

# WATTS CURRENT

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Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

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



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Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
*Reliable • Affordable • Responsible*



Touchstone Energy®

The power of human connections

## Vacation Usage: Your Meter Doesn't Stop While You're Away

Vacation season is upon us and everyone will be traveling to see the sites and sounds of our great country. And while you are gone for a couple of days or weeks, your electric bill will surely go down, right? Wrong.

A lot of people believe when they are gone their electric consumption decreases or even stops. When in actuality, most electric appliances are still running unless you have taken measures to shut them off. Here are some questions that you need to ask yourself to see if your electric bill is really going to go down.

- Did you shut off your electric water heater? If not, the water heater will still run in order to maintain the temperature that you have the thermostat set at.
- Were the refrigerator and freezers emptied and turned off? Otherwise, the refrigerator and freezer will continue to run.
- Did you shut off your clocks, computers, dehumidifiers, air conditioner, lights, TVs, power ventilators and attic fans? Some of these items seem small, but everything adds up.



## Come See Us at the Iowa State Fair!

The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa are pleased to once again sponsor the 4-H Exhibits Building at the 2022 Iowa State Fair. RVEC is proud to be a Touchstone Energy member, which means we're part of a nationwide network of locally owned co-ops that provides resources and leverages partnerships to help member-consumers use energy wisely.

If you're planning a visit to the Iowa State Fair from August 11-21, make sure to stop by and see us in the air conditioned 4-H Exhibits Building on the southwest corner of the fairgrounds.

Electric co-op staff from across the state will hand out plastic hard hats and suckers for the kids while supplies last. Kids can also try on some lineworker safety gear and take fun photos in our co-op safety selfie station!

We look forward to connecting with our co-op members at the Iowa State Fair this summer. 29.02.02 Please stop by our booth and say hello!

## 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.



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Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative  
*Reliable. Affordable. Responsible*



July 2022

## Attend Your Annual Meeting

When you signed up as a consumer of RVEC, you automatically became a member and a part-owner.

Cooperatives use a business model that's different from other companies. We don't sell stock on Wall Street, so there are no out-of-town investors. Control of your Cooperative is local.

You may run for a seat on the board of directors, if you'd like. You may vote for the candidates who do run — and know that every candidate is also a consumer of RVEC.

It's important to attend your cooperative's Annual Meeting on September 7, 2022. It's a place where you can meet the CEO and staff. You can get to know the directors who advise the staff and decide on important policy matters.

It's also where you can vote for the board of directors and learn what kinds of business issues RVEC is dealing with.

Membership in your Cooperative comes with these privileges. It also comes with the responsibility of casting your vote for the directors you think will do the best job.

## Nominating Committee Appoints Director Candidates

The Nominating Committee responsibility is to select director candidates from each of the districts in which directors' terms expire. The following members of the Cooperative were nominated for the office of Director for the term specified to be voted on at the Annual Meeting to be held on September 7, 2022:

District 1 – David Schroeder

James Heithoff

District 6 – Jeff Cranston

Twenty or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures, not less than 45 days prior to the Annual Meeting date of September 7, 2022. 06.09.04 The secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted.

## Watch Cooperative Property When Burning Ditches

It's that time of the year when many of you may be burning off the weeds, grass, etc. in your ditches.

This burning helps clean things up, but it can also cause problems if a fire is allowed to burn around RVEC poles, anchors, guy assemblies, underground cabinets and so forth.

Burning close to RVEC property not only can cause a lot of damage, but it can also be dangerous and could cause future electric service problems. Any member-owners involved may be invoiced for damage they cause to RVEC property.

To avoid damage to RVEC property, future service problems and danger to yourself and others, please watch where you burn.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

## — CEO Comments —



Jim Gossett

Employees and board members of RVEC hear from our member-owners every day. It may be on the street or in a store, but you let us know if you need assistance with an issue or if you have questions about a news story, power supply or renewable energy.

Direct contact with our member-owners is invaluable in making sure our service to you meets your expectations, or in a case where we cannot, at least attempt to explain why. RVEC board and employees have a great deal of information at their fingertips.

