



Current News

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A monthly publication for the members of Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 10...

Lineworkers are the power behind your power

Eastern Iowa REC's crews are the most visible part of the Cooperative's team as they are out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. Their job, while tough when working in challenging conditions, is essential for the Cooperative to serve the membership at the highest level. Lineworker Appreciation Day is celebrated on April 10 and we take time to recognize their efforts as part of the entire Eastern Iowa REC team.

Eastern Iowa REC's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately

120,000 electric lineworkers. Eastern Iowa REC has 42 lineworkers that are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain more than 4,800 miles of power lines across all or parts of 12 counties. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes

far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 10, and follow "#ThankALineworker" on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.



Inflation Reduction Act includes geothermal, solar, EV incentives

At Eastern Iowa REC, we are experts at delivering electricity to your home, farm or business. We also try to help Cooperative members make the best use of their energy dollars. The Cooperative offers a range of rebates for members who install energy efficient heating and cooling equipment. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), signed by President Joe Biden on August 16, 2022, includes several tax incentives, that when combined with the Eastern Iowa REC rebates, can increase the savings.

Please remember, we are experts in delivering electricity. We are not tax experts. Do not consider this information as tax advice. Always consult with your own accountant, financial expert, or attorney for advice on applying for any of the IRA incentives described here.

For the next ten years, 2022-2032, the Residential Clean Energy Credit (IRC Sec. 25D) will provide a 30% tax credit for geothermal heat pumps, solar panels, solar thermal systems, fuel cells, small wind systems, biomass heat-

ers, and beginning in 2023, battery storage systems.

For Cooperative members considering the purchase of an electric vehicle (EV), starting this year, a \$4,000 tax credit is available for the purchase of a used EV and a \$7,500 tax credit is avail-

able for the purchase of a new EV. This tax credit is not available on all brands. To qualify for the credit, the EV must have final assembly in North America. In 2024, the tax credit will be issued through the dealership at the time of purchase.

For Eastern Iowa REC members, a rebate of \$500 per ton is available for new closed loop geothermal systems and a rebate of \$200 per ton is available to members who are replacing their geothermal unit on an existing closed loop system.

The Cooperative also offers rebates on the installation of Level II EV chargers. The rebates is 50% of the installed cost up to \$350. The installed cost includes contracted labor only and does not include internal labor.

For more information about the Cooperative's rebate program or the incentives available through the Inflation Reduction act contact an Eastern Iowa REC energy advisor. Call, toll free, 1-800-728-1242 or email member.relations@easterniowa.com.

Source: energystar.gov, energy.gov, <https://igshpa.org/>



www.iowageothermal.org



Earlier this year, technicians installed new radios in Cooperative vehicles as part of the project to switch the organization's two-way radio system to the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communication System (ISICS).

Cooperative switching to the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communication System

Communication is a key to any successful business and this is very true at Eastern Iowa REC. A recent change to the Cooperative's two-way radio system is an effort to improve and enhance communication with personnel working in the field.

Earlier this year, technicians installed new Motorola radios in Cooperative vehicles as part of the company switching to the Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communication System (ISICS).

The ISICS is a statewide radio platform that provides microwave-based radio communication to public safety agencies and others (including Iowa's rural electric cooperatives), border to border in the state of Iowa, to improve public safety across the state.

Moving to the ISICS allows the Cooperative to take advantage of the systems of towers the state of Iowa has constructed and maintains. It frees the Cooperative from having to maintain its

own set of towers. It also will make mutual aid work easier by allowing crews from other electric cooperatives to communicate using a shared frequency.

The new system seemed to work well in its first test following the ice storm on Feb. 23-24. Multiple vehicles and personnel were working throughout the northern portion of the Cooperative's service territory without communication issues.

SmartHub is a complete source for bill information

If you have questions about your Eastern Iowa REC bill, the answer may be just a few key strokes away using SmartHub.

Eastern Iowa REC members can use the SmartHub website or app to access important information like bill amount, energy usage and billing history.

Cooperative members can view actual usage data through detailed graphs and monitor daily consumption 24/7 with SmartHub.

