

living with energy

IN IOWA



Guthrie County REC
A Taxpayers Energy Cooperative

OCTOBER 2017

Guthrie County REC members will receive capital credits in 2017 ▶ See page 4

After Hurricane Irma: Iowa's electric co-ops sent 46 linemen to help with power restoration efforts



Cyber safety checklist: Keep hackers out of your home

A ductless heat pump won't blow your budget

Guthrie County REC goes to work at NRECA Regional Meeting

Visit our website at www.guthrie-rec.coop

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Save the date for the Annual Meeting!

All member-owners of Guthrie County REC are invited to attend the Annual Meeting on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2018. More details will be announced in upcoming issues of this magazine. ⚡

OFFICE CLOSING

The Guthrie County REC office will be closed Friday, Nov. 10, for Veterans Day and Thursday, Nov. 23, for Thanksgiving.

**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.

ABOUT ENERGY

Notice of alternative energy production is required by law

In 2012, the Iowa Legislature approved a bill that requires notification to electric utilities prior to installing an alternate energy source. The notification requirement applies to any type of electric generating technology, including:

- Solar
- Wind turbine
- Waste management
- Resource recovery
- Refuse-derived fuel
- Agricultural crops or residue
- Wood-burning facility that will be connected to an electric transmission or distribution line

Under this legislation, the owner of an alternate energy production facility must provide written notification to the electric utility at



least 30 days before construction or installation of the alternate energy source. If you're considering installation of an alternate energy system, please contact Guthrie County REC at 888-747-2206. Let us provide information and assistance, before you decide to purchase any type of alternate energy system that requires interconnection with the electric grid. ⚡

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Guthrie County REC members will receive capital credits in 2017

At its Aug. 22 meeting, the Guthrie County REC Board of Directors voted unanimously to allocate \$1,028,089.45 of the 2016 margin into the patronage account to GCREC members. As a member, you should have received a postcard from the cooperative that stated your individual allocation amount. Any questions can be directed to the cooperative by calling 888-747-2206.

At the end of each operational year, capital credits are allocated based on the margins (profit) achieved in a given year and then prorated among Guthrie County REC members based on the amount of energy each member contributed in purchasing electric service.

This year, the Board voted to earmark 100 percent of the total 2016 margin to patronage. Usually, the margin is divided up into four categories: patronage, reserve for contingency losses and expenses,



statutory surplus and education reserve.

The allocation of capital credits is merely a notification to a cooperative member that the cooperative realized a margin (profit) for the fiscal year 2016 and, in accordance with its bylaws, is allocating a pro rata share of the margin to you, the member, based on your kWh usage. ⚡

It's National Co-op Month!

Guthrie County REC is proud to join 30,000 cooperatives nationwide in October to celebrate National Co-op Month. We're recognizing the many ways cooperatives are committed to meeting the needs of their members and strengthening the local communities we serve.

"Our cooperative delivers electricity to 3,712 member-owners who depend on us for safe, affordable and reliable power," said Cozy Nelsen, Guthrie County REC CEO. "We are committed to investing in our communities because we are locally

owned and operated. Revenue generated by our cooperative goes back to Main Street, not Wall Street."

In addition to providing the vital power co-op members depend on, Guthrie County REC is actively engaged in economic development for our communities, supporting our youth with scholarships and offering free electrical safety demonstrations for community groups, Nelsen said.

Follow #CoopMonth on Facebook and Twitter to see how co-ops like Guthrie County REC are celebrating National Co-op Month. ⚡

**ELECTRIC
CO-OPS
COMMIT**

Co-op Month 2017

#coopmonth
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR CO-OPS DURING OCTOBER

Win one of two \$150 Energy-Saving Gift Cards: Enter online or by mail!



We're going to give away two \$150 Energy-Saving Gift Cards this month – one for computer users and one just for folks who don't have a computer. If you win, you can use the gift card at your local hardware store, lumberyard or other business to buy \$150 worth of energy-saving products.

You may enter the contest once:

➔ **If you own a computer, mobile phone or other device to connect to the Internet:** Fill out the entry form at the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website (www.livingwithenergyinowa.com). The deadline is Oct. 31, 2017.

➔ **If you don't have access to the Internet, enter the contest by mail.** Send a postcard or letter with your name, address, daytime phone number and electric co-op's name, postmarked by Oct. 31, 2017, to:

October Editor's Choice Contest

Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives
8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48
Des Moines, IA 50322-2992

OPERATIONS UPDATE

"To do" list moves from summer to fall projects

BY ELDEN WOLFE



As we enter the fall season, Guthrie County REC line crews have been busy finishing up summer projects and getting ready for the next items on our "to do" lists.

In July, we installed a new substation transformer at the Panora substation

(right). The dual-wound 5,000-kVA transformer will allow for conversion to 69kV (from 34.5kV) to meet the area's growing demand for power and provide better electric reliability to the community.

In the Exira area, crews were busy during the summer replacing 3.3 miles of line and installing new poles. Now they'll start on a 4.4-mile stretch in the Bayard area.



We've also had several new grain bins and new homes connect onto our system recently. We're proud to be able to provide them, and all our member-owners, with safe, affordable and reliable electricity. ⚡

Elden Wolfe is the line superintendent for Guthrie County REC.

Guthrie County REC goes to work at NRECA Regional Meeting

Every year, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) holds regional meetings across the country for its member cooperatives. These meetings offer a prime venue for electric co-op leaders from neighboring locations to pursue “the next greatest thing” for the future of their communities.

Cozy Nelsen, CEO of Guthrie County REC, participated in the NRECA Region 5 & 6 meeting on Sept. 20-21 in Minneapolis.

“Attending the NRECA Regional Meeting allowed me to engage with industry experts and colleagues who may be facing some of the same challenges as our cooperative,” Nelsen said. “It is also an important opportunity to get up-to-date information on the latest news and trends in the electric co-op industry and the broader energy sector.”

Another important component to the Regional Meetings is the discussion and debate on proposed resolutions that will be presented at the NRECA Annual Meeting. These include:



- We urge NRECA to take a prominent leadership and advocacy role in the U.S. Congress, with the Administration and at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to ensure cooperatives have the ability to provide broadband voluntarily,

on their own or in partnership with other local providers, in rural America.

- We urge NRECA to engage the membership, industry, stakeholders, policy makers and regulators on the economic and environmental benefits of electrification.
- We urge NRECA to take all appropriate actions to protect the interests of the cooperative member-owner to ensure that EPA’s Clean Air Act regulations are legal, cost-effective, sensible, address conflicting emissions reduction requirements, and address scientifically demonstrable and significant environmental impacts.
- We urge NRECA to be informed and actively engaged to ensure that any government action (executive, legislative or regulatory) to address greenhouse gas emissions protects the interests of, and minimizes the economic impacts to, electric cooperatives and our member-owners – and allows cooperatives to continue to provide affordable, reliable and safe electric power. ⚡

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October is National
Pork Month!

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Guthrie County REC
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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