



# Highline Headlines

Access Energy is dedicated to exceeding members' and customers' expectations for safe, reliable, efficient service and environmental responsibility. We are an equal opportunity provider.



**For after hours  
emergencies call  
800.452.7819  
or 319.385.1580**

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[www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com)

## Our Past Powers Your Future

Members in of Access Energy Cooperative celebrated 76 years with an estimated crowd of 3500 members at the **Annual Meeting of Members** on August 5th.

Access Energy Cooperative collectively began building a sophisticated power production and delivery system in 1938 and that system is still bringing members safe, reliable and efficient service today. With stringent maintenance programs and construction work plans, along with technology, we will continue to provide that same service well into the future. That's the message that members of Access Energy Cooperative heard Tuesday, August 5th at the co-op's annual meeting of members.

Speakers during the business session discussed the cooperative's history and contribution to community, and how the past powers the future of the members. President of the Henry County Area Development Commission David File's welcome remarks complimented the cooperative and

**Annual Meeting, continued on page 4**

## Election Results

### District 1



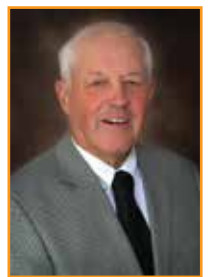
**David  
Hollingsworth**  
Packwood

### District 2



**Jerry  
Barker**  
Mt. Pleasant

### District 3



**Marvin  
Holtkamp**  
Donnellson

## Board of Directors

**PRESIDENT** ..... Jerry Barker, District 2  
**VICE PRESIDENT** ..... Fred Hickenbottom, District 1  
**SECRETARY** ..... Joseph Heckethorn, District 1  
**TREASURER** ..... Marvin Newton, District 3  
**DIRECTORS** ..... David Hollingsworth, District 1  
Ron Campbell, District 2  
Larry White, District 2  
Marvin Holtkamp, District 3  
Victor Pierrot, District 3

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## Dividend Checks in the Mail

If you were not able to make it to the annual meeting, your dividend check was mailed to you recently. Accounts with payments of less than \$5 will continue to accumulate and will be paid in the year they reach or exceed \$5.

After reviewing the operating revenues for 2013, your Board of Directors **approved** a dividend retirement of \$910,089. The refund is applied against years 1996, 1997, 1998 and 2013. The cooperative will be paying 34% of the dividends for 1996, 40% of 1997, 10% of 1998, and 14% of 2013. A pass-through amount of \$255,564 is from Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative.

At Access Energy Cooperative, as a member you own the cooperative. Unlike other electric utilities, we **exist** to make sure your needs are **met**—not to make a profit. As a member-owner, you share in the profits in the form of dividend checks. We work hard every day to keep your rates as low as possible. We also strive to earn your trust and excel at providing you with reliable service.

If you would like to know more information about dividends, check us out on our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com).



## Manager's Corner



### General Manager/CEO Robert Swindell

I would like to thank everyone that came out to the Annual Meeting this year. It was truly a beautiful evening. 910 members registered at the meeting and we distributed 1024 **patronage** checks. If you did not attend the Annual Meeting, you should by now have received your patronage check in the mail, if you have not received it please give us a call.

The results of the election of directors at the annual meeting were as follows:

#### District One

David Hollingsworth	238
Mark Ledger	118

#### District Two

Jerry Barker	285
Jeff Rich	169

#### District Three

Marvin Holtkamp	210
Jason Samples	147

Members like these that are willing to give their time are a great asset to the cooperative.

It is a challenging time for all utilities, and I don't see these challenges disappearing anytime soon. I would like to thank every one of these people for their willingness to serve the cooperative.

In addition to the election of directors the membership approved the proposed changes to the Articles of Incorporation by a ninety five percent margin. The vote totals were 715 for and 32 against.

At the reorganization meeting the following directors were elected as officers: Jerry Barker, President; Fred Hickenbottom, Vice President; Marvin Newton, Treasurer; and Joe Heckethorn, Secretary. I was elected as the cooperative's Chief Executive Officer.

Don Atwood retired from the Board of Directors at this year's annual meeting after 27 years of service to the cooperative. During Don's tenure on the board, the cooperative saw significant growth in membership and sales. Don is also the last of the members of the Board of Directors that hired me 22 years ago. I want to thank Don for the leadership he provided the cooperative, the opportunity he provided me and to wish him the best.

