

# living with energy IN IOWA



Guthrie County REC  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

MARCH 2019

Apply today! Scholarship applications due April 5 ▶ See Page 5

## Weather, critters and reliability



Brunch favorites

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

Guthrie County REC Board approves 2019 annual budget

NISSAN Leaf rebates available

## LEGAL ISSUES

## State law requires notification of Alternate Energy Production

As of Jan. 1, 2013, Iowa law requires electric utilities be notified of the intent to construct or install an alternate energy production facility at least 30 days prior to construction.

The requirement applies to the owner of the facility that will be attached to an electric transmission or distribution line. Alternate energy production facilities are defined as the following if they are used to generate electricity:

- Solar
- Wind turbine
- Waste management
- Resource recovery
- Refuse-derived fuel
- Agricultural crops or residue
- Wood-burning facility

The written notice must include information on the type of facility being planned and the anticipated completion date of the construction.

If you're considering installing 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. ⚡



**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](http://www.guthrie-rec.coop)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## ABOUT ENERGY

## MIB conference leads the way for energy efficiency industry

When you're a homeowner looking to increase the energy efficiency of your home, you're likely to turn to a trusted, knowledgeable professional to help you find ways to save money. As a member of Guthrie County REC, one resource you can use is the expertise of Member Service Clerk Marlene Chalfant.

Every year, Chalfant attends the Momentum is Building (MIB) conference in West Des Moines to hear about the latest technology for energy efficiency, up-to-date building science information and practical hands-on demonstrations.

"It's a nice mix of people who attend MIB every year," she says. "I always learn new things from the homebuilders, electricians, HVAC contractors and fellow electric cooperative personnel who attend. I'm happy to bring that knowledge back to help our members attain their energy efficiency goals."



Marlene Chalfant pictured with Allan Schilling, Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

Guthrie County REC joins other Iowa Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives to sponsor the conference held in February. A grant from the Iowa Energy Center also supports the conference.

"We participate in sponsoring MIB because getting contractors and REC personnel in the same room to learn and work together helps deliver effective energy efficiency solutions to our members," Chalfant adds. ⚡

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

## What those pretty icicles are telling you

Icicles hanging off the roof of your home may be pretty in the winter sunlight, but there's something much more serious they are trying to tell you.

The formation of icicles hanging off your roof means your house is losing heat. Warm air that rises through living spaces finds its way into attics or high ceilings as a result of insufficient insulation and air sealing. Recessed lights, attic hatches and chimneys are often sources of air leakage into roof spaces.

The rising warm air heats the underside of the roof, and if there is not enough insulation to keep it in, the heat can cause melting snow on the outside. Gravity pushes the water down the slope of the roof to the eave overhang where there is no more warm air, and it begins to cool and refreeze. If enough water collects and refreezes, it can cause an ice dam and force the water behind it up and



under the finished roofing into attics, walls and living spaces. There are three solutions:

- 1. Insulation:** Homes in Iowa should be equipped with ceiling insulation of at least R-38 (about 12" of fiberglass or cellulose). The insulation should be continuous and consistently deep.
- 2. Ventilation:** A soffit-to-ridge ventilation system is the most effective for cooling roof sheathing. The idea is to keep the entire roof as cold as the outdoor air.
- 3. Air leakage:** Use spray foam, caulking, packed cellulose or weather stripping to seal all ceiling leaks like chimneys, ceiling light fixtures and plumbing penetrations.

If you think you need additional insulation, do your research and call a local roofing specialist to determine the best course of action. ⚡

## Scholarship helps students reach goals

Right about now, high school students all over the country are figuring out what's next in their future. If they are continuing their education, they are probably looking for sources of financial aid to help them realize their life goals.

Scholarships, like the one offered each year by Guthrie County REC, are becoming more competitive as college tuition expenses rise.

Students whose parents or guardians are REC members, though, have an additional opportunity to help offset some of those college expenses.

Sam Webster, the son of Guthrie County REC members Ammy and Eric Webster of Panora, was a 2018 recipient of the Guthrie County REC scholarship. In his first year at the University of Northern Iowa, he has immersed himself in activities, including the Residence Hall Association, Economics Club, Econ Book Club and intramurals. He's pursuing a double major in finance



and economics while getting his bearings in a new environment.

"My first year of college has been great so far," Webster says.

"It has been good meeting people from different backgrounds and getting involved in different organizations on campus. I think what surprised me the most is the people and how different they are from the people I grew up with."

He has his sights set on one day going into politics and working in the White House.

"Receiving the Guthrie County REC scholarship has assisted me with my educational goals because it has eased the burden of paying for tuition, and it has helped me stay more focused on being successful at college," Webster adds. "I can keep my attention on my future and attain my long-term goals."

