



Current News

Volume 71 Number 2 February, 2025

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

You can start the director election process today

The first step in the Eastern Iowa REC director election process is the submission of an address verification form, which enables the Cooperative to ensure the potential candidate is eligible to run within the district they indicate on the form.

The next step is for the candidate to complete a petition signed by at least 15 memberships of their district by April 1.

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 Cooperative" tab, Director Elections or call 1-563-732-7305 to

request the information.

All candidates who submit qualifying petitions will then be asked to fill

out a brief biographical form and return it to the Cooperative by May 15.

The nomination process puts no limit on the number of candidates in a given district and in no way screens or filters potential candidates.

The elections will be held during the 2025 district meetings.

Candidates should note that the time requirements of a director extend beyond the 12 monthly meetings and include an average of 30 days per year for Cooperative business-related activities.

The incumbent directors whose terms expire in 2025 are: Kurt Olson, Grand Mound, district 1; Allan Duffe, Wilton, district 2; Henry Bentley, Durant, district 3; Tom Hotz, Lone Tree, district 4; and Kathy Wunderlich, Danville, district 5.



Assistance is available for winter heating bills

Help is again available for Iowa residents who may struggle to meet winter home heating costs. You can apply now for the 2024-2025 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

This program is funded through the Iowa Department of Human Rights, and helps qualifying families meet home heating costs. Qualifying Iowa residents can submit applications until April 30, 2025.

For information about household income maximums and contact information, see the chart.

INCOME MAXIMUMS

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$30,120
2	\$40,880
3	\$51,640
4	\$62,400
5	\$73,160
6	\$83,920
7	\$94,680
8	\$105,440
For each additional household member, add \$10,760	

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are not sure where to apply, Dial 2-1-1, or look online at <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/liheap>

To contact your local community action agency, or write to:
LIHEAP
Iowa Department of Human Rights
Capitol Complex
Des Moines, IA 50319

The application period for three youth programs is now open: the Eastern Iowa REC STEAM program, Eastern Iowa REC Scholarship program and the 2025 Youth Tour program.

STEAM GRANT PROGRAM
SCIENCE. TECHNOLOGY. ENGINEERING. ARTS. MATHEMATICS

Find complete details at:
www.easterniowa.com.

TWENTY-SIX \$2,500 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Application materials are available at
www.easterniowa.com

Deadline: March 12, 2024

Students can apply now for a trip to Washington, D.C., from June 15-21!

Local high school students interested in public service & government are encouraged to apply now! Learn more at IowaYouthTour.com

Application materials available at www.easterniowa.com/community/youth-tour/ Deadline: March 14 2025

Years of Cooperative service are recognized

The success of Eastern Iowa REC over the past 90 years can be directly attributed to the hard work and dedication of the employees who work each day to ensure Cooperative members receive the best possible service. Each year Eastern Iowa REC recognizes employees for their years of service to the organization. In 2024, 17 employees and directors were honored for a combined 265 years of service to the Cooperative. The organization also welcomed seven new team members during 2024.



Kevin Bohnsack
Substation
Serviceman
Foreman
45 Years



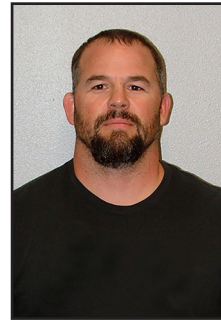
Richard VanErsvelde
Dispatcher/GIS
35 Years



James Garcia
Member Service
Staking Technician
25 Years



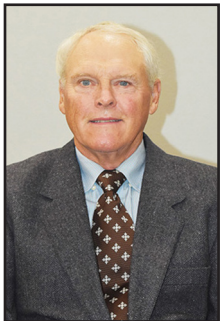
Joe Fuhrmeister
Member Service
Staking Technician
25 Years



Chad Ruden
Member Service
Lead Staking
Technician
25 Years



Mike Shuger
Director
25 Years



Tom Hotz
Director
20 Years



Zach Eagle
Line Foreman
10 Years



Lance Kephart
Manager of
Information
Technology
10 Years



Danielle Schwenker
Eng./Op.
Coordinator
10 Years



Matt Bell
Auto/Diesel
Technician
5 Years



Colton Chown
Journeyman
Lineman
5 Years



Erin DeLong
Executive
Assistant/
Engagement &
Comm. Specialist
5 Years



Josh McAdoo
Journeyman
Lineman
5 Years



Koltyn Hodgell-Niles
Journeyman
Lineman
5 Years



Mike Schmidt
Member Service
Staking Technician
5 Years



Kurt Olson
Director
5 Years

NEW EMPLOYEES



Noah Bierman
Auto/Diesel
Mechanic



Bryce DeWolf
Apprentice
Lineman



Peyton Elijah
Apprentice
Lineman



Lenny Fortenbacher
Apprentice
Lineman



Tyler Hancox
Apprentice
Substation
Serviceman



Nolan Ostrom
Apprentice
Lineman



Brenton Ross
Apprentice
Lineman

Smart savings with Time-of-Use Rates: What you need to know

As your electric cooperative, our mission is to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. Starting April 1, 2025, we will implement a necessary rate adjustment to maintain financial stability and ensure the continued delivery of high-quality service. While this adjustment reflects the rising costs of equipment, materials, and operations, we also want to empower you to take control of your energy expenses.

