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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

Understanding solar power

Anatomy of a power outage

Tasty turkey recipes

Nominate a community volunteer in statewide contest ► See Page 12

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ON THE COVER

Special thanks to Alicia Moss, whose parents are North West REC member-consumers, for supplying this month's cover image. Submit high-resolution photos for consideration to editor@ieclmagazine.com. You could receive \$100!

THE STORM HAS ARRIVED

BY KEVIN CONDON



With Iowa's 2024 Legislative Session in the rearview mirror, Iowa's electric cooperatives are looking back to note what did

NOT pass the 90th General Assembly. While some pieces of legislation passed that are beneficial to rural electric cooperatives (RECs), it is fair to say that co-ops have been forced to take a defensive posture at the Statehouse for the past few years.

Notably, in 2023, lawmakers passed, and Gov. Reynolds signed into law a bill to help ensure reliable and resilient power generation sources (House File 248) and another that preserves local control over decision-making at the cooperative (House File 599). However, based on the last two legislative efforts at the Iowa Capitol, electric cooperative supporters should be aware that more concern is on the horizon.

Looming concerns

Service territory protections, integrated resource plans, government overreach into private contracts and weakening of safety protocols are among the troublesome topics that have surfaced at the Statehouse in the past few years. Perhaps of utmost concern is the barrage of out-of-state entities and national organizations that seem to be flocking to Iowa to push agendas of half-truths and scare tactics, all draped in the veil of "liberty" and "free market" principles.

One only needs to take a few minutes to research who is bankrolling these "consumer groups" to discover that a wolf is knocking at the door dressed in sheep's clothing. Outfits based in Texas, Florida, New York and California have all invested serious time and money into Iowa in an effort to weaken your cooperative's ability to provide safe and reliable power.

The only important question now is: Who will your lawmakers listen to?

A matter of trust

Without question, the storm is no longer brewing over these critical energy issues; it has arrived. And now, consumers and lawmakers will have a choice to make: trust your locally owned and governed electric cooperative or take the word of out-of-state corporations that are not locally owned or governed.

Your electric cooperative is guided by seven key principles, one being Concern for Community. The first electric cooperative to provide power in Iowa is more than 100 years old, and many others will celebrate their 90th anniversaries in the next few years. RECs aren't going anywhere. We have been here for decades, providing affordable and reliable service to our neighbors.

I realize that such a dire warning might seem like more political hysteria or hyperbole. I can assure you that it is not. The next decade of energy policy in the U.S. and Iowa will set electric co-op member-consumers on an energy course that could hurt our communities for generations to come if it's not managed with the local interests of consumers in mind.

Now is the time to become educated on energy issues that matter to your community so that you can help inform those you vote for on Election Day.

Please contact your local cooperative or visit www.iowarec.org and www.iaruralpower.org for more information on responsible energy policy.

Kevin Condon is the director of government relations for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

WIN AN ELECTRIC ICE CREAM MAKER!

When it comes to homemade ice cream, "the more, the better" is the motto of this family-friendly machine. Ideal for entertaining, it makes two quarts of your favorite frozen dessert in a single batch (in just 25 minutes). The clear plastic lid has an opening for adding mix-ins like chocolate chips and nuts.

Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting www.ieclmagazine.com no later than June 30. You must be a member of one of Iowa's electric cooperatives to win. There's no obligation associated with entering, we don't share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified. The winner of the \$100 garden center gift card from the April issue was Leland Kreimeyer, a Franklin REC member-consumer.



ENTER ONLINE BY JUNE 30!

FROM YOUR BOARD ROOM

During the April board meeting, Franklin REC directors:

- Approved work orders and special equipment capitalization of \$60,745.96
- Approved 2023 auditor's report
- Approved discontinuing internet service, effective Jan. 1, 2025
- Approved authorized signee for National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) agreement termination

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

The Franklin REC office will be closed Thursday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday celebration. As always, our phone lines will be available 24/7, and you can reach us at 641-456-2557.



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Hours will change M-F 6:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
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HOW SOLAR PANELS WORK

BY GARRETT THOMPSON



Energy from the sun is the most abundant and freely available energy found on planet Earth.

There are plenty of videos online that dive deeper into the mechanics of solar panels, but for our purposes, I want to highlight elements that make up a solar panel and how they work.

How solar panels work

Sand is the fundamental element needed to begin construction of solar panels. It goes through a complex purification process to produce 98% pure raw silicon. The raw silicon is converted into a gaseous silicon compound and is then mixed with hydrogen to produce polycrystalline silicon.

