

● DECEMBER 2025

# iowa

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

Your guide to  
smarter electronics

Christmas lights:  
Candlelight to co-op power

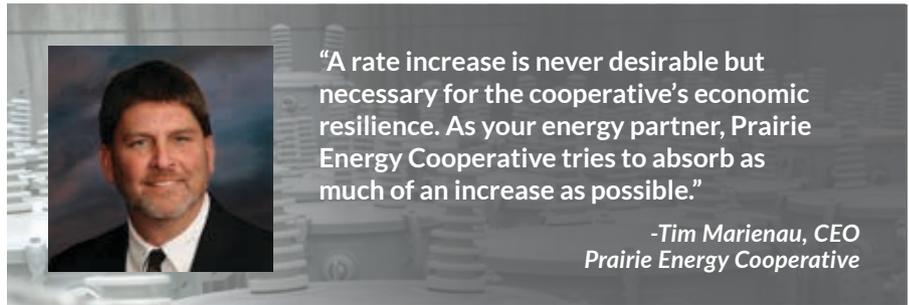
Holiday appetizer recipes

Seeking candidates for PECO board of directors ▶ See Page 12

# RIISING POWER COSTS CONTINUE TO IMPACT PECO

Like almost everything else in our world's current economy, global energy markets continue to be under stress. Because wholesale energy costs will be higher as 2026 progresses, the Prairie Energy Cooperative's (PECO) board of directors will be approving a rate increase for our membership. The increase equates to an average of about 10% for all members – residential, irrigation, commercial and industrial. The average cost increases will vary with each member's monthly usage.

The 2026 increase is due to a combination of reasons, including rising costs in prices to generate, transmit and distribute electricity, and in supplies and equipment. Both PECO's generation and transmission cooperatives (Corn Belt Power Cooperative and Basin Electric Power Cooperative) are experiencing significant increases in the costs of fuel, equipment, transportation, and maintenance of plants and transmission lines. These



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-Tim Marienau, CEO  
Prairie Energy Cooperative

amount to more than 70% of the total expenses for PECO. With increases in both energy and demand charges passed along to PECO, the co-op's power costs will soar by over 10% this year, with additional increases scheduled for the next several years.

Additionally, expenses related to required distribution equipment such as wire, transformers, conductor, poles and vehicles continue to rise due to tariffs, inflation and supply chain issues. In some cases, prices for equipment have risen over 300%. The cost of PECO's inventory on hand has increased by three times just in the last two years.

"A rate increase is never desirable but necessary for the cooperative's economic resilience," said PECO CEO Tim Marienau. "We understand these are extremely difficult times with inflation and the costs of all goods and services rising. As your energy partner, we try to absorb as much of an increase as possible."

However, the increases to PECO this year, and those expected in the future, are so large that the cooperative is unable to absorb the full amounts, Marienau said.

"We realize a rate adjustment at this time will be difficult for some of our members, and we will do all we



**Prairie Energy  
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



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**Facebook:** [facebook.com/PrairieEnergyCooperative](https://facebook.com/PrairieEnergyCooperative)

**Website:** [www.prairieenergy.coop](http://www.prairieenergy.coop)

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and employer

## WINTER CLOSURES

Prairie Energy Cooperative will be closed the following days:

- Friday, Dec. 12: All-day safety meeting
- Wednesday, Dec. 24 and Thursday, Dec. 25: Christmas
- Thursday, Jan. 1: New Year's Day



can to assist with energy efficiency, conservation and rebates,” he added.