Time-of-Use Rates: A Closer Look: Our **Time-of-Use (TOU)** rate structure is based on the timing of your energy use. Here's how it works:

- **On-Peak Hours:** 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. daily--High demand, higher rates.
- **Super Off-Peak Hours:** Midnight – 6:00 a.m. daily--Lowest demand, electric rate.

- **Off-Peak Hours:** All remaining hours--Lower demand, lower rates.

Why Time-of-Use Rates Benefit Everyone: TOU rates align electricity costs with the actual demand on our system. Peak demand occurs from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., when energy use across our network is highest. Reducing consumption during these hours lowers the Cooperative's wholesale power costs, which benefits all members.

Additionally, TOU rates promote fairness. Members who shift more of their energy use to Off-Peak hours will see lower bills, while those who use more electricity during On-Peak periods may see higher costs.

Your Cooperative's Commitment: We know rising costs impact everyone. That's why we've implemented cost-saving measures, such as improving efficiency in staffing, operations, and equipment usage. These steps allow us to maintain reliable service while keeping rates as low as possible.

By using TOU rates and adopting energy-saving habits, you can reduce your bills and help us manage overall costs. Together, we can ensure a sustainable energy future for our community.

For more details about TOU rates and practical energy-saving tips, visit our website at www.easterniowa.com or call our Member Service Department at 855-938-3616.

TIPS FOR SAVING WITH TIME-OF-DAY RATES

01 DELAY MAJOR APPLIANCE USE



- Do laundry during off-peak hours
- Run the dishwasher before bed

02 OPTIMIZE THERMOSTAT SETTINGS



- Use a programmable thermostat to limit heating & cooling to off-peak periods

03 UNPLUG OR POWER DOWN DEVICES



- Unplug chargers & appliances when not in use
- Use power strips to turn off idle appliances

04 CHARGE ELECTRIC VEHICLES OVERNIGHT



- Set your electric vehicle to charge between midnight & 6 a.m.

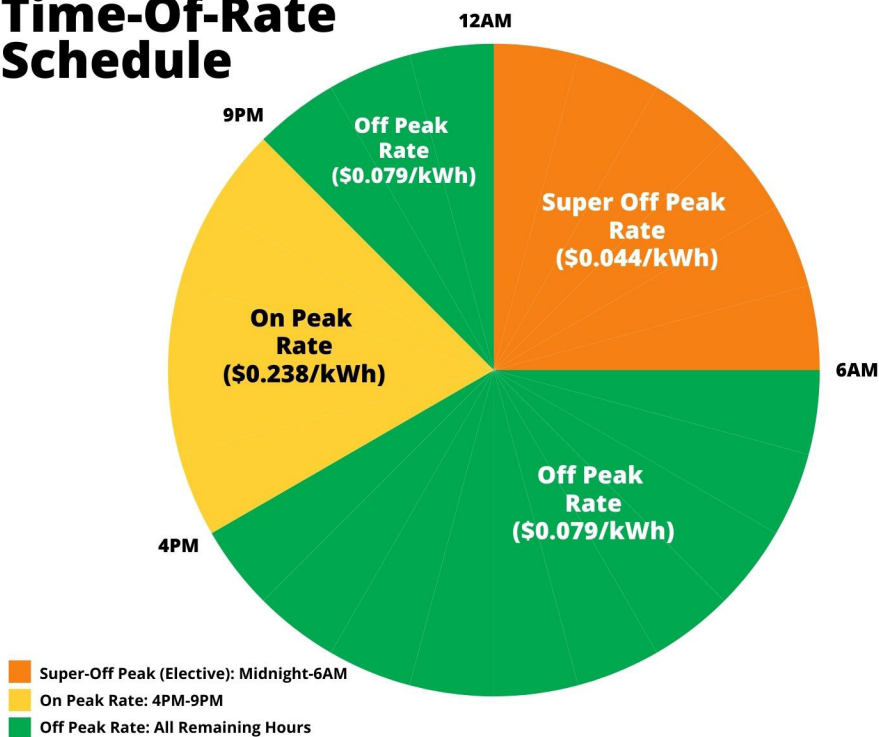
05 USE SMART TECHNOLOGY



- Install smart switches or timers for devices during off-peak times

MINOR ADJUSTMENTS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE OVER TIME!

Time-of-Rate Schedule



Hi there! I'm Max Holtz, your Energy Advisor—aka Max Efficiency. Each month, I'll share simple tips to save energy and money, plus a challenge to put them into action. Let's tackle winter heating this month!

