



## What's inside...

Message from the Manager	2
Longtime Employee Retires	3
County Fair Association Donations	4
Scholarship Applications are Here	5
Consider a Ground Source HP	6
LIHEAP Low Income Assistance	7
\$25 Credit-Find Your Location #	8

## Holiday Closing

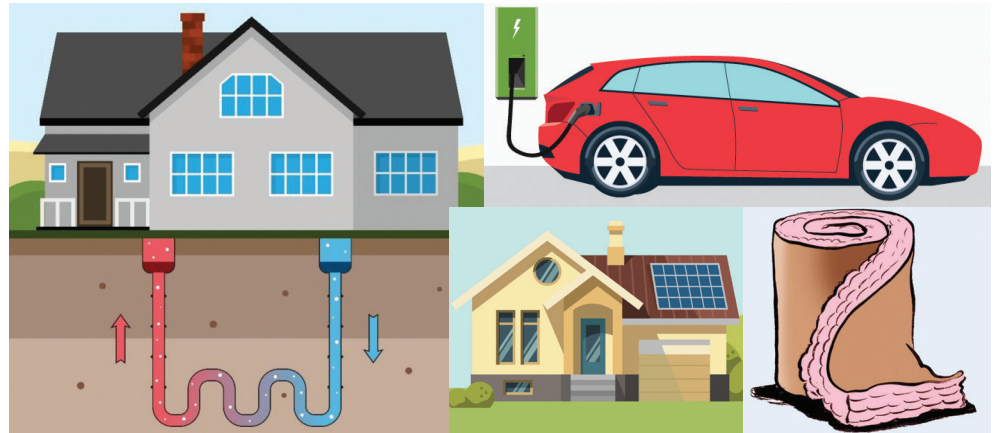
# Thanksgiving

The Cooperative's offices and warehouses will be closed Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday. From all of us at Western Iowa Power Cooperative, we wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving.



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

## The Inflation Reduction Act "Pumps Up" Geothermal & Other Energy Saving Provisions



On August 16, President Joe Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) into law. While there are several provisions in the IRA that are aimed to alleviate inflation, this month's article will focus on the future rebates and tax incentives, which are or soon will become available to homeowners.

It is important to note that we are not tax professionals and the information we share should not be interpreted as tax advice. Please consult your own accountant and/or lawyer for guidance on claiming any of the listed incentives.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY TAX CREDITS:

- Geothermal (ground source) heat pumps are now eligible for a 30% tax credit for systems installed in years 2022 through 2032. This can be coupled with the up to \$10,000 rebate available through WIPCO. Geothermal significantly reduces energy usage and utility bills for homeowners and business owners and installation is available through our Member Service Department. More details about this tax credit and other residential clean energy credits can be found at [https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal\\_tax\\_credits/renewable\\_energy\\_tax\\_credits](https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits/renewable_energy_tax_credits).
- Solar PV systems installed between 2022 and 2032 are eligible for a 30% tax credit. The credit will decrease to 26% for systems installed in 2033 and to 22% for systems installed in 2034. The tax credit expires starting in 2035 unless Congress renews it. Visit <https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/homeowners-guide-federal-tax-credit-solar-photovoltaics> for more information.
- Electric vehicles - beginning in 2023, qualifying electric vehicle buyers can claim a tax credit of up to \$4,000 for the purchase of a used EV and up to \$7,500 for a new vehicle. In 2024, the credit

Continued on page 3



**Marcus Rihner,**  
Executive Vice President  
& General Manager

## The Value of Your Co-op: It Starts with Principles

As an electric cooperative, WIPCO looks to the seven cooperative principles as our guide to ensure our members' interests always take priority when we make decisions or develop policies. We apply the standards of the cooperative principles when setting rates, developing energy efficiency programs and services, partnering with our communities on economic development projects, and operating a financially sound business strategy, to name just a few applications.

