



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Reliable. Affordable. Responsible.



May 2021

Utility Bill Assistance Available for Iowa Renters Impacted by COVID-19

Governor Reynolds recently announced a new program designed to assist eligible lowans who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and need assistance with rent and utility bills. The Iowa Rent and Utility Assistance Program will provide rent and/or utility assistance for up to 12 months.

Funded by the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, the Iowa Rent and Utility Assistance Program is administered by the Iowa Finance Authority. Eligible renters can receive financial assistance with past due electricity, gas, propane, fuel oil, water, sewer and/or trash removal bills incurred no earlier than March 13, 2020. Utility payments through the program will be made directly to utility providers and applied to the applicants' accounts. 14.35.03

The program began accepting applications on March 29. Full eligibility details for the Iowa Rent and Utility Assistance Program are available at www.iowahousingrecovery.com.

The website includes an eligibility precheck and answers to frequently asked questions. You can also call Iowa's Utility Recovery Hotline at 515-348-8976 or 877-463-3269 for more information about this program.

If you receive electricity from RVEC and need assistance with documentation for your application, please contact our office at 712.659.3649 or info@rvec.coop.

RVEC Board Approves Allocation

Patronage allocation for 2020 has been applied to all RVEC member-owner's patronage accounts that received service in 2020. Your allocation amount shows on your April bill.

Deferred patronage allocations are revenues exceeding the operating expenses of the Cooperative that are shown on the books as margins. This is allocated back to the member-owners as patronage and is in proportion to the amount you paid to the Cooperative for electric service in 2020.

At the present time, the patronage has no cash value and cannot be used in payment of electric bills or any other bill owed to the Cooperative. Even if you move

off the lines, the patronage cannot be paid to you until that year is approved by the Board of Directors to be refunded.

The only time patronage can be refunded, other than the Board of Directors approving a general refund to all member-owners for a particular year, is if the owner becomes deceased. The executor would need to complete the required paper work. Estates are usually refunded several times per year when approved by the Board of Directors.

Please keep the Cooperative informed when you have a change of address, this way any future patronage checks will come directly to you.

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.



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

— CEO Comments —



Jim Gossett

RVEC continues to develop ways to cut costs and keep your power bill stable, without hurting reliability or safety. A few months ago, I mentioned our efforts to control costs using water heater demand management. We are implementing this project, which provides discounts and rebates on electric water heaters in exchange for agreeing that RVEC can interrupt power to the water heater during peak energy usage.

Another great way to control costs is to create awareness among our member-owners with residential accounts how staggering their high consumption electric use through the day and week can affect the power bill. About one half of the amount RVEC pays to our power supplier, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, is a peak demand charge. Using a combination of our newly installed Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and your access to SmartHub, we can tell you when you are using the most power each month. We can even put that information on your monthly bill.

Right now, it is about managing the peak demand on RVEC system. By not running big appliances (dishwashers, washing machine & dryer, etc.) you can help delay RVEC from implementing a rate increase. The time will come when you have an opportunity to save directly on your electric bill with peak demand management. It begins with awareness.

In a few months, you will begin to see a "peak demand kW" usage number on your residential power bill. This will appear next to your other charges, but there will be no rate amount and you will not be charged a demand charge. RVEC may implement a kW demand charge later, which would give you more control over your energy bill. That will require an official rate notice and a reduction in your energy (kWh) rate.

For now, we welcome your questions and comments, including measures you are taking to save energy and stagger your use at your place. This is just one of the many ways RVEC is controlling costs to keep rates stable.

Handlos Selected As Scholarship Winner

Independent judges for RVEC selected Luke Handlos as the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship. RVEC along with Basin Electric Power Cooperative awarded the scholarship to Handlos, whose parents are member-owners of RVEC. Luke attends Northwest Missouri State University, to receive his degree in Biochemistry. Congratulations Luke!



