

The Connection

POWERING LIVES AND
EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.

CONSUMERS
ENERGY CO-OP

TIPS TO AVOID

ENERGY SCAMS



If you suspect you're dealing with a utility scam, it's crucial to slow down and take your time before taking any action. Scammers will often pressure you to make quick decisions or immediate payments. Instead, take the time to verify the legitimacy of the communication by contacting your utility directly. Use a phone number from a reliable source, such as your bill or the utility's website. Taking this simple step can help protect you from falling victim to utility scams.

Source: Utilities United
Against Scams



D A T E S to remember



MAY

- 1 Read meters
- 3 Bills due
- 5 Automatic Payments deducted
- 9 Email/Mail bills
- 11 Mother's Day
- 26 Office closed - Memorial Day
- 27 Automatic Payments deducted

JUNE

- 2 Read meters
- 3 Bills due
- 3 Automatic Payments deducted



Submit your
answers to the
Mother's Day
word game on
page 8-E.

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 from 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 MARCH:

DAVE DUIT, NEVADA

MERRELL & MONA KILBORN, MARSHALLTOWN



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

Out of the Darkness

100 years ago before electric cooperatives existed, there was an electric divide in America. 9 out of 10 city and town dwellers had access to electricity in the 1920s while 9 out of 10 rural citizens were left in the dark.

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.

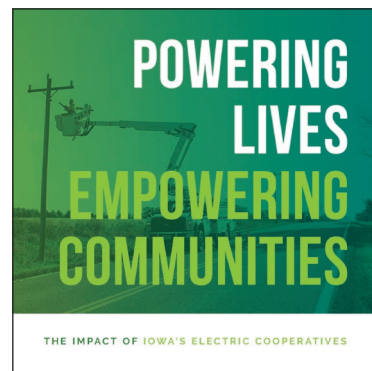


FDR signs the Rural Electrification Act in 1936 — the moment that sparked rural America's path to power.

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. By 1950, 80% of farms in America has access to electricity, and the percentage increased to 99% by 1960. Truth be told, nothing has improved the lives of rural Americans like electrification.

Iowa's electric cooperatives have a proud legacy that goes back generations. We have been owned by our members since the beginning, making us truly democratic organizations that are locally owned and governed. While we've grown over the years, serving rural and urban communities – changing the cooperative name to reflect that, Consumers Energy is still dedicated to the principles this cooperative was founded on.



Bridget Itzen

Bridget Itzen

CEO/General Manager

THIS BOOKLET, THE IMPACT OF IOWA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, IS THE SOURCE OF OUR CEO'S RECENT SERIES OF MANAGER'S COLUMNS IN THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER. IT HIGHLIGHTS HOW ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES POWER LIVES, EMPOWER COMMUNITIES, AND INVEST IN RURAL IOWA.

MEMBERS CAN VIEW THE BOOKLET BY VISITING:

WWW.CONSUMERSENERGY.COOP/IMPACT-IOWAS-ELECTRIC-COOPERATIVES

NEED SOMETHING FROM THE CO-OP?

THERE'S PROBABLY A FORM FOR THAT!

Visit Consumers Energy's Online Forms page at by scanning this QR code or visiting:
www.consumersenergy.coop/forms

CHANGES TO YOUR ACCOUNT?
TREES IN OR NEAR POWERLINES?

SECURITY LIGHT?
YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES?

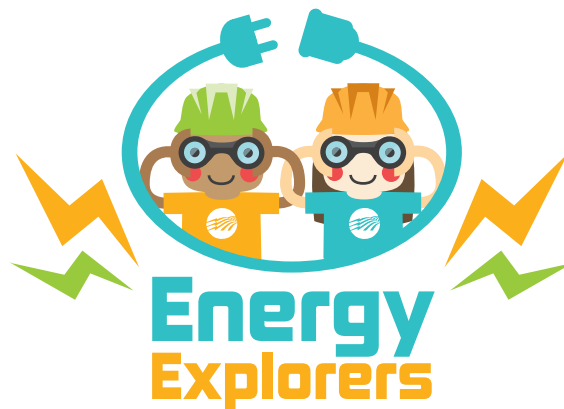
SOMETHING ELSE?
USE THE CONTACT US FORM!



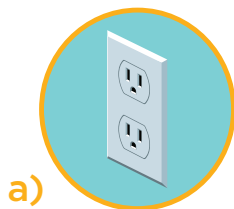
CAN YOU SPOT THE ELECTRICAL HAZARD?

