

Seeking candidates

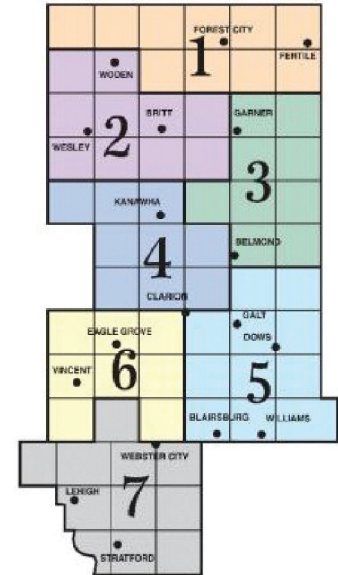
At the June 3, 2020 annual meeting of the members, director terms in Districts 2 and 5 will expire. To be considered eligible for election, members must reside or receive electric service from Prairie Energy at a location within the district in which they are seeking election. If you are interested in serving on the board of directors, contact one of the following nominating committee members:

District 2: Ryan Eekhoff
720 180th Street
Britt IA 50423
507-370-1161

Jared Wellik
410 310th Street
Woden IA 50484
515-928-7665

District 5: Ronald Lentz
3112 Washington Ave
Dows IA 50071
515-852-3302
515-571-4399 (Cell)

Jerry Norris
PO Box 307
Dows IA 50071
515-852-4499



Win a week in Washington D.C.!

High school sophomores and juniors whose parents are members of Prairie Energy have the chance to win an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. this summer, June 18-25, 2020.

What is this trip all about?

Iowa's electric cooperatives have been sending high school students on the annual Youth Tour trip since 1958! Participants will learn about electric co-ops, American history, and our U.S. government; participate in National Youth Day; visit with their elected legislators; and explore our nation's great capital.

What do I have to do?

Apply! The application process lets our judges get to know you, and also requires answering the following question: What moment in American history do you wish you had taken part of, and what would you have contributed? The deadline to return an application is April 1, 2020. Interviews for applicants will be held on Tuesday, April 7.

Sounds great! How do I apply?

Contact Member Services or Sarah Olson, and they'll be happy to answer any questions and send application materials your way.



Save the date

Your 2020 Annual Meeting of the Members will be held on Wednesday, June 3, at the Belmond-Klemme High School. Enjoy free entertainment by country singer Neil Hewitt, vote in director elections, and earn a \$25 bill credit as a thank you from Prairie Energy.

We look forward to seeing you June 3!

Three 2020 DIY efficiency projects

A New Year brings new opportunities to save energy—and money. Let's take a look at three inexpensive efficiency upgrades that can help you save.

Trim dryer vent *Level of difficulty: easy. Supplies needed: tin snips, gloves, measuring tape, and masking tape. Estimated cost: about \$25.*

The vent hose should be long enough for you to pull the dryer out a couple feet from the wall, but the shape of the hose should form a line. If it doesn't, measure, mark, and trim the hose to the desired length, then reattach the hose to your dryer and exterior vent.

Seal air leaks *Level of difficulty: moderate. Supplies needed: caulk and caulk gun, weather stripping, gloves, putty knife, paper towels. Estimated cost: \$25 to \$50.*

Sealing air leaks in your home can help you save 10 to 20 percent on heating and cooling bills. Apply caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring, and plumbing to seal in conditioned air. You should also weather strip exterior doors.

Insulate attic stairs opening *Level of difficulty: moderate. Supplies needed (if you build the box yourself): rigid foam board, faced blanket insulation, tape for foam board, measuring tape, utility knife, caulk and caulk gun, plywood. Estimated cost: \$50 to \$100.*

A properly insulated attic is one of the best ways to optimize energy savings and comfort in your home. But even a well-insulated attic can leak air through the stair opening.

You can build an insulated cover box or purchase a pre-built box or kit from a local home improvement store for about \$60. If you decide to build your own, check out these step-by-step instructions from the Department of Energy: <https://bit.ly/36YNCYQ>. If your attic opening is located in a garage that you do not heat and cool, this upgrade will not be as effective.

Saving energy doesn't have to be hard. With a little time and effort, you can maximize energy savings and increase the comfort of your home. To learn about additional ways to save, be sure to contact us.



Make the most of your clothes dryer by ensuring an appropriate vent hose length. A shorter, unobstructed vent hose increases the efficiency of your dryer, dries clothing faster and reduces lint buildup.

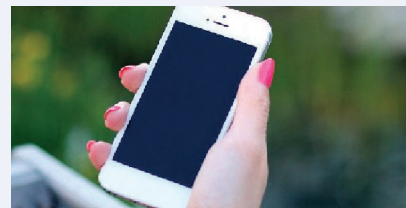


Image by Jan Vašek from Pixabay

We want to hear from you

We live in a device-driven world, constantly bombarded with one-way communication. But is anyone listening?

At your cooperative, we are not only listening, we are eager to hear from you. Connecting with you helps us keep pace with your priorities and needs.

We exist to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to you. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of our members. We hope you will consider us more than your energy provider, but also as a local business that supports and powers economic development and prosperity for your community.

From our annual meeting of the members to conducting surveys, we want to interact with you and hear your thoughts.