Bricks of the polycrystalline silicon are processed into very thin slices called silicon wafers. These are the heart of the photovoltaic cells, or solar panels, and act as semiconductors. Silicon wafers are sandwiched between two layers a metal conductive plate on the bottom and an antireflective coating with glass or resin for protection on top.

Each silicon atom is connected to one another through four strong bonds, which keep electrons in place so no

electrical current can flow. This is known as N-type silicon because it has extra electrons. To help move those electrons, there is a second kind of silicon called a P-type silicon with extra voids to accommodate extra electrons. Inside the solar panels, the N-type and P-type are placed next to one another, called the P/N junction. This creates a positive charge on the P-type side and a negative charge on the N-type side.

The power of the sun

We can think of the sun's rays as the flow of tiny particles down to Earth,

called photons. With enough energy behind a photon, these particles can strike the silicon and dislodge an electron. The hole that is left behind from the dislodged electron will be naturally drawn to the P-side, while



the electron is drawn to the N-side.

These mobile electrons are collected within the solar panel and from there flow through an external circuit.

Electrons are the only moving parts within a solar panel. Once they complete a loop through the external circuit, they return to where they began, and the process starts all over again. The lack of moving parts is a major reason why solar panels are expected to last a couple of decades.

Garrett Thompson is the CEO/General Manager of Franklin REC.

VISIT US AT THE FRANKLIN COUNTY FAIR ON JULY 11

Your friendly cooperative employees will be behind the counter, ready to serve you a delightful breakfast at the 4-H Food Stand during the Franklin County Fair on July 11. Come and say "hi" while treating yourself to all the favorites – a hearty breakfast with all the fixings, a fresh cinnamon roll or pie a la mode that'll make your taste buds dance.

Visit the 4-H Food Stand on Thursday, July 11, for breakfast served by your rural electric cooperative!

COMMUNITY SOLAR SUBSCRIPTION PRICE DROP

Are you considering solar but don't have the space or means to install it at your location?

Community solar is an excellent opportunity for members who have considered implementing a renewable energy structure but were greeted with a significant cost. Consider joining Franklin REC's one-time payment community solar program and reap the benefits of solar without the extra cost.

As of May 1, Franklin REC's community solar program price-per-solar subscription decreased to \$504 per module.

About the program

- **Solar array location:** South of the Franklin REC office at 1560 Highway 65, Hampton, IA 50441

- **About the solar field:** There are 508 modules in the array. Each module is 340 watts and produces approximately 380 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually.
- **No extra costs:** Pay the initial subscription fee of \$504 per module, then leave the rest to Franklin REC. The co-op maintains, insures and repairs the solar field at no additional cost to the subscriber.
- **Bill credits:** A monthly bill credit is applied to your account based on the solar field's generation for the month. The number of subscriptions a member can purchase is determined by their location's average usage over the last three years. There is a maximum of 30 subscriptions per member. All subscriptions expire on April 30, 2042.

Subscriber benefits

- In 2023, one subscription produced a total credit of \$53.81 for a member-subscriber!
- No insurance rate increase or maintenance and repairs costs.
- Supports renewable energy.
- Monthly bill credits until April 2042.

Contact Franklin REC if you are interested in the community solar program or want additional information.



UNDERSTANDING BLINKING LIGHTS

At one time or another, we've all returned home or woken up to see a blinking alarm clock or the stove clock needing reset. While resetting appliances can be annoying, the "blink" really means our electrical system is working as designed.

Momentary power interruptions can occur anywhere along the power grid, from the time electrons are generated at a power plant to transmitting across power lines to substations or during distribution from a substation to your home.

Blinks are created when a breaker or switch opens along any portion of the power system. The breaker usually opens because of a significant, quick rise of electrical current. This large rise, called a fault condition, can occur when a tree branch contacts a power line, lightning strikes or a wire breaks – to name a few possible disruptions.



When this happens, a relay senses the fault and tells the breaker to open, preventing the flow of power to the problem site. After opening, the break quickly closes. The brief delay, which clears the fault, usually lasts less than two seconds. If the fault clears, every location energized by the specific power line has experienced a momentary blink.

Franklin REC's preventative, year-round maintenance program works hard to identify, repair and improve the power grid and reliability of service. Although blinks will never disappear, your cooperative works to minimize interruptions in service and provide reliable electricity.

HAVE YOU RECENTLY PURCHASED AN APPLIANCE?

