WIPCO Informer
from your member-owned Western Iowa Power Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
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Holiday Closing

The Cooperative's offices and warehouses will be closed Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday, and Monday, January 2 for the New Year's holiday.
From all of us at Western Iowa Power Cooperative, we wish you all a blessed holiday season!

Western Iowa Power Cooperative's mission is to enhance our members' quality of life by providing safe and reliable electric services.

Need Money for College?

Scholarship applications available on our website at: www.wipco.com (My Account & Services tab, Scholarships). You can also contact your high school guidance counselor or one of WIPCO's offices for an application.

Western Iowa Power Cooperative (WIPCO) in conjunction with Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) will be awarding six scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year. Now in its 33rd year, the scholarship program recognizes and encourages academic and community achievements of students whose parents are WIPCO members.

BEPC will award one $1,000 scholarship, and WIPCO will award one $1,000 and four $500 scholarships. Two of the $500 scholarships will be designated specifically for students enrolling in a vocational/technical school.

The scholarship must be used for educational costs, and the student must enter college in the fall of the school year for which the scholarship is given. Scholarships will be awarded without regard to other awards, loans, or financial assistance the applicant may have obtained. Previous scholarship award winners are not eligible.

A selection committee will choose the recipients of the scholarships. The selection committee's decisions are final. Awards are based on the following criteria: grade point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, a personal statement of career goals, and a written recommendation by a third party. We ask that if the student has taken a collage entrance exam (ACT and/or SAT), that score be included with their application materials. Should a student plan to attend a college that does not require ACT/SAT, please indicate that on the application form. 14-01-1614

Applicant must be a U.S. citizen and the dependent of a WIPCO member. Applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate or graduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school.

Applications must be received in the WIPCO office in Denison or Onawa no later than Wednesday, February 8, 2023.

Many Reasons to Be Thankful

Marcus Rihner, Executive Vice President & General Manager

This time of year is a great time to reflect on all we are thankful for, and here at WIPCO, we are certainly thankful for many things. To list everything would take more space than I have available here, but here are some of the things we are most grateful for this holiday season.

- Our Members - We are grateful for you, our members, and for the opportunity to serve you each day. The cooperative business model allows us to make decisions that are best for you, not those that would be best for investors, shareholders, or any other entity. Your ownership and investment in the cooperative allow us to exist and to serve, and for that we will always be thankful.
- Our Employees - We are thankful for this dedicated group of people who work day in, day out (or night in, night out in many cases!) to keep the lights on in our communities. This commitment to keeping the power on is not a responsibility we take lightly, and we are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of providing this critical component of life as we know it.
- Our Directors - We are grateful for our Board of Directors, elected by our membership for the purpose of serving our membership. These men and women work diligently to understand the industry and to make decisions that will best serve the cooperative and its members now and into the future.
- Our Partners - We are fortunate to have a number of partnerships at WIPCO that help us to serve you more effectively. Our membership in national and state electric cooperative associations provides us with great resources and collaboration to keep us up-to-date on changing industry trends and to help us to make decisions. We are also thankful for great support from our local legislators and community leaders.
- Our Families and Friends - As the saying goes, it takes a village, and without our support systems none of us would be where we are today. We are thankful for the support from our loved ones, and the opportunity to go home to them each night is one of the main reasons safety is of the utmost importance at WIPCO.

From our cooperative family to yours, we wish you Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Prepare For a Severe Winter Storm--Assemble an Emergency Kit

A Storm is Always Ready

ARE YOU?

When Mother Nature threatens a severe storm, be ready by having an emergency kit on hand.

YOUR KIT SHOULD INCLUDE:

Bottles of water
Nonperishable food
Portable phone charger
Flashlights
Batteries
Can opener

First-aid supplies
Hand sanitizer
Prescriptions
Pain reliever
Warm clothing
Blankets

Battery-operated radio
Toys, books and games
Important documents
Money
Baby supplies
Pet supplies

Once your kit is assembled, check it a few times a year to make sure batteries are fresh and that no one has borrowed a necessary item.

Learn more at: SafeElectricity.org

Welcome to WIPCO, Wyatt Schoenherr

Wyatt Schoenherr (above) started working full time at WIPCO's Onawa shop on November 1.

Wyatt graduated from West Monona High School in 2018. He continued his education at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha graduating from the Utility Line Technician program in August of 2022.

