


CLOSED Circuit

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Cooperative Highlights:

► 2012 Youth Tour

Clarke Electric is now taking applications for the 2012 Youth Tour. See page 2 for details.

► Rebates

To save money, check out the rebate opportunities at www.cecnet.net.

Happy
Valentine's Day!

Don't forget your
sweetheart on
February 14!

Director Education and Grassroots Activities Vital to Cooperatives

Several of your Clarke Electric Board directors attended a two-day workshop for Iowa directors hosted by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC). The workshop covered key topics affecting Iowa cooperatives, such as stray voltage, copper theft, and energy efficiency.

The directors also attended a Welcome Back Legislative Reception to meet and talk with Iowa representatives that are back in session for 2012. This was another opportunity for directors and cooperative leaders to share their concerns about issues vital to cooperatives and their member-consumers.



(1) Clarke Electric Board Directors Randy Gaumer (right) and Ralph Evans meet with Senator Joni Ernst at the Welcome Back Legislative Reception.

(2) Clarke Electric GM Bill Freeman with Representative Joel Fry.

(3) Board Director Paul Keller (left) with Representative Julian Garrett.

Community
Minded



Wind Energy Portfolio Growing

Members of Clarke Electric Cooperative will soon be receiving more electricity generated from wind energy as a result of a recent announcement by Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), our wholesale power provider. CIPCO has signed a long-term power purchase agreement to buy the entire output from two new wind farms being constructed near the towns of Hawkeye and Grand Junction.

The projects will produce a combined 86 megawatts of electricity, which will double the amount of wind energy in CIPCO's

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Operations Update From Manager of Operations and Engineering Don Lange

Construction and Maintenance Review

The chart below shows construction work in 2011 compared to previous years. The economic slump and increased cost of fuel, materials, and equipment continue to impact the growth of our electric system.

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
New services built	58	52	54	73	91
Services removed	88	155	150	130	52

Power Cost Adjustment

**Powered
by CEC**

Clarke Electric is vigilant in trying to keep rates as stable as possible while meeting financial obligations. When the cost of power decreases, we pass the savings on to our member-consumers.

However, when the cost of power increases, we also must adjust the costs for our member-consumers.

The “power cost adjustment” (PCA) is exactly that—a way to adjust the fluctuating monthly cost of wholesale power over or under the established kWh rate. 43-01-06-04

When Clarke Electric receives our power bill from CIPCO, our power provider, any increase or decrease in power costs from the normal base kWh rate is passed on to the member-consumer using the PCA.

2012 Youth Tour Contest

ESSAY TOPIC

Of the seven cooperative principles, which two do you feel are most important and why?

ESSAY GUIDELINES

Entries should be typed on one side of 8.5 X 11 inch paper.

Entries should be no more than 500 words and a minimum of two pages.

Keep Them Close, but Not Too Close

Space heaters and electric blankets may provide needed warmth and comfort, but they can also be deadly if they are not used with care. Below are some tips for safe use of space heaters and electric blankets.

Electric Blankets

- If more than 10 years old, replace.
- Always turn off when not in use.
- Don't use more than one at a time. The combined heat can cause burns.
- Don't plug into outlet controlled by a light switch; the blanket could be switched on accidentally.
- Unplug if you smell smoke or if scorching is evident; discoloration may indicate that it is burning internally.
- Don't pile anything or sit on top of blanket or tuck underneath mattresses as this may damage internal coils and expose the heating element to combustible fabric.
- Never ball up an electric blanket and leave it on; excessive heat may cause blanket to ignite.
- Never wash or dry clean an electric blanket.
- Store flat to protect the internal coils.
- Replace if embedded heating wires are displaced or damaged. Check by holding up to light; wires should be evenly spaced and not touch.

Space Heaters

- Space heaters do have to be energized to work, but use common sense and safety practices.
- When buying, look for heater that has been tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing facility.
- Keep at least three feet away from drapes, furniture, or anything that might catch fire.
- If extension cord is required, ensure that it is a heavy duty cord marked with a power rating at least as high as the heater.
- Never leave a space heater unattended or running while you sleep.

CEC cares for your
SAFETY

For more information and videos on electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org. Safe Electricity is a program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety and energy efficiency, and supported by a coalition of hundreds of organizations, including electric utilities, educators, and other entities committed to promoting safe use of electricity.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

March 7

ESSAY DEADLINE: March 21

JUDGING: March 30

TRIP DATES: Sat. June 9 to
Thurs. June 14

**For more
information visit
www.cecnet.net
or call Jason at
641-342-2173**

Wind Energy Portfolio Growing

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generation portfolio when the two wind farms become operational in the fall of 2012.

“Over 95 percent of CIPCO’s electricity is generated in Iowa, and with the commitments of the Rippey and Hawkeye facilities, CIPCO’s carbon-free and emissions-free resources will be over 50 percent by 4th quarter 2012,” stated Dennis Murdock, CEO and Executive Vice President of CIPCO. “The addition of these two wind farms further enhances our commitment to local energy production and environmental stewardship.”

