



Highline Headlines

Volume 37
Issue 10

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.

24/7
For after hours emergencies call
800.452.7819
or **319.385.1580**

Our new website is now up. See Below.
www.accessenergycoop.com

Start Saving with a DIY Home Energy Audit

As temperatures drop and your energy focus turns from cooling your home to heating it, it's a great time to think about saving energy too! Whether your home is **old** or new, chances are you are spending more on energy costs than necessary.

You can conduct a basic energy audit of your home to identify where you are losing energy (and money). But, remember, the audit itself won't save you money unless you act on your findings.

DIY 101

So, where to start? If your home has multiple levels, work from the top down. Begin in your attic, and work your way down to the basement.

1. Insulation and air leaks (drafts) – According to the Department of Energy,

improving your home's insulation and sealing **air** leaks are the fastest and most cost-effective ways to reduce energy waste and make the most of your energy dollars. Check to see whether there is sufficient insulation in the attic. Are openings containing piping, ductwork and chimney sealed?

2. Do you have computers, printers, DVD players, phones and gaming consoles not being used. If items can be turned off without disrupting your lifestyle, consider plugging them into a power strip that can be **turned** on and off (or put on a timer).
3. Lighting – Can you replace any incandescent light bulbs with a CFL or **LED**? Are there places where you can install motion sensor lights in low

use areas, such as a closet, porch or garage?

4. Thermostat/indoor temperature – When was the last time you checked your programmed thermostats? Is the date and time correct? Is it set so the temperature is lower during the day and/or times when no one is home and at night when people are sleeping? Also, consider lowering the temperature a few degrees.
5. Appliances and cleaning – If your appliances are more than **ten** years old, they are likely not as energy efficient as today's options. Wash clothes in cold water instead of hot. Insulate your hot water heater. Clean your dryer vent – this will not only save energy, it may also prevent a fire.

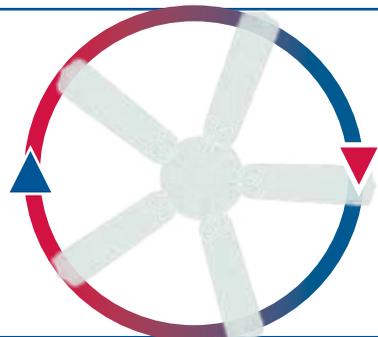
EVALUATION

Once you have completed the audit, take a look at the findings. Prioritize actions that you can take based on your time and budget, weighing where you can get the most impact for your investment. Increasing your home's energy efficiency will make your family comfortable while saving you money.

TAKING ENERGY SAVINGS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

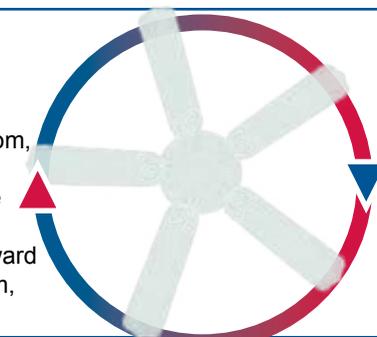
If you would like to take your savings to the next level and have an **audit** conducted by one of our trained energy advisors, contact us today at 866.242.4232 for your **FREE** energy audit.

Source: Anne Prince



Time to Change the Rotation of Your Ceiling Fans to Clockwise

Ceiling fans can cut your electric bills year-round, but before you run out and buy one for every room, it's important to be wiser how fans can help you save energy. If you install a ceiling fan and don't adjust your thermostat settings accordingly, you may be more comfortable—but you also could be increasing your monthly electric bills. During winter, flip the small switch on the side of the ceiling fan housing to **reverse** the blade rotation to clockwise. Run the fan on low speed so it creates a gentle upward breeze away from people in the room. This will push the warm air at the ceiling back down into the room, where it's needed. Then set your furnace a few degrees lower to save more.



2016 Photo Contest Begins

It's time for the 12th annual photo contest with selected entries to be used in the 2017 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, 2016 to:

Photo Contest, c/o
Access Energy
Cooperative,
PO Box 440, Mt.
Pleasant, IA 52641.

Visit our website for complete photo contest rules.



2015 Dividend Treasure Hunt

We are searching for a list of members whose **dividend** checks did not reach them. If you know the where-abouts of any of the people listed on page 3, please contact our accounting department at finance@accessenergycoop.com or by calling 866.242.4232.