#### MAILED BILLS

We have a large number of members who take advantage of both our e-bill and auto-pay programs. They both offer you a convenient means of paying

your monthly bill. One reoccurring question we get is "why do you send us a bill in the mail when we have already paid?" This is an example of regulations not keeping pace with technology. The **Iowa** Utilities Board (IUB) requires that "Each customer shall be informed as promptly as possible following the reading of the customer's meter, on bill form". This rule does not specifically allow us to electronically deliver your bill as the "bill form"; so in order to make sure we comply with this obligation of the IUB, we go ahead and send you a monthly bill.

We also periodically **insert** information in your bill that provides you with timely information that complies with other regulations. So I would encourage all members to take a minute each month and review the contents of their monthly bill.

#### HAVE A SAFE HARVEST

Before long, many members will be busy with harvest. Please make **SAFETY** your number one priority. Please take time to locate all power lines before moving or raising any tall equipment. Many pieces of farm machinery, such as grain augers or elevators can reach heights taller than our power lines. Sometimes our depth perception can fool us and power lines can be much closer than we think. Please keep all objects at least 10 feet from all power lines. Also show everyone working with you the location of all power lines and go over safety procedures. If you need more information or have concerns about the power lines on your property, please contacts us.

## 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

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

Billing & account information can be accessed 24/7 by calling our office or by visiting our website.

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:** Cherty Wibben

#### Officers and Directors:

Jerry Barker	District 2	President
Fred Hickenbottom	District 1	Vice President
Joseph Heckethorn	District 1	Secretary
Marvin Newton	District 3	Treasurer
David Hollingsworth	District 1	Director
Larry White	District 2	Director
Ronald Campbell	District 2	Director
Marvin Holtkamp	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 2013, forty customers contributed a total of \$2,794.74.

This program is administered by the Iowa 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) \_\_\_\_\_



# Energy Assistance Program

The 2014–2015 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

## WHEN TO APPLY:

- Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled: October 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015.
- All other households: November 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015.

## WHAT TO TAKE:

- Proof of income: Most recent 3 months' check stubs, award letter from Social Security or 2013 tax return.
- Social Security numbers of all household members.
- Recent heat bill.
- Recent electric bill.

If you receive alimony or child support it will also need to be verified.

**WAGE EARNERS:** Please bring copies of your check stubs for the three-month period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your federal income tax return.

**FIXED INCOME:** This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance and pensions. Please bring copies of your most recent 3 months' check stubs.

**SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:** Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

**FIP RECIPIENTS:** Please bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information

If you are not sure where to apply, please write to: LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Human Rights/DCAA, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319, or call your local community action agency.

## Income Maximums

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6
3 Month Gross Income	\$4,376	\$5,899	\$7,421	\$8,944	\$10,466	\$11,989
Annual Gross Income	\$17,505	\$23,595	\$29,685	\$35,775	\$41,865	\$47,955
For households with more than six member, add \$1,523 per three months, or \$6,090 annually for each additional member.						

Medical Waiver: Households who are over LIHEAP regular income guidelines may be eligible for LIHEAP benefits through our medical waiver component. The medical expenses must be documented, paid, and non-reimbursable. For more information please contact your local community action agency.



## Energy Efficiency

*Tip of the Month*

When it's hot outside, appliances and lighting can actually heat up our homes more than we think. To save energy, minimize the activities that generate additional heat, such as burning open flames, continuously running a computer, or using hot-hair devices like curling irons. This will ultimately keep your house cooler.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

## 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 INCENTIVES .....Up 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 REBATES

- 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 & photo cells
- 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 loans available at low interest rates 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](http://www.accessenergycoop.com).

