

How can we serve you?

A WORD FROM



Craig Codner, CEO
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At Butler County REC, one of our goals is to find ways to help you control energy costs. That's why we communicate with you about energy prices and ways we can work together to help ease the impact on your wallet.

We offer a number of services to do just that. Whether it's budget billing, energy assessments, load control receivers (LCR), rebates, the Co-op Connections card or LED security lights, to name a few, our services are designed to make your life a little easier.

To help you monitor your energy usage, we offer SmartHub—on our website at butlerrec.coop and in the SmartHub app. By using this free service, you can keep tabs on when your energy usage is high, what appliances use the most electricity and other details about your energy use.

As a member of Butler County REC, take advantage of our energy-efficiency programs. We offer free assessments to assess common problems that cause homes to use more energy. We can tell you more about the latest technologies for heating, cooling and lighting in a home, including heat pumps, LED lights and more.

In addition, we have rebates for everything from appliances

to water heaters, and many items in between.

When you use electricity is just as important as *how much* you use. Most households use larger amounts of electricity in the mornings and in the evenings. If you lower your energy use during those on-peak hours, that lowers our power charges from Corn Belt Power Cooperative, our supplier, and in turn lowers your bill. In addition, if you have an electric water heater, we can install an LCR to help combat higher energy prices during those on-peak times.

We also offer plug-in Peak Alert devices to monitor when systemwide energy is in high demand. On the device, green is normal usage, yellow is approaching peak and red is at peak, taking the guess work out of when to cut back on your usage. Contact our office to receive a device. They are available on a first come-first served basis.

If you are interested in renewable generation—installing or supporting—be sure to contact us for information. Consider participating in Energy Wise Renewables. All contributions go to support small-scale distributed generation in our service territory. You can make a one-time contribution or we can add the amount to your monthly bill. Call the office for a participation form.

When you have questions about energy efficiency, electrical service or any of our products or services, just ask us. We're always glad to hear from you. When we know what you want, we're in a better position to help.

Risse chosen for youth council

Jacob Risse, Sumner, represented Butler County REC at the 2018 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D. C., June 8-14. He was with 36 other high school students representing Iowa's not-for-profit electric cooperatives and over 1,800 students from around the country.

Risse, a senior at Wapsie Valley High School, is the son of Butler County REC members Thomas and Jodi Risse. He commented, "Thank you so much for being an amazing co-op! The Washington, D.C. Youth Tour has truly been an experience of a lifetime! I look forward to bringing my new perspective on our great nation back to my school and community! THANK YOU!"

While on the trip, Risse was selected as the Iowa representative for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Leadership Council. He returned to Washington, D.C. in July for a workshop focusing on leadership, public speaking and the electric cooperative industry. The council also plays an important role in NRECA's spring annual meeting.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington, D.C., for 60 years. Students apply and are selected for this program by their local electric cooperative.



Jacob Risse

Keep utility poles clean

Everyone has seen or hung posters of miscellaneous announcements on utility poles. While it may seem like a harmless act, these items can cause harm to utility workers and are illegal in many areas.

Utility workers climb the poles to work around power lines that carry thousands of volts of electricity. Staples or nails embedded in the pole can lead to the utility worker snagging or getting a hole in their gloves, meant to insulate workers from high voltage and protect them from being electrocuted.

Foreign objects put into wooden utility poles can also cause poles to deteriorate more quickly, reducing their structural integrity and stability and increasing the risk for the pole to fall over when struck by a vehicle.

Hunting stands and basketball hoops have also been found attached to utility poles. This is dangerous for utility workers, yourself and anyone who uses these items. Keep as much distance between yourself and overhead power lines when doing any outdoor activity. In addition, under no circumstances should a satellite dish be attached to a utility pole.

Keep yourself and those in your community safe by not posting or hanging anything on utility poles. Find other alternatives such as yard stakes or online community groups.



Sen. Grassley visits Corn Belt Power

Corn Belt Power Cooperative, power supplier to your cooperative, welcomed Sen. Chuck Grassley to its Humboldt headquarters earlier this summer, where he visited about energy issues with approximately 45 co-op employees, managers and directors. The visit served as part of his annual 99-county town meeting schedule.



Ken Kuyper (l), Corn Belt Power executive vice president and general manager, speaks with Sen. Chuck Grassley.

Participants discussed the importance of the ethanol industry to Iowa's electric cooperatives, citing how 25 percent of the electricity Corn Belt Power's member co-ops deliver serves ethanol plants. Electric co-op representatives also detailed Corn Belt Power's Revolving Loan Fund.