Electricity is essential for everyday life, but when combined with seemingly harmless items or elements, it can create a hazardous situation. View the grouped items below, then circle the two items that (when combined) create a potential electrical hazard.

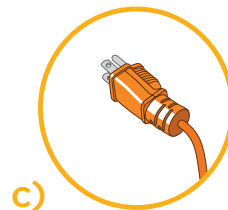
Check your work in the answer key below.



1.



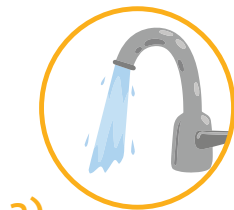
2.



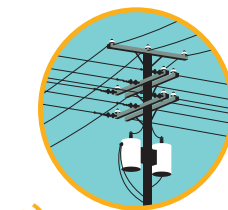
3.



4.



5.



Answer Key
1. a & b 2. a & c 3. b & c 4. a & c 5. b & c

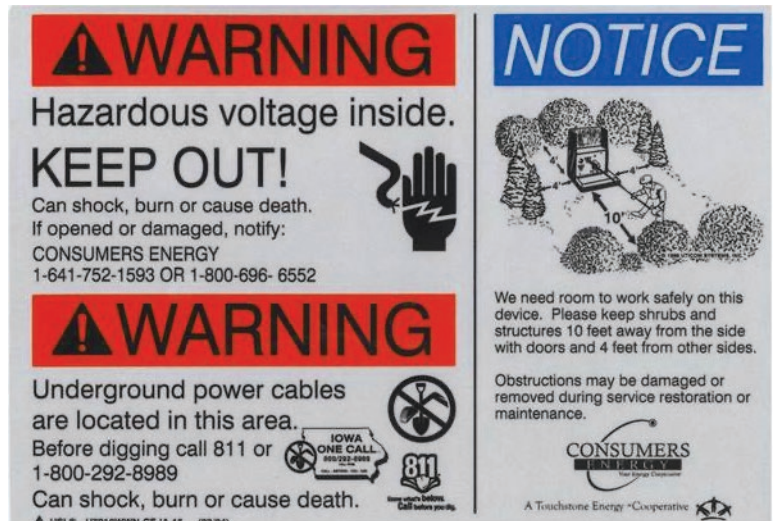
Beautify Your Yard, Not Utility Equipment

Green or grey utility boxes, known as pad-mounted or padmount transformers, are part of the supply chain that helps provide power to your neighborhood. Those boxes sit on an easement, which allows us access to them.

What are the green boxes for?

Their job is to step down high-voltage electricity to a lower voltage needed for the underground wires supplying power to the lights and appliances in homes. These stickers are placed on transformers so people understand the dangers associated with this electrical equipment.

Please **do not** paint, enhance, block or otherwise obstruct padmount transformers. By respecting all utility equipment, including meters and transformers, you can help keep the power on and your local utility workers safe.



As you beautify your yard this spring and summer, **Consumers Energy** and **Safe Electricity** remind you of these safety tips:

- Do not plant shrubs and trees close to green box transformers or other utility equipment. Limiting or restricting access to the box in your yard by us could delay restoration work during an outage and create a serious safety hazard. We need at least 10 feet of clearance in front of the transformer (the side that is padlocked), as well as four feet of clearance on the other three sides.
- Contact us with questions about landscaping around or installing fencing near a padmount transformer (or any other changes) to learn what is allowable.
- Contact us if the transformer becomes unlocked or if it or any other type of utility equipment appears to be damaged.
- Call 811 prior to digging around a transformer and respect the clearance requirements noted above. If you dig near a transformer (even if it is beyond the clearance requirements), you could inadvertently hit a live underground cable. Always call 811 or **Iowa One Call** prior to any digging.
- Keep a clear path to the transformer. Even though the transformer seems like it is in “your yard,” it is technically on an easement, and our workers need clear access to it to maintain equipment and keep power running smoothly.

Contact us with any questions or concerns about the safety of padmount transformers. Always teach children that they should not sit on, open, or play around the green boxes.

To request a speaker on this or a variety of other topics, contact Tami Kerwood, Billing & Education Coordinator at tkerwood@consumersenergy.coop or 800-696-6552. For more about electrical safety, visit www.safeelectricity.org or www.consumersenergy.coop, then click the News & Education tab for electric safety information.

