

CURRENT CONNECTION

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Calhoun County REC

Rockwell City, IA 50579 • (712) 297-7112 • (800) 821-4879

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



by CEO
Roxanne
Carisch

What is the Clean Power Plan?

If you've been following news of the electric industry lately, you've probably heard something about the Clean Power Plan. As part of our cooperative principle to inform and educate our member-owners, here's the latest on the Clean Power Plan and what it means for Iowa:

In August 2015, President Obama and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the final rules of the Clean Power Plan, which aim to reduce the nation's carbon emissions from fossil-fueled power plants 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. (The EPA is using its authority under section 111 of the Clean Air Act to issue regulations, which the Supreme Court ruled in 2011 provides the legal authority to control carbon emissions from America's fleet of fossil-fueled power plants.) 9C12IA

Each state must submit an initial state implementation plan (SIP) to the EPA by September 2016; states can receive extensions to complete their plan submissions by September 2018. The plans must include enforceable emission limits that plants must comply with starting in 2022 and ramping up to full strength by 2030.

The EPA set carbon emission limits for each state's power plants based on three reduction approaches, or

"building blocks," and states can pick from a number of policy approaches to reduce carbon emissions in compliance with the Clean Power Plan. The three building blocks are:

1. Improved efficiency at power plants
2. Shifting generation from higher emitting steam electric generating units (GEUs) to lower-emitting natural gas power plants
3. Shifting generation to renewables

What does it mean for Iowa?

For Iowa, the final 2030 rate-based emissions limit for power plants in the state is 1,283 pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt-hour, which is a 42 percent reduction from Iowa's 2012 emission rate of 2,195 pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt-hour.

There are twenty-one 111(d) facilities owned by municipalities, investor-owned utilities and electric cooperatives in Iowa. Several of Iowa's oldest and highest emitting coal plants have already been retired or are slated to be retired or converted to natural gas by 2025. The state currently generates 30% of its electricity from renewable sources and wind capacity is expected to increase by more than 3,200 megawatts by 2022. Iowa utilities are currently working with stakeholders to formulate a state implementation plan (SIP) to meet EPA's Clean Power Plan regulations, which will be implemented and enforced by

the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The validity of the Clean Power Plan is currently under review in the court system. In February 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled to halt implementation of the regulations until litigation is concluded. Oral arguments on the Clean Power Plan's legality will be heard at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on June 2, 2016, and the decision will most likely be appealed to the Supreme Court which may not review the case until early 2017 or later.

Iowa's electric cooperatives are committed to environmentally responsible electricity, and must also balance grid reliability and affordability for our member-owners. We are at the beginning of a multi-year process of complex regulations and we'll keep you informed along the way as events unfold. If you have questions or concerns about the Clean Power Plan, please contact Roxanne Carisch at 712-297-7112 or rcarisch@calhounrec.coop



Calhoun County REC spent the day at the Iowa Capitol

Over 200 cooperative supporters, including representatives from Calhoun County REC traveled to Des Moines on Wednesday, March 16, to advocate for electric cooperatives. The co-op representatives met for a briefing to receive updates on state and federal legislative issues. Representatives then traveled to the Capitol where they met with their local elected officials during a dessert social.

The co-ops focused on educating legislators about four issues important to the electric cooperatives: utility-owned solar, a skilled workforce in the state, line personnel safety and rural economic development. Many cooperatives developed booth displays that provided information on topics such as: community engagement, renewable energy, youth involvement, lineman equipment costs and energy efficiency.



(l to r) Board President Jim Miller, CEO Roxanne Carisch, Senator Kraayenbrink, Staff Assistant Lonnie Holder, Marilyn Birkland and Director Beryl Birkland

Membership – Single or Joint

Joint memberships are allowed for Calhoun County REC member-consumers according to provisions in the Articles of Incorporation. (Article V).

Please read the following questions and answers to consider whether or not you and your spouse should consider a joint membership.

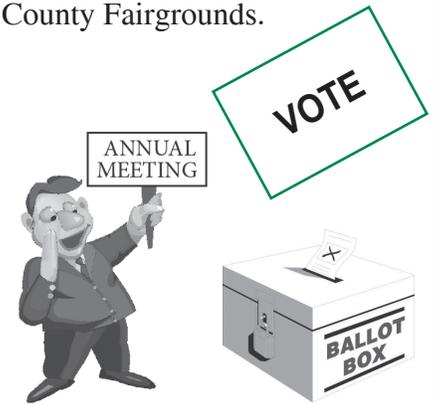
- 1. What are the advantages of a joint membership?**
 - a. With a joint membership, either spouse is eligible to serve on the Board of Directors or the Nominating Committee. 13C27GA
 - b. Either one or the other may vote at a Cooperative business meeting.
- 2. Does a joint membership entitle both the husband and wife a vote at a Cooperative business meeting?**
 - a. No. A membership, whether single or joint, has one vote. Either spouse may cast the vote, but the joint membership has only one vote.
- 3. What happens to the patronage dividends if either the husband or wife dies with a joint membership?**
 - a. If a husband and wife hold a joint membership and one dies, the membership is considered to be held by the survivor. Ownership assignment of the patronage dividends is transferred to the surviving spouse.
 - b. In the case of a single membership, if the member dies, the surviving spouse must take out a new membership in his or her name. The patronage dividends are paid out to the deceased spouse's estate and are not assigned to the surviving spouse's new membership.

