



Highline Headlines

Access Energy Cooperative is dedicated to exceeding members' expectations for safe, reliable, efficient service while being a good citizen in our communities. We are an equal opportunity provider.



Thank You For Helping Our Message on the EPA Ruling Be Heard

EPA activation brings better understanding of power generation to EPA and elected officials. Recently, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced two proposals limiting carbon dioxide emissions from new and existing power plants. These proposals have the potential to affect the affordability and reliability of electricity.

Thanks to many advocates like you, Iowa's electric cooperatives were able to **send** over 10,000 comments to the EPA urging them to adopt "all-of-the-above" energy strategies. The nation's electric cooperatives sent over a million comments. As a result of your efforts, the EPA now has a better understanding of how these new proposed **rules** could affect the reliability and affordability of power in rural Iowa.

Recently, as part of the Iowa Rural Power campaign, employees, directors and managers of your cooperative reached out to Iowa's congressional candidates to advocate on behalf of our members. Iowa's newly elected congressional delegation is educated and keeping a close eye on the two EPA proposals.

Cooperatives around the state are hosting their Fall Legislative Meetings for local legislators. These meetings educate **legislators** on the REC's legislative agenda, highlight rural economic development and explain the EPA proposals. Access Energy Cooperative held a meeting December 1st at our office. Legislators who attended were Senator Thomas Courtney, and Representatives Curt Hanson, Dave Heaton and Tom Sands.

The EPA plans to finalize their proposal and issue a final rule in June 2015. Between now and then, EPA will review the comments they received

and host meetings with stakeholders (including co-ops). Iowa's electric cooperatives will continue to advocate for **safe**, affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible power.

Follow Iowa Rural Power on Facebook and Twitter to stay up-to-date on advocacy activities. Thank you again for your hard work and participation in this advocacy effort.



Access Energy Cooperative held a legislative meeting on December 1st with legislators to talk about how the new proposed rules could affect the reliability and affordability of power in rural Iowa, along with other issues related to the energy industry. Legislative leaders also offered their ideas on issues proposed for the upcoming legislative session.

**See page 4
for a list of our
programs & contests**
Visit our website for more details
on all programs and contests
www.accessenergycoop.com



**New Look
For Highline
Headlines
Coming Soon!!**

We are looking at ways of making your newsletter more cost efficient, while maintaining its consistency as our most powerful tool of communications with you, our members. Starting with the next edition, your Highline Headlines will have a new look, but will still contain all of the important information you have come to rely on from Access Energy Cooperative.

Happy Holidays!
Access Energy Cooperative Offices Closed Dec 24 & 25 & Jan 1

For after hours emergencies call 800.452.7819 or 319.385.1580

Go to our website for safety tips

Safety

www.accessenergycoop.com

Manager's Corner



General Manager/CEO Robert Swindell

As you know, one of our top priorities is to provide power that is as affordable, safe and reliable. To that end, I want to give you an update on recent activity regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants.

First of all, I want to thank everyone who took the time to send comments to the EPA, voicing their concerns before the December 1 comment period deadline. Nationally, electric cooperatives submitted more than 1.1 million comments to the EPA in opposition to the agency's proposed 111(d) regulations to limit carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants. The message

we sent is simple: We asked the EPA to consider a balanced approach to curb greenhouse gases, and to consider the impacts on cost and reliability their proposed regulations will have on our members.

Back in June, under the authority of the Clean Air Act section 111(d), the EPA proposed emission regulations for states to follow in developing plans to address greenhouse gas emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric generating units. These plans, known as state implementation plans, are developed by state and local air quality management agencies and submitted to EPA for approval.

In Iowa, the Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Utilities Board, and the Iowa Economic Development Authority are responsible for formulating Iowa's 111(d) state implementation plan to achieve the EPA's performance standards; the state plan must be submitted by June 2016. Between now and June 2015, the EPA will review submitted comments and host meetings with stakeholders before finalizing the 111(d) regulations.

