

A utility worker in a bucket truck is working on a power line. The scene is overlaid with a green gradient. Large, bold text is superimposed on the image. The text is arranged in four lines: 'POWERING' and 'LIVES' are in white, while 'EMPOWERING' and 'COMMUNITIES' are in a light green color.

POWERING LIVES EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

THE IMPACT OF IOWA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

IOWA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

We're committed to providing power that is safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable.

Iowa's electric co-ops serve

80%

of Iowa's land mass and maintain enough power lines to wrap around the equator

2.5X

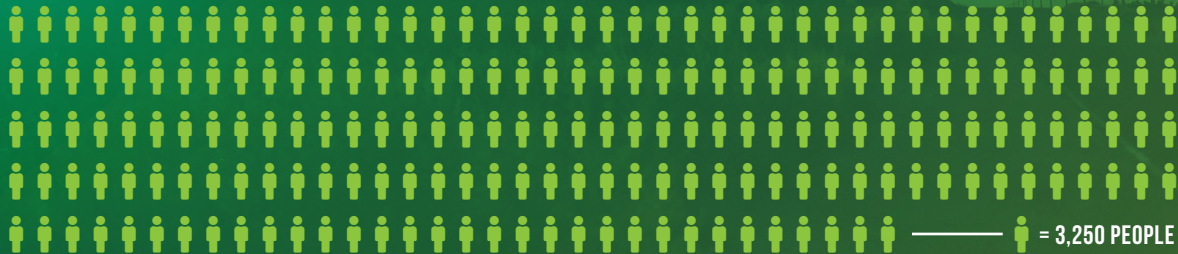
(That's around 62,000 miles!)



Owned and governed by the members we serve, not-for-profit electric cooperatives power the lives of

650,000 IOWANS

throughout all 99 counties.



CORE PRINCIPLES

Serving primarily rural areas of the state, we are mission-driven to improve quality of life for the regions we serve, adhering to seven core principles that guide all cooperatives.



VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

The co-op is open to any persons who are able and willing to join, accept responsibility as a part of the organization and can use the organization's services.



DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.



MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative.



AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

The members of the co-op determine everything it does, which allows the co-op to function independently.



EDUCATION, TRAINING, INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.



COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.



CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

For over 85 years, electric cooperatives have contributed greatly to the local communities we serve by providing stable careers, paying taxes, returning surplus capital to members and investing in student programs.



Collectively, Iowa's electric cooperatives pay almost

\$29 MILLION

IN LOCAL & STATE TAXES EACH YEAR.

This helps fund local emergency services, road maintenance, healthcare and schools throughout rural areas.

We invest in the next generation of Iowans through several educational and leadership development programs.

On the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, students learn more about their role as American citizens and the cooperative business model. Electric cooperatives also support local students through college scholarships and internships.

Because electric cooperatives are member owned, our members build equity in the local co-op each year based on their electric use. Surplus capital is returned back to members over time when local boards determine it is financially feasible.

To date, Iowans have received more than

\$300 MILLION

IN RETIRED CAPITAL CREDITS FROM THEIR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES.

Over the past 65+ years, Iowa's electric co-ops have sent more than

2,500 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

FROM IOWA SCHOOLS TO WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR THE ANNUAL YOUTH TOUR PROGRAM.

Electric cooperatives directly support almost

2,000 JOBS IN IOWA



= 100 JOBS

These jobs offer Iowans dependable careers with competitive wages and benefits in an exciting industry. Many co-op employees choose to raise families in small-town environments and are actively involved in their communities.



ECONOMIC ENGINES OF PROGRESS

Electric cooperatives do more than just provide power. We also invest heavily in economic development efforts throughout rural Iowa.



Over a recent five-year period, Iowa's electric co-ops produced

\$688 MILLION
IN WAGES AND SALARIES.

We also generated self-employment income of almost

\$232 MILLION
DURING THAT SAME FIVE-YEAR PERIOD.



Electric cooperatives have a long legacy of partnering with USDA Rural Development and USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Iowa's electric cooperatives serve as intermediaries for USDA revolving loan funds, among other programs and projects.



Additionally, several Iowa electric co-ops have been instrumental in developing industrial speculative buildings to accommodate local business expansion and attract new businesses and jobs to their communities.

For the five years ending in 2022, Iowa electric co-ops had an impressive impact of

\$4.7 BILLION



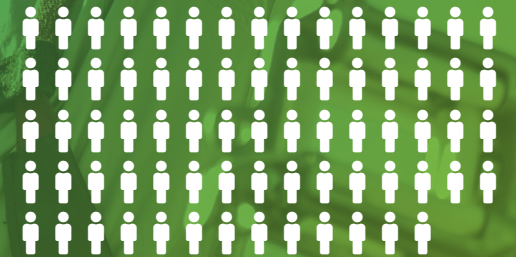
IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

= \$1 BILLION

These investments supported more than

7,300 JOBS

(retained, attracted or expanded) during that same time period.)



