

# living with energy

IN IOWA



APRIL 2017

Win a hybrid electric-battery transfer pump that moves up to 325 gallons per hour! ▶ See page 5



## Deer me! What's eating your landscape?

Guthrie County REC  
directors approve  
2017 budget

GFCIs are your  
protection from  
electrocution

New methods of  
energy storage may  
challenge batteries

Visit our website at [www.guthrie-rec.coop](http://www.guthrie-rec.coop)

HOW YOUR CO-OP WORKS

# We take your complaints seriously



At Guthrie County REC, we work diligently to ensure our members are happy with their service. In most situations, our staff can resolve complaints quickly and fully the first time. We encourage our members to contact us with any complaint so that we may address it immediately. We also appreciate feedback regarding how your complaint was handled so that we can continually improve our complaints process.

Complaints are an unavoidable part of any business. As a member-owned cooperative, you have a say in how Guthrie County REC operates, and we encourage you to get in touch with us to voice your concerns and let us know how we're doing. Call our office or send us an e-mail – visit the "Contact Us" page on our website – and be sure to include your name, phone number and/or e-mail address, and your account number so that we may follow up with you.

We'll do everything we can to address your concerns quickly and courteously. ⚡



**Guthrie County REC**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



**Office**

1406 State Street - P.O. Box 7  
Guthrie Center, IA 50115-0007

**Office Hours**

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Telephone Number**

641-747-2206 or 888-747-2206  
Calls answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

**Website**

www.guthrie-rec.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

CO-OP VIPs

# Thank a lineman during National Lineman Appreciation Month



Guthrie County REC is proud to join electric cooperatives across the country in honoring the men and women who work in challenging and often dangerous conditions to keep the lights on. During April, we say thank you to the lineworkers who serve on the front lines of our nation's energy needs and who perform around the clock in difficult conditions to keep the power flowing

and protect the public's safety.

"Guthrie County REC linemen are at the heart of everything we do," said Cozy Nelsen, CEO. "Whether they are restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure, our linemen are ready to get the job done, day or night."

Join us in thanking our linemen by using #ThankALineman on social media. ⚡

# Thank you to our linemen!

Pictured above (from left) are:

- Todd Tinken, journeyman lineman
- Elden Wolfe, line superintendent
- Curt Knapp, journeyman lineman
- Jeremy Gruber, journeyman lineman
- Darwin Marean, journeyman lineman
- Jalen Spack, journeyman lineman
- Brian Marso, journeyman lineman
- Larry Newbrough, journeyman lineman
- Keith Hise, journeyman lineman
- Josh Oltmann, journeyman lineman
- Doug Downing, line crew foreman

## Guthrie County REC directors approve 2017 budget

At its January meeting, the Board of Directors approved the 2017 Annual Operating Budget for Guthrie County REC. The \$14.48 million budget keeps your cooperative operating in line with its mission to provide safe, reliable and affordable power to you, our member-owners.

The budget includes \$2.17 million earmarked for the Construction Work Plan. This money will be used for the conversion of 27.6 miles of line, the installation of a new substation transformer and other important upgrades like pole replacements, extensions to new members and businesses, and new meters. Each of these services is essential to providing a reliable source of electricity to our members.

Also in the budget this year is funding earmarked for the purchase of three cooperative vehicles in 2017 – two digger trucks and one



pickup truck.

The annual budget is a big responsibility that your cooperative takes very seriously. We work hard to anticipate, and mitigate, any potential issues that could escalate the costs of energy. Whenever and wherever possible, you can be assured that we work to minimize the impact those issues might have on your monthly electric bill. ⚡

## Win a hybrid electric-battery transfer pump!

Whether your sump pump is out, a bathtub is overflowing or you just need to



transfer water from one location to another, the Ryobi Model P750 Hybrid Transfer Pump will be a valuable addition to your workshop. It runs on standard AC power, but if there's no plug nearby, you can snap on a Ryobi One+ 18-volt lithium-ion battery pack and move up to 325 gallons per hour. For details, go to [www.ryobitools.com](http://www.ryobitools.com).

