



"Access Energy Cooperative is dedicated to exceeding members' and customers' expectations for safe, reliable, efficient service and environmental responsibility."

Thank You Area Legislators



**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**
For after hours
emergencies call
800.452.7819
or **319.385.1580**

See page 6
on how to
contact your
legislators

community

Legislation

www.accessenergycoop.com

On December 10, area legislators met with the Access Energy Cooperative board and management to share concerns and information on upcoming legislative issues. Your cooperative shared with Senator Sandra Greiner and Representatives Tom Sands and Curt Hanson that the ongoing legislative challenges for your cooperative include fuel costs, costs associated with meeting environmental regulations, governmental mandates and additional generation resource.

As we gear up for a new legislative session, it is important to discuss current legislative issues pertinent to Iowa's electric cooperatives with our legislators. This year an issue at the top of the list is stray voltage legislation that includes a standard, notice and access to facilities; a streamlined indentured process; FEMA resolution and EPA resolution.

The legislators shared with the cooperative board of directors and Robert Swindell, the General Manager/CEO and staff their concerns for the upcoming session. Discussion was held on the smart grid, our energy efficiency program, and our renewable energy program, as well as our commitment to our communities. Further discussion was held on Iowa's roads and bridges, education and healthcare.

Legislators continued from page 2



Top left: Representative Tom Sands, Senator Sandra Greiner and Representative Curt Hanson discuss upcoming legislative issues with Access Energy Board of Directors and staff.



Top right: Representative Curt Hanson and Access Energy Board President Marvin Holtkamp listen to the ongoing challenges cooperatives face.



Bottom right: Access Energy Board Director Fred Hickenbottom, Representative Tom Sands and Senator Sandra Greiner discuss issues.

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General Manager/CEO Bob Swindell presents JD Schimmelpfenning of Lomont Molding with a check for \$500,000 from Access Energy Cooperative's Revolving Loan Fund. Lomont is adding 16,000 square feet of additional production space to their facility in Mt. Pleasant, and new jobs with this loan financing.

Manager's Corner



**General Manager/CEO
Robert Swindell**

Keeping you, our members, informed about your cooperative and the opportunities and challenges facing it are one of our major missions. In fact, education is one of the seven cooperative principles that guide your cooperative.

Our education efforts go beyond our membership. As I've have shared with you many times in the past, the impact of legislative and regulatory actions are one of our biggest challenges to keeping

rates affordable. Events such as our legislative night and our annual trips to the Capitol in Des Moines give us an opportunity to share our views and to hear our local legislators' views on issues important to your cooperative.

There will be times when our State and Federal elected officials will need to hear from you also. Access Energy Cooperative, along with other cooperatives across the state, has formed a grassroots network **alliance** so members can assist us in these efforts. For example, our 2012 postcard campaign on potential climate legislation was very successful in getting our concerns addressed by Senators Harkin and Grassley, and protecting you from potential rate hikes. I hope that you will continue to help us in these efforts in the future. With your help we can continue to be a resource to our elected officials when they address legislation or regulation that will impact our cooperative.

RECare

With the cold weather we've been experiencing, a number of our members will be having difficulties paying their

heating bills. While programs like LIHEAP help our members meet their heating needs, funding for LIHEAP has been reduced at the same time the need continues to grow. Our RECare program makes it easy to help your neighbors in need this winter. If you wish to make a contribution to Access Energy Cooperative RECare program, you can: fill out and return form below, or visit our web site at accessenergycoop.com, or give our Billing Department a call at 866-242-4232. Your contribution, whether it is \$1 or \$10 a month, when combined with those of other generous members, can go a long way in helping those who can't afford winter's heating bills.

With the higher bills that cold weather brings, some members may be experiencing problems paying their electric bills. I would encourage you to contact our billing department, who will be happy to work with you on a payment plan to spread part of your monthly bill out over several months. In order to avoid additional charges associated with being delinquent with your payment, it is always best to contact us prior to your due date.

Access Energy Cooperative schedules an annual visit in the fall to meet with area legislators in preparation for the upcoming session. It proves as an effective opportunity to share concerns and prepare to work together in the upcoming year. We appreciate our area legislators taking time out of their very busy schedules to talk with us. Representative Dave Heaton and Senator Richard Taylor, being unable to attend the meeting, also took time out of their busy schedules to personally meet with Access Energy Cooperative General Manager/CEO Robert Swindell to discuss upcoming issues. Thank you to all of you.

