

WITH MEMBERS OF PRAIRIE ENERGY COOPERATIVE

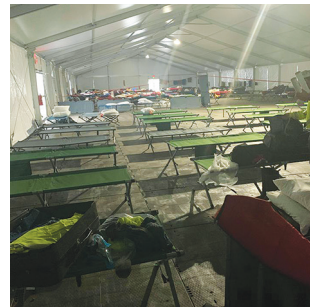
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Line crews work to restore power after Hurricane Laura in Louisiana.



The crews work to string line.



After long days in the field, workers slept on cots.



(L to R) Scott Muhlenbruch and Austin Codner prepare to leave Louisiana.

Linemen assist in Hurricane Laura restoration

Last month, Scott Muhlenbruch and Austin Codner were among the 21 linemen sent from seven Iowa electric co-ops that headed south to aid a Louisiana electric cooperative following the destructive aftermath of Hurricane Laura. Crews helped restore power at Beauregard Electric Cooperative, Inc. based out of DeRidder, Louisiana, and were stationed down south for two weeks before heading back home. Crews worked 16-hour days, slept on cots, and worked in less than ideal conditions at times. Thank you, Scott and Austin, for your dedication and hard work!

Directors earn certification



Allyn Waddingham



Josh Amonson

Prairie Energy is pleased to announce that directors Allyn Waddingham, District 3, and Josh Amonson, District 6, recently completed board certificate programs through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Waddingham received his Board Leadership Certificate (BLC). Certification is achieved after earning a Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate and completing 10 credits from advance issue and skill-based courses for directors.

Amonson earned his Director Gold Certificate (DGC) from the NRECA. The DGC recognizes directors committed to continuing their education beyond the first two levels of director education (CCD and BLC). Director Gold demonstrates a tangible commitment to advancing their knowledge and executing their board responsibilities to the best of their ability.

Congratulations Allyn and Josh!



Scholarship applications now accepted

Dependents of co-op members are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship. Contact Sarah Olson-McLaughlin (solson@prairieenergy.coop) at Prairie Energy for an application or with any questions.

Applications are due by Feb. 19, 2021.

Five electrical safety features to be thankful for

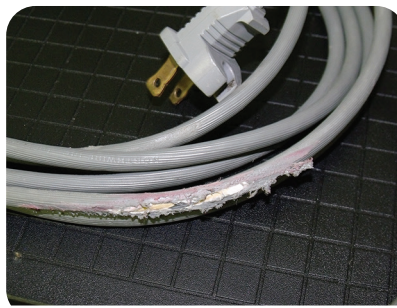
Let's take a moment to be thankful for some of the devices that help make our daily tasks safer and more convenient.

For your safety: Built-in devices

1. GFCIs: Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are inexpensive electrical devices installed where electrical circuits may come into contact with water.
2. AFCIs: Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) are found within your electrical panel or wall receptacles. An arc fault is a dangerous electrical problem caused by damaged, overheated, or stressed electrical wiring or devices.
3. Circuit breakers: These boxes prevent electrical injuries and fires. Each box is filled with circuit breakers designed to shut off, stopping the flow of electricity.

Use them safely: Convenience items

1. Device chargers: Treat charging components with care and use them correctly.
 - Personal electronic devices should not be placed under pillows or used on or underneath bedding.
 - Do not leave cords plugged in when not charging a device. If a child or pet put the cord in their mouth, they could be burned or shocked.
 - Do not leave cords around when not in use. A toddler might try to insert the wrong end into an electrical outlet resulting in a burn or shock.
 - Do not use charging devices near water or in damp conditions.
2. Extension cords and multi-outlet power strips: Use only as a temporary fix.
 - Plug them directly into an outlet.
 - If you are using a strip or extension cord outside, make sure it is rated for outdoor use.
 - Never use a cord that feels hot or is damaged.
 - Make sure cords and strips are approved by a reputable independent testing laboratory like Underwriters Laboratory.
 - Make sure the cord and appliance wattage ratings match.



Inspect your cords, and replace them if they are damaged.



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 1, 2021. For an application or more information, contact Sheila Van Engen, foundation secretary, 800-352-4907 ext. 246 or svanegen@nwicc.edu.

Corn Belt Power also 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, Institutional Advancement manager, 712-362-0491 ext. 4491 or amason@iowalakes.edu. Applications are due by March 1, 2021.



**Our office will be closed
Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27,
for the Thanksgiving holiday.
If you have an emergency or an outage,
don't hesitate to call us.
Our phones are answered 24/7.**



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives

The power of human connections®

Giving back to our community

Over the years, you've probably heard or read about our concern for our community. This is one of the core principles that sets cooperatives apart from other types of utilities and businesses. We've always taken this mission and responsibility to heart.

While our purpose is to provide safe and reliable energy to you, the members we serve, we have a greater mission—to be a catalyst for good.

You're probably aware of our Youth Tour program, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action.

We also have a strong commitment to safety—not just for our employees, but for our community as well. We visit schools to teach children of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. Our newsletter and social media channels frequently include safety information.

In addition, your cooperative invests in the economic development of our communities through our United States Department of Agriculture loan and grant programs.

You'll also see our employees serving on local boards, coaching youth sports, and volunteering at charitable events. Because when you work at a co-op, you understand the importance of a strong community.

We know that our core job is to keep the lights on; but our passion is our community. We live and work here too, and we want to make it a better place for all.

If there's anything we can do to help you—whether to provide energy-saving advice to help lower your monthly bill or to discuss payment plan options—please reach out to us.



