



# WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative  
*Reliable. Affordable. Responsible*



November 2016

## Win a trip to Washington, D.C. - Rural Electric Youth Tour 2017

An all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. June 9-15, 2017 along with a \$500 scholarship will be awarded to one young person from this area. 08.34.02

Contest applicants must currently be a high school junior residing in the RVEC service area, either town or country. However, the parents do not have to be Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative members.

Based on the highest test score of an open book and essay exam, RVEC will award one contest winner a five day all expense paid trip to the nation's capitol. The winner will also receive a \$500 scholarship to use during their first year of college or secondary school. Study material and the exam will be mailed after the application deadline of January 27th.

Further information and applications may be obtained by contacting RVEC at 712.659.3649 or <http://youthtour.iowarec.org/> or <http://youthtour.coop/>.



### YOUTH TOUR CONTEST APPLICATION

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

(Must currently be a high school junior to enter)

We certify that we are the parents or legal guardians of the above youth and give our permission for the youth to participate in the trip to Washington, D.C. should he or she be declared the winner; and further agrees that his or her entry will become the property of the Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Youth Tour Contest, RVEC, PO Box 486 Glidden, IA 51443

## Property Taxes Paid

Property taxes are used to help fund such important things as education and city and county government. You might not be aware of it, but your Cooperative pays property taxes. Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) receives a tax bill for the poles, wires, transformers, etc. out on the line and another tax bill for the office and warehouse. RVEC pays taxes in nine different counties that we serve. 29.02.03

The following is a breakdown of the property taxes paid in 2016.

County	Taxes Paid
Audubon County	\$3,361
Buena Vista County	\$129
Calhoun County	\$599
Carroll County	\$37,119
Crawford County	\$50
Greene County	\$2,733
Guthrie County	\$345
Ida County	\$64
Sac County	\$19,726

## Resolve To Be An Active Cooperative Member This Year

Make 2017 the year you convert from a customer of your electric cooperative to a member-owner. 14.35.02

The fact is: You're already a member-owner. You buy your electricity from a utility that is organized as a member-owned cooperative, which means every one of its customers "owns" a part of it.

As a member-owner, you have some privileges that customers of investor-owned, city electric companies don't have. For example, you have

the right to vote in elections for the cooperative's board of directors.

You can even run for the board yourself if you want to. Any cooperative member-owner can.

This year, become an active member-owner. Start by planning to attend your cooperative's annual meeting.

How many other kinds of businesses give you a say? Exercise your membership privileges and get involved with your cooperative this year.

## Recycle - don't trash - old holiday light strands

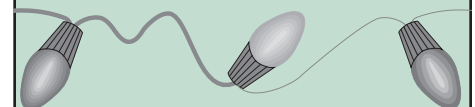
If you're replacing those old energy-sapping Christmas tree lights for efficient, cool-to-the-touch LED strands this year, don't throw the old ones in the trash. Recycle them.

A few of the big box stores, Christmas specialty stores and others are collecting incandescent holiday lights and recycling the glass, plastic and copper wire. Some stores will trade your old strands for discounts on new, LED holiday lights, which can last for 12 Christmases and lower your holiday-season electric bill. 12.11.01

Most of these places accept used and even broken lights.

LED decorations cost a bit more than traditional incandescent bulbs, but they save you money in the long run because they burn less energy. You'll find LEDs rated both for indoor and outdoor use. Because they don't get hot, they pose less of a fire hazard than your old tree lights.

You can buy LED holiday lights at the same stores that sell incandescent lights.



### - Outage Information -

If you don't have power or have an emergency call 712.659.3649.

RVEC phones are answered 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

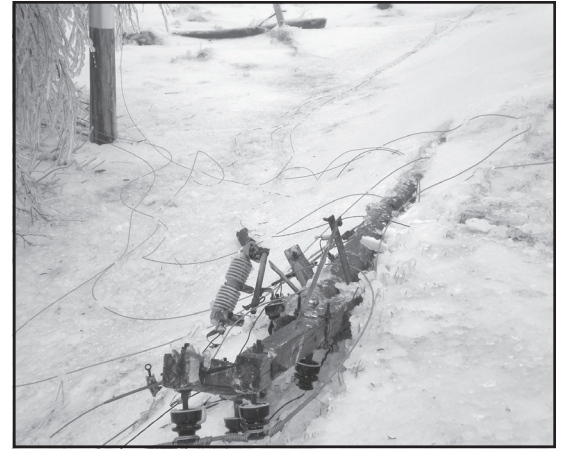
## Prepare for stormy weather

Severe wind, heavy snow and long-lasting storms can leave your home temporarily without power or worse: You could be unable to stay in your home if it is damaged by fallen trees or lightning.

Be prepared to stay safe and comfortable if your family finds itself without electricity—or without access to your home—for a little while.

Some tips:

1. Create a weather emergency plan for your family. Jot down important phone numbers for your electric cooperative, the local pharmacy, your doctor, your closest neighbors and family members. Figure out how to get out of your house in case the front and back doors are blocked by snow or a fallen tree. Drive around the neighborhood during nice weather to familiarize yourself with multiple exit routes in case any roads are closed. And agree on a place where everyone in your household will meet if you can't stay at home. 38.22.02
2. Fill a backpack or a cooler with a couple of days' worth of food and water. Toss in a flashlight, a portable radio, a first-aid kit, some cash and your medicine. You can take that with you to a shelter, a hotel or a friend's house, depending where you plan to stay until your home is safe to live in again.
3. Before the bad weather starts, turn off your water heater, stove and air conditioning units. Unplug TVs, stereos, the microwave oven and computers. This will prevent damage to appliances during the storm and when the electricity suddenly comes back on.
4. Leave one light switch on so you will know when the power is back.
5. Keep extra batteries in multiple sizes on hand. Invest in a battery-operated radio, some reliable flashlights and battery-powered, flameless "candles."
6. Stay far away from fallen power lines. Assume any utility wire that you find is "live" and will harm you — or kill you — if you touch it. Call RVEC to report any damaged wires or utility poles.
7. Teach your children about the harm electric power lines can cause to someone who touches them.



### Sign up to receive Smart Choices, our monthly e-newsletter

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) offers Smart Choices as a way to keep in touch with members with energy efficiency news and important local information. Smart Choices readers also find out about drawings for prizes, special promotions and more. Sign up today by completing the form below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

# WATTS CURRENT

Published monthly by  
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

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Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative  
(RVEC) is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer.



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Touchstone Energy®  
The power of human connections

All of us at  
**Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC)**  
wish you and your family a joyful holiday season!  
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC)

will be **CLOSED** for  
Christmas Day - December 26th &  
New Year's Day - January 2nd

## Complaint Procedure

The Iowa Utility Board requires that all non-rate regulated utilities post the following notice to its membership:

If a member-consumer has a problem with his/her service, please write or call:

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative  
P.O. Box 486  
Glidden, Iowa 51443  
712.659.3649

If the member-consumer's complaint is related to Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative's (RVEC) service rather than its rates, and RVEC does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the:

Iowa Utilities Board  
1375 E. Court Avenue  
Room 69  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
877.565.4450



## Are You On Life Support?

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) has a list of members who depend on electricity to run life support equipment. If you are on this list, you have priority during an outage or you are notified when a planned maintenance is scheduled. 34.24.02

If you, or someone in your family, is on life support call RVEC and verify your name is on our list.

## Spot Your Number

Read Watts Current and watch for your location number. If you spot it, call RVEC by the 20th of the month and you will receive an electrical bill credit for \$10.00.