# 2014 ANNUAL MEETING



## Annual Meeting Prize Winners

Electric timer/hedger.....John Hill  
 27" tower fan.....Randy Hageman  
 Electric leaf blower.....Rodger Patton  
 11" electric skillet.....Larry Krabill  
 George Foreman Grill.....Jennifer Weaver  
 Programmable slow cooker.....John Clark  
 Personal blender.....Rosalie Kirchner  
 Coca-Cola shaved ice machine.....Lowell Gaulke  
 3 cup chopper.....Duane Seaton  
 Coffee/tea brewer.....Charlie Shirkey  
 Shop vac.....Bruce Hopp  
 Cool Daddy fryer.....Rozita Bergen  
 Jig saw.....Denmark Sanitary District  
 Portable tire inflator.....James Garnsey  
 Electric kitchen knife.....James Weaver  
 Black & Decker drill driver.....Jackson Collins  
 Programmable thermostat.....Dale Enger  
 Programmable thermostat.....Barbara Baylor  
 LED lightbulb.....Alan Vantiger  
 LED lightbulb.....Roger Ford  
 LED lightbulb.....Roxanne Smith  
**\$50 Bill credit compliments of Sherrill Electric & Maddy**

### Tree Service

William Schurk, Richard Bell, Tom Morgan, Dennis Swarthout, Marsha Birdsell, Diana Lowe, Janet Mellinger, Margaret Van Zile, A&R Enterprises Ltd, Minetta Hesseltine, & Kim Burden

### \$100.00 Electric bill credit from mailed in ballots

Mike Telfer

### GRAND PRIZE \$250

Winner was not present so the \$250 will be rolled into the drawing for a grand prize of \$500 at the 2015 Annual Meeting.

## Social Media Contest Winners

### Facebook Contest Winners

Cliff Nichols & Cherise Snow

### Twitter Contest Winners

Jenna Borgomainerio & Rochelle Heisel

### Annual Meeting Event on Facebook Winner

Beth Powell

### Annual Meeting, continued from page 1

its members and how the cooperative benefits even the people in the local communities who are not members of the cooperative. He offered a reminder that the Access Energy Cooperative annual meeting of members used to conclude with a Miss REC contest and that it would be something to think about bringing that back to the meeting.

More than 30 attendance prizes were awarded during the day including several \$50 bill credits. The grand prize of \$250 is a one-time drawing for the night and the member must be present to win. Since the member whose name was drawn was not present at the time of drawing, the \$250 will roll into next year's annual meeting of members for a \$500 bill credit grand prize.

Other highlights of the day included an outstanding performance by Kross Kountry and many family fun activities including pony rides by Shady Acres; inflatable activities for kids by Jump-4-Fun; and Drive-A-Tractor by Joel Proennecke. Several booths were available offering information on energy efficiency, the cooperative's Facebook and Twitter accounts, the Coop Connections Card, in addition to safety demonstrations.

## Members Saving on Prescriptions



In July, 18 members saved \$452 on their prescriptions. To find out more on the discounts offered check out our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com).

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](mailto:kbrumbaugh@accessenergycoop.com) or call our office at 1.866.242.4232.



## Are You Grounded? GFCI Outlets Can Help!

Did you know there are different types of electrical outlets? Each is designed for different purposes; however, there is one specific type that stands high above the rest—the ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlet. GFCIs have saved thousands of lives and cut the number of electrocutions in half since the 1970s. If your home lacks GFCI outlets, don't fret—you can learn how to “get grounded.”



GFCIs are the most efficient outlet in protecting from electrical shock. If it senses a loss of current, the outlet switches off power to that circuit. These devices can either be installed in your electrical system or built into a power cord. The third hole at the bottom of the outlet is known as the “ground” slot, and it monitors electrical currents that flow through the left “neutral” slot and the right “hot” slot on each outlet. A GFCI can react faster than a blink of an eye to any imbalance of power by immediately shutting off the electrical current. These outlets are now a requirement in all places where water could potentially come into contact with electrical products such as bathrooms, garages, outdoors and kitchens.

GFCIs are not exclusive to three-prong outlets.

GFCIs should be tested at least once a month to ensure they are working effectively. The first step you need to take is to test an item, such as a lamp, that visibly powers on when plugged in. Push the “reset” button to prepare the outlet then push the “test” button. Did your lamp turn off? If it did, the GFCI is working properly. Now, hit the “reset” button once again to power it back on. If your lamp did not power off, then you should contact a certified electrician to correct the problem.

Next time you have a free moment, take the time to look around your house. If you're not “grounded,” consider updating your electrical outlets to GFCIs.

