



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.

Happy Thanksgiving

Access Energy Cooperative
Office Closed
Nov 27 & 28

For after hours emergencies call
800.452.7819
or 319.385.1580

For tips on how to be safe around electricity,
go to our website.

Safety

www.accessenergycoop.com

Call Us For Safety Information Before Starting A Solar or Wind Project

Concern for community is at the heart of our cooperative business model, which is why the **safety** of our member-owners and employees is our top priority. A commitment to safety is present in every **aspect** of our business, whether it involves linemen working on power poles and lines, workers in our offices, or member-service personnel **educating** students about ways to stay safe around electricity. Protecting people, equipment and property is at the forefront of our daily business activities.

In recent years, we've been **tying** more renewable energy into our portfolio, and today, some member-owners are exploring the option of owning a wind turbine or solar system. Each type of energy source, including wind and **solar**, requires careful consideration of the **unique** safety needs of that particular resource. For

example, at our coal-fueled generating facilities, employees are equipped with extensive personal protective equipment to prevent injuries unique to working in a power plant. We follow strict state and federal standards to ensure safety is not compromised.

The State of Iowa provides oversight of all electric utilities to protect employees and consumers from safety issues. The Iowa Utilities Board also has adopted safety standards, and your board of directors further adopts safety policies at the local level.

Each type of generating source also has specific requirements. In the case of a rooftop solar system, the International Fire Code requires a construction permit, specific signage and markings, properly spaced access points, and smoke ventilation, just to name a few. All renewable energy generation systems within the state must have a safety inspection by either a local city inspector or the Iowa Department of Public Safety.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?

Because of the diverse requirements, if you are considering investing in a renewable energy system for your property, contact Access Energy Cooperative at the beginning of your research and planning process. We will help you to understand the necessary requirements to ensure your system is safely and properly interconnected to the power grid. Iowa law requires that customers notify their electricity utility before interconnecting any generation source and that an interconnection agreement is in place. These measures are to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the system and to protect our member-owners and employees who interact with the power grid. If our linemen are not aware of an interconnected system, they could be at risk of a serious injury when working on the distribution system.

Contact a member of the Access Energy Cooperative team today if you would like more information about renewable energy.

2015 Photo Contest Begins

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. Submit all entries by March 31, 2015 to: Photo Contest, c/o Access Energy Cooperative, PO Box 440, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641.



Visit accessenergycoop.com for details.

Highline Headlines is published by Access Energy Cooperative, 1800 West Washington Street, P.O. Box 440, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641, Phone: 319.385.1577. Highline Headlines (ISSN 1066-7989) is published monthly for \$2.04 per year, per member by Access Energy Cooperative, 1800 West Washington Street, P.O. Box 440, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641 and at additional offices. Periodical postage paid at Mount Pleasant, IA. POSTMASTER: send address changes to HIGHLINE HEADLINES, P.O. Box 440, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641-0440. Copyright 2001, Access Energy Cooperative.

Please Recycle

Manager's Corner



**General Manager/CEO
Robert Swindell**

While we have enjoyed a beautiful autumn here in southeast Iowa, winter and the heating season will soon be here. Regardless of what fuel you use, I would encourage everyone to look for ways to make their homes and businesses more energy efficient.

Simple things like weather stripping or setting your thermostat back a couple of degrees can make a difference. You can generally expect to save about one percent on your heating costs for each degree you lower your thermostat.

Adequate attic insulation makes your home easier to heat and cool. Over time, insulation in your attic tends to settle, reducing its effectiveness. If you have less than ten inches of attic insulation, you should consider adding more.

An energy audit is a great way for you to reduce your home's energy uses. Access Energy Cooperative provides free energy audits for our members. Our member service staff will make recommendations on ways that you can make your home or business more energy efficient. We have a couple of tools to help identify areas where your home is losing heat. We can perform a "blower door test" on your home using our blower door. The blower door is a large volume fan controlled by a computer that calculates the number of air exchanges in your home. The more air exchanges you have per hour, the more it is costing you to heat and cool your home. The blower door tests help identify where your home is leaking air. We can also use our infrared camera to identify areas where your home is losing heat. I would encourage you to take advantage of our expertise to help you identify ways for you to save on your heating costs.

