

WITH MEMBERS OF PRAIRIE ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Director earns CCD Certificate

Prairie Energy is pleased to announce that Allyn Waddingham has earned his Credentialed Co-



operative Director Certificate (CCD) from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

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

CRIME STOPPERS

800-452-1111

TOGETHER, WE CAN CUT DOWN ON COPPER THEFT AND OTHER CRIMES AGAINST IOWA'S ELECTRIC UTILITIES!

Help stop copper theft

There have been reports of break-ins and attempted copper theft in the area. If you see any suspicious activity, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 1-800-452-1111 or visit www.crimestoppersofcentraliowa.com. You can provide anonymous tips and receive a reward if your tip leads to an arrest and conviction.


www.prairieenergy.coop

Past due reminder notice

Beginning November 2019, member accounts that have a previous balance will be mailed a separate notice to inform them of the past due amount.

For a number of years, the past due notice has been included with the current monthly statement. Our goal is to bring a better awareness to the past due amount and better inform our members of how to remedy the delinquency. The notice will include the account number, balance past due, date to have the delinquency paid and information of how and where to pay.

While our method of notification will change, our willingness to work with our members has not changed. If you receive this past due notice, communication is vital! Call the office at 515-532-2805 and our customer service department will work with you to resolve the issue.



Prairie Energy Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative
PO BOX 353
CLARION, IA 50525-0353

2099 Highway 3 W
Clarion IA 50525
Telephone: 515-532-2805
Toll-Free: 800-728-0013

Office Hours: 7:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday - Friday
Online Payments: www.prairieenergy.coop
Pay By Phone 1-844-241-0265

Past Due Reminder Notice

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Account Number: | 98765432 |
| Date of Notice: | 11/04/2019 |
| Amount Past Due: | 160.00 |
| Disconnect Date: | 11/20/2019 |

Listed below are several methods to pay your bill. Contact us with any questions.

- Toll Free @ 844-241-0265
- Smart Hub (on-line at www.prairieenergy.coop)
- Pay Now (on-line at www.prairieenergy.coop)
- Automatic Payment Plans
- Mail (allow 5 days)
- In Person at the Clarion Office
- Overnight Depository Bin (Clarion Office)

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JANE DOE
123 BETTY DR
YOUR CITY, IOWA

Past Due Reminder Notice

Our records indicate that your account is PAST DUE. If payment has been made recently, call our office to verify your balance. If payment has not been made, please remit past due amount by the disconnect date above to avoid termination of your service.

If the above amount is not received in our office by the disconnect date, your service could be disconnected upon proper notification.




When your service is disconnected, payment in full, along with service charges, will be required for services to be restored. A security deposit, if one is not on file, will also be applied.

| <u>Service Charges</u> | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Posting Fee | \$40.00 |
| Electric Reconnect Fee (during regular business hours.) | \$75.00 (plus sales tax) |
| Security Deposit if Disconnected - to be calculated at reconnect | |

RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT. PLEASE DO NOT FOLD, STAPLE OR PAPERCLIP

JANE DOE
123 BETTY DR
YOUR CITY, IOWA

> To comply with industry standards, all card payments need to be processed by the member.

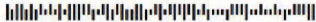




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PO BOX 353
CLARION IA 50525-0353

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A supplement to Living with Energy in Iowa magazine · November 2019

LED lighting rebate available to brighten your holidays

Holiday decorating season is upon us. If you are considering new LED holiday lights and decorations, you will be happy to hear that we offer a rebate of up to \$2 for each item purchased (not to exceed purchase price). Your rebate will come in the form of a bill credit.

Contact us for more information.

A sustainable future

Every industry is subject to trends and fads, and the energy industry is no different. So when we hear about smarter technology, changes in the way renewable energy is captured and advances in energy efficiency, it's important to make sure we think carefully about how we can make these advances work best in our communities.

Fortunately, we are an electric cooperative. That means we're a community-focused organization working to efficiently deliver affordable, reliable and safe energy to our members. It also means that we are led by consumers like you, who understand and listen to the community.

As a result, when it comes to using cleaner sources of energy or renewables like wind and cooperative solar, we're smart in our decisions. We know that there is no one-size-fits-all approach in this business: We have to do things in ways that make sense for the needs of our cooperative and the greater community.

An advantage of being an electric cooperative is that we belong to the communities we serve. So that when our members make improvements to the energy efficiency of their homes or businesses, those changes can go a long way toward keeping energy more reliable and affordable. We want you to save energy (and money). In fact, we offer free energy assessments and lots of energy saving tips and programs to help manage your energy in smarter ways.

What's good for our members is good for the whole cooperative. We were built by the communities we serve. That difference is perhaps our greatest strength. It's also why, for our members, a little efficiency can go a long way.



- Corn Belt Power Cooperative partners with **Northwest Iowa Community College** in Sheldon, Iowa, to offer four \$500 scholarships. Recipients may be either first- or second-year students at Northwest Iowa Community College studying in the programs of Electrical Technology, Powerline or Powerline Technology. Students must maintain a 2.5 minimum GPA. Applications must be filed with Northwest Iowa Community College Foundation by March 2, 2020. For an application or more information, contact Sheila Van Engen, foundation secretary, Northwest Iowa Community College Foundation, 603 West Park Street, Sheldon, IA, 51201-1046, (800) 352-4907 ext. 246, svanengen@nwicc.edu.
- Corn Belt Power partners with **Iowa Lakes Community College** to offer one \$500 scholarship. To qualify, the recipient must be enrolled in the Wind Energy and Turbine Technology program, a first- or second-year student at Iowa Lakes Community College, maintain 2.5 minimum GPA and be an Iowa resident. For an application or more information, contact Alison Mason, Iowa Lakes Community College, 712.362.0491 ext. 4491 or amason@iowalakes.edu. Applications due by April 1, 2020.