Legislators continued from page 1

Mr. Swindell reported on some of the issues electric cooperatives hoped to work closely with legislation on during the upcoming session, including:

- Protecting our ability to make decisions locally
- Keeping our assigned service areas
- Supporting **renewable** and energy efficiency incentives versus mandates
- Supporting legislative proposals that aid in providing safe, reliable, efficient service

COOPERATIVE INFORMATION

Access Energy Cooperative
1800 West Washington Street
P.O. Box 440
Mount Pleasant, Iowa 52641

Phone: 319.385.1577
Toll free: 866.242.4232
Fax: 319.385.6873

Website:
www.accessenergycoop.com
Email:
contactus@accessenergycoop.com

HOURS:
Monday-Friday
(closed Saturdays, Sundays,
& Holidays)
Office: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Payments can be placed in the dropbox under the flag pole.

Visa and Mastercard accepted.

After Hours Emergencies call:
319.385.1580
or 800.452.7819

General Manager/CEO: Robert Swindell
Editor: Kimberly Brumbaugh
Assistant Editor: Cherity Wibben

Officers and Directors:

Marvin Holtkamp	District 3	President
Ronald Campbell	District 2	Vice President
Joseph Heckethorn	District 1	Secretary
Larry White	District 2	Treasurer
Donald Atwood	District 1	Director
Fred Hickenbottom	District 1	Director
Jerry Barker	District 2	Director
Marvin Newton	District 3	Director
Victor Pierrot	District 3	Director

Help Others by Contributing to RECare

You may make a one-time contribution to the RECare program, or you may enclose an amount each month with your monthly electric bill. Just **one** dollar a month will help others! In 2012, 52 members contributed a total of \$1,567.22

This program is administered by the Community Action Program and recipients must meet their guidelines.



I would like to make a:

- one time contribution of \$ _____
- monthly contribution of \$ _____
(monthly contribution will be added to your bill)

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Account # (if known) _____

2014 Programs & Contests

Win a Trip to Washington DC

Access Energy Cooperative will be sponsoring two students on an exciting all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. June 12-20, 2014. To be eligible to apply for the annual **Youth** Tour trip, students must be a high school sophomore or junior attending a school in southeast Iowa.

Deadline is March 3, 2014



Scholarships Available

Three \$500 scholarships are available for qualifying high school seniors who will be receiving post-secondary education and whose parents or legal guardians are members of the cooperative.

Deadline is March 14, 2014



Poster Contest for K-6th Grade

Fifty dollars will be awarded from Access Energy Cooperative to two winners from each grade level 1-6. Poster should focus on energy conservation and efficiency, and/or renewable sources of energy such as wind, biomass, and solar.

Deadline is April 11, 2014



10th Annual Photo Contest

We're looking for photos for the 2015 calendar of rural settings in southeast Iowa including landscapes, animals, buildings or people in any season of the year. We will reward 12 of the best entries with fifty dollars and use them in our calendar. **Originals** can be returned after judging by request.

Deadline is March 31, 2014



DETAILS ABOUT ALL OUR PROGRAMS & CONTESTS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

www.accessenergycoop.com

1800 W. Washington, Mt. Pleasant, IA 1.866.242.4232

Learn How to Lower Your Electric Bill

Kee your radio tuned into Doug Rye on his Saturday morning program, sponsored by Access Energy Cooperative. Doug is one of the best-known residential energy consultants in the nation. For more information about Doug Rye's home energy tips, visit his home page at www.dougyrie.com or listen to Doug's radio program "Home Remedies" airing on the following radio station:

**KILJ FM 105.5
9-10 AM**



Take Control & Save
A Cooperative Effort for Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficiency Rebates & Programs

ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES

- * Energy Star® Room Air Conditioner.....\$ 50
- * Water heater (Electric only; At least 90% efficient)\$100

HEAT PUMPS

- * Air to Air Source - at least 16.5 SEER (w/Elec. Resist.) \$100 per ton
- * Mini-Split Air Source - at least 16.5 SEER \$250 per ton
- * Dual Fuel Source - at least 16.5 SEER (gas back up) \$250 per ton
- * Ground Source - at least 19.1 EER
- * replacing existing ground source unit..... \$400 per ton
- * new & replacing other heat source type \$750 per ton

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES\$250 per KW

- * Capped at capacity. Access Energy Cooperative owns any carbon credits generated.

