

JANUARY 2015



Highline Headlines

Volume 37
Issue 1

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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



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

Visit our website to see
how you can contact local
legislators

Community
Legislation

www.accessenergycoop.com

How to Contact Your Local Legislators

Access Energy Cooperative maintains an interactive communication network with our elected officials as a very important **tool** to keep your rates stable. Activities at the Capitol often affect the daily business of the cooperative, so it is important to keep up with what is happening in Des Moines and in Washington DC. Sometimes we need your help to let them know how their decisions are affecting you—the member-owner of Access Energy Cooperative. Recently we asked you to help us talk with legislators on how the **EPA** ruling will affect your bills. Thank you to all members who participated!

There may be other times in the future where we ask for your help communicating with local and national congressmen and women. In today's world and with the safety measures that have been implemented, the easiest method of communication with our legislators is through email. Listed on page 2 are the legislators who represent our areas and their email addresses. You can also find their complete contact information on our website at www.accessenergycoop.com.

Contact Legislators, continue on page 2



Lomont Molding LLC Receives RLF Loan



Robert Swindell, General Manager/CEO of Access Energy Cooperative and Jason Bender, President of Lomont Molding LLC sign papers for a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) loan to Lomont for equipment expansion at their facility in Mount Pleasant.

New Outside LED Area
Lighting Programs
See page 2

2015 REBATE PROGRAM
Watch the February newsletter for
changes to our rebate program.

For more details on our 2015
programs and contests go to our website.

**Sophomores
& Juniors**
Win a Trip
to DC
Deadline
3/2/15

Seniors
Scholarships
Available
Deadline
3/13/15

Kids
Grades 1-6
Poster
Contest
Deadline
4/10/15

Everyone
2015 PhotoContest
Deadline 3/31/15

www.accessenergycoop.com

Girl Scouts Learn About Saving Energy



Access Energy Cooperative employees Kim Brumbaugh and Alan Raymer visited Girl Scout Camp L-Kee-Ta during one of the camp's Saturday morning retreats to **teach** the girls about energy efficiency. Energy Advisor, Alan Raymer conducted an energy audit on one of the buildings—complete with a blower door test to teach them ways they can save energy in their homes. Director of Marketing & Communications, Ms. Brumbaugh taught them about energy efficient lighting.

Manager's Corner



General Manager/CEO Robert Swindell

The Board of Directors approved the cooperative's 2015 budget without any increase in rates for 2015. In order to achieve this, we reduced our expenditures in some areas, which resulted in several employees moving into part time positions.

The Board also authorized

performing a cost of service and rate study. Our last cost of service study was completed in 2009. The cost of service study looks at our different rate classes, such as single phase or multi-phase, and attempts to make sure that each rate class is covering their cost of the cooperative's expenses to serve that particular class of customer. The goal is to verify that one class of service is not subsidizing another. The cost of service study also looks at whether or not we are recovering adequate revenues through our rates. Along with rates, the cost of service study will review our fees for line extensions, leased lights and other fees charged for various services. Based on the results, the Board of Directors will determine if any rate or fee increases are necessary.

NEW LED AREA LIGHTING PROGRAM

In 2015, we will begin a new program to phase out our existing high pressure sodium (HPS) leased lights with new LED lights. Any outside area HPS lights which are leased that require maintenance will be replaced with the new LED lights, along with any new leased lights installed. The only thing you should notice is that the

LED produces a white light as opposed to the yellow light from the HPS lights. The LEDs should effectively light the same outside area as the old HPS lights. While the LED lights cost more to purchase, they consume less than half of the electricity of a HPS light. We expect the LED light replacements to be a major part of our energy efficiency plan for the next several years. We also anticipate that the LED lights will require less maintenance. At this time, the monthly lease rate will remain the same as the HPS lights. Our leased lighting rates will be reviewed as part of the cost of service study.

