

# living with energy

IN IOWA



MAY 2017

Save the Date: Annual Meeting of Members on Aug. 1, 2017 ▶ Members are encouraged to attend!

## Is it time to make your home smarter?



Visit our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com)

Take a realistic view when replacing windows for energy savings

Access Energy Cooperative attends **REC Day on the Hill**

Discover **101 ways** to save energy and money at your place

UPCOMING EVENTS



**May 29** Memorial Day

**August 1** Annual Meeting of Members

OFFICE CLOSING

The Access Energy Cooperative office will be closed May 29 for Memorial Day. You can reach our office 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for answers to billing and account questions, paying your bill and service interruptions by calling 866-242-4232.



*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-Thursday, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Friday, 7 a.m.-3:30 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.

**General Manager/CEO:** Kevin Wheeler  
**Editor:** Kimberly Davis  
**Assistant Editor:** Cherity Wibben  
**Officers and Directors:**

Jerry Barker	District 2	President
Fred Hickenbottom	District 1	Vice President
David Hollingsworth	District 1	Secretary
Marvin Newton	District 3	Treasurer
Joseph Heckethorn	District 1	Director
Larry White	District 2	Director
Robert Smith	District 2	Director
Marvin Holtkamp	District 3	Director
Victor Pierrot	District 3	Director

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

# Here's how local ownership works for you

BY KEVIN WHEELER

In recent years, there's been a resurgence in the appeal of buying locally. It's evident by the increased popularity of farmers' markets across Iowa, with shoppers wanting to buy produce or goods that have been grown by their community members. People have a desire to know more about how their food is grown and raised, and buying it from a local farmer helps bridge that gap.



This change in buying habits is also visible with the promotion of Small Business Saturday in November and the "shop small" movement, which encourage shoppers to return to Main Street and support the local small businesses they know and trust.

For Access Energy Cooperative, the commitment to supporting local communities and economies with purchases has always been our way of doing things. Local ownership and local control are hallmarks of the cooperative business model, which has served our member-owners well during our 78 years. Member-owner involvement was the key to our formation decades ago, and it's what continues to fuel how we serve you today and the way we plan for the future.

Local ownership and democratic member control – one of the seven key cooperative principles – distinguishes us from other utilities. Every member of the cooperative has a voice in how we do business. As a member-owner, you elect directors – who also are cooperative members – to represent your interests when it comes to setting policies or making decisions on issues that impact you. One member equals one vote, and every vote counts.

Because Access Energy Cooperative is owned by your fellow neighbors, friends and community members, decisions are made in the

best interests of the communities we serve. We don't take a one-size-fits-all approach. We know that what works well for a cooperative in northwest Iowa may not work as well for our cooperative members. Because Wall Street investors are not making decisions for the cooperative on your behalf, we can remain flexible and adapt to

the unique needs of our region. We can pursue economic development opportunities that are complementary to existing businesses in our area and provide for the sustainable growth of local communities.

While Access Energy Cooperative's core purpose is to provide electricity that is safe, reliable, efficient and environmentally responsible, we're also committed to making our communities quality places to live. We do this in many ways, such as providing good and stable jobs; offering educational opportunities on programs and services such as energy efficiency and safety; encouraging student leadership and education; paying local, county and state taxes; and distributing patronage back to members based on our not-for-profit business model.

Across the country, America's more than 900 locally owned electric distribution cooperatives provide electricity to an estimated 42 million people in 47 states, covering three-quarters of the nation's landmass. The endurance of the cooperative business model is a testimony to the success of local control and ownership by the same people who rely on electric services to power their homes, farms, businesses and lives. ⚡

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

## The Iowa Capitol was full of activity during REC Day on the Hill



Access Energy Cooperative's board, management and staff displayed information on energy efficiency and safety at the event.

More than 200 cooperative supporters, including representatives from Access Energy Cooperative, traveled to Des Moines on March 22 to advocate on behalf of Iowa's not-for-profit electric cooperatives. It was a day full of government activity, starting with the reading and passage of House Resolution 14 on the Iowa House floor, which commemorated the important role of Iowa's electric cooperatives as it pertains to economic development and improving the quality of life for rural Iowans. Later that morning, cooperative representatives were present as Gov. Branstad signed SF 331 into law, which will streamline energy efficiency reporting for electric co-op staff and allow them more time to serve member-owners. The bill passed unanimously in the House and Senate.

The co-op attendees then convened for a briefing where they received updates on state and federal legislative issues. In the afternoon, co-op representatives met with their local elected officials during a dessert social held at the Capitol rotunda. The advocates educated legislators on several issues important to Iowa's electric cooperatives, including the safety of line personnel as they work on

the side of roadways in accordance with the state's "Move Over" law, as well as expanding property tax exemptions for geothermal heating and cooling systems.

"This annual visit to the Iowa Capitol is an excellent opportunity to personally meet with our elected officials and provide them with a local co-op perspective on issues that are important to our business," said Kevin Wheeler, general manager/CEO of Access Energy Cooperative. ⚡



During REC Day on the Hill, Gov. Branstad (center) signed into law the Energy Efficiency bill, which makes reporting energy efficiency information much less cumbersome for electric cooperatives. Chuck Soderberg (left), executive vice president and general manager of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, and Kevin Wheeler, general manager/CEO of Access Energy Cooperative, were present for the signing.



