



Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

January 2016

Cooperative Leaders Meet With Iowa Representatives

REPRESENTATIVES FROM SOUTHWEST Iowa REC (Corning/Mt Ayr/Stanton), Clarke Electric (Osceola), Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc., (Greenfield) and Guthrie County REC (Guthrie Center) hosted a Legislative Meeting in Creston December 7, 2015. Iowa Representatives Cecil Dolecheck, Ralph Watts, David Sieck, Joel Fry and Senator Tom Shipley met with about 35 attendees from these area cooperatives.

The Legislative Meeting gives cooperative leaders a chance to discuss key issues in detail with their area representatives and for the legislators to discuss what they expect to work on in the next legislative session. The biggest influence on lawmakers is their own voters and their expressed concerns. Whether you are a co-op member, director, manager or employee, you can play an important role in this process. If we don't tell them about our issues and concerns, they won't know we care.

Your Cooperative's future can be directly related to your active participation in the political process. There is a great deal of power behind grassroots activities and how they can effectively influence the outcome of legislative, political and community decisions. We are there to get the best deal for Iowa's

RECs and YOU, our members.

You can help in this effort. We encourage all of you to participate in Iowa's politics.



Southwest Iowa REC Director Dale Walkup, center, and Duane Schafer take the opportunity to speak with Rep. Joel Fry, right.



Sen. Tom Shipley, left, speaks with Director Dick Ballantyne during the Legislative Meeting.

Apply Now for Scholarships

SOUTHWEST IOWA REC WILL ONCE again be offering scholarships for the 2016 school year to graduating high school seniors. Students must be enrolled full-time at an accredited college, university or vocational/technical school. The parent or guardian of the student must be a Southwest Iowa REC member and the student MUST RESIDE in the REC-served residence.



Applications are available at your high school guidance counselor's office or you may fill out the form on pg. 3. Students may also go to our website www.swiarec.coop to print the application. Recipients of the scholarships will be chosen by a selection committee appointed by Southwest Iowa REC whose decisions are final.

We will be awarding twelve (12) \$500 scholarships. In addition, two (2) \$1,000 scholarships will be available for students planning to attend an accredited lineman school.

Completed applications and a photo must be received at the REC office by March 1, 2016 to be eligible. See pg. 3.

What is the Clean Power Plan?

IF YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING NEWS OF the electric industry lately, you've probably heard something about the Clean Power Plan. As part of our cooperative principle to inform and educate our member-owners, here's the latest on the Clean Power Plan and what it means for Iowa:

In August 2015, President Obama and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the final rules of the Clean Power Plan, which aim to reduce the nation's carbon emissions from fossil-fueled power plants 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. (The EPA is using its authority under section 111 of the

Clean Air Act to issue regulations, which the Supreme Court ruled in 2011 provides the legal authority to control carbon emissions from America's fleet of fossil-fueled power plants.)

Each state must submit an initial state implementation plan (SIP) to the EPA by September 2016; states can receive extensions to complete their plan submissions by September 2018. The plans must include enforceable emission limits that plants must comply with starting in 2022 and ramping up to full strength by 2030.

The EPA set carbon emission limits for each state's power plants based on three reduction approaches, or "building blocks," and states can pick from a number of policy approaches to reduce carbon emissions in compliance with the Clean Power Plan. The three building blocks are:

1. Improved efficiency at power plants
2. Shifting generation from higher emitting steam electric generating units (GEUs) to lower-emitting natural gas power plants
3. Shifting generation to renewables

What does it mean for Iowa?

For Iowa, the final 2030 rate-based emissions limit for power plants in the state is 1,283 pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt-hour, which is a 42 percent reduction from Iowa's 2012 emission rate of 2,195 pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt-hour.

There are twenty-one 111(d) facilities owned by municipalities, investor-owned utilities and electric cooperatives in Iowa. Several of Iowa's oldest and highest emitting coal plants have already been retired or are slated to be retired or converted to natural gas by 2025. The state currently generates 30 percent of its electricity from renewable sources and wind capacity is expected to increase by more than 3,200 megawatts by 2022.

Central Iowa Power Cooperative, our generation and transmission provider, is Iowa's largest G&T utility and a state-of-the-art energy provider, with a balanced generation portfolio comprised of a diverse fuel mix of coal, nuclear, hydro, wind, natural gas, landfill gas, and oil resources. The majority of the power that CIPCO generates is more than 54 percent emissions and carbon-free.