Sources: Amber Bentley, NRECA, Electrical Safety Foundation International, Consumer Product Safety Commission

## Access Energy Helps Fund the Iowa Energy Center & the CGRER

Each year, Access Energy Cooperative contributes a portion of its gross revenues to the Iowa Energy Center at Iowa State University and the Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research at the University of Iowa.

The Iowa Energy Center helps to promote, develop and advance energy efficiency programs and renewable energy research. In addition, the Center is available to answer questions on a variety of energy issues for the citizens of Iowa.

In 2013, Access Energy was assessed one-tenth of one percent of its gross operating revenue for electric service of \$23,188,335. Access Energy paid a total of \$23,188. Eighty-five percent of that will go to the Iowa State Energy Center and 15 percent will go to the University of Iowa for the CGRER.

All Iowa electric and gas utilities are required by the state legislature to help fund the two centers.



## 2015 Photo Contest Begins

It's time for the 11th annual photo contest with selected entries to be used in the 2016 Access Energy Calendar. We're looking for photos of rural settings in southeast Iowa including landscapes, animals, buildings or people in any season of the year. Fifty dollars will be awarded to each photographer whose entry is selected as one of the 12 featured photos. Submit all entries by March 31, 2015 to: Photo Contest, c/o Access Energy Cooperative, PO Box 440, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641.



- Full color photos are encouraged.
- Entries must be in a horizontal layout.
- ORIGINAL PHOTOS ONLY. Photo copies and digital pictures printed from a computer/printer will not be accepted.
- SIZE REQUIREMENTS
  1. Printed entries: Minimum size for originals is 6x4. Max. size 14x8.
  2. Digital entries: Please submit as original electronic files. Minimum size is 3300 x 2550 pixels
- E-mail to [kbrumbaugh@accessenergycoop.com](mailto:kbrumbaugh@accessenergycoop.com) or submit on a CD.
- Entrants may enter more than one photo.
- Entries must include the following information on the back of photo, or on the CD:
  1. Entrant's name, address, phone number.
  2. Title of the photograph.
  3. County in which photo was taken.
- All entries will become the property of Access Energy Cooperative and may be used by Access Energy Cooperative for any purpose Access Energy Cooperative deems valid. (We can return them upon your request when the contest is complete.)
- Entrants agree to authorize Access Energy Cooperative to announce and publish their name, address, and photograph in any forthcoming publicity without further remuneration, other than the prizes awarded in this contest.
- By submitting an entry in the contest, you agree to grant Access Energy Cooperative permissions and all rights to use the photo entry indefinitely for marketing purposes, which include but is not limited to a calendar or other printed materials promoting Access Energy Cooperative.
- All entrants must have sufficient permission of any recognizable persons appearing in the photograph to be able to grant to Access Energy Cooperative the right to display their photographic submission on-line or in printed material.

## Questions or Complaints?

As a member-owner of Access Energy Cooperative, assistance is available to you in resolving questions, comments or complaints about your electric service.

Access Energy Cooperative has trained representatives available to answer your questions and address any concerns you may have. Here is how you can contact our office at: Access Energy Cooperative, P.O. Box 440, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641 or call 866.242.4232.

If your question is related to our service, rather than rates, and your concern is not resolved, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling toll-free 877.565.4450, by writing to Iowa Utilities Board, 1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069, or by email to [customer@iub.iowa.gov](mailto:customer@iub.iowa.gov).

## Energy Efficient Window Treatments

A recent study by two federal agencies used rigorous science and analysis to dissect window-covering choices—how you use them, where you install them and whether they really save energy. These days, every penny counts, which is why Access Energy Cooperative recommends finding ways to be energy efficient around the house.

Windows account for 25 to 40 percent of annual heating and cooling costs, especially in older homes. Blinds, shades, films and drapes are all good options to consider if old or inefficient windows can't be replaced.

According to a joint government and industry research effort (including the U.S. Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the Window Covering Manufacturers Association), window coverings—blinds, shades, curtains and **awnings**—could save significant amounts of energy at a relatively low cost to the consumer.

It's important to remember that **location**, placement and materials are key. Windows facing west let in the hottest light and need the most coverage, while windows facing south are the most important **natural** light source and only need light coverage.