Visit Franklin REC's website to complete an appliance rebate form. The co-op offers rebates on the following ENERGY STAR®-rated appliances that are installed at your location:



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

Appliances must be ENERGY STAR-rated for eligibility. To confirm their rating, the ENERGY STAR label will be located at the bottom right corner of the Energy Guide. Rebates appear as a bill credit on the following bill cycle.

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a striped shirt and pink pants, is loading a black and white dog into the back of a dark-colored SUV. The car's rear hatch is open, and a silver suitcase with a hat on top sits on the ground next to it. In the background is a large, modern house with a gabled roof and large windows. The scene is set on a wet driveway, suggesting it might have recently rained.

SET YOUR HOME TO VACATION MODE

BY MIRANDA BOUTELLE

Just like you, the equipment in your home is hard at work getting through the daily grind. If you're planning a vacation to enjoy a new adventure or time away, it is also an excellent time to give your home's equipment a break, too. Doing so can reduce unnecessary energy waste and unneeded wear and tear on your heating and cooling system, appliances and more.

TIP 1

Adjust your thermostat

Your heating and cooling system keeps you comfortable. If you aren't there, it doesn't need to be quite so comfortable in your home. Setting the thermostat closer to the outdoor temperature can save you energy and money – though it's not recommended to turn off the heating or cooling system completely. In extreme weather, your heating and cooling system also helps protect your home from freezing pipes or damage from excessive heat.

As a rule, you can typically set your thermostat 5 to 10 degrees F closer to the outdoor temperature when you aren't home. Each home is different, and the weather varies depending on where you live. Consider the right temperature balance for your home.

Installing a smart thermostat gives you the ability to control your settings remotely from your smartphone. This allows you to adjust the temperature after you leave home and right before you return.

TIP 2

Remember your water heater

Most water heaters include a "vacation mode" setting. This setting drops the temperature to reduce wasted energy when you're away. A storage water heater is like an insulated tea kettle, standing by and ready for you to have hot water whenever you need it. Give that water heater a vacation, too. Changing the setting to vacation mode keeps it on at a lower setting, saving energy. Leave yourself a note with a reminder to turn it back on when you get home so you don't wind up with a disappointing shower before the first day back at work.

TIP 3

Easy "to dos" for efficiency and security

Closing the curtains can provide two benefits. It can keep heat from the sun at bay. It also reduces the load on your heating and cooling system, which saves energy. Plus, closing curtains has the benefit of blocking visibility into your home when you're away.

For security, some people use timers or leave on exterior lights. Make sure any lights left on are LEDs, instead of incandescent or compact fluorescent bulbs. LEDs use less energy and have less impact on your electric use when left on all night. You can also consider adding smart LEDs to your home. Smart LEDs can be controlled remotely through an app on your phone.

TIP 4

Unplug all of your unnecessary items

Some devices in your home continue to draw power from your electrical outlets even when turned off or on standby. Before you leave, walk through your home and unplug devices and small appliances. Make sure gaming consoles and computers are fully powered down. Unplugging any devices that have lights, clocks or use standby mode can also reduce wasted energy.

Having peace of mind that your home is powered down and secure can help you enjoy your vacation. After all, we all need an occasional break.

Miranda Boutelle writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 900 electric co-ops.

Closing the curtains keeps heat from the sun at bay and blocks visibility into your home.



When you aren't home, set your thermostat 5 to 10 degrees F closer to the outdoor temperature. Consider upgrading to a smart thermostat, which gives you control over the temperature from anywhere.



Having peace of mind that your house is powered down and secure can help you enjoy your vacation.



tasty turkey

RECIPES



KALE PESTO TURKEY BURGERS

- 2 pounds ground turkey
- ½ cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- ¾ cup prepared pesto, divided
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup kale, finely chopped
- ½ cup mozzarella cheese
- ½ cup sun-dried tomatoes, julienned
- ½ cup light mayonnaise
- hamburger buns

Mix turkey, Parmesan cheese, ½ cup pesto, salt and kale. Form into six patties and grill or fry until they reach an internal temperature of 165 degrees F. Top with mozzarella cheese and sun-dried tomatoes for the last 5 minutes of cooking. Mix mayonnaise and ¼ cup pesto. Spread on buns and add burgers.