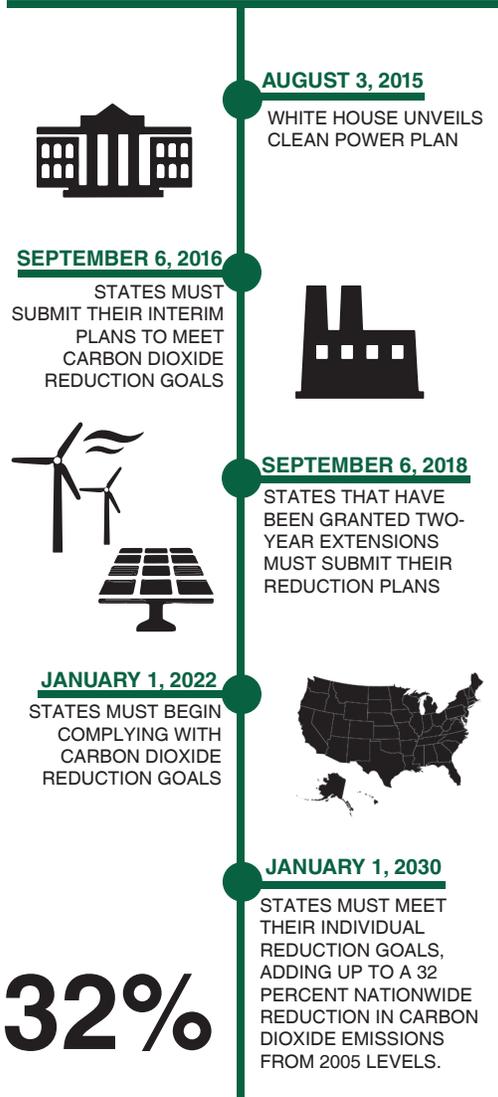
Iowa utilities are currently working with stakeholders to formulate a state implementation plan (SIP) to meet EPA's Clean Power Plan regulations, which will be implemented and enforced by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Iowa's electric cooperatives are committed to environmentally responsible electricity, and must also balance grid reliability and affordability for our member-owners. We are at the beginning of a multi-year process of complex regulations and we'll keep you informed along the way as events unfold. If you have questions or concerns about the Clean Power Plan, please contact me at phil.kinser@swiarec.coop or by calling (888) 220-4869.



Phil Kinser

EPA CLEAN POWER PLAN TIMELINE



32%



Bravo! Thank you to the employees who came the night our home burned. Also for their coming back and getting us back on so our freezer would work. Also thanks for all the help getting us back in a home at our property.

- Bill and Janice Fosdick
- Thank you for your donation.
- Lenox Neighborhood Center

2016 Vegetation Management Plans

THE MAJORITY OF SOUTHWEST IOWA REC's vegetation management program is completed during the months of January – March. In 2016 the following areas are scheduled for vegetation management (ground cut, trim and chemical treatment):

Coddington Inc. (contractor)

- Decatur County – Bloomington and Fayette townships
- Ringgold County – Athens and Riley townships

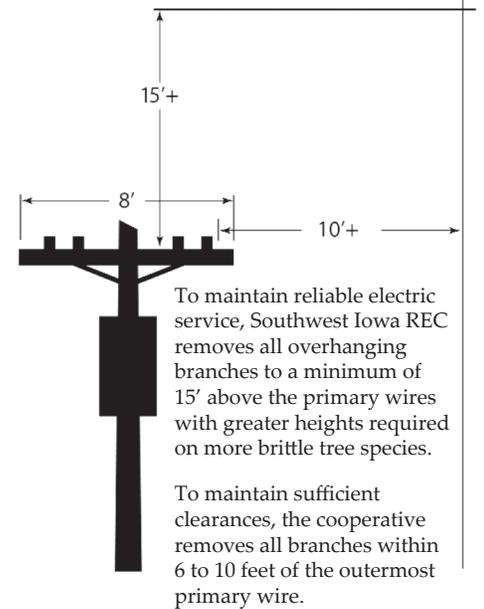
REC Crews

- Adams County – Prescott, Union and east ½ Washington townships
- Decatur County – Bloomington, Burrell, Eden, Fayette, Hamilton and Morgan townships

- Montgomery County – West Township
- Page County – Nebraska and Nodaway townships
- Ringgold County – Athens and Riley townships
- Taylor County – Nodaway Township
- Union County – Douglas Township

You can always feel free to contact us at any of our service locations in Corning, Mount Ayr or Stanton with any questions you might have on this process. Or perhaps, you would like to let us know about a tree or other vegetation that you think could be too close to power lines or important electrical equipment. You'll also find helpful information on our website at www.swiarec.coop.

Primary Clearance Requirements



Why Do Co-ops Advertise?

