

living with energy

IN IOWA



MAY 2016

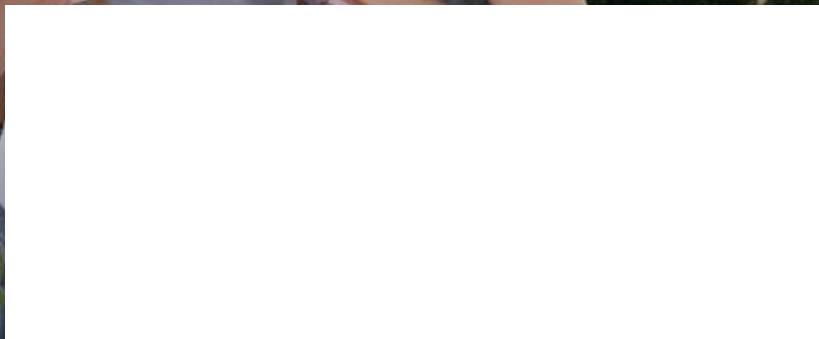
Evaluate solar energy for your home

May is National Electrical Safety Month!

Check your home for electrical safety hazards

Five lucky members will win a weather radio!

Meet this year's Youth Tour Contest winner



Upcoming Events

OFFICE CLOSED
MAY 30

For After Hours
Emergencies Call
1.800.452.7819 or
1.319.385.1580




*In memory of
those who
have served our country.*

AUG 2 5 P M Access Energy Cooperative
Annual Meeting of Members

WIN

\$750

Bill Credit - Must be present to win




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

Office: Access Energy Cooperative
1800 W. Washington St., P.O. Box 440
Mount Pleasant, Iowa 52641

Phone: 319-385-1577 or 866-242-4232

Fax: 319-385-6873

Call Before You Dig (Iowa One Call): 800-292-8989

Website: www.accessenergycoop.com

Facebook: facebook.com/AccessEnergyCoop

Twitter: twitter.com/AccessEnergyC

E-mail: contactus@accessenergycoop.com

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays

After Hours and Report Outages: 319-385-1580 or
800-452-7819

Payments can be placed in dropbox under flag pole.
Visa and MasterCard accepted.

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In the News

Access Energy Co-op receives Community Pride Award

The Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce named Access Energy Cooperative the second quarter winner of the Mount Pleasant Community Pride Award for exceptional property maintenance. General manager/CEO Kevin Wheeler accepted the award during the "Alive After Five" networking event April 6 at Brad Holtkamp Automotive.



The Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce board of directors created the Community Pride Award to honor businesses and organizations that showcase exceptional maintenance and investment in their properties and to encourage other businesses to follow their lead. Winners are selected quarterly. Access Energy Cooperative was selected for the Community Pride Award from several nominees.

"Access Energy Cooperative is the kind of business that truly acts upon their mission statement in everything they do, from the way they take pride in their facility to how they interact in the community," said Jeff Fedler, manager of Pep Stop and a chamber board member. "They're an integral part of this community. Thanks to Access Energy Cooperative, every current or prospective resident, as well as visitors that enter into our community from the west end of town, see a perfect example of all the good things this community strives for."

Access Energy Cooperative is proud to have been part of the Mount Pleas-

ant community since being formed in 1938 by the original members of the cooperative. We're owned and operated by those who use our power and governed by a board of directors elected by those members. We moved from the east side of Washington Street to the west side of the street in 2008, when we built the building we'll be proud of "living in" for many years to come.

While we're headquartered in Mount Pleasant, we provide power to homes and businesses in 10 counties in southeastern Iowa, with the largest areas located in Henry, Jefferson, Lee and Des Moines counties. Access Energy Cooperative also operates an outpost building in Fairfield to provide faster service to the members we serve in the western part of our territory.