Brighten your holidays

It's time to deck the halls with LED holiday lights and decorations! Receive \$2 for each LED-lighted item you purchase (not to exceed purchase price).

Contact us for more information and a rebate form.

Don't bake up high energy bills

Avoid high energy bills and long cook times by following a few oven-efficiency guidelines this holiday season:

- Prepare and chop all ingredients before you turn on your oven.
- Consider using a smaller appliance to reheat or cook small portions.
- Preheat the oven to the exact temperature required. Preheating is not necessary for foods that cook for several hours.
- Leave the oven door shut as much as possible.
- When picking out cookware, brass, glass, and ceramic versions conduct heat more efficiently than other materials, reducing cooking times.
- Regularly clean and maintain your kitchen appliances and cookware.
- More is less. If possible, prepare extra portions of your meal and cook them together. Reheating leftovers uses much less energy than cooking from scratch!

Be a Smart Cookie Holiday Baking Tips

If you're planning to cook feasts or create treats this holiday season, follow these basic safety tips:

Test Smoke Detectors

Make sure they're working properly



Watch Your Sleeves

This is not a good time for loose sleeves

Put a Lid on it

Have lids handy in case of a grease fire



Old Things Don't Become New

Don't use appliances in disrepair

How the Cookie Crumbles

Consider having a fire extinguisher on hand



Where There's Heat There Could Be Fire

Keep flammables such as pot holders away from the stove

Not Child's Play

Keep children and pets away from cooking areas



Keeping Time

Use a timer when the oven or stove is on

Stay With it

Don't leave the room if you are broiling, frying or simmering food



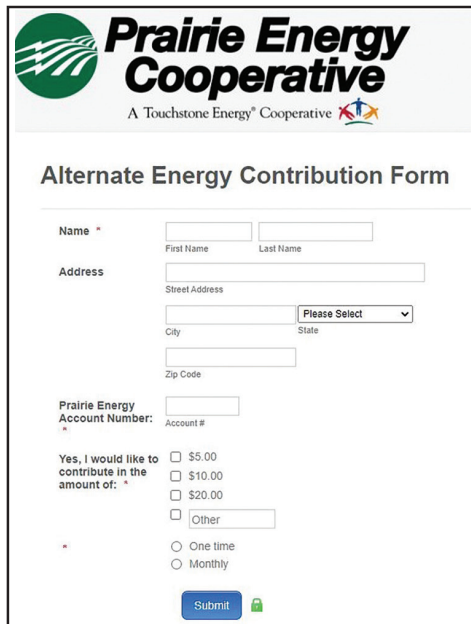
Pay Attention

Take a nap after the feast

Alternate energy contribution form now online

Last month, Prairie Energy rolled out the newly updated bill print. This update included a fresh modern look and simplifying the information contained within your monthly bill, such as the option to contribute to the alternate energy contribution program. Instead of filling out the form that used to be included on your monthly statement, it can now be found on our website as a fillable form under Account Information → Alternate Energy Contribution.

When you contribute to the alternate energy program for your home, farm, or business, you support renewable energy, protect the environment, and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. This is a voluntary renewable energy “green power” program available through Prairie Energy.



Prairie Energy Cooperative
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Alternate Energy Contribution Form

Name *
First Name Last Name

Address
Street Address
City State Please Select
Zip Code

Prairie Energy Account Number:
Account #

Yes, I would like to contribute in the amount of: *
 \$5.00
 \$10.00
 \$20.00
 Other

One time
 Monthly

Submit

Prairie Energy wants your help

You may have noticed a survey in recent weeks that was sent to each residential member via e-mail and/or regular mail. As a member-owner of Prairie Energy, you have a voice in our organization. The information you provide by completing this survey will help us better communicate with you. The survey also assists Prairie Energy Cooperative and our power supplier with long-range electrical system planning.

Neither Prairie Energy or the survey vendor, Inside Information, will ask for credit card information or sell or share your private information. They will provide us with the survey results, and we will evaluate the information that is gathered to help improve our service and communication to you.

The name of each member-owner who completes the survey will be put into a drawing for a chance to receive a \$200 electric credit. Your response is an important component as we plan for the future and strive to keep your rates lower; thank you in advance for taking the time to complete a survey.

Share your photo and win!

Calling all photographers —hobbyist and professionals alike—to enter Prairie Energy’s photo contest now through November for a chance to win one of three \$25 electric bill credits and your photo featured in an issue of *InTouch* magazine! Contest rules are as follows:

- Each PECO member may submit up to five photos.
- All submissions must include the photographer’s name and location of the photo. For PECO contact purposes only, please include your email and phone number.
- All submitted photos must be taken within PECO’s service territory and have an electric utility theme (poles, powerlines, linemen, trucks, etc.).
- The contest is only open to PECO member-owners.
- Submissions must be high-resolution, digital images in .jpg or .pdf format.
- Prints will not be accepted.
- The contest will be judged by Prairie Energy employees.

The deadline for submissions is Friday, Nov. 27, 2020. Email your high-resolution photos to solson@prairieenergy.coop with subject line “Photo contest.”

By submitting photos to this contest, you give PECO the right to use those photos in the *InTouch* magazine and its affiliates, on the Prairie Energy Cooperative website, and on social media.



MOVE OVER SLOW DOWN

iNtouch® is the official publication of Prairie Energy Cooperative
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Tim Marienau, CEO



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smart choices 

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