Your RVEC board members are holding Member Appreciation meetings this summer by district. If you joined us in June, thank you! Postcards for the July meetings should be in your mailbox. We look forward to seeing you.

Of course, Member Appreciation meetings are not the only time we want to hear from you. Anytime works! We can help over the phone or arrange to come to your location, answer questions, and learn more about what RVEC can do to better serve you, the member-owner.

Don't ever hesitate to contact us at 800.253.6211 or 712.659.3649. We are here for you!

## Beware of Phantom Loads in Your Home

You may turn off the TV and power down your computer and DVD player, but all these appliances – and many others – continue to draw electricity, costing you energy dollars.

Energy use is multiplied in any appliance that has a lit display clock, memory chip, or remote control. These include TVs, DVD and CD players, cable and satellite boxes, cordless phones, microwaves, water coolers, video game players, burglar alarms and much more.

According to the Department of Energy, 40 percent of all electricity used to power home appliances is consumed when the appliances are turned off. It's also estimated that these energy "vampires" use 5 percent of our total electricity and cost U.S. consumers more than \$3 billion annually, according to the Alliance to Save Energy.

So what can you do to save money?

- Look for the Energy Star label on all appliances that you purchase. Energy Star appliances may use as much as 50 percent less than other appliances.
- Purchase appliances – such as computer and monitors – that will go into sleep (also called power management or stand-by mode) when not in use.
- Anytime you purchase an appliance (such as a microwave) with a continually lighted display and/or clock, you will pay for the constant-on feature. If you can live without these features, your energy costs will decrease.
- If you keep items in your entertainment center powered through power strips, you can turn off – and back on – all the equipment at once.

## - 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.

## Why Membership Matters

You could be a member of a lot of different places; a gym, a 4-H club, a food of the month club – the list goes on and on! But what makes being a member of a co-op different? The simple answer to that question is that when you are a member of a co-op, you are also an owner.

You own a stake in our business, and just like any stakeholder, there are many benefits to your membership. As a member-owner of RVEC, you have a say in the representatives who are elected to serve on the co-op's board of directors. You have an opportunity to make your voice heard every year at our Annual Meeting. You get a say on policy issues your electric cooperative supports or opposes. You can even help to determine how your profits are redistributed.

Our bottom line is providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Sure, we have to think about expenses, overhead and other aspects of daily business, but when we have a little left over, we send it back to you. And returning capital credits to you is a major part of why being a co-op member matters. As your local electric co-op, we get to be a part of this community. When we think about membership, we think about all of the ways we can give back to you, our members – and that's what matters most to us.

## View Your Daily Usage

Did you know that you can view your daily usage on SmartHub?



SmartHub is a web application that allows you to view and change account information, notify customer service of account inquiries, and make payments in a secure environment - right from your mobile device, computer or tablet. You are able to monitor and analyze your electric use all at the touch of a button! This service will help manage your account and will free up your time with this convenient and free service.

Go to [www.rvec.coop](http://www.rvec.coop) and click on view and pay my bill to register for the service. SmartHub is also available as an app for smartphones and tablets. The app is free and can be downloaded from iTunes or the Android Market.

## Reduce Energy Usage During Peak Hours

Peak hours are the busiest time for RVEC, since many member-owners are using electricity at the same time. It also costs RVEC more to buy electricity when the demand is high during these peak times, and the cost of your future electricity may also rise. 34.10.04 Using less electricity during peak periods of time saves money.

Here's what you can do to help us help you during peak hours. These hours are usually during the hottest summer days between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.

- Shift household chores and activities away from peak periods. For example, wait to run your dishwasher until you go to bed at nights.
- Use the most energy-efficient appliances you have. Your microwave uses considerably less energy than your stove or cook top range.
- If you're buying a new appliance, make sure you purchase a high efficient appliance. Look for "Energy Star" labels when you're evaluating.
- Be aware of your energy consumption, and try to get in the habit of using energy efficiently all year!