The 36-megawatt Hawkeye Wind Farm and 50-megawatt Rippey Wind Farm are being developed by RPM Access LLC (RPMA), an independent wind developer in Iowa. RPMA also developed the Elk Wind Farm in Delaware County, which became operational earlier this year and is supplying power to CIPCO and its member cooperatives as well. 15-23-03-04

“These two new wind farms are good for Iowa’s economy and good for the members of Clarke Electric,” said Murdock “We are adding jobs and new development to rural Iowa and producing a clean source of electricity in the process.”

Both new wind projects will use Nordex 2.5-megawatt turbines on 328-foot high towers, the highest wind turbines in Iowa. Onsite road and substation construction activities at Hawkeye and Rippey have already begun.

Be Energy Smart: Take Advantage of 2012 Rebates

Clarke Electric offers members the opportunity to save when you use energy-efficient products. With only a few minor exceptions, the 2012 rebate programs offered by Clarke Electric Cooperative are the same as those offered in 2011. For a complete listing of our rebate programs visit www.cecnet.net or call us at 800-362-2154.

Energy SMART

**Get a
rebate on
qualifying
appliances!**



Questions or Complaints

If you have a complaint about Clarke Electric’s service rather than rates, you can reach a representative of the cooperative by contacting us during normal business hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, at 641-342-2173 or 800-362-2154.

Or you can write to: Member Advocate, Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc., 1103 N. Main Street, Osceola, Iowa 50213.

If you have a complaint related to Clarke Electric’s service rather than its rates, and your complaint is not resolved, you may ask for help from: Utilities Division, Department of Commerce, 1375 E. Court Ave., Room 69, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0069, 877-565-4450.

2011 YEAR END TOTALS



395 co-ops
in **45** states.

31.5 million
cards and key fobs
in circulation.

22,656
discount offers on
connections.coop.

\$41 million
saved by co-op
members on
prescriptions alone.



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

2012 Is the "International Year of Cooperatives"

Electric cooperatives and other members of the co-op family take center stage globally in 2012, designated the International Year of Cooperatives.

The International Year of Cooperatives' theme, "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World," resonates with co-ops in the electric, banking, food, retail, housing, and marketing arenas.

"We're surrounded by a diverse mix of cooperatives," states Bill Freeman, GM of Clarke Electric Cooperative. "No matter what kind of co-op you belong to, two things are clear: we put people first, and we are innovators. By getting neighbors and communities to work together, co-op members build a better world."

What are Co-ops?

Cooperatives are a global network of independent, local businesses owned by those they serve.

"We share a common set of business principles and values like self-help and democracy," explains Freeman. "Each co-op exists to meet the needs of its members."

"As a member, you have a voice in how your co-op operates. That keeps the co-op's focus on you and how best to meet your needs," notes Freeman.

The innovative practices of co-ops provide consumer-focused solutions that can adapt quickly to change. For example, food co-ops introduced food nutrition labels long before they were federally required in 1994. Credit unions fought the predatory

practices of payday lenders by introducing salary advance loans that double as savings accounts.

Electric cooperatives like Clarke Electric are leading the way nationally in deploying technologies that enhance service reliability.

"You can find co-ops for all walks of life," says Freeman. "When people unite with a common goal, the co-op business model comes into play."

Lighting the World

Not only does 2012 mark a global celebration of the cooperative business model, it also marks the 50th anniversary of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International Programs, a division of NRECA. The theme, "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World," shines in the work NRECA International Programs does every day.

Working together, more than 300 U.S. electric cooperatives have delivered the benefits of safe and reliable electric service to more than 100 million people in 40-plus countries since November 1962.

In the United States, co-ops helped electricity evolve from a luxury to an essential part of daily life. Yet more than 2 billion people around the globe still live without power—64 million in Latin America, 500 million in Africa, and more than 1 billion in Asia.

Learn more about how you can help electric co-ops build a better world at www.NRECAFoundation.coop. For more information about co-ops, visit www.go.coop.

CELEBRATE
THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF COOPERATIVES!



Learn About Co-ops

**Electric Cooperatives
Build a Better World**

Member-owned electric co-ops transformed the landscape of rural America, delivering safe, reliable, and affordable electricity for 75 years. www.nreca.org

DID YOU KNOW?

- Electric co-op lines cover 75 percent of the U.S. landmass.
- Serve 42 million people in 47 states.
- Electric co-ops have retired \$9.5 billion to members (capital credits) since 1990.

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY:

Every June, more than 1,500 high school juniors take part in an educational trip to Washington, D.C. during the Rural Electric Youth Tour.

72 years of answering the call



DECEMBER OUTAGES

Animals/birds: 1
Contractor crew cut trees: 2
Construction: 1
Customer caused: 1
Equipment/maintenance failure: 5



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.

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Our Web site: 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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