

Nominating Committee meets

The Nominating Committee meeting was held on May 23, at the office of the cooperative in Grundy Center, to select the 2019 director candidates for Districts 1, 5 and 7.

The Articles of Incorporation state that the Nominating Committee shall prepare a list of nominees identifying each candidate by name, address, and the Director district in which they reside. The Nominating Committee shall make a good faith effort to nominate two (2) candidates for each Director position to be filled but may nominate only one (1) candidate for the position. The following director candidates were nominated for a three-year term:

District 1: Kevin Pruisner and Jerry Schipper

District 5: Matt Kopriva

District 7: Jason Paper and James Gienger

The written list of nominations of the Nominating Committee shall be posted at the office of the Cooperative not less than thirty (30) days prior to mailing the notice of the Annual Meeting of members. For ten (10) days after posting of the list of nominations by the committee, additional nominations of members residing in the district of the vacancy may be made by written petition on forms provided on request of any member and signed by not less than twenty (20) members. Any member nominated shall give prior consent to such nomination whether by committee or petition.

A list of nominations as selected by the Nominating Committee will be posted by July 11, and nominations by petition will be accepted through July 22.

If you are interested in serving on the Board and live in District 1, 5 or 7 or know of someone who would be interested in serving as a director, please contact the Cooperative.

Director elections will be conducted as part of the Cooperative's Annual Meeting that will be held on September 5th at the Grundy Center Community Center.



Nominating Committee members, left to right, are Larry Rohach, Kevin Herink, Paul Selken, Larry Bakker and David Schmidt.

New look in magazine

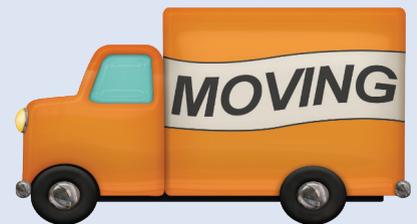


Grundy County REC is excited to announce that beginning in August, you'll find our monthly newsletter within the pages of Living with Energy in Iowa magazine. Our logo will be featured on the cover as well as any special announcements for our members.

We'll still be sharing the same type of local content that you are used to seeing. The only difference is it will be in the magazine, which will save your co-op postage, printing and design costs and offer important news all in one place. With this option, Grundy County REC content will be found on two to four pages of the magazine depending on what we're sharing that month. You'll always find our content on pages 4 and 5, and occasionally on pages 12 and 13.

In the August issue of the magazine, we'll be sharing news about our upcoming annual meeting and our annual report so we will use all four pages.

We look forward to sharing information with you through the magazine!



Moving?

Remember to notify the cooperative when you move off of the Grundy County REC service area and inform the new owner of their responsibility to then get signed up for service.

Enhanced heat pump incentive available

If it is time to replace your air conditioning system or your furnace, consider an air source heat pump. A heat pump, in cooling mode, will keep your home cool and comfortable in the summer more efficiently than an air conditioner. In heating mode, it moves heat from the outside air to heat your home using less energy than the most efficient gas furnace.

When the outside temperature plummets below freezing for extended periods, the heat pump efficiency is reduced because there is less heat outside to move inside. However, if you have a gas furnace in addition to your heat pump, the gas furnace will kick in to help the heat pump keep you warm and comfortable.

Your cooperative offers an enhanced rebate to offset the slightly higher cost of installing an air source heat pump.

The rebate for installing an air source heat pump with gas back-up:

- Under 15 SEER—\$150/ton
- More than 15 SEER—\$300/ton

The rebate for installing an air source heat pump without gas back-up:

- Under 15 SEER—\$50/ton
- More than 15 SEER—\$200/ton

As a member-owned electric utility, we want to make sure you're using energy efficiently and we want to assist in saving energy. For more information on heating and cooling options and incentive guidelines, please contact us.



Save energy and money! Consider an air source heat pump for your heating and cooling needs.

Come and see us at the Iowa State Fair!

We are proud to be a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, part of a nationwide network of locally owned co-ops to help our members use energy wisely.

At the Iowa State Fair August 8-18, the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa are again sponsoring the Rastetter 4-H Building on the south side of the fairgrounds. We're looking forward to connecting with fairgoers and rural 4-H families at our booth in the air-conditioned building. With a new, interactive display (pictured below), electric co-op employees will be talking about cooperative careers and our commitment to leadership development with the national Youth Tour program for high school students.

