



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Reliable. Affordable. Responsible



December 2020

Load Management

An electric system works best when electricity use remains steady throughout the day. But because of weather, lifestyles and schedules, your cooperative's demand for electricity varies by hour, day, month and even year to year. This creates peaks and valleys in total electricity use. Load management balances electric supply with electrical demand.

How does load management work?

At no cost to you, a RVEC representative will install the load management switch to your home's water heater. Through these switches, RVEC can manage the amount of electricity your water heater uses when system demand is high.

During times of higher power usage or peak demand, RVEC's power supplier (Corn Belt Power Cooperative) sends a signal to the switch that temporarily interrupts electricity to the water heater. When the signal ends, the equipment returns to normal.

How can you participate?

YOU our member-owners are the key in helping RVEC keep power costs lower. The program is voluntary and you may opt out any time should you be unsatisfied.

We offer you three easy way to sign up.

1. Call 712.659.3649 or 800.253.6211
2. Email info@rvec.coop



RVEC's Demand Response Unit

*All of us at
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC)
wish you and your family
a joyful holiday season!*

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC)

will be **CLOSED** for

Christmas Day
December 25th

New Year's Day
January 1st

Rural Electric Youth Tour 2021

Due to the ongoing uncertainties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, RVEC and Iowa's electric cooperatives have made the decision to not participate in the 2021 National Electric Cooperative Youth Tour scheduled for June. The current plan is to return to offering the June trip to Washington, D.C., for deserving high school students in 2022. 08.26.03

— CEO Comments —



Jim Gossett

Last month, RVEC director Steve Seidl and I spoke with the Cooperatives Class at Iowa State University. That's right, ISU has a class focused entirely on the cooperative business model! Steve and I were honored to be asked by RVEC's friend, Dr. Keri Jacobs, who in addition to her responsibilities as professor of economics, works to educate and train directors in cooperatives in Iowa, conducts research in the field of cooperatives. She has developed a co-op business model curriculum used by community colleges, which has been well received. Next month, Dr. Jacobs will take the position of Distinguished Fellow at the University of Missouri's Graduate Institute of Cooperative Leadership. Our loss is their gain.

The ISU students, most of which attended our session online, had several practical questions about how we serve our member-owners. They wanted to know about regulation, our obligation to serve within a defined service territory, and how patronage is handled in a rural electric cooperative.

As a member-owner of RVEC, you are accumulating equity in the co-op as you use electricity each month. In fact, each member-owner has a patronage allocation account on file which tracks the credit or equity accumulated each year. The cooperative is a not-for-profit organization, but when we experience additional income over expenses at the end of the year – referred to as margins – we allocate that extra money back to our member-owners in relation to how much electricity they used during the year.

These funds are allocated to your patronage allocation account and returned to you over time when the board determines that it is financially feasible to do so. **In October, the RVEC Board approved the retirement of allocated patronage from a portion of 1995 and all of 1996.** This month, members who were member-owners in those years should receive a patronage retirement check or bill credit from RVEC. This is RVEC's patronage system at work for you, the member-owner.

Creating awareness among Iowa's college students about the cooperative difference is important work and we are happy to be included in the effort. Sharing the actual difference through the retirement of patronage is key to our member-owners realizing the value of the cooperative. 12.31.03

This year has been very different for all of us. I have so much to be thankful for, you the member-owners, the fantastic employees at RVEC and my family and friends. I want to wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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 for the poles, wires, transformers, etc. out on the line and another tax bill for the office and warehouse. RVEC pays taxes in nine different counties that we serve.

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

County	Taxes Paid
Audubon County	\$3,471
Buena Vista County	\$134
Calhoun County	\$645
Carroll County	\$42,815
Crawford County	\$49
Greene County	\$3,015
Guthrie County	\$368
Ida County	\$66
Sac County	\$20,438

Complaint Procedure

The Iowa Utility Board requires that all non-rate regulated utilities post the following notice to its membership:

If a member-consumer has a problem with his/her service, please write or call:

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 486 • Glidden, Iowa 51443 • 712.659.3649

If the member-consumer's complaint is related to Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative's (RVEC) service rather than its rates, and RVEC does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the:

Iowa Utilities Board

1375 E. Court Avenue • Room 69 • Des Moines, Iowa 50319
877.565.4450

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. 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.
- 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.

Basin Scholarship

Dependents of members of RVEC are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship to be provided by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, power supplier of RVEC.

The scholarship program is designed to encourage and recognize the achievements of a student living on electric cooperative lines. The scholarship must be used for educational costs and the student must enter college in the fall of the school year for which the scholarship is given. The applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate course of study at an 22.15.01 accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

This scholarship is awarded without regard to other awards, loans or financial assistance the applicant may have obtained. Award of the scholarship is based on the following criteria: SAT/ACT scores, grade-point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, a statement by the student explaining his/her educational and career goals and a written recommendation by a third party.

Applicants may get an application form from RVEC. Application forms are due back to RVEC by **January 25, 2021**. For more information, contact Jill Hannasch at 712.659.3649 or 800.253.6211 or e-mail jillh@rvec.coop.

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



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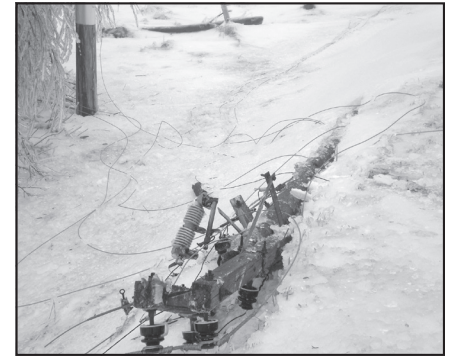
Prepare for Storm Weather

Severe wind, heavy snow and long-lasting storms can leave your home temporarily without power or worse: You could be unable to stay in your home if it is damaged by fallen trees or lightning. 38.21.03

Be prepared to stay safe and comfortable if your family finds itself without electricity — or without access to your home — for a little while.

Some tips:

1. Create a weather emergency plan for your family. Jot down important phone numbers for your electric cooperative, the local pharmacy, your doctor, your closest neighbors and family members. Figure out how to get out of your house in case the front and back doors are blocked by snow or a fallen tree. Drive around the neighborhood during nice weather to familiarize yourself with multiple exit routes in case any roads are closed. And agree on a place where everyone in your household will meet if you can't stay at home.
2. Fill a backpack or a cooler with a couple of days' worth of food and water. Toss in a flashlight, a portable radio, a first-aid kit, some cash and your medicine. You can take that with you to a shelter, a hotel or a friend's house, depending where you plan to stay until your home is safe to live in again.
3. Before the bad weather starts, turn off your water heater, stove and air conditioning units. Unplug TVs, stereos, the microwave oven and computers. This will prevent damage to appliances during the storm and when the electricity suddenly comes back on.
4. Leave one light switch on so you will know when the power is back.
5. Keep extra batteries in multiple sizes on hand. Invest in a battery-operated radio, some reliable flashlights and battery-powered, flameless "candles."
6. Stay far away from fallen power lines. Assume any utility wire that you find is "live" and will harm you — or kill you — if you touch it. Call RVEC to report any damaged wires or utility poles.
7. Teach your children about the harm electric power lines can cause to someone who touches them.



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.