



Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

March 2023

Lineworker Appreciation Day

LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY



#ThankALineworker



America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day. Southwest Iowa REC gratefully supports our 17 linemen that maintain roughly 2,525 miles of power lines in our service territory and recognizing the risks they take to carry out their daily duties. We would like to take this opportunity on April 10th to acknowledge and appreciate those men at Southwest Iowa REC that work so hard to provide our members with safe and reliable energy 24 hours a day throughout the entire year!

March 17th

St. Patrick's Day



Help us Find these Former Members

We are looking for the following former members of the cooperative. This month, we will be showing names listed A-J and next month we will do K-Z. These members have patronage checks at our offices. If the member is deceased, we would like to have a family member contact us with estate information so we can refund their patronage. Thank you for your help

Last name	First Name	Last name	First Name
Almquist	Gary	First Preston Mgmt	
Andersen	Christopher and Sherry L	Frisbie	Bobby and Misty
		Frontier Communications	
Anderson	Kay	Gallup	Scott & Melinda
Anderson	Jerry	Gray	Kyle A
Arkatek Inc		Gray	Danny
Armstrong	Niel	Green	Thomas R
Armstrong	Bert A	Gregerson	Mary
Ballain	Wanda F	Grose	Larry
Bals	Haley	Guilford	Gary %Guilford
Barnum Jr	Harry		Farm Inv. LLC
Beemer	Brannen	Gurner	Larry
Benton	Darrell	Gut	Tammy & Robert
Blair	Duane	Haigwood	Mike & Barb
Blake	Jeffrey and Shannon	Hammers	Homer L
		Hatfield	Sandra
Bleavins	John E	Hickman	Ralph JR %Glen
Bowman	Josh		Hickman
BP Products North America		Hickman	Ralph SR %Glen
Byriel	Jo		Hickman
Casey	Duane	Hoffman	Mary
Christensen	Kenny	Hollinrake	Pat
Clover	David S. & Lucy A	Houk	Mike
Clymer	Mitchell	Hoyt	Callie
Cole	Judith L	Hunt	Sanford
Colwell	Wendy	Jackson	Dustin
Custom Homes Of Iowa		James	Eric and Frank
Danielson	Leonard	Jesina	Jason %Iowa DNR
Davies	Leonard and Sundae Nordstrom	Jeter	Mt Ayr Wildlife Unit
		Jones	Oren
Davis	Larry M & Shirley J	Jones	David and Beverly
Dorsey	Kathy		Jordan D and Jacob
Drevet	Steve		D Tacker
Enarson	Richard	Joyslin	Jane B
Fay	Mearl E and Paul	Juergens	Dale

CEO's COMMENTS:

Cost-of-Service Study Underway in 2023

Southwest Iowa REC's Board of Directors has authorized a cost-of-service study to be conducted by the rate specialists at the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (NRUCFC). This cost-of-service study is now underway and will provide an analysis of all rate classes.

At Southwest Iowa REC, we work hard every day to provide you with the best service possible while also striving to keep rates affordable.

However, just like many of the items you purchase have risen in cost, the costs to deliver electricity creep up over time as well. Southwest Iowa REC has not increased its base rate since 2011 but did implement a revenue-neutral rate structure change in 2015.

The main purpose of a cost-of-service study is to review Southwest Iowa REC's existing rates to ensure that adequate revenues are collected to maintain a solid financial condition allowing us to deliver reliable electric service and avoid subsidization between rate classes.

Rate setting is a detailed process that your board of directors takes seriously. As the electric industry changes to include more member-owned on-site generation and electric vehicle charging, the rate setting process will need to evolve to ensure that those who directly benefit from service are paying an appropriate share of the costs. This protects all member-owners of Southwest Iowa REC.

Stay tuned to future editions of the Southwest Lines where we will keep you updated on the Cost-of-Service Study progress and results.