= 100 JOBS

ENDURING AFFORDABILITY

The average American household is steadily spending less on electricity as a percentage of its income, even as we become increasingly reliant on digital conveniences in our day-to-day lives.



We help our co-op member-owners use energy wisely through energy efficiency programs, audits, rebates and incentives so they can spend their hard-earned money on other things. Iowa's electric cooperatives work hard to control local costs in order to keep rates and fees as low as possible. Because we are member owned, our rates are cost-based; we're not driven by profits like investor-owned utilities.

We invest in technology and innovation to improve service, reliability and efficiency. For example, digital meters allow members to track their electric consumption and make changes that can save money on their electric bills.

While the cost of most goods and services has increased twenty-fold or more over the past 85 years, electricity remains very affordable.

COST COMPARISON:

1930s

TODAY

1 KILOWATT-HOUR



Since the 1930s, the average cost per kilowatt-hour has **only doubled**

1 DOZEN EGGS



1 POSTAGE STAMP



1 GALLON OF GAS



1 GALLON OF MILK



In Iowa, the average household served by electric cooperatives spends about

\$5.25 PER DAY FOR ELECTRICITY



THAT'S CHEAPER THAN BUYING A SANDWICH OR SPECIALTY COFFEE DRINK!

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.

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.

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** 

DOING MORE WITH LESS

Iowa's electric cooperatives serve primarily rural areas with sparse populations, meaning we literally cover more ground than other types of utilities.

IOWANS ARE SERVED BY THREE TYPES OF ELECTRIC UTILITIES →

The realities of these numbers mean that Iowa's electric co-ops must maintain more infrastructure with significantly less revenue per mile compared to other electric utilities.

To accomplish this task, co-ops structure rates and fees to recover costs and partner with other cooperatives and organizations to create efficiencies of scale for supplies, insurance, financing, technology solutions and more.

For example, many of Iowa's electric cooperatives provide employee benefits through the Hawkeye Insurance Association and a health care plan managed by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.



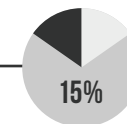
MUNICIPALITIES

58

Average meters served per one mile of line.

\$131,000

Revenue generated per one mile of line.



Percentage of Iowan's served.



ELECTRIC CO-OPS

4

Average meters served per one mile of line.

\$10,800

Revenue generated per one mile of line.



Percentage of Iowan's served.



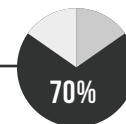
INVESTOR-OWNED

28

Average meters served per one mile of line.

\$85,000

Revenue generated per one mile of line.



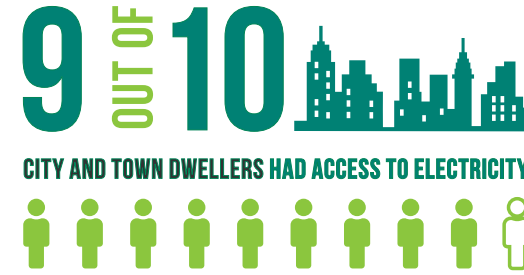
Percentage of Iowan's served.

OUT OF THE DARKNESS

Iowa's electric cooperatives have a proud legacy that goes back generations. Most electric co-ops were formed in the 1930s and 1940s and have been owned by the members they serve since the beginning, making us truly democratic organizations that are locally owned and governed.

Truth be told, nothing has improved the lives of rural Americans like electrification.

BEFORE ELECTRIC CO-OPS NEARLY 100 YEARS AGO, THERE WAS AN ELECTRIC DIVIDE IN AMERICA.



The number of farms that had access to electricity increased to **80% IN 1950**

By 1960, that number was

99%

Life on the farm was difficult without electricity; there was no indoor plumbing or reliable refrigeration. Cooking, lighting, and heating homes without electricity was dangerous and inefficient. Household chores and farm work were laborious and time consuming.

The investor-owned utilities at that time didn't see the return on investment to build out miles of power lines and infrastructure to only reach a few farms. But a bright light was coming.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt believed that if private enterprise could not supply electricity to the people, then it was the duty of the government to do so. He created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in 1935 as part of the New Deal and the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 which provided official status to the REA as a lending agency to serve rural areas. With federal financing ready to go, REA representatives traveled across the country to help rural citizens band together to form not-for-profit electric cooperatives in order to bring affordable, reliable electricity to their homesteads.



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