Jacquilyn Hearn • Batavia
Access Energy Cooperative

HOT TURKEY SALAD

- 2 cups turkey, cooked and cubed
- 2 tablespoons minced onion
- 1 cup celery, finely diced
- ½ green pepper, finely diced
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 1½ cups cheddar cheese, grated (or preferred cheese)

Mix ingredients together and bake at 350 degrees F for 20 minutes. Serves 4-6

Amy Martens • Wellman
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

TYE'S TURKEY MARINADE

- ¾ cup orange juice
- ¾ cup soy sauce
- ¼ cup honey
- ½ cup onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 teaspoons black pepper
- 2 teaspoons ginger
- 4 pounds turkey (tenderloin or other cut)

Combine all ingredients except for turkey. Place turkey into marinade and let stand for 1 hour. Grill turkey until done and serve. Serves 4-6

Alicia Pacha • Brighton
Access Energy Cooperative

TURKEY STIR FRY

- 1 cup brown rice
- 1½ tablespoons olive oil
- 1 package coleslaw mix
- 2 carrots, grated
- 2 stalks celery, cut up
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 8-ounce can water chestnuts
- 3 cups turkey, cooked and shredded
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce

Cook rice until tender, set aside. Heat oil in saucepan and add coleslaw, carrots, celery and onion. Cook until just tender. Add water chestnuts, turkey and soy sauce. Heat for about 3 minutes then serve over a bed of rice.

Mary Gropper • Chelsea
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

TURKEY NOODLE VEGGIE CASSEROLE

- 8 ounces noodles
- ¼ cup celery, chopped
- ¼ cup onion, chopped
- ½ cup peas
- ½ cup carrots, cut
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- ½ soup can of milk
- 2 cups turkey, cooked and cut
- 1 cup Velveeta cheese, cubed

Cook noodles, celery, onion, peas and carrots in chicken broth. Do not drain. Add all other ingredients. Place in greased baking dish and bake at 350 degrees F for 40 minutes.

**Steph Messner • Rock Rapids
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative**

OVERNIGHT TURKEY CASSEROLE

- 2 cups macaroni, uncooked
- 3 cups leftover turkey
- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 2 cans broth
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 cup mild cheese, diced
- ½ cup green pepper, chopped
- ½ cup celery, chopped
- 1 small can water chestnuts
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 4-ounce can mushrooms

Mix in order above. Put in greased 9x13-inch pan. Refrigerate overnight then bake uncovered at 350 degrees F for 1 hour. Freezes well. *Serves 15*

**Ardine Dillingham • Hartley
Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

PIZZA ROLLUPS

- 1 pound ground turkey, browned
- 2 cups mozzarella
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1 tablespoon fresh parsley, chopped
- 1 loaf frozen bread dough, thawed
- 4 cups Italian tomato sauce

Mix turkey, cheese, salt, pepper and herbs. Roll out dough into 14x24-inch rectangle. Spoon mixture over dough. Roll up lengthwise and cut into 24 pieces. Place on greased cookie sheet, about 1 inch apart. Let sit for about 10 minutes then bake at 400 degrees F for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. Serve with warmed Italian tomato sauce.

**Bethany Van Wyhe • Lester
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative**

GRILLED TURKEY BURGERS

- 20 ounces ground turkey
- ¼ cup non-fat Greek yogurt
- 2 tablespoons mushrooms, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled and finely minced
- 1 green onion, finely chopped
- ½ teaspoon seasoned salt
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons parsley or cilantro, finely chopped
- hamburger buns
- Optional toppings: pepper jack cheese, lettuce, tomato, avocado, red onion, ranch dressing

Mix the first eight ingredients together until thoroughly blended. Divide into four equal balls, roughly ½ pound each, then form into patties ¾-inch thick and 4-5 inches in diameter. Preheat grill to 400 degrees F (medium high). It should be at this heat at least 5 minutes prior to grilling to preheat the grates. Grill the burgers until the bottom cooks through and juices start to pool on top of the patties, about 5 minutes. Flip and cook until the patties reach an internal temperature of 165 degrees F, about 3-5 minutes. If desired, top with a slice of pepper jack cheese at the last minute or two of grilling. Remove and rest on a raised rack and toast buns on the grill. Assemble the burgers with additional optional items: lettuce, tomato, avocado, red onion and ranch dressing. *Serves 4*

**Jackie Netherton • Ida Grove
North West Rural Electric Cooperative**

WANTED:

FAMILY DINNER FAVORITES

THE REWARD:
**\$25 FOR EVERY
ONE WE PUBLISH!**

Deadline is June 30.

Please include your name, address, telephone number, co-op name and the recipe category on all submissions. Also provide the number of servings per recipe.



EMAIL: recipes@ieclmagazine.com
(Attach your recipe as a Word document or PDF to your email message.)