HOME WEATHERIZATION INCENTIVESUp to \$500 maximum

- * Incentives are available to those who choose to make energy saving improvements recommended by Access Energy Cooperative following a FREE energy audit conducted by us.
- * Improvements must be completed in recommended order by AEC.

BUSINESS LIGHTING REBATE

- * Must have at least 10 eligible fixtures at a commercial, industrial or ag business member's account of Access Energy Cooperative.
 - * Fluorescent T-5 and T-8 lighting systems with electronic ballasts
 - * LED (light emitting diode) and LED exit signs
 - * Occupancy Sensors
- * Bulbs and fixtures must be evaluated by AEC to determine eligibility based on an audit of existing lighting prior to any installation of new equipment. A knowledgeable employee from the business needs to be present to guide AEC through the initial walk-through lighting audit. A final walk-through must be conducted after the project is completed.
- * Total rebate amount is limited to \$30,000 per member per year and will not exceed 40% of the total equipment price.

FREE ENERGY AUDITS & REBATE FOR IMPROVEMENTS

- * Conducted by a qualified Access Energy Representative
- * Blower door test to check for air leaks and gaps
- * Inspect insulation, doors, windows, lighting, appliances, and much more
- * Weatherization improvements suggested at audit are eligible for incentive up to \$500

LOW INTEREST LOANS

Access Energy Cooperative has ERC low interest loans available for the cost of materials and labor for energy efficiency home improvements in new or existing structures. For more details see our website.

Specific requirements apply to individual rebates. For more information on rebates, low interest loans or to schedule a free energy audit call 385.1577 or 1.866.242.4232 or visit our website at www.accessenergycoop.com.

Want Efficient, Safe Laundry? Leave No Lint Behind

Household chores like laundry seem fairly safe. But hidden problems like lint buildup in a dryer could lead to higher energy bills due to inefficiency and, ultimately, hazardous conditions in your home.

It is important to clean the lint filter after each load and occasionally remove the filter and wash it with a **nylon** brush and hot, soapy water to remove residue. This simple chore not only improves air flow and energy efficiency, but also reduces the chance of a dryer fire.

Statistics on dryer fires show no difference between the natural gas and electric dryers, according to John Drengenberg, consumer affairs manager for Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Inc., a Chicago, Ill.-based not-for-profit firm that **tests** and sets minimum standards for electric-consuming items. "If you forget to clean the lint screen too many times you're going to get a buildup, and that's where ultimately you could have a problem."

Manufacturers whose products carry the UL mark are required to ship dryers with safety instructions that specify cleaning the lint screen before or after each load. These instructions also recommend keeping dryer exhaust openings and adjacent surrounding areas free from accumulated lint, dust, and dirt, and having qualified service people periodically clean the dryer's interior and exhaust duct.

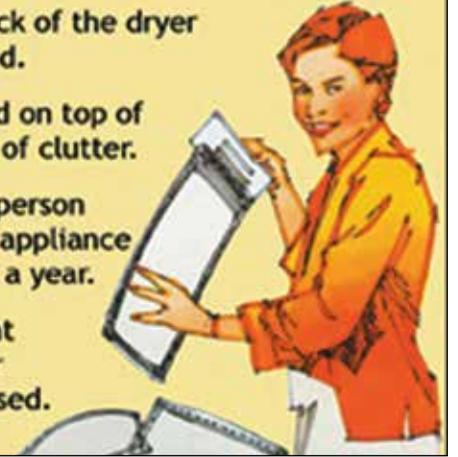
Without adequate air circulation, heat flow becomes stymied, clothes take longer to dry, and it costs more to operate the appliance; and like ovens and stoves, dryers apply extreme heat on potentially flammable materials. We usually don't leave something cooking unattended for long periods of time; but a dryer that **runs** up to an hour or more, can be forgotten in a basement, garage, or utility space. This out-of-sight, out-of-mind practice makes it essential that a dryer be maintained on a simple and regular basis.

