

# InTouch

WITH MEMBERS OF BUTLER COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

March 2026

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Business-only annual meeting to be held March 25

A WORD FROM



Craig Codner, CEO  
ccodner@butlerrec.coop

Your board of directors will convene on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at the Butler County REC warehouse in Allison at 619 N. Railroad St. to hold the cooperative annual meeting.

Members are invited to attend the business-only meeting, which includes the results of the directors' election.

Mail-in ballots were sent to each member at the beginning of March, and votes will be accepted until 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, at our office in Allison. The ballots count toward meeting quorum requirements.

Election results will be on our social media platforms and website after the March 25 meeting and will appear in your May *InTouch* newsletter. Feel free to contact us at 888.267.2726 beginning Thursday, March 26, for meeting results.

Action will not be taken at the annual meeting on any other matters brought before the board. Should members have an issue to be addressed by the board or want member action on a matter, the issue should be brought to the attention of the board so that it may be considered and possibly included for action at a future meeting.

We will hold our member appreciation events this summer, so the annual meeting will not include a meal, entertainment, or gifts. More information will be available in the coming months. We look forward to seeing you at the events!

## ECA adjustment amount announced

In November, Craig Codner, CEO, announced in his newsletter column that the energy cost adjustment (ECA) rate was set to change Jan. 1, 2026.

Your board of directors has approved an ECA amount of \$0.009515, reflected as Energy Cost Adj on your bill. If you have an electric heat meter, the ECA for usage on the heat meter will be \$0.006198 in October through April and \$0.009515 in May through September.

The ECA is a pass-through from Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative, our wholesale power suppliers. Butler County REC does not receive any revenue from the adjustment.

We understand this may create a hardship and invite you to read Craig's column, "The power surge," in this issue to learn ways to save on your power bill. Be sure to contact us if you have questions.

## Ready for adventure? Energy Trails Tour set for this summer



Enter your name into our drawing for the opportunity to travel to North Dakota! Learn how power is generated; meet cooperative neighbors; and enjoy stops along the way! Scan the QR code for more info.



**MOVE OVER  
SLOW DOWN**

**BCREC encourages you to  
MOVE OVER AND SLOW  
DOWN when you approach  
a vehicle with flashers on.**

**Let's obey the law, and  
let's make sure everyone  
arrives safely!**

# Miller retires after 38 years of service to members

Sandi Miller, office and human resources manager, was a fixture at Butler County REC beginning in 1987 until she retired in February.

She began her career as an accounting clerk and held numerous positions while at the REC, including office supervisor, housing manager, information technology, and office manager. After receiving her bachelor's degree in human resources management, she was named the human resources manager, as well.

"Every day was a different day. I would come into work with a plan for the day, and it always changed. But I loved the variety and the challenges," Sandi said.

Hired for her knowledge of Excel spreadsheets, Sandi's main task when she began at BCREC was to help computerize the accounting processes with the office team. Through the years, she worked with the team to implement new computer processes and conversions from our software provider.

In addition, she has been involved

in converting from meter readers writing meter readings in books and then using a handheld device to meters that report to us in the office.

Her favorite memories of her time with us include "Y2K—all the preparations for an uneventful night. The 2007 ice storm, the 2008 tornadoes, and the more recent flooding and derechos. All of this needed teamwork from the line crews to office personnel. The guys restoring the power, and the office personnel were lining up food, places for the extra linemen to sleep, answering phones to speak with members, and keeping the REC open and running as usual."

Sandi's retirement plans with her husband Tod include traveling, camping, motorcycle trips, and family time.

Always a tremendous advocate for our members, Sandi said, "Our members are important to me and the cooperative. It was important for me to listen to the needs of our members and help them in a fair and honest way.

"Also, I would like to thank the



BCREC staff and board for making my 38 years so fun and easy. Everyone pitching in makes work easier and lighter for everyone. I enjoyed the ride!"

Sandi, your smile; positive attitude; and flip flops, even in cooler weather, will be missed. Thank you for your dedication, loyalty, and support the last 38 years. Now, go relax and enjoy your permanent vacation!

## Our Touchstone Energy Values



Integrity | Accountability | Innovation | Commitment to Community | Teamwork

## More hours, more impact

Butler County REC employees took their Commitment to Community core value very seriously in 2025, as 14 employees volunteered a record 1,624 hours, 869 hours more than in 2024!

Employees gave their time to fairs, town celebrations, fire departments, blood donations, churches, coaching, after prom, athletic events, boards, and 4-H and booster clubs.

Tyler Opperman, energy services advisor, and Gary Doehrmann, financial accountant, were the top volunteers. Tyler served 468 hours, and Gary served 380 hours. Both chose a charity to receive a \$25 donation in their honor, with Tyler selecting the Purple Heart Foundation and Gary, St. Jude's Research Hospital.

Additional volunteers and their hours were Craig Ohloff (290.5), Gabbi Guerrero (107), Lori Roose (106), Mandy Brouwer (88.5), Lee Frerichs (56), Bethany Carlson (47), Anne Gardiner (21), Sandi Miller (19), Alesha Wedeking (17), John Endelman (8), John Groen (8), and Mike Miller (8).

*Thank you, BCREC volunteers!*



**Marathon**  
WATER HEATERS

**Contact us to save on  
the Marathon  
electric water heater!**

## A WORD FROM



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

# The power surge

## What we can do to help with the rising demand for and cost of electricity

**A**t Butler County REC, we understand that many of our members are facing challenging times, and we recognize our responsibility to you. You count on us for reliable, cost-effective electricity.

