

CLOSED Circuit

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Official Publication of
 **CLARKE**

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

The employees
and directors of
Clarke Electric
Cooperative wish
our members a very

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**

NOTE: Beginning January 1, 2012, the Cooperative will no longer stock or sell electrical wiring or supplies, including light bulbs.

Cooperative Makes Rate Adjustment

Your Cooperative will be implementing a rate adjustment to three rate classes in the spring of 2012. This past year the Cooperative underwent an independent Cost of Service Study (COSS) to measure whether our revenue is covering our expenses. This calculation is performed within each rate class to make sure each class is structured properly and is capturing the correct revenue. One of the things found during this study was that the residential classes need to be modified in order to ensure that each member

pays their share of the cost for having the poles and wires built and maintained at their service. The best way to accomplish this in a fair and equitable manner is to move to a two-tiered availability charge with a flat kWh rate. If you are a low kWh user, you will be charged a new availability fee with a flat kWh rate, and if you are a high kWh user, your availability fee will remain the same with the new flat rate. This new structure will affect the low and high users but

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Valley of the Moon Commercial Poults, Inc., Honored With Venture Award From IADG



Valley of the Moon Commercial Poults, Inc., of Osceola, Iowa, received the 2011 "Outstanding Business of the Year" Venture Award in recognition of outstanding business achievement in Iowa. Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) Director Debi Durham presented the award on behalf of the Iowa Area Development Group L.C., (IADG). Rand Fisher, IADG President, said "the company's new facility (the world's largest turkey hatchery) is a testament to vision, courage and innovation. The new hatchery is precisely the kind of investment that is helping Iowa become a world leader in poultry production and processing."

The 2011 "Outstanding Business of the Year" Venture Award was presented to Valley of the Moon Commercial Poults, Inc., and Aviagen Turkeys, Inc., a global market leader in poultry genetics, for locating Valley of the Moon Commercial Poults in Osceola, Iowa. Valley of the Moon Commercial Poults was nominated for the Iowa Venture Award by Clarke Electric Cooperative. The new 87,000 sq. ft. single-stage hatchery, with capacity to incubate over 50 million

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2012 Budget and Work Plan Approved



Bill Freeman
CEC Manager

Our focus for 2012 will shift to the Department of Energy (DOE) Smart Grid Project and system upgrades.

Clarke Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors approved the new 2012 Budget and Work Plan in November. Management and staff annually develop this document as a guideline for the Cooperative's operations throughout the year. The annual budget reflects the Cooperative's long-standing commitment to provide our member-consumers with reliable service in a timely manner, while maintaining the financial integrity of the organization.

Annual projections indicate that electricity sales will remain stable with little to no growth for 2012, as was the case in 2011.

Because we finished up the FEMA projects at the end of 2011, our focus for 2012 will shift to the Department of Energy (DOE) Smart Grid Project and system upgrades. The DOE project is a complex, multi-faceted installation of technology designed to positively impact our system's functionality.

We began step three of the DOE project with automated digital meter deployment of all substations in the eight-county service area and completed new meter installations in the I-35 and Osceola substations in November. A new backhaul communication system will be put in place in the spring of 2012. New reclosures, regulators, and distribution switches will be placed throughout the system. All components of the technology will be tied together by the end of 2012.

The Board of Directors provides leadership and direction through the analysis and approval of the Cooperative's annual budget. As member-consumers, your support and loyal patronage is essential to the success of this Cooperative as we continue our efforts in providing you safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

Rate Adjustment

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the average member will likely see a decrease.

Another thing the study showed was that some of our residential members should be reclassified as a commercial account. The Cooperative will continue to assess the members to make sure they are in the proper rate class. The last change we found necessary will be to increase the large power rate very slightly.

Utilizing the study's results, the staff recommended and the

Board of Directors approved a rate increase of approximately 2.9 percent or \$208,796. The tables below show you the old and new charges/rates.

We are committed to providing you with reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible electric service. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this rate adjustment, we encourage you to call our office at 641-342-2173. We will do our best to answer your questions and

we look forward to working with you on ways that you may be able to reduce your monthly bill. One strategy may be to implement energy efficiency improvements in your home or sign up for our budget billing program. Look for more ideas each month in our newsletter, *Closed Circuit*, and on our Web site at www.cecnet.net. We're here to help and to deliver the reliable power you've come to know and expect. 42-36-06-00

Single phase – non-commercial

OLD STRUCTURE	RATE
Availability charge	\$26
First 1,000 kWhs	\$0.127
Balance of kWhs	\$0.0805
NEW STRUCTURE	RATE
Availability charge <= 250 kWh	\$35
Availability charge > 250 kWh	\$26
Flat kWhs	\$0.10

Single phase – non-commercial (urban)

OLD STRUCTURE	RATE
Availability charge	\$16.50
First 1,000 kWhs	\$0.127
Balance of kWhs	\$0.0805
NEW STRUCTURE	RATE
Availability charge <= 250 kWh	\$22.25
Availability charge > 250 kWh	\$16.50
Flat kWhs	\$0.10

Large power – over 1,000 kVa

	OLD	NEW
Availability charge	\$425	No change
Demand	\$12.50	No change
First 200 kWh/kW	\$0.071	No change
Balance kWh/kW	\$0.040	\$0.048

