

Youth Tour now being offered

Grundy County REC is excited to be offering a trip of a lifetime. Any high school sophomore or junior that has parent(s) who are Grundy County REC members are eligible to apply to be able to attend an all-expense paid trip to meet with top legislators in Washington, D.C.

Applicants will be reviewed by a committee and one applicant will be chosen. This trip will take place from June 14-20, 2019. The attendee will learn more about electric cooperatives, along with meeting Iowa's members of Congress, seeing historic sights and making new friends that will last a lifetime.

For more information or to receive an application, contact Mike Geerdes at our office at 319-824-5251 or 800-390-7605. Deadline to apply is Mar. 1, 2019.



COURTESY OF YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
WIN A WEEK-LONG TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.

IOWA YOUTH TOUR WASHINGTON D.C. 2019

- Join 1,800 other students from across the country
- Meet Iowa's members of Congress
- Tour historic sights
- Take a boat cruise on the Potomac River
- Visit Smithsonian museums
- Make new friends
- Learn more about electric cooperatives
- Sharpen your leadership skills

NEXT YOUTH TOUR · June 14-20, 2019

Grundy County REC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

For more information visit www.youthtour.org #tag #iowayouthtour #iowarec

High school sophomores and juniors: You could spend a week in Washington, D.C.!

Where are they?

Grundy County REC is holding unclaimed property resulting from patronage dividend refunds due to the persons listed below.

Please contact the REC office at 319-824-5251 or 800-390-7605 if you have any information on these people. If the person is deceased, we would appreciate the name of the next of kin so we can contact them.

If Grundy County REC does not hear from the owner within six (6) months, we are allowed to retain this property in accordance with Iowa law or deliver this property to the State Treasurer's Office for disposition as abandoned property.

Bruce L./Cindy L. Berry
Louis J./Andrea Bouchard
Dennis Cain
Paul A. Christiansen
Scott A. Cooper
Beth I. Dirks
Jeffrey L. Eckles
Todd A./Laurie B. Hanson
Thomas/Vonice Hoffman
Monte A./Robin L. Miller
Bill H. Moore
Dyno Nobel
Ms. Lynn O. Olson
Kerry L./Barbara Randall

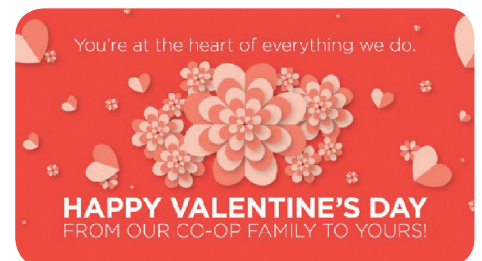
Co-op Connections card

Featured Business of the Month

Crazy Daisies offers unique primitive and country home decor. Located at 624 G Avenue in Grundy Center, they are open Thursday and Friday from 9-5 and Saturday from 10-4. Stop in and browse all the fun and unique items to decorate your home or business, and be sure and show your Co-op Connections card to receive a discount.

Area businesses offering discounts:

- 319 Décor & Design - Grundy Center
- Crazy Daisies - Grundy Center
- Natural Grind - Grundy Center
- Stylish Living - Grundy Center
- Tasty House - Grundy Center
- The Landmark Bistro - Grundy Center
- Retro Rooster - Traer
- Sweets on Main - Traer
- Traer Theater - Traer



You are more than a customer

As a cooperative, we have a different “bottom line.” While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, your well-being and that of the larger community that we serve are equally important. That is one advantage of being a member, not a customer.

We were founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. For most people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider.

But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we are able to do this because of our members.

Since our inception, we have sought feedback and engagement from you and that of the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. These are two reasons why we hold annual meetings.

In addition, we’re always looking to explore more options that will help you manage your energy use and seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer



expectations.

While the times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our cooperative community.

Home automation for more control

Home automation systems are placing the power of control in the hands of co-op members, but many questions remain about the best ways to use them to save money and energy.

“Most smart home technology is about comfort and convenience. Consumers interested in saving money on monthly energy purchases should look at internet-connected thermostats first,” said Brian Sloboda, program and product line manager for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

“Around half of all thermostats sold today are smart thermostats. These devices can learn your preferences and adjust the thermostat when you are not home,” Sloboda said. “They have the potential to reduce air conditioning energy consumption by 10 percent. During winter months, the thermostats could save 7 percent on energy used to heat the home.”

Sloboda is particularly interested in identifying ways to enhance efficiency and potential savings for co-op members.

“Laundry, dishwashing and water heating can be set to occur outside of your co-op’s peak demand periods, which typically are during weekday business hours,” said Sloboda.

Making connections

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states that interest in connected or smart appliances is trending upward among consumers, and manufacturers are responding with a growing list of products.

“If you are thinking of purchasing a smart appliance or thermostat, look for one that is ENERGY STAR®-certified with connected functionality,” according to EPA officials.

Besides smart thermostats, the products available now include, room air conditioners, refrigerators and freezers, laundry equipment, light bulbs and fixtures and power strips.

