

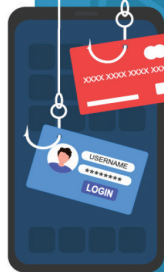
The Connection

POWERING LIVES AND
EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.



TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Be cautious of fraudulent websites pretending to be an electric utility. Scammers often create look-alike sites to steal your personal or payment information. Always type your utility's official web address directly into your browser instead of clicking email or text links. Watch for signs of a secure website, such as "https:///" in the address bar and a padlock icon. If you're ever unsure, call your utility company using the official phone number listed on your bill to verify payment or account details. Stay vigilant to protect yourself from utility fraud.



Submit your answers to the brain teasers on page 8-E.

The answers will be published in the April newsletter.


WIN ONE OF TWO MONTHLY \$5 BILL CREDITS IN 3 EASY STEPS!

- 1 Answer the question or challenge posed each month.
- 2 Send answers to Consumers Energy with the following info: Name, Service Address, Account #, Phone #, and email address.
- 3 Submit via website, email, or mail:

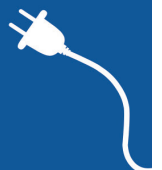


Scan this QR code, and submit your entry using the co-op's website.

 kglenney@consumersenergy.coop
Subject line: CONTEST

 Consumers Energy
Attn: CONTEST
2074 242nd Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158

WINNERS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY:
DEBORAH CLAIR, COLO
GARRY ENGELTJES, ALLEMAN



D A T E S to remember



- | | | |
|-------|----|-----------------------------|
| MARCH | 3 | Bills due |
| | 3 | Automatic Payments deducted |
| | 9 | Daylight Saving Time begins |
| | 10 | Email/Mail bills |
| | 17 | St. Patrick's Day |
| APRIL | 20 | First Day of Spring |
| | 25 | Automatic Payments deducted |
| | 1 | Read meters |
| | 3 | Bills due |
| | 3 | Automatic Payments deducted |

Powering Lives, Empowering Communities: The Impact of Iowa's Electric Cooperatives

Ensuring Reliability

Reliable electricity is our daily priority. Sustaining a resilient electric distribution system requires extensive planning with ongoing maintenance, inspections, and system upgrades.

Iowa's electric co-ops proactively test poles for possible deterioration and adhere to aggressive vegetation management plans to reduce outages and minimize damage to infrastructure.

During the past 10 years, Iowa's electric cooperatives have kept the lights on 99.96% of the time despite blizzards, ice storms, derechos, tornadoes, or other extreme weather events. The average member served by an Iowa electric co-op experiences 1 outage per year, lasting approximately 138 minutes.

Call Consumers Energy at 800-696-6552 to report all outages.

If a co-op does experience extensive outages, they work with neighboring co-ops for mutual aid to restore power to members as quickly and safely as possible.

A recent threat to reliability comes from misguided federal energy policy, which prioritizes intermittent sources of power like solar and wind over dispatchable sources like coal and natural gas.

Iowa's electric cooperatives believe in a diverse power generation strategy to ensure reliability. Our "all-of-the-above" generation portfolios include dispatchable sources of power because we can control the output and ramp up generation when needed to match sudden increases in electric demand. Learn more about this issue at www.VoicesForCooperativePower.com.


Bridget Itzen

Bridget Itzen
CEO/General Manager

During the past 10 years, Iowa's electric cooperatives have kept the lights on

99.96% OF THE TIME


DESPITE BLIZZARDS, ICE STORMS, TORNADOES, DERECHOS OR OTHER EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS.



The average Iowa electric co-op member-owner experiences


1 OUTAGE PER YEAR

lasting an average of **138 MINUTES**



In an accident involving a power line:

- Stay Inside the Vehicle:** The ground may be energized.
- Call 9-1-1:** Report downed or damaged lines.
- Warn Others:** Tell bystanders to stay away.
- Wait for Utility Crew:** Do not exit until it's safe.




If you notice smoke or fire:

- Exit Safely:** Cross arms over your chest and jump out with feet together. Do not touch the car and the ground at the same time.
- Move Away:** Shuffle or bunny hop with feet together. Get as far away as you can.



DOWNED POWER LINE and Vehicle Safety

When electric equipment becomes damaged, the ground and objects can become energized. Know what to do to **save your life** and the lives of others.



SafeElectricity.org

Directors to Appoint Co-op Members to Nominating Committee and Election & Credentials Committee

The Consumers Energy Board of Directors will appoint cooperative members to the Nominating Committee and the Election & Credentials Committee at their February board meeting. The Nominating Committee is tasked with selecting individuals to be placed on the ballot as director candidates in the upcoming director elections. The Nominating Committee also serves as the Election & Credentials Committee that oversees the voting and director election process before and during the Annual Meeting.

