

## Prairie Energy honored with Economic Development Impact Award

Iowa's rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities commitment goes far beyond ensuring safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible energy. They actively create strategic partnerships and provide technical and financial assistance to support business growth and community vitality. Annually, Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) presents Impact Awards to utility partners involved in significant economic development initiatives the prior year. During the Corn Belt Power Cooperative Annual Meeting, Prairie Energy was recognized for our economic development accomplishments and commitment to community.

Prairie Energy was presented

with an IADG Impact Award for site development. With a long history of actively supporting the development and construction of industrial site/buildings necessary to foster business growth, the most recent project supported is the 80-acre Wright County Agri-Business Park located south of Eagle Grove. The creation of this industrial park will be an asset for Wright County in continuing to attract and retain ag-related businesses to the county.

"We commend Prairie Energy Cooperative for their strong leadership and support for the development of industrial assets that drive business growth," said IADG President Rand Fisher. "They provide important finan-



*From left: IADG President Rand Fisher, Prairie Energy CEO Tim Marienau, Prairie Energy Manager of Business/Community Development Todd Foss, Corn Belt President Scott Stecher*

cial and technical assistance that many times is a key component in successfully securing projects that create jobs and support community vitality."

## Chance to win: Energy Trail bus tour

As a member of Prairie Energy Cooperative, you have a chance to win one of two free trips to Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, North Dakota! How can you enter? It's simple: Join us on June 5 at the annual meeting of the members.

Enjoy the fellowship of other cooperative members as you take in the first-hand views of how your power providers convert resources such as water, wind and coal into electricity. This three-day, all-expenses paid trip covers lodging, meals and entry fees. Winners will pick from two tour dates: July 10-12 and July 24-26.



*2018 Energy Trail winners David and Sharon Mitchell.*

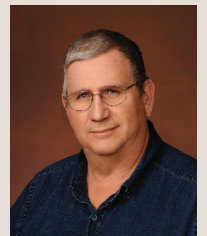


*2018 Energy Trail winners Naomi and Mike Lette.*

## Waddingham earns CCD

Prairie Energy Cooperative is pleased to announce that Director Allyn Waddingham (pictured right) has earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

The CCD is the first fundamental level of a three-tiered certificate program offered to aid in the knowledge and skills to help their performance as a director. Congratulations, Allyn!





**May is Electrical Safety Month.**

Safety Starts with You.

**#ElectricalSafetyMonth**

## Safety starts with you

Electricity plays many roles in our lives. May is National Electrical Safety Month, a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards.

### Ground fault circuit interrupters

Check your GFCIs frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when you are done.

### Loose or damaged outlets or switches

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards.

### Extension cords

If an extension cord is noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized. And if it shows any signs of damage, it should be replaced.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in property damage.

Don't become a statistic!

# SUMMER IS COMING PREPARE YOUR HOME NOW

## Don't Let Summer Heat Up Your Utility Bill



Seal cracks around the house with weather stripping or caulk to keep warm air out.



Change the air filter on your cooling unit.



Wash your outdoor AC unit and have your HVAC unit inspected.



Clear the air vents throughout your house.



Install a programmable thermostat. Leave it on a higher temperature when you are away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.



Update your insulation to keep cool air in your home and warm air out.

Learn more at:

**Safe  
Electricity.org**

## Is your a/c ready?

After a long, chilly winter, we're all ready for warm summer weather. Is your air conditioning system as ready as you are?



There's nothing worse than an a/c malfunction on the hottest day of the year.

Plus, air conditioning is your biggest energy expense during the summer. Keep summer energy bills in check by making time for a few pre-summer rituals:

- Schedule a tune-up.
- If you're in the market for a new air conditioner, buy one with the highest SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) rating you can afford.
- Don't buy too big. Your air conditioner should "fit" the size of your home.
- Turn on your ceiling fans.
- Close window blinds during the hottest part of the day.
- Add insulation to your attic and caulk windows.