We also have financing available through our Energy Resource Conservation Loan program (ERC) to assist with larger energy efficient projects such as heating and cooling system upgrades, added insulation or window replacements. Our ERC loan program allows you to borrow up to eighty percent of the cost of the upgrade at a very attractive interest rate for a term of up to five years. If you are interested in information about an energy audit or our ERC Loan program visit www.accessenergycoop.com or give our Member Services Department a call at 866-242-4232.

RECare

For members who meet the eligibility rules, assistance is available for heating and weatherization costs through the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). For information on applying for LIHEAP, see the article on Page 3. While, LIHEAP exists to help those in need, there are still shortfalls. Access Energy Cooperative's RECare program makes it easy to help cooperative neighbors in need this winter.

If you wish to make a contribution to the Access Energy Cooperative RECare program, you can: fill out and return the form below this article in this month's HighLine Headlines, or visit our website at accessenergycoop.com, or give our Billing Department a call at 866-242-4232. Your contribution, whether it is \$1 or \$10 a month, when combined with those of other generous members, can go a long way in helping those who can't afford winter's heating bills.

PEAK ALERTS

We plan to run Peak Alerts on area radio stations again 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. Peak days in the winter are usually caused by subzero temperatures and a low wind-chill index. During Peak Alerts we ask our members to try and limit their energy use to one major appliance.

COOPERATIVE INFORMATION

Access Energy Cooperative
1800 West Washington Street
P.O. Box 440
Mount Pleasant, Iowa 52641

Phone: 319.385.1577
Toll free: 866.242.4232
Fax: 319.385.6873

Website:
www.accessenergycoop.com
Email:
contactus@accessenergycoop.com

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Friday
(closed Saturdays, Sundays,
& 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

General Manager/CEO: Robert Swindell
Editor: Kimberly Brumbaugh
Assistant Editor: Cherty Wibben

Officers and Directors:

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

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! In 2013, forty customers contributed a total of \$2,794.74.

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



I would like to make a:

- one time contribution of \$ _____
- monthly contribution of \$ _____
(monthly contribution will be added to your bill)

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Account # (if known) _____

Energy Assistance Program

The 2014–2015 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

WHEN TO APPLY:

- Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled: October 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015.
- All other households: November 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015.

WHAT TO TAKE:

- Proof of income: Most recent 3 months' check stubs, award letter from Social Security or 2013 tax return.
- Social Security numbers of all household members.
- Recent heat bill.
- Recent electric bill.

If you receive alimony or child support it will also need to be verified.

WAGE EARNERS: Please bring copies of your check stubs for the three-month period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your federal income tax return.

FIXED INCOME: This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance and pensions. Please bring copies of your most recent 3 months' check stubs.

SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS: Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

FIP RECIPIENTS: Please bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information

If you are not sure where to apply, please write to: LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Human Rights/DCAA, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319, or call your local community action agency.

Income Maximums

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6
3 Month Gross Income	\$4,376	\$5,899	\$7,421	\$8,944	\$10,466	\$11,989
Annual Gross Income	\$17,505	\$23,595	\$29,685	\$35,775	\$41,865	\$47,955

For households with more than six member, add \$1,523 per three months, or \$6,090 annually for each additional member.

Medical Waiver: Households who are over LIHEAP regular income guidelines may be eligible for LIHEAP benefits through our medical waiver component. The medical expenses must be documented, paid, and non-reimbursable. For more information please contact your local community action agency.



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



Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/AccessEnergyCoop

Follow us on Twitter
www.twitter/AccessEnergyC



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 INCENTIVESUp 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.
- List of areas that need improvements will be provided upon completion of the audit.

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.

Help Stop the EPA from Shutting Down our Power Plants

To ensure safety and reduce energy use, most American homes are constructed to meet building codes. Imagine if the government applied a new, more stringent code retroactively to your home, which forced you to move out because your home was not sufficiently energy efficient. You would still be forced to pay the mortgage for the home you could no longer use and also pay for a new, more expensive home.

The latest proposal from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will fundamentally change the rules and force the early shut down of many of the power plants on which electric co-ops still owe money. Not only will this plan make it difficult to provide you with affordable and reliable power, it will also leave you, our member-owners, holding the keys to power plants that can't run.