See page 3 for the complete list.

Visit Our New Website



accessenergycoop.com

Manager's Corner



**General Manager/CEO
Robert Swindell**

Each October is designated as National Cooperative Month. It's the month that cooperatives promote the benefits of the cooperative form of business. It's not much of a surprise to us that many people don't understand the unique business structure that cooperatives use, or that many familiar businesses are organized as a cooperative. Ace Hardware and Land of Lakes are two of 29 cooperatives with over one billion dollars of annual revenue. Regardless of how large or how small the cooperative, they all adhere to these same seven core principles:

- VOLUNTARY & OPEN MEMBERSHIP**
 Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.
 - DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL**
 Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.
 - MEMBER ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION**
 Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. They usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.
 - AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE**
 Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.
 - EDUCATION, TRAINING & INFORMATION**
 Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public — particularly young people and opinion leaders — about the nature and benefits of cooperation.
 - COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES**
 Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.
 - CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY**
 While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.
- We strive every day to uphold these seven cooperative principles as we go about our mission of delivering you safe, efficient and reliable service.

COOPERATIVE INFORMATION

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

Website: www.accessenergycoop.com

Facebook:
facebook.com/AccessEnergyCoop

Twitter:
twitter.com/AccessEnergyC

Email:
contactus@accessenergycoop.com

Office Hours:
 Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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: Cherity 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

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 \$7.00 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.

Membership Matters

October is National Cooperative Month, and for the many different types of co-ops in the U.S., it's the time of year to celebrate what membership truly means. You could be a member of a lot of different places—a gym, a 4-H club, a food of the month club. But what makes being a member of a co-op different?

The simple answer to that question is that when you are a member of a co-op, you are also an owner. You own a part of our business; and there are many benefits to your membership. As a member of Access Energy Cooperative,

- you have a say in the representatives who are elected to serve on the co-op's board of directors.
- You have an opportunity to make your voice heard every year at our Annual Meeting.
- You get a say on policy issues your electric cooperative supports or opposes.



- You can even help to determine how your profits are redistributed. Our bottom line is providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Sure, we have to think about expenses, overhead and other aspects of daily business, but when we have a little left over, we send it right back to you in the form of dividend checks. Returning dividends to you is a major part of why being a co-op member matters. As your local electric co-op, we get to be a part of this community. When we think about membership, we think about all of the ways we can give back to you, our members — and that's what matters most to us.

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.

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) _____



Just \$1 per month can make a difference!

2015 Dividend Treasure Hunt

7000 Development Corp..... Fairfield IA
 Adair, Steve E..... Bloomington IN
 Altenhofen, Johnnie N/Rita..... Amana IA
 Anderson, Jeffrey L/Morris, Heather..... Brighton IA
 Anderson, Patricia A/Robert L..... Dewey AZ
 Andries, Jerry L..... Burlington IA
 Askew, Gary L/Sharon..... West Burlington IA
 Beauchamp, Hal R..... Mt Pleasant IA
 Benz, Randy/Becky..... Stockport IA
 Biggs, Maria S..... Mt Pleasant IA
 Binns, John W/Linda K..... Fairfield IA
 Blankenship, Paul D..... Bethalto IL
 Blint, Glenda J..... Mt Pleasant IA
 Blow, Scott L..... Burlington IA
 Boatman, Michael/Brittain, Twilia Jo... Mt Pleasant IA
 Booth, Tracy A/Della..... Waterloo IA
 Bowen & Grote Farms..... Wayland IA
 Brodka, Randall..... Quincy IL
 Brown, Anthony C..... Bloomington IA
 Brown, Gary E..... Front Royal VA
 Brown, Mathew W..... Glenwood IA
 Brown, Ricky E/Brenda A..... Ottumwa IA
 Brown, Terry A/Evelyn..... Mt Pleasant IA
 Brown, Troy A..... Rockford IL
 Bruner, Charlie F/Jenny..... Ft Madison IA
 Buchanan, Stanley D/Martha L..... Fairfield IA
 Burkhardt, Kelly E/Glenna..... Libertyville IA
 Busse, Robert L/Margaret..... Elkhart Lake WI
 Chase, Ron J/Janet..... Austin TX
 Christner, Edward/Carole..... Winter Haven FL
 Christofferson, Gerald/Andries, Jim C... Burlington IA
 Coleman, Gary H..... Fairfield IA
 Conn Estate, Dorothea..... Mt Pleasant IA
 Conrad, Randy/Kerry..... Bettendorf IA
 Contel Cellular Inc..... Muscatine IA
 Coop, Russell R/Phyllis..... New Castle CO
 Corrigan, Edward/Karen..... Hinckley IL
 Cowen, Larry/Colter, Lexie..... Mountain View MO
 Crawford, Greg..... Fairfield IA
 Crosby, Lynn..... Promise City IA
 Crouse, Bryan..... West Point IA
 CSI LTD..... Burlington IA
 Danaher, Chris/Laura..... Sugar Land TX
 Davis, Brent/Darcie..... Burlington IA
 Davis, Dennis B..... Pilot Grove IA
 DePriest, Geoff..... Bloomington IN
 Degen, Robert/Ila Jane..... Ft Madison IA
 Dillman, David E..... Batavia IA
 Dilmore, Terry A/Sharon M..... Oshkosh WI
 Donohue, Sharon/Dillon, Tom..... Blowing Rock NC
 Douglas Communication V..... Rantoul IL
 Durlflinger, Bob..... Batavia IA
 Dyke, Bill C/Hettie..... Bloomfield IA