We also extend sincere thanks to Governor Branstad, the Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Utilities Board and the Iowa Economic Development Authority for submitting comments to the EPA and for considering how these proposed regulations will impact thousands of

co-op member as the agencies begin drafting Iowa's state implementation plan to achieve the EPA's performance standards.

Access Energy Cooperative collectively with the other member systems of our power supply cooperative Associated Electric Cooperative (AECI) has taken many measures to support environmental responsibility over the years. Some of the ways have included commitments to renewable power generation such as the solar array that provides energy to our headquarters, promotion of energy efficiency programs such as rebates and energy audits and, investments in digital meters and cleaning up existing coal-fired power stations.

AECI has invested more than \$1 billion to improve air quality and annually spends \$50 million on environmental control measures. The results include a 90% reduction in sulfur dioxide emissions since 1994, when AECI was one of the first in the nation to convert to 100 percent low-sulfur coal. AECI uses diverse energy resources to serve members, including coal, natural gas, renewable wind and hydropower and energy efficiency programs.

As this is my last column of the year I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the opportunity to serve you this past year and to wish you all a happy holiday season.



Ed Malloy of Fairfield Organics and Robert Swindell, General Manager/CEO of Access Energy Cooperative signed papers for a \$325,000 loan from the cooperative's Revolving Loan Fund program. Fairfield Organics, an organic candy company, will be using the loan dollars to purchase equipment for their recently expanded business. Congratulations!

Thank You for 35 Years of Service!

Austin Kelzer 5 years
Tammy Davis 5 years
Carol Baylor 10 years
Steven Klein 15 years



COOPERATIVE INFORMATION

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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:
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Local Before Local was Cool

Whether you travel across the country or prefer to stay close to your hometown, one thing you may be noticing is the emphasis on “Buy Local” campaigns. This is based on one simple fact: It’s important to support businesses that support our community.

The Small Business Administration and the research firm Civic Economics estimate that dollars spent at a locally owned businesses stay in the community more than three times longer than money spent at “Big Box” stores, headquartered far away from your hometown. This means your community wealth is more likely to grow by shopping at businesses on your downtown **street**.

Member cooperatives, like Access Energy Cooperative, have known this forever. We were formed in 1938 by people in this community to serve the people that work, worship and live here.

For the co-op to stay a co-op, it is vitally important we **stay** close to you, our members, to ensure we are continuing to respond to your needs. This could be through increasing energy-efficiency programs, offering renewable sources of energy and continuing our efforts to support other local businesses, schools and civic organizations.

You can be sure that Access Energy Cooperative will not be moving our operations to Mexico or China. We began right here in southeast Iowa, and we plan on being here for a very long time. As always, we welcome your participation and **ask** for suggestions about how we can improve our locally owned and controlled services.

Source: Adam Schwartz



Access Energy Cooperative crew helped install the new Denmark weather sirens.



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.

Is Your Fireplace Wasting More Heat Than it Produces?

During the winter months, a roaring fire can keep you warm when you're sitting directly in front of the fireplace. But unfortunately, your fireplace probably is losing more heat than it produces. The radiant heat may feel nice when you're directly in front of the fire, but the already-heated air from the rest of your house is being sucked up the chimney. This makes your heat pump or furnace run longer. Also, if there's no damper on the fireplace or the fireplace isn't fitted with its own outdoor air source, indoor air is escaping up the chimney when the fireplace isn't in use.

OUTSIDE AIR CAN HELP

Adding a source of combustion air that ducts into the fireplace can help a great deal – and it works well in combination with glass doors. The fire then will draw the air it needs for proper combustion and draft from outside, rather than conditioned air from inside. Slightly opening the closest window to the fireplace and closing the door to the room also will help, because much of the excess air being drawn up the chimney will be outdoor air from the open window. When sitting right in front

of the hot fire, you probably won't notice the **gentle** chilly breeze.

Also, you should burn only well-seasoned wood – or no more than one unseasoned log with three seasoned ones. If you try to burn more unseasoned wood, the fire will require more combustion air to keep burning well, drawing even more air out of your home.