Director Nomination Process to Begin Soon

Southwest Iowa REC's board elections will be held at the annual meeting on Thursday, September 7, 2023. Members will have the opportunity to vote by mail ahead of the meeting or in person at the meeting.

Serving on Southwest Iowa REC's board means you're making a difference locally, using your individual talents and perspective to guide big decisions about

direction

- co-op's community/charitable contributions
- capital investments and upgrades in equipment and technology
- renewable investments and energy mix
- co-op's role and involvement in economic development



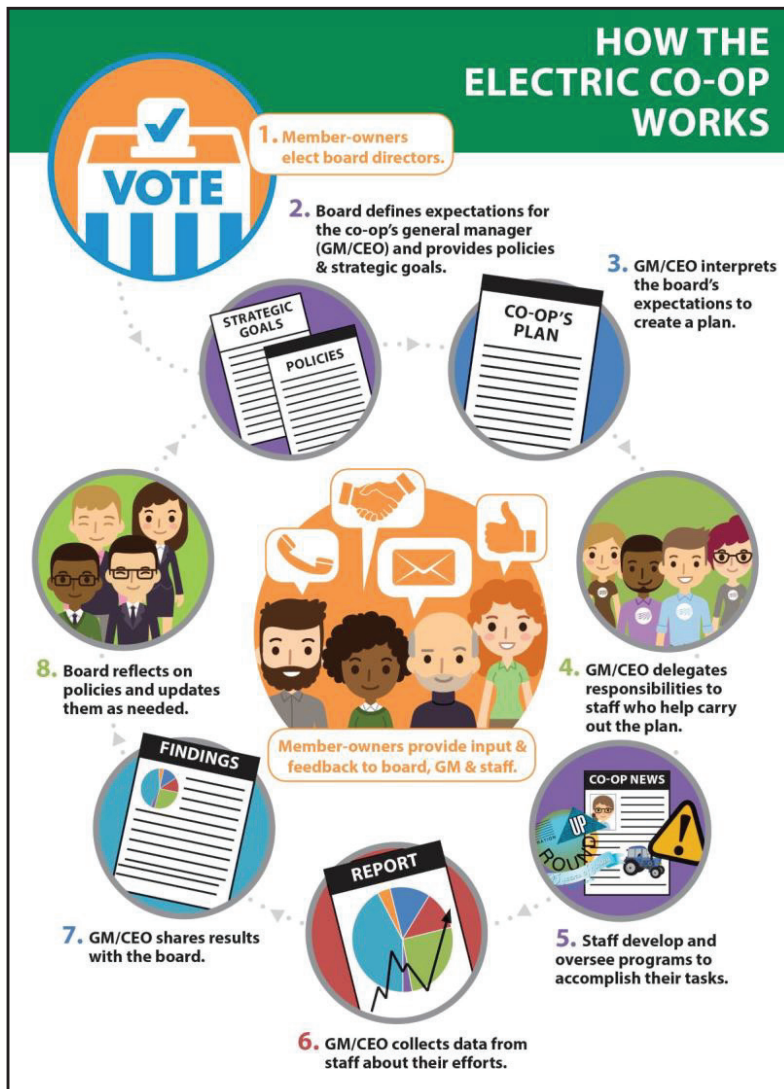
Phil Kinser

The energy industry is undergoing a major transition. Technology advancements and increased consumer preference for more renewable energy is driving change. Southwest Iowa REC is facing big decisions, and board members have an opportunity to help chart a course for our future. To serve the community best, we need input from a wide range of people that represent the broad spectrum of views within community.

While you don't need to be an expert in electricity or business to run for the board, you do need to have a passion for the community and a willingness to actively serve and learn. We're looking for individuals who can represent the full gamut of the members we serve. Our board meets on a regular basis, and we offer specialized training opportunities to help board members make informed decisions. Board members gain a deeper understanding of the electric utility industry, the cooperative business model and local economic development efforts.

