

# CLOSED Circuit

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Official Publication of  
 **CLARKE**

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## ► Fall Special

### *While supplies last*

You can save \$400 off the price of a GE GeoSpring Heat Pump water heater.

The heat pump water heater can save you up to \$320 a year.

For just \$570 you can have a new GeoSpring heat pump water heater and save money, too!

Call 800-362-2154 for details!



## ► Rumley Brothers CDs

If you would like to purchase a country music CD by the Rumley Brothers, call 641-344-6332 to place your order.

## 71 Years of Service

A crowd of nearly 400 people enjoyed great weather, great food, and great entertainment at the 71<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of Clarke Electric Cooperative. Attending members received a free pork sandwich dinner, a chance to win \$50 and \$100 dollar cash prizes, and a \$10 energy credit. Cowboy musician Pat Meade crooned during dinner, and The Rumley Brothers, a local country band from Leon, Iowa, performed during the meeting.

## Powered by CEC

General Manager Bill Freeman presented a picture of CEC for 2010 including the financial condition, energy efficiency goals, energy issue challenges, an update on the 2007 ice storm work, and the Department of Energy Grant project. In his closing remarks, Bill stated that the lack of state or federal energy policy will impact your cooperative and you.

Youth Tour winner Rachel Brownlee gave a report on her free trip to Washington D.C., and thanked the membership for the opportunity for the trip.

Following the annual meeting, the directors held a reorganizational meeting at the co-op headquarters. Elected to serve as officers of the board were: President—Frank Riley, Vice President—Paul Keller, Secretary—Kyle Kelso, Treasurer—Randy Gaumer, and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer—Marilyn Marsh.



*All incumbent directors were reelected to the Board: Randy Gaumer (District 2), Bill Willis (District 6), and Larry Jackson (District 9).*



*Board members were present to greet and network with members who attended the annual meeting in September. All who attended enjoyed a free pork-sandwich dinner provided by the Madison County Pork Producers.*

Looking  
Out  
for  
You

# Keep Rural Electricity Affordable



CEC has been actively representing your interests in Des Moines and Washington, D.C. "We want to make sure our legislators understand how laws could affect utility costs for our members," said CEC Manager Bill Freeman.

CEC's Board President Frank Riley and other co-op representatives recently visited our nation's capital to lobby Iowa's Congressional delegation on behalf of rural electric cooperatives. The agenda focused on the need for reliable and affordable electricity for co-op members, specifically the need for continued funding from the Rural Utilities Service, the importance of Federal Emergency Management Agency funds in rebuilding our systems after major storms, and the impacts of newly proposed regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Through regular trips to Des Moines and Washington D.C., CEC will continue to educate our elected officials about the electric cooperative business and the impacts that their policy decisions have on the service and affordability of electricity to cooperative members.

In the past year, various out-of-state environmental groups have injected misleading television, newspaper, and automated telephone call advertisements into essential discussions on needed baseload generation in Iowa. We believe these outside special interest groups have no legitimate stake in Iowa's energy future, and their intentions regarding proposed legislation are remarkably disingenuous and intentionally misleading. 11-24-03-02

Increased baseload energy—as part of an on overall energy package that includes renewable resources—will mean reliable, affordable, safe electricity delivered in an environmentally responsible manner for the future for electric cooperative members, agribusinesses, and other business partners in rural Iowa.

## WANT TO STAY INFORMED?

Sign up today to be included in e-mail communications from Clarke Electric Cooperative so you are armed with the facts that matter to Iowans.

- Sign up today by sending an e-mail to [clarke@cecnet.net](mailto:clarke@cecnet.net).
- Or simply write your e-mail address on this form and mail it with your electric bill payment.

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

If you change your mind, it is easy to unsubscribe by simply notifying Clarke Electric Cooperative.

*Thanks for making a difference  
in Iowa's energy future!*

# Attention Residential Customers

Do you need **HELP!** with your heating bill?



The 2011-2012 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season.

## INCOME MAXIMUMS

Household Size	3 Month Gross Income	Annual Gross Income
1	\$ 4,084	\$ 16,335
2	\$ 5,516	\$ 22,065
3	\$ 6,949	\$ 27,795
4	\$ 8,381	\$ 33,525
5	\$ 9,814	\$ 39,255
6	\$ 11,246	\$ 44,985

The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

If you are not sure where to apply, please write to:

LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Human Rights, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319

OR call your local community action agency.

## LIHEAP

### WHEN TO APPLY:

- Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled:  
10/02/11 to 04/30/12
- All other households:  
11/01/11 to 04/30/12

### WHAT TO TAKE:

- Proof of Income: Most recent 3 months' check stubs, award letter from Social Security, or 2010 tax return
- Social Security numbers of all household members
- Recent heat bill
- Recent electric bill
- Recent telephone bill

### WAGE EARNERS:

Please bring copies of your check stubs for the three-month period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your federal income tax return.

### FIXED INCOME:

This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your most recent 3 months' check stubs.

### SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:

Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

### FIP AND SSI RECIPIENTS:

Your Medicaid number is on your Medicaid card. The numbers needed are immediately following your name and number in the aid type box.

*If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified.*

# Small Renewable Energy Systems: Is One Right for You?



New advances in technology and a growing awareness of environmental impact has piqued consumer interest in renewable energy options. Renewable energy systems can be beneficial and are most effective when combined with an energy-efficient home. Purchasing and installing one of these systems can also be a significant investment for a member-consumer. We encourage you to thoroughly research the potential investment and talk with our co-op employees first, so you make the right decision for your home.