Source: Underwriters Laboratories

Stay Safe, Energy Efficient, and Lint Free

For energy efficient and safe dryer performance, lint must be removed from the dryer and vent to allow air to circulate freely. Here are ways to avoid lint buildup:

- Clean the lint filter after each load.
- Occasionally remove the lint filter and clean it with a nylon brush and hot, soapy water.
- Periodically clean the back of the dryer where lint can be trapped.
- Keep the area around and on top of the dryer clean and free of clutter.
- Have a qualified service person clean the interior of the appliance and venting system once a year.
- Thoroughly clean the vent system if you notice your drying times have increased.



Winter Storm Preparation

Your co-op does everything it can to avoid interruptions in your electric service, and we try to restore your power as **soon** as we can in the event of an outage. But sometimes, snow, sleet, **ice** and wind combine to make power outages unavoidable. To minimize inconvenience, discomfort and danger, you should consider preparing now for the possibility of severe winter weather ahead.

- Create an emergency **kit** with a battery-powered radio, a flashlight and candles, extra batteries, matches, a first-aid kit, a fire extinguisher, bottled water and non-perishable food.
- If your home has a fireplace or wood stove, keep a good supply of wood on hand. When you hear that a storm is approaching, make sure that a few days' worth of wood is stored in a protected area so it won't be wet when you need to burn it.
- If you have extra heaters that use kerosene or another fuel, make sure you have adequate supplies of fuel available. Use fuel-burning heaters **ONLY** in a well-ventilated area. **NEVER** burn charcoal indoors! The fumes are hazardous. And always store the fuel in a cool, dry place--not in your home.
- Don't **toss** out old, worn blankets or quilts. Keep them stored for emergencies. They not only help you stay warm, but also can be used to cover doors, windows and other sources of cold air leaks during an outage.
- If your power does go **off**, check your own fuses and circuit breakers first. Call your neighbors to see if they have also lost power. Then contact your co-op to report the outage.
- Remember that in an outage a cordless phone won't work. Make sure you have at least one regular telephone with a cord to use if the power goes out.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors shut. A closed fridge will keep food chilled for 12 hours.
- To keep pipes from freezing in a cold house, open all the faucets slightly to keep them dripping.
- Unplug appliances with sophisticated electronics, such as DVDs, televisions, computers and microwave ovens, so they aren't damaged by a surge when the power comes back on. Leave one light on so you'll know when power is restored, and then gradually reconnect your remaining appliances to avoid overloading the circuits.
- After the storm, replace used batteries in your emergency kit and restock food and water to be prepared for the next storm.

Source: Wiregrass Electric Cooperative

Idle Service Invoices Have Been Mailed

Notices for idle services (any service that has been in place but not used for 12 months or longer) were mailed out this month. If you received a notice, please review it and determine whether or not you wish to retain the service. If you no longer wish to retain the service, please complete and return the notice to our office. For any idle services that we have not received a form to remove it, we will send out an invoice for the annual idle service fee in January.

The annual fee for an idle service is currently \$107 which covers the cost of the cooperative's investment in the facilities.

If you receive an idle service letter and are no longer the owner of the property, please notify our office at 1.866.242.4232.

Airport Road Vineyard & Winery Honored with Iowa Venture Award

West Des Moines, IA - The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG), on behalf of Iowa's rural electric cooperatives, municipal utilities and independent telecommunication companies, honored nine distinguished Iowa companies with the Iowa Venture Award at a luncheon held in conjunction with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting at the Sheraton West Des Moines.

Airport Road Vineyard and Winery, located in Mount Pleasant, has made a significant contribution to hospitality and tourism in southwest Iowa. Opening in 2012, this operation has grown to include a winery and vineyard; photography studio; and 5,250 sq. ft. events center, able to hold groups of 300+ people. Airport Road Vineyard and Winery was nominated for the Iowa Venture Award by Access Energy Cooperative.

"The Iowa Venture Award provides an opportunity to uphold the courage, contribution, innovation, social responsibility and vision of Iowa entrepreneurs," said IADG President Rand Fisher. "IADG, on behalf of our sponsors, is proud to recognize these nine outstanding companies for their accomplishment and contribution to their community, region and state."

