

# InTouch

WITH MEMBERS OF BUTLER COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

December 2025

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Nominating Committee seeks board candidates

Butler County REC's board of directors have appointed the following members to serve on a nominating committee and select members to run for three director positions that will expire on March 25, 2026:

- **Mark Johnson, Greene, 563-320-5078**
- **Nick Mead, Charles City, 515-835-2443**
- **Rick Rex, Marble Rock, 641-330-1748**

This committee will meet at the cooperative office in Allison at **10 a.m., Jan. 5, 2026**, to nominate members for the office of director. The election will take place at the cooperative's annual meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2026.

Your co-op's board of directors consists of nine members serving three-year terms. Every year, three of the positions come up for election. Each director must reside in the area he or she is elected to represent.

**For the 2026 election, the board is seeking nominations in the following areas: the northwest one-quarter of Butler County, the eastern one-half of Floyd County, and the western one-half of Floyd County.** The members listed below are currently serving as your board representatives. Their terms will expire and at this time are the only names on the ballot:

- **Tim Schrage, Allison, northwest one-quarter of Butler County**
- **Grant Greenzweig, Charles City, eastern one-half of Floyd County**

The following director will not seek re-election:

- **Gerald Schmitt, Rockford, western one-half of Floyd County**

If you are interested in running for a position or want to recommend someone residing in any of these areas, please contact a member on the nominating committee before **Jan. 5, 2026**. Please call our office if you need help to reach a member of the nominating committee.

### Nomination details

The list of nominations will then be posted at the Butler County REC office in Allison. For 10 days after posting this list, additional nominations of members residing in the general area of vacancy may be made by written petition. Forms will be provided at the request of any member and must be signed by no less than 20 members of the cooperative. Any member so nominated must give prior consent to such nomination. The following excerpt from the Butler County REC articles of incorporation and bylaws further explains this process:

Not less than sixty (60) days prior to the regular annual meeting of members, the Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee of not less than three members of the Association who are not directors of the Association. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a list of nominees, residing in the general area of the vacancy, with at least one member nominated for each vacancy to be filled at the next annual meeting. The written list of nominations of the Nominating Committee shall be posted at the office of the Association not less than thirty days prior to mailing the notice of the annual meeting of members. For ten days after posting of the list of nominations by the committee, additional nominations of members residing in the general area of the vacancy may be made by written petition on forms provided on request of any member, and signed by not less than 20 members of the Association. Any member nominated shall give prior consent to such nomination whether by committee or petition. The notice of the annual meeting of members shall list the names of all nominees for the office of director.

In the event any member who is nominated either by the committee or petition withdraws consent, dies, or for any other reason is unable or declines to serve as a director, prior to the annual meeting but after the deadlines set forth above for posting and mailing of notices, and as a result thereof there remains only one nominee from the general area of any vacancy, then the committee on nominations shall be vested with full authority to nominate an additional member of the Association residing in the general area of the vacancy, so that two nominees from that area exist. If sufficient time exists prior to the annual meeting, the members of the Association shall be notified by mail of the new nomination. If sufficient time does not exist, prior to the election of directors at the annual meeting, a general announcement shall be made concerning the withdrawal, death, etc. of the person originally nominated, and the person subsequently nominated by the Nominating Committee.

### Disconnects suspended during holiday season

Between Christmas and New Year's (Dec. 25-Jan. 1), Butler County REC will suspend nonpayment disconnections.

If your bill is delinquent prior to that week, your property may be posted. Normal disconnect procedures will resume Jan. 2, if temperatures are above 20 degrees.

**CURRENT BILLS ARE DUE ON DEC. 28.**



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from Butler County REC*

**This holiday season, Butler County REC will be closed  
Wednesday, Dec. 24 \* Thursday, Dec. 25 \* Thursday, Jan. 1**

**We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you and wish  
you and your family the warmest of holidays.**

**Our phones are always answered: 888.267.2726**



Craig Codner, CEO  
ccodner@butlerrec.coop

# Why Basin Electric wholesale power costs are rising in 2026

building new infrastructure has risen dramatically. The book value of generation assets that make up our current fleet average \$800 per kilowatt. Future generation assets are projected to cost \$2,700 per kilowatt. Similarly, the book value of the transmission assets that reliably deliver power across Basin Electric's footprint average approximately \$400,000 per mile, but future projects are expected to cost around \$2 million per mile.

In addition, through 2024, Basin Electric and its subsidiaries had already invested more than \$2 billion of member capital in environmental control technology, with \$190 million spent in 2024 alone to operate and maintain those systems.

