

WIPCOinformer

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Hiring Summer Help for 2025

Do you know a high school or college student interested in pursuing a career in line work or attending power line school? Western Iowa Power Cooperative is hiring summer help for our operation teams! This is a hands-on opportunity to gain valuable experience, learn the ropes from our skilled professionals, and kick-start your future in the electric cooperative industry. Contact our offices for more information. More information can be found on our website www.wipco.com.



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



Empowering Safety: WIPCO's Safety Demo Week Enlightens Local Students on Electrical Safety

At WIPCO, safety is a top priority. Each year, we welcome fourth-grade students from area schools to our Onawa and Denison offices. They learn where electricity comes from, how it gets to our homes, and basic circuit concepts. Sadie Reisz covers indoor and outdoor safety before students head to the warehouse for live demonstrations with our line crew.

The line crew illustrates what electricity can do to the human body, how to be safe around outlets and power lines, and how outages can occur. The operations team demonstrates the importance of electrical safety by using hot dogs and grapefruits to show the effects of electricity when it comes into contact with the human body. This fun and visual experiment highlights how dangerous it can be to interact with outlets or power lines, making it a memorable way to remind everyone about safety around electricity.



Co-ops Prepare for the Fast-Growing Demand for Electricity

The demand for electric power continues to increase, and America's peak demand is forecast to grow by 38 gigawatts through 2029 – the equivalent of adding another California-sized state to the nation's power grid. At the same time, power producers plan to retire more than 110 gigawatts of base load, or always-available, generation by 2033.

When demand outpaces supply of any commodity – corn, gasoline or electricity for example – prices tend to increase. In addition, there's increasing concern about the potential for rolling outages as power providers struggle to meet peak demands.

Local co-op members may not notice the impact of the supply and demand imbalance for some time, but it's captured the attention of electric co-op directors and their staffs.

"The leadership at many electric co-ops is seeing unprecedented growth in demand," explains Stephanie Crawford, regulatory affairs director for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

A decade ago, a huge commercial project might boost a co-op's total load by 20 or 30 megawatts. "Now they're getting multiple requests for projects in the hundreds of megawatts," she adds.

AI and cloud computing are driving demand

Artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud computing are key drivers of this added demand. As use of AI skyrockets and a greater share of computer applications and storage migrate to the cloud, all that data needs to be stored somewhere. Data centers, which are massive groups of high-capacity computer servers, provide the most efficient way to handle it.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, data centers can consume as much as 50 times the energy per floor space of other types of commercial buildings. A single large data center may use over 100 megawatts of power, the equivalent of powering 80,000 homes. Data centers already account for nearly 2% of the nation's electricity use, and the Electric Power Research Institute predicts that will grow to 9% by 2030.

"It's not only a question of needing to build or obtain more capacity, but in many cases, also creates questions about the availability of transmission and distribution," Crawford notes.

Co-ops focus on knowledge and relationships

For electric co-ops, the efforts fall into two categories: increasing knowledge and building relationships. A generation ago, power supply discussions were fairly straightforward for co-op directors, given the widespread availability of base load generation. Today's directors increasingly find themselves learning about sophisticated and challenging issues as they weigh decisions affecting their co-op's operations and financial viability for years to come.

Co-ops have long emphasized relationship-building, and Crawford stresses that will continue with companies developing large projects such as data centers.

"Early and frequent conversations between the co-op and the entities seeking additional energy are critical," she explains. "That includes honest conversations about the costs and timelines involved."

For example, while a data center project might ultimately need a significant supply of megawatts, if its operations are phased in gradually over several years, the co-op may have additional time to prepare for the

maximum load. They might consider creating a partnership with the project owner to develop new generation assets on the project's site, reducing transmission concerns.

Reliability is a cornerstone

The large tech companies involved in deploying data centers and similar projects are highly sophisticated and well-resourced. They tend to be less interested in obtaining the lowest cost and are more focused on reliability.

"What we're hearing from co-ops is that the companies building data centers typically have done their homework before they start talking to co-ops," Crawford says.

While the developers may be ready to pay for the substantial infrastructure upgrades needed to serve their data centers, she notes that the conversations may end up focusing more on project timelines and data center obligations to remain as co-op member-consumers. In addition to supply chain issues related to transformers and other components that are in increasingly short supply, projects may face regulatory delays at all levels.