Six additional businesses were recognized with an Iowa Venture Award for their significant contributions in diversifying and strengthening Iowa's economy. These 2013 Iowa Venture Award Recipients include: Brownmed, Inc. of Spirit Lake; ECHCO Concrete of Corning; Kloubec Koi Farm of Amana; LaBudde Group, Inc. of Manchester; United Farmers Mercantile Cooperative of Villisca; and Valley Plating, Inc. of Rock Valley. Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey, assisted in presenting the Iowa Venture Awards and honoring the Iowa companies and their leaders.

The 2013 "Outstanding Business of the Year" Iowa Venture Award was presented to CPI - Prairie Gold Hatchery of Goldfield. Centurion Poultry Inc., (CPI) having existing operations in Iowa, decided to expand their Iowa presence by constructing a new 35,000 sq. ft. hatchery in Goldfield. This new state-of-the-art facility has production capacity of 18 million pullet chicks annually, three times that of the Wisconsin facility it replaces. The new facility will strengthen Iowa's leadership position in both egg production and processing.

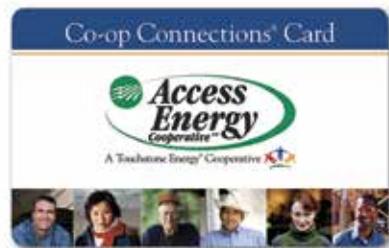
An Iowa Venture Award was also presented to Wildwood Hills Ranch of Iowa for "Distinguished Leadership." Wildwood Hills Ranch of Iowa provides free summer camp and year-round retreats for at-risk children ages 8-18. Kids are immersed in a fun, safe environment where character, leadership and teamwork are modeled and taught. Located on 400 acres west of St. Charles, this camp provides opportunities for approximately 1,000 children annually.

For 26 years, IADG has presented Iowa Venture Awards to individuals and organizations, both large and small, in recognition of their significant contributions to Iowa's economy through entrepreneurial leadership, innovation and the creation of job opportunities. History has demonstrated that these are among the most accomplished and successful companies in the state. Together they are helping to sustain and grow Iowa's economy. The Iowa Venture Award Hall of Fame can be found at IADG.com/iadg-awards.



Airport Road Vineyard & Winery, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, received the 2013 Venture Award recognizing the company for its expansion and contribution to Iowa's economy. Iowa Secretary of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Bill Northey presented the award on behalf of the Iowa Area Development Group L.C., (IADG). Pictured left to right: Bob Swindell, General Manager/CEO, Access Energy Cooperative; Mallory Henderson, and Kalen Henderson and Mike Henderson, Owner of Airport Road Vineyard & Winery; Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture and Land Stewardship; and Rand Fisher, President, IADG

Members Saving on Prescription Costs

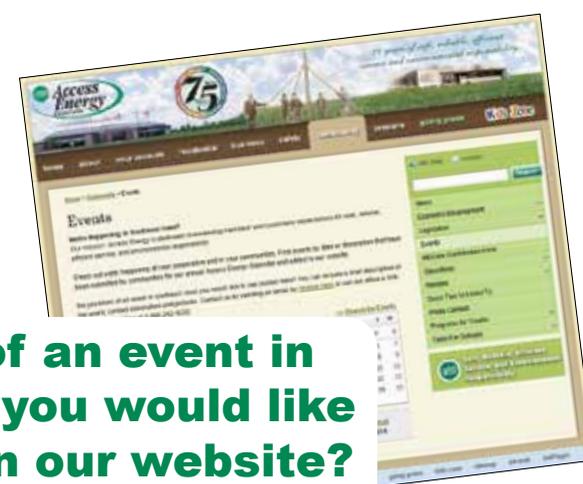


In November, thirty-one members saved \$671 on their prescriptions. Total saved through November 2013 is \$6700.

To find out more on the discounts offered check out our website at www.accessenergycoop.com. We continue visiting with area businesses and adding to the list of local deals.

It's easy to save—you just have to show your card to participating merchants.

If you own a business and would like to offer a discount for the card, please contact Kim Brumbaugh at kbrumbaugh@accessenergycoop.com or call our office.



Do you know of an event in southeast Iowa you would like to see posted on our website?

Do you have something you would like to sell?

Go to our website www.accessenergycoop.com to submit your event or classified item or send it to mktg@accessenergycoop.com and we can do it for you.

Contacting Legislators

Due to safety measures implemented at the nation's Capitol, mail is sometimes delayed, making e-mail a faster and more convenient method for reaching your legislators in Washington, D.C.