TUCKER WALL

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



JOB: APPRENTICE LINEMAN



DREAM VACATION: ROME



FAVE TV SHOW: REACHER



FAVE BAND: CREED



FAVE FOOD: CHICKEN ALFREDO

Happy Mother's Day

How many smaller words can you make from the letters in "Mother's Day?"
Words must be 2 letters or more.

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



What is Electric Shock Drowning

Know the signs of this hidden danger

Electric shock drowning (ESD) is a type of drowning that many people are not familiar with. ESD happens when electrical current seeps into water from a nearby electrical source such as a yacht, boat or dock. It can also happen in a pool, hot tub or water park if there is faulty wiring or other electrical issues.



To prevent and recognize ESD:

- Do not swim around docks with electrical service or boats that are plugged into a power source.
- If you are swimming and feel tingling or shocks, swim away from the dock or other electrical source.
 - Try to stay upright and tuck your legs up.
 - Alert others to cut the power source.
 - If you feel a shock, swim away from the dock.
- Do not jump in to try and save someone you suspect is exposed to electricity in the water. Instead:
 - Eliminate the source of power.
 - Throw a float.
 - Call 9-1-1.
- After the power is shut off, pull the person in with the float rope. If you cannot find a pulse, start CPR.

Prevention and Maintenance



Boats

- If you own a boat that has an electrical system, ensure circuits have GFCIs and check them often.

Docks

- If you have a dock with electricity, have its electrical system inspected regularly by a licensed contractor.

While it is impossible to know if water is electrified just by looking, learning about the dangers of ESD can help keep you and others safe in the water.

Learn more:





**Nominate a local volunteer
and they could win
\$3,000 for their charity!**

Contest entries accepted during June at
IowaShineTheLight.com

New employee at **CONSUMERS ENERGY**

William Ramirez began working at Consumers Energy on March 17 as a Warehouse & Purchasing Coordinator. He has been training with the cooperative's retiring Warehouse & Purchasing Coordinator, Steve Frye.

William grew up in Marshalltown, graduating from MHS, then went on to the Powerline Program at Marshalltown Community College. His family owns a painting business. In his free time, William enjoys playing golf, basketball, soccer, and video games.



William Ramirez
Warehouse & Purchasing Coordinator

Prior to his employment at Consumers Energy, William worked at JBS and Alliant Energy. William looks forward to learning new things, meeting new people, and overall enjoying work.



Welcome to the
team, William!

2025 Shine the Light Contest:

Help Us Shine the Light on Community Volunteers in June

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Consumers Energy encourages our members to participate in the statewide Shine the Light contest in June to celebrate local volunteers. Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, the contest will accept nominations in June and select three winners who will each receive a \$3,000 donation to their local charity or nonprofit.

"We've been truly inspired by the growth of this contest in our first five years," remarked Erin Campbell, director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. "We're excited to once again give out three charity donations of \$3,000 each this year to recognize local volunteer efforts across the state."

Members and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers during the month of June. If you receive electricity from Consumers Energy, you're a co-op member and we invite you to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians. Nominees from previous years can be nominated again for another chance to win.

The three winners will be announced in September and featured in *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine and on social media.

Go to www.IowaShineTheLight.com to review the contest rules and submission guidelines. Contest entries will be accepted at this website starting on June 1. Help us shine the light on community volunteers this summer and consider honoring a local volunteer by making a nomination.

CONSUMERS ENERGY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 - Marshall, Jasper, & Tama Counties:

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dbeckman@consumersenergy.coop

Bill Hobson

Director

whobson@consumersenergy.coop

Pat VonAhnen

Secretary-Treasurer

pvonahnen@consumersenergy.coop

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agreiner@consumersenergy.coop

Bob Meimann

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Steve Quick

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squick@consumersenergy.coop

District 3 - Polk County:

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Vice President

cgriffieon@consumersenergy.coop

Tony Lem

Director

alem@consumersenergy.coop

Jennifer Sease

Director

jsease@consumersenergy.coop

Energy Efficiency Cost per kWh:
\$0.000219

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



Online or the app

www.consumersenergy.coop

Automatic recurring
monthly payments



In person
headquarters
location

By dropbox



Allow 2-3 business
days for payments to
reach headquarters.

By phone 24/7
855-939-3832



By mail



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



WATER HEATERS

- Consumers Energy stocks and sells Marathon energy efficient electric water heaters.



for bill payment options

FREE PAYMENT OPTIONS

- ALL of Consumers Energy's payment options are FREE for members!



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