

A WORD FROM



**Craig Codner, CEO**  
ccodner@butlerrec.coop

## What is grid resiliency?

Resiliency of the grid is one of the most common topics in the electric industry today. It made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric grid resulting in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history. Here in Iowa, what does grid resiliency mean for you?

Grid resiliency is many things – it is reliability in your electric service, it is our ability

to efficiently restore your power, it is being able to meet the demands of new technology and it is how we serve you with different generation sources.

A resilient electric grid begins with a system designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats and other disruptions. A resilient grid is also flexible and adaptable by allowing different types of generation – such as wind, solar, coal and hydro – to seamlessly work together to provide you with safe, reliable and environmentally friendly power.

It takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep our system running smoothly. With thousands of consumers without power for months, the lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's power grid wasn't solely caused by hurricane damage; it was the result of years of neglect in taking care of their system and not preparing for a worst-case scenario.

In a similar way to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections and tire rotations, a grid must also be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections. Our goal is to find potential problems. For example, if we find a weak or damaged pole, we replace that pole. This ensures each pole is as strong – or as resilient – as it can be.

Over the years we have participated in a number of FEMA projects. One of the reasons is to ensure resiliency.

At the end of May we closed out our most recent FEMA project. This means all inspections, notifications and filings are completed. This project included replacing poles in a three-phase section near Greene and several smaller single-phase projects. Legacy Contracting, Inc. of Minnesota completed the work for us.

We received a grant from FEMA to cover 75 percent of the total cost. In addition, the state of Iowa matched 10 percent of the total we paid for the project. We are working on preparing information for future potential projects to maintain our resiliency.

Resilience is defined as “the ability to bounce back, recover quickly and go back into shape or position after being stretched.” When it comes to providing our member-owners with resilient service, this is what we work toward – day in and day out.

Thank you for your patience as we work toward a more resilient system. As always, call if you have questions.



## Frerichs joins cooperative

Butler County REC is pleased to announce that Lee Frerichs has joined us as an apprentice lineman. He began working at the cooperative on May 16 with the Allison Warehouse crews and will be on call at the Horton Warehouse.

Frerichs grew up north of Bristow, IA, and is a graduate of North Butler High School, Greene. He worked for Unverferth Manufacturing in Shell Rock, IA, and then attended Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, graduating in May of 2017 as a power lineman. After graduation he was hired by Clarke Electric Cooperative in Osceola.

Married to Courtney, they have a daughter Sage, who is eight months old. Frerichs likes to fish and spend time with family and friends.



**MOVE OVER**  
**SLOW DOWN**

# Touchstone Energy promotes co-op membership at Iowa State Fair

Membership in your local Touchstone Energy cooperative is a powerful thing. It means you have an energy source you can trust to look out for your community's best interests, not its own bottom line. That's because your local Touchstone Energy co-op is owned by the very members it serves – built to deliver its members safe and reliable electricity at the lowest possible price.

We invite you to stop by and learn more about co-op membership at the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa display in the Bruce L. Rastetter 4-H Exhibits Building at the Iowa State Fair Aug. 9-19.

Located inside the 4-H Exhibits Building on the south end of the fairgrounds, the display showcases all Iowa electric cooperatives on a map of Iowa. Magnetic "markers" are available to place on the state map to show co-op membership.

Fairgoers may register to win one of three Instant Pot Ultra 10 In 1 Multi-Use Programmable Cookers from Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa. The Instant Pot is the next generation in kitchen appliances. It combines a pressure cooker, slow cooker, rice/porridge cooker, cake maker, yogurt maker, sauté/searing function, steamer, warmer and sterilizer along with custom programming for pressure and non-pressure cooking. Favorite dishes can be made and ready up to 70 percent faster.

Three winners of the Instant Pot will be chosen, at random, following the close of the fair.

Additional energy efficiency and savings information will be displayed in the booth.