Eklund, Rhonda R..... Waterloo IA
 Emery, Larry C..... Eldridge IA
 Enright, Ernest/Margaret..... Fairfield IA
 Evans, Everett E/Janet..... Riverside IA
 Everett, James C..... Ottumwa IA
 Farrell, Richard A..... Dewey AZ
 Farrier, Donnie Jr..... Lockridge IA
 Featherston, Susan..... Richland IA
 Franks, Nancy..... Ft Madison IA
 Garretson Equipment Co..... Huntley IL
 Garza, Jacinta/Alfredo..... Burlington IA
 Gibbons, John..... Jacksonville IL
 Greek, Leland/Candy..... Siloam GA
 Gregory, Winn H..... Hermiston OR
 Greiner, Mark J..... Fairfield IA
 Grochowski, Kenneth R..... Cape Coral FL
 GTE Telephone Operations..... Irving TX
 Hallman, William..... Lake Saint Louis MO
 Hawkins, William/Diana..... Hebron NE
 Hayward, Frank E/Janet..... American Fork UT
 Health Software Inc..... Omaha NE
 Hehmeyer Estate, Jane..... Ft Madison IA
 Helmick, Charles..... Libertyville IA
 Hill, Robert L..... Bonaparte IA
 Hoffeditz, Vera K..... Farmington IA
 Hollander, Robert W/Rhonda..... Pollock MO
 Holsteen (Brown), Harriett..... West Point IA
 Hopkins, Doris..... Hannibal MO
 Hostetter, Melvin H..... Fairfield IA
 Howell, David W..... New London IA
 Howland, Betsy L..... Fairfield IA
 Hudson, Anita..... Dayton IA
 Hughes, Ron..... Williamstown MO
 Hughes, Todd A..... Keosauqua IA
 I T C Inc..... Scottsdale AZ
 IES Utilities..... Burlington IA
 Iowa Beef Producers..... Birmingham IA
 Irwin, Andrew..... Fairfield IA
 Jack's Frozen Pizza..... Medford WI
 Jacobs, Steven G/Sherry..... Bonaparte IA
 Johnson, Diana..... Lockridge IA
 Johnson, James/Deborah..... Fairfield IA
 Johnson, Steve R/Julie..... Ft Madison IA
 Jones, James D/Maureen D..... Tucson AZ
 Jordan, Mark A/Heidi..... Fowler IN
 Katz, David E/Joann..... Fairfield IA
 Kelly, Grant D..... Wapello IA
 Kelly, John/Linda M..... Ellington MO
 Kingery, A K/Joanna..... Winfield IA
 Knutson Estate, Theodore M..... Danville IA
 Konhaus, John C/Sara..... Casper WY
 Kraft, Mark W/Donna..... Douds IA
 Krueger, Larry..... Ft Madison IA