While co-ops prepare for projects from organizations new to the co-op, Crawford notes the importance co-op leaders also place on keeping a finger on the pulse of their existing commercial accounts.

"Being proactive and reaching out to understand how a commercial account's energy needs may be changing in the coming years informs conversations and decisions about timing, rate design and other factors, even if they're not making specific requests yet," she says. "That helps the co-op serve emerging needs while protecting the reliability for all of its members."



Alan Schramm Promoted to Director of Finance and Administrative Services



WIPCO is pleased to announce that Alan Schramm has been promoted to Director of Finance and Administrative Services. Alan has been a dedicated member of the WIPCO team for the past eight years, previously serving as our Accounts Payable and Work Order Clerk.

In his new role, Alan will oversee financial planning, budgeting, and administrative operation, ensuring the cooperative remains financially strong while continuing to provide reliable and affordable electricity to our members. We are excited to see Alan take on this leadership position and continue making a positive impact on WIPCO and its members.

Save the Date: 2025 Annual & District Meetings

Mark your calendars for this year's Annual and District Meetings on August 26th in Onawa at the Onawa Community Center and August 28th in Denison at the Stables at Copper Ridge. Our theme this year, "Powering Safety, Preparing for Tomorrow", will highlight emergency management and the joint efforts between utilities and first responders. Stay tuned for more details!



WIPCO Welcomes Bryson Martindale as Operations Intern

WIPCO is excited to welcome Bryson Martindale to our team as an operations intern. Bryson is from Smithland, Iowa and studied Power-line Technology at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon. His passion for the industry and enthusiasm for learning makes him a great addition to our team. When he's not working, Bryson enjoys spending time outdoors, with hunting and fishing among his favorite pastimes. We look forward to seeing all the Bryson accomplishes during his time at WIPCO!



Michael Akers Attends Quad States Instructors Winter Conference



WIPCO's Operations Manager, Michael Akers, recently attended the Quad States Instructors Winter Conference in Charleston, South Carolina. This annual event brings together utility trainers and leaders from Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska

and South Dakota to discuss best practices in safety, training, and workforce development. During the conference, attendees covered a variety of important topics, including DOT regulations, safety protocols, and strategies for overcoming learning curves such as generational gaps in the workforce. By participating in these discussions, Michael gained valuable insights that will help enhance safety training and operational efficiency at WIPCO.



Winter Moratorium Ends April 1, 2025

Iowa's winter home heating moratorium protects customers certified for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), from electric service disconnection from November 1 through April 1. This year, the winter energy assistance disconnection moratorium ends on April 1. Western Iowa Power Cooperative members who are behind on their utility payments are urged to contact us at 712-263-2943 or 800-253-5189 to work out payment options to avoid disconnection. Iowa's not-for-profit electric cooperatives are willing to work with member-owners who have fallen behind on payments to find an agreeable solution; disconnection of service is always a last resort.

Budget Billing - For member-owners with tight budgets, seasonally high electric bills can cause financial strife. WIPCO's "budget billing" payment option ensures consistent electric bills month-to-month, making it easier to budget. If your home utilizes electric heat and/or air-conditioning, this is a great way to avoid those larger seasonal bills that can fluctuate with changes in the weather. To enroll in this billing option, contact WIPCO's billing department or speak to a customer service representative.

State of Iowa Resources - We also encourage anyone who has fallen behind on payments to contact the Iowa Department of Human Rights at (515) 281-3861 regarding eligibility for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP is a federally funded program that provides a one-time per year payment to assist with household heating costs for eligible households. LIHEAP funds are limited, but applications are still being accepted through April 30, 2025. A federally funded Weatherization Assistance Program is also available, which provides long-term financial relief by improving energy efficiency in homes and educating consumers about energy consumption.

Contact your local community action agency outreach office for assistance.

**Crawford County
(LIHEAP and Weatherization information)**

West Central Community Action
145 N 7th Street
Denison, IA 51442
Phone: 712-263-3538
Website: www.westcentralca.org

**Monona County
(LIHEAP and Weatherization information)**

West Central Community Action
801-B 10th Street
Onawa, IA 51040
Phone: 712-423-2603
Website: www.westcentralca.org

RECare - MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

Your Rural Electric Cooperative has always extended a helping hand to those needing it. In response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your REC has established RECare, a program of 'members helping members'.

RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income consumers.

