

living with energy

IN IOWA



NOVEMBER 2017

Hurricane Irma victims say thanks for Iowa's help in restoring their power ▶ See page 13

Holiday side dishes:

Start a new tradition
for your family



You can stop
cold air leaks from
inside your home

It's time to consider
nontraditional ways
of saving energy

Help others in need:
See RECare info
on Page 12

Visit our website at www.accessenergycoop.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 20 **Fall legislative meeting**

- Jan. 9 **Welcome back to legislators at the state Capitol**

- Jan. 10-11 **Power Quality Workshop for key accounts at the cooperative's office**

OFFICE CLOSING

The Access Energy Cooperative office will be closed Nov. 23-24 for Thanksgiving, Dec. 25-26 for Christmas and Jan. 1 for New Year's Day. Even though our office is closed, you can call us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 866-242-4232 for answers to billing and account questions, paying your bill and reporting service interruptions.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!



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

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Friday, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays

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

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

We love being part of our communities!

BY KEVIN WHEELER

I love the feeling of being able to walk into my favorite locally-owned shop, restaurant or store knowing that the profit, product and labor can make positive impacts on my community. The spirit of Main Street is embodied in these local businesses, just like it is in Access Energy Cooperative.

Electric cooperatives are as local and community centered as they come. Founded as a way to bring electricity to communities that didn't interest investor-owned utilities (IOUs), electric cooperatives have been a cornerstone of community and economic development in rural America and beyond for decades.

That feeling I get when I frequent local businesses in our community is the same feeling I get when I walk into work at the co-op every day. It's a feeling of pride. I'm proud to be a part of an organization that serves the community in which we live, instead of a group of shareholders who may never have set foot in our service territory.

Living on co-op lines is more than just knowing there are people out there working to bring you safe, reliable and efficient electric service. Living on co-op lines is an investment

in our community and its members.

Access Energy Cooperative is a not-for-profit business. When we make more money than we need to keep the power on safely, efficiently and reliably, we return it back to our members (that's you!) in the form of dividends. This means after all co-op expenses are paid, any additional money we earn goes back into our community, instead of going into a shareholder's pocket.

Because we're owned by you, our members, we have a vested interest in making sure our community is prosperous. We do this by investing in economic development and community service projects and programs.

I hope that you view Access Energy Cooperative not just as your electric utility provider, but as a local business that brings pride and prosperity to our communities. If you're interested in learning more about how we keep the lights on and beyond, please stop by the co-op or give us a call. We love being part of these communities, and we hope you feel the same way too! ⚡

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



**MOVE OVER
SLOW DOWN**

WHAT THE SIGN REALLY SAYS IS -
MOVE OVER OR SLOW DOWN. Iowa law requires motorists to change lanes or slow down when approaching a stationary utility vehicle that has its flashing lights activated. Failure to do so can result in hefty fines or the loss of your driver's license.

Take the Pledge. Join your fellow Iowans who have pledged to move over or slow down for Iowa's utility workers at moveoveriowa.com.

Access Energy Cooperative teaches safety to kids



Jim Mills, a lineman for Access Energy Cooperative, brought his truck to the Henry County Community Action Agency in Mt. Pleasant to show the kids the safety equipment he uses. He emphasized how important safety gear is when working around electricity.

Daniel Phillips, safety director for Access Energy Cooperative, handed out "Electricity Safety and You" coloring books to children at the Henry County Community Action Agency.



Daniel,
Thank you so much
for coming and teaching
our third-grade class!
Thanks!
Mrs. Stalder
Mrs. Schneider



During Daniel Phillips' safety demonstration at Van Allen Elementary School in Mt. Pleasant, a couple of lucky third graders tried on the safety equipment every lineman needs to do his job.

Win a preconfigured smart thermostat that saves energy right out of the box!



The challenge with some "smart" devices like thermostats, home lighting setups and security systems is they're so difficult to use that you never know if you've programmed them correctly – or if you're really getting all the energy-saving benefits the packaging promised. The Energy Star® certified Nest Thermostat E solves that problem with a preconfigured basic program – plus it automatically learns variations in your family's schedule. It's simple to make your own changes too, from the Nest app on your phone or other mobile device.

According to the manufacturer, the Nest Thermostat E is easy to install, with most customers getting the job done in 30 minutes or less. As a bonus, Nest sends you an alert if your heating or cooling system ever needs attention.

Suggested retail price is around \$169, and the Nest E is available at www.nest.com and leading retailers. ⚡

Visit our website, and win!

To enter this month's contest for the Nest Thermostat E, please go to the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com and complete the entry form by Nov. 30, 2017.

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 LED tripod work light in the September issue was Charlene Reith from Consumers Energy.

LEND A HELPING HAND

Help others by contributing to RECare this holiday season

RECare is a program where members help other members in need. 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 make a difference! Last year, our members contributed \$2,990 to help others.

