

# InTouch

WITH MEMBERS OF BUTLER COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

July 2024

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Join us for our 2024 Member Appreciation Events!

**Tuesday, July 30** Floyd County Fairgrounds (Swartzrock Community Building) – 2516 7 Mile Rd., Charles City

**Thursday, Aug. 1** Big 4 Fairgrounds (show building) – 499 Greenwood Ave., Nashua

**Tuesday, Aug 6** Butler County Fairgrounds (new multi-species livestock building) – 101 S. Main St., Allison

From 5-7 p.m., Butler County REC employees and directors will be serving grilled hamburgers, baked beans, a variety of potato chips, cookies, ice cream, lemonade, and water. Stop by for a drive-thru meal if you don't have time to sit down with us.

Each family will receive one \$15 Mastercard gift card, along with the chance to win prizes. Prizes include a Ryobi leaf blower and trimmer and bill credits. In addition, attendees will be able to go for a ride in the bucket of a line crew truck, watch a safety demonstration, check out line crew gear, and catch up with neighbors. Kids can sign up to win a scooter and helmet, too!

We will offer golf cart rides to our members needing assistance to the venues from their vehicles.

### SEE YOU THERE!

## Board allocates \$2,333,702.22 in margins

Unlike other electric utilities, Butler County REC exists to make sure your needs are always met, not to make a profit. As a member-owner, you share in the excess margins in the form of patronage dividends.

After reviewing the operating revenues for 2023, the board of directors at Butler County REC approved to set aside \$2,333,702.22 in excess margins. These margins – retained as patronage capital – will be used to help keep your electric cooperative financially sound and the quality of service as high as possible.

**Allocations on June bills** Your share of the 2023 margin – your patronage allocation – was listed in the box

directly below your name on the June 2024 electric bill for May's usage. The total unretired patronage for all your accounts was included. The amount you earn in a given year 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.

**Patronage return** The latest payback of patronage was in February 2024, when \$1,563,912.83 was returned for the remaining portion of 2005 and the 2006 allocation. Corn Belt Power Cooperative, our wholesale power supplier, also retired a portion of the patronage Butler County REC was allocated in 2022. This is included in the amount returned to members.

**Keep your address with us current** If you move out of our service territory and will no longer receive electrical service from Butler County REC, it is important to keep your address current with us. We rely on former co-op members to send us their new addresses for patronage disbursement mailings.



## A WORD FROM



Craig Codner, CEO  
ccodner@butlerrec.coop

In your June newsletter, I discussed the new bill print and line-item changes coming this summer. The new bill print will be in your mailbox in August for your July usage.

In the newsletter, I mentioned that a new line item would state DEMAND CHARGE and would not include an amount. I also stated that the bill would be easier to read. We want to ensure that it is. Therefore, after productive team discussions on what would be best for the membership, at this time we have decided to eliminate the DEMAND CHARGE line item to lessen confusion.

To continue our discussion on demand charges from last month's column, I want to explain two new kilowatt amounts that will appear on your Butler

# The only thing constant is change

County REC bill. The demand charges are not new to us, as we have been paying these to Corn Belt Power Cooperative, our generation and transmission cooperative—who we receive power from to supply power to our members. What *is* new, is that we have never included that kilowatt amount on your bill to show you how your usage contributes to Corn Belt Power's system peak—when the most power is being used.

I mentioned coincidental and non-coincidental demand in my last column. As a reminder, coincidental is the demand recorded for a member at a specified time within the billing period—when Corn Belt Power reaches its peak usage, and noncoincidental is the highest demand recorded for a member during the entire billing period. Keep in mind that our meters record kWh (kilowatt-hour, or energy) usage (the usage shown on your bill), not demand (kilowatt, or kW), at 15-minute intervals.

On the new bill print, you will see On-Peak kW and Max-Peak kW. On-Peak kW is another way of saying coincidental. This amount is the member's contribution to Corn Belt Power's peak. For example, if your On-Peak kW amount is 1.256, this means that your household used 1.256

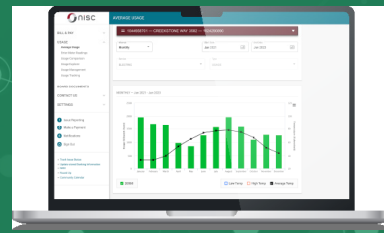
kW during the 15-minute peak period.