We are greatly honored to receive the Community Pride Award from the Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce, as we take great pride in our local involvement, our commitment and the impression we portray in the communities we serve. 🌱

Co-op VIP

Tony Adams completes management program



Congratulations to district foreman Tony Adams for completing the Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program (MIP) – an intense training course for employees wishing to advance into management in the electric cooperative industry. The MIP is a series of workshops in three 10-day sessions offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The program guides participants through all facets of the electric utility industry, and is one of the most exclusive educational programs in the nation for electric cooperative management. 🌱

Spring into energy efficiency with new lightbulbs

BY KEVIN WHEELER

I always enjoy this time of year, when things are beginning to come back to life. The smell of fresh-cut grass, spring rain and farmers turning the dirt for the first time reminds me of how special it is to be in the Midwest. Seeing all of the lawn and gardening equipment in the store tempts you to replace the old lawnmower or do some spring landscaping too. But when you walk through a large home improvement store, the first thing you see is the lighting display.



I'm amazed every time I look at the display by the variety of lighting products and bulbs available to the consumer. They're a long way from where Thomas Edison started with the incandescent lightbulb, but what's the right decision if you're buying bulbs today?

There are three basic types of bulbs commonly available to the residential market: incandescent, compact fluorescent (CFL), and light emitting diode (LED).

Incandescent or halogen

The incandescent bulb is the oldest, cheapest to purchase and most expensive to operate, and some people prefer the color and quality of the light it produces. On average, one bulb emits about 10 percent light and 90 percent heat, so it's very inefficient and has a life expectancy of around 1,000 hours. The latest federal lighting efficiency standards that went into effect in 2012 require that lightbulbs use 25 percent less energy than before, so the commonly used incandescent bulbs you grew up with no longer are being produced – although they'll remain on store shelves until they're gone.

Compact fluorescent lightbulb (CFL)

The CFL is the next generation of lightbulb that came on the market. It costs more than the incandescent, but

it uses about 25 percent of the energy and does not produce the heat that an incandescent does. Another positive is the life expectancy is about 3,000 hours. However, the CFL comes with some big drawbacks for some folks: It has a limited color spectrum, creating a lighting hue some people don't like, and it doesn't instantly hit full brightness when you switch it on – especially in cold

weather.

Light emitting diode (LED)

The LED lightbulb uses about 10 percent of the energy compared to an incandescent, and the LED has an extremely long life – usually in the range of 10,000-15,000 hours. It also has instant-on capabilities, and there are a wide variety of color choices available. The biggest downside to the LED is the cost; it's the most expensive of the bulb choices, but prices are dropping fast – to as low as \$2 a bulb.

When you go shopping ...

Check the packages for an *equivalency number*, which will tell you which new-style bulbs can replace your old incandescent ones. For example, a 9-watt LED will offer the same amount of light as a 60-watt incandescent bulb.

Also look at the **Lighting Facts label** on the packaging to compare lightbulbs. Find the bulbs with the highest *Brightness* (measured in lumens), and then choose the one with the lowest wattage. Also consider the *Estimated Yearly Cost, Life and Light Appearance* – the “color” of the light, ranging from warm to cool. (Many people prefer the warm, yellowish cast of a lightbulb for living and sleeping areas, while a brighter, whiter and even slightly bluish light may work better in the kitchen.

Even though LEDs may cost more upfront, they're usually the best choice because they use so much less energy – and last so much longer – than

traditional incandescent bulbs. In fact, you'd need to buy 10 or 12 incandescent lightbulbs to match the lifetime of each LED purchased – plus, every one of those LEDs would use about 90 percent less energy than the old-style bulbs. ⚡

Kevin Wheeler is the general manager/CEO of Access Energy Cooperative.

Editor's Choice Contest

Five lucky members will win a weather radio this month!

Stay aware of the weather, even while you're on the go, with the La Crosse Handheld AM-FM/NOAA Weather Band Alert Radio. You can choose one of seven weather band channels for the latest forecast or severe weather update – the screen changes from blue to red when there's an alert – or listen to the AM/FM radio while you're camping, hiking or boating.



The unit runs on three AA batteries and includes an integrated LED flashlight. Retail price is about \$50, and you can find more details or order here: www.lacrosseclock.com/810-805 or www.amazon.com.