**DRAPERY** During the winter months and in cold climates, draperies work best. Their ability to reduce heat loss depends on fabric type (closed or open weave), color, the season and other factors. Keeping drapes drawn during the winter, especially at night, could save up to 10 percent of heat loss from a warm room. When hanging draperies, make sure they are placed as close to windows as possible to reduce heat exchange and that they are long enough to fall onto a windowsill or floor.

**SHADES** Shades—pleated or cellular, quilted roller and dual—are one of the simplest product choices for insulating rooms. But depending on the material, some are more energy efficient than others. Cellular or pleated shades are one **example** of an energy efficient choice. They can help keep air from either entering or escaping your home. Dual shades—highly reflective (white) on one side and heat absorbing (dark) on the other side—are also energy efficient and can be reversed with the seasons. In the summer, lower shades on sunlit windows. Shades on the south side of a house should be raised in the winter during the **day**, then lowered at night.

**INTERIOR BLINDS** Because of their spacing and openings, blinds tend to be more effective at reducing summer heat gain than winter heat loss. But the level of cooling and heating can also be influenced by the position of the slats. When completely closed and lowered at a sun-filled window, for example, heat gain can be reduced by around 45 percent, according to industry estimates. Slats can also be adjusted to block and reflect sunlight onto a light-colored ceiling.

**WINDOW FILM** Residential window films can be high-end and permanent or inexpensive and temporary solutions to improve the energy efficiency of windows. Clear solar-control window films can block up to 84 percent of the solar energy that would normally enter through windows, according to the International Window Film Association, a nonprofit organization of window film dealers, distributors and manufacturers. When installed well, you may not even know some types of film have been applied to your interior windows, manufacturers say, but they're working year-round to block ultraviolet light in summer and retain warmth in the winter.

With these and other carefully selected window treatments, you can reduce heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer – keeping your house comfortable and your energy bills lower. To find out more ways to save, contact Access Energy Cooperative's energy experts at 866.242.4232.

Source: B. Denise Hawkins

## Electricity: A Great Value

In today's world, you won't find many items that cost less than \$5. You can purchase a gallon of milk, a gallon of gas or a Big Mac meal from McDonalds. But did you know that an average day's worth of electricity costs less than \$5? Even in our country's shifting energy climate, electricity remains a good value. In fact, electricity has the lowest cost per day of any of the items listed above. And not all of those items are necessary for daily **life!**

Take a minute to think about your daily necessities (electricity and gasoline, to name a couple), and then think about the cost of the special treats we allow ourselves to purchase. We don't often question the cost of a Big Mac meal – it costs over \$1 more to buy a Big Mac meal than it does to purchase a day's worth of power. And yet, we frequently become upset if our electricity rates rise.

It makes sense; we have become increasingly reliant upon electricity. Electricity has, for many of us, gone from a luxury commodity to a necessity and an expectation. We expect the lights to come on when we flip the switch, and we expect **our** power to stay on during the best and worst conditions. How else would we keep our food fresh, our homes cool in the summer or warm in the winter? It is easy to cut a Big Mac out of your spending routine here and there to save a few dollars. But we cannot simply cut electricity out of our budgets if times get tough or we decide that we want to scale back our spending in order to save.

Perhaps that is why it is so upsetting to us when our rates increase, even if only in small increments. It is nearly impossible for us to think about what our lives would be like if we did not have electricity. If at times it doesn't seem that electricity is affordable, remember – even as the demand for electricity grows – annual cost increases still remain low, especially when compared to other consumer goods such as medical care, education, gasoline and, yes, even Big Macs. Electricity is still a great bargain. We are committed to making sure that you and your family always have safe, reliable and affordable electric service in your home.

So the next time you crave a Big Mac, remember your electric bill, and think about what a great deal you're getting for your dollar!

Source: Meghaan Evans, NRECA

## Thank Yous from Members

7/22/2014

"I commend the crew for the good work regarding the **outage** repairs this morning. The crew is a great bunch of guys and I really appreciate them."

Thank you

Laura C., Douds, IA

7/22/2014

"Thanks so much to whomever came out in the storm this morning and got our power back up, much appreciated!! Have a great day!"