Kurrie, Wanda Y..... Davenport IA
 Kurzen, Eugen R/Mary A..... Santa Clarita CA
 Lanferman Estate, Mike J..... Anahuac TX
 Lanferman, Margaret A..... Rome IA
 Langford, Michael..... Keokuk IA
 Lerud, David A..... Burlington IA
 Levin (Spano), Diana A..... Phoenix AZ
 Lewis, Thomas D/Deborah..... Topeka KS
 Lock, LuAnna K/Burk, Jarrod..... Burlington IA
 Lopez, Jessie J Jr/Rebecca..... Overland Park KS
 Luper, Bob/Weaver, Tracey..... Mt Pleasant IA
 M & M Enterprises..... Saint Paul IA
 Mahaney, Timothy E..... Fairfield IA
 Malcolm, Calvin A/Laura..... West Point IA
 Manning Estate, Marjorie..... Batavia IA
 Martin, Gerald A..... Fairfield IA
 Masciocchi, Gene L/Robin D..... Wilson WY
 Mason, Robert G/Ramona..... West Point IA
 McBride, Chester..... Des Moines IA
 McConnell, Lawrence W..... Burlington IA
 McCulloch, Rory/Dena..... Wever IA
 McCurdy, David L/Judith..... Rushville IL
 McDonald, Michael/Daniels, Jeffrey... Mt Pleasant IA
 McGaffick, Mathew..... Fairfield IA
 Mealy, Bill G/Janet..... Higbee MO
 Meardon, David/Kelly..... Rockford IL
 Merschman, Jerry..... Ft Madison IA
 Metcalf, James W/Rebecca..... Fairfield IA
 Miller (Elliott), Vickie L..... Danville IA
 Mills, Michael J..... Reasnor IA
 Moeller, Ray/Kathy..... Cotopaxi CO
 Moothart Estate, Douglas D..... Miles IA
 Morrow, Bradley E/Lorelea..... Mt Pleasant IA
 Morse, Cynthia..... Winfield IA
 Moser, James E..... Mt Pleasant IA
 Moser, William/Sandra L..... Rochester MN
 Mount, Robert..... Greeneville TN
 Murray, Patricia..... Memphis MO
 Murray, Raymond B/Diana..... Palmyra MO
 Nelson, Delbert..... Mt Pleasant IA
 Newville, Pat..... Mt Pleasant IA
 North, Susan..... Fairfield IA
 Northwestern Bell..... Minneapolis MN
 O'Tool, James..... Pacific Junction IA
 Olson, Mark R/Rebecca S..... Bayfield CO
 Opar, Tim/Darlene..... Fairfield IA
 Ostrander, Mary..... Mt Pleasant IA
 Parriott, Lyle..... Mt Pleasant IA
 Perez, Ruben/Iraida S..... Orlando FL
 Peterson, Diane..... Mt Pleasant IA
 Pielsticker, William J/Kathy..... Lodi WI
 Pohren, Jack L/Donna..... Lockridge IA
 Ponsar, John M..... Brighton IA

Praver, Barry..... Jupiter FL
 Ravey, Tom/Diane..... Fairfield IA
 Richard, Michael F/Carol..... Ft Madison IA
 Richert, Michael L..... Stockport IA
 Rickert, Keith L/Phyllis..... Ottumwa IA
 Rider, Edmond L..... Farmington IA
 Roland, Gary/Paula..... Ames IA
 Rubin, Richard/Antoinette..... Fairfield IA
 Rusk, Edward T..... Packwood IA
 Ryder, Jay/Melissa..... Fairfield IA
 Sanders, Linda..... Swedesburg IA
 Sandy, Edward II/LuAnn G..... Davenport IA
 Seering, Ronad J/Diana..... Mt Pleasant IA
 Settles, Alan D/Carrie..... Muskogee OK
 Seward, Bill..... Monmouth IL
 Shull, Anita..... Mt Pleasant IA
 Shull, Delores S..... Hedrick IA
 Side Line Truck Shop..... Mt Pleasant IA
 Sinclair, Joseph S..... Melrose IA
 Smith, David A..... Marinette WI
 Smith, Fern..... Fairfield IA
 Smith, Randy L..... Muscatine IA
 Smith, Tracey W..... Wever IA
 Sp Grove Mobile Homes..... Burlington IA
 Stakland, Steven K..... Saint George UT
 Stanford, Tom..... Donnellson IA
 Stensland, Kelvin..... Burlington IA
 Stewart, Roger..... Davenport IA
 Stone, Tom..... Fairfield IA
 Stortz, Willard R..... South English IA
 Sullivan, Barry..... Fairfield IA
 Swails, David A..... Wapello IA
 Talbert, Blain..... Libertyville IA
 Theobald, John..... Fairfield IA
 Thomas, Terry L..... Mt Pleasant IA
 Townsend Estate, Victorine..... Fairfield IA
 Upton, Steve..... Danville IA
 Verner, Fred/Teresa..... Chesterfield MO
 Wagler, E Jean..... Mt Pleasant IA
 Wagner, Marcus G..... Fairfield IA
 Watkinson, Chad L/Mary..... Morning Sun IA
 Watts Estate, Dorothy..... Mt Pleasant IA
 Wenger-Keller, David/Annie..... Ft Madison IA
 White, Sandra..... Mt Pleasant IA
 Williams, Larry W/Maranna..... Pershing IN
 Wilson, Gerald A JR/Martha..... Ft Madison IA
 Wolfer, Mike..... Ollie IA
 Woodside, Robert/Winfred..... Iowa City IA
 Woodsmall, Anna/Richard Craig..... Hillsboro IA
 Wrieden, Francis W/Mary A..... Keokuk IA
 Wright, Max W/Catherine..... Greenlawn NY
 Wymer, Carol..... Eldon IA
 Young, Mark L..... Kalona IA

