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IN IOWA



Guthrie County REC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

JANUARY 2019

Enjoy the benefits of electric heating and cooling options ▶ See Page 12

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new legislature,
new opportunities**

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Something to
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**Proactively reducing
outage causes**

**Recipes for
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CONGRATULATIONS

Nelsen recognized for 25 years of service

Congratulations to Guthrie County REC CEO Cozy Nelsen who was recognized for 25 years of service to the cooperative during the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives annual meeting in December.

Cozy started at Guthrie County REC in February 1993 as a part-time office clerk. She worked her way up to full-time office clerk, assistant office manager and office manager before being named CEO in January 2002.

“Cozy spent her first years learning the cooperative system through hands-on experience in the Guthrie County REC office,” says board member Don Schwartz. “She has a passion for perfection and holds personnel to a very high level.”

For her, it's all about balance. “One of the challenges I have in my position is to try to understand the more technical components of the business,” Cozy says. “I have learned to trust and utilize the line crew in that respect. My strengths and background are around finances, and I am most proud of Guthrie County REC's strong financial position. We have kept electric rates fairly stable while being progressive and aggressive on patronage, construction work



plans and depreciation.”

The electric cooperative industry has changed dramatically in the last 25 years, and Cozy has been able to keep on top of the changing regulatory and legislative issues that have arisen as a result, Don says.

“She's faced them all head-on and still was able to strengthen the financial position of the cooperative,” he says. “The board is proud to have her representation on the National Cooperative Services Corporation where we know her strong financial background will be a benefit.”

Through it all, Cozy feels at home in the cooperative family.

“The best part about working for the cooperative is that the business structure creates a family atmosphere – giving annual meeting speeches to members who have seen me grow up, communicating with the board of directors at our monthly meetings, interacting daily with all Guthrie County REC employees and building relationships with industry colleagues,” she says.

“Cozy has been a great leader at Guthrie County REC. On behalf of our board, we would like to thank her for outstanding service and dedication to our cooperative for the past 25 years,” Don adds. ⚡



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

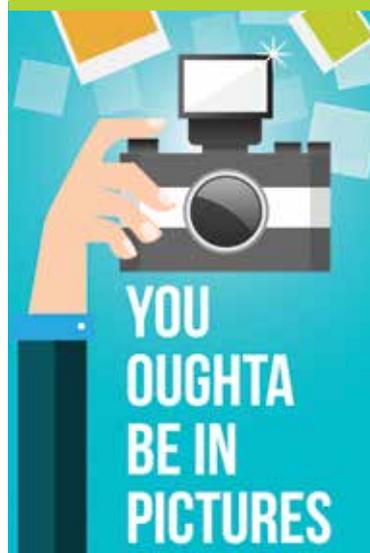
641-747-2206 or 888-747-2206
Calls answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Website

www.guthrie-rec.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

PICTURE THIS!



Each month, Guthrie County REC places advertisements in local newspapers to highlight and support members of communities in our service territory. Topics include safety, our county fairs, and local beef, corn and pork producers, and more.

Guthrie County REC seeks volunteers from the membership to be featured in 2019. If you or someone you know is interested in being featured, please call us at (888) 747-2206 or email gurecrebecca@netins.net. ⚡

How we're improving an aging system

BY ELDEN WOLFE

The Guthrie County REC line crew rose to all the challenges 2018 presented by capping the year with successfully completed projects. Over the roughly 1,398 miles of line in GCREC territory, the line crew works hard every day to make sure the electricity we deliver is safe, reliable and affordable. To that end, we constantly keep an eye on our aging electric distribution system and plan for upgrades each year to keep that promise to our members.

One of our most significant projects in 2018 was upgrading our Seely substation transformer from 3,000 kVA to 5,000 kVA. This larger transformer is able to handle the additional electricity coming in from 18.2 miles of 69kV lines in the area, which were converted from smaller transmission 34.5kV lines in preparation for the change. This upgrade to the system increases the reliability and modernization of an aging system.

In 2018, line crews also completed the following projects:

- Built 8.2 miles of single-phase line



in Guthrie County

- Completed 2.9 miles of underbuild along White Pole Road (Hwy. 6)
- Built 2.8 miles of single-phase line out of the Industrial substation
- Built 1.4 miles of single-phase line in Cass County

This year, we'll upgrade a substation transformer in the Woodward area and continue our assessment of where other upgrades are needed. Of course, any winter storms that come our way will require our full attention. We appreciate your patience as we work to restore power during wintertime outages. ⚡

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(1) Mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for
Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov
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EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win a Sous Vide Cooker with Wi-Fi!