Corn Belt Power personnel discussed the importance of 24/7 energy sources, especially in a market where tax incentives have created low cost wind generation. On May 14 when the wind was not blowing, high temperatures resulted in Corn Belt Power being called to run all of its combustion turbines and diesel generation – units that rarely operate. With early retirements of coal and nuclear plants, there is concern that the country may face a shortage of generation should there not be adequate compensation for coal and nuclear generation.

Sen. Grassley commented, "The war on coal is part of the problem. Everybody wants to do away with coal. The country won't wake up until we have some massive brownout that you're talking about. We couldn't predict on May 14 that the wind wouldn't blow. We ought to have investment that is over protection against brownouts."

Don't toy with your safety!

When you are playing outside, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations, and other equipment your electric co-op uses to send electricity to your home.



Flying kites or remote controlled toys is a great way to have fun, but accidentally making contact with a power line or other electrical equipment can be dangerous and in some cases, even deadly.

- Never fly kites or remote controlled toys near power lines.
- Stay away from power lines, meters, transformers and electrical boxes.
- Never climb trees near power lines.
- If you get something stuck in a power line, call your electric co-op immediately.
- Never touch or go near a downed power line.

Geothermal incentives timetable

If you're considering a geothermal unit, now is the time to act. With the passage and signing into law of SF 2417, state-level geothermal credits are set to be eliminated beginning January 1, 2019.

Year	Federal Tax Credit Available	State Tax Credit Available
2018	30%	20% of federal tax credit
2019	30%	0%
2020	26%	0%
2021	22%	0%
2022 & Beyond	0%	0%

Contact your Touchstone Energy cooperative energy advisor today!

Skip the extended warranty

Almost one-third of consumers buy an extended warranty for a new cell phone, computer or appliance—but consumer advocates say that is most often a waste of money.



Give serious consideration as to whether to purchase an extended warranty.

Consider the average cost of a three-year extended warranty for a new dishwasher, which is \$157, according to Angie's List. Compare that with the \$159 average bill for a dishwasher repair.

They cancel each other—unless your dishwasher never breaks down during the warranty period.

Extended warranties come with exclusions, so read the fine print before you sign up. Most do not cover routine maintenance or damage that the owner accidentally causes. And some exclude parts of appliances.

You can void the warranty if you do not have your appliance regularly and professionally maintained.

Some warranties come with deductibles or charge a service fee every time you use them.

Still, in a survey by the Warranty Group, a warranty and underwriting company, consumers who bought extended warranties reported feeling more satisfied with their purchases than those who didn't.

Buyers are most likely to purchase extended warranties on exercise machines, major appliances and digital cameras, according to the survey, and least likely to buy them for mobile phones, computers and tablets.

Power to Your Community

Visit the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa booth to learn more and register to win one of three Instant Pots.

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Touchstone Energy
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Attending Farm Progress Show?

Visit the Rural Electric Cooperatives of Iowa at Lot 10S to enter prize drawings, learn about electric safety, energy efficiency and more!

August 28 - 30 - Boone, Iowa

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives



Bryce Bruns



Ethan Litterer



Matt Rottink



Kayla Siemens

Summer help appreciated at Butler County REC

Every year Butler County REC welcomes summer help to the organization. This year, we had the pleasure of working with Bryce Bruns, Ethan Litterer, Matt Rottink and Kayla Siemens.

Bruns, from Allison and a graduate of North Butler High School in Greene, returned for his second year helping us at the Allison warehouse. He will be a sophomore at Iowa State University this fall, majoring in agriculture studies.

Litterer, of Clarksville and a May graduate of Clarksville High School, was also helping in the Allison warehouse. This fall he will attend powerline school at Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC) in Sheldon.

Rottink, of Waverly, graduated from Waverly-Shell Rock High School in May. He is working out of the Horton warehouse. He will also be attending NCC this fall to become a power lineman.

Siemens, of Allison, graduated in 2017 from North Butler High School, Greene. She is helping in the office this summer. She will return to Upper Iowa University, Fayette, this fall to continue her studies in accounting.



Employees volunteer at Butler County Fair

Butler County REC employees showed their Commitment to Community and Teamwork, two of our core values, at Kids' Day at the Butler County Fair.

The employees served 250 free hot dogs, potato chips and bottled water. Shelly Codner of Iowa Waste Exchange helped kids make magnets. This is the third year Butler County REC and Codner have teamed up for this event.

Participating were (above, l to r) Jon Oltmann, coordinating crew chief; Jon's wife, Diane; John Groen, crew chief; Tyler Aukes, first-class lineman; Anne Sesker, public relations specialist; Sandi Miller, office and human resource manager; Mandy Brouwer, billing clerk; Mandy's daughter, Justine Grummitt; and John Endelman, operations manager. Grill master (right) was Mike Miller, mechanic/warehouseman.



Our Values Integrity | Accountability | Innovation | Commitment to Community | Teamwork

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