MAIL: Recipes
Iowa Electric Cooperative Living • 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48,
Des Moines, IA 50322-2992

ANATOMY OF A POWER OUTAGE

BY SCOTT FLOOD

Imagine that a stray bolt of lightning connects a menacing cloud with a power pole about a mile east of your home. Your lights flicker briefly before going out. Things become eerily quiet as all your home's devices equipped with motors and fans stop providing their constant symphony of background noise.

Locating the issue

You're experiencing a power outage, so you reach for your phone and call your electric co-op. Good move. Sometimes, member-consumers don't call because they assume their neighbors will. However, the more

members who do make the call, the more quickly the co-op will be able to pinpoint the outage location.

Back at the office, the co-op's grid system operator noticed the sudden pause at the moment 300 million volts of lightning danced around a transformer, and they're able to triangulate the location of the outage. The system estimates just over 500 members are in the dark as a line crew tosses their dinner aside and steers their trucks in that direction.

Thirty minutes later, the lineworkers slowly drive along a stretch of road,

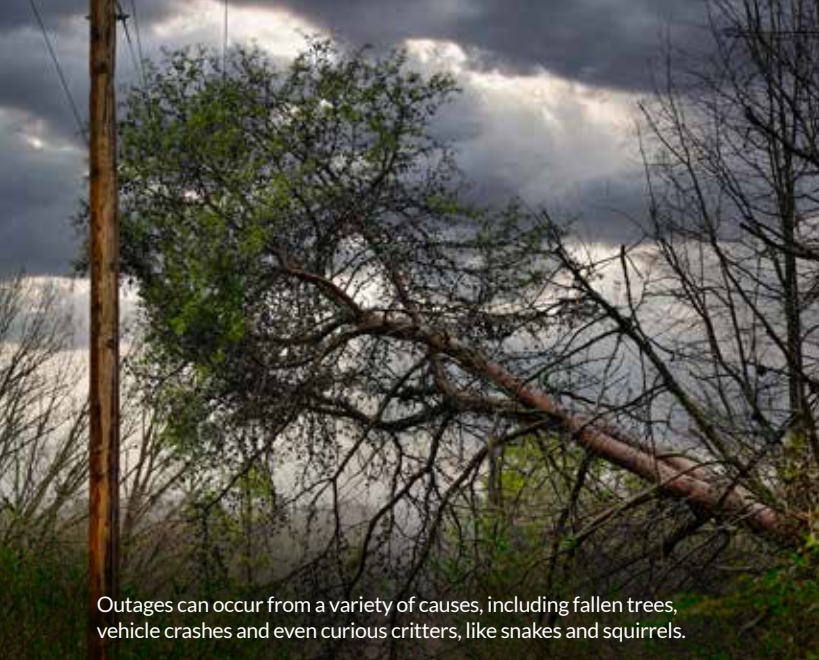
keeping one eye on traffic while inspecting every pole, wire and transformer. In another 8 minutes, they stop and step out for a closer look. The mystery is solved with one glance at the burn mark across the surface of the transformer. Ready to move closer to the line.

Deliberate work ensures safety

If you watch the lineworkers, you might mistakenly assume they're not very motivated. After all, you're dealing with a power outage, you want it to end as soon as possible, and it looks like they're simply



Photo Source: Midland Power Cooperative



Outages can occur from a variety of causes, including fallen trees, vehicle crashes and even curious critters, like snakes and squirrels.



Photo Source: Corn Belt Power Cooperative

taking their sweet time while you're missing the ballgame. But there's a good reason the lineworkers aren't rushing or running around.

Those power lines carry high-voltage electricity. It's safe when all elements of the system are in good working order, but it's potentially deadly when that's not the case. Lineworkers approach what they do deliberately, efficiently – and, most of all, safely. Every action they take is carefully planned so they can spot potential hazards. When performing tasks, they follow standard procedures and safety requirements to ensure the repair is effective and sound. Working that way may take a little extra time, but it means they'll make it home safely at the end of the day (or night).

Power is restored

Less than an hour after finding the cause of the outage, the lineworkers load their tools and gear back onto the trucks. This time, the problem was easy to spot, the repair was fairly straightforward, and the weather cooperated.

Driving back to the co-op, the lineworkers watch the passing homes and smile because the warm glow coming from the windows means the power's back on again. A couple of members in their yard wave as the trucks pass by. They may not know why the electricity went off and what was involved in

bringing it back, but thanks to the lineworkers, life is back to normal.

