

living with energy

IN IOWA



Guthrie County REC
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

JANUARY 2018

2018 marks Guthrie County REC's 80th anniversary ▶ See page 12

Designer electricity

will give you more control



Save time and energy cooking with small appliances

We talk with EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt

2018 rebates are now posted on our website

Visit our website at www.guthrie-rec.coop

CO-OP VIP

Statewide association recognizes Marean for 25 years of service



Congratulations to journeyman lineman Darwin Marean for 25 years of service to Guthrie County REC. He received special recognition during the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) in early December. Darwin (*center*) is pictured with Steve Seidl (*left*), IAEC board president and Chuck Soderberg, IAEC executive vice president/general manager. ⚡

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Year-in-review shows system growth and improved reliability

BY ELDEN WOLFE

I hope all of our members are enjoying the New Year so far. Here at Guthrie County REC, as we buckle down and get our 2018 projects underway, I wanted to take a few moments to offer a review of some of the projects the operations department has worked on during the past year.

In order to meet the electric demands of the growing community near Panora, your cooperative installed a dual-wound 5,000-kVa transformer at the Panora substation, which allowed for conversion to 69 kVa. What that means is that we now have a larger transformer to accommodate the additional electric load on the grid. This improvement means greater reliability in the electric service provided to our members in that part of our service territory.

Our commitment to upgrading aging parts of our distribution system continued in 2017. Crews worked to build 3.3 miles of three-phase line west out of the Exira substation in

Audubon County – and 19.4 miles of single-phase line out of that substation into Cass and Audubon counties.

Crews also built 4.9 miles of single-phase line out of the Audubon substation south to Coon Rapids in Guthrie County.

Most of our residential electric loads are handled by single-phase line, while apartment buildings and larger businesses require the more robust three-phase lines to efficiently handle the load and reduce the risk of outages.

Lastly, I am pleased to note that Guthrie County REC's total outage hours per member for 2017 was below the 2016 level and well below the threshold set by the Rural Utilities Service. The operations department works hard on behalf of our members to keep the electricity flowing through 1,392 miles of line in our service area. It's the promise we've continued to make for almost 80 years. ⚡



Elden Wolfe is the line superintendent for Guthrie County REC.

MEMBER BENEFITS

2018 rebates are now posted on our website

If one of your New Year's resolutions includes saving money, be sure to check the Guthrie County REC website at www.guthrie-rec.coop for our 2018 rebates.

Rebates are available for residential, agricultural and commercial members. Everything from new home construction to fans that keep dairy cows cool may be eligible for a rebate.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, electric cooperatives like Guthrie County REC are not-for-profit, so any funds over and above our



operating costs are given back to our members. Another part of being not-for-profit is helping our members keep their electric bills down which, in turn, helps keep our costs down. ⚡



Guthrie County REC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Office

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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

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2. Fax: 202-690-7442; or
3. E-mail: program.intake@usda.gov.

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Win a programmable thermostat and reduce your heating bills this winter!



Here's proof that you don't have to spend a lot to have a big impact on your energy bill. This Honeywell 7-Day Programmable Thermostat is reasonably priced at \$100, but we've seen it (and comparable thermostats) sale-priced as low as \$50. It should pay for itself in just a few months – and continue saving you money during the cooling season.

The thermostat is easy to install, and it's compatible with most forced-air furnaces and heat pumps with electric backup. The backlit touchscreen display includes a filter change reminder and vacation hold programs too.

The unit is available at hardware and big-box stores. For details, visit yourhome.honeywell.com. ⚡

Visit our website, and win!

To enter this month's contest for the Honeywell thermostat, go to the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com and complete the entry form no later than Jan. 31, 2018.

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 Nest Thermostat E in the November issue was Betty Waddington from Prairie Energy Cooperative.

IN THE NEWS

Board tours nuclear power plant



Members of Guthrie County REC's Board of Directors toured the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) near Palo on Nov. 9. Pictured are (from left): Steve Bireline, Joni Rees, Guthrie County REC CEO Cozy Nelsen, Julie Kiley, John Masmar and Keith Peterson.

DAEC began operation in 1975 as Iowa's only nuclear power generation facility. The plant is 20 percent owned by Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), Guthrie County REC's power provider, and comprises nearly 35 percent of CIPCO's generation portfolio. ⚡

SAFETY MATTERS

Guthrie County REC earns safety recognition

At its annual meeting in early December, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) recognized Guthrie County REC for successfully completing the rigorous requirements of the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP). Established more than 10 years ago by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, RESAP requires cooperatives to embrace safety as a core value and for co-op leaders and employees to take ownership of the systems and processes that create a safe working environment. ⚡



“Safety isn’t something we simply talk about, it’s something we put into every task, every day,” said Cozy Nelsen (center), Guthrie County REC CEO. **“From our linemen to our office staff, everyone at Guthrie County REC takes safety precautions very seriously. It’s a cooperative effort for all of us.”** She accepted the award from Steve Seidl (left), IAEC board president, and Chuck Soderberg, IAEC executive vice president/general manager.



Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it’s not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using rigid venting material – not flexible plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages. ⚡

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

2018 marks Guthrie County REC’s 80th anniversary



During the 1960s, Guthrie County REC held the annual meeting at its office. Because it was a popular local event, members often had to park along both sides of the highway into Guthrie Center and walk (in January) to the office.

In 1938, nine area farmers came together to form Guthrie County REC’s first Board of Directors. That was just 3 years after President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Rural Electrification Administration that would pave the way for rural electric cooperatives to receive financial help to bring electricity to farms.

Established, investor-owned utilities weren’t interested in spending the money to serve electricity to sparsely populated rural areas. So, in the cooperative spirit, RECs came together to place the poles and string the wires that turned the lights on. The same cooperative spirit lives on today at Guthrie County REC. ⚡



Crop farming in Iowa makes up 14% of Iowa’s total economic output and is responsible for 183,379 jobs.*

Corn growers like Guthrie County REC Board Member Steve Bireline help keep Iowa’s economy strong.



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*2012, Coalition to Support Iowa’s Farmers