Here is a list of area legislators who holds a **seat** at our capitols:

FEDERAL SENATORS

Senator Chuck Grassley—R

U.S. Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 205100001
Phone: (202) 224-3744
Fax: (202) 224-6020
Email: www.grassley.senate.gov/contact.cfm

Senator Tom Harkin—D

U.S. Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 205100001
Phone: (202) 224-3254
Fax: (202) 224-9369
Email: www.harkin.senate.gov/contact.cfm

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE

Representative Dave Loebsack—D

U.S. House of Representatives
1513 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-6576
Fax: (202) 226-0757
Email: <http://loesack.house.gov/contactform/>

STATE SENATORS

All State Senators & Representatives have the following address:

Legislator's Name

Iowa Legislature
Second Floor, State Capitol
Des Moines IA 50319

District 44: Tom Courtney—D

Phone: (515) 281-3371
Cell Phone: (319) 759-5334
thomas.courtney@legis.iowa.gov

District 41: Mark Chelgren—R

Phone: (515) 281-3371
Home Phone: (641) 814-5665
mark.chelgren@legis.iowa.gov

District 39: Sandra Greiner—R

Phone: (515) 281-3371
Home Phone: (319) 330-6190
sandra.greiner@legis.iowa.gov

District 42: Rich Taylor—D

Phone: (515) 281-3371
Cell Phone: (319) 931-1568
rich.taylor@legis.iowa.gov

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

District 87: Dennis Cohoon—D

Phone: (515) 281-3221
Cell Phone: (319) 759-2168
cohoon@legis.iowa.gov

District 81: Mary Gaskill—D

Phone: (515) 281-3221
Home Phone: (641) 682-6417
mary.gaskill@legis.iowa.gov

District 82: Curt Hanson—D

Phone: (515) 281-3221
Home Phone: (641) 919-2314
curt.hanson@legis.iowa.gov

District 84: David Heaton—R

Phone: (515) 281-3221
Cell Phone: (319) 931-4792
dave.heaton@legis.iowa.gov

District 83: Jerry Kearns—D

Phone: (515) 281-3221
Home Phone: (319) 524-1570
jerry.kearns@legis.iowa.gov

District 78: Jarad Klein—R

Phone: (515) 281-3221
Home Phone: (319) 636-2082
jarad.klein@legis.iowa.gov

District 88: Tom Sands—R

Phone: (515) 281-3221
Cell Phone: (319) 750-1423
tom.sands@legis.iowa.gov

Low Interest Financing for Energy Efficiency Improvements

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced on December 4, 2013, that USDA will take new steps to save consumers money on their energy bills in partnership with rural electric cooperatives. USDA plans to provide rural electric cooperatives up to \$250 million to lend to business and residential customers for energy **efficiency** improvements and renewable energy systems.

"Energy efficiency retrofitting can shrink home energy use by 40 percent, saving money for consumers and helping rural utilities manage their electric load more efficiently," said Vilsack. "Ultimately, reducing energy use helps pump capital back into rural communities. This program is designed to meet the unique needs of consumers and businesses to encourage energy efficiency retrofitting projects across rural America."

Vilsack noted that the Energy Efficiency and Loan Conservation Program, by promoting energy savings in rural areas, will help build a cleaner and more sustainable domestic energy sector for future generations by reducing barriers to investment in energy efficiency and potentially cutting energy bills for American families and businesses in the process.

Although energy efficiency measures can reduce home energy use considerably, many consumers and businesses do not invest in them because they lack the capital or financing to do so. This program hopes to reduce barriers to these investments by making financing more available.

Access Energy Cooperative has been offering low interest financing to members for these energy efficiency improvements for many years now. The loans may be used for upgrades to heating, lighting and insulation, and conversions to more efficient or renewable energy sources. There is no **finite** plan for any termination of the program. Please call our office for more information on the program.



As part of our mission of SAFE, reliable, efficient service, our cooperative was recently invited to showcase our safety practices to electric cooperatives across the nation at the Leading Safety Practices Showcase.