Ultimately, our board is the community pulse for the co-op and helps keep us on the right track. We love our community and want to help it thrive. If you share the same commitment and want to contribute to the greater good in a tangible way, I hope you'll consider running for a board position.

More details about Southwest Iowa REC's director election process for 2023 will be published in future newsletters.



the co-op that in turn benefit the larger community. While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the community it serves. On a granular level, Southwest Iowa REC board members typically provide input and guidance on:

- budgets
- co-op goals and



Annual Meeting Date Set!

Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 7th, 2023 for this year's Southwest Iowa REC Annual Meeting!

2023 Residential Energy Efficiency Incentives – Effective 1/1/2023

Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative provides our members with ways to save on your energy budget. We offer rebates on the following products that will offer substantial savings for your home.

Appliances: When replacing appliances, always look for **Energy Star** qualified appliances. Appliances can account for 13% of your energy bill. **Energy Star** qualified appliances incorporate advanced technologies that use 10-50% less energy and water than standard models.

Energy Star Clothes Washer/Dryer \$40/unit
With electric Water Heater

Energy Star Clothes Dryer \$20/unit

Pull the Plug Appliance Recycling: Call 855-838-7817 to request collection and recycling of your old, working refrigerator, freezer or window air conditioner and receive an incentive for up to three operable units per address. Curbside pick up and recycling is done by the cooperative's contractor. For refrigerators

and freezers: appliance size requirements apply (10 cubic feet or larger, no commercial sizes).

Refrigerator \$35/unit
Freezer \$25/unit
Window Air Conditioner \$25/unit

Indoor Air Quality: Equipment must serve the entire conditioned space of the home. Limit of two air quality system per home.

Heat Recovery Ventilator (HRV) \$250/unit

Heating and Cooling: As much as half of the energy used in your home goes to heating and cooling. So, making smart decisions about your home's heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system can have a big effect on your utility bills - and your comfort.

Geothermal Heat Pump (closed loop system) (AHRI listing) \$400/ton

(open loop system) \$300/ton (AHRI listing-- no "pump & dump systems)

G.S.H.P. Replacement \$150/ton

Cold Climate Air Source Heat Pump \$400 /ton

ASHP units over 1/2 ton that meet current federal standard efficiencies. Eligible products listed here: <https://ashp.neep.org/>

Air Source Heat Pump \$200/ton (ASHP units over ¾ ton; including mini-split systems) (Hybrid system) \$300/ton

Energy Star Bonus

\$250/unit (Min. SEER 15.0, EER 12.5, HSPF 8.5)

Energy Star Central AC

\$100/unit (Min. SEER 15.0 & EER 12.5)

Outdoor Security Lighting

Energy Star LED or DLC Qualified Fixtures

\$10/fixture (20-34 watt)
\$20/fixture (35-49 watt)
\$40/fixture (50-74 watt)
\$50/fixture (75-124 watt)
\$60/fixture (125 watts or more)

**New lighting fixtures must be more energy efficient (lower wattage) than original installed fixtures.*

Water Heaters: From warm showers to clean dishes, we count on hot water. In fact, the average household spends \$400-\$600 per year on **water heating - making it the second largest energy expenditure** behind heating and cooling. Depending on the technology you choose, you can cut your water heating costs in half!

Energy Star Heat Pump Water Heater \$650/unit
Geothermal Assisted Unit (DSWH) \$150

(40 gal. or larger tank w/ desuperheater)

Electric Resistance Storage Tank Water Heater \$75/unit

(40 gal. or larger, tank-min. EF 0.90)

Electric Resistance Unit / First Time Heat Plus \$125/

unit (40 gal. larger tank-min. EF 0.90)

Go Electric Bonus for New Accounts or Conversions \$100

*Inquire for prices on water heaters purchased from SWIAREC

Weatherization: Weatherizing your home will put money back in your pocket every month.

