



# WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative  
*Reliable. Affordable. Responsible*



February 2021

## Why We Need You To Participate In Our Load Management Program

These days, we're all working hard to use energy wisely and save money. That's why we are asking you, our member-owners, to help RVEC by participating in our load management program. Because of our upgrade to automated meter infrastructure (AMI), load management is a service we can now offer to all member-owners in our distribution system. By participating, you will be helping RVEC manage costs, use energy wisely, reduce the need to build new power plants, and help the environment – all of which can help lessen the impact of future rate increases.

Participating is easy. RVEC installs a switch that remotely controls your electric water heater during times when demand for electricity is at its peak. These peak periods are also the times when wholesale electricity costs the most. Reducing peak demand is wise energy use that helps reduce costs – for you and for RVEC.

The energy management switch operates for only a few hours on a limited number of the hottest and coldest days of the year. Since water heaters act as storage devices, there should be no loss of hot water. At electric cooperatives around the country, these energy management programs have proven to be successful and effective.

RVEC will install and maintain the control switch at no cost to you. If you are ever dissatisfied or inconvenienced, we will remove the switch.

To sign up for load control, call 712.659.3649 or 800.253.6211, or email [info@rvec.coop](mailto:info@rvec.coop). We look forward to working with you to help control energy costs for all of us.



*RVEC's Demand Response Unit*

## Line Patrol Continues

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 18.35.01 neighborhood, give us a call.



**RVEC WILL BE  
CLOSED  
FEBRUARY 15th  
FOR  
PRESIDENTS  
DAY.**



— CEO Comments —



Jim Gossett

Grassroots advocacy on behalf of the member-owners of RVEC continues as the 89th General Assembly of the Iowa Legislature gaveled in on Monday, January 11. RVEC Board and staff, along with all of Iowa’s Electric Cooperatives, will be challenged by the restraints of the pandemic, but no less active in our efforts to relay to lawmakers and administrators what is important to the safe delivery of reliable, affordable and responsible power to rural areas. 08.13.05

Areas of emphasis at the Iowa statehouse this year for electric cooperatives are Safety & Reliability, and Tax Equality. Before the Iowa General Assembly session began last month, we sent the following message to our legislators, along with

sincere thanks for their service to Iowa:

The safety of our member-consumers and employees is always a top priority. We strive for reliable electric service, even as severe storms jeopardize our efforts. Due to ambiguity in prescriptive easements between landowners and co-ops, safety and reliability continue to be a growing concern. *We seek legislative action clarifying the rights of utilities to mitigate trees that interfere with our lines would help meet our goals by preventing certain outages during major storms and allowing for more efficient power restoration.*

Electric cooperatives were unintentionally left out of a provision in the 2018 tax bill exempted credit unions, non-profit insurance companies, farming operations, and most for-profit companies from a digital products sales tax. This could result in a tax on our member-owners through their energy bills. *Correcting this oversight will help provide equal treatment in Iowa’s sales tax laws and help co-ops keep energy stable.*

We also support more funding so that providers can offer more rural Iowans access to broadband.

RVEC looks forward to engaging Iowa legislators on these issues and others that arise that could impact our member-owners. There is a great team serving you from the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. Working with them, our board and staff look forward to making a difference during this legislative session. If you have any questions or thoughts, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

## What Exactly is an Electric Cooperative?

You receive this publication because you buy your electricity from an electric cooperative. That’s a utility that operates like no other.

Cooperatives are consumer-owned businesses, which means that you and your neighbors actually own your electric utility. In fact, you may have noticed that the utility refers to you as a “member” rather than as a “customer.”

The cooperative’s board of directors is a group of member-owners just like you, and, in fact, you can run for a seat on the board yourself if you’d like to. When the directors’ terms expire, the cooperative will hold an election—and you will get to vote. So the cooperative is governed by its consumers, and those who govern it are elected by the consumers.

Cooperatives have their roots in their local communities, so they never sell stock. That way, member-owners retain local control.

Take advantage of the opportunity to participate as an member-owner of your electric cooperative by attending its membership meetings and voting in board elections.



**VIEW YOUR KWH  
USAGE AND PAY  
YOUR BILL**

Save yourself some time.  
Go to [www.rvec.coop](http://www.rvec.coop)  
and pay your bill online.

## Stay Safe and Warm in Snow and Ice Storms

Power outages due to snow and ice storms are especially threatening because of extreme cold temperatures.

After a snow or ice storm, avoid going outside if possible. Downed power lines could be submerged in snow and ice, making them difficult to identify. When outside, treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized. Stay away and immediately contact RVEC. Remember that downed power lines do NOT have to be arcing, sparking, or moving to be “live” — and deadly.