INVEST IN EFFICIENCY

If you make just one investment to improve the efficiency of your fireplace, it should be to install high-quality **glass** doors. These doors control the amount of indoor air that escapes up the chimney when a fire is burning and also when you're not using the fireplace. Good fireplace doors are



not inexpensive, but they're worth the price. The best doors are relatively airtight when closed, and by adjusting combustion air vents in the bottom of the frame, you still can have a raging fire without major indoor air loss. Keep in mind that a fire needs an adequate supply of combustion air for an efficient, clean burn. If you reduce the airflow too much, creosote buildup will occur and enhance the potential for a chimney fire.

When your fireplace isn't in use, insert an inflatable chimney pillow in the fireplace flue; it seals much better than the chimney damper. Once the pillow is inflated, it should stay in place. (Some models include a pole to keep it steady.)

Chimney-top dampers, which operate from indoors with a chain, also help reduce air that **leaks**, and keeps critters and debris out of the chimney. By the way, it's a good idea to hang a sign or ribbon in the fireplace to indicate that a pillow is installed or the damper is shut. This hopefully will stop someone from building a fire when the chimney is closed.

MAKE THE MOST OF HEAT OUTPUT

There are several designs of heat circulating grates that can increase

the heat output from a fireplace. Many grates are designed to fit snugly under the bottom edge of the fireplace doors and contain an electric blower that circulates indoor air through the grate, helping keep the air in the room warm. If you decide to purchase a heat circulating grate, select a model with a blower that has several speeds and a thermostat with an on/off switch to shut off the blower when the fire burns down. If you prefer to use the fireplace with the doors open, tubular heat circulating grates are available to blow the heat directly out the front of the firebox. Other models have no blower and rely on natural convection. A circulating heat exchanger with built-in glass doors also is available for a more airtight combination. In addition, some units include an optional upper oven section for cooking and baking.

For more tips on getting the most from your fireplace, check the new Home Efficiency Analysis Tool from Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives at <http://homeefficiency.togetherwe-save.com>.

Source: James Dulley

2015 Programs & Contests

Sophomores & Juniors 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 12-19, 2015.

To be eligible to apply for the Youth Tour trip, students must be a high school sophomore or junior attending a school in southeast Iowa.

Deadline is March 2, 2015

Seniors 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 Access Energy Cooperative.



Deadline is March 13, 2015

Kids Poster Contest for K-6th Grade

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



Deadline is April 10, 2015

Everyone 2015 Photo Contest

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.



Deadline is March 31, 2015

DETAILS ABOUT ALL OUR PROGRAMS AND CONTESTS ARE AVAILABLE:

www.accessenergycoop.com

1800 W. Washington, Mt. Pleasant, IA 1.866.242.4232

Be Ready for Winter Storms

WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

- Maintain and inspect heating equipment and chimneys every year to ensure they're working safely and properly.
- Caulk and weather strip doors and windows to make the most of your heating system.
- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic. Allow faucets to drip during **extreme** cold to avoid frozen pipes.
- Consider installing storm windows for better insulation. You can also cover windows with plastic (from the inside) to keep the cold out.
- Make sure everyone in your family knows where the home's fire extinguisher is located and how to use it properly. House fires occur more frequently during winter months, as people tend to use alternative heating methods that may not be safe.

PREPARE A WINTER SURVIVAL KIT

Severe winter storms often bring heavy accumulation of ice and snow, which can lead to downed power lines and extended outages. Access Energy Cooperative crews will work hard to restore power as soon as they can, but having a winter survival kit on hand is a smart idea.

Source: Abby Berry

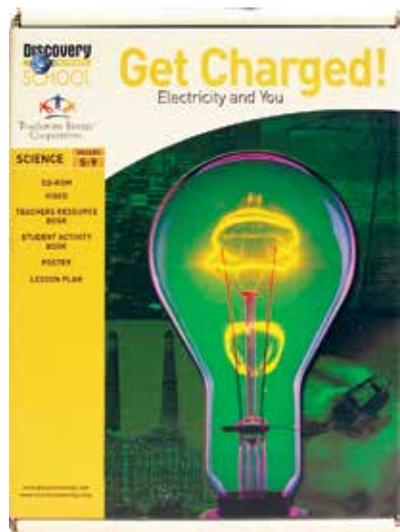
Get Charged Kits Available for Homeschoolers

Get Charged!, the electricity curriculum kit developed by Discovery Channel School in partnership with Touchstone Energy Cooperative is available to any home schooled student in the Access Energy Cooperative service area. You can borrow a copy from our office to use in your studies, and return it when you are done.