For your chance at winning the \$100 Ryobi Hybrid Transfer Pump, go to the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) and fill out the entry form by April 30, 2017. ⚡

## Guthrie County REC leaders attend NRECA's 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Guthrie County REC CEO Cozy Nelsen and board member Bob Batschelet attended the 2017 Annual Meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in February in San Diego. During 2017, NRECA is celebrating 75 years of advocacy and service to America's electric cooperatives.

More than 5,500 locally elected leaders from co-ops across the nation were in attendance at this year's meeting to set NRECA's policy agenda for the year. Nelsen and Batschelet heard from NRECA officials, key public figures and business experts about issues affecting electric cooperatives and

their member-owners.

At the meeting, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and Mark Landa, an attorney with Sullivan & Ward in West Des Moines, received the NRECA's President's Award. This award "recognizes individuals who have made outstanding one-time or continuing leadership contributions to rural electrification, the nation, their states or communities on the occasion of a special celebration, action or event." IAEC and Landa were recognized for their tireless work to convince the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to award \$23 million in



disaster funding for electric co-ops in Iowa in the wake of a devastating ice storm in 2013. ⚡

## RECYCLING

## Spring cleaning? Remember to recycle old appliances

To reduce energy demand, ozone depletion and global climate impacts, it's critical that older refrigerators, freezers and window air conditioners be permanently removed from the energy grid and disposed of properly. Doing so ensures that environmentally harmful refrigerants and foam-blowing agents are captured and recycled or destroyed.

Through Guthrie County REC's Pull the Plug program, members are rewarded for removing and recycling these inefficient appliances that are operational:

- Refrigerator: \$35/unit
- Freezer: \$25/unit
- Window air conditioner: \$25/unit

Simply call Guthrie County REC at 888-747-2206 to request collection of your eligible appliance(s). The program contractor will then contact you to verify the information and schedule a pickup date for the eligible appliance(s). The contractor will remove the eligible appliance(s) from your home at no cost to you. 🌿



Did you know the average refrigerator 10 years or older contains more than 120 pounds of recyclable steel?

## SAFETY MATTERS

## Co-op's linemen are geared for safety

Let's face it, you probably don't think much about electricity until the power goes out. It takes a lot of people to keep power flowing smoothly, and our lineworkers are on the front lines – often in challenging and hazardous situations. Lineworkers are required to perform detailed tasks while working 40 feet in the air, near dangerous amounts of high voltage.

To stay safe and get the job done, these brave men and women wear personal protective equipment. Here's a look at a lineworker's gear:

- **Fire-resistant clothing** – Lineworkers do everything they can to prevent them, but unexpected fires can happen. Fire-resistant clothing will self-extinguish, limiting injury due to burns.
- **Insulated gloves** – Lineworkers are required to wear insulated rubber gloves while working on any type of electrical line. Protective gloves are usually made of leather and are worn over the insulated gloves to protect the



rubber from punctures and cuts.

- **Hard hat** – Insulated hard hats are worn at all times to protect the lineworkers from blows to the head and falling objects.
- **Steel-toed boots** – Lineworkers wear tall, steel-toed boots that are designed with extra support in mind. The height of the boot shields linemen from gouges, and serrated heels provide a better grip when climbing poles.
- **Safety goggles** – Lineworkers must wear protective goggles or glasses when working on electrical lines or clearing rights of way to protect them from loose debris and other hazards.

In addition to these standard items, lineworkers may be required to wear equipment belts, tool pouches, safety straps, hearing protection and other types of equipment. A lineworker's gear typically weighs about 50 pounds. That's a lot of extra weight when working in dangerous conditions.

The next time you see our lineworkers, be sure to thank them for putting safety first while keeping our lights on! 🌿

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the chance of  
causing damage to  
underground  
utilities to less than  
**1%**  
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Call before you dig.



Guthrie County REC member Dennis Van Pelt of Dexter, Iowa.



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