Preparing for the unknown

Lightning streaks across the world's skies roughly 8 million times every day, and power poles, lines and other infrastructure provide attractive targets for helping lightning connect with the ground. But outages can occur from a variety of causes, including fallen trees, vehicle crashes and even curious critters, like snakes and squirrels.

And no two outages are exactly alike. The next one could be in severe weather or a remote segment far off the main road. It could involve a fallen tree that needs to be cut with chainsaws or a broken utility pole that needs to be replaced. The situation doesn't matter because lineworkers will always get to the location and fix the problem as quickly as safety allows.

This is why your electric co-op invests in the right technologies and equipment designed to protect the power grid and prevent outages from plunging your home into darkness. And it's also why the lineworkers, who put themselves at risk to return your life to normal, are some of our favorite people.

Scott Flood writes for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 900 electric co-ops.

SAFETY TIPS

If a power outage occurs:

- Call your local electric cooperative to report your outage – even if you think a neighbor has already called it in. The more calls received, the easier it is to identify the issue and determine the extent of the outage.
- Stay away from downed power lines and poles. Always assume all power lines are energized and dangerous unless told otherwise by an authority.
- Turn off the stove, oven and other appliances (except refrigerators and freezers with food) to prevent heavy startup loads that could cause secondary blackouts when power is restored.
- Unplug sensitive electronic equipment, such as computers, TVs and other home entertainment equipment, to avoid damage to them when power is restored.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to prevent food from spoiling.
- Leave a light turned on so you'll know when the power is restored.
- Use flashlights during outages instead of candles to avoid fire risks.

EPA RULES THREATEN RELIABILITY

On April 25, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its long-anticipated final rules aimed at existing coal and new natural gas power plants.

The four new rules to regulate power plants represent “the wrong approach at a critical time for our nation’s energy future,” says Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). NRECA represents nearly 900 local electric cooperatives throughout the U.S., including those in Iowa. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation’s landscape.

Matheson adds, “The path outlined by the EPA is unlawful, unrealistic and unachievable. It undermines electric reliability and poses grave consequences for an already stressed electric grid. The American economy can’t succeed without reliable electricity. Smart energy policy recognizes that fundamental truth and works to help keep the lights on. This barrage of new EPA rules ignores our nation’s ongoing electric reliability challenges and is the wrong approach at a critical time for our nation’s energy future.”

Specifically, NRECA believes the final rule is problematic for the following key reasons:

1 Disregards the law and Supreme Court decisions.

The rule violates the Clean Air Act because the EPA asserts vast new authority of major economic and political significance without a clear statement from Congress. It disregards the “major questions doctrine” and is inconsistent with the text, structure and context of Clean Air Act Section 111.

2 Requires the use of inadequately demonstrated technology.

While carbon capture and storage (CCS) is a promising technology, it is not yet widespread nor commercially available and thus has not been “adequately demonstrated” as is required. No units in the country are currently achieving the EPA’s required 90% capture rate consistently and while operating at baseload levels.

3 Mandates unrealistic and unachievable timelines.

There needs to be more infrastructure in place, especially massive pipeline networks, to support CCS and hydrogen, even assuming the technologies work as the EPA envisions.

The necessary infrastructure cannot reasonably be expected to be in place in time to meet the EPA’s requirements.

4 Jeopardizes reliability and affordability.

The final rule will reduce key generating resources, magnifying today’s reliability challenges with grave consequences for an already stressed electric grid. All of this will occur while the demand for electricity skyrockets as we electrify more of the American economy.

The EPA finalized its rule against a backdrop of daunting threats to reliability, as electricity demand surges at the same time supply is decreasing.

The Energy Information Administration projects that power demand will reach record highs in 2024 and 2025, increasing by 2.5% and 3.2%, respectively. Grid planners forecast electricity demand to grow by 38 gigawatts through 2028, the equivalent of adding another California to the grid.

Meanwhile, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation has warned that more than 110 gigawatts of always-available generation, enough to power about 35 million homes, will retire by 2033. Over the next five years, all or parts of 19 states are at high risk of rolling blackouts during normal peak conditions.

“

This barrage of new EPA rules ignores our nation’s ongoing electric reliability challenges and is the wrong approach at a critical time for our nation’s energy future.”

NRECA CEO Jim Matheson



The rule is unlawful. It violates the law, exceeds EPA’s authority, and disregards Supreme Court rulings.

The technology isn’t ready. The rule mandates the widespread adoption of technology that is promising, but not ready for prime time.

The timelines are unrealistic. The rule gives neither existing coal units nor new gas units enough time to reach compliance.