Get Involved in Legislative Issues Affecting Your Coop

The image shows a screenshot of the Rural Power website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for News, Engage, Photo Gallery, Voter Guide, About Us, and Contact Us. Below this is a green banner with the text "IOWA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES" and "Energizing Rural Economic Growth". Underneath the banner, it says "Advocating for safe, affordable, reliable electricity — delivered in an environmentally responsible manner." and "SEE THE CO-OP DIFFERENCE". Below the banner is a photograph of four people standing together, with a Facebook post overlay that reads: "Members get involved in legislative issues affecting your co-op today by visiting www.iaruralpower.org".

Electrical Safety Tips for Kids

At Access Energy Cooperative, we understand your child's health and well-being are your top priority. With more than 140,000 electrical fires occurring each year, knowledge of electrical safety is necessary to ensuring your loved ones stay safe. Here are a few tips you can share with your little ones:

- Electrical fires are caused when a wire or electrical device overheats. It is important to make sure your children understand that water cannot extinguish this type of fire. Only fire extinguishers can be used to remedy this situation.
- It is never a good idea to mix water with electricity. Keep blow dryers, radios and any other electrical devices away from all water, especially those used in a bathroom.
- Keep metal objects out of appliances and plugs. If a piece of toast gets stuck in the toaster, never use a metal

knife to retrieve it. Unplug the toaster, and use a different tool or utensil to remove the toast.

- Remember, only plugs should go in an **outlet**. Sticking fingers or other objects in outlets may result in an electrical shock.
- Turn lights off when they are not in use. This will save your family money on your electric bill and prevent electrical fires from overheated bulbs.
- Always avoid overhead power lines when outdoors. Whether climbing trees or flying kites or remote-controlled toys, they should always be mindful of what is above.
- Talk to your children about the importance of electrical safety, and more importantly, lead by example — because you never know who's watching.

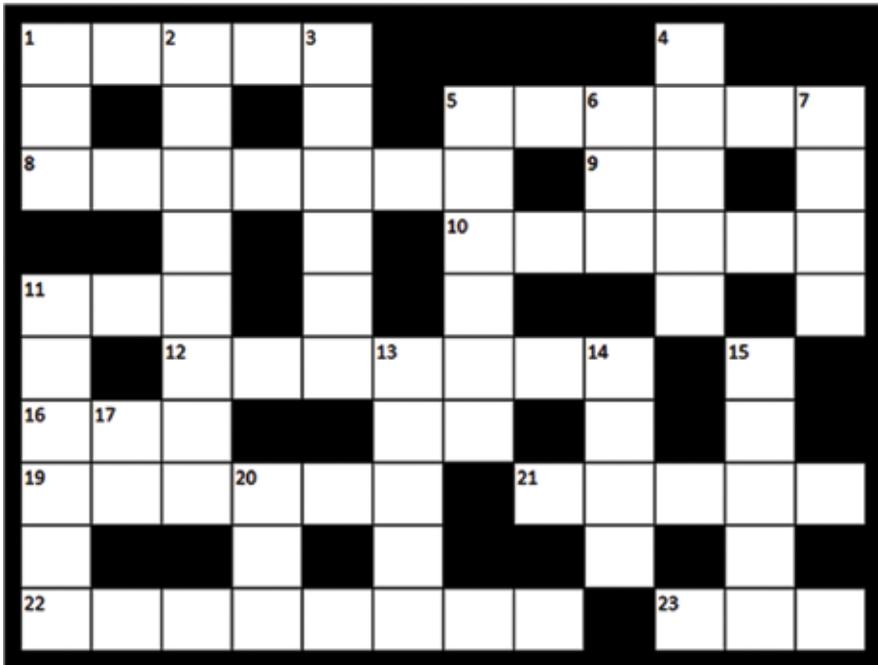
For more information about electrical safety, visit www.accessenergycoop.com.