In support of its ongoing commitment to community service, Access Energy Cooperative, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, launched the Get Charged! Program to give middle school students a real-world understanding of power, the purpose of electricity, and the important role of electric cooperatives.

Each **kit** contains a lesson plan, teacher's resource book, two VHS videos: Understanding Electricity and Our Story, interactive CDs, and a student workbook.

Two curriculum kits are available for use by home schools. To borrow a copy call 1-866-242-4232 or stop by our office.



Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/AccessEnergyCoop

Follow us on Twitter
www.twitter/AccessEnergyC



Green Gift Giving Guide

Wondering what to buy for the person who has everything? How about a gift for an environment-friendly family member or friend? This holiday season, Access Energy Cooperative urges

you to consider giving the gift of energy efficiency.

This doesn't mean that you have to go out and replace your aunt's refrigerator or your grandma's washer and dryer – though you may be their favorite if you do. Giving the gift of energy efficiency can be as simple as filling their stockings, or creating a gift basket, with some of these helpful products.

LED **light** bulbs are the easiest way to increase efficiency in your home. From indoor bulbs for your lamps, recessed lighting and hanging fixtures to outdoor lighting, such as flood lamps and even decorative lighting strands – there's an LED bulb for everyone.

LED lighting used to be deemed as prohibitively expensive, but prices have gone down significantly in recent years. Here are some top-rated options for energy-efficient lighting that makes everything bright!

- GE Reveal 60 Watt Equivalent Bulb:
Should cost around \$18
- Cree TW Series 60 Watt Equivalent Bulb:
Cost \$9 to \$16
- Sylvania's Ultra HD floodlight-style bulb:
This will cost \$22 to \$35

Water-saving shower heads are also a great gift option. On average, Americans consume over 3 billion gallons of water daily. Switching to a water-saving shower head could save a family of three up to \$631 per **year** in costs and could reduce water consumption by over 2,600 gallons per year. Lack of water pressure can be a concern when giving this gift, so here are a few examples of shower heads that save water, but not at the expense of water pressure.

- Glacier Bay 1-Spray Hand Shower:
Cost around \$13
- The Delta 1-Spray Water-Saving Shower head:
Cost around \$16
- The Delta Arias 5-Spray Shower head :
Cost around \$37

Providing your family and friends with energy-efficiency tips along with a gift is also a great option. For example, did you know that one of the best ways to save energy in your home is to turn off all of your electronic devices? Try a TrickleStar Motion Sensor Power Strip, which costs around \$30.

Supplement your gift with caulking supplies or weather strips, and before you know it, you will have the perfect energy-saving gift! From all of us here at Access Energy Cooperative.

Source: Meghaan Evans

Peak Alerts: Why They Matter to You

Just as you can get a cheaper airfare by catching a red-eye flight, using energy when fewer folks are pulling power out of the electric grid generally costs your co-op-- and ultimately you-- much less.

There's a certain amount of energy we all use, even when we are asleep. Refrigerators, air conditioning and heating systems, and other **steady** appliances create base load power requirements—the minimum amount of power you rely on us to supply.

Of course, we all have energy use patterns—television shows to watch, dishes to wash, etc. Lots of consumers tend to use electricity during the same “peak” periods—in the morning to warm up the house and get kids ready for school, and in the afternoon after work when a home lights up with power-draining activities. And then there's the interval between these two extremes.

WHY TIMING MATTERS

Why does Access Energy Cooperative carefully monitor member energy use or “load” patterns? Our price for wholesale power rises and falls depending on the type of fuel (**coal**, natural gas, nuclear, hydro, etc.) used to generate electricity, which largely depends on the time of day when power is used. For example, generating baseload power with coal costs far **less** than starting up a natural gas peaking plant to meet peak electricity consumption on hot, humid summer weekday afternoons or extremely frigid winter mornings.