“While owning a smart product doesn’t automatically save you energy, if you are smart about using them, they can make a significant difference in your home,” wrote the EPA.

GET SMART ABOUT ENERGY SAVINGS

“Smart” devices and appliances save time and offer convenience – but not all save energy. The guide below shows how several trendy smart home technologies stack up when it comes to energy savings.



Smart Energy Savers

- Thermostats
- Washing machines and dryers
- Dishwashers
- EV charging stations
- Pool pumps
- Air conditioners
- Light bulbs and fixtures
- Power strips



Just Smart

- Virtual assistants (like Amazon’s Alexa or Apple HomeKit)
- Smart locks
- Smart alarms
- Smart video security cameras

Today, more than **4,000 smart devices** are available to consumers.



Insulate your attic to help warm your home and save energy dollars.

Put a hat on your home

Just as you wear a hat, scarf and gloves to help keep you warm in winter, remember there are ways to warm your home as well, including insulation.

If your home could use more insulation, always start at the top since the majority of heat loss in a home is through the roof. Work your way down through the walls and then to the basement or crawl space.

While addressing your home's insulation is one of the more expensive outlays you can make to save on your utility bill, it's the biggest bang for your energy buck, paying for itself in the long run.

Other warm-up measures include:

- **Installing a programmable or smart thermostat.**
- **Caulking windows and door frames that leak air.**
- **Bundling up and turning down your thermostat.**

Don't forget that we offer insulation rebates and **FREE** energy assessments to evaluate your home's overall efficiency. Contact us for rebate forms and to schedule your walk through.

We are your source for energy saving solutions!

Your generator could generate trouble

When the lights go out, it's a relief to have a generator on hand, whether portable or permanent, but misusing one is dangerous.

When using a portable version, there are two ways to connect it to a home: 1) with a powered circuit panel that has a power transfer switch installed by a qualified electrician, or 2) to plug in a limited number of home appliances directly into a fuel-powered portable generator with heavy-duty extension cords.

Never plug a generator into a wall outlet. It could electrocute a neighbor or an electric lineman working to restore power.

This is called back feeding. A permanent generator must have a transfer switch installed by a qualified electrician to avoid back feeding. The switch is required by the National Electrical Code.



The primary hazards of using a portable generator include carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution and fire, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A permanent or standby generator also has significant risks if not installed by a qualified electrician. Installing one is extremely dangerous and definitely not a DIY project.

Additional important safeguards to take when using a generator:

- Operate a portable generator in well-ventilated locations outdoors away from all doors, windows and vent openings to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Turn the generator on before using it. Once it's running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit.
- Never use a generator in standing water and never touch with wet hands.
- Never use or install a generator in an attached garage.
- Turn off portable generators and let them cool down before refueling.
- Store fuel for your portable generator in a container intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.
- Keep children and pets away from all generators, especially portable ones.

Using a generator is serious business and shouldn't be done in haste. Learn more about using electricity safely and efficiently at SafeElectricity.org.

Are you ready for a new electric water heater?

Contact us for information on the Marathon water heater, offering durability, lightweight design and a limited lifetime tank warranty.

Generous rebate available!



Annual right-of-way maintenance program

Grundy County REC will be conducting annual line patrol, vegetation management and maintenance on the Cramer Substation. This annual program operates on a 9-year cycle and will include our service territory in the areas surrounding the communities of Beaman, Conrad and Gladbrook.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at 319-824-5251 or 800-390-7605.



Facilities relocation

Grundy County REC has awarded a contract to Legacy Power Line, Inc. to reconstruct approximately 8.5 miles of existing overhead distribution line due to a road widening project on Highway 14 by the Iowa Department of Transportation.

The project will start at the Melrose Substation one mile north of the Junction of IA 175 to County Road E18 and is expected to be completed in March.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at 319-824-5251 or 800-390-7605.



Energy-efficiency rebates from your electric co-op

- **Central air conditioning.** Up to \$150 per unit, depending on SEER (seasonal energy efficiency rating)
- **Heat or energy recovery ventilators.** \$125 per unit for new or existing homes
- **Home insulation.** 40 percent of materials cost up to \$600 maximum per year for homes with metered electric heat or 20 percent of materials cost up to \$300 maximum per year for homes with non-electric heat and central air conditioning. No incentive is offered for homes with non-electric heat and no central air conditioning.
- **Weatherization and duct insulation.** 40 percent of materials cost up to \$200 maximum per year for homes with metered electric heat or 20 percent of materials cost up to \$100 maximum per year for homes with non-electric heat and central air conditioning. No incentive is offered for homes with non-electric heat and no central air conditioning.

Contact us for more information at 800.390.7605



Thermostat Reminder

Your heating system works harder when the outdoor temp drops. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting.

Your solar resource

Iowa Choice Renewables can provide you with local, trusted energy options. For more information, contact Mike Geerdes, member services manager, at 319-824-5251 or 800-390-7605.



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smart choices



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