In his spare time, Wyatt enjoys watching sports and spending time with friends and family.

Did you know?

Benefits of changing your furnace filter regularly:

- Improves air quality
- Extends the life of your system
- Improves efficiency--helps save money
- Helps keep the system clean

Visit www.energy.gov for more ways to save!

Sign Up for Our Smart Choices E-Newsletter, and You Could Be a Lucky Prize Winner!

So what is Smart Choices? Smart Choices (SC) is a FREE, monthly newsletter delivered to subscribers via e-mail each month. Articles feature local news from your Cooperative, electric safety information, and energy efficiency tips to help you save money!

Subscription sign up is required to receive SC. Scan the QR code below with your mobile device or visit our website: ***www.wipco.com/smart-choices-sign-up***. We hide a code in one of the SC articles on our website each month. Find the code, complete and submit the prize entry registration form for a chance to win a prize in our monthly random drawings.

Drawings prizes in 2022 ranged from a $10 bill credit to one of four larger quarterly prizes. Congratulations to our first 3 quarterly prizes winners, Joel Sailer (pressure washer), Tonya Riddle (tower fan), and Peg Gay (cool mist humidifier).

Congratulations to Tonya Riddle, the winner of one of our 2022 quarterly Smart Choices prize drawings. Pictured above is Tonya with her prize of a Honeywell whole room tower fan.

Read below for details on our next quarterly prize drawing.

Sign up for
smart choices

Each month Western Iowa Power Cooperative hides a code in our *Smart Choices* news stories. Find the code below in the *Smart Choices* article, complete the prize entry registration form and submit for a chance to win a Presto Pizza Pizzazz Plus in December.

KYC12712DEC

Don't receive Smart Choices?
Subscribe by scanning the QR code with your mobile device or visit our website:
www.wipco.com/smart-choices-sign-up

Seventeen-year-old Mary Gehrig was driving home from a friend's house when a storm turned from average to angry.

The storm was not a problem during the first part of her drive, and she assumed it would stay that way during the half-hour ride home. "I've never really been afraid to drive in storms; I'm pretty good with them," she explained. "I've always been fascinated with thunder and lightning."

Unbeknownst to Mary, a stronger, more violent storm was about to erupt, and conditions grew worse than anyone had anticipated. The typically familiar and uneventful drive was neither of those things that June night.

Strong rotations formed and their herculean strength folded several metal transmission towers in half. Around 15 to 20 minutes into the drive, Mary's knuckles gripped the wheel as she struggled to see in front of her. During lightning flashes, she saw little white lines in the distance. As she got closer, she realized that those lines were across the road, in her path, and that they were anything but small.

"I realized I was not going to (be able to) drive over it," Gehrig recalls. She slammed on the brakes and her car struck the object, which happened to be one of two high-voltage transmission power lines lying in the road. The massive cable stopped Mary's car in its tracks. The car's electrical system was damaged, and she was stuck there alone during the storm.

What happened next was life-changing--but in a good way. Mary picked up her phone and called her parents. When her dad heard that there was a downed power line involved, he told her to stay where she was, not get out of the car, and call 9-1-1.

Fire chief Rich Schock, who was on the scene that night, said, "Those are large transmission lines with a lot of volts in them," adding that the outcome could have been fatal had Mary gotten out. "Mary did everything right," he said.

KNOW WHAT TO DO

When there is an accident involving downed power lines, a pad-mount transformer or other related equipment:

- Call 9-1-1 and report that a downed line or other electrical equipment is involved.
- Do not get out of the vehicle until electric utility workers say it is safe to exit.
- Warn those involved in the accident to stay put and alert others who might approach to stay back.

Exiting the vehicle is a last resort and should only be attempted if the car is on fire or giving off smoke. If this is the case, exit the vehicle by crossing your arms and jumping from the vehicle without touching it. Then, hop with both feet together as far as you can.

Five Ways to Fight the Winter Chill *and* Save Energy

We can all agree that high winter bills are never fun. WIPCO is here to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check. Increase your home's energy efficiency this winter by:

1. **Minding the thermostat.** This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.
2. **Button up your home.** The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.
3. **Use window coverings wisely.** Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.
4. **Consider your approach to appliance use.** When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.
5. **Think outside the box.** If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up--beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

If you're taking steps to save energy but continue to see major increases in your bills, give us a call at 712-263-2943 or 800-253-5189 and ask about getting an energy audit.

