



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Reliable. Affordable. Responsible



January 2022

What To Do If the Lights Go Out!

Winter weather can be harsh and unpredictable. RVEC wants you to be prepared in case severe weather causes a power outage. Here are a few tips for when winter weather hits:

- If your power goes out, see if your neighbors are also without power. If they have power, check your breakers.
- Turn off all lights in your home, but keep one light on to let you know when the power is restored.
- Unplug appliances, TVs, computers and all electronic equipment to prevent damage when the electricity is restored. If there are too many appliances drawing electricity when the power is first restored, the system could overload, causing the power to go out again.
- Have batteries handy for flashlights and a radio. Make sure these items are in a convenient location so you can find them in the dark.
- Remember to stay away from downed lines or tree limbs on power lines. Most downed lines are still "live" and can electrocute you if you touch them. Report these dangerous situations to RVEC.
- If you don't have an alternative heat source, put on heavy clothing before you get cold.
- Pull the drapes to save heat. Don't open windows or doors unnecessarily. You want to keep your heat in the house.
- Try to be patient while your power is being restored. RVEC will have your lights on again as soon as possible.

The most important thing to remember is to call RVEC. Please have your location number ready when you call in. We want to get your power turned on as quickly and safely as possible. 13.36.01

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.



VIEW YOUR KWH USAGE AND PAY YOUR BILL

Save yourself some time. Go to www.rvec.coop and pay your bill online.

Line Patrol

Annual maintenance of our entire system has started. The linemen will be inspecting the lines for defective items, checking meters and looking for any safety hazards.

During the inspections we look for shot insulators, blown arrestors, loose guy wires, split or bad poles, poles have nothing stapled to them and that trees are not close to our electric lines. We are also looking for inadequate clearances from buildings and other driveways.

We have maintenance programs to upgrade lines and ensure that you have the most reliable and safest system possible.

Anytime you have questions about the trucks in your neighborhood, give us a call.

— CEO Comments —



Jim Gossett

As we turn the calendar to the New Year, electric utilities face more change and uncertainty than ever before. The economics and politics of renewable energy have us thinking about generation resources and how a new mix will fit into our reliability plan and cost structure. Electric vehicles and biofuels are positioned by some to be at odds with each other, but do not necessarily have to be. 14.36.06

Ultimately, the RVEC board and management will have some decisions to make about how to adapt to our challenges to meet the growing and changing needs of our membership. Our member-owners have not experienced a rate increase in 5 years, and for the foreseeable future, we expect to hold your rates steady – but not without thoughtful planning and execution.

This is why, as you read this month's Watts Current, you will see we are making a slight but important modification to the residential bills. Not a rate change, just information about your locations' peak usage for the month. The article explains it well, so take a look! And let me know your questions. We look forward to meeting the challenges of today by putting more flexibility and control in your hands in the future.

What is Peak Demand?

Almost everything in our lives today is dependent on electricity. We use electricity in our homes in a lot of different ways. Most of us don't spend a lot of time thinking about how much electricity it takes to run the appliances we use to heat and cool our homes, clean our spaces and cook our food. Each time those appliances turn on and off, they create peaks and valleys in electrical demand.

What is demand? Demand is the amount of power needed to supply everything running off of electricity in your home at any given time. Demand is measured in kilowatts (kW). Your peak demand is the 30-minute period each month when your location uses the most kW. It likely is a different day and time than your neighbor. Demand varies from hour to hour, day to day and season to season.

About half of RVEC's monthly payment to our power supplier goes to pay for kW demand charges. Educating RVEC member-owners about their peak demand can help lower RVEC's monthly power cost. We can work together to lower the demand for electric power. This teamwork is a win-win for the membership and the cooperative. RVEC consistently works toward the goal of keeping the cost of power as low as possible.

How do you reduce your demand? You do that by reducing your energy peak. What is a peak? It might help to think about electricity like the internet service you need to stream a movie at home. When one person streams a movie or television show on a device in your home, the stream works perfectly. But as additional people in your home attempt to stream video at the same time, more bandwidth is needed. When this happens, it's created a peak. Peaks cost utilities more because they put more strain on the grid. RVEC must plan and prepare to meet each member's demand needs, even when it's not a daily occurrence. Equipment to meet your electrical demand must be on standby and ready to fill your increased need for electricity immediately.

To reduce your electricity demand, think about your appliances. Take an electric range and dishwasher as an example. Make them take turns instead of running them at the same time. Or, take a hot shower when you're not drying your clothes in an electric dryer. Keeping your demand for electricity at a trickle can help lower cost. After all, that's all a part of our mission: providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

Scholarships Offered

Administered by Iowa Lakes Community College

Committed to the communities it serves and to the production of renewable energy, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, power supplier to Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC), partners with Iowa Lakes Community College to offer a scholarship opportunity to students who study wind energy and turbine technology. Corn Belt Power is interested in maintaining a skilled and educated workforce that can install, maintain and service modern wind turbines.

Applicants must be enrolled in the Wind Energy and Turbine Technology program at Iowa Lakes Community College.

One \$500 scholarship will be awarded annually to an individual who has met the requirements set forth. Recipients may be either first or second year students, but are eligible for only one scholarship. Each scholarship will be split equally between the first two semesters of enrollment after receiving the scholarship. Scholarship proceeds will be used for tuition, fees and books.