Reviewing energy usage information allows Cooperative members to recognize usage patterns and possibly help identify times they can try to cut back on energy consumption, saving both money and electricity.

SmartHub offers paperless, convenient access to your Cooperative energy bill.

View and pay your bill on your mobile device or on the web and eliminate the need to receive a paper bill by going paperless with SmartHub.

Using SmartHub through a computer-

er, smart phone or tablet, Cooperative members are able to:

- Pay bills.
- View, print or download current and previous billing statements.
- Access accounts 24/7.
- Review electricity use.
- Set accounts up for automatic payment.
- Receive e-mail and/or text notifications regarding bills.

- Report power outages.

Access SmartHub by visiting the Eastern Iowa REC website, www.easterniowa.com, or by downloading the app on your mobile device through the Apple App Store or Google Play Marketplace.

After downloading the SmartHub app, you will need to search for Eastern Iowa Light and Power Cooperative to ensure you have the correct version.



PAPERLESS BILLING



Visit www.easterniowa.com for more information.

The eco-friendly way to get instant access to your bill and declutter your life.

- Experience the convenience of paying your bill online.
- No more waiting for your paper bill to arrive in the mail.
- Imagine having the ability to declutter your life with just a couple clicks.



The convenient and eco-friendly approach to manage your bill

Comments from the CEO

We recognize the efforts of our lineworkers and all Cooperative employees

Electric cooperatives across the country recognize National Lineworkers Appreciation Day April 10. The U.S. Senate declared April 18, 2013, as Lineworker Appreciation Day, but this was a one-time resolution. Because the 2013 designation was a one-time resolution and to avoid having that date coincide with a holiday or weekend, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association board designated the second Monday of every April as Lineworker Appreciation Day.

Cooperative lineworkers are easily the most visible image of our organization. You will see our hard working crews working in your neighborhoods and along side the roads within our service territory. They are just one part of a team of Cooperative employees working to ensure Eastern Iowa REC members receive the best possible service.

From our energy advisors and member service representatives, to our engineering staff, technology professionals, to our accounting, inventory, warehouse, mechanics and human resources professionals, we all strive to make certain the Cooperative operates as reliably and efficiently as possible.

We pause to recognize our linework-

From the Boardroom, February, 2023

- Approved budget variance for digger-derrick truck.
- Approved annual reliability report.
- Discussed purchase of electric vehicles and postponed purchase until 2024.
- Reviewed 2023 Annual Meeting.
- Approved two board procedures and retired two board policies.

Reference "News & Events" at www.easterniowa.com for April, 2023 meeting date.

ers this month, but we also realize Eastern Iowa REC only accomplishes its mission of providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service to its members through the efforts of an entire team of dedicated employees.

A variety of factors like extreme weather and increased use of renewable energy are affecting the electric utility industry so much that there's even a new way to talk about it: resilience.

You might be surprised to learn that "resilience" isn't exactly used to describe the major changes affecting electricity service. Instead, it's about actionable steps electric utilities are taking to keep power flowing.

Just a few years ago, "reliability" was the term of choice. Reliability meant trimming trees near power lines and keeping squirrels from chewing up electrical equipment. Attention to those priorities worked. The average American's electricity stayed on well over 99.9% of the time. Eastern Iowa REC members experienced an average of 1.33 hours of outage time in all of 2022.

More powerful and frequent natural disasters call for all electric utilities to learn new ways to do their job.

"Reliability" and "resilience" are not the same. The Future Electric Utility Regulation Advisory Group compares electric service to a boxing match: "Reliability is when you can



Kirk Trede
CEO

take a punch. Resilience is how fast you get up off the canvas after you've been hit hard."

Grid resiliency is the ability to withstand and recover from disruptive events and to predict and adapt to ensure consumers have the reliable power they need in a time of new energy challenges.

Electricity is more important than ever to our daily lives. At the same time, weather events can suddenly take that essential electricity away from large numbers of people. Utilities need to be ready to get back up off the canvas quickly. And that's what they're doing, from burying more power lines underground to outage recovery plans that get the most essential services back online first.