Cooperative careers

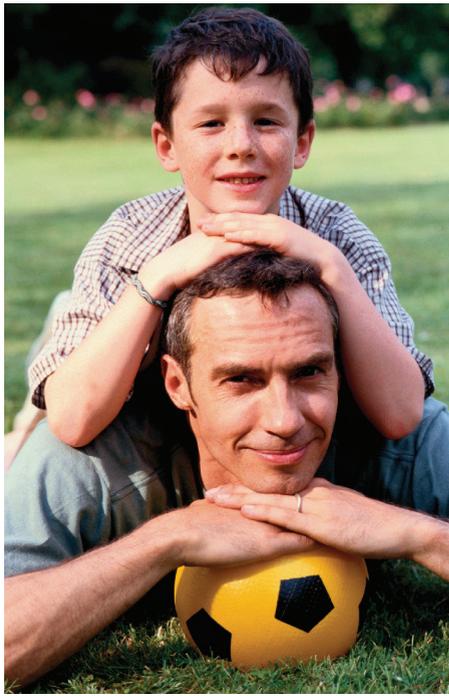
Throughout rural Iowa, more than 1,200 people are employed full-time at locally owned electric cooperatives. We hire skilled workers like linemen and mechanics in addition to professionals like accountants, engineers, communicators, human resources managers, economic development officers, administrators and customer care representatives. Electric co-ops offer competitive pay and generous benefits in an exciting and challenging industry.

Youth Tour

For over 60 years, Iowa's electric cooperatives have been sending high school students to Washington, D.C., every June for leadership development at the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. On the weeklong Youth Tour trip, students with a passion for government, leadership and service will meet with elected officials, learn more about American history, visit dozens of monuments and museums and come home with a greater understanding of electric cooperatives.

We're excited to share our cooperative story at the Iowa State Fair; stop by our booth and say hello!





Unplug to connect

“Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.” Author Anne Lamott cleverly captures the benefits of unplugging in today’s device-driven, multi-tasking world.

Summer is a great time to take a family vacation, but it’s also a good opportunity to unplug from our devices and enjoy the great outdoors with family and friends.

If your summer plans include a staycation, take time to recharge your relationships and be more present with those you love. Enjoy our beautiful surroundings with your family and friends.

In our connected world, we have forgotten how to slow down. We multitask and text. We check email, then voicemail, then Facebook. Do yourself and your family a favor. Put down the device.

While your electric cooperative can’t help you recharge your relationships, we can help you save money and energy by connecting you with our energy-saving programs and services. When you plug back in, we’re just a call or click away.

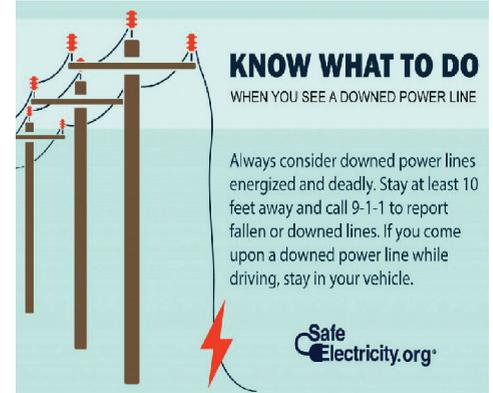
Contact us about an energy assessment, rebates and many other saving options.

Beware of downed power lines

Overhead power lines carry thousands of volts of electricity. If a line is down, always assume it is energized and dangerous, even if the power is out in your area. Touching or going near a live power line can injure or kill.

Additional safety reminders:

