

WITH MEMBERS OF PRAIRIE ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Prairie Energy members experience big adventure on 2019 Energy Trail Tours

This summer, Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) and its member cooperatives, led 92 members, including Byron and Shirley Ruter of Kanawha and Wayne Rietema of Kanawha, from Prairie Energy to the Dakotas. The goal? To learn more about electric generation and to meet the people responsible for providing the electric power that is delivered to homes, farms and businesses in western and central Iowa.

In addition to the educational portion of the tour, members enjoyed good food, great fellowship and a few surprise stops along the journey. Memories and friendships were made while gaining a deeper and more insightful appreciation for “the story behind the light switch.”

At the Oahe Powerhouse and Dam in Pierre, South Dakota, United States Army Corps of Engineers personnel provided tours of the facility and educated travelers on the process of hydro-electric generation from the Missouri



River Dam system. Corps personnel also shared the many economic benefits the dam and powerhouse have provided to the area since its completion in April of 1962.

The tour then brought participants

to North Dakota’s Energy Trail, on which two Basin Electric Power Cooperative facilities are located, along with the coal mine that supplies them. Dakota Gasification Company’s Great Plains Synfuels Plant; The Coteau Properties Company Freedom Mine; and Antelope Valley Station, a coal-fired electric generation station, were the highlights of the day.

At the Dakota Gasification Company’s Great Plains Synfuels Plant, Energy Trail Tour participants learned about the innovation behind the process of coal gasification. Through this process, pipeline-quality natural gas is produced from lignite coal, as well as many other useful and in-demand products, such as fertilizers and gasoline additives.

The Freedom Mine showcased some of the largest earth-moving equipment in operation in the United States. Members learned of the abundance of America’s coal reserves: a little more than 800 years at today’s usage rates.

They also witnessed the successful results of land reclamation efforts after surface mining is complete. Land that is mined is carefully restored to its original contour and reseeded to return to its original use, whether natural prairie or cropland, and monitored for several years. Often members catch a glimpse of the deer, fowl and antelope that graze on the reclaimed acres.

Antelope Valley Station, a 900-megawatt coal-fired electric generation facility, offered an opportunity to understand how electricity is generated



Wayne Rietema



Shirley and Byron Ruter

from coal. Members even got a chance to peek inside a coal-fired boiler.

Energy Trail Tour participants also learn about wind generation and the importance of renewable energy resources in America’s overall energy mix. Iowans are very familiar with the fact that their state leads the way in wind generation. As such, the tour also includes a “mobile classroom” on the process of wind generation and how a turbine works.

In addition to the tours of the facilities, members gain a deeper understanding of electric cooperative history and their ownership of the cooperative. The tours are part of Prairie Energy’s commitment to provide education for directors, employees and members.

If you would like to be a part of this experience next year, attend the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Members for a chance to win.

New rule for managing power plant carbon emissions

By Dan Riedinger, NRECA

The Trump administration recently issued a rule to reduce power plant carbon emissions. Known as the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule, the new regulation will require power plants to work with state regulators to assess steps that can be taken to cut emissions through energy-efficiency improvements.

America's electric cooperatives welcomed the new rule, noting that it is far preferable to an earlier and far costlier attempt to regulate carbon emissions put on hold by the Supreme Court.

"The ACE rule represents a more flexible path forward that will minimize the cost to consumers and preserve the reliability of the electric grid as electric co-ops work to promote a healthy environment and vibrant rural communities," said Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

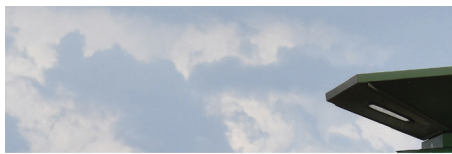
Matheson stressed that the ACE rule will allow electric co-ops to ensure that affordable and reliable power remains available throughout our communities.

Power plant emissions have steadily declined due to market forces and evolving consumer expectations.

Nearly 60 percent of the electricity supplied by electric co-ops comes from low- or no-emission energy sources. Electric cooperatives have reduced carbon emissions 9 percent since 2009, even while increasing electric generation by more than 12 million megawatt-hours. And co-ops are investing in research to develop proven carbon capture, storage and reuse technologies that can extend the operation of coal-fueled power plants.



Corn Belt Power Cooperative's Wisdom 2 Substation located in Spencer, Iowa



HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

Source: Safe Electricity



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Marathon electric water heaters available

Contact us today to learn more about the Rheem Marathon water heater. It is durable, lightweight and offers a limited lifetime tank warranty for the original purchaser. We also provide a generous rebate!