SOUTHWEST IOWA REC'S MAIN PURPOSE in advertising is to teach and promote electrical safety and energy efficiency to meet federal and state regulations – and to educate our members and policy-makers about the Cooperative – and what we do for our communities. Here are a few other reasons:

- Like any other business, Southwest Iowa REC uses paid advertising to communicate a message to a specific audience. The personal safety of our members and the general public is our primary concern.
- Advertising is a communication tool we use to reach our members and the general public about issues important to our business, such as energy efficiency tips that save consumers electricity and money.
- We have used advertising to educate legislators and regulators about major issues that significantly impact the cost of your electric bill, such as climate change legislation.
- As an electric cooperative, we have made a commitment to sponsor and support programs that enhance the community and provide

services to our members. Our revolving loan fund and student scholarship programs are just two examples.

- Advertising helps us develop name recognition with legislators and regulators. It is important for them to know who we are and what we do when we contact them

to advocate on behalf of your interests – collectively, cooperative members have a strong voice.

- Because Southwest Iowa REC benefits from the combined buying power of up to 30 different electric cooperatives, we get a great return for our advertising dollars.

Southwest Iowa REC 2016 Scholarship Application Request

Complete this form to request a scholarship application be sent to you. The application, along with a photo, must be returned to the REC office by March 1, 2016.

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

High School: _____

Parent / Guardian: _____

REC Account # / Location #: _____

www.swiarec.coop

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Name: Tim Pfeiffer
Family: Leigh (wife); Jake (son) his wife Brandi, and their two boys Jayden and Deacon; Jessie (daughter) and her husband USMC Sgt. Cole Bumsted; Julia (daughter) her fiancée Wyatt Bailey and their son Lane; and Phil (son).

Date of Hire: April 1, 2007

Current Position: Member Service Rep.

Favorite Recipe: Cherry Cheesecake

Cherry Cheesecake

Ingredients:

1/2 cup graham cracker crumbs (about 15 crackers)

3 Tbsp. sugar

1/3 cup butter (melted)

4 8oz. pkgs. cream cheese (softened)

1 cup sugar

1 tsp. vanilla

4 eggs

2 cans of cherry pie filling

Heat oven to 325°. Combine graham cracker crumbs, sugar and butter; press onto bottom of 9 inch springform pan. Beat cream cheese, sugar, vanilla and eggs with mixer until blended. Pour over crust.

Bake 55 min. or until center is almost set. Run knife around rim of pan to loosen; cool before removing rim.

Refrigerate cheesecake 4 hours. Top with cherries or your favorite topping.



Preparing for a Winter Storm

EXTREME WINTER WEATHER CAN immobilize an entire region. Winter storms can result in closed streets and highways, power outages and flooding. Act now to ensure the safety and comfort of your family in the event of extreme winter weather.

Before a storm

- Have snow removal equipment on hand, rock salt to melt ice, and sand to improve traction.
- Regular heating fuel sources may be cut off, so store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Keep fire extinguishers handy and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them.
- Locate your main water supply and valves and make sure you know how to shut them off in case a freezing pipe bursts.
- Repair roof leaks and keep gutters clear. Trim any tree branches that could fall on your house during a storm.
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows,

seal the attic area and install storm windows. This will help your family stay safe and comfortable during a storm.

During a storm

- Listen to your radio, television or NOAA Weather Radio for weather reports and emergency information.
- Eat regularly and drink ample fluids, but avoid caffeine and alcohol.
- If it becomes necessary to conserve fuel, keep your residence cooler than normal. Temporarily close off heat to some rooms.
- Stay dry. Change wet clothing frequently to prevent the loss of body heat.
- Watch for signs of frostbite. These include loss of feeling and white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes and the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately.
- Drive only if it is necessary. If you must drive, travel in the daytime, do not drive alone and

keep others informed of your whereabouts. Avoid back-road shortcuts.

After a storm

- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow, which can bring on a heart attack—a major cause of death in the winter. If you must shovel snow, stretch before going outside.
- Help neighbors who may require special assistance including infants, the elderly and people with disabilities.
- If the pipes freeze, remove any insulation and open all faucets; pour hot water over the pipes, starting where they were most exposed to the cold. Do not try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame.
- Be prepared when going outside. Major winter storms are often followed by extreme cold.

A little forethought and some attention to detail will ensure you and your family stay warm, dry and safe in your home this winter, no matter what the weather is outside.



Find us on

Facebook

Corning
1801 Grove Ave., Corning, IA 50841

Mount Ayr
1502 W. South St., Mount Ayr, IA 50854

Stanton
415 Broad Ave., Stanton, IA 51573

NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR ALL LOCATIONS:
(888) 220-4869

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