

## Butler County REC donates to Heery Woods expansion

In Iowa, it can feel as if our window for outdoor activities doesn't open very far. So when we do have the opportunity, we want to do as much as we can.

At Heery Woods State Park, located on the southern outskirts of Clarksville, park goers can participate in a number of activities in one place, including camping, fishing, boating and canoeing. There are also hard-surfaced trails connecting to Rolling Prairie Trail for hiking and biking. And if you enjoy cold weather activities, the park offers those, as well.

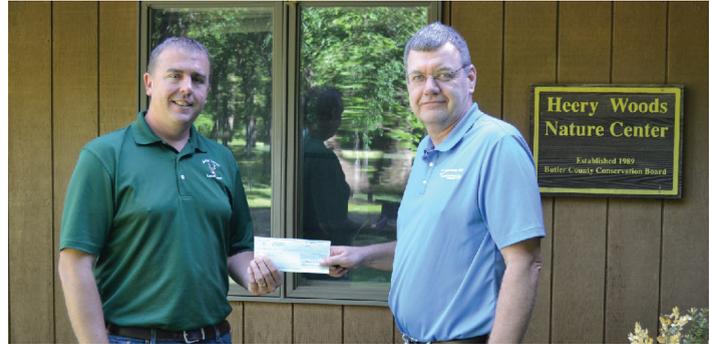
Heery Woods State Park also houses Heery Woods Nature Center, offering in-class and field experiences for schools, organizations and the general public.

The Nature Center has become so popular, the Butler County Conservation Board and Friends of Heery Woods Nature Center are in the midst of fundraising to add a 32' x 40' natural resource learning center with a basement

for storage and a 20' x 36' exhibit area addition.

With the estimated cost of the expansion at \$315,600, by the end of the summer over half of the money had been raised. This includes donations from Butler County REC of \$500; Corn Belt Power Cooperative, Humboldt, our generation and transmission cooperative, of \$250; and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bismarck, North Dakota, Corn Belt's power supplier, of \$750. Grants have also been applied for to help defray the costs.

Plans are to release the project for bids in March or April of 2020, with construction beginning in the summer or



*Pictured (left to right): Mike Miner, executive director, Butler County Conservation Board, and Gary Doehrmann, accountant, Butler County REC.*

fall of 2020.

If you would like to contribute, you can send your donation to either Friends of Heery Woods or Butler County Conservation Board at 28727 Timber Rd., Clarksville, IA, 50619.

Butler County REC is proud to support the efforts of local organizations who provide great opportunities for our members.

## TrinityRail Maintenance Services breaks ground

This summer, TrinityRail Maintenance Services officially broke ground in the Butler Logistics Park, served by Butler County REC and located near Shell Rock. Expected to be operational by the end of 2020, the facility's employees will provide railcar maintenance and service. The company plans to employ over 250 people in over 350,000 square feet of building space that will sit on 230 acres.

Pictured (left to right): Larry Young, mayor, Shell Rock; Val Swinton, mayor, Clarksville; Debi Durham, director, Iowa Economic Development Authority; Neil West, president, TrinityRail Maintenance Services; Dan Sabin, president, Iowa Northern Railroad; Rusty Eddy, supervisor, Butler County; Rick Whalen, economic development director, Butler County REC; and Jeff Kolb, director, Butler-Grundy Development Alliance. (Source: Bethany Carson, Clarksville Star)



# New rule for managing power plant carbon emissions

By Dan Riedinger, NRECA

The Trump administration recently issued a rule to reduce power plant carbon emissions. Known as the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule, the new regulation will require power plants to work with state regulators to assess steps that can be taken to cut emissions through energy-efficiency improvements.

America's electric cooperatives welcomed the new rule, noting that it is far preferable to an earlier and far costlier attempt to regulate carbon emissions put on hold by the Supreme Court.