Larry C., Mt. Pleasant, IA



## Did You Know?

Sending power to your home is a lot like driving to a neighboring state. You wouldn't consider taking a two-lane secondary road to travel to a city hundreds of miles away, would you? Of course not: You would find the nearest interstate so you could drive faster and arrive at your destination in less time.

Just like you, your electricity has an interstate that allows it to travel long distances, and a secondary system that winds through back roads and neighborhoods to direct it to its final destination, your home.

Transmission **lines** that deliver power from a power plant to substations are the fast-moving interstate highways of the electric industry. These lines carry from 23,000 to 161,000 volts of electricity into the local distribution substation. They are located on structures ranging from large metal towers more than 100 feet tall to a single pole standing 70 to 90 feet in the air.

And just like a car leaving the interstate, the electricity leaving the substation has to slow down when it enters the distribution lines serving southeast Iowa's service area. Transformers in the substation provide the braking system for lowering the voltage of the electricity so it can continue safely along its journey.

So, how does it work? Higher voltage electricity passes through a system of coiled wires located in the substation transformer. The electricity enters a primary side of the transformer, which has metal coil windings surrounding that side of the transformer, and then passes to a secondary side, which has fewer coil windings. Travelling through the reduced number of windings lowers the voltage as it leaves the secondary side and continues the journey along the distribution lines.

The electricity moving along Access Energy Cooperative's distribution lines are cruising between 7,200 volts to 12,470 volts, depending on whether or not they are travelling **along** a **single**-phase, two-phase or three-phase line. Consider these lines the secondary roads of the electric system. They make the journey through the local co-op's service area.

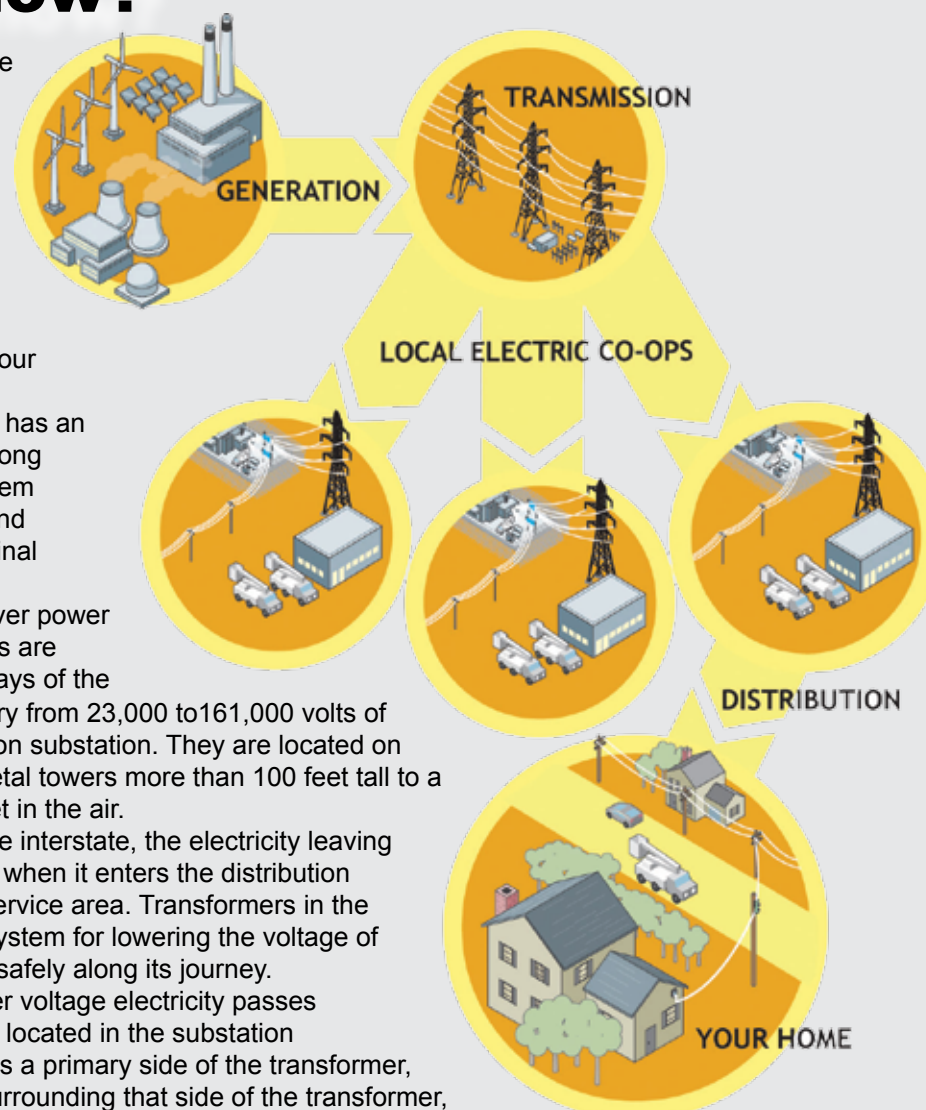
Distribution lines carry the electricity shorter distances than transmission lines. They transport electricity to the businesses, schools and homes served by your co-op.