Help Your Heating System Work Smarter

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder, increasing energy use and wear on ductwork. Take a walk around your home to ensure vents aren't blocked by furniture, curtains, or other items. If needed, move obstructions or use a vent extender to redirect airflow.

These simple steps can improve efficiency and keep your home comfortable without extra costs.



*Have a question about energy efficiency?
Email me at max.holtz@easterniowa.com.
See you next month with more tips to keep you saving all year long!*

MONTHLY CHALLENGE

Uncover Your Vents!
This month, I challenge you to clear all vents in your home and check for cracks or leaks in your ductwork to prevent energy loss.

Why it matters: A clear airflow path reduces energy use, lowers heating bills, and helps your heating system last longer. Small steps make a big impact!

-Max

Comments from the CEO

Understanding factors that impact energy bills from your Cooperative

February can bring some of the coldest weather of the year, and as our home heating systems work harder and longer to keep us warm, we typically see higher energy bills. There are a few key factors that affect electricity prices, as well as a few ways you can make a meaningful impact on home energy savings.

When you receive your monthly bill from Eastern Iowa REC, you're provided with a summary of how much electricity you used during the billing cycle. But you might be surprised to learn that beyond your monthly energy consumption, there are external factors that can impact the cost of electricity.

Your Cooperative purchases electricity from our power generation partner, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), at a wholesale cost, then we deliver that power to our local communities. The cost of generating and transmitting electricity from our generation partner accounts for a significant portion of the cost to provide electric service to local homes and businesses—and the cost of fuels that are used to generate that electricity, such as natural gas and coal, fluctuate based on supply and demand. While these fluctuations can impact the cost of electricity, we work closely with CIPCO to plan ahead and help stabilize electricity prices for our members.

While we can't control the weather, we can review weather patterns and forecasts to prepare for times of extreme cold or heat, when we know the demand for electricity will increase. But when temperatures become extremely cold and the demand for electricity spikes, the price of electricity can also increase.

From the Boardroom, December, 2024

- Approved resolutions for the disposition of uncollectible bills.
 - Approved sponsorship of a USDA REDL loan application.
 - Approved a land purchase agreement.
- The next board meeting will be held on February 26, 2025.*

To cover the costs associated with providing electricity to your home or business, Cooperative members pay a monthly Facility Charge. This flat monthly fee ensures the cost of equipment, materials, labor and daily operations are covered for all members in the Cooperative's service territory. To ensure the reliable service you expect and deserve, we must maintain the local grid, including power lines, substations and other essential equipment.

Federal energy policies and regulations can have a profound impact on electricity costs. As energy generation shifts to the use of more renewable sources and stricter regulations for traditional, always-available fuel sources, such as natural gas and coal plants, costly upgrades and technologies must be constructed and deployed. These additional costs are ultimately passed to consumers.

U.S. power consumption is expected to double by 2050. Across the country, electric cooperatives are working with members of Congress to advocate for smart energy policies that reliably power our local communities.

While many of these external factors that impact electricity costs are out of our control, we all have the power to manage our energy use at home. The most effective way is to shift use away from the Cooperative's on-peak period which is daily 4-9 p.m. Electricity used during the other 19 hours of the day costs less for the Cooperative to purchase from our power supplier, and which means lower costs for Cooperative members as well.

Eastern Iowa REC is your local energy partner, and we're here to help. As always, we will continue working diligently to provide you with reliable power at an affordable cost.



Kirk Trede
CEO

Current News Monthly Quiz

Winners:

Karen Kronfeldt, Wapello
Patricia Anderson, DeWitt
Yvonne Dittmer, Durant
Dale McKillip, West Branch

Mail your answers to Current News, P.O. Box 3003, Wilton, IA 52778 or email the 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 are the hours of the Cooperative's Super Off-Peak period?

Question 2

Who received the service award for the most years in service in 2024?

Question 3

What is the LIHEAP income maximum for a family of 4?

Name

Address

REC Account

Current News



BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Kathrine Wunderlich, president; Ken Purdy, vice president; Kurt Olson, secretary; Michael Bixler, treasurer; Henry Bentley, assistant secretary; Gary Bruns, Joel Carstensen, Aubrey "Lee" Cartwright, Allan Duffe, Tom Hotz, Gary Kester, Robert Schnieder Jr., Mike Shuger, Denise Timmerman, Bradley Weiss.

Kirk Trede
CEO

Jim Williams
Communications Director

DeWitt
500 South Fifth St.

Wapello
101 Surrey Drive.

Lone Tree
309 W. Commercial St.

Wilton
1705 West Third St.

Call toll free, 1-855-938-3616.

General Information.....info@easterniowa.com
Billing Questions.....billing@easterniowa.com
Service Questions.....member.service@easterniowa.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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.

If you want a copy of the Cooperative's bylaws, please ask at any Cooperative office or visit www.easterniowa.com/my-coop.