When the power is out because of a snow or ice storm, RVEC and Safe Electricity suggests these tips to help you stay safe and warm:

- Stay inside, and dress in warm, layered clothing. 34.32.11
- Close off unneeded rooms.
- When using an alternative heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards, and be sure to properly ventilate. Always keep a multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher nearby and know how to use it.
- Stuff towels and rags underneath doors to keep the heat in.
- Cover windows at night.
- Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home. Infants and people over the age of 65 are more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends or relatives or go to a shelter if you can't keep your home warm.

## Help Us Find

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC), located at 28725 Highway 30, PO Box 486, Glidden, IA 51443 is holding unclaimed property resulting from patronage dividends which are due to the persons listed below. The owner may claim this property by contacting us at the address listed above and/or by phone at 712-659-3649 during regular office hours.

Albeck, Larry  
 Anthofer, Ricky  
 Auen, Virgil or Phyllis  
 Bakke, Shawn or Michon  
 Bennett, Jerry  
 Bolger, Alan or Rosemarie  
 Bondinello, Bill  
 Brenner, Julie  
 Carroll County Lodge Inc  
 (Gerald Promes)  
 CIBA – GEIGY Corp. (Allen Brush)  
 Commnet Cellular INC  
 Cooper Mitchell Farms  
 Croghan, William JR  
 Cuthrell, Dean  
 Elite Pork Partnership (Bob  
 Anderson)  
 Fox, Jason S.  
 Frohlich, Lynn or Tiffany  
 Greving, Pam  
 Gundel, Bernard

Halterman, Brad  
 Hardy, Ken or Wendy  
 Havermann, Brent or Debra  
 Hoffmann, Dale  
 Johnson, Alvin  
 King, Bill  
 Lemmon, David or Kim  
 Ludwig, Lonnie  
 McCullough, Kevin J.  
 McLaughlin, Brian  
 Meyer, Herbert or Charlotte  
 Moats, Jody  
 Nieland, Gladys  
 Nielsen, Mrs. Tracy  
 Norwood, Bob or Violet  
 Ogren, Dennis  
 Olerich, Rhonda  
 Olson, Mark  
 Powell, Matt  
 Robertson, Rick  
 Roeder, Dan

Rosemeyer, Brad or Kristy  
 Schleisman, Brian or Chris  
 Schoon, Kenneth  
 Schultes, Louis  
 Sigmon, Terrie  
 Simons, Rita  
 Smith, Thomas Q.  
 Snyder, Orville or Myrna  
 Sprint Cellular  
 Stevens, Chad  
 Stidham, Magdalena  
 St. Peter, Jeff or Deb  
 Thayer, Mike  
 Thomas, Wilson or Shanda  
 Venner, Paul or Rita  
 Vogl, Robert A.  
 Wiepen, Kevin or Lisa  
 Wiltse, Colleen  
 Wood, Pat

# WATTS CURRENT

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

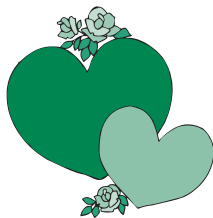


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The power of human connections



## Give your Valentine the Gift of Energy Efficiency

If you want to give your Valentine a useful and unique gift, offer to make the home more energy-efficient.

A few ideas:

- ♥ Buy a bagful of LED light bulbs and use them to replace the standard incandescent bulbs your Valentine probably has in lamps and overhead fixtures. LEDs use 75 percent less energy than the old bulbs and last up to five years. 28.29.09
- ♥ Change the heating and air conditioning filters, which could require climbing a ladder or removing a grate. A dirty filter can be clogged with dust, pet hair and other debris that prevents air from passing through it — and that will force your loved one's furnace or a/c to work extra hard — and waste energy — to keep the home comfortable.
- ♥ Switch the direction of all ceiling fan blades to the “winter” position. That makes the blades gently push warm air — which rises — back into the room so your Valentine will feel more comfortable without turning up the heat.
- ♥ Replace your Valentine's old thermostat with a programmable model that will automatically lower the heat as soon as everyone leaves the house for the day and crank it back up a little just before the family gets home.
- ♥ Buy your Valentine a casual, washable sweater or a flannel quilt to curl up in while reading or watching TV. Your gift will keep them warm and make it unnecessary for her to crank up the thermostat.

### What to do if you have a Power Outage?

- ✓ Check your fuses or circuit breakers to rule out problems with electricity inside your home. Replace fuses or reset breakers if needed. It is the member's responsibility to repair any wires or equipment located between the meter pole and your buildings and/or equipment.

### 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.