Your electricity has one more **stop** before making its way into your home. Just as you slow down to pull into your final destination, the voltage is lowered one more time. It takes a turn off the distribution line and into another transformer that's located outside your home.

This transformer may be a canister hanging on a pole or a box in your yard if you have underground electric service. Like the substation transformer, the electricity passes through a primary side with more coil windings to a secondary side with fewer coils. The voltage leaving the secondary side is generally between 120 and 240 volts.

After the electric current leaves the transformer, it makes its way through a service line, into the meter base and to its final destination – your home, where it powers the appliances and electronics of our modern world. As you can see, the electric highway plays a key role in powering our lives and delivering safe, reliable and affordable electricity to you.

Source: Karen Combs



Graphics by Funnel, Inc., and NRECA

## Where Does Your Power Come From?

Most of us don't give it a second thought where your power comes from, until your service is interrupted and we're left in the dark. In today's world, electricity is a necessity, and this necessity travels a great distance to reach you – our members. Access Energy Cooperative provides electricity to about 9000 members, and it takes a network of folks to do so. We build and maintain overhead and underground power lines and manage the equipment needed to provide you with safe, reliable power – but did you know that we don't actually **generate** the power that is supplied to your home? That's where the generation and transmission cooperative (G&T) comes in.

Access Energy Cooperative receives electricity from Northeast Power a transmission cooperative located in Palmyra MO. NE Power is a wholesale power supplier that is owned and governed by eight other electric distribution cooperatives, just like Access Energy Cooperative. Northeast Power purchases the electricity from Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.—our generation cooperative—that is owned by Northeast Power and 7 other transmission cooperatives like it. Northeast then sends the power over high-voltage transmission lines to Access Energy Cooperative. Source: Abby Berry, NRECA

## Considering a Renewable Energy Project?

**T**he basic elements of a renewable energy system interconnected to the Access Energy Cooperative distribution system are generally constant. The configuration may vary somewhat depending on the owner's location and equipment—as well as state law and local code requirements.

Owners of all such systems must, by law, notify the cooperative at least 30 days before installing a solar array or any other type of renewable energy generation equipment. This is an important safety precaution.

Linemen performing regular maintenance or emergency repairs on power lines could be injured by power back-feeding onto those lines from member-owned alternative energy sources.

Installing a renewable energy system is an individual decision for each member. The cooperative's role in this process is to help educate the member regarding the cooperative's expectations in this process.

First and foremost, the Cooperative must protect the safety of cooperative members and employees, maintain the integrity and reliability of the grid and establish mechanisms to ensure cost fairness. Before investing in a wind turbine or before connecting it to the grid, the member-consumer should meet with an Access Energy Cooperative member service specialist to gain an understanding of the expectations for both the cooperative and the member.