PEAK ALERTS

We will run **Peak Alerts** on area radio stations this winter. During the winter months, usage tends to peak in the mornings from about 6:00am to 9:00am and again in the late afternoon and early evening from about 4:00pm to 8:00pm. We have been fortunate so far this winter, as peak days usually occur on days with subzero temperatures and/or subzero wind-chill index. During Peak Alerts we ask our members to try and limit their energy use to one major appliance.

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!

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

Visit our website or contact our billing department at 319.385.1577 to see how you can help.



Contacting Legislators from page 1

FEDERAL SENATORS

Senator Chuck Grassley-R

U.S. Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0001
Phone: (202) 224-3744
Fax: (202) 224-6020

www.grassley.senate.gov/contact.cfm

Senator Joni Ernst-R

U.S. Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0001
Phone: (202) 224-3254
Fax: (202) 224-9369

www.ernst.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

<http://loeb sack.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: Kevin Kenney-D

Phone: (515) 281-3371
Home Phone: (319) 631-4667
kinneyforsenate@gmail.com

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
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COOPERATIVE INFORMATION

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Facebook

facebook.com/AccessEnergyCoop

Twitter

twitter.com/AccessEnergyC

Email:

contactus@accessenergycoop.com

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday
(closed Saturday, Sunday,
& 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

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HOME ELECTRICAL SAFETY INSPECTION FOR KIDS!



Always remember to use caution when you're near electricity! Kids, ask an adult to help you complete the inspection below for your home. If you find any hazards, check "Needs Work," and ask an adult to fix them.

	Needs	
	Good	Work
1. Electric outlets are not overloaded.		
2. Electric cords do not run under a rug or furniture legs.		
3. No electric cords are worn or frayed.		
4. Electric appliances are kept away from water.		
5. There is a fire extinguisher in the house.		
6. Electric heaters are far away from flammable objects.		
7. Power tools are stored in clean dry areas.		
8. All smoke detectors are properly working.		
9. There are safety plug covers on outlets that are not in use.		
10. There are no trees near the house that interfere with power lines.		

Space Heater Safety



As temperatures drop this winter, many will look for supplemental heating sources for their homes. Space heaters can be a good alternative for those who want to warm one area of their home without turning up the thermostat on the central heating system. However, space heaters are also responsible for 32 percent of house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. If you are planning to use a space heater in your home this winter, review these tips from Access Energy Cooperative to keep you, your family and your property safe.

Materials – What are the components of your space heater made of? Parts like metal grating can be hot to the touch and may burn anyone who gets too close. Make sure you purchase a heater that is cool to the touch and has guards over the coils just in case little fingers get too close.

Placement - While it can be tempting to place a small heater on a shelf so it is not in the way of pets and children, it is safest to leave the heater on a level floor on a nonflammable surface. Keeping the space heater on the floor can keep it from falling over, preventing fire hazards.

Remember that space heaters and bathrooms are not a good combination, unless the heater is designed for bathroom use. Moisture can damage the heater.

The most important rule about space heater placement is the three-foot rule. Space heaters should always be kept three

feet away from flammable materials and out of the way of children and pets.

Special Features – Does your space heater have an auto shutoff function? Auto shutoff can be a lifesaver should your space heater tip over. If you currently own a space heater without auto shutoff, consider purchasing a heater with this important safety feature.

Cords – You should never use an extension cord when plugging in a space heater as it can cause overheating. The space heater, should be plugged directly into a wall outlet, and should be the only thing plugged in to the wall outlet. Also make sure cords aren't in a high-traffic area so they are not a tripping hazard.

Use – Never leave a heater unattended while in use. If you are leaving your home or going to bed, make sure to unplug the heater.

Following these tips and making sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions can keep you safe this winter.

Sources: April Lollar, NRECA; APR; CCC

Members Saving on Prescriptions



In December, 31 members saved \$971 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.

