

iNtouch



WITH MEMBERS OF FRANKLIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

“House of Light” Provides Home Lighting Makeover for Local Participants

The Michael and RaNay Finnegan family recently became participants in the “House of Light” program sponsored by Corn Belt Power and its member RECs. Franklin REC provides electric service to the Finnegan house, located near Hampton. Mike Finnegan is an employee of Corn Belt Power in addition to being a member of Franklin REC.

Through the program, Franklin REC provided a complete home lighting makeover replacing all incandescent light bulbs in the home with high-efficiency, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). Over a three week period beginning shortly before Christmas, each bulb in the Finnegan home was replaced with lower-wattage CFL with similar light output (lumens). A total of 3,745 watts of incandescent lighting was replaced with 904 watts of CFLs (81 bulbs). The bulb shapes included spirals for open and enclosed fixtures, globes for

the bathroom fixtures, A-bulbs for lamps and torpedo style for ceiling fan fixtures.

Lighting is responsible for significant energy use in a typical home. The Finnegan family includes two adults and two children and many of their lights are on much of the time. The Finnegans’ home energy use will be monitored over future months to determine approximate energy savings from using the new bulbs.

The purpose of the “House of Light” program is to promote the use of energy efficient lighting. The Finnegan family was selected by Franklin REC through a random drawing of households that use various services provided by the REC.

If you have any questions about CFL bulbs, please contact Franklin REC at 641-456-2557 or toll free at 800-750-3557. You may also find additional information on our website, www.franklinrec.coop.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CAL Students Learn About Weather Through SchoolNet 8 Weather Site



In 2001, Franklin REC partnered with KCCI News Channel 8 to sponsor a SchoolNet 8 weather observation site at CAL Community School in Latimer. Since that time, both students and area farmers have enjoyed the benefits

“The teachers use the SchoolNet to check if it’s warm enough to go out for recess,” says Steve Waage, technical coordinator for the site and 5th/6th grade science teacher. “Our first graders log onto the site daily to chart wind speed during their weather unit and the high school Earth Science students use it throughout the year.”

A number of area farmers rely on the CAL SchoolNet site for documentation purposes.

Over 70 SchoolNet 8 sites are located in Central Iowa and report live information via the Internet, through Franklin REC’s website (www.franklinrec.coop), the school’s website (www.cal.k12.ia.us) and KCCI.com. All of the SchoolNet sites are sponsored by Iowa Touchstone Energy cooperatives and CIPCO (Central Iowa Power Cooperative).

Save the Date!
Franklin REC’s
Annual Meeting
is April 8, 2008!

Attention, High School Sophomores & Juniors: Win an All-Expenses Paid Trip to Washington, D.C.!



Melinda McDowell attended the Youth Tour as Franklin REC’s delegate in 2007. “Going to Washington, D.C., was so much fun! I made a lot of new friends and saw all the famous sites. It was one of the greatest experiences in my life and I will remember it forever.”

See page 2 for more details about the Iowa Rural Electric Youth Tour!

Visit www.franklinrec.coop
or call (645)-456-2557 to apply.

Deadlines to apply are approaching

Scholarships

If you or a member of your family plans to attend college or a technical school next year, ask your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative about a scholarship. Scholarships include:

- Powerline Technology Programs, Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon
- Power Co-op Employees Credit Union, Humboldt
- Basin Electric Power Cooperative through Corn Belt Power Cooperative, Humboldt



Iowa REC Youth Tour

On Saturday, June 14, 2008, your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative plans to send one or two high school students on a six-day, fun-filled trip to Washington, D.C.

Since the late 1950s, the Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) Youth Tour has brought high school juniors and seniors to Washington, D.C. for an all-expense paid tour of the city. Students on the tour learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, community development and today's social issues. They participate in National Youth Day, visit with their representatives and senators and explore the sights around the nation's capital.

Students are selected for this program by their local electric cooperative. Usually the selection process takes the form of an essay contest, personal interviews or a speech contest. The selection process is different for each cooperative.

Do you know someone who might want to be part of this fun (free!) week in Washington, D.C.? For more information, contact us or visit www.youthtour.coop.

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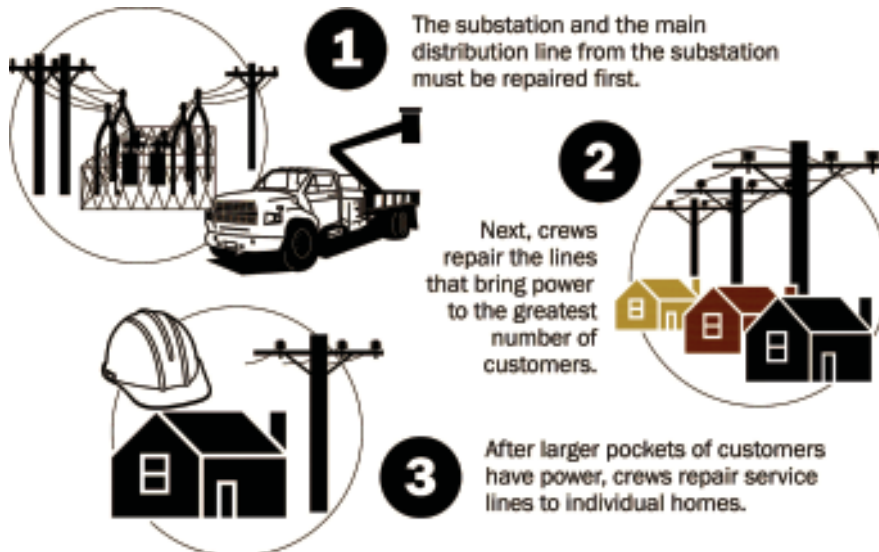
Life support list

If someone in your household depends on electrically powered life support equipment, contact us about our life support list program. Members on our life support list are notified about planned outages. They are also given priority when restoring power after a storm or unexpected outage.



