



Current News

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

Incumbent director won't seek re-election

Eastern Iowa REC Director Dan Heater announced at the most recent board meeting that he will not be seeking re-election to the Board representing District 4. The Cooperative thanks him for his years of service to the organization.

Elections for positions on the Cooperative's board will be held at the District Meetings this summer. Those interested in seeking election to the board can start the process by submitting an address verification form, which enables the Cooperative to ensure the potential candidate is eligible to run within the district they indicate.

The next step is for the candidate to complete a petition signed by at least 15 memberships of their district by April 3.

Nomination packets, along with information regarding the district boundary map, qualifications to seek election, director compensation, director duties, responsibilities, Standards of Conduct and characteristics of a director can be found on the Cooperative's website, www.easterniowa.com under the "My Coop" tab, Director Elections or call 1-800-728-1242 to request the information.

Considering solar? We're here to help

Today's consumers want and expect options, including the type of energy powering their homes. Many homeowners are looking for a less expensive form of energy with ongoing savings. Some are looking for a green energy source. These two motives are why many homeowners are exploring solar panels.

The interest in alternative energy sources is also being fueled by decreasing costs for solar, the availability of financial incentives and the proliferation of companies offering solar panel installation.



In addition to Director Heater, the following incumbent directors' terms expire in 2023: Joel Carstensen, district 1; Mike Bixler, district 2; Mike Shuger, district 3; and Ron Stover, district 5.

All candidates who submit qualifying petitions will be asked to fill out a brief biographical form and return it to the Cooperative by May 15. The elections will be held during the 2023 district meetings.



Dan Heater

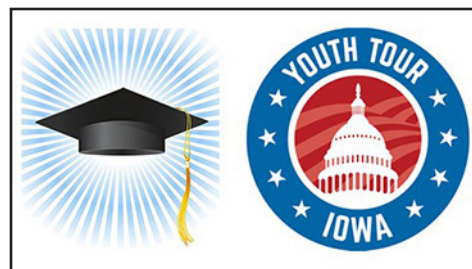
However, as attractive and popular as solar may appear, it is important for consumers to fully understand its true costs, the operational reality of this form of energy and actual energy savings. To determine whether rooftop solar is right for their particular situation, homeowners must undertake their due diligence.

As your trusted energy advisor, Eastern Iowa REC can offer a candid assessment of your specific situation. After all, your Cooperative has a different "bottom line" that is not directly tied to the sale of a product or service. We constantly strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently.

To help determine whether solar is right for you, Eastern Iowa REC's energy advisors will look at the:

- overall energy efficiency of the home/building
- usage and demand history for the past 12 months

More SOLAR see page 2.



Applications are due this month

The application deadline for two Eastern Iowa REC youth programs are this month.

The deadline for the Cooperative scholarship program is March 10, 2023 and the deadline for the Youth Tour program is March 17, 2023.

The 2023 Eastern Iowa REC scholarship program includes 21 \$1,000 scholarships.

The "Bob Wiemerslage Memorial Scholarship" is awarded to a student whose parents or guardian is a member of the Cooperative and who plans to major in accounting. Wiemerslage was the Cooperative's Division Manager of Accounting until his passing in 2019.

Fifteen scholarship winners will receive a \$1,000 award, three in each district, that can be used to help defray the costs of attending any accredited college or university.

Five \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to students planning to pursue a trade-related degree at a community college, technical school or powerline school.

The Cooperative's scholarship program is open to all 2023 high school seniors, whose parents or guardians are members of the Cooperative. This includes children of Cooperative directors and employees.

The deadline for applying for the scholarship program is March 10, 2023.

The 2023 Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. will be June 17-23. Iowa students will join other student leaders from across the nation to learn more about cooperatives, U.S. history and government.

Application materials for both programs can be found on the Cooperative's website, www.easterniowa.com, under the "News & Events" tab.

Lineworker training programs supported by Eastern Iowa REC

For Eastern Iowa REC lineworkers, the first step in their Cooperative careers begins in the classroom.

One of the main requirements for any apprentice lineworker hired by the Cooperative is that they have completed a certified powerline program.

The Cooperative helps fund scholarships at such programs at Northwest Iowa Community College (NWICC) and Marshalltown Community College.

Funding for these scholarship programs is drawn from funds accumulated from unclaimed patronage dollars.