FIGHTING THE WINTER CHILLS

Another colder-than-normal winter is predicted for much of the country this year. Frigid temperatures can cause heating systems to work overtime, and since heating and cooling can make up nearly half of your electric bill, you may want to look for ideas on how to keep your bill in control.

Here are things you can do now to help ensure you are managing your energy use and spending less.

- Wrap exposed pipes and water heaters that are in unconditioned spaces.
- Change your air filter once a month.
- Keep drapes closed at night and keep those that don't get direct sunlight closed during the day, too.
- Keep the fireplace damper closed when it is not in use.
- Caulk around the fireplace hearth, and caulk or weather strip around doors and windows.
- Log on to your Access Energy Cooperative account to keep up with your use. If we've had a few days of frigid temperatures, see how you can try to save on days that are milder.
- Dress for the weather, even if you are inside. Wearing proper clothing like long sleeves and pants,

or wrapping up in a cozy blanket will help combat the temptation of bumping up the thermostat.

Using the tips above can certainly help you manage your energy use, but your bill may still be higher than normal in winter months. Why?

The weather makes a big impact on electric bills, accounting for nearly half of your bill. Even those with the most efficient HVAC systems will see more use in extreme weather. When extreme cold temperatures hit, our heaters work overtime.

For example, even if you set your thermostat to our recommended 68 degrees in the winter, when it is 19 degrees outside, your system has to work hard to make up that 49-degree difference.

Your heater works harder and cycles on and off more often, making your use much higher. That means your bill will be much higher.

Additional tips:

- Speak to one of our energy efficiency experts. They can help you understand how weather and your use patterns affect your bill.
- Schedule a free energy audit and let Access Energy Cooperative experts help you find ways to reduce energy use in your home.
- Check our website for more information on how to save energy at www.accessenergycoop.com.

Sources: April Lollar, NRECA; APR; CCC



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

They're out of sight, but don't forget about your air ducts. Taking care of them can save money and energy. Check ducts for air leaks. Take care of minor sealing jobs with heat-approved tape, especially in attics and in vented crawl spaces. Call the pros for major ductwork repairs.

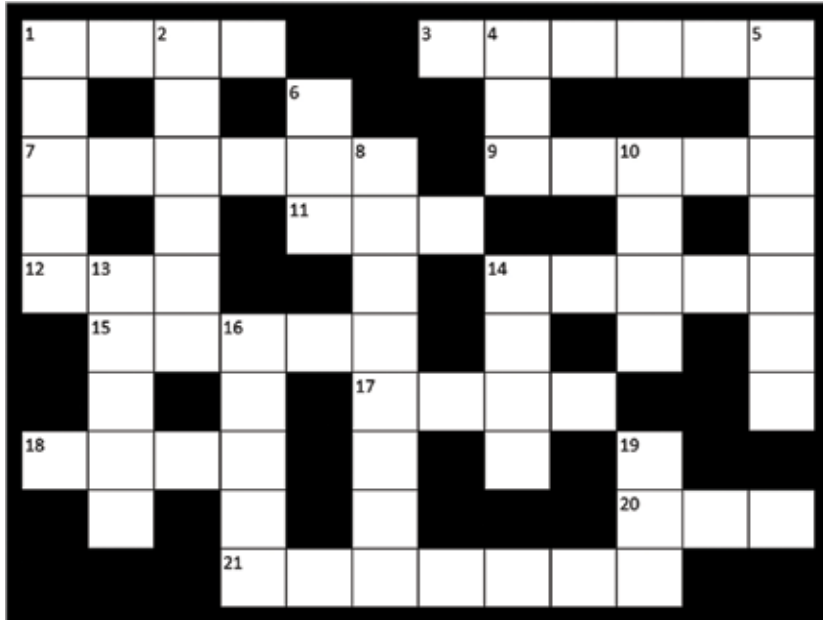
Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Win A \$25 Bill Credit

Access Energy Cooperative members can win a \$25 bill credit by completing the crossword. Send your answers in by January 30, 2015, 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.