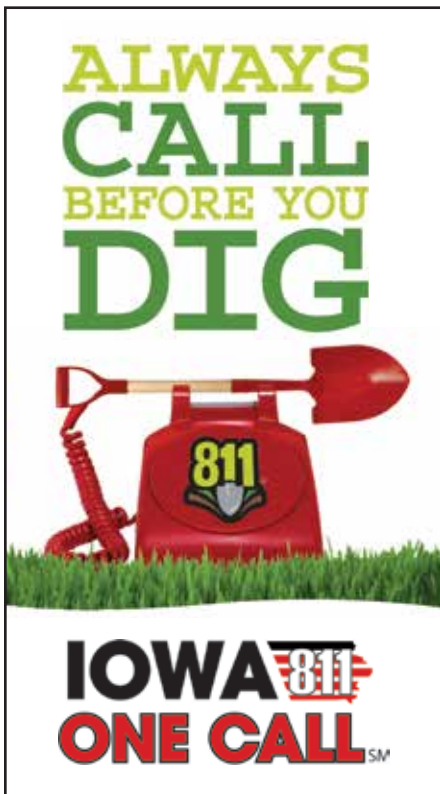
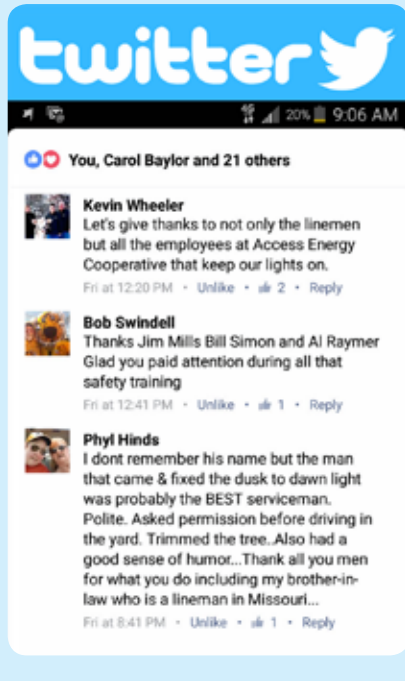
Visit our website, and win!

This month, we're giving you **five chances to win** a weather radio! To enter the contest, just fill out the entry form at the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website (www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) by May 31, 2016.

You must be a member of one of Iowa's electric cooperatives to win. There's no obligation associated with entering, we don't share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified. The winner of the Kohler Moxie Showerhead in the March issue was Dennis Hrubes, a member of Prairie Energy Cooperative.

Members appreciate our linemen!

These tweets were received last month on the @AccessEnergyC Twitter account. Thank you for letting our linemen feel appreciated! ⚡