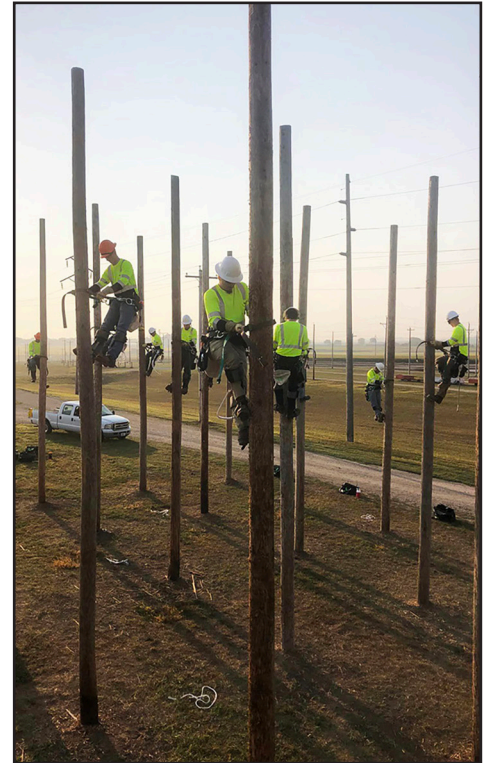
In the past, these unclaimed dollars were returned to the State of Iowa coffers, but the Cooperative is now allowed to use these funds to support specific programs to promote education or economic development.

In 2023, scholarships from NWICC's program were awarded to Drake

Johnson, Danville; and Ethan Unzicker, Danville. The 2023 Marshalltown Community College scholarship winners were Tyler Jackson, Wilton; Nolan Ostrom, Solon; Leighton Tjaden, North Cedar High School; Jacob Anderson, Calamus/Wheatland; Zach Galvin, Linn-Mar; Alan Kriegermeier, Jefferson; Trevor Long, Linn-Mar; Noah Jackson, Delaware County; Rashon Burrell, Black Hawk County; and Tyler Rundle, Jones County.

For more information about the NWICC Powerline program see their website, <https://nwicc.edu/academics/programs-of-study/powerline/> or call 1-800-352-4907.

For more information about the Marshalltown Community College program see their website, <https://mcc.iav-alley.edu/program/powerline-technician/> or call 866-622-4748.



Students in the powerline program at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon receive comprehensive training to prepare them for a career as a lineworker, including hand-climbing iron poles.

Photo courtesy NWICC

The Cooperative can provide unbiased info

SOLAR from page 1.

- current rate schedule
- tree coverage near the home/building
- estimated return on investment (ROI) for appropriately-sized system

Unlike a solar company that has one objective—to sell their products and services—we will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for your home. While rooftop solar certainly works for many people, it's not the answer for all.

When helping Cooperative members determine whether rooftop solar is right for them, a Cooperative energy advisor will also discuss the financial considerations:


- Is there a large, up-front payment required or are fees spread out over time?
- Will the homeowner own the panels or will they be leased?
- Are there any hidden costs, i.e., does the roof need to be replaced before installing the panels?
- Are there ongoing maintenance fees?
- Are there rebates or other financial incentives available?
- Is the estimated energy savings worth the investment?
- Is it more cost effective to invest in other energy saving measures?
- Will adding solar have an adverse effect on other incentivized rates (heat plus or super off-peak)?

Most importantly, an energy advisor will provide perspective on the total energy puzzle. Taking into account current energy consumption, the home "envelope," age and efficiency of the HVAC system and home site, an energy advisor can help Cooperative members determine whether rooftop solar is the best choice given the homeowners' objectives.

When assessing solar options, it is an excellent time to examine other potential energy efficiency improvements for your home. For example, it may make sense to insulate the attic at the same time as installing solar.

Eastern Iowa REC recognizes the increasing consumer interest in green energy sources and renewables, and we stand ready to help our members determine their best options. Information about renewable energy and the Cooperative's Alternative Energy Producer tariffs can be found online at www.easterniowa.com/renewable-energy/.






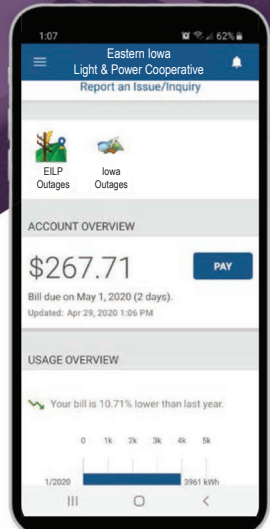
SMART PAYMENT

Save time.
Eliminate late fees.
Avoid service interruptions.

