



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Reliable. Affordable. Responsible



July 2018

Attend Your Annual Meeting

It's not every company that invites its customers to an annual meeting to elect the board of directors and help set policy.

But your electric Cooperative does just that.

When you signed up as a consumer of RVEC, you automatically became a member and a part-owner.

Cooperatives use a business model that's different from other companies. They don't sell stock on Wall Street, so there are no out-of-town investors. Control of your Cooperative is local.

You may run for a seat on the board of directors, if you'd like. You may vote for the candidates who do run — and

know that every candidate is also a consumer of RVEC.

It's important to attend your cooperative's Annual Meeting on September 5, 2018. It's a place where you can meet the CEO and staff. You can get to know the directors who advise the staff and decide on important policy matters.

It's also where you can vote for the board of directors and learn what kinds of business issues RVEC is dealing with.

Membership in your Cooperative comes with these privileges. It also comes with the responsibility of casting your vote for the directors you think will do the best job.



It's a Boy!

On June 2nd Lineman Adam Wittrock & his wife Kenzie became proud parents of a baby boy. Corbyn was born weighing 7lbs 9oz and was 19 inches long. Congratulations Adam and Kenzie.

Reduce Energy Usage During Peak Hours

Peak hours are the busiest time for RVEC, since many member-owners are using electricity at the same time. It also costs RVEC more to buy electricity when the demand is high during these peak times, and the cost of your future electricity may also rise. Using less electricity during peak periods of time saves money.

Here's what you can do to help us help you during peak hours. These hours are usually during the hottest summer days between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.

- Shift household chores and activities away from peak periods. For example, wait to run your dishwasher until you go to bed at nights.
- Use the most energy-efficient appliances you have. Your microwave uses considerably less energy than your stove or cook top range. 19.04.02
- If you're buying a new appliance, make sure you purchase a highly efficient appliance. Look for "Energy Star" labels when you're evaluating.
- Be aware of your energy consumption, and try to get in the habit of using energy efficiently all year!



— CEO Comments — Energy Bill Provides Affordability

By Jim Gossett, CEO

RVEC applauds our state legislators who voted for passage of Senate File 2311, an energy bill that has several sections beneficial to member-owners of Iowa's electric cooperatives, especially regarding affordability. Further, we want to applaud Governor Reynolds for signing the bill into law.

This bill provides much-needed regulatory parity and clarity for electric cooperatives. With a business model grounded in local control and governance, we are in business solely to serve you – our member-owners.

The energy efficiency sections of SF 2311 attracted a great deal attention. Nothing in this bill changes the requirement that RVEC will offer energy efficiency programs. As part of these offerings, the bill will ensure these programs are cost-effective – meaning that you will not foot the bill for a program that is not financially responsible. The legislation also eliminates time-consuming and duplicative reporting to the Iowa Utilities Board, which will save our employees valuable time and resources that could be directed into further serving you.

Providing robust energy efficiency programs and services has long been the foundation of our commitment to environmental stewardship, even before there was a mandate to do so. The bill signed into law by Governor Reynolds does nothing to change our commitment to energy efficiency.

The energy landscape has dramatically changed in the past 30 years, leading to more federal rules, regulations and mandates. When there are comprehensive federal policies in place, additional state mandates quickly become duplicative and unnecessary. This bill will require the Iowa Utilities Board to consider existing federal regulations before establishing similar state mandates. Again, this is beneficial for keeping your cooperative's business operations efficient and cost-effective.

Our dedication to the environment doesn't stop with energy efficiency. Through sensible investments in renewable energy like Community Solar and innovations in technology like Automated Meter Infrastructure, we continue to seek modern ways to deliver reliable, affordable and responsible electric service to our member-owners.

Beware of Phantom Loads in Your Home

You may turn off the TV, hang up the cordless phone, let your computer go to "sleep" and power down your DVD player, but all these appliances – and many others – continue to draw electricity, costing you energy dollars.

Energy use is multiplied in any appliance that has a lit display clock, memory chip, or remote control. These include TVs, DVD and CD players, cable and satellite boxes, cordless phones, microwaves, water coolers, video game players, burglar alarms and much more.

According to the Department of Energy, 40 percent of all electricity used to power home appliances is consumed when the appliances are turned off. It's also estimated that these energy "vampires" use 5 percent of our total electricity and cost U.S. consumers more than \$3 billion annually, according to the Alliance to Save Energy.

- So what can you do to save money? 14.27.01
- Look for the Energy Star label on all appliances that you purchase. Energy Star appliances may use as much as 50 percent less than other appliances.
 - Purchase appliances – such as computer and monitors – that will go into sleep (also called power management or stand-by mode) when not in use.
 - Anytime you purchase an appliance (such as a microwave) with a continually lighted display and/or clock, you will pay for the constant-on feature. If you can live without these features, your energy costs will decrease.
 - If you keep items in your entertainment center powered through power strips, you can turn off – and back on – all the equipment at once.