SUPPLY TYPES

Here's a quick look at the **types** of power plants and fuels used to supply electricity at various times:

Baseload: These are large, efficient generating stations providing enough dependable electric power at a low cost to meet the minimum level of electricity needed at any given time. They do not start or stop quickly, and instead are run around the clock. Power Sources include coal, nuclear, hydro, and large natural gas-fired power plants; in some regions biomass and geothermal power stations.

Intermediate Load: These plants handle sharp increases in demand, filling the gap between baseload plants and peaking plants. Also known as load-following plants, these facilities are larger and therefore more efficient than peaking plants. Power Sources include natural gas and coal.

Peak Load: Though expensive and small, these plants can start generating power quickly during times when electric consumption reaches its highest point. Power Sources include natural gas and diesel fuel.

HELP US KEEP YOUR BILL AFFORDABLE

Access Energy Cooperative remains committed to providing you with affordable power, and there are some costs we can control with YOUR help. As an owner of Access Energy Cooperative, you can help if you reorganize your energy-related **tasks** so you use less during a peak alert.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

To save energy this month, try lowering your water heating costs. Water heating accounts for 14 to 25 percent of the energy you consume. Turn the water heater's temperature to the warm setting, which is around 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will save energy – and help you save on your monthly bill.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

How Renters Can Fight the Winter Chill

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 33 percent of Americans lease their homes. Unfortunately, many lease agreements forbid major alterations to rental properties. But there are some low-cost, energy-efficient ideas to improve the efficiency of your home this winter.

HOT SAVINGS

Heating the home typically makes up about 48 percent of your utility bill. Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter – EnergyStar.gov recommends 68 degrees F to boost energy efficiency.

During the winter months, take advantage of heat from sunlight. Open draperies and shades during the day to allow natural light to heat your home. Remember to close them in the evenings as the temperature drops and windowpanes become chilly.

Does your home have window air conditioning units? This winter, remember to insulate the units from the outside with a tight-fitting cover to keep heated air from escaping outside. Or, just remove the window unit during winter months.

Another way to save on heating is to make sure your water heater is set at the lowest comfortable setting. Older models of water **tanks** are often not insulated, which can be easily remedied by covering them with an insulating jacket.

BRIGHT IDEAS

Lighting is one of the easiest places to start saving energy, and savings are made all year long. Replace your most frequently used light bulbs with ENERGY STAR-qualified lights, and save more than \$65 a year in energy costs. ENERGY STAR-qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use 75 percent less energy and last several times longer than incandescent light bulbs, saving money on energy bills and replacement costs. And remember -- turn off your lights when leaving a room.

OTHER WAYS TO SAVE

Apply caulk around window frames, sashes and door panels to combat air leaks. Be mindful when using electronics at home, and unplug devices when not in use. Use smart power strips to save on energy use.

To learn more ways to be energy efficient around the home, visit our website at www.accessenergycoop.com.

Source: Abby Berry

Weather Radio App Still Available

As a member of Access Energy Cooperative, we are offering a premium Weather Radio smartphone app at absolutely no cost to you! At a value of \$9.99 this application, designed for iOS and Android devices, will locate you and automatically send alerts about impending adverse weather at your location; audibly announce weather watches, warnings and advisories; and provide you with live radar data. Plus, you can add alerts for up to 5 different locations to ensure the safety of family, friends and assets.

Set-up is easy! Just open the App Store on iOS or Google Play on Android and search for the free “Touchstone Energy Weather Connection”. Once inside the App, find and select “Co-op Code”, and enter Access Energy Cooperative's code to unlock premium “weather radio” functionality. You will also receive customized alerts from us, including outage restoration alerts and updates.