The Articles of Incorporation of Consumers Energy state that the Board of Directors must appoint a Nominating Committee to select individuals as director candidates to be placed on the ballot and voted on at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at the cooperative's headquarters located at 2074 242nd Street, Marshalltown. The Nominating Committee's initial meeting will be held in April or May.

The Election & Credentials Committee shall have available to it the advice of legal counsel provided by the cooperative. The committee's decision on any voting process issue is final, as reflected by a majority vote of the committee members present and voting.

CONSUMERS ENERGY'S DIRECTORS WHOSE TERMS EXPIRE IN 2025 ARE:

District No. 1 for Marshall, Jasper, and Tama Counties:

Bill Hobson

District No. 2 for Story County:

Arden Greiner

District No. 3 for Polk County:

Craig Griffieon

KNOW A FELLOW MEMBER WHO WOULD MAKE A GREAT DIRECTOR?

MEMBERS WHO WISH TO SUBMIT NOMINEES AS DIRECTOR CANDIDATES ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEND THEIR SUGGESTIONS TO ARRIVE AT THE COOPERATIVE OFFICE BY APRIL 18, 2025. BY ANY OF THESE MEANS:

MAIL:
Consumers Energy
Attn: Nominating Committee
2074 242nd Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158

CALL:
Bridget Itzen, CEO/General Manager,
at 641-754-1649

EMAIL:
admin@consumersenergy.coop

Kippen Glenney, Executive Assistant/
Communications Coordinator,
at 641-754-1646



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2025



SCAN THE QR CODES ON THE RIGHT TO FIND MORE INFORMATION OR COMPLETE THE ONLINE APPLICATIONS!



High school sophomores, juniors, & seniors - this is YOUR chance to win the all-expenses-paid trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C.! Trip dates are June 13-21, 2025.

YOUTH TOUR



DEADLINE TO APPLY:
MARCH 14, 2025



Lineworker Scholarship

Are you pursuing a career in the powerline industry? Consumers Energy offers a \$1,000 scholarship to residents of the state of Iowa for this type of education in the electric industry!

LINEWORKER



DEADLINE TO APPLY:
MARCH 14, 2025



Academic Scholarship

Graduating from high school this year? Congrats! Apply for the Consumers Energy scholarship for \$1,000 to pay toward your post secondary education!

ACADEMIC



DEADLINE TO APPLY:
MARCH 14, 2025

For more information, contact Billing and Education Coordinator, Tami Kerwood, at 800-696-6552 or tkerwood@consumersenergy.coop.

Operation Round-Up

is a voluntary program designed for members who wish to donate "small change" each month to cooperative members who need economic assistance with winter electric bills. Members who sign up for this program can have monthly electric bills rounded up to the next highest dollar amount or can specify to contribute a specific dollar amount. The co-op then annually distributes the Operation Round-Up funds to local community action agencies within Consumers Energy's service territory to assist low-income families with winter heating bills and winterization of homes.



TURN YOUR COINS INTO CHANGE

Operation Round-Up gives Consumers Energy members the option of having electric bills rounded up to the nearest dollar every month, with those few extra cents benefiting people in need within the co-op's service territory.

For more information, contact the Member Services Department at 800-696-6552 or info@consumersenergy.coop.

How does the Operation Round-Up Program Work?

There are two options for participating in Operation Round-Up. The commitment chosen would take effect with the month's bill following receipt of the Operation Round-Up Authorization Form.

- Each month, Consumers Energy "rounds up" the electric bills of participating members to the next highest dollar. For example, a member's monthly bill of \$160.27 would automatically be rounded up to \$161.00, with the additional 73 cents going to the Operation Round-Up Program.
- Another option available for this program allows members to specify an exact dollar amount to be contributed each month.

Submit your Authorization Form to participate in Operation Round-Up!

Interested in donating funds to Operation Round-Up to help others in need of assistance with winter heating bills? To enroll, complete the Operation Round-Up Authorization Form in this newsletter and return it to the cooperative office, or fill one out and submit online by scanning the QR code here or by typing the website address: www.consumersenergy.coop/operation-round-up.



Authorization Form

Choose only one option:

- Yes, I would like to participate in the Operation Round-Up Program. I wish to have my monthly electric bill rounded up to the next highest dollar.
- Yes, I would like to participate in the Operation Round-Up Program. I wish to contribute \$_____ per month to the Operation Round-Up Program, and the amount will be added to my monthly electric bill.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Account Number _____

Please return to: Consumers Energy
2074 242nd Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158

Are you a returning snowbird?



Make sure you update your mailing address & contact info with the co-op.

You can update your mailing address in the **SmartHub** app or by contacting the co-op at **800-696-6552** or **info@consumersenergy.coop**.

Or scan this QR code to send a message!