Sign up for auto payments, set up your secure preferred payment, method and let account management go into autopilot ... all in the palm of your hand and online.



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To set up a SmartHub account visit www.easterniowa.com for more information. To make an immediate bill payment from a checking or savings account use the Pay Now application at <https://easterniowa.smarthub.coop/PayNow.html>.

SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.

Comments from the CEO

We are focused on sustaining a reliable electric system

We've all heard the phrase, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." This popular adage is often used in conversation or a story when someone is about to do something foolish or risky. If they heed this advice, it means they did not commit to "one basket", but instead hedged their bets with multiple options.

This strategy is how I describe Eastern Iowa REC's common sense approach to the current energy transition. We know that consumer interest in renewable energy continues to grow. We've seen this trend here in Iowa.

Recent innovations and advances in renewable energy technologies have led to sharp decreases in costs, making renewables more feasible, accessible and scalable. Over the last few years, your Cooperative's power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), has adjusted its fuel mix by utilizing more renewables. Today, 36.8% of the CIPCO fuel mix is comprised of wind and solar assets.

CIPCO invests in the development of renewable energy projects in several

ways. They operate six small-scale solar arrays near communities throughout CIPCO's service territory. They retain the renewable energy certificates associated with each.

CIPCO also contracts with energy producers for the electricity output from the Wapello Solar array, wind, hydro, and methane gas from a landfill (converted into electricity). CIPCO cannot claim these resources as renewable within the CIPCO supply portfolio as they have either been sold to third parties or they do not receive the renewable attributes associated with the electricity produced from these renewable power sources.

By selling these attributes, CIPCO not only supports other organizations in meeting their renewable energy goals, CIPCO also generates revenue to help them lower their wholesale power rate.

Nationally, there is increasing reliance on renewable energy sources at the same time that we're seeing fossil fuel plants taken off-line, often ahead of schedule. Additionally, we're seeing more pressure on the electric grid due to the increasing frequency and intensity of severe weather events and rising electricity demand.

So how do we reconcile these challenges of grid pressure and a changing fuel mix? Solar and wind energy are certainly beneficial for the envi-

ronment, but they are limited resources because the sun does not always shine, and the wind does not always blow. Our primary responsibility is to provide electricity 24/7 to you and our community. To do this, we need reliable sources of power that will meet all the peaks and valleys of on-demand energy in our connected world.

So where are we netting out? That's where our familiar adage comes into play. While utilization of renewables is increasing, we still need to incorporate other forms of energy in the mix to ensure reliable service. Remember, solar and wind are intermittent power sources. This fact coupled with the growing demand for renewables creates its own challenges.

That's why we spread our eggs into multiple baskets. There is great value in maintaining a diverse mix of fuel sources—fossil fuels and renewables to ensure reliability, resiliency and meet the growing demand for electricity.

Reliability also means repairing and replacing utility equipment to prevent wear-and-tear, ensuring our equipment can withstand severe weather. We are laser-focused on providing Eastern Iowa REC members with reliable, affordable energy. That's why fuel diversity—or placing our eggs in multiple baskets—is essential to reliability.

As our nation increasingly depends on electricity to power the economy, Eastern Iowa REC is working to anticipate, plan and respond to market trends and policy shifts. That's how we can power your home and our economy, while continuing to serve as your local energy provider.



Kirk Trede
CEO

From the Boardroom, January, 2023

- Approved discount rate on patronage settlement of estates.
- Set interest rate on consumer deposits for 2023.
- Reviewed preliminary CIPCO patronage allocation for 2022.
- Reviewed 2023 District Meetings.
- Approved Cooperative's Revolving Loan Fund Committee.
- Reviewed 2023 Strategic Corporate Plan.

The next board meeting will be held on March 30, 2023.

The Eastern Iowa REC Statement of Nondiscrimination

Eastern Iowa Light and Power Cooperative is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-

2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer. The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Kirk W. Trede, Chief Executive Officer.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html. at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form.

To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (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-

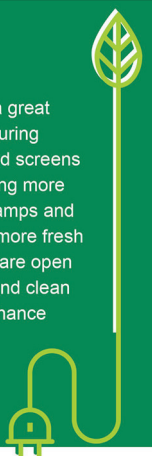
7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Washing windows and screens is a great way to practice energy efficiency during spring cleaning. Clean windows and screens make your home brighter by allowing more sunlight in, reducing the need for lamps and fixtures. Clean screens also allow more fresh air in the home when the windows are open to recycle indoor air. Natural light and clean air are energy savers, and they enhance overall health and productivity.