Seem unreasonable and unfair? We agree. For more than 76 years,

Access Energy Cooperative has made strategic, long-term investments to bring affordable and reliable electricity to your home and family. Looking ahead for the long-term helps us stretch your hard-earned money.

Many of our power plants are only about 30 years old. Some are expected to remain operational until the year 2040 or beyond. Since those initial investments for construction, electric

co-ops have spent billions on emissions control upgrades. In some cases, the cost of these upgrades has exceeded the original cost of the power plant. As a result, AECE still owes money on many of these facilities, and the plants must run in order to pay off the loans.

Rather than taking our nation away from an all-of-the-above energy policy, we want to work with the EPA on practical and reasonable solutions

that balance affordability, reliability and environmental stewardship.

You wouldn't allow the federal government to force you out of your home. Don't let them do that to the power plants built to serve you. We ask that you join us, along with the more than 800,000 supporters of America's Electric Cooperatives, in taking a stand. Speak out against this proposal today at www.Action.coop.

Together, we can remind the government that the rules they write have real world consequences. It only takes 30 seconds to send your message to the EPA at www.Action.coop. If you don't have internet access call us and we would be happy to get you signed up too. 1-866-242-4232

Access Energy Cooperative is proud to play by the rules and, with your help, we look forward to providing your family with affordable power for generations to come.



Want a Secure Energy Future?

Tell the government we need coal as part of America's fuel mix.

America's Electric Cooperatives

VISIT ACTION.COOP

You're Not Alone in the Dark

Electricity powers our lives. We depend on it for nearly everything we do. So we understand how frustrating it can be when you're left in the dark.

Power outages are never convenient. It takes a lot of hands to keep your power on, and even more hands to get it up and running when an outage occurs. Access Energy Cooperative works hard to restore your electric service when outages occur, but there are necessary steps to take to ensure that power is restored to the majority of members as quickly, and safely, as possible.

After a major storm, Access Energy Cooperative line crews must identify which towers, poles and lines have incurred damage. Very rarely, but occasionally in the case of a major storm such as a tornado, transmission towers can be damaged. If that is the case, thousands of members could be affected. Repairing damage to transmission lines is top priority when it comes to restoring power.

If there is no damage done

to transmission towers, the local distribution substations are checked first. If the issue is isolated and can be resolved at the substation level, great! That means thousands of people can get their power restored at once.

At times, the issue cannot be isolated to one of our distribution substations. If that is the case, Access Energy Cooperative crews inspect supply lines between the substations and the meters they serve. If the supply lines can be repaired, power can be restored to the towns and homes those lines serve, as long as there is no damage

to the tap lines.

Tap lines carry power to the transformers located underground or connected to poles outside of homes and other buildings. Access Energy Cooperative line crews identify which damaged lines to work on first based on which lines will restore power to the greatest number of members.

Many times, the issue is resolved once the tap lines are repaired. But have you ever lost power only to look next door and see the lights still blazing from your neighbor's window? When this happens, it generally means that the service

line between your home and the nearby transformer has been damaged. If this happens, call Access Energy Cooperative right away so we can send a line crew to your home.

Power restoration can be a tricky business, so if you lose service in your home or neighborhood please remember the following:

- Stay clear of downed power lines. Contact with these lines could be life threatening.
- Report the outage to Access Energy Cooperative as soon as possible.
- Make sure to inform us if loss of power to your home affects life support systems or could cause any additional threat to health and safety.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation whenever an outage occurs. For more information on outages, stay connected with Access Energy Cooperative on Twitter and Facebook, or check our website at accessenergycoop.com.

Source: Meghan Evans



What is Touchstone Energy? Being A Member of Your Cooperative Really is Good for You!

For more than 65 years, America's electric cooperatives have thrived, growing to meet local needs in different parts of the country and earning the trust of millions of people. In all our communities we have been a focal point; a connection; a touchstone.



Touchstone Energy
Cooperatives

The power of human connections®

In 1998 electric co-ops across the U.S. came together to create a new team—Touchstone Energy Cooperatives (TSE). Access Energy Cooperative is proud to be a part of this national brand within America's energy industry that champions the value of the cooperative difference.

The Touchstone Energy network is made up of close to 750 local, member-owned electric cooperatives in 46 states. Touchstone Energy co-ops, like Access Energy Cooperative, collectively deliver power and energy solutions to more than 30 million members every day. And because we are a cooperative, we have a responsibility to support the communities we serve and **exceed** expectations there, too. That means we aim to improve the quality of life by being involved in the communities we live and work in.

