

living with energy

IN IOWA



APRIL 2019

Go green with residential rebates from Guthrie County REC ▶ See Page 12

Spring safety tips



Creating beautiful
and edible gardens

Spring into
energy efficiency

Guthrie linemen are
geared for safety

Visit our website at www.guthrie-rec.coop

Winter's extreme weather doesn't slow down GCREC line crews

BY ELDEN WOLFE, LINE SUPERINTENDENT

At the time of this writing, I'm anxiously counting down the days until spring becomes official. What a long, cold and snowy winter we have had. Hopefully, by the time you read this, most or all the snow will be gone, and maybe even some green will be poking through the ground.

The heavy amounts of snow we received in early 2019 certainly impacted our substations. To help ensure the power we provide is reliable, line crews were out clearing snow from substation driveways so our trucks could have access if needed. In the event of an outage, it's imperative we can get to areas to fix the problem as quickly as possible. In each substation, there are a number of switches – the pieces of equipment that when tripped disconnect trouble elements of the power system to minimize the impact on cooperative members (in the form



of outages). We spent some time making sure these switches were clear of snow and ice and were working properly after heavy snowfall in February. It wasn't just the cold and snow, but also winds that impacted our distribution lines. Several times over the last few months, crews went out to retie power lines that had been battered by strong winds, which caused them to loosen.

When we weren't preparing for or recovering from a storm, line crews were trimming trees around our service territory. This ongoing battle doesn't take a season off, and for some species of trees, winter is the best time to trim before they have a chance to bud in warmer temperatures. Our regular right-of-way clearing – work that includes ground vegetation, such as grasses and bushes – will begin once the weather cooperates. It can't happen soon enough in my opinion! ⚡

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Know what's below

Whether you're a contractor, farmer or homeowner, know what's below: call 811 before you dig.

A representative will take information about your project and notify the appropriate utility companies. They will then come to your site and mark any underground utility lines, including power and gas lines, communication cables and water lines.

Hitting a buried utility cable may cause property damage, injury or death. Sometimes these lines are buried at a shallow depth. What's more, *the law requires* anyone planning to do digging,

blasting or tunneling work to have the utility lines marked before beginning the job. Even seemingly simple tasks like installing a mailbox, planting a tree or building a deck require a call to 811.

After utility representatives inspect your site and mark any underground utility lines, it's safe to dig around them, but remember to excavate with care. ⚡

GUESS WHO DIDN'T CALL 811 BEFORE HE STARTED TO DIG? Don't be like Duke!



Know what's below. Call before you dig.



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.

Geared for safety

We don't often think about where our electricity comes from or the people who make it possible for us to enjoy modern conveniences. But if we take a moment to stand in their boots, it's easy to see how dangerous being a lineman can be, and how they keep safety top of mind.

On any typical day, a Guthrie County REC lineman will be working outside in the elements – whether it's raining, snowing, sleeting, windy or sunny. Unless it's an extreme circumstance that compromises personal safety, the weather won't stop GCREC linemen from doing their jobs.

"Safety is absolutely a critical part of being a lineman for Guthrie County REC," says Cozy Nelsen, CEO. "They undergo rigorous training throughout the year to keep their skills fresh. In the event something happens, these skills become automatic and can mean the difference between saving or losing a life."

Linemen can carry more than 40 pounds of protective equipment when working near energized power lines. They are required to wear personal protective equipment on the job to keep them safe. This equipment includes safety belts, hard hats, eyewear, insulated gloves, insulated rubber sleeves and arc



resistant clothing. Safety practices are followed as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Some of the dangers of being a lineman include:

- **High voltage:** An electric arc flash is an electrical explosion that occurs when high voltage jumps from one device to another or to the ground. Temperatures of an arc flash can exceed 35,000 degrees!
- **Heights:** Utility poles are often 30-40 feet tall. This means linemen spend a large part of their days working high above the ground, often during the worst weather conditions.
- **Vehicles:** Guthrie County REC serves a large rural area, so our linemen spend lots of time driving from one location to the next. Though not unique, this represents one of the most dangerous parts of the job.
- **Other vehicles:** Working along the side of a road near fast moving traffic is one of the most dangerous things our linemen do. Iowa law requires motorists to "Move Over, Slow Down" when passing utility personnel – or any vehicle with lights flashing – stopped on the side of the road. ⚡

Win a KitchenAid® Stand Mixer!