"The ACE rule represents a more flexible path forward that will minimize the cost to consumers and preserve the reliability of the electric grid as electric co-ops work to promote a healthy environment and vibrant rural communities," said Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Matheson stressed that the ACE rule will allow electric co-ops to ensure that affordable and reliable power remains available throughout our communities.

Power plant emissions have steadily declined due to market forces and evolving consumer expectations.

Nearly 60 percent of the electricity supplied by electric co-ops comes from low- or no-emission energy sources. Electric cooperatives have reduced carbon emissions 9 percent since 2009, even while increasing electric generation by more than 12 million megawatt-hours. And co-ops are investing in research to develop proven carbon capture, storage and reuse technologies that can extend the operation of coal-fueled power plants.



Corn Belt Power Cooperative's Wisdom 2 Substation located in Spencer, Iowa

## Marathon electric water heaters available

Contact us today to learn more about the Rheem Marathon water heater. It is durable, lightweight and offers a limited lifetime tank warranty for the original purchaser. We also provide a generous rebate!



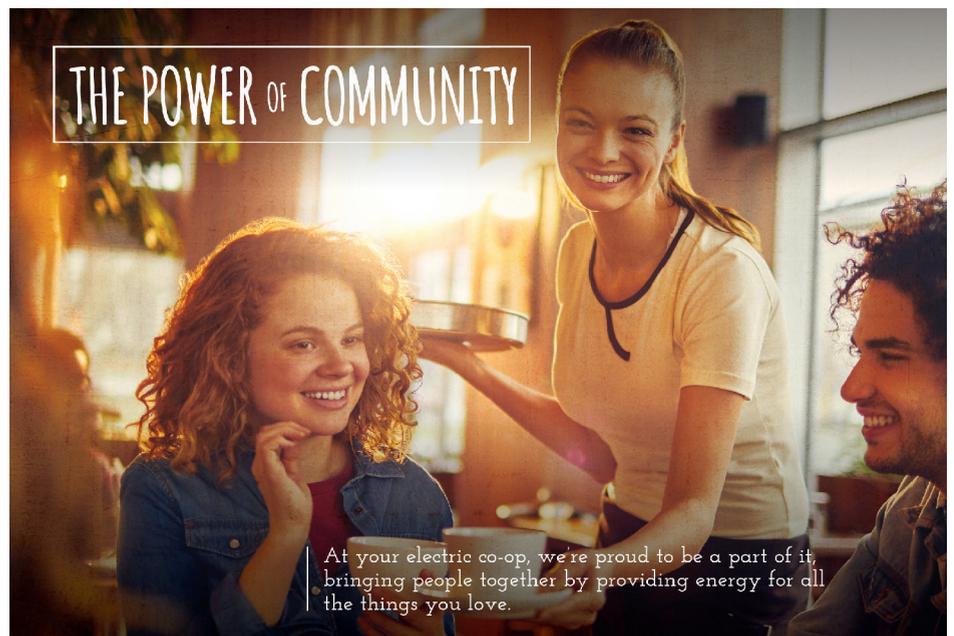
### HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

Source: Safe Electricity



### THE POWER OF COMMUNITY



At your electric co-op, we're proud to be a part of it, bringing people together by providing energy for all the things you love.

# Reduce your carbon footprint

Everyone has a carbon footprint. It's the amount of greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide and methane, for example, that you use. When emitted into the atmosphere, those gases are believed to trap heat and warm the earth.

The average American has a carbon footprint of 18.3 tons, according to Columbia University's Earth Institute. That compares to the average footprint in China of 8.2 tons.

One way to reduce your carbon footprint is to use energy efficiently in your home. For example:

- Turn lights off and unplug electronic devices when you're not using them.
- Reduce the temperature on your water heater to a safe 120 degrees.
- Install low-flow showerheads and take shorter showers.
- Dry clothes on a line instead of in the dryer if it's nice outdoors.
- Inch the thermostat on your air conditioning up a couple of degrees in the summer and down a bit in the winter. On mild-weather days, turn off the a/c or heat all together and run ceiling fans instead.