You may make a one-time contribution or you may make a monthly pledge that will be automatically added onto your monthly electric bill. You may also may your contribution part of a matching fund, if there is one established. Your contribution is tax deductible. Even a one dollar a month pledge will help others!

Visit our website <https://www.wipco.com/payment-options> to contribute to RECare.

WIN \$25 OFF YOUR NEXT ENERGY BILL

Hidden somewhere within the pages of each Western Iowa Power Cooperative Informer are two member's location numbers. Find your location number in a monthly newsletter and call our offices by the 20th of that month, and you will receive a \$25.00 credit on your energy bill the following month!

The location numbers in February's newsletter belonged to Greg Healy and Betty Gray.

Energy Issues at the Forefront of the 2025 Legislative Session

Energy policy remains a top priority for Iowa lawmakers in the current state legislative session. Since the 91st General Assembly began on January 13, legislative leaders and Governor Reynolds have emphasized key issues that could impact how electricity reaches Iowans in their homes and businesses. As always, Iowa's electric cooperatives are actively engaged in these discussions to ensure the voices of co-op member-consumers are heard and that the best interests of rural Iowa are considered. 09-23-1335

The following are key legislative issues under discussion and their potential impact on your local electric cooperative:

Service Territory Protections

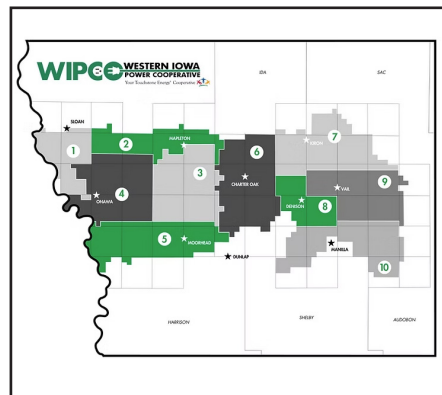
Protecting the state's defined electric service areas remains the top priority for Iowa's electric cooperatives. This law, established nearly 50 years ago, is essential for cooperatives to invest in local economic development, maintain affordable rates and ensure reliable service. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) remains vigilant in safeguarding these protections from legislative proposals that could undermine them. Learn more at www.ProtectRuralIowa.com.

Third-Party Solar Developments

Proposals in the legislature aim to establish third-party community solar programs in Iowa. These arrangements are different from the community solar programs available from some Iowa electric co-ops. You may have received information at your home or heard of neighbors being approached about subscribing to or leasing land for non co-op community solar projects.

While electric cooperatives support a diverse energy generation mix, there

are concerns that these entities do not adhere to the same consumer protection standards required of public utilities. Additionally, these projects could disrupt assigned service territories that are crucial for co-ops. If you have questions about solar energy or are approached by one of these third-party entities, please contact your local cooperative for more information.



Governor's Energy Priorities

Governor Reynolds has outlined several energy-related priorities aimed at shaping Iowa's future in energy generation, transmission and distribution. These initiatives cover a wide range of topics, including how investor-owned utilities plan for and set rates and invest in new energy projects, ways the state of Iowa can examine the potential of nuclear energy, and making funds available for water infrastructure projects.

One issue of particular importance to electric cooperatives is the Right of First Refusal (ROFR). ROFR grants Iowa-based electric utilities the first opportunity to construct and maintain regional transmission projects within the state. Electric cooperatives support ROFR, as it enables Iowa's utilities to continue working together on critical infrastructure projects that help maintain reliable electricity service.

Iowa's utilities employ thousands of Iowans to design, maintain and repair power lines in the state to ensure power continues to flow during our most extreme weather conditions. They invest in our communities and utilize Iowa companies as suppliers while working with landowners to protect Iowans' interests. Learn more at www.IowaElectricHomeTeam.com.

Staying Engaged in the Legislative Process

As the legislative session progresses, your local electric cooperative directors and staff are actively engaging with lawmakers to advocate for policies that protect and strengthen rural Iowa's energy future.

For more information on these issues or to stay updated on legislative developments, please reach out to WIPCO.

Article by Haley Moon, senior manager of policy & advocacy at the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.