Forms to change your membership are available at the Calhoun County REC office. Please call or write if you would like more information about memberships.

80th Annual Meeting

September 7, 2016
Mark your calendar!

Please Note: To better accommodate our members, this year's Annual Meeting will be held at the Rockwell City Community Center, located in the City Park at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds.



While much has changed since 1936, your Cooperative has achieved the key or primary goal of its founding fathers—providing competitively priced electricity and reliable power to our member-owners in rural Iowa. Calhoun County REC will continue to use its integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community as the strong foundation for doing the right thing today, tomorrow and in serving future generations of our member-owners.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

QUICK CUCUMBER SALAD

INGREDIENTS:

2 cups thinly sliced and peeled cucumber
1/4 cup white balsamic vinegar
2 tablespoons olive oil (optional)
1 teaspoon white sugar
1/2 teaspoon dried dill weed
2 tomatoes, chopped, or more to taste
salt to taste



DIRECTIONS:

Spread cucumber slices in a thin layer on a large platter. Sprinkle salt generously over the cucumber. Let salt soak into cucumber slices for about 30 minutes. Transfer cucumber to a colander and rinse with cold water; drain thoroughly and transfer to a dry surface. Pat cucumbers dry with paper towel. Whisk vinegar, olive oil, sugar, and dill together in a large bowl. Add cucumber slices and tomatoes; toss to coat.

Honor Electrical Safety Month

May is Electrical Safety Month, a good time to focus on how to keep safe after a storm.

It's not hard to understand why safety remains a top priority for us. Working around electricity is a life-or-death situation every day for many of your co-op's employees. As a result, we work hard to instill a culture of safety that our folks can take home with them and live 24/7

Honor Electrical Safety Month by fashioning an emergency action plan for your family today. Learn more about weathering storms safely at www.beready.iowa.gov.

Touchstone Energy Co-op Values

Integrity | Accountability | Innovation | Commitment to Community

SPOT YOUR NUMBER

Darrell Cline, Clayton Corey and Bruce Long missed their opportunity to receive a **\$10** electric bill credit.

Don't forget to read the newsletter and check for your location number.

If your location number is spotted, call Calhoun County REC by the 15th of the month and receive a **\$10** credit on your next electric bill.

** Location numbers are located on billing statements. **

COMING SOON...

Several new payment options will be offered soon to members of Calhoun County REC. In addition to these new payment options, we will be able to provide more opportunities for online and mobile account management and usage information. Keep watching for more news on this topic. More information will be provided on our website at www.calhounrec.coop and in our newsletter in the months to come.

Pole treatment program continues



Calhoun County REC will soon start its 31st year of pole testing treatment and replacement program. This summer Ameripole Company will be testing around 800 poles for the Cooperative.

Don't be alarmed if someone starts digging around REC poles. By changing out the rotted poles and extending the life of the treated poles we will be able to provide you with even more dependable electric service in the future. Ameripole will be testing poles in the following Townships: Butler and Williams townships in Calhoun County and Cedar and Colfax townships in Pocahontas County.

To date, 28,368 poles have been inspected and 1,204 have been replaced.

Board allocates \$125,000 back to our members

At the April 20, 2016 Board of Directors meeting, board members approved allocating to cooperative member-owners \$125,000 of the 2015 operating margins.

Your share of the allocated margin, called deferred patronage dividends or capital credits, is based on the total dollar amount of your 2015 electric bill with Calhoun County REC.

A message will appear on a future energy bill identifying your 2015 allocation. (This information is only a notice for you and cannot be treated as cash or deducted from your bill.)

We are happy to be able to provide you with these capital credits. *It pays to be a member!*

Contractor conference promotes energy efficiency

Iowa's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives sponsored the annual "Momentum Is Building" conference Feb. 11-12, 2016 at the Sheraton West Des Moines hotel.

Momentum Is Building offers up-to-date building science information, practical hands-on information and new technology displays for building trades professionals – including homebuilders, electricians, and heating-plumbing contractors. Rural electric cooperative personnel from across the state also attended.

Attendees from Calhoun County REC include Member Service Representative Keaton Hildreth and Contractor Dennis Gentry. "Attending Momentum Is Building allows building trades professionals from our area to find out what's new in the industry – techniques as well as products – and to hear from the experts about what is happening in Iowa and around the country. Attendees also can obtain the continuing education they need to stay current in their professions," says Keaton Hildreth. 11C15BA

Nationally recognized speakers shared their knowledge on topics including the future of home building (including a look at energy efficiency, installation techniques and building products), electric and mechanical/plumbing code updates, home automation, safety and lighting. Momentum Is Building also includes a trade show so attendees can visit with companies and find out about new products.

Sponsorship for the conference comes from Iowa's rural electric cooperatives, along with support by the Iowa Energy Center.

More information about the recent conference: <http://www.momentumisbuilding.com/>.



Memorial Day May 30th

Remember those who served

The Calhoun County REC will be closed Monday, May 30th to observe Memorial Day

For outages & emergencies only call 712--297-7112 or 800-821-4879.

Bravo Graduates!!



Calhoun County REC would like to wish all the 2016 High School Graduates the very best in their new ventures!



Calhoun County REC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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