## Safety training for area first responders is available

Access Energy Cooperative is offering safety training for area first responders at 6 p.m., May 9 and 17, in our office at 1800 W. Washington St. in Mount Pleasant. For more details, call 319-385-1577 or 866-242-4232. ⚡

### EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

## Win our favorite water-saving showerhead!

Many water-saving showerheads give you a chill, because the needle-like jets of warm water only hit a small area



of your body, while the drafty air in the shower surrounds the rest of you. The Delta 75152 solves that problem. The secret is the company's water-amplifying design that sculpts droplets into a unique wave pattern and offers three times the coverage. The result feels like a traditional shower. For more details, go to [www.deltafaucet.com](http://www.deltafaucet.com).

To enter this month's contest for one of five Delta 75152 showerheads, go to the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at [www.livingwithenergyiowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiowa.com). Please complete the entry form no later than May 31, 2017. ⚡

## HOW YOUR CO-OP WORKS

## Do you have questions or comments about our complaint procedure?

As a member-owner of Access Energy Cooperative, assistance is available to you for resolving questions, comments or concerns about your electric service. Access Energy Cooperative has trained representatives available to answer your questions and address any concerns you may have.

Here's how you can contact our office:

**Access Energy Cooperative**  
P.O. Box 440  
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

**Call:** 319-385-1577

**Call toll-free:** 866-242-4232

If your question is related to Access Energy Cooperative service rather than its rates and Access Energy Cooperative does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling 515-725-7321 or (toll-free) 877-565-4450; by writing to 1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069; or by e-mailing [customer@iub.iowa.gov](mailto:customer@iub.iowa.gov).

**SAVE THE DATE**  
2017 Access Energy Cooperative  
Annual Meeting of Members  
**August 1 @ 5 p.m.**  
Register and pick up  
your **FREE** multi-tool  
  
Cooperative Tools Building Power for You

## SAVING ENERGY

## Check these efficiency tips for outdoor shops and barns

There are many benefits to having an energy-efficient outdoor shop or barn. Aside from saving energy, an efficient outdoor building can keep the environment around your structure healthy and safe, save money on your water bill, keep your animals happier and healthier, and save you from costly structural repairs.

Are you planning to build a new structure on your property? Follow these tips to achieve energy efficiency:

- Location matters. Carefully consider where you build your shop or barn. Consider drainage, sun exposure and how the building may affect your neighbors.
- Start with a sustainable design plan. A sustainable design plan, according to the U.S. General Services Administration, includes the ability to use environmentally preferable products, protect and conserve water, enhance indoor environmental quality, and optimize operational and maintenance practices.
- If you're hiring a contractor to help build your structure, make sure you look for companies who specialize in "green" buildings and energy-efficient practices.
- Choose efficient building methods. For example, pole barns offer reliable shelter without costly excavation, concrete foundations or general site disruption.

Follow these tips to make energy-efficient upgrades to an existing structure:

- Replace indoor lighting with energy-saving LED bulbs.
- Ensure your existing structure has adequate insulation levels.
- Choose outdoor lighting designed to be energy efficient, and install motion detectors to reduce energy consumption when the lights are not in use.
- Plant trees around your metal shed or barn. In winter, trees act



as a windbreak, and in summer, trees have a natural cooling effect that can reduce temperatures in your metal building 3 to 6 degrees.

- Add a ceiling fan to circulate air. Typically, there's a 2-degree temperature increase for every one-foot increase in ceiling height. A ceiling fan can help keep warm air close to the ground in the winter, and circulate fresher, cooler air in the summer. Not only will this help with energy costs, it also will help keep the air in the building from becoming hot and stagnant, which will prevent harmful bacteria from building up and keep insects at bay.

To learn more about making your outdoor shop or barn more energy efficient, contact the energy experts at Access Energy Cooperative. ⚡

**ELECTRIC CO-OPS**  
are committed to  
keeping members  
and employees **SAFE.**

May is National  
Electrical Safety Month

 plug into safety

## Happy Mother's Day to all moms!



Access Energy Cooperative wishes all moms a very **Happy Mother's Day**, with a very special tribute to the moms at Access Energy Cooperative. These moms work hard every day to keep your power on – and to keep your

electric cooperative running as safely, efficiently and reliably as possible. When you next switch on a light, remember all the hard work of the women at Access Energy Cooperative that cause that light to come on for you. ⚡

**SAFETY MATTERS**

## Employees dig deeper into safety

At Access Energy Cooperative, safety is our priority. We're constantly and consistently training our employees and educating the public on safety topics – especially when it comes to electrical safety. Last month, co-op employees had the privilege to watch a live line demonstration offered by Corn Belt Energy of Illinois, and they found out that safety is safety – and it's just as important, whether it's in Iowa or Illinois! ⚡



**OPERATIONS UPDATE**

## Approved contractors are working in our area

Companies working for Access Energy Cooperative will be driving trucks with the logos shown here. They also

may have an Access Energy Cooperative logo on their trucks.



Boyle Built Enterprises is from Selma, and Tom's Tree Service is from Albia.

In addition, our engineering department has a mapping project in progress, so you may find



contractors from Global Mapping Solutions LLC (GMS) working around our service area. They'll be working for us into the summer from trucks and four-wheelers. ⚡



**WATT'S GOING ON?**

## Do you have a 2018 event to add to our calendar?

The photo contest entries have been sent to the judges to choose which photos will appear in the 2018 Access Energy Cooperative Calendar. The next step is filling the calendar pages with events going on in southeast Iowa. If you know of a community event in southeast Iowa that's set for 2018 and would like to see it added to the calendar, please let us know by May 17. Visit our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com) to enter events for the calendar and to view events throughout the year. ⚡



## MAY ENERGY SAVER

Keep warm summer air outside where it belongs! Add caulk or weather-stripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy