



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Reliable. Affordable. Responsible



May 2017

RVEC Advocates for Co-op Member-Owners in Washington, D.C.

RVEC, along with more than 35 representatives from dozens of Iowa's not-for-profit electric cooperatives, recently returned from a successful trip to the nation's capital. While in Washington, D.C., the advocates attended high-level briefings on key issues impacting the electric industry and met with Iowa's Congressional Delegation to discuss priorities. While many issues were discussed, Iowa's electric co-ops focused on the President's budget proposal and geothermal tax credits.

The purpose of the trip is to ensure that elected officials are fully aware of the thoughts and concerns of their constituents who are served by rural electric cooperatives.

Iowa advocates met with Doug Hoelscher, Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Michael Catanzaro, Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Energy and Environmental Policy, to discuss the "first 100 days" of the Trump Administration which has included Executive Orders on regulations such as the Clean Power Plan and Waters of the U.S. Hoelscher, a native Iowan, discussed the Administration's accomplishments since taking office and detailed some of the President's budget proposals recently released in what is referred to as the "Skinny Budget". While the impacts on programs varied, Hoelscher made clear to the RECs that the President is serious about the country's debt and deficit problem. Catanzaro detailed the work of the Administration on environment and energy regulations and urged groups like the IAEC to continue to engage the Administration with ideas about how to reduce regulatory burdens that prevent the delivery of reliable and affordable energy to consumers.

In meetings with the Senate Agricultural Committee and USDA Rural Development officials, Iowa electric co-op advocates talked about the importance of the Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant program (REDL&G) and how these investments have improved the quality of life in the rural communities we serve. 06.23.01

Key issues were discussed with the staff of Iowa's six Congressional offices. Information was provided on the following issues:

- * **Farm Bill Reauthorization:** Iowa's electric co-ops urged Congressional Delegation members to protect Title VI Rural Development Programs and reminded them about the pivotal role many of the Rural Development and Energy programs play in Iowa.
- * **REDL&G Funding at Risk:** The Department of Agriculture's budget proposes a 21 percent reduction for discretionary spending which would eliminate funding for the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDL&G) program used by many Iowa electric cooperatives. We believe USDA programs like the REDL&G program need to be maintained, if not expanded, rather than eliminated. REDL&G is a program that excels at creating jobs and opportunity in rural Iowa.



Directors Karen Werner, Mark Ludwig and Dennis Kennebeck advocated for RVEC. Not pictured is Director Steve Seidl and CEO Roxanne Carisch.

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Run ceiling fans to stay comfortable

Installing and running ceiling fans during the summer will make you feel cooler and more comfortable while you are in a room where one is operating.

Because the fans move the air, they create a subtle breeze that feels good when it blows across your skin.

So running a fan in an unoccupied room is a waste of energy. If nobody is there to feel the breeze, there's no reason to create it.

A ceiling fan doesn't cool the house; it just makes someone who is sitting or standing nearby feel cooler.

So turn off your fans when you leave a room, and flip them back on when you return.

A tip: Installing ceiling fans in rooms where your family spends the most time is a good investment in energy efficiency. When you run a ceiling fan, your comfort level will increase so much that you can turn the a/c thermostat up by 4 degrees without feeling any difference.

Membership – Single or Joint

Joint memberships are allowed for RVEC member-owners according to provisions in the Articles of Incorporation. 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?**
 - With a joint membership, either spouse is eligible to serve on the Board of Directors or the Nominating Committee.
 - Either one or the other may vote at a Cooperative Annual Meeting.
2. **Does a joint membership entitle both the husband and wife a vote at a Cooperative Annual Meeting?**
 - 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?**
 - If a husband and wife hold a joint membership and one of the two dies, the membership is considered to be held by the survivor. Ownership assignment of the patronage is transferred to the surviving spouse. 21.28.01
 - 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 is paid out to the deceased spouse's estate and is not assigned to the surviving spouse's new membership.

Forms to change your membership are available at the RVEC office. Look at the name on your electric bill to see if you have a single or joint membership.

Please call if you would like more information about memberships.



**RVEC will be
CLOSED**

**Tuesday, July 4th for
Independence Day.**

***Have a Safe
and Happy Holiday!***

**Every Degree
=
Dollars**

\$SAVE!

**Don't let summer heat
burn your budget.
When home, set your
thermostat to 78°.**

Going out for the day?
By turning your
thermostat up 10°-15°
when you're out of the
house, you can cut your
electric bill by up to
15 percent. That's a savings
of up to 1 percent for
every degree you raise
your thermostat (*based
on eight hours*).

78°

Source: EnergySavers.gov

Plant in the Right Place

Did you know that carefully positioned trees can save up to 25% of a household's energy consumption for heating and cooling? The Department of Energy states that on average, a well-designed landscape provides enough energy savings to return your initial investment in less than eight years. 09.26.03

If planting trees and shrubs are part of your landscaping projects this year, be sure to plant the right way. Don't plant under or near power lines. Trees and limbs that come in contact with power lines cause numerous problems including outages, fires and endanger children climbing trees. Storms and winds can also cause branches to rub on power lines causing blinking lights in your home. Trees interfering with power lines are one of the top reasons for power outages.