We're dedicated to serving our members with innovation, integrity, accountability and commitment to community. Together, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives champion the cause for lowest-cost, democratically governed energy.

To us, it's about how we use human connection to inspire engagement, preference and loyalty. And it's about how we help transform relationships.

Access Energy Cooperative, along with other Touchstone Energy co-ops, takes pride in creating innovative programs to better serve our member-consumers and in finding new ways to help businesses succeed. We take even more pride in being reliable neighbors in the communities we are a part of. We are on a mission to build a strong local and national presence to electric cooperatives.

Above all, we each have a voice because we are all members; we are all owners; we are all connected; we are all a part of the cooperative network.

Power Outage?

Power outages can happen at anytime. In spite of all the dollars spent on maintenance and improvements, we are still at the mercy of mother nature and man—which has been the cause of 50% of all outages since the beginning of the year. The following are the seven major causes of outages:

STORMS

Wind, heat, ice, and snow are the most common causes of widespread power outages.

LIGHTNING

When lightning strikes transmission towers, wires, and poles, outages occur.

ANIMALS

Outages can even happen on sunny days, as a racoon, squirrel, bird, or other small animals are a common cause for power lines to short **circuit**.

TREES

During high winds, or tree trimming by an untrained professional, limbs can come into contact with power lines, causing power interruptions.

EXCAVATION DIGGING

Underground cables are commonly disturbed by digging. Practice safety when you dig and always call Iowa One Call first at 811.

HIGH POWER DEMAND

During heat waves and other times of unusually high power demand, overburdened electric cables, transformers, and other electrical equipment can melt and fail.

VEHICLES

Occasionally, vehicle accidents with a utility pole cause power outages.

If you experience a power outage or notice a problem with our power lines, call us at 1.866.242.4232, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

There are Seven Cooperative Principles that give all co-ops guidance. The original seven co-op principles, under which your cooperative is operated, set forth in 1844 contained the simple phrase, "Promotion of Education." Today Principle Five states that...

"all co-ops should promote "Education, **Training** and Information." This is intended for the employees, members and the community at large."

It is based on the simple premise that if people know more about the cooperative business model, they will be in a much better position to understand the benefits and promote better use of the co-op and its resources.

While there are almost one million people in the U.S. that work for cooperatives of all types (agriculture, housing, credit unions and many others in addition to electric co-ops) very few of us learn about cooperatives in school. That creates a real challenge when trying to explain the cooperative difference. People understand an investor-owned business is designed to make a profit or that a non-profit, like the Red Cross, is designed to serve the community. Co-ops have both an economic and social purpose. We operate on a not-for-profit basis so that we can pass along the best price for our good or service to you, the member-owner. It is up to us at Access Energy Cooperative through publications like this one to ensure that you know about the differences and benefits of being a co-op member. Consumer surveys by Touchstone Energy and others consistently affirm that people prefer to do business with a cooperative if given a choice.

So why don't they teach about co-ops in school? There are several theories about this including that there is not enough academic research about co-ops, which is often the source for curriculums. Another reason offered is that the co-op community is so diverse that teaching about it only creates more confusion. The first issue about research is being addressed by the Cooperative Business Research Institute at Indiana University. The second can be addressed by answering the old question: How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time. Simply by taking an interest in learning about Access Energy Cooperative through our website, annual meeting, stopping by the office or talking to your fellow co-op members are all good ways to better understand the cooperative model you're a part of.

By knowing more about how cooperatives operate, you are in a better position to participate as member-owners. We always welcome your questions and comments to help us promote the Cooperative Way of doing business.

Source: Adam Schwartz



Access Energy Cooperative's crew worked on installing area lights for the Lewelling House Museum in Salem.

Unwrap Winter Energy Savings

It's the most wonderful time of year – and it's almost here! It's that special time of year when we spend a great deal of time with friends and family, either in the kitchen or out and about shopping for the perfect gift. As you find yourself wrapped up in the holiday excitement, Access Energy Cooperative reminds you of a few ways to be energy efficient during this busy time of year.