We are focusing on cybersecurity. We are working closely with our power supplier, state and national association, and other business partners to share information to protect against the latest cyber threats. It is an ongoing and constantly changing process.

We are investing in new equipment and sensors that can more quickly detect and resolve power outages or other problems.

We have worked to harden our distribution by rebuilding sections of line with new materials and new designs to make them more resistant to the forces of Mother Nature.

There's no doubt that major changes to the way we generate and consume energy are happening. But utilities, including our Cooperative, are answering the call with innovative solutions to serve our local communities. That's called resilience.

Updated records needed for 2023 patronage payments

Eastern Iowa REC will be returning patronage this year. The board of directors will be approving the patronage amounts at an upcoming meeting. Current members taking service during those years approved will receive a credit applied to their electric bill.

Previous members who no longer

receive service from the Cooperative will receive a check in the mail for their refund.

If there has been a change to your joint membership due to death or divorce, the Cooperative would like to correct its records.

In the case of divorce, the patronage will be split between both members. If only

one party maintains an active Cooperative membership, their portion of the patronage will be deducted from their bill. The second party will receive their portion in the form of a check that will be mailed to them. If neither party in a divorce maintains an active Cooperative membership, both parties will receive a check in the mail for their patronage payment.

Contact the Cooperative's patronage department, toll free, 1-800-728-1242 or email shari.vandewalle@easterniowa.com by May 26 so your account can be reviewed and any necessary changes can be made.

Please provide the account number, name on the account, and reason for making a change (divorce, death, etc.).

Cooperative bylaws are available online

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, copies of the bylaws of Eastern Iowa REC are available to anyone interested, either members of the Cooperative or the general public, at the reception counter of the headquarters office at

Wilton, Iowa, and at Cooperative service centers in Wapello, DeWitt, and Lone Tree, Iowa. The Bylaws are available online at www.easterniowa.com under the "My Coop" tab or you may call 1-800-728-1242 to request a copy.

Cooperative group makes trip to Capitol



Sen. Zach Wahls posed with Eastern Iowa REC board members and staff in the gallery of the Senate Chamber at the Capitol in Des Moines. The Eastern Iowa REC group traveled to Des Moines to meet with legislators Feb. 21.

Dig Smart. Dig Safe.

Before you dig, call 811 or visit call811.com to mark underground utility lines. 811 is a free service that helps keep our community safe.



April is National Safe Digging Month.

Clip this item and help others

Eastern Iowa REC has always extended a helping hand to those needing it. Now, in response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your Cooperative has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in the weatherization of homes of low-income consumers. You may make a one-time contribution or you may make a monthly pledge. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others! You care, we care, RECare.

YES, I want to be part of members helping members 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 this amount will be my monthly RECare pledge.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

Please mail to: RECare
Eastern Iowa REC
P.O. Box 3003
Wilton, IA 52778-3003

Current News Monthly Quiz

Quiz Winners:

Jeff Kress,
Moscow
Kris Kellor,
Muscatine

Allen Mizer,
West Burlington
Harry Slaymaker,
Grand Mound

Mail your answers to Current News, P.O. Box 3003, Wilton, IA 52778 or email answers to info@easterniowa.com. Be sure to include your name, address and Eastern Iowa REC account number on all quiz answer entries.

Four winners will be drawn from all submissions with the correct answers. The winners will receive a \$25 bill credit.

Question 1

How much is the tax credit for geothermal heat pumps and renewable systems under the Inflation Reduction Act?

Question 2

The Cooperative is shifting its two-way radio system to what new system?

Question 3

Where can you download the SmartHub app?

Name _____

Address _____

REC Account _____

Current News



BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Tom Hotz, president; Kathrine Wunderlich, vice president; Ken Purdy, secretary; Kurt Olson, treasurer; Dan Heater, assistant secretary; Henry Bentley, Michael Bixler, Joel Carstensen, Allan Duffe, Gary Kester, Glenn McCulloh, Michael Moes, Bill Petersen, Mike Shuger, Ron Stover.

Kirk Trede
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Jim Williams
Communications Director

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