

WIPCO Informer

What's inside...

Message from the Manager	2
Notice of Rate Increase	3
What's Happening at WIPCO	5
2024 Energy Trail Tour	6
Legislative Meetings Recap	7
\$25 Credit--Find Your Location #	8

Onawa Office Hours Update

Effective Monday, March 4th, 2024, we will be changing our Onawa office hours to 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM Monday through Friday. We have been working on a transition plan as Mari Miller, our Onawa Office Supervisor, moves into her well-deserved retirement on March 1st. We are pleased to announce that our Onawa office will remain open each morning to serve our members.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00am-11:00am	8:00am-11:00am	8:00am-11:00am	8:00am-11:00am	8:00am-11:00am

Our Denison headquarters' office hours are 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. Any of our members can call us anytime and we will work to assist you. Even outside of our normal office hours, our after-hours call service is active 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and can be utilized to report outages or any other matters that need to be addressed before the next business day.

If you have a need for assistance in Onawa outside of these office hours, please let us know and we will do everything we can to accommodate your needs. For materials you may wish to purchase, even on short notice, please call the office and we will work with our employees based out of our Onawa office. For any payments you would like to make, the drop box in Onawa will still be available 24/7, and we offer many electronic methods of payment as well. We would be happy to discuss these further with you or to assist with setup as needed.



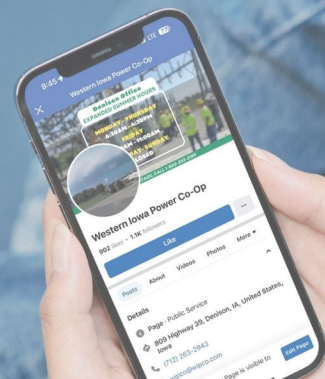
Holiday Closing

The Cooperative's offices and warehouses will be closed, Monday, February 19th for the Presidents Day holiday. Please call 800-253-5189 for outages or emergencies.

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

Want to Stay up-to-
Date on WIPCO
News?

 Like us on
Facebook!





Marcus Rihner
General Manager

In the January edition of the Informer, I utilized this space to describe the cost of service study we were finalizing at WIPCO. As we move into February, this study has been completed, its results analyzed and discussed, and a path forward decided on by our Board of Directors and management. There are many details and factors which weigh into these decisions, but the bottom line is that a base rate increase will be necessary to maintain our levels of reliability and financial stability. This base rate increase, WIPCO's first since 2017, will go into effect on April 1, 2024, and its net impact across our entire membership projects to 3%.

The study and our accompanying financial models indicate that similar additional increases are likely to be needed in future years; however, your Cooperative's directors and management feel it will be best to take this year-by-year rather than instituting a rate increase in an amount larger than that which is needed for 2024. By our very nature, WIPCO is a not-for-profit organization, and keeping our rates as affordable as possible is a pillar of who we are. While rate increases are never a goal, maintaining our reliable electric service at the most affordable rates possible is our most important goal, and one that we take very seriously. It is our hope that these measured increases will make the impact to our members as minimal as possible.

Rising costs in nearly every industry are a common theme in recent years, and the electric industry has been no exception. A few examples of cost increases we have incurred at WIPCO since 2020 include utility poles at a 35% increase, overhead single-phase cable at 77%, and underground transformers at 89%. These items, among many other similar items, are essential to providing electric service. We strive to manage and control as many costs as we can, and to make wise and prudent decisions regarding all of our costs, particularly those we can't control such as the examples listed. We will continue to operate this way, knowing that we need to be good stewards as we improve and maintain your Cooperative's electric system.

The official notice of this rate increase and accompanying details can be found later in this edition of the Informer. If you have any questions for me or for anyone at WIPCO, or if we can help with analyzing your energy usage, understanding your monthly bill, or ways to pay your bill more conveniently (including autopay, our mobile app, or budget billing), please contact us at 712-263-2943 or 1-800-253-5189.