## How generation built in other states benefits Iowa electric cooperative members

Although some of Basin Electric's new generation is being built in North Dakota, the benefits reach all members across Basin's nine-state service area, including here in Iowa. It's the same way we benefit from hydropower dams on the Missouri River through Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

That's because Basin Electric operates as an interconnected system. The cooperative's generation and transmission resources are pooled and managed together to serve the entire membership. When new generation comes online, it strengthens the reliability of the entire system, providing more stability and flexibility no matter where the electricity is consumed within the Basin footprint.

Building new dispatchable generation in North Dakota also takes advantage of existing low-cost fuel supply chains, interconnection with a robust transmission network, and geographic diversity. This strategic placement helps manage costs and ensures power can flow where it's needed most—whether that's in North Dakota, Iowa, or any other part of Basin's region—especially during times of high demand or extreme weather.

When Basin Electric builds new generation, it doesn't just serve one state or one cooperative—it strengthens the entire network. Members in Iowa benefit through:

- Improved reliability: More dispatchable generation on the system reduces the risk of shortages or outages, especially during peak conditions.
- Cost stability: Building where infrastructure and fuel access already exist helps keep project costs—and therefore future rates—lower for everyone.
- Energy security: Diverse geographic locations mean Basin Electric can keep delivering power even if one area experiences supply or weather challenges.
- Shared cooperative value: Because Basin Electric is owned by its members, every investment is made to serve the entire membership.

As Basin Electric's wholesale power cost adjustment takes effect, your local board of directors will carefully review the details to understand what it means for our cooperative and our members. Transparency and communication are key to the cooperative difference, and we remain committed to keeping you informed every step of the way.

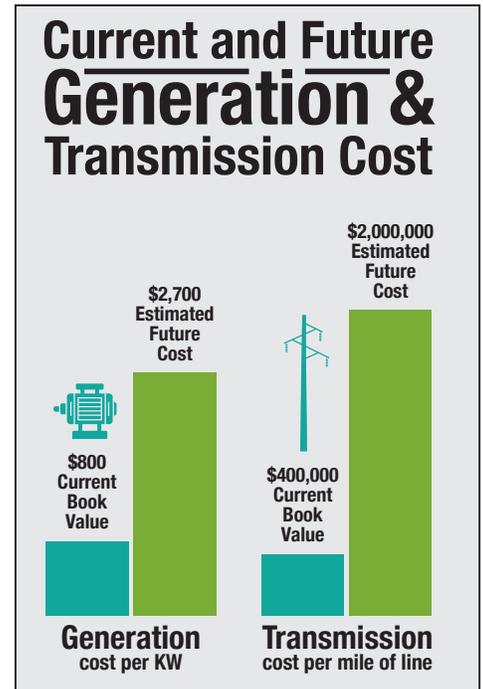
In September, the Basin Electric Power Cooperative board of directors—one of Butler County REC's power suppliers—authorized a wholesale power rate increase, to Corn Belt Power Cooperative (also one of our power suppliers) and Butler County REC, of approximately 10% effective Jan. 1, 2026.

We understand the significance of this decision and the impact it will have on our members and our communities.

For years, electric cooperative members have enjoyed mostly stable rates. That stability didn't happen by chance—it's the result of long-term, forward-thinking investments made 40 or more years ago in the power plants, transmission lines, and infrastructure we rely on today. To keep reliability strong and prepare for future growth, it's time to reinvest—just as those before us did. Unfortunately, the future will require large amounts of capital today, which will result in upward pressure on rates.

Over the next 10 years, Basin Electric's load growth is projected to increase by 2.5% annually—well above the national average. To serve that growth, the cooperative will invest an estimated \$11 billion in capital expenditures, more than doubling its assets. These investments will increase Basin Electric's dispatchable generation by 50% and expand its transmission system by more than 30%. Dispatchable generation—coal, natural gas, etc.—is critical to our electric grid because it's power that can be turned on or off to match demand on the system, keeping power supply steady and reliable.

At the same time, the cost of



## Opportunities for students



### Youth Tour 2026

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS: Butler County REC is now accepting applications for the all-expense paid 2026 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 14-20!

Your parents or guardians must be Butler County REC members or residents of Aplington, Fairbank, Fredericksburg, or Readlyn.

The top three applicants will be interviewed and awarded a \$500 scholarship.

Contact us at 888-267-2726 or [butlerrec.coop](http://butlerrec.coop) for more information.

Deadline to apply is March 1, 2026.



### Scholarships available

Visit our website at [butlerrec.coop](http://butlerrec.coop) for more information on these scholarships:

- Butler County REC Technical/Trade Industry/Electric Line Apprenticeship
- Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- Corn Belt Power Cooperative/Northwest Iowa Community College Line Program
- Corn Belt Power Cooperative/Iowa Lakes Community College Wind Energy and Turbine Technology

Scholarship amounts and deadlines vary.