Once the well-kept secret of professional chefs, this smart sous vide precision cooker makes it easier than ever for home cooks to prepare a perfect meal. Designed to work with any pot in your kitchen, the cooker features a full-service app that includes time and temperature guides, 1,000+ recipes, and allows you to start, stop and monitor your cooking from your mobile device. For details, visit www.williams-sonoma.com and enter 6561828 in the search bar. The retail value is \$200.



Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest for a Sous Vide Cooker by visiting the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiowa.com no later than Jan. 31, 2019. 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. ⚡

When's the right time to consider electric heating and cooling options? Now.

The average homeowner spends more than \$900 a year on heating and cooling, so it's worth finding ways to save on your energy bill. There are affordable, energy-efficient options available to help lighten the burden on your wallet – and the environment.

An electric heat pump is the most energy-efficient home heating and cooling option available today – providing heating equal to three times the amount of electricity consumed. Switching from a traditional gas-fueled furnace to an electric heat pump system can significantly improve your home's energy efficiency.

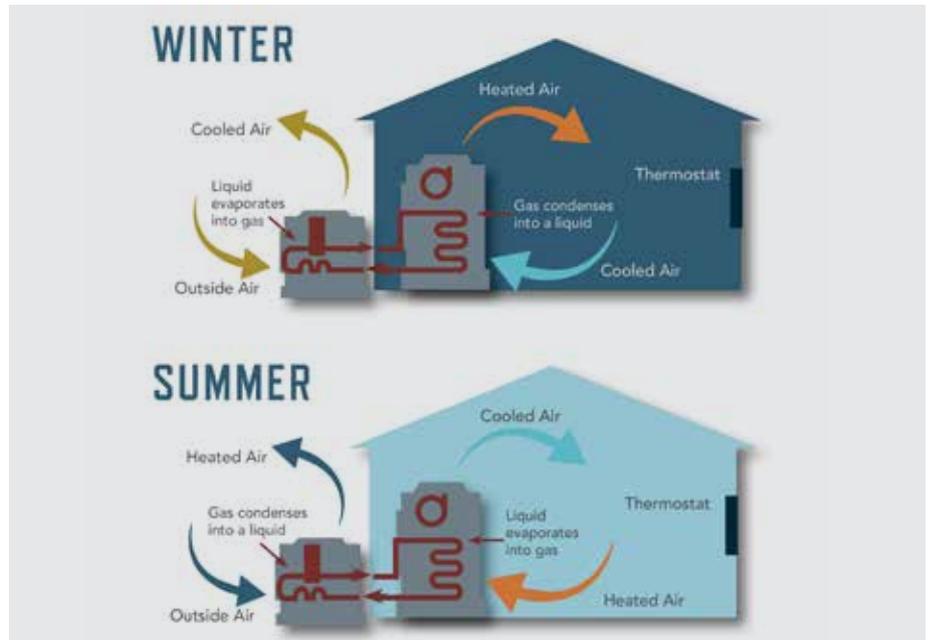
Because an electric heat pump serves a dual purpose – replacing your furnace or air conditioner by functioning as your home's primary heating and cooling system – it can cost more to install at first. However, the additional energy efficiency and long-term rate stability pay off in the long run.

There are two types:

Air-source heat pumps work by transferring heat between the inside of your house and the outside air. Whether you're upgrading to something more efficient or replacing a worn-out furnace or air conditioner, you'll find that air-source heat pumps are easy to install and will integrate well with your existing ductwork.

Geothermal heat pumps take advantage of the earth's constant temperature by circulating a water-based solution through buried pipes. This method of heating and cooling your home is environmentally friendly, reliable, quiet, comfortable and cost-efficient, but it does require underground installation.

Get to know your options. When you understand the long-term benefits of switching to electric home heating and cooling, you can confidently make the decision that's right for you and your family. ⚡



Enjoy the benefits of going electric

- **Comfortable.** Enjoy stable, reliable heating and cooling year-round – saving energy while leaving the thermostat set right where your family likes it.
- **Clean.** Reduce your carbon footprint by relying on your heat pump's ability to recycle thermal energy.
- **Safe.** Rest easy knowing your heat pump produces no harmful emissions.
- **Economical.** Lower your utility bill by up to 40 percent and take advantage of immediate rebates on qualifying equipment.



Heat your home safely.

Efficient electric heat pumps and water heaters don't use a flame – eliminating the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning, exhaust fumes and gas leaks. Visit our website to learn more about the benefits of going electric – and find rebates on new equipment.



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888-747-2206 guthrie-rec.coop



SAVINGS
WITH
STAYING
POWER