Left to right: Safety Committee Members - Beth Calhoun, Bob Ruby, Levon Mullen, Don Roach and Scott Augsburg



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FOLLOW US!

www.twitter.com/AccessEnergyC

Steve Hyde Honored for 25 Years of Service to Access Energy Cooperative

At the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives in West Des Moines, Steve Hyde, Journeyman Lineman, of Access Energy Cooperative was recognized for 25 years of service. During a special awards ceremony, Access Energy Cooperative joined other 25-year honorees who received commemorative certificates from association president Marion Denger.

“Access Energy Cooperative exemplifies the steady dedication Iowa’s electric cooperatives have to providing safe, reliable, efficient safe electricity to our members,” said Denger. “It is a commitment we made to our members long ago – during the 1930s, when the national Rural Electrification Administration was formed – and it is the same commitment we maintain with our members today.”

Congratulations Steve!!

And thank you for 25 years of safe, reliable and efficient service to Access Energy Cooperative members.

Employee Service Awards



**Duane Meth
35 Years**

At the recent Cooperative Employee Appreciation night, Board President, Marvin Holtkamp presented Employee Service Awards to Duane Meth for 35 years, Steve Hyde for 25 years and Sheryl Dorn for 15 years at Access Energy Cooperative.



**Steve Hyde
25 Years**



**Sheryl Dorn
15 Years**

General Manager/CEO Bob Swindell presented Jay Prichard with his 5 year award at the monthly safety meeting.



**Jay Prichard
5 Years**



Access Energy Sponsors Students for the L.E.A.P. Academy

Harmony seniors, Kelsey Jarvis, Julianna Knowles, and Amber Vance, recently graduated in the inaugural class of the L.E.A.P. Academy, a leadership development program offered through the Regional Economic Advancement division of Indian Hills Community College. They were sponsored by Access Energy Cooperative and Northeast Missouri Power.

L.E.A.P. is an acronym for Leadership, Empowerment, Achievement, Progress. The goal of the program is, “To inspire future leaders who care about the success of the Indian Hills 10-county region and to empower them with the knowledge that they can make a positive difference in what our region can achieve as we move forward.”

The students were selected to participate in the program by their high school. They entered the program during the spring of their junior year and continued through the fall semester of their senior year. Over the course of the program the students met with Indian Hills’ staff and other students from across the Indian Hills region for a total of six days.

During these meetings the students engaged in a variety of hands-on activities designed to help them develop their leadership skills in such areas as: communication, creativity, ethics, goal setting, handling conflict, problem solving, servant leadership, and team building.

The students were also required to complete a service project in their community as part of the program. Kelsey, Julianna, and Amber worked at the Farmington Ball Field. They cleaned up the field as well as repainted the surrounding wood fence.

The L.E.A.P. Academy would not be possible without the support of many generous community sponsors.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Keep your fireplace damper closed unless you build a fire. An open damper allows as much warm air to escape as a fully open window. If you never use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney flue.

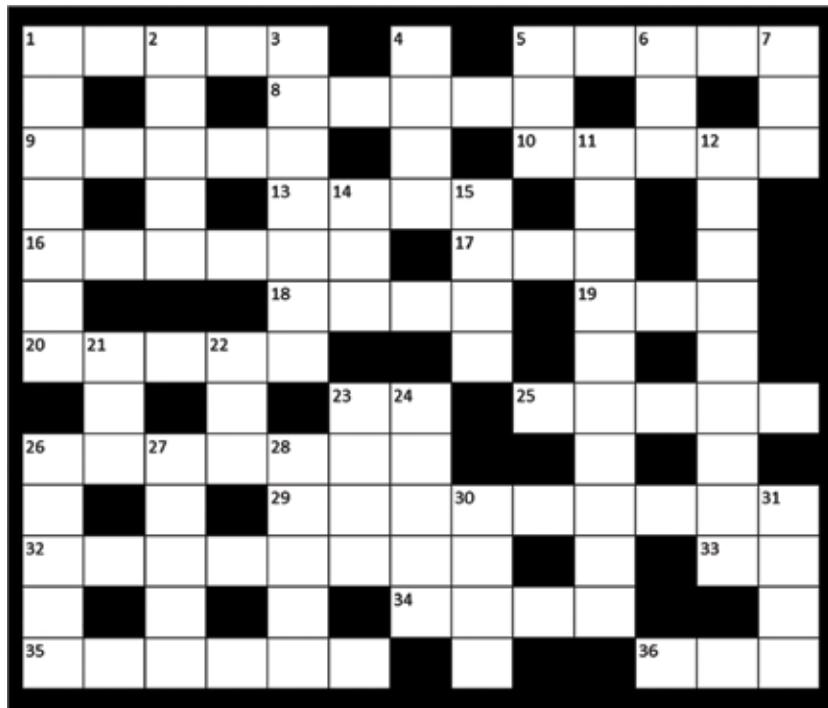
Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Win \$25 By Learning About Your Cooperative!