SCAN HERE TO CONTACT THE CO-OP.

Don't want to worry about the hassle of changing your mailing address?

Go **PAPERLESS!**
Sign up in SmartHub.



SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE, REGISTER, OR LOGIN!

JUSTIN KRUEGER

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



JOB: FINANCE MANAGER



DREAM VACATION: HIKING PART OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL



FAVE BOOKS: DUNE; LORD OF THE RINGS



FAVE FOODS: SHELLFISH, BUT WILL TRAVEL ANYWHERE FOR GOOD FOOD!



FAVE ACTIVITIES: PLAYING BOARD GAMES; SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY



OTHER FAVES: HUNTING & FISHING AND PROCESSING WHAT IS HARVESTED

Brain Teasers

SOLVE THE WORD PUZZLES BELOW. ENTER THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER CONTEST BY SENDING IN YOUR ANSWERS! CONTEST DETAILS ARE ON PAGE 8-A.

PROMISE

once



iMONSTERi

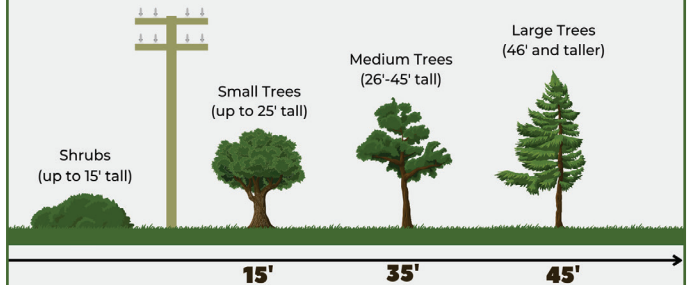
SPOT

BIRD

settle

Plant the RIGHT TREE in the RIGHT PLACE

The larger the tree, the farther it should be from a power line. Avoid planting beneath power lines, near poles or close to electrical equipment.



Remember, know what's below by calling 8-1-1 before you dig.

Learn more at: [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)

ARE YOU A MEMBER WHO QUALIFIED FOR LIHEAP?
 CONSUMERS ENERGY WANTS TO HELP OUR MEMBERS
 AVOID ADDITIONAL FEES & DISCONNECTION.
LIHEAP
 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
 DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO
 CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR ACCOUNT.

The winter moratorium for
 disconnecting electric
 service ends April 1.

↓ HERE'S HOW THE CO-OP CAN HELP! ↓

**Do you have
 PAST DUE BALANCES?**



**Call the co-op to
 address overdue
 bills and
 accumulated
 balances.**

**Do you need info on
 PAYMENT PLANS?**



**Call the co-op to
 review payment
 plan options to stay
 current &
 connected.**

**Do you need
 OTHER ASSISTANCE?**



**Consumers Energy
 gives members
 resources for
 assistance
 organizations.**

Contact the Member Services Department at [800-696-6552](tel:800-696-6552) to see what options are available.

Daylight Saving Time begins

The beginning of daylight saving time is a great time to go through your spring home maintenance checklist. Here are some items to include:

March 9

**SET YOUR CLOCKS
 AHEAD
 ONE HOUR**



**RESET THE TIMER
 ON YOUR WATER
 HEATER**



**CHANGE YOUR
 SMOKE DETECTOR
 BATTERIES**



- Check the expiration dates on fire extinguishers and replace if necessary.
- Change the rotation of your ceiling fans to rotate counter-clockwise.
- Clean your oven & range. An oven or range darkened from heavy use absorbs more heat, reducing efficiency.
- Vacuum refrigerator coils. Dust that builds up on refrigerator coils causes the motor to work harder, using more energy.
- Clean or replace HVAC filters. A dirty filter can slow air flow and cause your system to use more energy.
- Clean out dryer vents. Blocked dryer vents may make your machine work harder than necessary.
- Drain a few gallons from your hot water heater. Draining the sediment out of your hot water heater will help it run more efficiently & last longer.
- Clean your grill.
- Sweep out your garage, & clear the salt and grime from winter.
- Get rid of leftover or expired medicine.
- Apply for rebates if applicable. Scan the QR code here or type www.consumersenergy.coop/rebates in your browser.

SCAN HERE
 FOR REBATES.