CEC Service Awards

2011 Employee Awards



2 years: Meter Technician Scott Davis and Manager of Finance David Opie



5 years: Service Technician Chris DeVore and Electrician Adam McCuddin



10 years: Journeyman Lineman Tim Lupkes



20 years: Operations and Engineering Administrative Assistant Julie Kerns



40 years: Manager of Operations and Engineering Don Lange

2011 Director Awards



1 term: Randy Gaumer, Larry Jackson, and Bill Willis

Momentum Is Building Conference Scheduled

Clarke Electric Cooperative will join other Iowa Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives in sponsoring the annual Momentum Is Building conference February 16-17, 2012, at the Sheraton West Des Moines hotel. Reserve your seat today for the latest information and CEU's in the HVAC and plumbing industries. 14-29-06-00

The conference offers up-to-date building science information, practical hands-on information, and new technology displays for building trades professionals—including homebuilders, electricians, and heating-

plumbing contractors. Rural electric cooperative personnel from across the state also attend.

Nationally recognized speakers will share their knowledge on topics including trends and commonly asked questions in energy efficient building, ventilation systems, water heaters, energy efficient plumbing through the Uniform Plumbing Code, energy efficiency through the International Mechanical Code and National Electrical Code details, and common code violations. Momentum Is Building also includes a trade

show so attendees can visit with companies about new products.

For more information or to register as an attendee or exhibitor, contact Jason Gibbs at 641-342-2173 or 800-362-2154. You can also find more detailed information and register online at www.momentumisbuilding.com.



Reading Pays!

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



1

Going South for the Winter? Save energy while you're gone

Energy
SMART

If you are planning to go south for the winter, Safe Electricity offers these tips to help lower your energy bill and keep your house safe in your absence:



2

1 Unplug some of your household appliances - Your house has many items that always use electricity when they're plugged in, even when turned off. Unplugging these items not only saves energy, in some cases it can lower the risk of fire during your absence. Some of the more common items include: television sets, DVD players, VCRs, cable TV boxes, microwave ovens, and toasters.



3

2 Adjust the refrigerator control to a warmer setting - The fridge can be as high as 40° F without spoiling food; the freezer can reach 5° F. On these settings, you can save up to 40 percent of the refrigerator's electric usage. If you are going on an extended trip, consider emptying the fridge and turning it off (remember to leave the door open to prevent mildew).

3 Set the thermostat higher or lower than the typical comfort level - You should consider lowering your thermostat, but to no lower than 55° F. Typically, by doing this, you can save 10 to 30 percent on your heating costs. You can shut the air conditioner off during your absence, or at least consider setting it to a higher than normal temperature, such as 80° F. A programmable thermostat can make these adjustments automatically.



4

4 Turn down the water heater - A large percentage of the cost of running a water heater comes from just keeping the water at the selected temperature. If you are going on a lengthy trip, turn down the water heater's temperature to the lowest setting. This can save you up to \$10 a month.

Safe Electricity wants to remind everyone this holiday season that a safe and efficient celebration is the best celebration. Please keep your holidays bright, and follow the suggestions of Safe Electricity.

High School Juniors: Win a Free Trip to Washington D.C.

The annual opportunity for high school juniors to receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., is here. The trip, which will take place in June, will give the winner an opportunity to travel with approximately 40 students from across Iowa and more than 1,000 students nationwide. The students will see the national monuments, the National Archives, Capitol Hill, and the Smithsonian Museums, visit the Holocaust Museum and Mount Vernon, cruise the Potomac River, and more.

The trip is coordinated by the state organization that provides services and assistance programs to Iowa's RECs. Clarke Electric sponsors this trip every year. Any eleventh grade student living in Clarke Electric's service area is eligible to compete for the trip. The contest will involve writing an essay and appearing before a panel of judges, which will make the final selection.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Phone _____ CEC Acct # _____

School _____

Parents' Names _____

To receive application materials, students can call Jason Gibbs at 641-342-2173 or 1-800-362-2154, or clip the form above and send it to Clarke Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 161, Osceola, IA 50213. The deadline to apply is March 7, 2012. Essay deadline March 21, judging April 4.

Valley of the Moon Commercial Poults, Inc., Honored

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eggs per year and provide poults throughout the U.S., is the largest turkey hatchery in world.

Iowa Area Development Group (IADG), on behalf of Iowa's rural electric cooperatives and member municipal electric systems, honored eight other distinguished Iowa companies with the Iowa Venture Award this year.

"The Iowa Venture Award honors the entrepreneurial spirit of


individuals and organizations. The ceremony is a celebration of the courage, contribution, innovation, social responsibility, and vision of Iowa entrepreneurs. It has become evident that our honorees are among the most accomplished and successful companies in the state. Together they help sustain and grow Iowa's economy. Iowa Area Development Group on behalf of our sponsors is grateful to have the opportunity to honor and recognize these outstanding Iowa companies," said IADG president, Rand Fisher.

72 years of answering the call

CEC cares for your **SAFETY**

NOVEMBER OUTAGES

Trees: 4
 Trees with ice and snow: 6
 Animals/birds: 1
 Equipment failure: 13
 Customer caused: 2
 House-road move: 2
 Maintenance: 2
 Major storm: 23




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

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

Office Hours:

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

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