## Electric co-ops advocate for rural Iowa during REC Day on the Hill

More than 200 employees and directors, representing 36 of Iowa's rural electric cooperatives (RECs), traveled to the Iowa State Capitol on March 20 to advocate for important issues during our annual "REC Day on the Hill" event. The cooperative advocates were briefed on state and federal legislative issues by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) before meeting with local legislators during a dessert social in the Capitol.

"This annual visit to the Iowa Capitol is an excellent opportunity to personally visit with our elected officials and provide them with a co-op perspective on issues that are important to rural Iowa and rural economic development," remarked Steve Seidl, board president of IAEC.

Advocates educated legislators on the benefits of the cooperative business model, including local ownership, cost-based rates and democratic governance. Legislators also learned about three priorities important to Iowa's electric cooperatives:

- Ensuring safety and reliability of service through vegetation management.
- Supporting cost-effective energy-efficiency programs for homes and farms.
- Responsible power generation and delivery through fair treatment of all members and use of advanced technology.

Many electric cooperatives also displayed booths in the rotunda, providing information on topics including energy-efficiency programs, rural broadband efforts, investments in technology and rural economic development.

## COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Effective May 22, 1991, the Iowa Utilities Board passed a ruling requiring all non-rate regulated utilities to post the following notice to its memberships: If a member-consumer has a question or concern regarding his/her electric service, please write or call your local electric cooperative at the following address or phone number:

### Butler County REC

521 N. Main Street, PO Box 98  
Allison, IA 50602-0098  
(319) 267-2726  
[www.butlerrec.coop](http://www.butlerrec.coop)

### Franklin REC

1560 Highway 65, PO Box 437  
Hampton, IA 50441-0437  
(641) 456-2557  
[www.franklinrec.coop](http://www.franklinrec.coop)

### Grundy County REC

303 N. Park Ave., PO Box 39  
Grundy Center, IA 50638-0039  
(319) 824-5251  
[www.grundycountyrecia.com](http://www.grundycountyrecia.com)

### Prairie Energy Cooperative

2099 Highway 3 West, PO Box 353  
Clarion, IA 50525-0353  
(515) 532-2805  
[www.prairieenergy.coop](http://www.prairieenergy.coop)

If your complaint is related to your cooperative's service rather than its rates, and your cooperative does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling 515-725-7321 or toll-free 1-877-565-4450; by writing to 1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069; or by email to [customer@iub.iowa.gov](mailto:customer@iub.iowa.gov).

*Our offices are closed Memorial Day, Monday, May 27.*

*Phones are answered 24/7.*



From left: CEO Tim Marienau, House Representative Terry Baxter, Director Donald Christopherson, Office Manager Sarah Olson, Prairie Energy Director Allyn Waddingham



From left: Member Service Manager Don Kammrad, CEO Tim Marienau, Office Manager Sarah Olson, Senator Tim Kraayenbrink



From left: Director Allyn Waddingham, Director Ted Hall, Director Donald Christopherson, Senator Dennis Guth, CEO Tim Marienau, Board President Marion Denger



From left: Speaker Linda Upmeyer, Office Manager Sarah Olson

## Directors and staff visit the Capitol

During this year's REC Day on the Hill event at the Iowa state capitol, Prairie Energy directors and staff had the opportunity to advocate for important issues relating to your cooperative while visiting with legislators. See inside this newsletter for more information about REC Day on the Hill.

## Rebate incentive increases for 2019

Thinking about changing out your air conditioning system before summer hits? Consider an air source heat pump. Members are eligible to receive a \$300 per ton rebate plus heat rate. For more information contact Prairie Energy's member service manager Don Kammrad at 515-532-2805.



**iNtouch**® is the official publication of Prairie Energy Cooperative  
 2099 Highway 3W • Clarion, Iowa 50525-0353  
 Phones answered 24/7: (515) 532-2805 • Pay-by-Phone: 844-241-0265  
 Offices hours: Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 Tim Marienau, CEO

 Follow us on Facebook at  
<https://www.facebook.com/PrairieEnergyCooperative>

**smart choices**   
 See the latest issue of our e-newsletter at [www.prairieenergy.coop](http://www.prairieenergy.coop)

  
 Pay your bill online  
 with SmartHub

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.