It's that simple. On average, weatherization helps homeowners reduce their energy consumption by 25% to 30% - a savings of \$600 per year, every year. Older homes save even more - around 35% or more!

Requirements are you must have electric heat and/or central air conditioning.

Home must be built prior to 2000.

Must be upgrade to existing home (new additions do not qualify)

Project cost must be \$150 or more (labor costs for self-installed projects cannot be included).

Maximum incentive per home \$2,200 (with electric heat with or without air conditioning)

\$300 (with central AC only and non-electric heating)

*Inquire with the Cooperative for details

New Home Construction: Building an All-Star home is the maximum goal you can obtain toward energy efficiency and will result in putting the most money back in your pocket.

All-Star Home \$500/home

Premier Electric Home \$200/home
(new construction, heat pump, electric water heating and appliances)

*Please ask about the Building Checklist

Other Programs:

Electric Vehicle Level 2 Charger \$500

(Must be installed at a residence served by Southwest Iowa REC)

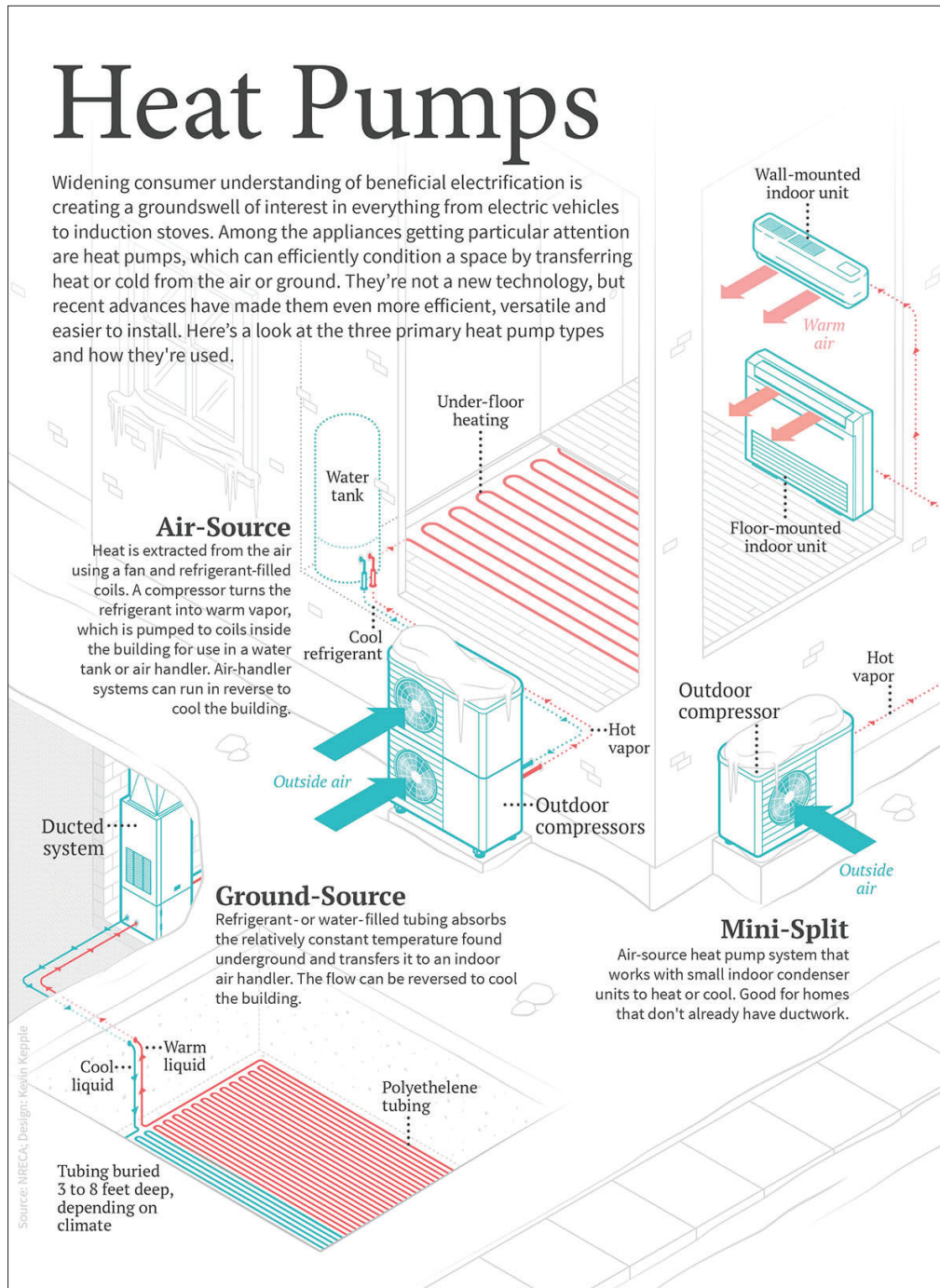
EV Ready \$100

• 240/208 Volt wiring with 50-amp breaker (to support 40-amp charging) box on back or side wall of garage with NEMA 6-50 or 14-50 outlet.

Please visit southwestiowarec.coop/rebates to find the forms.

Heat Pumps

Widening consumer understanding of beneficial electrification is creating a groundswell of interest in everything from electric vehicles to induction stoves. Among the appliances getting particular attention are heat pumps, which can efficiently condition a space by transferring heat or cold from the air or ground. They're not a new technology, but recent advances have made them even more efficient, versatile and easier to install. Here's a look at the three primary heat pump types and how they're used.



Source: WRECA; Design: Kevin Kerpelle

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Washing windows and screens is a great way to practice energy efficiency during spring cleaning. Clean windows and screens make your home brighter by allowing more sunlight in, reducing the need for lamps and fixtures. Clean screens also allow more fresh air in the home when the windows are open to recycle indoor air. Natural light and clean air are energy savers, and they enhance overall health and productivity.