Members on life support should participate in our life support list program.

Members on life support should have an alternative plan for those times when we can't get power restored quickly. This may include an alternative source of electricity, such as a battery backup system or a generator.



Steps to restoring power

When a widespread outage occurs, line crews check substations first, then work their way out on the distribution lines. Working from substation to homes results in faster repairs for the most customers.

Listen to the radio or watch local news stations during bad weather for an indication of the severity of the storm and where outages are most likely to occur.

Homeward Housing Trust Fund awarded \$146,251

The Iowa Finance Authority has approved \$1.9 million in grants from the State Housing Trust Fund's Local Housing Trust Fund Program, an initiative to enable the creation of new or rehabilitated affordable single-family or rental housing infrastructure, transitional housing, homeless shelters and other initiatives. The grant recipients include 16 Local Housing Trust Funds from across the state that will use the funds to address housing needs specific to their areas.

The Homeward Housing Trust Fund was one of the grant recipients and was awarded \$146,251. Homeward Housing Trust Fund serves the following 13 Iowa counties: Buena Vista, Calhoun, Franklin, Hancock, Hardin, Humboldt, Kossuth, Mitchell, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Winnebago, Worth and Wright.

A portion of the Housing Trust Fund award will be used to provide grants to extremely low-income homeowners for home emergency repairs. These funds will be administered by each county's Community Services Department. The remaining funds will be used to provide a combination grant/loan to low-income homebuyers for down payment or closing cost assistance or to low-income homeowners for home improvements. These funds will be administered through the Homeward, Inc. office, located in Clarion.

The Housing Trust Fund grant will be combined with a local match provided by Homeward, Inc. Homeward, Inc. established its trust fund in 2006, but has been providing housing assistance to rural Iowans since 1996.



Homeward Housing Trust Fund can help low-income homebuyers purchase homes and low-income homeowners make home improvements.

Several electric cooperatives are Homeward members: Butler County REC, Franklin REC, Glidden REC, Grundy County REC, Heartland Power Cooperative, Humboldt County REC, Prairie Energy Cooperative and Sac County REC.

For more information, call Homeward Inc. at 515-532-6477.



Some homes waste nearly as much energy as they use.

At your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, we do everything in our power to ensure you always have an affordable, reliable source of energy. We also work hard to make sure all our members understand the latest and best ways to be more energy efficient. We have hundreds of things that you can do to save energy. Simple things to make sure you get the most out of the electricity you use. We're all in this together.



Butler County REC
Franklin REC
Grundy County REC

Humboldt County REC
Prairie Energy Cooperative
Sac County REC

Looking out for you.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month



Check the insulation in your attic, ceilings, exterior and basement walls, floors and crawl spaces to see if it meets the levels recommended for your area.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

Estimating Appliance and Home Electronic Energy Use

If you're trying to decide whether to invest in a more energy-efficient appliance or you'd like to determine your electricity loads, you may want to estimate appliance energy consumption.

You can use this formula to estimate an appliance's energy use:

Wattage × Hours used per day × Days used per year ÷ 1000 = Kilowatt-hour (kWh) consumption per year

For example:

Personal computer (120 Watts) and monitor (150 Watts):
(120 Watts + 150 Watts) × 4 hours per day × 365 days per year ÷ 1000 = 394 kWh/year

Then, calculate the annual cost to run an appliance by multiplying the kWh per year by your local utility's rate per kWh consumed.

394 kWh × \$0.104 (current national average) = \$40.98 per year

You can usually find the wattage of most appliances stamped on the bottom or back of the appliance, or on its nameplate. The wattage listed is the maximum power drawn by the appliance. Since many appliances have a range of settings (hairdryers), the actual amount of power consumed depends on the setting used at any one time.

Here are some examples of the range of nameplate wattages for various household appliances:

- Clothes washer = 350–500 Watts
- Clothes dryer = 1800–5000 Watts
- Dishwasher = 1200–2400 Watts (heat drying feature increases energy use)
- Hair dryer = 1200–1875 Watts
- Microwave oven = 750–1100 Watts
- Personal computer
 - CPU - awake / asleep = 120 / 30 or less
 - Monitor - awake / asleep = 150 / 30 or less
 - Laptop = 50 Watts
- Refrigerator (frost-free, 16 cubic feet) = 725 Watts
- Televisions
 - 27" = 113 Watts
 - 36" = 133 Watts
 - 53"-61" Projection = 170 Watts
 - Flat screen = 120 Watts
- Water heater (40 gallon) = 4500–5500 Watts

Franklin REC offers energy efficiency calculators on our website (www.franklinrec.coop) and Home Energy Audits too. If you have questions about either, please call Paul Schulz, Member Services, at Franklin REC. Paul will help you find ways to make your home as energy efficient as possible.

Franklin REC Crewmen Assist with Recovery

Adam Bird and Chad Foster assisted Pella Cooperative Electric Association (Pella) and Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Osceola) with their recovery and clean-up from damage caused by December ice storms. The two linemen assisted at the southern Iowa cooperatives from December 12 to December 20, 2007. Approximately 1,000 Pella members lost power and over 2,500 Clarke members were affected. The following photos are provided by Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc..