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the years. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills. Contact our office or our website at ***www.wipco.com*** for additional energy-saving tips.

- Our employees will never show up at your door to demand payment.
- Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Our representatives have access to the details they need to service your account.
- Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.
- If you think you've been contacted by a scammer falsely representing the co-op, please let us know as soon as possible.

Prairie Winds - Energy in Motion

WIPCO members can sign up to help support development of alternate energy production facilities,which may include wind and other non-traditional generation technologies, through the Prairie Winds program.

Members who participate in the Prairie Winds program are not directly purchasing alternate energy but rather all the money collected, from participants in this "green pricing" program, will be used to develop alternate energy production facilities for delivery into the system of Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative, WIPCO's power supplier. However, we cannot ensure that the electrons purchased will be utilized to meet your individual energy needs. 48-03-16468

The program is available to members within any of our rate classifications. You can contribute on a monthly basis by paying the additional amount with your monthly electric bill. The price for a contribution toward a block of 100 kWhs is 20 cents. The contribution will be in addition to the normal electric bill and not a substitute for any charges thereunder. The minimum sign-up period is 12 months.

Call 800-253-5189 or 712-263-2943 to find out more, or if you want to participate, simply fill out the coupon and return it to the WIPCO office.

Each block is an additional 20 cent investment in not only the environment, but in the future of renewable energy.

PRAIRIE WINDS
ENERGY IN MOTION

Wind Power Agreement

Please specify the total number of 100 kilowatt-hour blocks you wish to purchase each month. Remember, each block is an additional $.20 investment in not only the environment, but in the future of renewable energy.

Number of blocks at $.20 per month _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ___ ZIP _____

E-mail Address (optional) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

I understand my commitment is for one year and will continue on an annual basis until I notify you in writing to end my participation in the Prairie Winds program.

ATTENTION: RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

NEED HELP WITH YOUR HEATING BILL?

The 2022-2023 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season.

The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

If you are not sure where to apply, **Dial 2-1-1**, or visit https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply to contact your local community action agency, or write to:

LIHEAP
Iowa Department of Human Rights
Capitol Complex
Des Moines, IA 50319

INCOME MAXIMUMS

Household Size	*Annual Gross Income*
1	$27,180
2	$36,620
3	$46,060
4	$55,500
5	$64,940
6	$74,380
7	$83,820
8	$93,260

For households with more than eight members, add $9,440 for each additional member.

WHEN TO APPLY:

- **Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled:** October 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023
- **All other households:** November 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023

WHAT TO TAKE:

- **Proof of Income** (for all household members age 18 and over) Depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you.
- **Proof of Social Security Numbers for all household members** (documentation required)
- **Most recent heat bill**
- **Most recent electric bill**

WAGE EARNERS:

Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

FIXED INCOME:

This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:

Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified. Additional income not listed here may be required.

THE RHEEM® MARATHON—BUILT TO LAST

- The most durable electric water heater ever made
- High efficiency design and a lightweight tank that won't corrode
- Seamless polybutene tank – impervious to rust and corrosion
- We offer 50, 85 and 105 gallon capacities
- Limited lifetime warranty on tank leakage
- 6 year limited warranty on parts

Let WIPCO help you with your hot water needs, by installing a new Marathon Lifetime Water Heater!
We also sell, install and service 50 gallon standard electric water heaters.

Call our Member Services Department at 1-800-253-5189 to schedule an install!

WIPCO WESTERN IOWA POWER COOPERATIVE
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

WIPCO Informer

from your member-owned Western Iowa Power Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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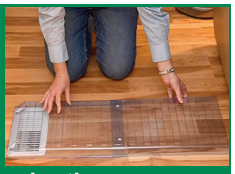
Marcus Rihner, Executive V.P./General Manager
Mari Miller, Editor

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer"

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in your ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form. Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes and other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

Source: energy.gov

Save $25.00 on your REC bill

Read this newsletter carefully. Hidden somewhere within these pages are two Member location numbers. Find your location number in this newsletter, call the REC office by the 20th of the month, and you will receive a $25.00 credit on your energy bill.

The location numbers in the November newsletter belonged to Randy Berg and Joel and Sandy Bubke.