Source: energy.gov



Electric co-ops advocate for rural Iowa priorities

More than 150 directors, managers and employees from Iowa's electric cooperatives discussed priorities with over 100 state legislators on January 10 during a 2023 Welcome Back Legislative Reception in downtown Des Moines Jan. 10.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to meet with state legislators at the beginning of the 2023 Legislative Session to discuss issues that impact rural electric cooperatives and the com-

munities we serve.

For example, we're concerned about secretive industrial and commercial corporations that are seeking to circumvent Iowa's electric service territory laws; these protections exist to provide stability for Iowa homes, farms and businesses. Iowa's electric co-ops are also opposed to any legislation that would deny landowners the option to use their property for utility-scale solar generation if they so choose.



From left are: Joel Carstensen, director; Don Roth, division manager of member relations; Tom Hotz, director; Mike Bixler, director; Alan Duffe, director; Ken Purdy, director; Rep. Bobby Kaufmann; Rep. Norlin Mommsen; Henry Bentley, director; Mike Shuger, director; Bill Petersen, director; Kathy Wunderlich, director; Gary Kester, director; and Stephanie Miene, economic development director.

Explore a paperless option

Paperless billing with SmartHub is convenient. It offers you the opportunity to pay anytime, anywhere. It reduces your carbon footprint and it helps the Cooperative lower costs by saving on mailing expenses.



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For more information about the paperless billing option sign up for SmartHub at www.easterniowa.com or contact a Cooperative member service representative at billing@easterniowa.com.



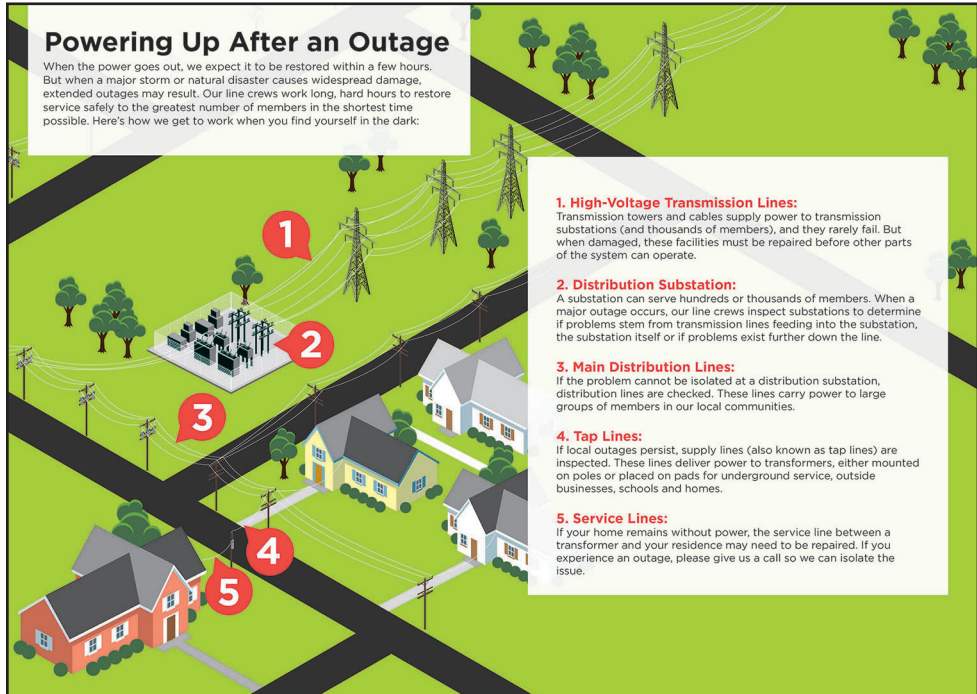
Name _____

Address _____

REC Account _____

Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible. Here's how we get to work when you find yourself in the dark:



Current News Monthly Quiz

Quiz Winners:

Marvel Smth,
DeWitt
Kathy Kreinbring,
Bennett

Delbert Roling,
Lost Nation
Carol Schlueter,
Durant

Mail your answers to Current News, P.O. Box 3003, Wilton, IA 52778 or email their 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

When is the Youth Tour 2023 trip to be held?

Question 2

What schools receive powerline program scholarship funds from the Cooperative?

Question 3

What percentage of CIPCO's generation fuel mix is comprised of wind and solar?

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.

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Jim Williams
Communications Director

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