COOKING EFFICIENTLY

- Be kind to your oven. Every time you open the oven door to check on that dish, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees. This forces the oven to use more energy in order to get back to the proper cooking temperature. Try keeping the door closed as much as possible. Also, remember to take advantage of residual heat for the last five to 10 minutes of baking time – this is another way to save energy use. If you're using a ceramic or glass dish, you can typically set your oven 25 degrees lower than stated, since these items hold more heat than metal pans.
- Give your burners some relief. The metal reflectors under your stovetop burners should always be clean. If not, this will prevent your stove from working as effectively as it should.
- Utilize small appliances. During the holidays, the main appliances used are the oven and stovetop. Try using your slow cooker, microwave, toaster oven or warming plate more often. This will result in substantial energy savings.



HOME EFFICIENCY

- Take advantage of heat from the sun. Open your curtains during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.
- Find and seal all air leaks. Check areas near pipes, gaps around chimneys, cracks near doors and windows and any unfinished places.
- Maintain your heating system. Schedule services for your heating system before it gets too cold to find out what maintenance you may need to keep your system operating efficiently.
- Eliminate “vampire energy” waste. When you are not using an appliance or an electronic, unplug it to save energy. Power strips are definitely a good investment for your home.



EFFICIENT SHOPPING

- Purchase LED holiday lights. A string of traditional lights uses 36 watts of power and a string of LED lights only uses 5 watts. They can even last up to 10 times longer!
- Ask for Energy Star-rated TVs and appliances. This will save you a lot of power use because the standby-mode is lower and the device will use less energy overall.
- Combine errands to reduce the number of small trips. To-do lists seem to pile up around this time of the year. Believe it or not, several short trips in the winter can use twice as much fuel as one longer trip covering the same distance as all of the shorter ones.
- Being energy efficient is usually not top priority when celebrating the holidays, and most of us don't realize the lack of efficiency until the next bill comes in. Prevent your post-holiday shock this year by thinking creatively and remembering all of these tips!



Source: Amber Bentley

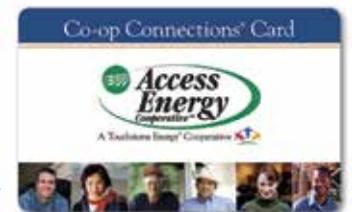
Holiday Cooking Safety Tips

The kitchen is the heart of the home. Sadly, it's also where two out of every five home fires start. Many home fires occur during what's supposed to be the happiest time of the year – the holidays. Thanksgiving, Christmas and Christmas Eve hold a tradition of cooking, and safety should always be considered in the kitchen. As we embark on the holiday season, Access Energy Cooperative and the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) urge you to use these simple safety tips to identify and correct potential kitchen hazards:

- Never leave cooking equipment unattended, and always remember to turn off burners if you have to leave the room.
- **Supervise** the little ones closely in the kitchen. Make sure children stay at least three feet away from all cooking appliances.
- Prevent potential fires by making sure your stovetop and oven are clean and free of grease, dust and spilled food.
- Remember to clean the exhaust hood and duct over your stove on a regular basis.
- Keep the cooking area around the stove and oven clear of combustibles, such as towels, napkins and potholders.
- Always wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can catch fire.
- To protect from spills and burns, use the back burners and turn the pot handles in, away from reaching hands.
- Locate all appliances away from the sink.
- Plug countertop appliances into ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)-protected outlets.
- Keep appliance cords away from hot surfaces like the range or toaster.
- Unplug the toaster and other countertop appliances when not in use.
- Be sure to turn off all appliances when cooking is completed.

For more important safety tips to keep you and your family safe this holiday season and throughout the year, visit www.esfi.org.

Members Saving on Prescriptions



In September, 31 members saved \$841 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.

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!!

Kids, You Can Win \$25 Access Energy Poster Contest

Twenty-five dollars will be awarded to two winners from each grade level from Access Energy Cooperative.

CONTEST PURPOSE

To increase both student and general public awareness of energy efficiency and renewable fuels.

THEMES

Poster should focus upon one or both of the following themes:

- Energy conservation and efficiency
- Renewable sources of energy such as wind, biomass, and solar

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades one through six in the following counties: Jefferson, Keokuk, Van Buren, Wapello, Washington, Henry, Lee, and Des Moines.

