

A WORD FROM



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Power down when temps go up

When we were in the middle of our long winter, it was hard to imagine turning on the air conditioner. But here we are. Finally.

Before turning on your air conditioner—or adjusting the temperature to make

room helps bring down humidity levels.

Ceiling fans can also help when set to blow air downward. Table and ceiling fans are helpful when used to move the air in the areas in which you are more active. The wind chill effect helps make you feel cooler. Remember to turn off the fans when you leave the room. Fans cool people, not spaces.

Something else to consider when electricity demand is higher is shifting household chores, such as laundry and vacuuming, to a time when the demand is normal.

Although you can't always change meal time, you can change how you make your meals. Everything about the oven that makes the kitchen so warm and inviting in the winter, can make your meter really turn in late spring through early fall.

Consider using your Instant Pot, slow cooker or microwave. These appliances heat food more efficiently in less space, keeping kitchens cooler.

If you have an electric Marathon water heater, receive a one-time \$10 bill credit for a load control receiver installation. This allows Corn Belt Power to shut off the water heater from time-to-time to

reduce demand. You probably won't even notice when they shut it off.

We can also provide you with a free peak alert device, while supplies last, that gives instant updates when peak demand situations are approaching or occurring.

These measures save energy and money for the cooperative and, in turn, you. If we can be of service, please contact us.

PEAK MONITOR:



Check the Peak Monitor on our website to see if we are in a high energy demand situation.

it cooler, washing clothes or running the dishwasher—consider visiting our website and looking at the “PEAK MONITOR” in the upper-right corner. The monitor will let you know if our system is normal (green), approaching peak (yellow) or at peak (red).

When approaching or at peak, this means a large number of members on Corn Belt Power Cooperative's system are using a lot of electricity. Corn Belt Power, Humboldt, Iowa, is our generation and transmission cooperative. They provide the power to us that we provide to you.

If the system is approaching or at peak, consider waiting to lower your thermostat.

On mild days, fans are an alternative to air conditioning. On warm days, at a lower fan setting, the air blowing across a

Let's keep our lineworkers safe

No one would argue that lineworkers have dangerous jobs. Not only do they work with electricity, but at times they have to work on roadways as cars go by sometimes in excess of 60 mph. You can help make their jobs safer, though.

Iowa's "Move Over or Slow Down" law states that a motorist must change lanes or slow down when approaching vehicles with flashing lights activated. This includes bucket trucks. We encourage you to move over AND slow down.

Drivers are urged to take an online pledge to obey Iowa's Move Over or Slow Down law at www.MoveOverIowa.com, and tell friends and family to do the same.

When driving, keep your eyes on the road and make room for maintenance workers. Their jobs are dangerous enough already.



MOVE OVER
SLOW DOWN



Play it safe around lightning

There's nothing like spending a warm day outside enjoying your favorite sports activity, whether it's on the golf course, baseball diamond or out on a fishing boat, to name a few. When the weather is right for outdoor sports, it can also be perfect conditions for a thunderstorm to roll in, with the potential for lightning.

About 30 people are killed by lightning each year, according to the National Weather Service. Two-thirds of those fatalities are associated with outdoor recreational activities. Your Touchstone Energy cooperative wants you to be safe this season. Please follow these tips while participating in outdoor sports:

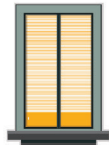
- Organized sports activities should have a designated official that will watch for approaching dark clouds and any lightning in the area. Designated officials and anyone participating in outdoor sports should have a lightning safety plan with tips on: when the activity should be stopped, where people should go for safety and when activities can resume.
- Stop outdoor activity if you see lightning. Lightning can strike up to 10 to 15 miles away from the storm. Follow the simple phrase: "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors."
- No place outside is safe during a storm including dugouts, sheds or rain shelters. If you don't have access to a sturdy building, a hard-topped metal vehicle with the windows rolled up would provide good protection from the elements.

Because electrical charges can linger in clouds even if the storm has passed, weather experts recommend you wait 30 minutes after the last thunder you hear before resuming any outdoor activity. If it is an organized sports activity, the designated official should make the call on when to return to the field.

Whether it is an organized sports activity, a round of golf with friends or a game of basketball in the driveway, plan to make your outdoor sports safe this season and don't let lightning strike you out.

Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!



NO-COST TIPS

Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.



LOW-COST TIPS

Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



Turn off the lights without making a move

“Turn off the lights!” If you’re tired of reminding everyone in your house to turn off the lights when they leave a room, install light switches that do it for them.