Luke Handlos

Property Taxes Paid

Property taxes are used to help fund such important things as education and city and county government. You might not be aware of it, but your Cooperative pays property taxes. RVEC receives a tax bill based on kWhs sold, for the poles, wires, transformers, etc. out on the line and another tax bill for the office and warehouse. RVEC pays taxes in nine counties that we serve. 12.25.03

The following is a breakdown of the property taxes paid in 2020/2021

County	Taxes Paid
Audubon County	\$3,568
Buena Vista County	\$141
Calhoun County	\$654
Carroll County	\$43,745
Crawford County	\$50
Greene County	\$3,024
Guthrie County	\$379
Ida County	\$68
Sac County	\$20,865

Notice of Membership Meeting

In preparation for the Annual Meeting of members, September 8, 2021, the following information is provided.

Any person, firm, corporation, or body politic may become a member in the Cooperative by:

- Applying for a membership certificate in the Association.
- Agreeing to purchase from the Cooperative electric energy as hereinafter specified.
- Agreeing to comply with and be bound by the Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative and the By-Laws and any amendment thereto and such rules and regulations as may from time to time be adopted by the Board of Directors, provided, however, that no person, firm, corporation or body politic shall become a Member unless and until he/she or it has been accepted for membership by the Board of Directors or Members.

No person, firm, corporation or body politic may have more than ONE membership in the Cooperative.

A husband and wife may jointly become a Member and their application for a joint membership may be accepted in accordance with the foregoing provisions of the above provisions.

No member of this Association may own more than one membership and each Member shall be entitled to one vote and not more at all corporate meetings. Votes shall be cast by member-owner and not by proxy.

DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Provide strategic direction for the Cooperative
- Oversee financial integrity of the Cooperative
- Attend educational training workshops
- Actively represent the Cooperative and its members
- Attend monthly board meetings and annual industry meetings (directors are reimbursed for expenses and mileage for each meeting they attend)

REPRESENTATION

The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a Board of seven (7) Directors who must reside in and receive service from the Cooperative at a location within the District which they represent. The number of Directors whose terms expire at the time of such meeting shall be elected to hold office for the term of three (3) years, or until their respective successors shall have been elected and qualify. The election of the directors shall be by ballot and each voting member shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote for each director to be elected. 35.07.02

MEETING OF MEMBERS

The Annual Meeting, as specified in the Articles of Incorporation, shall be held on the Wednesday after the first Monday in September of each year. Special meetings of the Members of the Cooperative may be called and held as provided for in the Articles of Incorporation. All Annual Meetings shall be held at locations specified in the Notice of the meeting determined by the Board of Directors.

NOMINATIONS

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than ninety (90) days before the date of a meeting of the Members at which Directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of seven (7) Members of the Cooperative who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical areas served or to be served by the Cooperative. No officer or Member of the Board of Directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principle office of the Cooperative at least sixty (60) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for Directors, but any twenty (20) or more Members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The Secretary shall also mail with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of Directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and nominations made by petition.

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Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

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Mark Ludwig Breda
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Jim Gossett

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



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**Raccoon Valley
Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
Reliable • Affordable • Responsible



Touchstone Energy®

The power of human connections

Don't Put Safety on Autopilot

GPS systems with auto-guidance allow drivers to have their hands off the steering wheel as the tractor maneuvers itself through the field. Thanks to this technology, farmers can more easily and efficiently maintain accuracy even during low light conditions, which enhances productivity. While a GPS system can help with driver error, it does not mean that safety can be put on autopilot.

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health still consistently lists farming among the most dangerous industries and tractor incidents as the leading source of death and injury on farms. Between 2003 and 2011, farm tractors accounted for the deaths of 1,533 people. 28.29.01

Making safety a priority requires alertness, focus, and knowledge of potential hazards and appropriate safety steps. Varying pass-to-pass accuracy levels (sub-meter, decimeter, or centimeter) and potential issues, such as power poles not being correctly plotted in the system, reinforce the need for drivers to stay focused on the location of the tractor and its equipment while in the field and to be ready to take action themselves if necessary.

Keep the following electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- Farming equipment is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of their large size, height, and extensions. Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines. A driver's vantage point from the cab may not be sufficient.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when raising any equipment such as ladders, front-end loaders, or augers.
- Always remember to lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact your utility.

If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is very rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org or www.rvec.coop.



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.