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

- Accuracy of Information: is the poster's message factually correct?
- Appearance and Creativity: legible writing, correct spelling, creative elements.
- Effectiveness of Message: does the poster educate the viewer on energy efficiency and/or renewable energy?

SIZE

All entries must range between 11" X 17" and 18" x 24" (no matting), to be eligible for judging. Entries may be in horizontal or vertical formats.

SPECIFIC RULES

Each student may enter only one poster. Each student must create his or her own poster. Posters may be created in any medium. All entries will become the property of Access Energy Cooperative. All entries must be submitted unfolded. All entries must have a label located on the back lower right corner of the poster with student's: Full Name, Home Mailing Address, Grade Level, School Name, Teacher's Name, Principal's Name, School Telephone, School Address, and a signed waiver you can get from your teacher.

DEADLINES

Posters must be postmarked by: April 10, 2015, to be eligible for the Access Energy competition.

SUBMIT POSTERS TO:

Access Energy Cooperative, Poster Contest
PO Box 440
Mt. Pleasant IA 52641

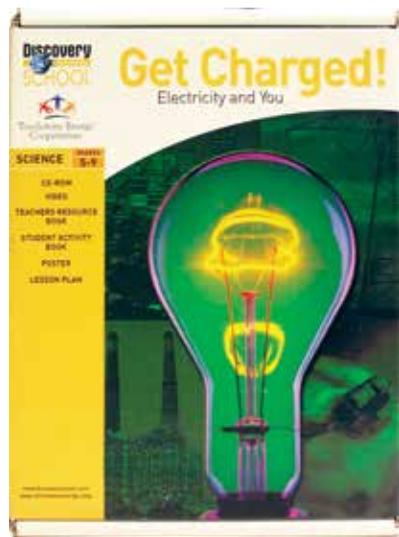
Kits Available for Homeschoolers

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.



Save the Date

Iowa Aquaculture Workshop Slated for Nov. 13

The Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers has partnered with Iowa State University to offer the first-of-its-kind aquaculture workshop in the state of Iowa. The workshop is scheduled for Nov. 13 and will be held in Ames. Registration will be required and attendance will be limited to the first 150 people who sign up.

PREPARING FOR AN INSPECTION

Over the past year, the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers staff have provided information and support to farmers who have been notified they will be receiving an inspection, and conducted many no-cost, confidential consultations both before and after a DNR inspection. If you have questions or concerns about a DNR inspection, the ideal time to get all of your questions answered is now—before DNR calls for an inspection.

For assistance on either of these items, contact the Coalition at 800-932-2436.



BEWARE of Scammers

Please be aware of fraud scams that have hit two Iowa Cooperatives so far in October—neither being Access Energy Cooperative.

One incident involved a scammer calling a co-op member threatening immediate disconnection and even supplying a fake co-op callback number.

A second incident involved a member receiving a call from a third party, with the person saying they would pay \$1,800 toward the member's account and all the member had to do was pay \$900 to the third party.

What typically happens is that the scammer would make the payment using the member's account number, then have the member call the co-op/utility to verify the payment, the member then sends the scammer the amount requested, finally the scammer will call the co-op/utility back and cancel their payment.

Please remember:

- We would never contact a member by phone and ask for your account number. If someone calls you asking for sensitive information including your utility account number, SSN, credit card number or bank account details, please hang up and call us directly to verify the call at 1-866-242-4232.
- Do not accept offers from anyone, including those claiming to be co-op employees, to pay your bill or provided any other service for a fee. If something seems too good to be true—it probably is.
- Co-op members who have delinquent accounts receive multiple notices over the course of several weeks prior to electric service disconnection—never just a single notification immediately before disconnection.
- If a co-op lineman or service rep comes to your door, they should be wearing co-op apparel and have a marked vehicle with proper identification. If something seems suspicious, keep your door shut and call the co-op office to verify that someone has been sent to your address.
- If a co-op member receives a suspicious call or believes they may be a victim of fraud, call us and local law enforcement right away to report the incident.