Touchstone Energy promotes co-op membership at Iowa State Fair

Membership in your local Touchstone Energy cooperative is a powerful thing. It means you have an energy source you can trust to look out for your community's best interests, not just its own bottom line. That's because RVEC is owned by the very members it serves – built to deliver its member-owners safe and reliable electricity at the lowest possible price.

We invite you to stop by and learn more about co-op membership at the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa display in the Bruce L. Rastetter 4-H Exhibits Building at the Iowa State Fair Aug. 9-19. 33.07.03

Located inside the 4-H Exhibits Building on the South end of the fairgrounds, the display showcases all Iowa electric cooperatives on a map of Iowa. Magnetic "markers" are available to place on the state map to show co-op membership.

Fairgoers may register to win one of three Instant Pot Ultra 10 In 1 Multi-Use Programmable Cookers from Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa. The Instant Pot is the next generation in kitchen appliances. It combines a pressure cooker, slow cooker, rice/porridge cooker, cake maker, yogurt maker, sauté/searing function, steamer, warmer and sterilizer along with custom programming for pressure and non-pressure cooking. Favorite dishes can be made and ready up to 70 percent faster.

Three winners of the Instant Pot will be chosen, at random, following the close of the fair.

Additional energy efficiency and savings information will be displayed in the booth.

Cooperative member-owners have a voice in how cooperatives are run, making sure their co-ops enhance quality of life by providing affordable electricity. Co-ops encourage member-owners to save money through responsible energy use and offer discounts on qualified products and services member-owners use every day.

Be sure to visit the Touchstone Energy display when you're at the Iowa State Fair and go to touchstoneenergy.com for more information on how to save energy and the value of cooperative membership.



Two 4-H participants at the 2017 Iowa State Fair mark their co-op on the magnetic map inside the Touchstone Energy of Cooperatives of Iowa display in the 4-H Exhibits Building. Visit the display this year and register to win an Instant Pot.

Watch Cooperative Property When Burning Ditches

It's that time of the year when many of you may be burning off the weeds, grass, etc. in your ditches.

This burning helps clean things up, but it can also cause problems if a fire is allowed to burn around RVEC poles, anchors, guy assemblies, underground cabinets and so forth.

Burning close to RVEC property not only can cause a lot of damage, but it can also be dangerous and could cause future electric service problems. Any member-owners involved may be invoiced for damage they cause to RVEC property.

To avoid damage to RVEC property, future service problems and danger to yourself and others, please watch where you burn.



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Published monthly by

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

-- Directors --

David Onken, Pres. Glidden
Jeff Cranston Odebolt
Dennis Kennebeck Carroll
Mark Ludwig Breda
Steve Seidl Coon Rapids
Mark Tigges Glidden
Karen Werner Schaller

-CEO-

Jim Gossett

-Office Address-
Headquarters

PO Box 486, 28725 Hwy 30
Glidden, IA, 51443
Phone: 712.659.3649
800.253.6211
Fax: 712.659.3716
Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

www.rvec.coop
e-mail: info@rvec.coop

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
(RVEC) is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.



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Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

Vacation Usage: Your Meter Doesn't Stop While You're Away

Vacation season is upon us and everyone will be traveling to see the sites and sounds of our great country. And while you are gone for a couple of days or weeks, your electric bill will surely go down, right? Wrong.

A lot of people believe when they are gone their electric consumption decreases or even stops. When in actuality, most electric appliances are still running unless you have taken measures to shut them off. Here are some questions that you need to ask yourself to see if your electric bill is really going to go down.

- Did you shut off your electric water heater? If not, the water heater will still run in order to maintain the temperature that you have the thermostat set at.
- Were the refrigerator and freezers emptied and turned off? Otherwise, the refrigerator and freezer will continue to run.
- Did you shut off your clocks, computers, dehumidifiers, air conditioner, lights, TVs, power ventilators and attic fans? Some of these items seem small, but everything adds up. 22.23.01

Business & Commercial Loan Programs

RVEC takes an active role in the development of rural Iowa. We provide leadership and financial participation in economic and community development. In 1996, the RVEC Board of Directors established a Revolving Loan Fund to provide a local resource for low-interest loans to area businesses.

RVEC uses a unique USDA program, the Rural Economic Development Grant & Loan program, that allows up to \$360,000 at 0% interest financing to assist a non-profit organizations with a community development project. When the loan is re-paid, all the money stays with RVEC, allowing us to provide low-interest loans to additional qualifying business and community projects.

This is a great way for RVEC to demonstrate concern for community, one of the seven cooperative principles. The RVEC Revolving Loan Fund has assisted more than twenty projects since 1996. As a member, you can be proud of our efforts together to invest in the long-term improvement of the area's rural economy.

If you would like more information about RVEC's Revolving Loan Fund, contact Jim Gossett, CEO, at 712.659.3649.

Spot Your Number

Read Watts Current and watch for your location number. If you spot it, call Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) by the 20th of the month and you will receive an electrical bill credit for \$25.00.