**Stop in today to pick up your
Access Energy Cooperative weather app code!!**

Use Your Co-op Connections Card Discounts Continue to Save \$ for Members

BATAVIA

Cedar Valley Winery 10% off regularly priced wine & wine accessories

DENMARK

Bel-Capelli Salon & Tanning 10% off services or retail purchases

FAIRFIELD

Blue Fish Clothing Co 10% off any purchase
 Dotty's Sewing Nook Cost of tax discounted to card holders
 Fairfield True Value 5% off appliances of \$599.00 or more
 Freedom Foam Insulators 5% off for members
 Kelly Supply Company 10% off on plumbing fittings and tools
 Ladies Workout Express Free membership - savings of \$34.95 and one week free trial
 McDonalds Free size up on all value meals (get large fry and soft drink)
 NATEL 20% discount on 1st year of Internet service
 Oakwood Nursery & Garden 10% on nursery stock 10% on mulches & fertilizer, garden chemicals
 The Full Effect Salon \$2.00 off any one service, up to 6 per year
 The Sweet Spot Free 4 oz French Fries with purchase of sandwich

FORT MADISON

Shaeffer Memorial Golf Course 1) \$2 off any regular priced 18 holes with cart and 2) 5% off regularly price

MONTROSE

Trendy Looks, Montrose 25% off any product

MOUNT PLEASANT

Amy Becker Photography One free "basic" family portrait session (Values at \$50.00)
 Any Wear Apparel \$5.00 off any \$35.00 in-stock purchase
 Brown's Shoe Fit Co. 10% off any Regular Price Footwear. Some exclusions apply
 Iris City Cleaners & Laundry Co. Buy 3 items, get 1 for a penny
 McDonalds Free size up on all value meals (get large fry and soft drink)
 Mount Pleasant Tire & Services \$4.00 off an oil change
 Salon Pro 34 3 offers to save! see details on website
 The Shear Advantage One time use \$5 off next appointment with any stylist
 Total Connexions B1G1 free accessories for new service. B1G50% upgrades
 Triage Duct Cleaning Free dryer vent cleaning with whole house duct cleaning

NEW LONDON

All American Tree Service Free stump grinding with any tree removal or 10% off any tree maintenance
 The Guitar Farm 10% off purchase of any guitar or amplifier

SALEM

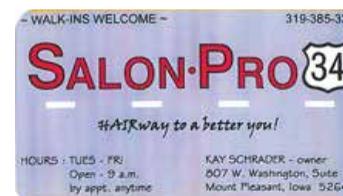
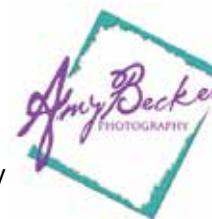
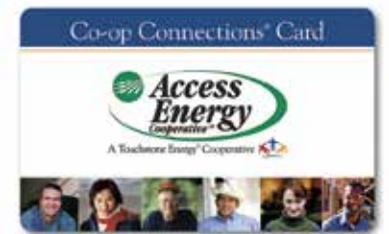
The Bronzing Depot Tanning & Beauty Salon 10% off color services and tanning packages

WASHINGTON

Whitetail Country Estates 20% off all packages hunting and lodging

WINFIELD

Thirty-One Free shipping and 10% off next order



LEDUSA.com™



Access Energy Cooperative presents the newest Co-op Connections national discount available to our members.

LEDUSA.com is a user friendly, online sales site that offers:

- all cooperative members discounted **LED** bulbs and fixtures
- direct delivery to the home or business
- quality products and great pricing
- information about the advantages of LEDs

Members can use your Co-op Connections Card group number to access discounts and free shipping on all orders over \$75.

This offer expires January 30, 2015.



Members Saving on Prescriptions



In October, 22 members saved \$960 on their prescriptions.

To find out more on the discounts offered check out our website at www.accessenergycoop.com. It's easy to save—you just have to show your card to participating merchants.