Western Iowa Power Cooperative offers a unique and educational experience with its Energy Trail Tour, a hands-on opportunity for members to learn more about the cooperative's services and energy efficiency initiatives. The tour provides an inside look at the technology and infrastructure that power the region, including renewable energy sources, system upgrades, and smart grid technology. Participants can engage with knowledgeable staff, who explain how energy is generated, transmitted, and delivered to homes and businesses. The Energy Trail Tour is designed to help members better understand the cooperative's efforts to improve energy reliability, reduce costs, and support sustainable practices. It's an informative and interactive experience for anyone interested in the future of energy in western Iowa.

Find more information below, and enter for a chance to go on the Energy Trail Tour by clipping the coupon below or by filling out the form on our website.



Energy Trail Tour 2025

Western Iowa Power Cooperative and Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of three Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer. This 3-day adventure will allow you to experience,

first-hand, how your power providers convert energy from water, wind, and coal into electricity. View coal being mined and see how those mines are then returned to productive farm and native grass lands. Enjoy interactive walking tours through a hydroelectric and coal-fired energy generation facility and other stops along the way. Meet other cooperative member-owners while traveling together across the Dakotas on-board a motor-coach bound for the North Dakota's Energy Loop. \$100 per couple covers your lodging, meals and entry fees. The remainder of your tour costs are covered by Western Iowa Power Cooperative. Nine lucky couples from Western Iowa Power Cooperative will be selected at random from those who sign up.



YES, please enter our names in the drawing for the trip. We understand that if our names are drawn, we will be billed \$100.

Our first and second choice of dates:

- | | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|
| June 18-20 | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | (please circle) |
| June 25-27 | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | |
| July 9-11 | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | |

I/we have have not participated in this tour in the past.

First Person _____

Second Person _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Clip this coupon and return to cooperative by April 25, 2025.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Statement of Nondiscrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, USDA, its Mission Areas, agencies, staff, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA Programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Program information may be made available in language other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible Mission Area, agency, or staff office; the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY); or the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at:

<https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of the alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

(2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

(3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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

TORNADO SAFETY & Electrical Hazards

BEFORE THE TORNADO:

- Prepare an emergency kit and keep your devices charged.
- Know your utility company's contact info.

DURING THE TORNADO:

- Take shelter in a basement or windowless room.
- Unplug appliances to avoid power surges; leave one light on to signal power return.
- Avoid power lines if outside or driving; seek shelter immediately.

AFTER THE TORNADO:

- Avoid basements and other flooded areas that are in or near electrical outlets or appliances.
- Do not use water-damaged electrical items until a qualified electrician has inspected them and ensured they are safe.
- Stay at least 50 feet away from downed power lines and any debris they touch.
- Call 9-1-1 for electrical injuries; don't touch victims of electrical contact.

GENERATOR SAFETY:

- Use outdoors, 20+ feet from the home and away from windows and doors.
- Keep the generator dry by placing it under a canopy.
- Never plug it directly into wall outlets. This could energize power lines and injure yourself, neighbors, or utility workers.



Download the WIPCO App

Take control of your energy account with the Western Iowa Power Cooperative app! With just a few taps, you can easily view and pay your bill, monitor your energy usage, and stay updated with important notifications and news from WIPCO. The app is free, user-friendly, and available for download on both iOS and Android devices. It's a convenient way to manage your account anytime, anywhere. 52-01-22765

Search for "Western Iowa Power Cooperative" in your app store and experience the ease of staying connected to your cooperative. Download it today and simplify your energy management!

Leadership

Stephanie Wiese, Interim General Manager

Board of Directors

Janet Iversen, Ross Wood, Craig Riesberg, Gary Volkert, Brian Lundell, Louis Reed, Mike Blum, Bart Heisterkamp, Peter Alexander, Ken Smith

Informer Editor

Sadie Reisz, Communications & Benefits Coordinator



Celebrating St. Patrick's Day: The Power of Green Energy

As we celebrate all things green this St. Patrick's Day, WIPCO is highlight the power of green energy! Our cooperative continues to invest in renewable solutions such as wind and solar energy to provide sustainable power to our members.

Did you know that using energy-efficient appliances and making small changes -- like switching to LED lighting -- can help you save on your electric bill while reducing environmental impact? This March, consider making the switch and going green with WIPCO!



Contact Us

WIPCO Office Hours

📍 809 Highway 39 North, Denison, Iowa
Monday - Friday: 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

📍 413 East Iowa Avenue, Onawa, Iowa
Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Give Us a Call!

Toll Free: 800-253-5189

Find Us Online!

wipco.com
wipco@wipco.com
@WesternIowaPowerCoop