The Kitchen Aid® Classic Series 10-speed mixer with a tilt-up head is powerful enough for nearly any task or recipe, whether you're stirring wet and dry ingredients together, kneading bread dough or whipping cream. The 4½-quart bowl holds enough capacity to mix up to 6 dozen cookies, 3 loaves of bread or 6 pounds of mashed potatoes in a single batch! Three handy accessories: flat beater, wire whip, and dough hook come with the mixer.

Visit the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiowa.com to enter the contest no later than April 30, 2019. ⚡

When the lights go out, we've got your back.



Guthrie County REC
A "Traceline Energy" Cooperative

#ThankALineworker



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Go green this spring with residential rebates



Guthrie County REC provides our members with ways to save on your energy budget because unlike investor-owned utilities, cooperatives work for the benefit of their members.

GCREC offers rebates on the following products that can provide substantial savings for your home. Visit www.guthrie-rec.coop for more information on how to apply or call (641) 747-2206. ⚡

ENERGY STAR® APPLIANCES	
ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer	\$40/unit ENERGY STAR qualified; must have electric water heater
ENERGY STAR Electric Clothes Dryer	\$20/unit ENERGY STAR qualified
WATER HEATERS	
Heat Pump Water Heater	
ENERGY STAR Integrated Unit	\$650/unit
High Efficiency Electric Water Heaters	\$75/unit (45-55 gal. tank – min. EF ≥ 0.90)
Electric Resistance Unit w/First Time Heat Plus Account	\$125/unit
Geothermal Assisted Storage Unit	\$150/unit (45-55 gal. tank – min. EF ≥ 0.90)
Drain Water Heat Recovery Systems	
Heat Recovery Pipe System	\$450/unit Not to exceed system cost. Must have an electric water heater. Homemade systems are not eligible.
HEATING & COOLING	
Heat Plus Rate	
Per Home	\$200
Per Apartment	\$100 Requires separate meter
Geothermal Heat Pump	
Closed Loop System	\$400/ton + \$250/unit
Open Loop System	\$300/ton + 250/unit No “pump & dump” systems
ENERGY STAR Central Air Conditioning	
ENERGY STAR qualified	\$100/unit Min. SEER 15.0 & EER 12.5 Limit two air conditioner rebates per household.
LIGHTING	
All LED lighting fixtures must be ENERGY STAR or DesignLights Consortium™ qualified.	
Interior Lighting LED Fixtures	\$5/fixture
Outdoor Lighting	
Outdoor lighting must be dusk-to-dawn with no manual switches or motion sensors (no outdoor floods).	
Fixtures 20-34 W	\$10/fixture
35-49 W	\$20/fixture
50-74 W	\$40/fixture
75-124 W	\$50/fixture
≥ 125W	\$60/fixture

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Spring into energy efficiency

While Mother Nature might not want to make it feel like it’s spring, it’s here. And with summer just within reach, Guthrie County REC wants to help you spring into energy efficient savings.

- **Take advantage of the mild spring days to inspect your home or business and look for areas that need improving.** Making those enhancements now can lead to energy and cost savings later. Many of the items on your to-do list can be completed at no or little cost.
- **Create a comfortable climate.** If health permits, you can save money during warm days by setting your

thermostat as high as 78 degrees, a reasonably comfortable and energy-efficient indoor temperature. Close window shades, blinds or drapes to further diminish the sun’s heat and retain cooler air inside.

- **Filter savings into your pocket.** Cooperative members who regularly change the furnace air filters and maintain their cooling systems help make their air conditioning system more efficient.
- **Allow air to flow freely.** Ensure that no furniture or other obstacles are blocking ducts or fans. This will enable cooled air to circulate freely.

- **A bright idea:** Replace incandescent light bulbs which emit heat with more efficient LED bulbs that remain cool no matter how long they are on.

Visit our website at www.guthrie-rec.coop for more energy efficiency tips and information. ⚡