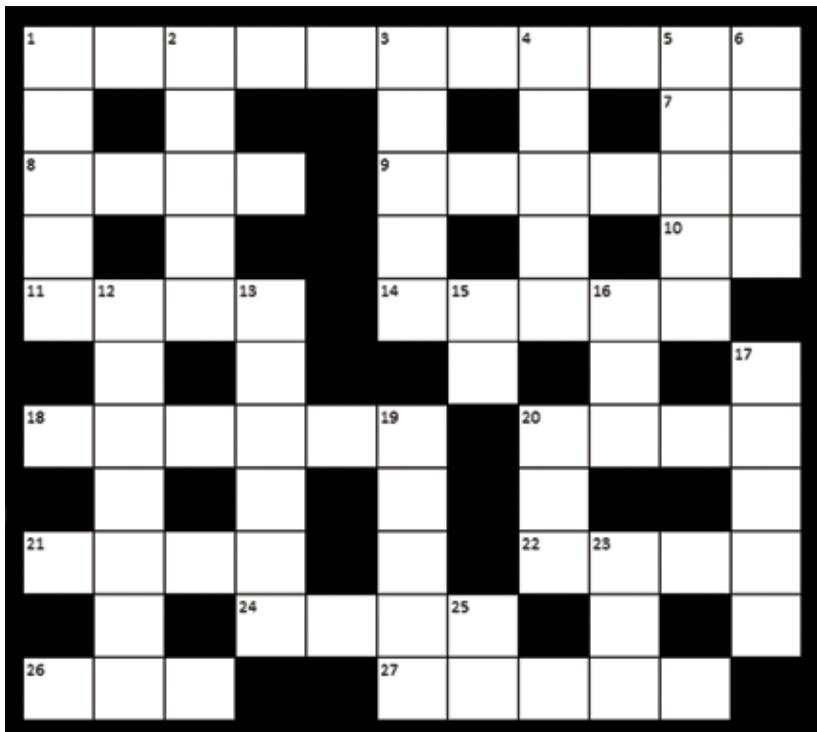
If you own a business and would like to offer a discount for the card, please contact Kim Brumbaugh at kbrumbaugh@accessenergycoop.com or call our office at 1.866.242.4232.

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 December 29, 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 Philip Kurtz from Batavia.

ACROSS

- 1 We are working closely with these people to try to keep your rates affordable
- 7 Opposite of down
- 8 Type of fuel used to generate electric energy
- 9 You won't notice this type of breeze when you slightly open a window next to a fireplace, but it will help the rest of your house stay warm
- 10 Short for Economic Development
- 11 Generating base load power with coal costs this compared to using natural gas peaking plants
- 14 If you adjust these that are energy related during peak alerts, you can help us control our peak costs
- 18 Community wealth grows when you shop at businesses on this in your town
- 20 It is vital for us to do this to be close to our members
- 21 Thank you members who did this for comments to the EPA
- 22 Access Energy Coop will continue to strive for this kind of power
- 24 Switching to water-saving shower heads could save your family up to \$631 in this time frame
- 26 You can now get a discount on these lights with your Coop Connections Card
- 27 Chimney-top dampers can reduce these in your chimney

DOWN

- 1 These campaigns encourage you to support the communities in which you live
- 2 These type of doors can improve the efficiency of your fireplace
- 3 These in the form of LED are the easiest way to increase energy efficiency in your home
- 4 Older models of these for heating water do not have insulation
- 5 As a result of members contacting the EPA, they now have a better understanding of how these could affect the reliability and affordability of your power
- 6 Past tense for speed
- 12 Allow your faucets to drip during this kind of cold weather
- 13 These types of appliances create base load power requirements
- 15 Short for advertisement
- 16 Homeschoolers can check this out from our office to learn more about electricity
- 17 There are three main of these for power plants
- 19 This much of lighting rebate can be \$30,000 per year
- 20 Call of distress
- 23 We do this to you for your suggestions on how we can improve our services to you
- 25 short for Rural Electric

Idle Service Invoices to be Mailed in January

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. This fee cannot be divided into monthly installments.

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.

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



Refrigerator Chocolate Ricotta Cheese Pie

From the Kitchen of Nancy Cailey

- 15 oz. container part-skim ricotta cheese
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 T. whipping cream or half & half
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips, melted
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans or pistachio nuts
- 1 chocolate ready-to-use pie crust
- Whipped Cream

In a medium mixer bowl, beat together for 2 minutes the first four ingredients on medium speed until light and fluffy. Beat in melted chocolate to blend well. Stir in nuts. Put in to chocolate crust and refrigerate 2 hours until set. Decorate top with whipped cream.

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