Students thank co-op for safety education

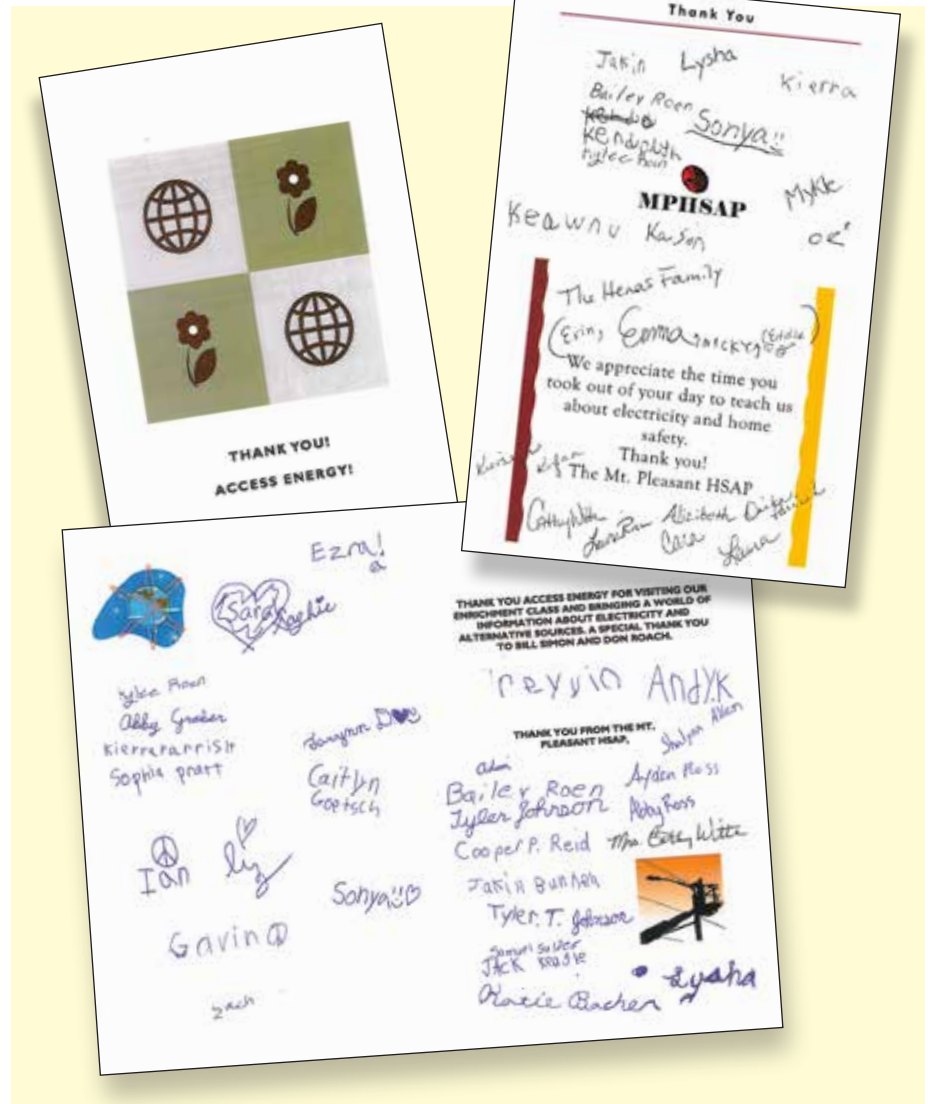
On April 5, Access Energy Cooperative energy advisor Gary Stevens (at left in photo) conducted a course on electrical safety for home-schooled students in southeast Iowa. Students learned how to respect electricity in and around the home and farm – and how to play safely near power lines.

Also last month, operations manager Don Roach and lineman Bill Simon talked with a Mt. Pleasant enrichment class of varying ages about renewable energy, energy conservation and electrical safety.

We received nice thank you notes from both groups. Access Energy



Cooperative offers educational resources to all schools in our area on an annual basis – and to homeschoolers every other year. ⚡



Co-op representatives met with legislators at REC Day on the Hill

More than 200 cooperative supporters, including board members and staff from Access Energy Cooperative, traveled to Des Moines on March 16 to meet at the Capitol with our local elected officials during a dessert social to advocate for electric cooperatives.

The co-ops focused on educating legislators about four issues important to the electric cooperatives: the inclusion of geothermal for renewable energy tax credits, legislation encouraging utility-owned solar, policies supporting a skilled workforce in the state and EPA-proposed rules regarding the Clean Air Act. Many cooperatives developed booth displays that provided information on topics such as community solar, rural broadband, load management, storm recovery, lineman equipment costs and energy efficiency.



(From left) Shown at the Iowa State Capitol during REC Day on the Hill are Sen. Rich Taylor and director Fred Hickenbottom, general manager/CEO Kevin Wheeler and director Marvin Newton from Access Energy Cooperative.

This annual visit to the Iowa Capitol is an excellent opportunity to personally visit with our elected officials and

provide them with a co-op perspective on issues that are important to our business and our member-owners. ⚡

How Your Co-op Works

Keeping info up to date helps keep your power on

At Access Energy Cooperative, we strive to deliver to you the safest, most reliable electric service we can. You can help us do that by keeping your contact information up to date. We use information such as your phone number to help us during outages. Or we may use your e-mail address to

contact you regarding something important coming up at the cooperative.

If it's been awhile since you've updated your information on your account, please take a few minutes to do so.

If you have a business on our lines and have a Facebook or Twitter

account set up for your business, we'd like to connect with you to help promote your business. So please include a business Facebook account so we can like your page.

Please take a moment to fill out and return this coupon to us to update your important information. ⚡

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____ Account _____

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