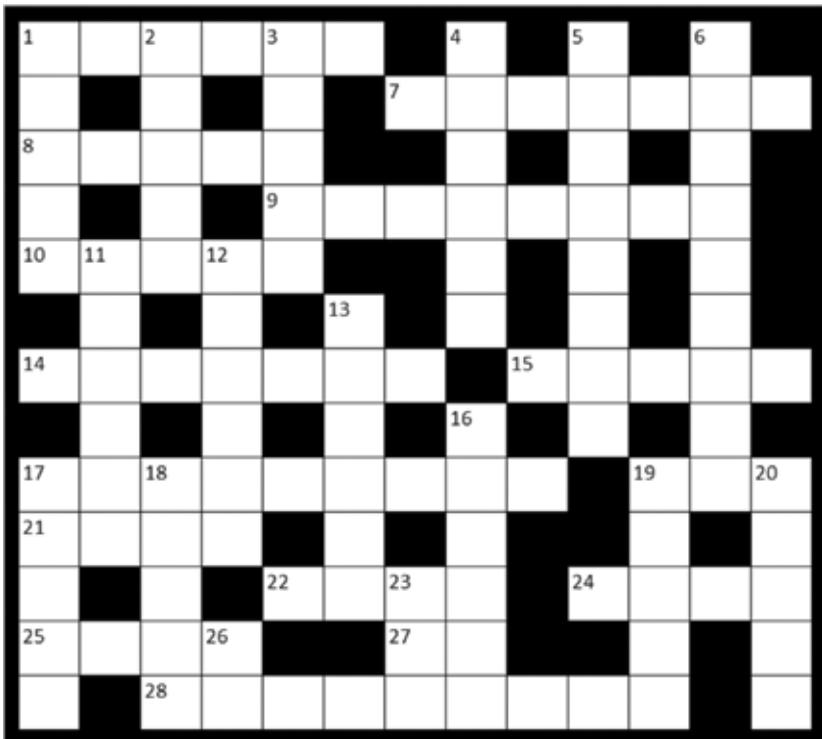


Win \$25 By Learning About Your Cooperative!

Access Energy Cooperative members can win \$25 by completing the crossword below correctly. Members may clip out their answers and send them by November 26, 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 Karen Krumboltz of Fairfield.

ACROSS

- 1 This is our top priority
- 7 In a major storm, transmission towers could be found in this condition
- 8 Stay clear of these that could be on the ground
- 9 We promote this for employees, members and the communities
- 10 The EPA has proposed to change these that may affect your energy bills
- 14 Animals can cause this to short
- 15 One who acts
- 17 Do this to little ones in the kitchen
- 19 TouchStone Energy
- 21 Past tense of hold
- 22 This is how much an energy audit costs Access Energy Co-op members
- 24 After a free energy audit, we will provide you with this for ways to save energy
- 25 Our ERC loans are available for energy efficiency improvements at an attractive one of these
- 27 Personal Computer
- 28 Doing this to students is one part of our commitment to safety

DOWN

- 1 This is one type of energy source
- 2 This walkthru is necessary of a lighting project after it is completed
- 3 We use our blower door to conduct these to find where your home is leaking air
- 4 Access Energy Co-op has made long term investments to bring affordable, reliable power to this for you
- 5 We appreciate this from you if an outage should occur. Be assured we are doing our best!
- 6 If you are out of power and see lights on here, call us immediately
- 11 Each source of energy generation has this type of safety needs
- 12 As a cooperative we strive to do this for expectations in our communities
- 13 Precious metal
- 16 Safety is present in every one of these in our business
- 17 Several of this type of trip could use more energy than one long one
- 18 Try using this appliance instead of your stove
- 19 We have been doing this with renewable energy to our energy portfolio
- 20 Each of these from our photo contest that is chosen for our calendar will win \$50
- 23 Environmental Protection Agency



Contractors Working for Access Energy Cooperative



Croft Electrical Contractors, Inc. has been hired by Access Energy Cooperative to do contract work for us in the Donnellson, New London and Mount Pleasant areas. The top photo is what their trucks look like. If you ever have questions about our service men in your area—please call us 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.



Cucumber Dip

From the Kitchen of Kathy Fett

- 8 ounce size cream cheese (2)
- 1 1/2 cup finely chopped seeded-peeled cucumber
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 3-4 dashes of tobasco sauce

In a small mixing bowl, combine the cream cheese, cucumber, onion, mayonnaise, salt, pepper and tobasco sauce, beat until blended. Chill for several hours before serving. Serve with crackers or fresh vegetables(carrots, celery, green peppers).

www.accessenergycoop.com