We will continue our series on the seven cooperative principles with a closer look at the seventh principle: concern for community.

**Concern for Community** - While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Cooperatives seek to be deeply involved in the communities we serve, and WIPCO is no exception. As this principle states very clearly, the needs of our members are our primary focus, and one of the best ways we can exemplify that focus is by investing in and engaging with the communities in which our members and their families live and work.

Concern for community takes on many forms at WIPCO. For example, did you know that we are involved in the following activities in our communities?

- Education for area elementary school classes on electric safety
- Membership on local boards, including economic development and community outreach
- Donations of time to help with local events, celebrations, and festivals
- Sponsorships and information booths at county fairs

This list is far from exhaustive, and it only captures a small portion of what we do as an organization.



It's also very important to note that this culture does not end when our employees leave work each day, or when our directors adjourn a WIPCO board meeting. Chances are you've seen WIPCO employees and directors volunteering in the community at some recent point, with a local fire department, youth sports team, or area church or related organization, to name just a few examples. This community-oriented culture helps us to better serve our members and the communities in which we all live, work, and raise our families!



*WIPCO donates and participates as part of cooperative principle #7 - concern for community. Pictured is a WIPCO employee working at the 2022 Crawford County Fair.*

I hope this column series on the seven cooperative principles and how they are applied at WIPCO has helped you to learn a bit more about who we are and how we strive to serve you, our members. These principles help to make the cooperative business model a unique one in the utility world--owned by you, governed by you, and here to serve you! 13-01-3920



## Reflecting on a Career of 41 Years: Foreman Doug Johnston Retires



*WIPCO General Manager, Marcus Rihner (left) is shown presenting WIPCO Foreman, Doug Johnston (right) with a years of service plaque. Johnston retired October 14.*

Congratulations and happy retirement to Doug Johnston! Johnston, a line foreman out of the Onawa office, retired last month after 41 years of dedicated service.

Johnston graduated from West Monona High School in 1980 and attended powerline school at Northwest Iowa Community

College in Sheldon, Iowa. He started his career as an apprentice lineman for Monona County REC in 1981, and worked his way up to journeyman lineman and foreman at WIPCO when he retired.

"The equipment we use today is bigger and better with more bucket trucks for the jobs we do," said Johnston. "It has been amazing watching the changes in technology in this industry over the years. When I started as an apprentice lineman, we only had one bucket truck, so we had to do a lot of climbing."

Johnston said it has been an honor to work for the same company for 41

years. "I will miss my coworkers but I won't miss being on call and going to work in storms--especially in the middle of the night," said Johnston.

Johnston plans to spend his retirement years hunting, fishing, traveling, golfing, and spending time with his kids and grandkids.

The employees, directors and members of WIPCO wish Doug the best and thank him for his dedication and service!

*IRA Provisions continued from page 1*

will be issued through dealerships at the time of sale. There is one caveat though--EVs must have final assembly in North America to qualify, so some brands will not be able to offer the credit until their North American plants begin operating.

### **Rebates:**

- Single-family homes are eligible for rebates of up to \$4,000 for modeled energy savings greater than 35% and \$2,000 for modeled savings of 20-35%. Low- or Moderate-Income households (defined as a household earning less than 80% of area median income (AMI) are eligible for up to \$8,000 in rebates. HVAC improvements and other efficiency projects that meet the required energy savings are eligible for these rebates.

This is a very short list of some provisions associated with the passing of the IRA. Most of the tax incentives and rebates won't be available until 2023 or each state sets up programs to manage and distribute the incentives.

While we wait for more details on how the savings will be rolled out, we encourage you to do your homework when researching how you might be able to save money and energy using the provisions of the IRA. We will provide updates in our newsletter, website and Facebook, as we receive more information.