Motion-sensing light switches contain small sensors that detect movement in a room. When they sense motion, they turn the lights on, and when all is still, they switch the lights off.

Buy a good-quality model that is not so sensitive that it will flick on the lights every time a fly buzzes into the room. On the other hand, avoid models that only sense major movements or you’ll wind up waving your hands at the sensor every time you’re working at your computer or watching TV and the switch thinks the room is empty.

The switches are easy to install. First, shut off the electricity at the breaker. Next, remove your existing switch and face plate and disconnect the wires. Reconnect the wires to the motion-activated switch, screw it back into the wall and reattach the face plate.

For rooms that you use most often during the day, install a motion-sensor switch that also detects daylight. It will switch the light on only when there is motion and the room is too dark.

Proper steps for ladder safety

Most people at some point this summer will find themselves climbing up a ladder. Whether you’re a contractor doing daily work or a weekend warrior trying to complete a DIY project, your cooperative wants to make sure you make the proper steps to stay safe.

Always take time to look up, and practice safety. When using a ladder, it is never safe to touch or get near a power line.



It is a common myth that power lines are insulated. Lines may be coated for weather protection but not to provide protection from the electrical current.

We recommend these steps for safety when using a ladder:

- Carry ladders horizontally.
- Make sure the area above the ladder is clear before placing it upright.
- Ask for help when carrying and setting up long ladders.
- Always make sure that your ladder is on a solid, level surface before attempting to climb.
- Keep yourself and the ladder far away—at least 10 feet in all directions, at all times—from power lines, including service lines.
- Inspect your ladder before and after use to make sure there is no damage that could put yourself or other users in danger.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Going the Extra Mile

Did you know electric cooperatives maintain more miles of power lines per consumer and acquire less revenue than other types of electric utilities?

Even though they serve fewer consumers and acquire less revenue (per mile of line), electric co-ops always go the extra mile, maintaining a tried-and-true record of delivering safe, reliable electric service to the members they serve.



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives

The power of human connections®

Electric Cooperatives

Number of consumers served: **8**



Revenue:

\$19,000

Other Electric Utilities

Number of consumers served: **32**



Revenue:

\$79,000

*Sources: EIA, 2016 data.
Includes revenue and consumer averages per mile of line.*

Risse to attend Youth Tour

Congratulations to Jacob Risse, a junior at Wapsie Valley High School, representing Butler County REC at the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 8-14.

Jacob, the son of Butler County REC members Thomas and Jodi Risse, Sumner, is active in band, FFA and church.

"I am excited for the opportunity to build new leadership skills and represent Butler County REC this summer in Washington, D.C.," Risse said.

On the Youth Tour, Risse will join students from more than 20 additional electric cooperatives in Iowa and over 1,000 students from across America to explore our nation's capital. The fast-paced informative week gives the students a better understanding of the role electric cooperatives play in our country.



Schmitt awarded scholarship

Congratulations to Dawson Schmitt, a recent high school graduate and attendee of the 2017 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. last summer. He qualified for a \$500 scholarship from Butler County REC.

Schmitt plans to attend Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny.

Of the tour, he said, "It was truly an amazing experience where I got to meet new people and see new places! I think it is safe to say that I would not trade the experience I had and memories I made for the world."

Butler County REC wishes Dawson the best of luck as he pursues his degree.



EnergyWise Renewables program supports renewable energy

Butler County REC's EnergyWise Renewables program was established in 2006 to give co-op members the opportunity to support member-owned renewable energy projects in its service territory. Initially, the program supported only wind generation. Today the program includes solar and any type of distributed generation that provides an alternative or enhancement to the traditional electric power system. All contributions go to support small-scale distributed generation in our service territory. Butler County REC does not charge for the administration of this program.

To take part in this voluntary program, complete the information below and return to Butler County REC. If you already contribute, there is nothing you need to do now. Your participation is greatly appreciated.



EnergyWise Renewables Participation Form

I wish to support (the amount you select will be automatically added to your monthly power bill):

- 100 kilowatt-hours (\$1.50 per month)
- 200 kilowatt-hours (\$3.00 per month)
- 300 kilowatt-hours (\$4.50 per month)
- 400 kilowatt-hours (\$6.00 per month)
- Other per month _____. Maximum contribution is 3,000 kilowatt-hours (\$45.00 per month)
- One-time contribution. I wish to support EnergyWise Renewables with a one-time contribution. My check for _____ is enclosed.

Name _____ Account Number _____

Signature _____ Date _____

INtouch is published monthly for members of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative
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