Cooperative members have a voice in how cooperatives are run, making sure their co-ops enhance quality of life by providing affordable electricity. Co-ops encourage members to save money through responsible energy use and offer discounts on qualified products and services members use every day.

Be sure to visit the Touchstone Energy display when you're at the Iowa State Fair and go to [touchstoneenergy.com](http://touchstoneenergy.com) for more information on how to save energy and the value of cooperative membership.



*Two 4-H participants at the 2017 Iowa State Fair mark their co-op on the magnetic map inside the Touchstone Energy of Cooperatives of Iowa display in the 4-H Exhibits Building. Visit the display this year and register to win an Instant Pot.*



Contact  
**Homeward,  
Inc.**

515-532-6477  
[homeward@  
mchsi.com](mailto:homeward@mchsi.com)

**Power  
to Your  
Community**



*Visit the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa booth to learn more and register to win one of three Instant Pots!*



For many rural Iowans, homeownership is just a dream. That's why your electric cooperative works with Homeward Inc., a not-for-profit housing organization, to offer a Home Buyer Loan Program. Funds can be used for down payment and closing costs associated with purchasing a home in areas we serve.

- Borrow up to \$10,000 (matching funds from the borrower is required)
- Interest rates: 4 percent for 5 years, 5 percent for 10 years
- Income restrictions apply

## Save Energy with LEDs

LED lights last up to 30 times longer than incandescents, reducing the need to replace bulbs in high or hard-to-reach places. Below are LED lighting suggestions for your home.



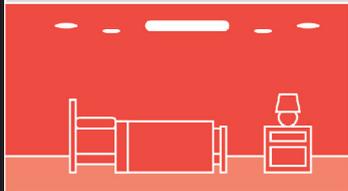
### Living Room Lamps

Table or floor three-way lamps using LED bulbs provide 620, 1,600 or 2,150 lumens of soft white light and deliver up to 25,000 hours of light.



### Kitchen

Dimmable recessed LED conversion lights add a warm glow of up to 1,200 lumens for kitchen workspaces and add far less heat to your kitchen. Each bulb could last 10 years.



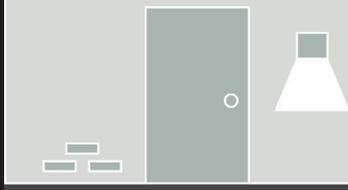
### Bedrooms and Hallways

Long-life LEDs are ideal for ceiling fixtures. A 9-watt LED produces the same 800 lumens of light as a 60-watt incandescent, and uses about 80 percent less energy.



### Bathrooms

Omnidirectional LED globe bulbs are designed to provide a warm glow ideal for bathrooms. A 6-watt bulb produces 450 lumens and lasts up to 15,000 hours.



### Outdoors

A 6-watt, 500 lumen LED bulb can replace a 40-watt incandescent bulb. Designed to last up to 30,000 hours, it could be a one-time switch.



*If an irrigation pipe makes contact with a power line, call 9-1-1 or your local electric utility.*

## Irrigation Safety

Irrigation systems can be essential for delivering water to crops. Your electric cooperative urges proper installation for new systems and regular maintenance for existing systems. To ensure everyone's safety:

- Do not store, handle or assemble irrigation pipes under or near overhead power lines.
  - Make sure everyone understands the danger of moving pipes near power lines.
  - Avoid moving pipes in windy conditions.
  - Keep pipes at least 10 feet away from the lines at all times.
  - Have a qualified electrician install your system, and inspect the pump and wiring before use.
  - Make sure irrigation systems with electric motors are adequately grounded with copper piping.
  - Make sure the system is positioned at least 15 feet away from power lines when operating, and position the water jet streams so that there is no chance that they will spray power lines.
  - If lines do come in contact with water from the sprayer, make sure no one approaches the system.
- For more information on irrigation and electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## Is it time to clean your water heater?