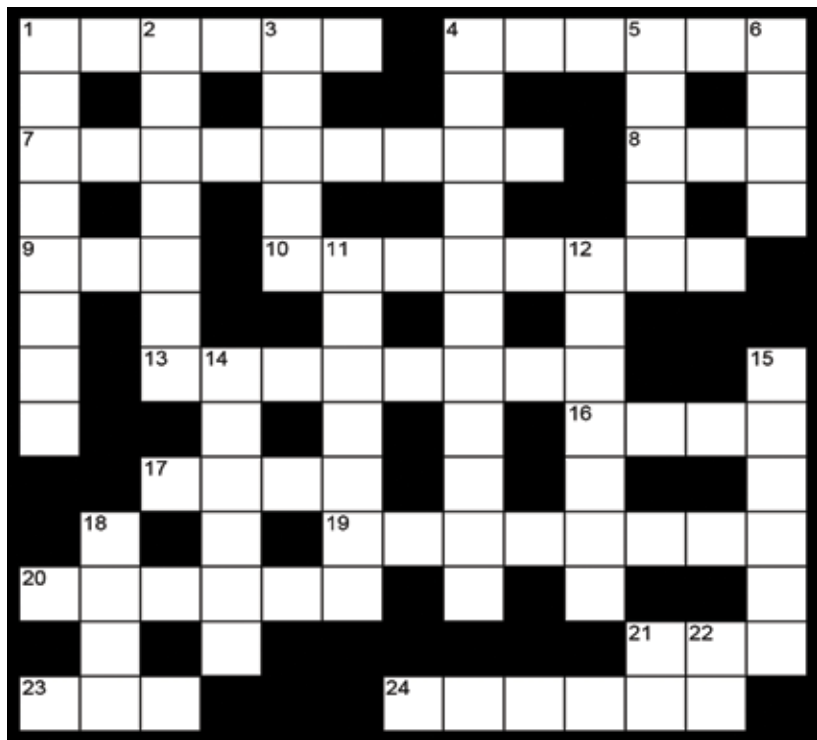
Access Energy Cooperative offers a rebate and low-interest loan funds for members considering the installation of a renewable energy system. Contact us at 866.242.4232 for details.

# 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 September 30, 2014, 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 crossword winner is Steve Elmore of Mount Pleasant.

## ACROSS

- 1 Voting for directors happens at this meeting of members
- 4 We do this to information in your bill to keep you informed
- 7 Over 1000 of these checks were distributed at the annual meeting
- 8 This type of machine was won at the annual meeting by Lowell Gaulke
- 9 We come to expect this power to be on no matter what the conditions are
- 10 Access Energy distributes your power to you after our G&T does this to it
- 13 When putting up window coverings, this is an important factor
- 16 The utility board in this state requires that members receive a paper bill in the mail
- 17 Voltage is lowered at this last thing before it comes in to your home
- 19 Go to law, or be a party to a lawsuit to contest in legal proceedings
- 20 This type of line has the lowest voltage
- 21 During this time in the winter, shades on the south side of your home should be raised
- 23 Access Energy exists to make sure your needs are \_\_\_\_\_
- 24 Giving to this program can help struggling families with their electric bill

## DOWN

- 1 Our board did this with dividend retirements after reviewing operating revenues for 2013
- 2 Light window coverage is needed where there is this type of light source
- 3 How electricity moves down electrical lines
- 4 Before mixing, these have to be added to the fruit and juice in our recipe
- 5 We do this to make sure your needs are met
- 6 Maddy's \_\_\_\_\_ Service was one of two companies who donated bill credits at the annual meeting
- 11 Pleated shades are an \_\_\_\_\_ of an efficient choice to control the temperature in your home
- 12 These could help save energy
- 14 Quick response time to this is very appreciated by our members
- 15 This should always be your number one priority around electricity
- 18 Electricity has a lower cost per day than many items that are not necessities of daily \_\_\_\_\_
- 21 Abbreviation for Doctor
- 22 Access Energy

## Statement of Non Discrimination

Access Energy Cooperative is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call 866.632.9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax 202.690.7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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



## Frozen Fruit Cups

From the Kitchen of Unknown

- 4 ½ c. sugar
- 6 c. warm water
- 1 - 20 oz. can crushed pineapple
- 1 - 46 oz. can pineapple juice
- 1 - 12 oz. can frozen orange juice
- 1 - 60 can frozen lemonade
- 5 bananas, sliced
- 2 -cans mandarin oranges (cut-up)

**Directions:**  
Blend bananas with 10 oz . pineapple juice. Combine sugar and water until dissolved. Add remaining **ingredients**. Mix well. Freeze in 5 oz. cups. Add marachino cherries (optional).

[www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com)