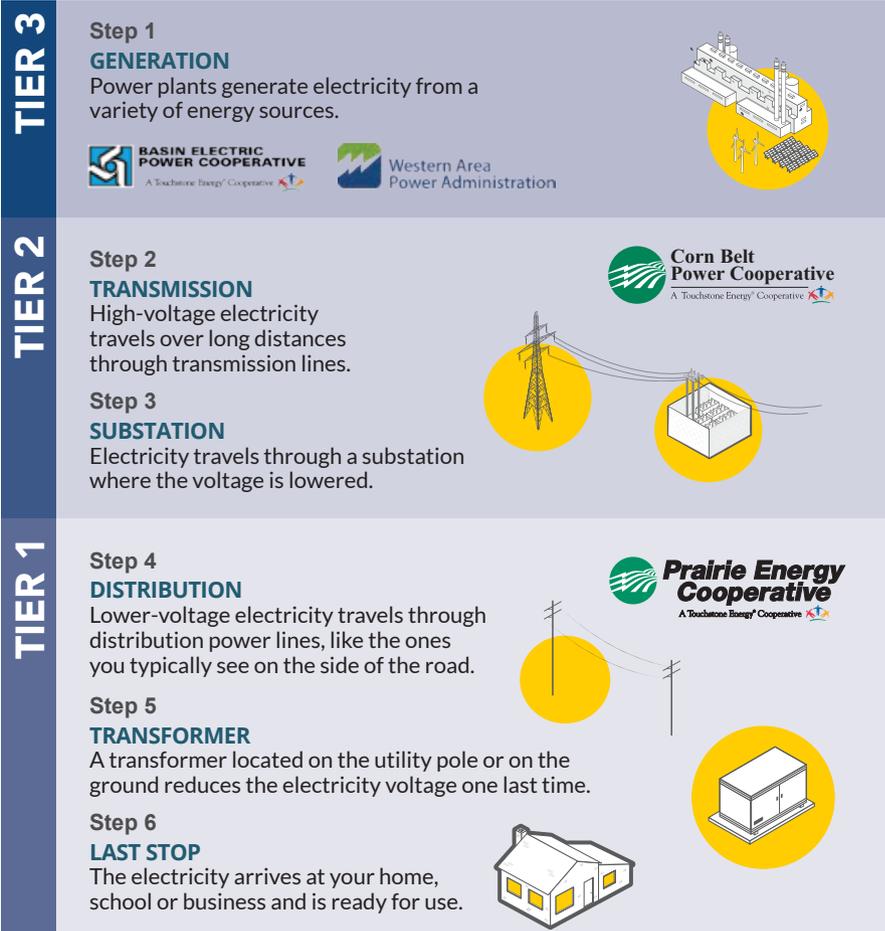
In addition, the co-op is reviewing other options to help with the rate increases, including:

- Building financial reserves to soften the 2026 rate increase.
- Finding smarter, more efficient ways to operate without adding to our fixed expenses.
- Reviewing how much is spent in rebuilding electric distribution lines on an annual basis without impacting reliable service.
- Reimplementation of the energy cost adjustment on monthly bills.

“The delivery of safe, reliable and affordable energy to PECO members is paramount,” Marienau said. “Continuing to do so, as well as upgrading and maintaining our infrastructure and keeping the co-op financially sound, means that we must regularly review our rates and implement adjustments if they are needed.”

If you have questions, please contact PECO at 515-532-2805.

## HOW THE POWER GRID ALL CONNECTS

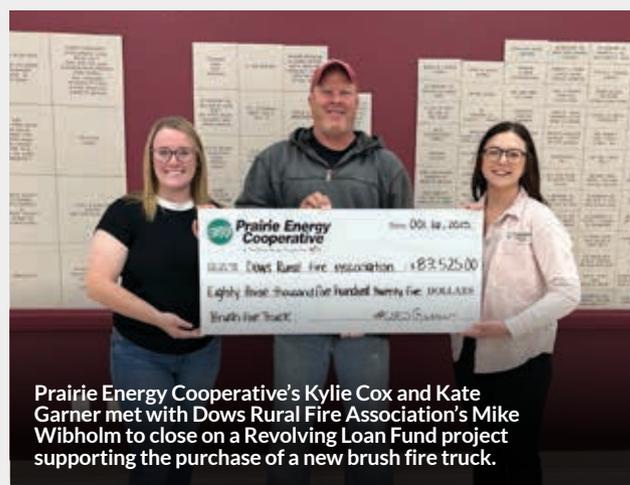


## REVOLVING LOAN FUND HELPS DOWS FIREFIGHTERS REPLACE LOST TRUCK

Prairie Energy Cooperative (PECO) is proud to support the Dows Rural Fire Association through our Revolving Loan Fund program. The association used the funds to help purchase a new brush fire truck after their previous vehicle was totaled in an accident.