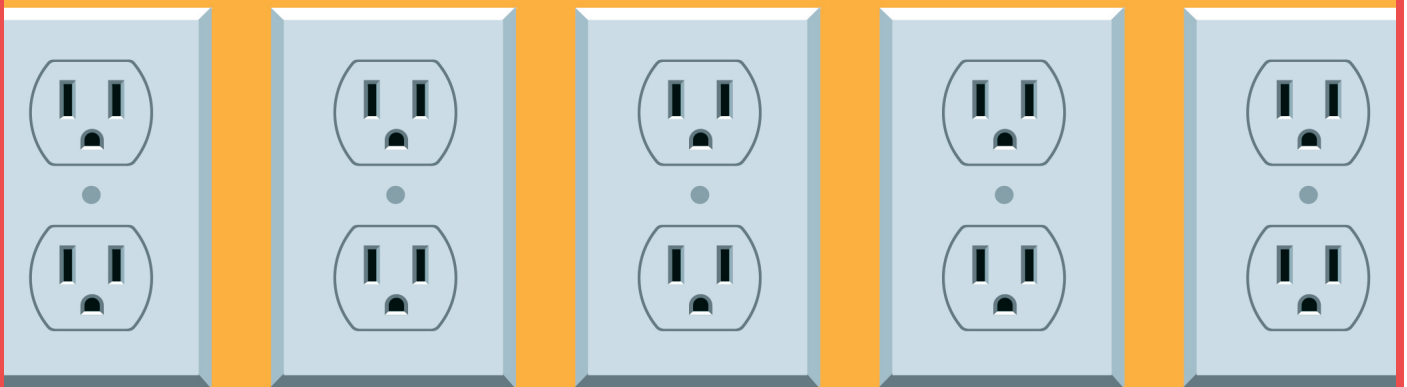
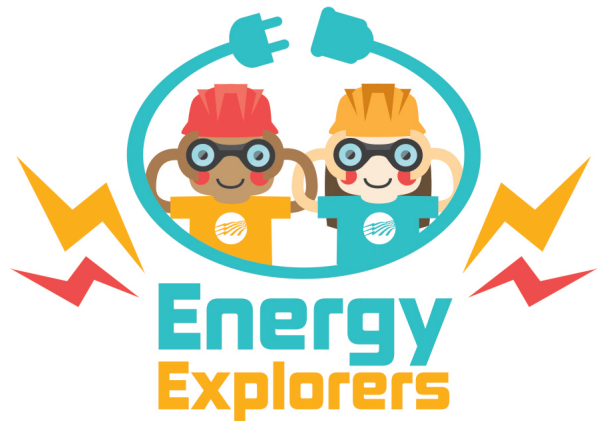


Questions? Contact Energy Advisor Jeff Lanning at 800-696-6552 or at info@consumersenergy.coop.

ELECTRONICS EFFICIENCY FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

You can help save energy at home by using electronic devices more efficiently. Read the energy-saving tips below and fill in the blanks with the correct word that completes the efficiency tip.

Psst! Check your work in the answer key below.



- 1.** Use a(n) _____ with an on/off switch when powering multiple electronics to easily manage energy use.
A. power strip B. extension cord C. remote control
- 2.** For devices that require _____, use rechargeable ones, which are more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.
A. power cords B. lights C. batteries
- 3.** Unplug electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like _____.
A. lamps B. ceiling fans C. phone chargers
- 4.** Use the sleep or power management mode on your _____ to save on energy costs.
A. computer B. refrigerator C. oven

1. A 2. C 3. C 4. A
Answer Key

**CONSUMERS ENERGY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

District 1 - Marshall, Jasper, & Tama Counties:
Denny Beckman
President
dbeckman@consumersenergy.coop

Bill Hobson
Director
whobson@consumersenergy.coop

Pat VonAhnen
Secretary-Treasurer
pvonahnen@consumersenergy.coop

District 2 - Story County:
Arden Greiner
Director
agreiner@consumersenergy.coop

Bob Meimann
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
rmeimann@consumersenergy.coop

Steve Quick
Director
squick@consumersenergy.coop

District 3 - Polk County:
Craig Griffieon
Vice President
cgriffieon@consumersenergy.coop

Tony Lem
Director
alem@consumersenergy.coop


Jennifer Sease
Director
jsease@consumersenergy.coop

Energy Efficiency Cost per kWh:
\$0.000364


**To report an outage,
call 800-696-6552.**

For the most accurate outage updates, check SmartHub or www.consumersenergy.coop for messages, the statewide outage map, or call Consumers Energy.

WAYS TO PAY YOUR CONSUMERS ENERGY BILL




Automatic recurring monthly payments




In person

Online or the app
www.consumersenergy.coop




By phone 24/7
855-939-3832




By dropbox

 2074 242nd Street | Marshalltown, IA 50158

 641-752-1593 | 800-696-6552

 855-939-3832

 641-752-5738

 www.consumersenergy.coop

 info@consumersenergy.coop

OFFICE HOURS
7:30 AM - 4:00 PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY




Academic Lineworker

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

\$1,000 scholarships for academic & lineworker applicants






YOUTH TOUR

- FREE trip to D.C.!
- Educational & FUN!
- Offered to members' high school sophomores, juniors, & seniors

For information on ways to pay or programs and services offered, contact the Member Services Department.