At your electric co-op, we help you find more ways to save energy, save money and help the environment. So small savings today lead to big savings tomorrow.

A threat to co-ops' tax-exempt status

Due to an unintended consequence of current federal tax law, many electric co-ops are finding themselves in a precarious position.

Imagine working hard to secure funding for an important local project only to turn around and give a large chunk of that money back in taxes, thereby reducing the actual amount used for the project.

That's the situation many cooperatives may face because of recent tax law changes. And it could jeopardize the not-for-profit tax status of cooperatives that receive federal or state government funding, including disaster relief aid, economic development support and rural broadband development grants.

To maintain tax-exempt status, an electric cooperative must receive at least 85 percent of all revenue from its members. However, an unintended consequence of a 2017 change to federal tax law modified the calculation for some contributions by a government entity or civic group. Now, grants and other contributions may be considered non-member revenue.

Encouraging Congress to fix the tax code to exempt government grants from being defined as member revenue is one of the highest priorities of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service organization representing America's electric co-ops. Legislation called the Rural Act has been introduced in both the House and the Senate, attracting large groups of bipartisan co-sponsors. However, enacting it into law will be a heavy lift, given the political sensitivity of tax issues on Capitol Hill.

Congress must act now to correct this unintended consequence and protect the tax status of electric co-ops. In doing so, Congress would preserve the full value of government grants that deliver societal benefits to our communities.

You can play an important role in encouraging Congress to act. Voice your support for the Rural Act by visiting www.action.coop/ruralact.



Give safety a shot when preparing for hunting

Hunters have their sights on wild game when preparing for hunting season. Your electric cooperative urges hunters to also set their sights on and be aware of potential electrical hazards while hunting.

- Before leaving for a hunting trip, make sure that you have safety items to signal for help in case of an emergency. Always carry emergency supplies in the event of an accident.
- Note the location of power lines and other electrical equipment before you begin.
- Obey all signs or postings that advise electrical safety, especially when selecting the location for a tree stand. Tree stands are the leading cause for hunting injuries.
- Never use power poles to support a tree stand. Look for an ideal tree for your stand, one that is sturdy and alive. While going up to the stand, keep at least three points of contact.
- When setting up and taking down the stand, make sure you do not make contact with any overhead electrical equipment.
- Never shoot near power lines or other electrical equipment. A single shot can cause damage to the electrical system.
- If you are using a portable electrical generator on your hunting trip, make sure that you do not run it in a confined area. Do not use it inside a cabin or RV.

Our office is closed Thursday, Nov. 28, and Friday, Nov. 29, so we can enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with our families. As always, our phones are answered 24/7.

Happy Thanksgiving!



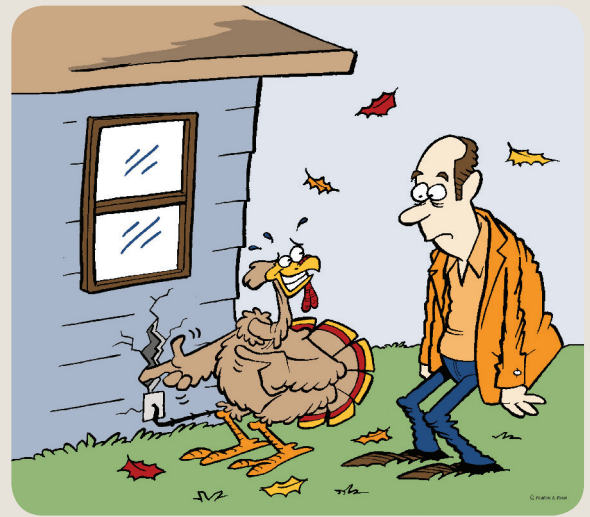
Beat the cold: Caulk before Thanksgiving

If your heating bill seems too high it could be that the warm, conditioned indoor air is leaking out of the house or the cold outdoor weather is finding its way in.

Caulking obvious holes and cracks is a good place to start saving money and energy as the weather cools. Go outside and take a slow walk around your house. Look for any penetration where something from the outside goes inside, like cables for TV and Internet or phone lines. You might also find holes in exterior walls for plumbing pipes, outdoor spigots, sump pumps and dryer vents. Caulk around those openings so the hole is just big enough to let the line through with no “breathing room” around it.

A side benefit: mice, snakes and other critters won't have such an easy time squeezing into your house when they're looking for shelter from the cold!

Don't forget—we offer insulation and weatherization rebates.



Contact us today for rebate information!

WE'RE THANKFUL FOR OUR MEMBERS!

Happy Thanksgiving



Prairie Energy Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



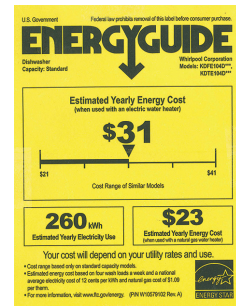
Appliance rebates

Check out our rebates for new, ENERGY STAR rated appliances installed at members' locations:

- Clothes dryer - \$50
- Clothes washer - \$50
- Dishwasher - \$25
- Freezer - \$25
- Refrigerator - \$25

Contact us for details

When purchasing your appliance, be sure to check the Energy Guide for the Energy Star label on the bottom right of the guide.



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

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<https://www.facebook.com/PrairieEnergyCooperative>

smart choices 

See the latest issue of our e-newsletter at www.prairieenergy.coop


Pay your bill online
with SmartHub

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.