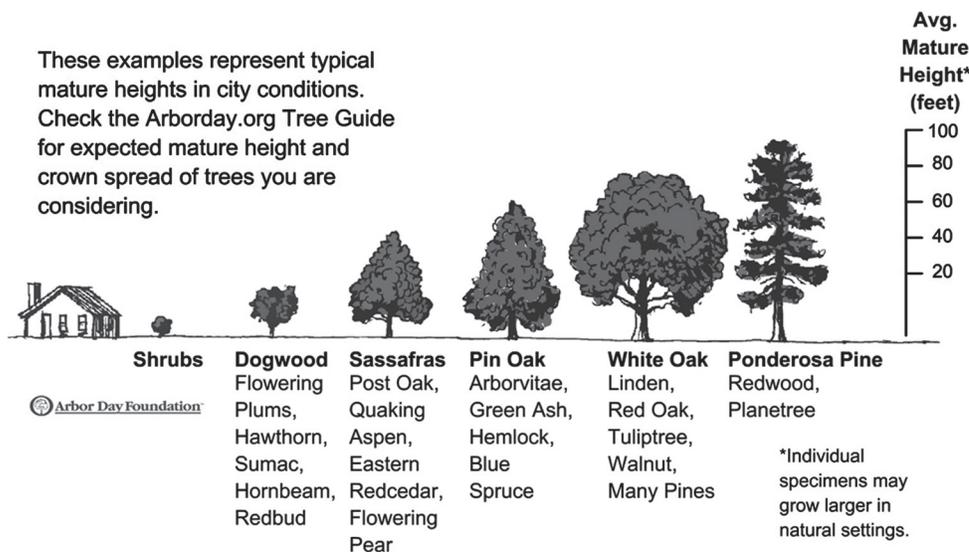
Before you plant trees, consider what the tree's mature height will likely be. Take the mature height of the tree and plant it that distance from the power line. For example, if the tree you are planting will be 60 feet tall, plant the tree 60 feet away from the power line. See the diagram below for the average mature height of some common trees.

If limbs grow into the proximity of power lines, RVEC may trim the tree to prevent damage to the line and eliminate potential hazards and outages. We will not trim beyond what is necessary to ensure public safety and reliability of service.

Before planting shrubs, check your property for any easement that may restrict where trees or shrubs can be placed. Planting should not limit accessibility to electrical equipment.

Always remember to plan ahead when you plant. You can avoid potential problems and enjoy many benefits by properly selecting and placing your trees and shrubs.

These examples represent typical mature heights in city conditions. Check the Arborday.org Tree Guide for expected mature height and crown spread of trees you are considering.



Before you go ...

You can't wait for summer vacation. But is your house ready? 39.33.01

See the tips below before you hit the road for a long weekend:

- If you're not leaving any pets in the house, crank up your thermostat to about 85 degrees. Don't worry about re-cooling your house when you get home; the energy you save while you're away will exceed the energy it takes to cool the place off when you get home. A caution: Don't turn the a/c completely off. A home that gets too hot during the summer can invite mold and mildew.
- Close all of the windows, for safety's sake. And draw the curtains, shades and blinds. They will block sunlight and heat from getting into your rooms and making your empty house hotter.
- Unplug the TV, computers, phone chargers and countertop appliances. Even appliances that are turned off use energy if they're still plugged in.
- Leave a few lights on for safety, but turn the rest off. Check ceiling fans, alarm clocks, coffee makers and other auto-on devices to make sure they're out of commission while you're away from home.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

WATTS CURRENT

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



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The power of human connections

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- * **Rural Utilities Services (RUS) Investments in Secure, Reliable Infrastructure:** Iowa's electric co-ops serve 80% of the state's land mass; RUS programs are a critical component for rural Iowans to maintain access to safe, reliable and affordable utilities. 34.27.02
- * **Geothermal Tax Credits:** Many electric co-ops promote the use of ground-source (geothermal) heat pumps for heating and cooling, which is highly efficient and saves consumers money on their heating and cooling bills. In 2015, Congress extended and provided a phase down of tax credits for wind and solar technologies but the tax credit for geothermal heat pumps (along with small wind and combined heat and power property) was left out of the year-end package, despite being in the same section of the tax code. Iowa co-ops support extending and modifying tax incentives for geothermal energy sources so they are treated similarly to wind and solar technologies.

The advocacy fly-in was a valuable opportunity to connect with elected officials and share rural concerns. "I believe the staff of Iowa's Congressional Delegation now have a better understanding of how legislation and regulations being discussed in Congress would affect the affordability and reliability of electricity in Iowa," remarked Roxanne Carisch, CEO.

Nominating Committee Selected

Seven members were elected to serve on the 2017 nominating committee. The purpose of the committee is to nominate members to serve on RVEC's board of directors. 29.14.03

District 1	Nick Seidl
District 2	LaVerne Greving
District 3	Brian Johnson
District 4	Tracy Onken
District 5	Dale Wernimont
District 6	Bruce Raasch
District 7	Keith Kenny

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.