At your electric co-op, we're proud to be a part of it, bringing people together by providing energy for all the things you love.

Reduce your carbon footprint

Everyone has a carbon footprint. It's the amount of greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide and methane, for example, that you use. When emitted into the atmosphere, those gases are believed to trap heat and warm the earth.

The average American has a carbon footprint of 18.3 tons, according to Columbia University's Earth Institute. That compares to the average footprint in China of 8.2 tons.

One way to reduce your carbon footprint is to use energy efficiently in your home. For example:

- Turn lights off and unplug electronic devices when you're not using them.
- Reduce the temperature on your water heater to a safe 120 degrees.
- Install low-flow showerheads and take shorter showers.
- Dry clothes on a line instead of in the dryer if it's nice outdoors.
- Inch the thermostat on your air conditioning up a couple of degrees in the summer and down a bit in the winter. On mild-weather days, turn off the a/c or heat all together and run ceiling fans instead.

To find other ways to save energy, conduct an energy assessment of your home or contact us to conduct an assessment. Look for ways your family wastes energy and take steps to stop it. If you have questions, give us a call.



Save energy with DIY projects

Do you hear the term "DIY" and cringe? Or perhaps you are a DIY extraordinaire, looking for the next project to complete.

Easy-to-do projects or steps that could save you money include:

- **Insulating your hot water pipes** to reduce heat loss.
- **Insulating and reducing air leaks** in floors over garages.
- **Adding more attic insulation** if yours is inadequate.
- **Installing an attic stairs cover box** to improve air leaks and comfort.
- **Applying frosted contact paper** to the windows in or by your front door to decrease heat transfer.

Insulation rebates

If you are considering insulation, remember that your Touchstone Energy Cooperative has rebates available to help with the cost of the materials for ceiling, foundation, wall and duct insulation. We also have a rebate for weatherization items.

Contact us to learn more about our rebates.



POWER CO-OP EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION

Are you disgusted with your auto loan interest rate?

You are eligible to join Power Co-op Employees Credit Union if you are a member of the following:

Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative

Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative

Prairie Energy Cooperative

We offer a full line of financial services including consumer loans, mortgages, home equity loans, share accounts, checking accounts, youth accounts and Christmas Club.

If you are interested in a financial institution that "puts people first" and has low loan interest rates, give us a call or stop by to find out what membership can do for you!

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Left: (L to R) IT Manager Bill Hicok; Member Service Representative Darren Johnson; Key Accounts Manager Todd Foss

Right: (L to R) Board President Marion Denger and Secretary/Treasurer Donald Christopherson



Touchstone Energy®

Breakfast is served! Hancock County Fair goes enjoy breakfast served by Prairie Energy Cooperative directors and employees.

Commitment to Community

Employees and directors of Prairie Energy Co-op volunteered their time and cooking skills to two local county fairs this summer. A free pancake breakfast was served to 385 members of the community on the last morning of both the Wright County and Hancock County fairs. We would like to thank the fair boards for their hard work and for making both fairs a success this year. Congratulations to those who participated in the county fairs as well!

Our Touchstone Energy Values Integrity | Accountability | Innovation | Commitment to Community







Generator safety

As your cooperative we strive to provide reliable electricity 24/7, but sometimes mother nature has other plans for us.

When the time comes to run your generator, make sure you do so safely, and have a qualified, licensed electrician perform installation of a transfer switch first.

If you have any questions about hooking up your generator, don't hesitate to call us at 515-532-2805.

TIPS FOR THE PROPER INSTALLATION AND USE OF GENERATORS

	NEVER operate a generator INSIDE your home or in other enclosed or partially-enclosed spaces, including GARAGES .		Make sure your generator is properly grounded and used with a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI).		Install battery-operated CO ALARMS or plug-in CO alarms with a battery backup inside the home.
	A generator is a TEMPORARY power source and should NEVER be used as a permanent solution.		Use only extension cords that have a THREE-PRONGED plug and are rated for the intended load.		Do NOT OVERLOAD the generator.
	NEVER connect generators directly to household wiring without first installing a TRANSFER SWITCH . This prevents backfeeding which could electrocute utility workers making repairs.		Your home generator should be installed by a QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN and bear the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as UL, Intertek or CSA.		The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends generators be positioned at least 20 FEET from doors, windows and vents to prevent CO from entering the home.

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.
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