The local Community Action Program administers this program, and recipients must meet their guidelines. ⚡



Member Authorization Form

I would like to make a (check one):

One-time contribution of

\$ _____

Monthly contribution of

\$ _____
(That will be added to my bill)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

ZIP Code _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Account # (if known) _____

NEW PRODUCTS

Don't be intimidated by smart home technology!

The concept of the smart home isn't as new as you might expect. In the late 1980s, for example, Honeywell's smart home contained impressive automation capabilities. Lighting, security, fire monitoring, temperature control and appliance use were all automated to adapt to occupant and environmental inputs.

But the learning curve for the user was steep. In one room, Honeywell engineers filled a closet – floor to ceiling – with programmable logic controllers (an industrial digital computer). Talk about tech-savvy!

Today, more than 30 years later, the world has the advantage of the Internet and Wi-Fi almost everywhere. The development of these two communications capabilities has spawned a proliferation in the number and type of devices that can be connected and used to create smart homes.

If you feel you're not-so-savvy when it comes to technology, there's good news: Most devices today offer a very simple setup. A typical process goes like this: Power up the device, identify your Wi-Fi network from a list the device recognizes and type in your password. You'll be connected and ready for action.



Whirlpool's smart refrigerator has an Energy Advisor to track how much electricity it uses, a Vacation Assistant with options for when you're not home and a Filter Assistant that tells you when it's time to replace the water filter.

Photo: Whirlpool (www.whirlpool.com)

These days, anything can be automated, including lights, curtains, entertainment systems, door locks, garden watering, weather monitoring and appliance use. To get an idea of the possibilities for your home, take a look at one of the earliest purveyors of home automation goodness, Smarthome.com.

Aside from being extremely cool and making life easier, a smart home can dramatically reduce energy consumption, especially for the major energy consumers in your home, such as lighting and temperature control. Be sure to check with the energy experts at your local electric cooperative about programs related to smart devices. ⚡

IN THE NEWS

Win \$50 in our Photo Contest!

Access Energy has launched its annual photo contest, and winning entries will be shown in the 2019 Access Energy Cooperative calendar. We're looking for original photos of rural settings in southeastern Iowa – including landscapes, animals, buildings or people – during any season of the year.

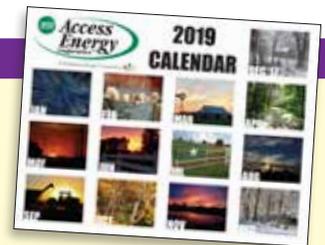
Fifty dollars will be awarded to

each photographer whose entry is selected as one of the 13 featured photos. Submit your entries by March 31, 2018 to:

Photo Contest

c/o Access Energy Cooperative
P.O. Box 440
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

Visit www.accessenergycoop.com for rules and more information. ⚡



Hurricane Irma victims say thanks for Iowa's help in restoring their power

About two weeks after Hurricane Irma struck where the Georgia and Florida state lines meet, most members of Okefenokee Rural Electric Membership Corporation had their lights back on, thanks to the restoration efforts of linemen from Access Energy Cooperative and 14 other electric cooperatives in Iowa. A total of 46 linemen, in 26 trucks, made the trip.

According to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, nearly 2,000 electric co-op workers from 25 states converged on affected areas in the southeast to restore power in widely varying conditions to more than 1 million co-op members. Iowa's crews, for example, worked mostly in remote, rural areas, and had to cut down a lot of brush and be especially vigilant around potentially unstable, large pine trees that had shallow root systems. In addition, wildlife – including snakes and alligators – were a concern.

The local residents that Iowa's line crews encountered were very grateful, and they were surprised to learn the linemen traveled all the way from Iowa to help with the restoration. You can read some of their Facebook comments, as well as ones from Iowa folks, on this page. ⚡



NOTE OF THANKS



I cannot say enough GOOD things about your co-op! We are in northeast Florida, had been without power for day number 6. I happened upon your crew down here working, explained our dilemma, that we had 2 elderly people on our feed, both disabled vets, on fixed incomes and buying gas for generators was an extreme hardship, in addition to the current conditions.

Heat, humidity and all the things we have to endure during times like these! We had a downed transformer, downed tree, etc.

They came over 20 minutes later and had everything repaired, replaced, etc., within about 1.5 hours and they literally brought tears to our eyes and had us back on line! Such heroes!!! I cannot say enough about these awesome gentlemen and what they did for us! I told them that God sent our guardian angels all the way from Iowa to help us out in this tough time ... our whole state is devastated right now! And believe me, we needed all the help we can get!

THIS IS THE AMERICA I GREW UP IN!!! Friends and neighbors helping friends and neighbors! We thank you from the bottom of our hearts and souls! We don't even know their names, but we KNOW who they are and what they represent! And will remember them!

Rick Reichard
Callahan, Florida