As an electric cooperative, WIPCO's governance structure is set up so that each of our directors lives on our lines, and many of our employees – including myself – are WIPCO members as well. Decisions made on our rates directly affect us along with the rest of our members, and they are not decisions that we take lightly. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you as WIPCO's General Manager, and to communicate with you on matters such as these. Please reach out to me with any questions you may have!

Notice of Rate Increase

3

January 25, 2024

Dear Member:

On January 24th, 2024, Western Iowa Power Cooperative's Board of Directors approved an increase in rates and charges affecting prices for electric service that you receive. The increase will apply to your usage beginning on April 1st, 2024.

The increase in annual revenues will be approximately \$434,804 or 3%.

Although the effect of the increase on your bill will vary depending upon the type and extent of usage, the average monthly increase per customer for the primary customer classes are:

<i>Customer Class</i>	Percentage Increase
<i>Single Phase</i>	2.7%
<i>Multi-Phase</i>	1.9%
<i>Interruptible Controlled</i>	3.4%
<i>Dual Heat</i>	3.3%
<i>Electric Heat Uncontrolled</i>	4.1%
<i>Controlled Irrigation</i>	4.9%
<i>Uncontrolled Irrigation</i>	2.3%
<i>Large Power</i>	3.3%
<i>Generator Interruptible Single Phase</i>	0.7%
<i>Generator Interruptible Multi-Phase</i>	2.3%
<i>Special Grain Bin</i>	0.0%
<i>Idle Service</i>	14.3%
<i>Security Light Maintenance Fee</i>	5.3%
<i>Security Light Rental Fee</i>	6.4%

A written explanation of current rate schedules and charges is available without charge from our local business office. If you have any questions, please contact our business office at 712-263-2943.

A rate chart is provided on page 4 of this newsletter. The chart lists the current rates and the new rates effective April 1, 2024.

Sincerely,

Janet Iversen
Board President

Marcus Rihner
Executive VP & General Manager

OLD RATE

Western Iowa Power Cooperative
Effective Date 4/1/2017

SINGLE PHASE

Base Charge \$35.00
First 2,000 KWH @ \$0.1374 per KWH
Balance KWH @ \$0.1201 per KWH

MULTI PHASE

Base Charge \$70.00
First 2,000 KWH @ \$0.1261 per KWH
Balance KWH @ \$0.1078 per KWH

ENERGY EFFECIENCY RATE

Base Charge \$4.00
Dual Heat \$0.0702 per KWH
Interruptible Controlled \$0.0702 per KWH
Electric Heat \$0.900 per KWH

IRRIGATION SERVICE – CONTROLLED

Annual HP Charge HP @ \$16.50 per HP
Energy Charge KWH @ \$0.0985 per KWH

IRRIGATION SERVICE – UNCONTROLLED

Annual HP Charge HP @ 16.50 per HP
Energy Charge KWH @ \$0.0985 per KWH
Monthly HP Charge HP @ \$10.50 per HP

LARGE POWER SERVICE

Base Charge N/A
Energy Charge
 First 100 KWH of Demand @ \$0.0510 per KWH
 Excess KWH @ \$0.0433 per KWH
Demand Charge @ \$21.00 per KW
Minimum Monthly Charge @ 0.7500 per KVA

GENERATOR INTERRUPTIBLE SINGLE PHASE

Base Charge \$35.00
Penalty Charge \$300.00
Energy Charge KWH @ \$0.0790 per KWH

GENERATOR INTERRUPTIBLE MULTI PHASE

Base Charge \$70.00
Penalty Charge \$300.00
Energy Charge KWH @ 0.0790 per KWH

SPECIAL GRAIN BIN

Base Charge \$150.00
Energy Charge
 First 5000 KWH KWH @ \$0.2066 per KWH
 Excess KWH KWH @ \$0.1866 per KWH

SECURITY LIGHTS

Maintenance Fee \$4.75 per light
Rental Fee \$10.20 per light

IDLE SERVICES

Flat Fee \$17.50 per idle service

NEW RATE

Western Iowa Power Cooperative
Effective Date 4/1/2024

SINGLE PHASE

Base Charge \$40.00
First 2,000 KWH @ \$0.1374 per KWH
Balance KWH @ \$0.1201 per KWH

MULTI PHASE

Base Charge \$80.00
First 2,000 KWH @ \$0.1261 per KWH
Balance KWH @ \$0.1078 per KWH

ENERGY EFFECIENCY RATE

Base Charge \$6.00
Dual Heat \$0.07100 per KWH
Interruptible Controlled \$0.07100 per KWH
Electric Heat \$0.9200 per KWH

IRRIGATION SERVICE – CONTROLLED

Annual HP Charge HP @ \$18.50 per HP
Energy Charge KWH @ \$0.0985 per KWH

IRRIGATION SERVICE – UNCONTROLLED

Annual HP Charge HP @ 18.50 per HP
Energy Charge KWH @ \$0.0985 per KWH
Monthly HP Charge HP @ \$10.50 per HP

LARGE POWER SERVICE

Base Charge \$100.00
Energy Charge
 First 100 KWH of Demand @ \$0.0510 per KWH
 Excess KWH @ \$0.0433 per KWH
Demand Charge @ \$21.00 per KW
Minimum Monthly Charge @ 0.7500 per KVA

GENERATOR INTERRUPTIBLE SINGLE PHASE

Base Charge \$40.00
Penalty Charge \$300.00
Energy Charge KWH @ \$0.0790 per KWH

GENERATOR INTERRUPTIBLE MULTI PHASE

Base Charge \$80.00
Penalty Charge \$300.00
Energy Charge KWH @ 0.0790 per KWH

SPECIAL GRAIN BIN

Base Charge \$150.00
Energy Charge
 First 5000 KWH KWH @ \$0.2066 per KWH
 Excess KWH KWH @ \$0.1866 per KWH

SECURITY LIGHTS

Maintenance Fee \$5.00 per light
Rental Fee \$10.85 per light

IDLE SERVICES

Flat Fee \$20.00 per idle service

Students can apply now for a trip to Washington D.C., from June 15-21!

High school students interested in government and public service are encouraged to apply!

Learn more at

wipco.com/iowa-youth-tour



Youth Tour deadline is approaching

Western Iowa Power Cooperative will send one student on an all-expense paid Youth Tour Trip to Washington, D.C., in June of 2024!

At Western Iowa Power Cooperative, one way that we invest in the next generation of rural Iowa leaders is by participating in the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Program. We are looking for high school sophomores and juniors with a passion for government and public service to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital in June.

One student will be selected from eligible candidates to attend the 2024 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 15th to June 21st along with 40 other student leaders from Iowa. The Iowa Youth Tour group will join with hundreds of students from across the country as they learn more about electric cooperatives and American history and come home with a greater understanding of their role as American citizens. Students will also learn about U.S. government and meet with their members of Congress. On the trip, students take in the sights of D.C. as they visit monuments, museums, and historical landmarks. Students who go on Youth Tour often call it the trip of a lifetime!

We are accepting Youth Tour applications from January 1st, 2024 to March 1st, 2024. Children of Western Iowa Power Cooperative members OR students attending high schools in the communities we serve are eligible to apply; the student must be a current sophomore or junior. Students will be asked to fill out an application with a few short answer questions, and their application will be decided on by the committee. After the tour, the student will be asked to record a video or come speak at our annual meeting about what they learned while on the trip and how the trip benefited them.

You can download the application at www.wipco.com/youth-tour or stop by our office for a printed copy. Contact Sadie Reisz, Communications and Benefits Coordinator, at 712-263-2943 or sadie.reisz@wipco.com for more information.

For more than 65 years, Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives have been sending deserving students to D.C. This program is a great resume builder for student leaders and a wonderful opportunity to kick-start one's passion for government affairs or advocacy. Make sure to apply for Youth Tour 2024 by March 1st, 2024!

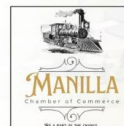
Revolving Loan Funds

Western Iowa Power Cooperative created the Community and Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to improve the quality of life in rural areas by contributing to long-term improvement in the local economy. 28-19-3165

The RLF is a local funding source with the goal of providing low-interest loans to assist with local economic and community development projects. Our priorities include job creation and retention, diversification of the local economy, improving the skills of the rural workforce, and upgrading the public infrastructure to improve the health, safety, and medical care of rural residents. This fund is administered by Western Iowa Power Cooperative's Board of Directors. To learn more about WIPCO's Revolving Loan Fund, visit our website, www.wipco.com/revolving-loan-fund!



BURGESS
Health Center



6 Your Source of Power and Information

Ready to Hit the Road, Energy Trail Tours 2024

Flip a switch, and the lights come on. Behind this simple action lies a complex network of people, power plants, and transmission lines working around the clock. Their mission is to ensure safe, affordable, and reliable electricity flows to more than 140 member cooperatives in nine states. 62-05-1063

This summer, WIPCO members will join members from thirteen other Western and North Central Iowa electric cooperatives on a three-day excursion through the Dakotas to learn about where their electricity comes from and have some fun along the journey. The tours are part of WIPCO's commitment to providing education for directors, employees, and members.

If you would like to be a part of this experience this year, please find more information below, on our website, or on our Facebook!



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 26-28 1st 2nd 3rd (please circle)
July 10-12 1st 2nd 3rd
July 24-26 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 May 1, 2024.



Electric Co-Ops Advocate for Rural Iowa Priorities

WIPCO recently hosted state and area legislators in Denison, Iowa. The gathering, held on December 15th and hosted in collaboration with North West REC and Raccoon Valley REC, served as a platform for open dialogue on local concerns and rural priorities. Representatives from the cooperative, alongside community leaders, engaged in discussions covering a spectrum of topics, from infrastructure development to environmental sustainability and access to essential services. Notable attendees included Senator Jason Schultz and Representative Brian Best.

Highlighting their commitment to collaborative efforts, WIPCO extended its outreach to a legislative meeting in Sioux City on December 18th. Hosted by NIPCO in collaboration with North West REC, Iowa Lakes REC, Woodbury County REC, and WIPCO, this additional engagement emphasized the importance of working together to address shared challenges across different communities within the state. The cooperative actively participated in discussions, underlining its dedication to supporting initiatives that enhance the overall well-being and development of rural Iowa. Legislators in attendance included U.S. Representative Randy Feenstra, Iowa Senator Kevin Alons, and Iowa Representative Ken Carlson, among others.

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 and 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 make your contribution part of a matching fund, if there is one established. Your contribution is tax deductible. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others!

Member Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be part of Members helping Members and contribute to RECare.

___ I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.

___ I will contribute \$_____ per month to RECare. I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.

___ My fund is a matching fund gift.

The matching fund is _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Account No. _____

Mail to: Western Iowa Power Cooperative, PO Box 428, Denison, IA 51442-2705

(USPS 9340)

Contact Us

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Marcus Rihner, Executive V.P./General
 Manager

Sadie Reisz, Editor

**“This institution is an equal
 opportunity provider and
 employer”**

Safety Tip

Start discussions about electrical equipment and safety when children are young. When babyproofing your home, don't forget about potential electrical hazards. Learn child safety tips at SafeElectricity.org.

**FARM40
 FREE**

KDSN
 FM 105 • AM 1530

Back again for 2024 is KDSN's Farm 40 Free contest! If you have 40 acres available to farm in corn or soybeans this coming spring, register to win all the inputs at Western Iowa Power Cooperative! Be on the lookout for this upcoming contest with KDSN Radio Station. Western Iowa Power Cooperative is a proud sponsor of Farm 40 Free by KDSN. For more information, visit kdsnradio.com!

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 January newsletter belonged to Bradley Otto and Donal Rieger.

**SAVE
 \$25**

**DOWNLOAD OUR
 MOBILE APP!**

ANDROID APP ON **Google play** Download on the **App Store**