executive vice president/general manager, Prairie Energy; Todd Foss, key accounts director, Prairie Energy; Marion Denger, board president, Prairie Energy and Rand Fischer, president of the Iowa Area Development Group.

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Prairie Energy Cooperative's office will be closed Mon. July 4th.



For safety tips visit www.fireworkssafety.org.

Co-ops connect with lawmakers



Left: Legislators and co-op representatives witness Gov. Terry Branstad sign HF 267.

Right: Dale Schaefer, Franklin REC director, enjoys a moment with Touchstone Energy's CFL Charlie outside Capitol Hill. CFL Charlie is an important reminder of your co-op's commitment to energy efficiency.



Building strong relationships for the future

This spring was a busy time of year on Capitol Hill in Des Moines. Your local electric co-op joined forces with directors and employees from across the state to contact their legislators to ask them to support legislation impacting electric utilities.

REC Day on the Hill

More than 260 co-op representatives gathered to watch Gov. Branstad sign HF 267, State Historic Preservation Reform at this year's REC Day on the Hill March 29. This legislation will expedite Iowa's electric cooperatives' storm recovery efforts. The bill supports the ability of electric co-ops to promptly repair and rebuild power lines damaged by storms by making SHPO no more restrictive than federal law.

Following the bill signing, participants moved to the capitol to meet with their legislators to thank them for their support of our priorities this year and to discuss current energy-related issues. Topics included energy efficiency, renewable energy, economic development, storm recovery, and base load generation efforts.

Copper theft bill signed by the governor

In April, HF 299 passed the Senate unanimously and was sent to the governor for his signature. This marked a victory for the electric utility industry on an issue that the electric cooperatives have been working on for a long time. This bill will help to deter future instances of copper theft from your local electric cooperative. Copper theft results in increased costs to members and the possibility of injury and death to trespassers.

Scenes from REC DAY on the HILL



Left: Larry Rohach (center), Grundy County REC director, discusses issues with others at REC Day on the Hill.

Right: Donald Feldman, Butler County REC director, talks with Gov. Branstad who spent time meeting co-op representatives on Capitol Hill.



Left: Representative Henry Rayhons (second from left) met with directors from Prairie Energy Cooperative, (from left), Donald Christopherson, Jim Wellik, Doyce Pringnitz, and Ted Hall.

Right: Kevin Rasmusseum (left) and Jim Marso (right), Humboldt County REC directors, talk with Senator John Kibbie.



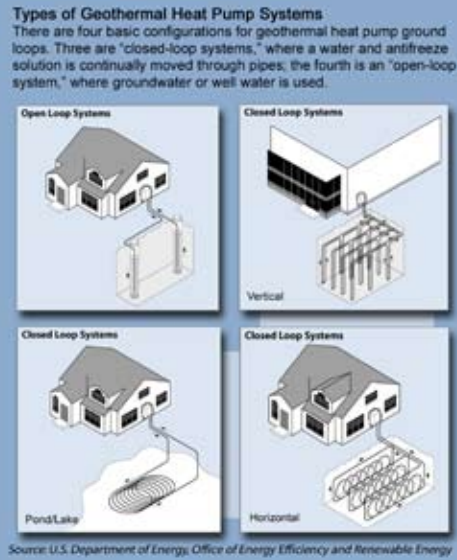
Special limited-time, low-interest funding for geothermal heat pumps

The idea of owning a more efficient home—and paying lower utility bills—has widespread appeal, but finding ways to fund needed energy-efficiency improvements can be difficult during hard economic times.

Fortunately, your electric co-op's housing partner, Homeward Inc., offers low-interest loans for geothermal heat pumps installed in members' homes. Members can now borrow up to \$14,000 at 2.99 percent interest for 7 years.

This is a limited-time offer for geothermal heat pumps installed in existing or new homes served by your electric co-op. Contact Deb Prehm, Homeward Inc., at 515-532-6477 or e-mail: homeward@mchsi.com to apply for a loan.

Important Note: Homeowners considering geothermal heat pumps should discuss their options with a professional before making a decision. Energy advisors at your electric co-op are here to help and can answer questions about co-op rebates. Information about federal tax credits that can cover 30 percent of the cost of materials and installation is available online at www.energystar.gov/taxcredits.