Max-Peak kW, on the other hand, considers all 15-minute intervals and is the member's highest 15-minute interval usage during a given month. Your household's highest peak may not be Corn Belt Power's highest system peak.

With implementation of the new demand information on your bill, we will now process billing on the third business day of the month, rather than the current first day of the month, due to the timing of when we receive the demand information from Corn Belt Power. Your due date on the 28th of the month will remain the same.

If you have not yet checked out SmartHub on our website or downloaded the app, we encourage you to do so. To register, you will need an email address and your account number. After registering, you will be able to see your 15-minute kWh usage intervals, make payments, contact us, and more. You can also activate any features you find helpful, such as alerts/notifications, AutoPay, and paperless billing.

Please call us at 888-267-2726 with any questions you may have regarding the new bill format, demand information, or SmartHub applications.



## Check Usage. Enroll in Auto Pay. Contact Us.

Manage your account like never before. SmartHub puts your usage and payment details front and center for fast, easy access, and the simplified menu structure makes navigating the site a breeze. Visit our website at [www.butlerrec.coop](http://www.butlerrec.coop), or download the app!

## Fair Fever? Join us at the Iowa State Fair!

Cooperative employees from across the state will again be working at the Iowa State Fair, and we would love to see you!

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa sponsor the Rastetter 4-H Building on the south side of the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Check out all of the great 4-H projects in the AIR CONDITIONED building!

Read your August *InTouch* newsletter and watch Facebook and Instagram for more information. The fair runs from Aug. 8-18, 2024. Plan to stop by!






# Navigating Your New Electric Bill

Over the past several months, our team has been working to improve the bill print to help you better understand your energy use. However, one thing that has not changed is the fee structure. At this time, the rates and fixed monthly costs for co-op members remain the same. No new charges have been added to your monthly statement.

## INFORMATION KEY

1. Amount due on account
2. Your account number. Please refer to this number when calling in or making payments.
3. Billing summary shows activity since last billing.
4. Message center for important messages from Butler County REC.
5. Meter number and meter reading information.
6. By following the graph key, you can see monthly usage along with monthly average temperatures. You can compare your usage for the last 12 months.
7. Current detail of charges for electric use.
8. Account number and amount due. Return stub with your check or cash payment.
9. Additional ways to pay. We accept Visa, Mastercard, and American Express.



**Important Messages**

4 Always MOVE OVER and SLOW DOWN when you see a vehicle on the side of the road with flashing lights on. Not only is it the safe thing to do, it's the law. Let's be sure we all make it home safe.

Office Hours: 7:00 am to 3:30 pm, Monday - Friday  
Visit us online at [www.butlerrec.coop](http://www.butlerrec.coop)  
Phone: (319) 267-2726 or (888) 267-2726  
Pay-By-Phone: (855) 918-3803 24/7

Member Name: JOHN DOE  
Account #: 99999999

Billing Date: 05/01/2024  
Current Bill Due Date: 05/28/2024

Previous Balance: 247.47  
Payment Received: -247.47  
Balance Forward: 0.00  
Current Charges: 172.62  
Total Due 05/28/2024: 172.62

**Total Due**

**\$172.62**

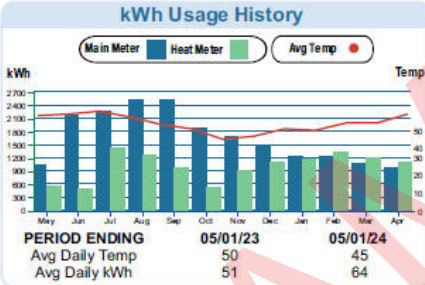
Due Date: 05/28/24

Service Address: 123 ANY ST.