To find other ways to save energy, conduct an energy assessment of your home or contact us to conduct an assessment. Look for ways your family wastes energy and take steps to stop it. If you have questions, give us a call.



# Save energy with DIY projects

Do you hear the term "DIY" and cringe? Or perhaps you are a DIY extraordinaire, looking for the next project to complete.

Easy-to-do projects or steps that could save you money include:

- **Insulating your hot water pipes** to reduce heat loss.
- **Insulating and reducing air leaks** in floors over garages.
- **Adding more attic insulation** if yours is inadequate.
- **Installing an attic stairs cover box** to improve air leaks and comfort.
- **Applying frosted contact paper** to the windows in or by your front door to decrease heat transfer.

## Insulation rebates

If you are considering insulation, remember that your Touchstone Energy Cooperative has rebates available to help with the cost of the materials for ceiling, foundation, wall and duct insulation. We also have a rebate for weatherization items.

**Contact us to learn more about our rebates.**



## POWER CO-OP EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION

Are you disgusted with your auto loan interest rate?

You are eligible to join Power Co-op Employees Credit Union if you are a member of the following:

**Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative**

**Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative**

**Prairie Energy Cooperative**

We offer a full line of financial services including consumer loans, mortgages, home equity loans, share accounts, checking accounts, youth accounts and Christmas Club.

If you are interested in a financial institution that "puts people first" and has low loan interest rates, give us a call or stop by to find out what membership can do for you!

AUTO LOAN RATES AS LOW AS

**1.99%<sup>apr</sup>\***

\* for qualified borrowers, rates subject to change.



Federally insured

By NCUA

• 515-332-4096 • [www.powercoopcu.com](http://www.powercoopcu.com) • 1208 N 13th St • Humboldt, Iowa

# EV charging station incentive available

Butler County REC is offering a new incentive for members with Level 2 electric vehicle chargers.

One aspect of the new electric vehicle charging station incentive is the possibility for future load control. Load control is the process by which we can reduce demand during peak use times, when electricity is most expensive.

The new residential incentive details are as follows:

- Rebate of 50 percent of a Level 2 charger equipment price (excluding installation) up to \$500 per charger.
- Rebate is limited to 3 chargers per household.
- Charger must be hardwired and installation must meet local codes.
- Member is required to provide charger serial number and specifications.
- Member is required to sign an agreement for future possible load control.
- Member is required to provide make, model, VIN, license, and purchase date information about the vehicle(s).

For more information, please contact us at 319-267-2726.



*Nissan's Leaf, an electric car (Source: Nissan)*

## Do You Know...

Educated, engaged directors are better able to make informed decisions.



- Eight of your nine directors are Credentialed Cooperative Directors and soon all nine will hold the designation.
- Six directors hold their Board Leadership Certificate.
- Five directors have their Director Gold Credential.

These certifications, through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, help your directors understand their role and responsibilities and stay up-to-date on the industry. Directors take courses at each level to earn the certification.

## Be Watts Smart!

- Receive a one-time \$10 incentive for participating and a FREE Watts Smart Peak Alert device.
- A load control receiver connected to your electric water heater will automatically – and virtually unnoticed – operate to manage electric use during peak demand times.
- Reducing peak demand is wise energy use, helping reduce costs for you and for Butler County REC.



## New prices

Effective October 1, 2019

**Marathon**<sup>®</sup>  
WATER HEATERS

Model	Retail Cost	Member Rebate	Member Cost*
50 gallon - tall or short	\$1,025	\$626	\$399
85 gallon - heavy duty	\$1,396	\$997	\$399
105 gallon - heavy duty	\$1,566	\$1,017	\$549

\*Plus tax applied to the retail cost.

- **New homes or replacing gas water heater: 50- and 85-gallon units— members pay tax only; 105-gallon unit—members pay \$250, plus retail tax.**
- **Rebates cannot exceed the purchase price of the unit.**

**Contact our Energy Efficiency Department for more information**



**INtouch** is published monthly for members of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative  
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