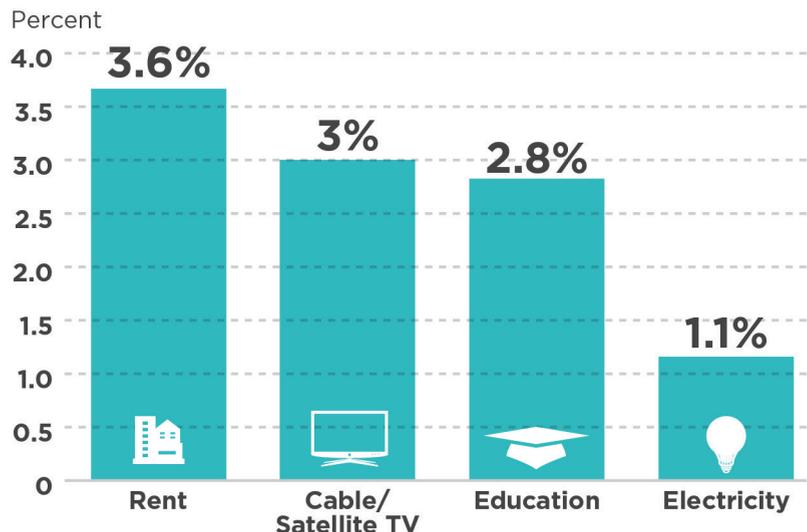
- Call 9-1-1 to report fallen or damaged power lines.
- Power lines do not have to be arcing or sparking or making a humming noise to be live.
- Do not attempt to move a downed line or anything it is touching with another object such as a stick or pole.
- Do not step in water or walk in debris near a downed power line.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from a downed power line.
- Do not attempt to drive over a downed power line.
- If a power line falls on your vehicle while driving, do not attempt to drive away or get out. Call for help and **STAY INSIDE THE VEHICLE** until utility crews say it is safe to get out. If there is a fire or you smell gasoline, hop out without touching the vehicle at the same time and do not walk, but **HOP AWAY TO SAFETY**.
- Line properties can change: A dead power line may become energized due to power restoration or back feed from backup generators.



ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it’s easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2013-2018



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Consumer Price Index



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Co-op Connections card

Use your Co-op Connections card at Natural Grind Health Market and Cafe in Grundy Center. They offer a variety of menu items including hot and cold coffees, specialty coffees, smoothies, health smoothies, teas and other health drinks, along with a variety of healthy breakfast options like muffins, quiches, breakfast sandwiches and more.

They also offer health-related items including supplements and vitamins, essential oils, health-related books, journals and more. Their goal is to help educate and lead people on the right track to feeling better inside and out.

Other area businesses participating include:

- 319 Décor & Design - Grundy Center
- Crazy Daisies - Grundy Center
- The Landmark Bistro - Grundy Center
- Stylish Living - Grundy Center
- Tasty House - Grundy Center
- Retro Rooster - Traer
- Sweets on Main - Traer
- Traer Theater - Traer
- A Wild Hair Salon & Boutique - Traer

Save money with restored state geothermal tax credit

If you're looking for an energy efficient upgrade that will save you money on your electric bills, consider a geothermal heating and cooling system. With a state tax credit back in place, this HVAC option is more affordable than ever!

Governor Reynolds recently signed HF 779 into law, which reinstated a geothermal tax credit that was eliminated in 2018. Geothermal heat pumps installed on residential property in Iowa are again eligible for a tax credit equal to 20% of the Federal tax credit. With the federal tax credit set at 30 percent of the installation cost until the end of the year, the state tax credit is currently equal to 6 percent of the installation cost; this state tax credit can be applied retroactively to January 1 of 2019.

Why is a geothermal heat pump so energy efficient?

A geothermal heat pump (sometimes also referred to as a ground source heat pump) is a highly efficient renewable energy technology used for both residential and commercial buildings. Geothermal heat pumps are used for space heating and cooling, as well as water heating.

The technology relies on the fact that the earth (beneath the surface) remains at a relatively constant temperature throughout the year, warmer than the air above it during the winter and cooler in the summer, very much like a cave. The geothermal heat pump takes advantage of this by efficiency transferring heat stored in the earth or in ground water into a building during the winter and transferring it out of the building and back into the ground



during the summer. The ground acts as a heat source in winter and a heat sink in summer.

Using a geothermal system is also great for your wallet!

Data from the Environmental Protection Agency shows that homeowners save 30-70 percent on heating costs and 20-50 percent on cooling costs by using geothermal heat pumps compared to other conventional systems. This translates to roughly \$400 to \$1,500 in annual savings.

Grundy County REC also offers a \$300/ton rebate on geothermal installations. To learn more about heat pumps and the costs involved, please contact Mike Geerdes, member service manager, at 319-824-5251. We'll explain the installation process and answer your questions. At Grundy County REC, we're here to help you use energy wisely!



If you are planning on installing solar, please call us first to discuss how Grundy County REC handles interconnection agreements. We can also help you size your system properly and estimate the cost of a system through Iowa Choice Renewables, or ICR.

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303 N Park Avenue • P.O. Box 39 • Grundy Center, IA 50638-0039
PHONES: 319.824.5251 or 800.390.7605 • FAX: 319.824.3118
OFFICE HOURS: Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
GENERAL MANAGER: Vicki Daily

smart choices  Sign up for Smart Choices e-newsletter at www.grundycountyrecia.com



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