To be considered a candidate for the Corn Belt Power Cooperative Scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Achieve a high school grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
2. Accepted as a full time student in the identified program at Iowa Lakes Community College.
3. Must be an Iowa resident.
4. File scholarship application with Iowa Lakes Community College by April 1.
5. Maintain 2.5 minimum grade point average; eligibility shall be reviewed each semester.

The primary criteria for the award will be the candidate's potential for success and grade point average.

For more information, contact Iowa Lakes Community College, 800-242-5106, ext. 4491.

Administered by Northwest Iowa Community College

Corn Belt Power Cooperative, power supplier to Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC), is partnering with Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon, to offer scholarship opportunities. As a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, Corn Belt Power is committed to the communities it serves and to maintaining a skilled and educated workforce to serve its members well into the future.

Applicants must be enrolled in one of the following technical programs at Northwest Iowa Community College: Electrical Technology, Powerline, Powerline Technology or Substation Technician.

Four separate \$500 scholarships will be awarded annually to individuals who have met the eligibility requirements. Recipients may be either first or second year students, but are eligible for only one scholarship. Each scholarship will be split equally between the first two semesters of enrollment after receiving the scholarship. Scholarship proceeds may be used for tuition, fees and books.

To be considered a candidate for the Corn Belt Power Cooperative Scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Reside in a county served by a member cooperative of Corn Belt Power Cooperative.
2. Achieve a high school grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
3. Accepted as a full time student in one of the identified programs at Northwest Iowa Community College.
4. File scholarship application with the Northwest Iowa Community College Foundation by March 1.
5. Maintain 2.5 minimum grade point average; eligibility shall be reviewed each semester. 34.27.10

All applicants are required to submit a letter of reference from a high school instructor, guidance counselor, current employer or manager of a member electric cooperative with their applications. This reference should address the applicant's potential for success in the program chosen for enrollment. The primary criteria for the award will be the candidate's potential for success and grade point average.

For an application form or more information, contact the Northwest Iowa Community College Foundation, 603 West Park Street, Sheldon, IA 51201-1046, (800) 352-4907 ext. 246.

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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

Power Restoration Plan

As the winter temperatures change, storm systems are produced and with them potentially damaging winds, sleet and snow. RVEC would like to guarantee you will have power 100% of the time, but that just isn't possible.

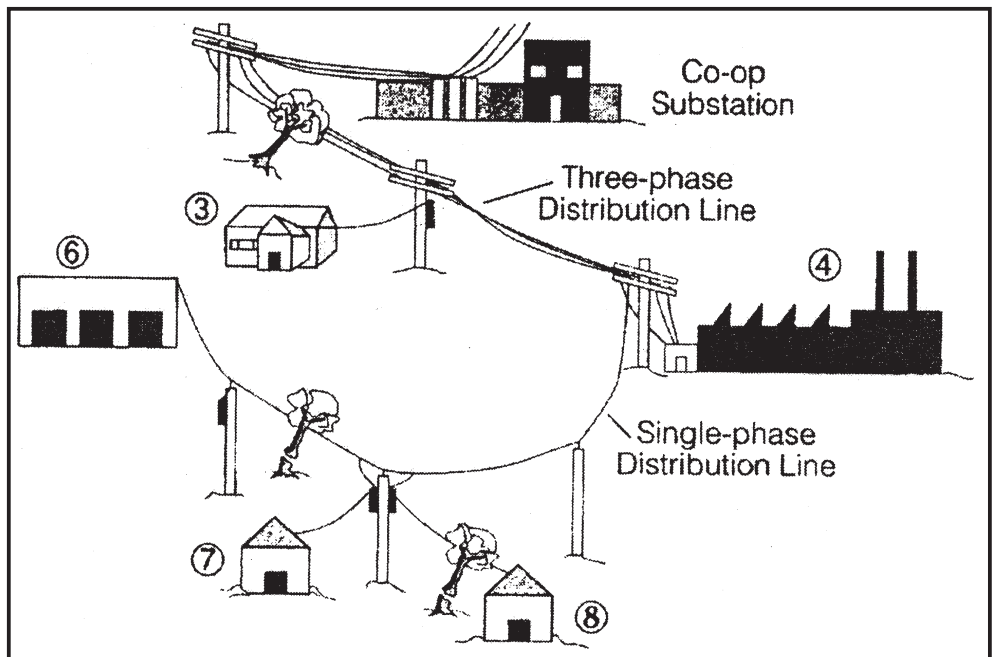
Immediately after a severe storm hits, RVEC linemen begin to assess the extent of the damage. The line superintendent designs a plan to restore power to the greatest number of members in the shortest amount of time. The severity of the outage and weather conditions always plays a role in the time it takes to restore power.

When a storm strikes, RVEC linemen are immediately dispatched to begin the restoration process. Repairs are made at the substations first, followed by major feeder lines and then individual service lines.

The last portion of the plan, dealing with individual outage situations, can take the greatest amount of time because of the great distance involved between houses. During that stage, linemen move house-to-house making repairs.

All during the power restoration efforts, the telephone calls are answered as they come in. During peak periods, all telephone lines coming into the office can be busy.

The diagram below shows how the restoration plan works. Repairs are made to lines from the substation first. This will restore power to House 3 and Factory 4. The main service line serving Houses 7 and Factory 6 will be repaired next. Finally, the individual service line to House 8 will be repaired. 29.11.04



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 \$25.00.