We are in the midst of significant changes, as technology and interest in renewables and a more balanced energy mix are impacting long-term planning. This is why it's so important that we hear from you and other community members as we plot our course.

We work to continually learn from our members about your priorities so that we can better serve you – because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community. But we can only improve, adapt, and effectively plan for the future if we have two-way communication.

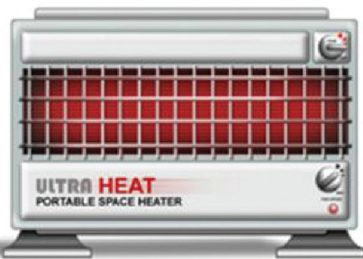
Connect with us and let us know your perspective.

On average, how much will it cost to run two 1,500-watt space heaters this winter?

Number of Space Heaters
2

Hours per day
8.0

Cents Per kWh
\$0.110



Cost per month

\$79.20

Why is my power out?

We don't like it when the power goes out just as much as you don't like it. When there is an outage, we work hard to resume service as safely and quickly as possible.

Many times, the reasons for outages are beyond our control. Here are the main reasons the power goes out:

1. *Storms*—High winds, ice, and lightning can interrupt service. Lightning can strike trees and cause branches or even whole trees to fall on distribution lines. Lightning can also cause a problem if it strikes substation equipment, such as a large transformer.
2. *Trees and vegetation*—Branches, limbs, or trunks can fall on lines, and vegetation (such as vines) can grow around poles, lines, or other equipment. This is why we work so hard to keep power lines and equipment clear.
3. *Animals*—An estimated 11 percent of outages are caused by squirrels. They love to chew on the weatherproof coating around lines. Turkeys and snakes can interfere with service too.
4. *Accidents*—Cars, trucks, and farm equipment that have a run-in with a utility pole can cause an outage.
5. *Public damage*—Unsafe digging, equipment or line damage, vandalism, or theft can cause interruptions.
6. *Overload*—This can happen when demand spikes, such as when too many air conditioners run on a hot summer day, causing blackouts or brownouts.
7. *Equipment*—We maintain and inspect all of our lines and equipment regularly; however, sometimes equipment malfunctions. We strive to address any problem as soon as it happens.

Please contact us with questions about outages or to learn more about the steps we take to provide reliable service. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Ice that accumulates on lines and strong, high winds can impact distribution.

LED holiday lighting rebate:
Up to \$2 per item. Contact us for details!



We have information about scholarship opportunities for those planning to attend college or technical school next year. **Contact us soon for details and deadlines!**

How warm should I keep my home?



If you have a gas or electric furnace and/or central air, you could save as much as 10 percent a year on heating and air conditioning by turning your thermostats back by 7 to 10 degrees.

The U.S. Department of Energy says lowering the heat in the winter for eight hours a day will do the trick. The same goes for raising the temperature a few degrees for eight hours on summer days.

If you turn the heat down a bit before bedtime, for example, you could see those savings. Then, turn it up to take the chill off when you get up and then back down just as everyone leaves the house for school and work in the morning.

Or as an alternative, you can invest in a programmable thermostat, which will automatically turn the heat up and down at the times you set. Then, you won't have to worry about forgetting to change the temperature several times a day.

Sign up for auto pay and win

Sign up for auto payment between now and March 31, 2020, and your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 bill credit! All you need to do is complete and sign the form below and attach a blank voided check. Return the completed form to:

Prairie Energy
2099 Hwy 3 West
PO Box 353
Clarion IA 50525

PRAIRIE ENERGY COOPERATIVE AUTOMATIC BILL PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION

To sign up for Automatic Bill Payments:

- Complete the following information
- Sign the authorization form
- Attach a blank check with the word VOID written across the face of the Check and return it with the form.

Mail to:

Prairie Energy
PO Box 353
Clarion, Iowa 50525
515-532-2805
1-800-728-0013

You will receive your statement marked ****BANK DRAFT – DO NOT PAY****. 10 working days before the due date of each month (or next banking day), we notify your bank or financial institution of the amount to be transferred from your account to pay your electric bill. Your bank deducts that amount from your account no sooner than the due date (or next banking day).

I (we) hereby authorize Prairie Energy Cooperative, to initiate debit entries to my (our) CHECKING _____ SAVINGS _____ account (select one) in the financial institution (BANK) named below. I (we) further authorize the BANK to debit such entries to my (our) account.

ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

DEPOSITORY (BANK)

NAME _____ BRANCH _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

BANK TELEPHONE NUMER _____

It is understood that this agreement may be terminated by me (either of us) at any time up to 11 business days before the due date of the current month billing by oral or written notice to Prairie Energy Cooperative. Any such notification to Prairie Energy Cooperative shall be effective only with respect to entries initiated after receipt of such notification.

It is also understood that I (we) agree to be bound by the Operating Rules and guidelines of the National Automated Clearing House Association and shall have the rights set forth here with respect to all entries initiated by Prairie Energy Cooperative pursuant to this agreement.

Depositors Signature

Date

Depositors Signature (if 2 are required)

Date

Prairie Energy Cooperative use only

Transit / ABA No. _____
Account No. _____

Account No. _____

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Tim Marienau, CEO



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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.