



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Reliable. Affordable. Responsible.



October 2016

RVEC advocates on behalf of member-owners at the nation's capital

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC), along with 40 other advocates from Iowa's not-for-profit electric cooperatives returned from a successful trip to the nation's capital. While in D.C., advocates met with Iowa's congressional delegation on issues impacting their ability to provide reliable and affordable power.

The purpose of the trip is to ensure Iowa's elected officials are fully aware of the thoughts and concerns of their constituents who are served by not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Key issues that have the greatest impact to member-owners were discussed with the delegation and staff of Iowa's six congressional offices. The Clean Power Plan was a key topic of discussion, as nearly seven hours of oral arguments took place in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit while coops were meeting with the congressional offices. FEMA disaster assistance, geothermal tax credits and the Energy Policy Modernization Act were also part of the discussion. 15.15.03

Information was provided to each of Iowa's six members of congress on the following issues:

- EPA's 111(d) Clean Power Plan – Discussed the Clean Power Plan and how it could potentially affect co-op member-owners in the state.
- FEMA disaster assistance – Thanked Iowa's congressional delegation for their assistance and support ensuring that storm recovery funding would be granted to Iowa's electric cooperatives who had been previously denied. Thanked representatives for supporting and asked senators to support the "FEMA Disaster Reform Act of 2015".
- Geothermal tax credit – Asked members of Congress to support an extension of geothermal tax credits to include highly-efficient ground-source heat pumps.
- "Energy Policy Modernization Act" – Asked members of Congress to complete work on the "Energy Policy Modernization Act" including provisions that support our mission to provide safe, affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible electricity.



RVEC Board Director Mark Ludwig, right, speaks to Senator Chuck Grassley on reliable and affordable power.



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Go to www.rvec.coop
and pay your bill online.

- 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.



— **CEO Comments** —

Wholesale power costs make up about 70 percent of RVEC’s total cost. Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) generates the power purchased by RVEC through our generation and transmission cooperative, Corn Belt Power Cooperative.

BEPC increased the cost of power beginning August 1, 2016. An unexpected change in commodity prices and higher fuel costs for generating plants creates the need to increase rates to RVEC. We are forced to pass this increase along to our member-owners.

RVEC has been taking aggressive measures to hold off the increase to RVEC member-owners until December 1, 2016, when the average residential member will see a 5%-6% increase to their monthly electric bill. We are working with BEPC and Corn Belt Power to hold down future costs for 2017 and beyond. RVEC will put as much pressure as possible on them to look for future savings. 07.14.01

We are also evaluating future needs to find savings that we can pass on to our member-owners. An independent consultant will perform a new Cost of Service Study to ensure proper and fair rates to cover all costs in the most efficient manner, and to ensure that we do not over collect or under collect on rates from our member-owners.

This rate increase is due totally because of the increase in wholesale power cost imposed on RVEC. As your locally controlled and member owned electric cooperative, RVEC is more determined than ever to provide reliable, affordable and responsible power to our member-owners.

We will update you on the results of the new Cost of Service Study, our efforts to cut costs and the results of our efforts to push our power suppliers to cut cost and look for efficiencies.

We are doing everything possible to reduce cost, while still providing Reliable, Affordable and Responsible Energy to our member-owners.



Don’t Shoot!

Safety and power reliability are top priorities at Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC). Each year, many power providers experience outages caused by people, either intentionally or inadvertently, shooting at important power equipment such as utility poles, line insulators, transformers and transmission towers. Even worse than the outages, is the potential for bodily injury caused by shooting at live electrical equipment.

Not only could the shooting result in injury or even death, it also presents a risk to RVEC’s line crews who must repair the damages and to member-consumers who rely on the delivery of safe power for health care needs.

Shooting at power equipment is also vandalism and could result in fines and/or jail sentences.

If you are hunting or target shooting, we ask that you please take caution not to shoot at any utility facilities. Further, if you notice this type of vandalism on Cooperative lines, please contact the office. 21.34.02



**Look Up,
Look Down,
Look Out!**

- For a safe harvest, be extra careful and stay alert for hazards.
- Keep an eye out for overhead power lines and electrical equipment on and under the ground.
- Be especially careful with tall equipment such as combines and grain augers.

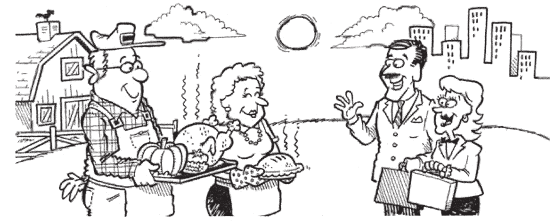
Iowa’s electric cooperatives want you to have a safe and productive harvest!

**RVEC Puts
Safety First!**

This Thanksgiving, Thank a Farmer

It's easy to take electricity for granted when all we have to do is flip a light switch or plug a computer in to use it.

And it's common to forget about the farmers who spend their days and their lives making sure we have a safe and plentiful supply of food to eat, when all we have to do is drive to the grocery store and pick up whatever we want.



Here's a friendly reminder to thank a farmer as you slice into your golden, juicy turkey this Thanksgiving.

Here are 10 reasons why, courtesy of the nonprofit Farm Policy Facts:

1. America's food supply is among the world's safest. Plus, we have plenty to eat and generally pay affordable prices for it.
2. Farmers work really hard to get that food on our table. They don't get to take a day off when it's 100 degrees outside or snowing like crazy.
3. Agriculture creates loads of jobs: more than 24 million and counting in the U.S.
4. Our country's farmers produce about 40 percent of all the corn in the world.
5. Each farmer feeds an average of 155 people.
6. For every dollar you spend on food, guess how much farmers get? Twelve cents.
7. Some farms are big, corporate enterprises. But most are family-owned. 37.28.01
8. Eighty percent of our food and fiber is produced by just 210,000 full-time American farmers.
9. As the world's population grows from 7 billion to 9 billion by 2050, farmers will need to double the amount of food they produce to feed us all.
10. Our grocery bill is about 10 percent of our income—the lowest percentage of any other country.

Use Emergency Generators with Care

Frequent, more severe fall and winter storms over the past few years have led more homeowners to invest in emergency backup generators that can run a couple of appliances or keep the lights on when wind, rain and falling tree branches knock the electricity out.

Like any electric appliances, it's important to follow the manufacturer's safety instructions that came with your generator so nobody in your family gets hurt while using it. But unlike other appliances, an improperly operated generator can harm or even kill a member of a line crew who's working on a downed wire in your neighborhood.

Here are some generator safety tips:

- Generators can produce carbon monoxide, an invisible, odorless and deadly gas. Never power up a generator indoors. And place carbon-monoxide alarms in the rooms of your house that are near the location where you operate your generator.
- Never plug your generator into an electrical outlet. Instead, use extension cords to connect the appliance you want to run directly to the generator. 33.14.03
- Do not connect the generator to any of your home's electrical circuits. This requires a transfer switch and installing a transfer switch requires a licensed electrician.



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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

RECare

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare provides 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 members.

You may make a one-time contribution or you may make a monthly pledge that will be added to your monthly electric bill. You may also make a contribution part of a matching fund, if there is a matching fund available. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others! 23.23.02

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 added to my monthly electric bill.

My gift is a matching fund gift. The matching fund is to be matched by:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Account No. _____

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC)

will be



CLOSED



for

&

Veterans Day
November 11th

Thanksgiving
November 24th & 25th



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

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.