NRECA CEO Jim Matheson

PARTNERING WITH OUR COMMUNITY FOR 35 YEARS

Franklin REC recently celebrated a significant milestone – a 35-year partnership with the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. The chamber plays a crucial role in the county by assisting newcomers, boosting local businesses and sponsoring various community events.



SIGN UP FOR AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS AND RECEIVE A ONE-TIME \$10 BILL CREDIT

Your monthly electric bill can be automatically deducted from your checking account in one easy step. Simply complete the automatic withdrawal form in this month's bill and return it with your payment. By signing up, you will receive a one-time \$10 bill credit.



The monthly payment is deducted from your bank account on the 25th day of each month (or the following business day after a weekend or holiday). If you have any questions or don't want to worry about your bill being paid on time, complete the form today.

NOMINATE A LOCAL VOLUNTEER BY JUNE 30

Do you know someone in our community who deserves to be recognized for making a difference? Nominate them for the Shine the Light contest by June 30, and they could win \$3,000 for their local charity or nonprofit.

"We're really excited to participate in this statewide effort to celebrate our cooperative commitment to community," says Garrett Thompson, CEO/general manager of Franklin REC. "There are so many incredible volunteers throughout our service area who deserve to be recognized."

Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, this is the fourth year of the Shine the Light contest, which celebrates the people who improve our communities. Three winners will be announced in September, and each will receive a \$3,000 donation for their charity or nonprofit.

The winners will also be featured in the September issue of *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine and on social media.



How to nominate

Member-consumers and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers. If you receive electricity from Franklin REC, you're a co-op member-consumer and we encourage you to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member-consumer. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians.

Help us shine the light on our community volunteers; make a nomination by June 30.

Go to www.iowaShineTheLight.com by June 30 to make a nomination and to review the contest rules. Nominators will need to provide basic contact information and answer this question in 500 words or less:

How has your nominee made a difference in the community, and how might their local charity/nonprofit use the \$3,000 donation?



FRANKLIN REC INVESTS IN STUDENTS' EDUCATION

Franklin REC annually provides opportunities for our local youth to continue their education and explore their passions through higher education. This year, Franklin REC had the opportunity to provide four students with scholarships as they continue their education journey.

Scholarships awarded for commitment to community

Franklin REC offers three \$500 scholarships to high school seniors who show commitment to their community by volunteering in organizations or for community events and projects.

This year's winners include Ali Ackerson of Iowa Falls, daughter of members Clint and Molly Ackerson; Kacie Fessler of Thornton, daughter of members Cory and Nicole Fessler; and Kierra Dodd of Ackley, daughter of members Aaron and Shayna Dodd. Each recipient receives a \$500 scholarship in recognition of their commitment to their communities, volunteer efforts and active local involvement.

Franklin REC's Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarships

Franklin REC partners with our power provider, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, and offers two scholarships to students who exemplify extraordinary educational leadership goals. The 2024 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship winners are AGWSR High School senior Kierra Dodd and Iowa State University sophomore Kennedy Dodd. Kierra and Kennedy are the daughters of members Aaron and Shayna Dodd of Ackley.

2024 CO-OP SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Ali Ackerson

Attending University of Northern Iowa
Majoring in pre-radiography



Kennedy Dodd

Attending Iowa State University
Majoring in agricultural business



Kierra Dodd

Attending Iowa State University
Majoring in agricultural business and accounting



Kacie Fessler

Attending North Iowa Area Community College
Majoring in health sciences

2024 YOUTH TOUR REPRESENTATIVE



Franklin REC is proud to announce Stephanie Terrones, a junior from Hampton-Dumont-CAL High School, as its 2024 Youth Tour representative. Terrones will embark on a week-long journey to Washington, D.C., alongside nearly 40 other Iowa high school students this summer. During their time in the nation's capital, they'll delve into cooperative principles, advocate for rural communities, visit historic landmarks and engage with elected officials.

Terrones demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities, impressing the judges during her exam and interview. Stay tuned for updates in August to learn about her experience with Youth Tour in D.C.

FRANKLIN REC ALTERNATIVE FUND

Franklin REC's voluntary Alternative Energy Program allows members to support renewable energy projects with contributions to the fund. The funding for the program, provided by our members, supports the development of alternative energy production facilities in Iowa, such as the wind energy center in Hancock County. These contributions provide the opportunity for alternative energy to be purchased and assist in the development of nontraditional energy generation in Iowa.