It seems strange that we would need to clean something full of clean water. However, your electric water heater needs maintenance just like any other appliance. Rheem, manufacturer of Marathon water heaters, recommends the following for maintenance of their electric water heaters:

- Every month, drain a few quarts of water from the tank to wash out hard-water deposits that may have collected.
- At least once a year, lift and release the temperature pressure relief valve handle to ensure the valve works. Allow several gallons to move through the discharge line and flow to an open drain. Be careful because this water might be hot enough to scald.
- If your water heater is making excessive noise, have it inspected.
- Keep the area around the water heater free of flammable liquids and combustible materials. Maintaining your water heater will help the appliance provide years of trouble-free service.



# Thank you for your membership

One of the benefits of being a member of Butler County REC is that you share in the excess margins in the form of patronage dividends. Your cooperative exists to serve you, not to make a profit.

After reviewing the operating revenues for 2017, the board of directors approved to set aside \$562,046.39 in excess margins. These margins are set aside to be used to help keep your electric cooperative financially sound and the quality of service as high as possible. The funds are also used to retire debt and build equity in our distribution system.

**Your portion** Your portion, or allocation, of the 2017 margins was listed in the box directly below your name on the June 2018 electric bill for May's usage. If you had more than one account in 2017, the total unretired patronage for all of your accounts was included.

The amount you earn is based upon the amount of electricity you use. The sum of your bills for the year is multiplied by a percentage to determine your allocation.

**Your payment** Butler County REC is currently on a 19-year payback schedule. If we remain on this schedule, this allocation will likely be paid in 2036. The latest payback of patronage was in February 2018, when \$675,968.26 was returned to those who were members in 1999 and 2016.

**Your address** Be sure to contact us if you move out of our service territory and no longer receive service from Butler County REC. It is important to keep your address current with us so that we can return your allocation when the time comes.

**Patronage dividends. Part of the cooperative difference.**



## Scholarship recipient sends thank you

Dear Butler County REC,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for making the Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship opportunity possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection of this honor and I am deeply appreciative of your support.

As I continue my education at Wartburg College in the fall, I look forward to working toward my career goals and finding a vocation in which I can help others. The financial assistance you provided will be highly beneficial in paying my educational expenses.

While writing the essay for this year's scholarship, I was reminded of how proud I am to be from rural Iowa with such supportive companies like Butler County REC. It is because of this encouraging and nurturing atmosphere that I am the person that I am today and why I have high aspirations for the future.

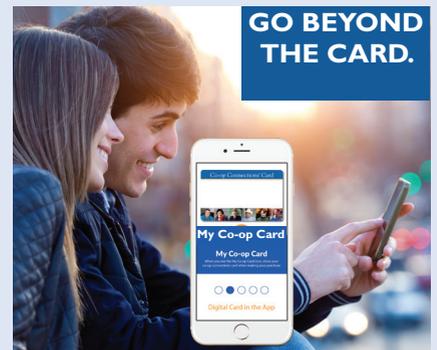
Thank you again for your generous support. I look forward to continuing college in the fall and using the values and work ethic that I learned from growing up in rural Iowa in working toward my career goals.

Sincerely,

Natalie Risse, 2018 Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship Recipient



## Save with Co-op Connections



Our free app helps you save money locally, online or wherever you may roam.

Download the new Co-op Connections® app today!



Visit [Connections.coop](http://Connections.coop) to view the new and improved website!

**INtouch** is published monthly for members of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative  
521 North Main • PO Box 98 • Allison, IA 50602  
PHONES: 319.267.2726 or 888.267.2726 • FAX: 319.267.2566  
OFFICE HOURS: Mon. - Fri., 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
WEBSITE: [www.butlerrec.coop](http://www.butlerrec.coop) • E-MAIL: [butler@butlerrec.coop](mailto:butler@butlerrec.coop)  
Craig Codner, CEO • EDITOR: Anne Sesker, CCC



Follow us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/bcrec](http://www.facebook.com/bcrec)

**smart choices**

Sign up for our e-newsletter at [www.butlerrec.coop](http://www.butlerrec.coop)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.