*Sources: Geoechange; Rewiring America; Taxpayer Advocate Service; energystar.gov; energy.gov*

## 4 Looking out for you...

### WIPCO Presents Donations to Help Support Valued Community Organizations



**WIPCO Office Supervisor, Mari Miller, (center) presents a donation check to Monona County Fair Board President, Chris Beedle (right) and Monona County Fair Board Vice President, Curtis Sturgill (left).**

While our first priority is delivering safe and reliable electricity to those we serve, we also feel strongly about supporting and contributing to the development of our communities. One way WIPCO demonstrates that commitment is by supporting programs that encourage youth and adult education. 47-02-43658

WIPCO recently partnered with affiliated cooperative, CoBank by providing cash donations to benefit the Monona and Crawford County Fair Associations. The county fair associations are non-profits who cultivate, foster and promote interest in agriculture, horticulture, improvement of soil and stock raising, and education of youth through the 4-H program

The county fairs showcase and highlight the talents of county youth and adults by providing education, exhibit, and competition of various projects. The county fairs also highlight the heritage of the counties.



**WIPCO Assistant Manager, Stephanie Wiese, (left) presents a donation check to Crawford County Fair Board Treasurer, Brian Brodersen (right).**

WIPCO and CoBank's contribution helps support the fairs' events, activities, and recognition of participating 4-H'ers.

CoBank is a cooperative bank providing financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water, and communications providers in all 50 states. In August, WIPCO applied to CoBank's "Sharing Success" program. Sharing Success matches qualifying contributions by its cooperative customers to nonprofit organizations.

"Involvement in our communities is a high priority for WIPCO, and our local fair boards have consistently demonstrated their commitment to our communities as well," said WIPCO's General Manager, Marcus Rihner. "We commend them for the great work they do to educate, promote, and showcase agriculture, business, industry, and life in Crawford and Monona Counties."

Give me some *s p a c e . . .*



...or risk a fire.

With the changing weather, many people turn to space heaters for added warmth. WIPCO reminds those who use space heaters to keep safety considerations in mind and use these devices with caution.

When buying a space heater, check for approved safety certification marks to verify that the product has been tested for safety. Look for space heaters with safety features, including an automatic shut off. Be very cautious about buying used space heaters. They may not have up-to-date safety mechanisms. Your safety is worth the investment in a new heater. Here are a few more tips:

- Read and follow all instructions.
- Make sure cords are not frayed, brittle or cracked.
- Place them out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard floor surface.
- Never leave one on unattended or after going to bed.
- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet from blankets, clothing, paper and other flammables.

To learn more about how to use space heaters safely and avoid other electrical hazards, visit [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org).



## Need **Money** for College?

Scholarship applications available on our website at: [www.wipco.com](http://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.

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.

**WESTERN IOWA POWER COOPERATIVE**  
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Committed to Our Community - Serving Member Owners with Integrity, Innovation and Accountability

**www.wipco.com**

*Did you know that by having an on-site generator, you could be saving money?*

WIPCO has a standby generator program to lower electric rates of members in return for allowing the Cooperative to run your location on your generator during peak periods. By controlling load use, WIPCO saves on our wholesale power cost allowing us to pass that savings on to our members.

By signing up for the program, we would lower your energy usage rate to \$0.079 cents (single phase service) for all kilowatts used at this location.