This is a one-time contribution or a monthly pledge automatically added to monthly bills in \$1 increments. To enroll in the Alternative Energy Program, complete the form below.



ALTERNATIVE ENERGY FUND AUTHORIZATION FORM

One-time contribution: \$ _____

Payments made payable to
Franklin REC.

Monthly contribution: \$ _____

This amount will be automatically applied to your monthly electric bill. You may opt in or opt out of the program at any time.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Billing Account Number _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Clip this portion of the magazine and return it to Franklin REC, PO Box 437, Hampton, IA 50441, or email it to franklin@franklinrec.coop.

FROM 6-ON-6 GIRLS' BASKETBALL TO THE "CAITLIN CLARK EFFECT"

BY DARCY DOUGHERTY MAULSBY

There's a saying that everything in life can teach you a lesson; you just have to be willing to observe and learn.

I was thinking about this after Iowa Hawkeye legend Caitlin Clark became the No. 1 overall pick in the WNBA draft and joined the Indiana Fever.

Imagine the Iowa Hawkeye women's basketball star playing a game where the rules allowed her just two dribbles before she had to pass or shoot. Oh yeah – it would be illegal for her to cross the half-court line, too.

For most of the 20th century, this was girls' basketball in Iowa. The game was 6-on-6, with three girls on one side of the court playing defense and three on the other side playing offense.

Uniquely Iowa style of play

While the rules might seem archaic now, 6-on-6 was wildly popular for generations. Especially in rural Iowa, it was fully supported and encouraged at a time when competitive team sports for women were relatively unheard of (and often discouraged).

Iowa's rich tradition of high school girls' basketball dates back to the 1890s and early 1900s. In many small schools, girls' 6-on-6 basketball proved more popular with fans than boys' basketball. At its zenith, the sport involved more than 70% of the girls in Iowa, by some estimates.

That's why some newspaper clippings and a trophy at Doug and Karen Lawton's farm south of Jefferson caught my eye. The items are displayed in Karen's "she shed," a former tire shop on the family's Century Farm. When I was working on a story about the shed, I asked Karen about this unique décor.

Another leader for girls' basketball

Those items honor Luella (Gardeman) Boddicker, Doug's maternal grandmother. She was a star player on the 1927 Newhall girls' high school basketball team. As a sophomore, Luella was the team's leading scorer, hitting the basket that propelled Newhall High School to a 38-37 win over Sioux Center in the final game of the state tournament in Centerville.

This was the second tournament sponsored by the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU), which was organized in response to the Iowa High School Athletic Association's decision that organized basketball was unhealthy for girls.

"Luella rode horseback in the mid-1920s to speak out against that decision and save girls' basketball," Karen says.

Luella's specialty was the one-handed jump shot – 15 years before its introduction into boys' basketball, according to March 6, 1994, article "Memory Still Vivid After 67 Years" in the Cedar Rapids Gazette. This former farm girl and country school student (who moved to Newhall her sophomore year) mastered the one-handed jumper after Coach William Franklin told her if she didn't, "we'll never get anywhere."

After her senior season, Luella sold butter, eggs and cream to buy her only letter sweater. She couldn't afford one before that.

"In those days, you worked for what you got," she told the Gazette.

A lasting hoops legacy

Luella became a farm wife and mother of three daughters, including Doug's mother, Dorothy (Dot), who was also a standout basketball player. Luella's accomplishments left a lasting legacy not only for her family, but the future of girls' high school basketball. She was inducted into the IGHSAU Hall of Fame in 1972.

Decades after Luella's achievements, Iowa remained one of the last two states (along with Oklahoma) to play 6-on-6 high school basketball. In 1993, the IGHSAU voted unanimously to end 6-on-6, as more girls wanted to play 5-on-5 in high school and college.

Clark herself has learned – and honored – the history of girls' 6-on-6 basketball in Iowa. Referencing the unprecedented interest in women's collegiate and professional basketball, "that doesn't come if it's not for the people who came before us," she told the media. You nailed it, Caitlin.

Darcy Dougherty Maulsby lives near her family's Century Farm northwest of Lake City. Visit her at www.darcymaulsby.com.



Luella
(Gardeman)
Boddicker





IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

The magazine
for members of
Iowa's electric
cooperatives.

June 2024

Visit our website at www.franklinrec.coop

WHERE WE HAVE MEMBERS WE ACTIVELY LIVE OUR COMMITMENT

We're not just a service provider – we're active members of our community. We take pride in serving our members and going the extra mile in everything we do. Get closer to your **local cooperative** for ways we support you and strengthen our community.