Description	Meter No.	Reading Dates From	To	Days	Readings Previous	Present	Mult	kWh Usage	On-Peak kW	Max-Peak kW
RESIDENTIAL	12345678	04/01/24	05/01/24	31	33,256	34,266	1	810	1.256	3.215
ELEC HEAT SUB	12345679	04/01/24	05/01/24	31	1,206	1,216	20	200	2.526	6.895

Service Location: 999999


**kWh Usage History**



**Current Service Detail**

Facility Charge	47.50
Meter Number: 12345678	
Energy Charge 800 kWh @ 0.13790	110.32
Energy Charge 10 kWh @ 0.10000	1.00
Energy Cost Adj 810 kWh @ -0.00177	-1.43
Meter Number: 12345679	
Energy Charge 200 kWh @ 0.06530	13.06
Energy Cost Adj 200 kWh @ 0.00232	0.46
Local Option Tax 170.91 @ 1.0%	1.71
<b>Total Current Charges</b>	<b>172.62</b>


KEEP SEND



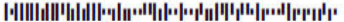
521 N. Main  
PO Box 98  
Allison, IA 50602-0098

Account Number: 99999999  
Total Due 05/28/2024: 172.62  
Amount Due After 05/28/2024: 175.20

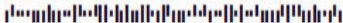

PAY YOUR BILL 24/7  
ONLINE: Check or credit/debit card at [butlerrec.coop](http://butlerrec.coop) or download the mobile app.  
PHONE: (855) 918-3803



JOHN DOE  
123 ANY ST  
ANYWHERE, USA 99999



BUTLER COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
PO BOX 374  
HAMPTON IA 50441-0374

17032009999900000034671000034671050320247

## Air conditioner not so cool?

In the heat of the summer, one of the last things you want is for your air conditioner to fail. Be sure to have your unit checked BEFORE the cooling season to make sure all is well. If you do need to replace your unit, think heat pump.

In general, a heat pump extracts heat from one place and transfers it to another (similar to how an air conditioner or refrigerator cools). In warmer months, a heat pump takes heat from inside a home and relocates it outdoors. In the cooler months, a heat pump produces heat energy from the outside and moves it inside.

Energy.gov estimates that today's heat pumps can reduce a home's electricity use for heating by approximately 65% compared to traditional systems like furnaces and baseboard heaters.

**Air source heat pumps** (pictured above) are the most common and are powered by electricity. They have an outdoor compressor/condenser unit that warms or cools the coils inside the air handler. It then circulates that air through the system and pushes the air through ducts back into rooms. They are also available in a ductless version called a mini-split.

**Geothermal heat pumps** can heat, cool, and even supply hot water to a home by transferring heat to or from the ground (or nearby water source), according to Energy.gov. Geothermal pumps cost more to install than other versions but have lower operating costs. They are typically more efficient.

To determine the best heat pump system for your home, call Matt or Tyler at 888-267-2726. They can also discuss rebate incentives for your purchase.



### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## Why do we advertise?

As a Touchstone Energy cooperative, Butler County REC is part of a national alliance of local, member-owned electric co-ops that pool together to advertise and communicate at a fraction of the cost that it would be if each co-op did them independently.

We are your local electric cooperative that operates to efficiently deliver reliable and safe energy to everyone we serve. Whether through radio, newsprint, television, or newsletters, it is our responsibility to inform the public and provide answers about the services we offer.

- **PUBLIC SAFETY** – How is power restored? How can I protect my family during a severe storm? What should I teach my kids about electrical safety? Why should I “look up and live” around power lines?
- **EDUCATION** – What is clean energy? Is solar energy right for me? What scholarships and programs are available for my family? Why should I vote in the director election? How do I choose a heating and cooling system? What is budget billing and how can it help me?
- **ENERGY EFFICIENCY** – How can I reduce my energy use and save money? What rebates and incentives are available? What is load management? Can my electric co-op give me more control over how I use energy?
- **FEDERAL AND STATE MANDATES** – How do I file a complaint? What are the requirements for a grain bin? If I cannot pay my bill, is help available? Is my co-op helping low-income families?

## Advertising can help answer your questions

What should I teach my children about electrical safety?

Is solar energy right for me?

How can I reduce my energy use?

If I cannot pay my bill, is help available?



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