Name _____

Address _____



Last month's crossword winner is Carl Renstrom from Wever.

ACROSS

- 1 Communication with our legislation is a very important one of these to keep your rates stable
- 3 Be prepared for these
- 7 Seal leaks in this area to save energy
- 9 Wrap these that are exposed to save energy
- 11 Thank you members for helping us tell this organization how their ruling is affecting you
- 12 Everyone needs these once in awhile
- 14 This type of heater is responsible for 32% of house fires
- 15 This is how often you should drive over a downed power line
- 17 Page 3 shows tips for these people for safety at home
- 18 Page one shows a photo as Lomont does this for their loan papers
- 20 Use safety plugs for outlets that are not in this status
- 21 Power lines that are doing this can be dangerous

DOWN

- 1 We joined girls scout camp to do this about energy efficiency.
- 2 Galloping lines can cause this to your service
- 4 Auto shutoff feature on a space heater can be a life saver if it should do this
- 5 Frigid temperatures can cause this to work overtime
- 6 This can build up on one side of a power line from strong winds
- 8 Lines do not have to be doing this to be live
- 10 We will run these alerts on area radio stations this winter when necessary
- 13 Once galloping lines start, there isn't much we can do _____ the wind stop
- 14 Strong winds can cause ice to build up on one of these on our power lines
- 16 Be alert to these that could hide an electrical hazard
- 19 Do not run electrical cords under this

Power Lines that Gallop

Galloping power lines may sound ridiculous, but they really do occur and can be very dangerous. The most common cause of galloping lines is **ice** that builds up on one **side** of a power line as a result of strong winds. This buildup creates an airfoil, which changes the flow of air around the normally round line. This change in air flow can cause the power line to start to bounce. These lines can bounce and buck enough to hit another line, damage themselves enough to cause a power **outage**, or even fall to the ground. Once galloping starts, there is not much a power company can do to alleviate it **until** winds die down. This is why many power lines have objects, like twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal attached to the line. These are devices placed on power lines to help reduce the galloping of lines and prevent potential danger.

If you encounter galloping lines, stay away, warn others to stay away, and contact your utility. In addition to the possibility of power outages, there is a danger of the lines or other electrical equipment breaking loose and falling and of ice being dislodged from the lines and falling to the ground.

The Safe Electricity program urges you to pay attention to and be aware of weather forecasts so that you can be prepared and not get caught off guard by **storms** and to keep the following safety tips in mind after a windstorm:

- When you see power lines on the ground, stay away, warn others to stay away, and contact the electric utility or 911. Lines do not have to be arcing or **sparking** to be live.
- Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines which are **sagging** or down, could be in contact with an energized power line also making them dangerous. So stay away from all lines.
- Be alert to the possibility that tree **vines**, limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Downed power lines can energize objects around it, such as chain link fences and metal culverts.
- Keep in mind that a line that is "dead" could still become energized during power restoration efforts or improper use of generators.
- **Never** drive over a downed line. It could cause poles or other equipment to come crashing down.
- If you are in a car that has come in contact with a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. Wait until the utility crew has arrived and de-energized the line. Warn others not to approach the car. Only exit the car in the case of fire; and, in doing so, be sure to jump out and away from the car with both feet together. Then hop away while continuing to keep both feet together.

Get more electrical safety information at SafeElectricity.org.



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.



Buttered Orange Cider

From the Kitchen of Anonymus

- 6 cups apple cider or juice
- 8 whole allspice
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 t. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 peeled orange, sliced
- 8 whole cloves
- 1 orange peel strips
- 1/4 cup butter, softened

In a large saucepan, combine the cider and orange slices. Place the allspice, cloves, cinnamon sticks and orange peel on a double thickness of cheesecloth; bring to a bring up corners of cloth and tie. Add spice bag to pan. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered for 15-20 minutes. In a small bowl, combine the brown sugar, butter and cinnamon. Discard spice bag..

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