Access Energy Cooperative members can win \$25 by completing the crossword below correctly. Members may clip out their answers and send them by January 31, 2013 to: Access Energy Cooperative, Attn: Crossword Puzzle, P.O. Box 440, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641. Most of the answers are bold and highlighted elsewhere in this issue of the Highline Headlines. If more than one person answers all of the questions correctly by the deadline, a drawing will be held to determine the winner. Only one prize will be given for the crossword puzzle.

Name _____

Address _____



Last month's winner is Ronald Wyse of Mt. Pleasant

ACROSS

- 1 These pertaining to fuel are a challenge for your cooperative
- 5 This voltage was discussed with area legislators at our annual legislative night
- 8 We sponsor two students to go on this trip for free
- 9 These were discussed at the annual legislative night with area legislators
- 10 Steve Hyde was recently honored for 25 of these at the cooperative
- 13 Don't do this to old blankets. You can use them for emergencies
- 16 11
- 17 If this happens to your power, first check your breakers
- 18 Short for memorandum
- 19 This kind of storm can cause power outages
- 20 These are done so standards can be set by Underwriters Laboratories
- 23 Slang for toilet paper
- 25 This walk through must be completed for a lighting rebate once the project is complete
- 26 Sandra Greiner and Rich Taylor hold this title at our state Capitol and discussed legislative issues with our cooperative
- 29 These from the photo contest can be returned after judging upon request
- 32 Coops across the state & nation have formed this to help communicate legislative concerns
- 33 Short for energy efficiency
- 34 Opposite of difficult
- 35 Our low interest financing does not have this type of plan for an termination of the program
- 36 Create this to have on hand in case your power goes out in a winter storm

DOWN

- 1 These issues are discussed annually when we meet with legislators
- 2 Your coop board and management did this with legislators on current issues
- 3 A commercial lighting rebate can be awarded for installing these for T-8s, T-5s, and LEDs
- 4 When cooking we don't generally leave things unattended; however dryers do this often unattended
- 5 Being reserved or having or showing nervousness or timidity in the company of other people
- 6 Rural Electrification Administration
- 7 Opposite of no
- 11 USDA has available programs for these types of improvements for members; we have been providing this type of financing for many years
- 12 We support incentives versus mandates when it concerns this type of energy
- 14 Even this many dollars can be helpful to another member in need
- 15 Your cooperative tries to restore power in the event of an outage in this time frame
- 21 Organ we see with
- 22 A drink with jam and bread
- 23 Ripped
- 24 Rebates for commercial lighting cannot exceed 40% of this
- 26 Your coop sponsored 3 students in a leadership program, where students met with these people from Indian Hills
- 27 Clean your dryer lint filter often and wash it with one of these brushes
- 28 Bread that has been cooked
- 30 As we do this for the upcoming legislative session, it is important to discuss current issues with our legislators
- 31 See page 6 to see how to contact legislators who hold one of these at one of our Capitols

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The featured recipe winner who submitted this recipe will receive a \$10 electric bill credit. Check out our recipe section at www.accessenergycoop.com for a new recipe or to submit your favorite recipe. Or mail us your recipe and we will post it for you.



Mini Fruit Pizzas

From the Kitchen of Anonymus

- Sugar cookie dough
- 8 oz cream cheese
- 4.5 oz cool whip
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 T. cornstarch
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 1/4 cup water
- Fruit (strawberries, blueberries, mandarin oranges, raspberries, kiwi)

Bake cookies as directed and cool. Make sauce by mixing sugar, cornstarch, orange juice and water. Bring to a boil; simmer 1 minute. Cool. Mix cream cheese and cool whip. Spread on cooled cookies. Arrange fruit slices on top of cream cheese mixture. Pour cooled sauce over fruit. refrigerate left overs.

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