Win A \$25 Bill Credit

Access Energy Cooperative members can win a \$25 bill credit by completing the crossword. Send your answers in by October 28, 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 Martha Stark of Brighton.

ACROSS

- 1 Now is a great time for us to do this on your home for free
- 5 We do this to dividends by giving you a check
- 8 Do this to the way your fan spins spring and fall
- 9 Opposite of out
- 10 We return dividends to you in this form
- 11 You could be spending more on energy costs if your house is this
- 12 This type of person can apply for energy assistance
- 16 Appliances older than this many years are not likely to be as efficient as today's options
- 19 Used to climb on to attain out of reach places
- 21 Tesla aims to solve one of these limits to greater use of solar power
- 22 Coops work effectively in this manner through local, national and regional structures
- 23 Replace incandescent lights with these to save energy

DOWN

- 1 Sealing these leaks is one of the best ways to save energy
- 2 We are searching for members who did not receive these checks
- 3 Plug items into a power strip that has the ability to have this done to it for on and off
- 4 Meal consumed in the middle of the day
- 5 Help others in need by contributing to this program at the coop
- 6 Men's fashion accessory worn with suits
- 7 Home built by birds
- 11 Only a plug should go into this
- 13 Another name for our world
- 14 You have a voice at the annual meeting each one of these
- 15 If coops do this to captial from outside sources, they still ensure demographic control by the members
- 17 Each
- 20 female deer

Tesla Announces Bold Energy Plan



The company known for high-end electric cars wants to reshape the world of electricity.

It has a promising plan, but a long way to go. Tesla Motors says that in addition to batteries for its cars, it will make batteries for homes and businesses.

Tesla aims to solve one of the **basic** limits to greater use of solar energy—generating electricity at night. Tesla's batteries could charge during the day from solar panels you might have on your roof, then run your house by battery at night.

The key to what Tesla calls its Powerwall is that it's small and attractive enough to hang on a wall. Another innovation is higher voltages that make it more efficient and cost-effective.

Tesla Motors CEO Elon Musk announced the project, called Tesla Energy, in April, saying it would bring "a fundamental transformation of... how energy is delivered." But that won't happen soon, says Andrew Cotter, program manager for renewable and distributed energy research at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Cotter says the Powerwall is "a big breakthrough," but notes that with installed costs at more than \$7,000, "I don't see a lot of people putting up that kind of money." Time will tell if consumers will buy into this expensive technology, but it will certainly be exciting to see the impact it has on the way power is delivered. "We expect Tesla's high voltage battery will create a market dynamic that will reduce costs and sizes for battery systems, and drive adoption," says Cotter. *Source: Paul Wesslund*

Energy Assistance Program

The 2015–2016 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, 2015 to April 30, 2016.
- All other households: November 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016.

WHAT TO TAKE:

- Proof of income: Most recent 3 months' check stubs, award letter from Social Security or 2014 tax return
- Social Security numbers of **all** household members (documentation required)
- 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, 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	\$5,149	\$6,969	\$8,789	\$10,609	\$12,429	\$14,249
Annual Gross Income	\$20,598	\$27,878	\$35,158	\$42,438	\$49,718	\$56,998

For households with more than six member, add \$1,820 per three months, or \$7,280 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

Don't let vampires suck the life out of your energy efficiency efforts! Unplugging unused electronics – otherwise known as "energy vampires" – can save you as much as 10% on your electric bill.

Source: energy.gov