Clarke Electric is responsible for maintaining the reliability of the power grid and ensuring any associated costs are not imposed on member-consumers. For these reasons, member-consumers who install a renewable energy system must meet some requirements prior to connecting equipment to the grid. Members may also incur additional expenses due to the cost of interconnection, metering equipment, and liability insurance. Please call us at 641-342-2173 to talk through your responsibilities as a member-consumer as well as what you can expect from your cooperative.

The following steps will help you determine if purchasing a small-scale wind turbine, photovoltaic, or other renewable energy system is a good fit for you.

1. Determine how much electricity you use and what it costs, both annually and by the kilowatt-hour. Clarke Electric can help you put these figures together.
2. Determine site suitability and energy resources. Make sure you have enough space for the generator. Buildings, trees, and other structures can all affect output. Take measurements of wind speeds, solar gain, or other energy resources during various times of the day, seasons, and heights.
3. Understand interconnection requirements, including costs and liabilities, before you go too far into the process. Execute the interconnection agreement with Clarke Electric Cooperative.
4. Determine how much electricity you want your generator to produce. The size and location of the generator greatly affect the amount of energy it will produce. Make sure you understand the difference between production and capacity. For much of Iowa, the average production is 30 to 40 percent of rated capacity.
5. Find out what incentives, rebates, buy-downs, and loans are available. Also determine whether or not you qualify for a U.S. Department of Agriculture Section 9006 grant.
6. Determine the estimated installed cost of the system and calculate your return on investment. Be sure to calculate any costs of interconnection to the electric grid as well as annual operation and maintenance costs.
7. Determine what zoning regulations apply and what permits are needed. Talk to your neighbors about your plans as well.
8. Find an installer. Unfortunately, with all the recent interest in small renewable systems, there have been reports of contractors that are less than reputable. Be sure to check with other customers about their experience.
9. Order the system. Take the time to understand what warranties apply and if a maintenance contract is available.
10. Contract the installation.



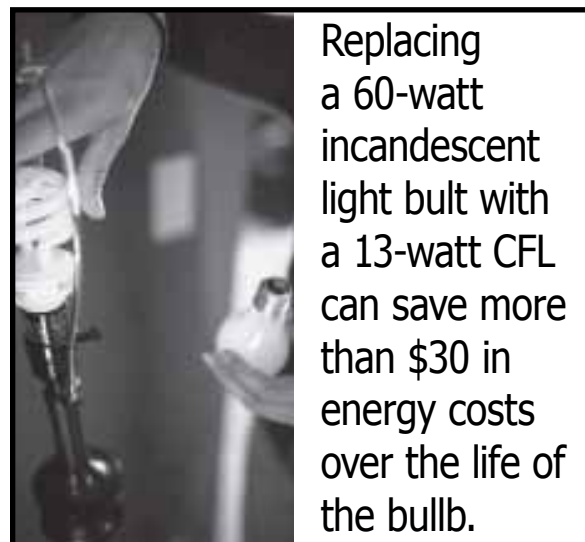
**Iowa had an increase of over 900 MW in wind generation between 2008 and 2009.**

*Source: US Energy Information Administration*



## Reading Pays!

Look for your hidden account number in this issue and call during October to have \$10 deducted from your monthly energy account.



Replacing a 60-watt incandescent light bulb with a 13-watt CFL can save more than \$30 in energy costs over the life of the bulb.

# Director Gaumer Recognized at Regional Meeting



Randy Gaumer, Clarke Electric Cooperative Director, was recognized at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Region V Meeting held last month in Minneapolis, Minnesota. An elected Board director representing District 2, Randy was acknowledged for obtaining his Board Leadership Certificate.

In order to obtain the certificate the director must complete 10 credits in the program which is specific to the utility industry business. 39-28-01-01



# Annual Meeting Picture Gallery



❶ Happy Cash Winners pose with their prizes at the annual meeting in September. Prizes were drawn from the pool of those members attending the meeting. ❷ Representative Joel Fry and family enjoy the free pork sandwich dinner before the business meeting. ❸ Representatives from Clarke Electric used displays and conversation to answer questions from member-consumers.

Things we see everyday often **FADE** from view

*Failure to notice power lines can be a deadly oversight.*

Hundreds are killed or injured each year when their equipment makes contact with overhead lines.

Teach everyone to look up when working around power lines. Look up and live.

**TLC**  
 Teach what you know.  
 Learn what you need to.  
 Care enough to share it.

**FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC INSURANCE EXCHANGE**  
 Proud National Sponsor of Safe Electricity

**Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc., exists to professionally serve our members' changing needs, enhancing quality of life through leadership in community development and providing service excellence for our members' energy requirements.

P.O. Box 161, Osceola IA 50213 • 641-342-2173 • 1-800-362-2154

Our Web site: [www.cecnet.net](http://www.cecnet.net)

Board of Directors: Tom Carson, Osceola; Ralph Evans, Decatur; Randy Gaumer, Murray; Larry Jackson, Clio; Paul Keller, New Virginia; Kyle Kelso, Weldon; Marilyn Marsh, Lucas; Frank Riley, Osceola; Bill Willis, New Virginia.

Bill Freeman, Manager  
 Don Lange, Manager of Operations and Engineering  
 Dave Opie, Manager of Finance  
 Jodee Eckels, Editor

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