Applications for the 2019 Guthrie County REC scholarship are due on or before April 5, 2019. Visit [www.guthrie-rec.coop](http://www.guthrie-rec.coop) for more information and to download the application. ⚡

## Providing you with fiscally responsible power

Although budgeting isn't a favorite task for most, it is critically important for Guthrie County REC's operational and financial success. It is an extensive process for the cooperative each year that ends with final approval by the Guthrie County REC Board of Directors, which occurred during the board's January meeting.

The nearly \$14.2 million budget approved for 2019 assures Guthrie County REC is operating in line with its mission to provide safe, reliable and affordable power to its members.

Within the budget is \$1.75 million earmarked for the Construction Work Plan. These funds will be used to complete 30 miles of line conversions (replacing old equipment with new), pole replacements, and upgrades to service wires, meters and transformers. The cooperative plans to purchase two, 1-ton pickup trucks this year and new chain saws to aid in vegetation management.

A large chunk – nearly 72 percent – of the remaining budget goes toward the cost of power we purchase from our power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative. This cost is down a little bit from last year, but overall, this is a stable, predictable expense that allows the cooperative to prepare and plan its budget well in advance.

Guthrie County REC is committed to providing fiscally responsible power to our members. Cooperative leaders constantly monitor, anticipate and mitigate any potential issues that could escalate the costs of energy and affect the cooperative's bottom line and yours. Whenever possible, the cooperative will minimize those issues from having a negative effect on your monthly bill. ⚡

### EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

## Win an electric weed trimmer!

Electric lawn and yard equipment has exploded in popularity over the last couple years. Some electric units are even rivaling traditional gas equipment in effectiveness. Weed eaters are the best equipment on the market for snatching up the weeds from your lawn or garden with relative ease. With spring quickly approaching, you could win this BLACK+DECKER LST136 40V MAX Lithium String Trimmer, with the battery. The PowerDrive Transmission delivers more power from the motor to the cutting string so you can get the job done faster. This product is valued at \$150 and easily converts from a trimmer to an edger.

Visit the Living with Energy in Iowa website at [www.livingwithenergyiowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiowa.com) to enter the contest no later than March 31, 2019. ⚡



IN THE COMMUNITY

# Show you care with RECare

What turned out to be a brutally cold and snowy winter season left many Guthrie County REC members struggling to pay their heating bills. These expenses can't always be predicted, which is why Guthrie County REC encourages its members to help their neighbors and community by participating in RECare.

A one-time or monthly contribution through the RECare program can help offset high bills for those who need it. RECare funds can also be used to weatherize the recipient's home and help make electricity usage more efficient. Your donation is directed to local community action agencies for distribution to low-income families near you.

Consider contributing to RECare and help your neighbors and your community with high heating expenses. It's an easy way to show you care. ✂

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

# NISSAN electric vehicle rebate available

If you're considering purchasing an all-electric vehicle, NISSAN is offering a \$3,000 special rebate for Touchstone Energy® cooperative members.

This unique incentive is available to all members of Guthrie County REC for the individual purchase of the NISSAN Leaf®, the world's best-selling 100 percent electric vehicle (EV).

Combined with the \$7,500 Federal EV Tax Credit, you could have a total savings of up to \$10,500 on your purchase of a new NISSAN Leaf. Features of the car include:

- Up to 151-mile range
- Available Pro-Pilot Assist to make highway driving less stressful
- e-Pedal Mode: Accelerate or brake in traffic using a single pedal
- Automatic Emergency Braking standard on all models
- No oil changes ever!

The rebate offer expires April 1, 2019. To learn more, visit [touchstoneenergy.com](http://touchstoneenergy.com) and click on "Co-op Business Resources" and then "Brand News." ⚡

## YES, I want to be a part of members helping others and contribute to RECare.

I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.

I will contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month to RECare. I understand that this amount automatically will be added to my monthly electric bill.

I will have my monthly electric bill rounded. I understand this amount automatically will be added to my monthly electric bill and rounded up to the next highest dollar. For example, if your bill was \$154.85, then we would bill you \$155.00 and donate 15 cents to RECare. By the same token, if your bill was \$154.01, we would bill you \$155.00 and donate 99 cents to RECare.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guthrie County REC Acct. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Your water heater might be sending money down the drain.

An efficient electric water heater can help you use less energy – potentially reducing your utility bill. Visit our website to see available equipment rebates, get to know your options and see how much you could save by going electric.



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888-747-2206 [guthrie-rec.coop](http://guthrie-rec.coop)



SAVINGS WITH STAYING POWER