Across the U.S., the demand for power is climbing at one of the fastest paces in decades. Extreme weather coupled with economic growth, expanded manufacturing, and data center and other business development, are driving this increased demand. These trends are reshaping how much electricity we consume.

While increased demand presents new challenges for electric utilities, it also has the potential to create significant opportunities for the communities we serve, such as job growth, steady revenue and tax base, and improved infrastructure. Electric co-ops are

responding by planning carefully for the future and offering programs and services to help co-op members conserve energy.

*At Butler County REC, we offer free energy audits, numerous energy-efficiency rebates, and SmartHub.*

If you are curious what you can do to lower usage in your home and/or shop, Matt and Tyler can perform an energy audit—walking through your home or shop for anything obvious that might be using excess energy (electric heater, dehumidifier, livestock or pet water dispenser, block heaters); next they will look at your total usage, which circuit has the highest usage, and what is on that circuit; and then attach a monitor to research usage on individual circuits. All of this for a clearer picture of your usage for the goal of saving you energy and money.

We also offer rebates on energy-efficient appliances, electric heating and cooling systems, insulation for existing homes and shops, and electric water heaters, among other items. Energy efficiency saves money on your bills and can help make your home more comfortable.

In addition, check out SmartHub, our member app. You can track your usage at 15-minute intervals to research when you are using the most energy, view and pay your bills, contact us, and so much more. Go to our website at butlerrec.coop and click on Online Bill Pay in the upper right corner to set up your account. Or give us a call, and we'll be happy to help.

Electricity powers nearly every aspect of your day, and its role will only grow stronger. Butler County REC is ready to help you and to meet rising demand in our local communities.

## Contact us for a free energy audit



**Matt Mahoney**



**Tyler Opperman**

**888.267.2726**

## One app. Total power control. SmartHub.

SmartHub is your answer for easy access to your Butler County REC power usage and bill. Download the app or access SmartHub through our website at butlerrec.coop.

**Bill and Pay:** Enroll in auto pay; view your bill, usage, and payment history

**Contact us:** Our address, phone numbers, and maps in one location; report a problem or send a general inquiry

**Dashboard:** Usage overview graphs, communications and alerts, pay button

**Settings:** Manage your billing address and contact information, set up paperless billing, manage your password, store payment accounts, and so much more

**Usage:** See how much electricity you typically use, compare bills, explore past and current usage, evaluate ways to save usage and money

If you are not registered, go ahead and register your account. You will need an email address and your account number (found on the top right of your bill). Activate the features you want, such as alerts/notifications, auto pay, and paperless billing.

Questions or issues? Contact us at 888.267.2726 or email us at butler@butlerrec.coop.



# Prep your home for warm weather

The arrival of spring can mean a spike in your electricity use, as you turn on fans, spend weekends doing spring cleaning, and dust off outdoor power tools to get your home and yard ready for warm weather.

Before temperatures start to rise, you can take some small steps to prep your home and appliances for spring and summer.



1. **Schedule a home energy audit with Matt and Tyler.** Audits can identify air leaks, insulation gaps, and inefficient appliances that quietly drive up costs. Check out our rebates for energy-efficiency upgrades like insulation, heat pump water heaters, and ENERGY STAR-certified appliances.
2. **Review your family's thermostat habits.** As outdoor temperatures rise, resist the temptation to turn on the air conditioning sooner than it's needed. Instead, use ceiling fans to avoid high cooling costs without sacrificing comfort. Fans cool people, not rooms, so turning them off when leaving a room saves energy.
3. **Replace dirty air conditioning filters.** Clear debris from outdoor units. And schedule professional maintenance to improve efficiency and extend the life of the system.
4. **Read your energy bills carefully.** Understanding how rates work can help your household adjust use to avoid peak charges. Also, contact us about budget billing as a way to better plan.

Taking advantage of co-op programs and forming smart habits now can make a noticeable difference when summer temperatures arrive.



## Do we have your current phone number?

Occasionally, Butler County REC may reach out to you regarding your account (we will never ask for payment over the phone) or work that is to be done on your property (tree trimming, construction, etc.).

Regarding work on your property, if we don't have a current phone number, we may not be able to let you know if we have to temporarily disrupt your service. We know this can be a hardship any time but especially if someone works from home.

Contact us at 888.267.2726 if you have recently changed your contact number.

## Storm season is coming: Protect electronics

Lightning, high winds, and torrential downpours can put your home and neighborhood at risk of power surges and outages. And those can damage your expensive household electronics. Prepare for spring storms to protect yourself and your electronics from harm.

- Install surge protectors as a first line of defense. Use them for computers, televisions, exercise equipment, and other sensitive devices. Look for protectors with indicator lights that show when protection is active.
- During severe storms, turn off electronics and unplug them—excluding things like the refrigerator and medical oxygen tanks. Even the best surge protectors cannot block a direct lightning strike.
- If your home experiences frequent outages, consider installing whole-house surge protection, which is installed at the electrical panel. An electrician can explain whether this option makes sense.
- Backup power options—battery packs or portable generators—can help keep essential devices running if the power goes out. Portable generators should only be used outdoors and far from windows and doors to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- After an outage, wait a few minutes before turning electronics back on to help protect devices from voltage spikes as power is restored.

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