**Contact us at  
888.267.2726  
if you have questions**

## Details announced for 2026 Momentum is Building Conference

Iowa builders and contractors are invited to discover the latest advancements in energy-efficiency technologies at the 2026 Momentum is Building Conference, set for Feb. 19-20, 2026, at The Sheraton West Des Moines in West Des Moines, IA.

The annual conference offers opportunities for contractors to earn CEUs (continuing education units) in Iowa's plumbing/mechanical, HVAC, and electrical codes. Attendees will also have the chance to network with industry peers, learn from leading experts in energy efficiency and the building trades, and gain insights into current energy efficiency regulations and incentives.

Sponsored by the Iowa Cooperatives for Energy Efficiency (ICEE), the annual Momentum is Building Conference connects Iowa's construction industry with the services and resources provided by local electric cooperatives, which serve nearly 650,000 Iowans across all 99 counties.

For almost 35 years, the Momentum is Building Conference has provided a platform for electric cooperatives and contractors to collaborate in delivering safe, efficient, and cost-effective home comfort solutions to Iowans.

Don't miss this chance to stay ahead of the curve in energy efficiency and enhance your professional skills. For more information or to register for the 2026 Momentum is Building Conference, visit [www.MomentumIsBuilding.com](http://www.MomentumIsBuilding.com). Discounted Early Bird registration runs until Monday, Jan. 19, 2026.

**FEBRUARY 19-20, 2026**

**IOWA BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS:**  
Ask us about Momentum is Building Energy Efficiency Conference to learn more about how you can earn CEUs, network, and learn new techniques



SHERATON WEST DES MOINES HOTEL

[WWW.MOMENTUMISBUILDING.COM](http://WWW.MOMENTUMISBUILDING.COM)

## Our Promise to You

As the demand for electricity continues to grow, our commitment to providing you with reliable power remains steadfast. Looking ahead, we are dedicated to:

- Advocating for energy policies that support our local communities.
- Leveraging innovative technologies to strengthen our grid.
- Listening to your feedback to enhance co-op programs and services.

## Our Touchstone Energy Values



Touchstone Energy®

Integrity | Accountability | Innovation | Commitment to Community | Teamwork

# Should I use a space heater or turn up the heat?

Drafty room? Before reaching for your space heater, consider whether it's better to plug it in or turn up the thermostat.

Space heaters are designed to warm small, targeted spaces — not your entire home. If you find yourself relying on one often, it may be time to address your home's energy efficiency.

## Fix efficiency first, then supplement with a space heater

Improving your home's efficiency helps it retain heat, reduces drafts, and reduces your energy use. Many solutions are affordable and DIY-friendly, such as:

- Seal air leaks. Use caulk and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors to prevent drafts.
- Add insulation where it matters. Attic insulation has the biggest return on investment, and loose-fill insulation is an affordable option.
- Check your heating system. Schedule regular service for your furnace or heat pump. If it's outdated or struggling, it could be time for an upgrade. Check with your utility for potential rebates and incentives.
- Use programmable thermostats. These can help reduce energy waste by heating only when and where needed.

Once your home is sealed and insulated, a space heater can be used to increase comfort and warm specific rooms, like a home office or bedroom, without turning up the heat for the whole house.

A space heater is like a ceiling fan; it can improve comfort in a small area, but it's not a whole-house solution.

## Use space heaters efficiently

- Heat only the room you're currently in.
- Close doors to keep heat contained.
- Choose the right size — too small and it won't warm you; too big and it wastes energy. Check manufacturer sizing guides.
- Use a heater with a thermostat and timer to avoid overheating the room or wasting electricity.

## Stay safe while staying warm

- Place the heater on a solid, flat, nonflammable surface — never on carpets or rugs.
- Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use extension cords or power strips.
- Keep children, pets and anything flammable, such as curtains or bedding, at least 3 feet away from the heater.
- Choose a heater with built-in safety features, including an overheat sensor, a tip-over shutoff switch, and an UL, ETL, or CSA International certification label.
- Never leave a space heater unattended, especially around children or pets.
- Turn off the heater when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Unplug it when not in use to prevent electrical hazards.

feeling chilled?

## HEAT YOUR SPACE SAFELY

1. Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away
2. Place on a flat, level surface
3. Make sure the cord is not frayed or cracked
4. Plug it directly into an outlet
5. Follow all instructions and use models endorsed by a reputable testing lab
6. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which can overheat
7. Do not use around small children or pets
8. Do not use one with a damaged plug or prongs

Safe Electricity.org®

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