The Dows Rural Fire Association serves the City of Dows, Vernon Township, Blaine Township and parts of Wall Lake Township in Wright County, as well as most of Morgan and Oakland Townships and the City of Popejoy in Franklin County. Formed in 1998, the association is made up of 20 dedicated volunteer firefighters who provide essential emergency services to their rural communities.

PECO’s Revolving Loan Fund was established to promote community and economic development in our service area.



Prairie Energy Cooperative’s Kylie Cox and Kate Garner met with Dows Rural Fire Association’s Mike Wibholm to close on a Revolving Loan Fund project supporting the purchase of a new brush fire truck.

Through this program, the co-op can provide low-interest loans to local organizations and businesses that strengthen and improve the communities we serve.

We are honored to help local organizations like the Dows Rural Fire Association continue their mission of serving and protecting our members and neighbors.

# SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR TWO POSITIONS ON THE PECO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Prairie Energy Cooperative (PECO) is a member-owned cooperative governed by a board of directors that you elect. As a member, one of your most important roles is to participate in the election of directors, and you can become more involved in your co-op by serving on that board.

Two positions on PECO's seven-member board of directors will be open for election in 2026. The three-year terms of Ryan Eekhoff, District 2, and Marion Denger, District 5, will expire.

**District 2 townships:** Buffalo, Bingham, Wesley, Orthel, Britt, Garfield, Prairie, Boone, Erin and Liberty townships

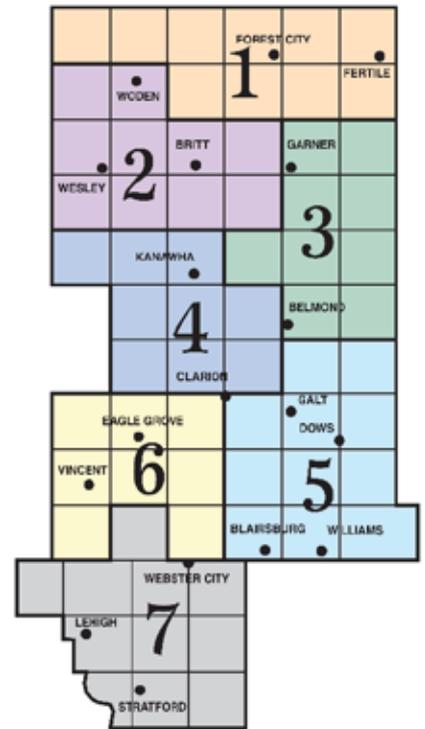
**District 5 townships:** Iowa, Scott, Lincoln, Blaine, Morgan, Wall Lake, Vernon, Oakland, Blairsburg, Williams and Alden townships

## Board member qualifications

To qualify, candidates must be PECO members receiving electricity in the townships listed. In conjunction with these requirements, a board member is expected to attend the monthly board meetings, generally held on the last Tuesday of each month, and various information and training meetings throughout the year. Because the board of directors is responsible for establishing the policies and rates under which the cooperative operates, it is important that directors can devote adequate time to these activities.

To learn more about director requirements and expectations, visit our website at [www.prairieenergy.coop](http://www.prairieenergy.coop).

If you are a member in either district and are interested in serving on the board of directors, call the co-op office at 515-532-2805.



## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Prairie Energy Cooperative's new headquarters in Clarion is taking shape – an investment in continued service and growth.

## BASIN ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Each year, Basin Electric Power Cooperative – Prairie Energy Cooperative's wholesale power supplier – offers a \$1,000 scholarship to support local students pursuing higher education.

This scholarship represents an investment in the future of our rural communities. Recipients are chosen based on academic achievement, leadership, community involvement, work experience, and their educational and career goals.

Funds must be used toward college expenses, and recipients must be enrolled in a college program for the upcoming fall semester.

High school seniors and current college students are encouraged to apply. Applications are available on our website at [www.prairieenergy.coop](http://www.prairieenergy.coop) or by contacting our office at 515-532-2805.



The application deadline is Feb. 20, 2026.



IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

The magazine  
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Iowa's electric  
cooperatives

December 2025

Visit our website at [www.prairieenergy.coop](http://www.prairieenergy.coop)



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