If a breaker is tripped, it may stop halfway between the on and off positions. To reset, flip the switch all the way to the off position and then back to the on position. If you are not sure how to reset a breaker or replace a fuse, ask someone who knows to show you this easy, but important, task.

LIGHTS OUT? Check your BREAKERS

We've all been there: a summer storm rolls through and the lights go out. And the first thing you do is call your electric co-op to report the outage.

Step back a minute and do these important things BEFORE making that outage call:

1. Check your neighbors. Are their lights out too? If your neighbors' lights are on, the outage could be isolated to your home.
2. Next, check your circuit breakers or fuses in your home's electrical panel. The loss of power could be a tripped breaker or blown fuse.
3. Reset any tripped breakers or replace blown fuses with new ones of the same amp rating. If you have power in part of your home, continue to check the individual breakers or fuses and reset as needed.
4. After checking all your breakers or fuses and you are still without power, call your electric co-op to report the outage.

Your electric co-op will appreciate knowing you checked your breakers or fuses. It can save valuable time and expense if crews are sent out and the outage problem is inside your home or business.

Members return surveys in big numbers



Earlier this spring, your electric co-op conducted a survey offering members a chance to win a bill credit. Surveys could be entered online or returned by mail. At each co-op, an impressive 44 to 48 percent of members completed surveys.

Members who submitted their surveys before March 31 qualified for a \$150 bill credit. All others won \$100 bill credits. The local winners are:

Co-op	Member	Prize
Butler County REC	Roger Quigley, Sumner	\$150
Franklin REC	David Miller, Hampton	\$100
Grundy County REC	Jay Duncan, Beaman	\$100
Humboldt County REC	Harold Bosworth, Algona	\$150
Prairie Energy Cooperative	Timothy Griffin, Belmond	\$100

The survey will help us identify member electrical use, needs, and preferences to better plan co-op programs and services. While each co-op is tabulating the results, some preliminary results show:

- Electric heating is used in 31 percent of the members' homes and businesses.
- To help keep power costs down, 54 percent of members indicated they are somewhat or very interested in allowing the co-op to temporarily cycle on-and-off the operating of their electric water heaters and/or central air conditioning during peak electric times.
- Nearly 35 percent of members have switched more than half of the lights in their homes to energy-efficient compact fluorescent lights (CFLs).

Adelai Swanson Wins the 2011 Youth Tour to Washington D.C.



Left to right: Brandon Luppen, Adelai Swanson, Nathan Davis

Adelai Swanson was chosen as Prairie Energy's 2011 representative for the Youth Tour to Washington D.C. June 11-16. Adelai will join more than 40 other students from across Iowa on an all expense paid trip to our nation's Capitol.

Adelai is a junior at Clarion-Goldfield High School where she participates in the high school dance team; volleyball, basketball and track. She is also involved in dance at the Turning Pointe Dance school; a lifeguard and swim team coach; and she is involved in 4-H with swine and welding. She is a member of St. John's Catholic Church. Adelai is the daughter of Stu and Lori Swanson, Galt.

Runner up winners included Nathan Davis, son of Dr. Charles and Mary Davis, Clarion, Iowa and Brandon Luppen, son of Laurence & Jane Luppen, Corwith, Iowa. Both Nathan and Brandon received \$100 savings bonds.

To qualify for the Youth Tour, each applicant was required to complete an open book quiz and write a letter to an elected official on a topic they were excited about. Adelai wrote her letter to Congressman Tom Latham with concerns on the Obama Health Care Reform bill and its effects on rural America; Nathan's letter was to Representative Stewart Iversen on the increasing costs of tuition at the state colleges and recommended that the legislators examine ways to keep the costs affordable; and Brandon wrote to Senator Chuck Grassley on the high cost of gas and the way it is impacting the local schools and suggested a 4 day school week as a solution.

Our Commitment to Privacy

At Prairie Energy Cooperative, 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. Prairie Energy Cooperative recognizes the trust you have placed in us and are 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 mentioned above, that third party must agree to adhere to privacy principles that provide for keeping such information confidential.

Limiting Employee Access to Information Prairie Energy Cooperative 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 that violates the financial privacy of our customers will be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures and possible termination.

Protection on 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. Prairie Energy Cooperative will respond to requests to correct inaccurate information in a timely manner.

At Prairie Energy Cooperative, 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 Prairie Energy Cooperative protects your information, please contact us at 800-728-0013.