Source: energy.gov



STATE LAW REQUIRES NOTIFICATION OF ALTERNATE ENERGY PRODUCTION

In 2012, the Iowa Legislature approved a bill that requires notification to electric utilities prior to installing an alternate energy generator. The notification requirement applies to any type of electric generating technology including:

- solar
- wind turbine
- waste management
- resource recovery
- refuse-derived fuel
- agricultural crops or residue
- wood-burning facility that will be connected to an electric transmission or distribution line

Under this legislation, the owner of an alternate energy production facility must provide written notification to their electric utility at least 30 days before construction or installation of the generator.

If you are considering installing an alternate energy system – please contact Southwest Iowa REC at (888)220-4869. Let us provide information and assistance BEFORE making the decision to purchase any type of alternate energy system that requires interconnection with the electric grid.

Cheesy Baked Tortellini Casserole



- 1 (20oz) container of refrigerated or frozen cheese tortellini
- 1 lb ground beef
- 1 (24oz) jar of pasta sauce
- 8 (ounces) cream cheese (cubed)
- 1-2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese



The X REcipe

- 1/2 cup grated or shredded parmesan
- seasoning to taste

1. Cook the pasta a la dente according to the package directions; drain and set aside.
2. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees and grease a 9x13 baking dish.
3. In a large skillet, brown the ground beef with the seasoning of your choice (I use salt, garlic powder, pepper & Italian seasoning).
4. Remove the excess grease from the browned beef and then stir in your tomato sauce and cream cheese. Simmer for a few minutes until the sauce is well incorporated.
5. Gently toss your cooked tortellini in with the sauce mixture and then pour it into your casserole dish; Sprinkle with shredded mozzarella and parmesan.
6. Bake uncovered in the center rack of your oven for about 20 minutes. Switch the oven to broil and continue baking for an additional 2-3 minutes or until the cheese starts to brown.
7. Enjoy with garlic bread, salad and/or veggies

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

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