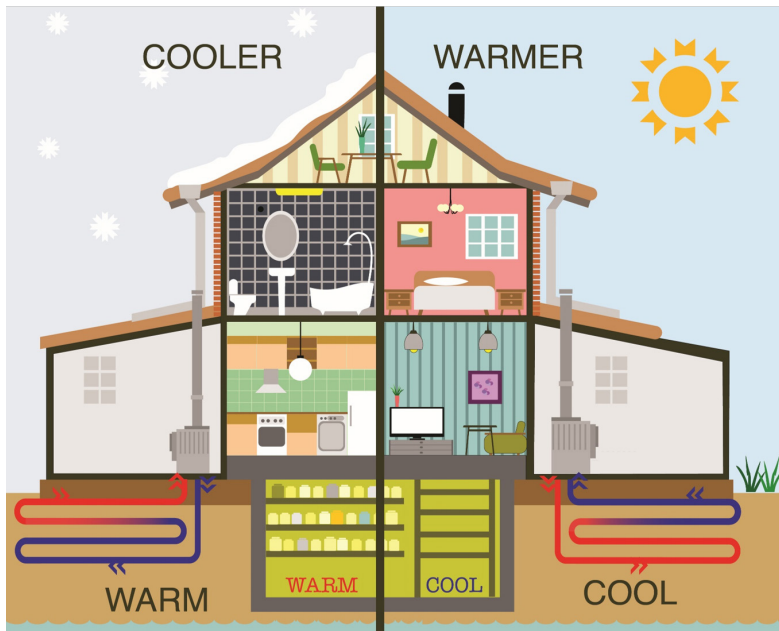
If you don't currently have a generator, WIPCO's member service department can help you determine what size generator you would need based off your usage and highest load potential and give you a quote on what your investment would be.

Western Iowa Power Cooperative is now a dealer for Briggs & Stratton® generators and services all brands.

Contact Member Services for more details on this program.

## HEATING, COOLING, AND WATER HEATING WITH ONE SYSTEM

# GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMPS



SOURCE: NC SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION

You could receive up to  
**\$10,000\***  
in rebates!

\*Rebates vary depending upon size of equipment installed

- Ground source heat pumps (GSHP) absorb heat from the earth, providing abundant, natural energy
- GSHPs have few moving parts; this reduces maintenance needs and increases system durability
- Have up to 500% heating efficiencies. (That's \$5 of heating for every dollar you spend!)

It's simply the BEST home comfort solution, and it's the BEST time to invest in a Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP). While GSHP installation costs are higher than standard, forced-air furnaces and central air conditioners, the increased operating efficiency of the unit allows for shorter payback periods.

WIPCO now offers the highest rebate amounts ever to install GSHPs. **Receive \$1,400/ton for new and \$750/ton on replacement ground-coupled units** (any type, with or without a de-superheater). There has never been a better time for you to consider clean, natural, and affordable energy solutions for your family.

For information about more ways to increase electric efficiency in your home, visit our website at [www.wipco.com/rebates](http://www.wipco.com/rebates) or call our office at 800-253-5189.



## REDUCE ENERGY USE WITHOUT SACRIFICING PERFORMANCE!

WIPCO is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

## 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.**

## Employee Highlight: Billy Haupts, Marathon Runner



**Who:** WIPCO Operations Coordinator, Billy Haupts

**What:** First-time marathon runner

**About:** Billy, his wife, Taylor and two children live in Denison

Here is what Billy said about his experience running in the Des Moines Marathon on October 16:

*Running in a marathon has been a bucket list item of mine for a long time. One year ago, I committed to completing my goal and started training at Yellow Smoke Trail (4 mile) in Denison. A lot of training and support allowed me to reach a*

*comfortable level of conditioning that a marathon requires. I was able to complete the Des Moines Marathon's 26.2 miles in 5 hours and 9 minutes. It was far from the fastest time of 2 hours and 18 minutes, but the experience was rewarding.*

*I will continue to run in the future, but I have no plans to pursue another marathon. The amount of time to reach that level is a large commitment, and I would like to have more of that time to spend with my family.*

Wow--26.2 miles--that makes us tired just thinking about it! We are proud of you and your goal achievement. Great job, Billy!



# WIPCO Informer

from your member-owned Western Iowa Power Cooperative  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

(USPS 9340)

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FAX 712-263-8655  
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FAX 712-433-2725  
wipco@wipco.com

www.wipco.com

## Office & Warehouse Hours

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



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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



Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to boost efficiency.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

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## 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 October newsletter belonged to Earl Liechti and Norman Maynard.

