

# intouch

WITH MEMBERS OF GRUNDY COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Power cost adjustment

When the cost of power decreases, we pass the savings on to our member-owners. However, when the cost of power increases, we also must adjust the costs for our member-owners.

The “power cost adjustment” (PCA) is exactly that – a way to adjust the fluctuating monthly cost of wholesale power over or under the established kWh rate.

When Grundy County REC receives our power bill from Corn Belt Power Cooperative, our power provider, any increases or decreases in power costs from the normal base kWh rate is passed on to the member-owner using the PCA.

We recently received a decrease in power costs from Corn Belt, so you should have noticed a negative PCA beginning on your April bill.

If you have any questions, please call our office and speak with Mike Geerdes, our member service manager.

## Scholarship winners

Grundy County REC (GCREC) would like to congratulate our 2018 scholarship winners! Emily Ehrig of Grundy Center is the winner of the Basin \$1,000 scholarship. Haley Bakker, Sadie Cahalan and Tessa Sienknecht were each awarded a \$750 scholarship from Grundy County REC.



*Emily Ehrig is the daughter of Barry and Tina Ehrig. Emily attends Grundy Center High School and plans on attending Iowa State University with a major in Mass Communications and Journalism. Emily wants to become a video and film editor and screenwriter.*



*Haley Bakker is the daughter of Ryan and Lisa Bakker. Haley is from Steamboat Rock and attends AGWSR and plans on attending Iowa State University majoring in Agricultural Studies.*



*Sadie Cahalan is the daughter of Robert and Kisha Cahalan. Sadie attends Gladbrook Reinbeck High School and plans on attending Simpson College with a major in history. She wants to become a high school history teacher and coach speech and drama.*



*Tessa Sienknecht is the daughter of Tony (GCREC's line foreman) and Marcie Sienknecht. Tessa attends Gladbrook Reinbeck High School and plans to attend college in the fall majoring in physical therapy.*

*Best wishes to all the GCREC 2018 graduates!*



## Play it safe around lightning

There's nothing like spending a warm day outside enjoying your favorite sports activity, whether it's on the golf course, baseball diamond or out on a fishing boat, to name a few. When the weather is right for outdoor sports, it can also be perfect conditions for a thunderstorm to roll in, with the potential for lightning.

About 30 people are killed by lightning each year, according to the National Weather Service. Two-thirds of those fatalities are associated with outdoor recreational activities. Your Touchstone Energy cooperative wants you to be safe this season. Please follow these tips while participating in outdoor sports:

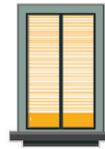
- Organized sports activities should have a designated official that will watch for approaching dark clouds and any lightning in the area. Designated officials and anyone participating in outdoor sports should have a lightning safety plan with tips on: when the activity should be stopped, where people should go for safety and when activities can resume.
- Stop outdoor activity if you see lightning. Lightning can strike up to 10 to 15 miles away from the storm. Follow the simple phrase: "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors."
- No place outside is safe during a storm including dugouts, sheds or rain shelters. If you don't have access to a sturdy building, a hard-topped metal vehicle with the windows rolled up would provide good protection from the elements.

Because electrical charges can linger in clouds even if the storm has passed, weather experts recommend you wait 30 minutes after the last thunder you hear before resuming any outdoor activity. If it is an organized sports activity, the designated official should make the call on when to return to the field.

Whether it is an organized sports activity, a round of golf with friends or a game of basketball in the driveway, plan to make your outdoor sports safe this season and don't let lightning strike you out.

# Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!



### NO-COST TIPS

Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.



### LOW-COST TIPS

Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**



## Turn off the lights without making a move

“Turn off the lights!” If you’re tired of reminding everyone in your house to turn off the lights when they leave a room, install light switches that do it for them.

Motion-sensing light switches contain small sensors that detect movement in a room. When they sense motion, they turn the lights on, and when all is still, they switch the lights off.

Buy a good-quality model that is not so sensitive that it will flick on the lights every time a fly buzzes into the room. On the other hand, avoid models that only sense major movements or you’ll wind up waving your hands at the sensor every time you’re working at your computer or watching TV and the switch thinks the room is empty.

The switches are easy to install. First, shut off the electricity at the breaker. Next, remove your existing switch and face plate and disconnect the wires. Reconnect the wires to the motion-activated switch, screw it back into the wall and reattach the face plate.

For rooms that you use most often during the day, install a motion-sensor switch that also detects daylight. It will switch the light on only when there is motion and the room is too dark.

## Proper steps for ladder safety

Most people at some point this summer will find themselves climbing up a ladder. Whether you’re a contractor doing daily work or a weekend warrior trying to complete a DIY project, your cooperative wants to make sure you make the proper steps to stay safe.

Always take time to look up, and practice safety. When using a ladder, it is never safe to touch or get near a power line.



It is a common myth that power lines are insulated. Lines may be coated for weather protection but not to provide protection from the electrical current.

We recommend these steps for safety when using a ladder:

- Carry ladders horizontally.
- Make sure the area above the ladder is clear before placing it upright.
- Ask for help when carrying and setting up long ladders.
- Always make sure that your ladder is on a solid, level surface before attempting to climb.
- Keep yourself and the ladder far away—at least 10 feet in all directions, at all times—from power lines, including service lines.
- Inspect your ladder before and after use to make sure there is no damage that could put yourself or other users in danger.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## Going the Extra Mile

Did you know electric cooperatives maintain more miles of power lines per consumer and acquire less revenue than other types of electric utilities?

Even though they serve fewer consumers and acquire less revenue (per mile of line), electric co-ops always go the extra mile, maintaining a tried-and-true record of delivering safe, reliable electric service to the members they serve.



Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperatives  
*The power of human connections®*

### Electric Cooperatives

Number of consumers served: 8

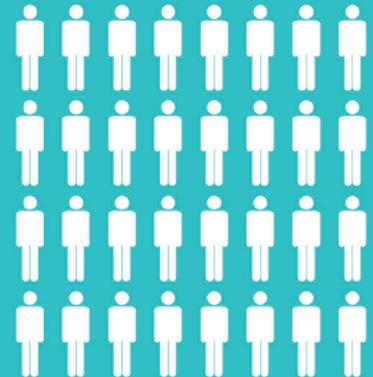


Revenue:

**\$19,000**

### Other Electric Utilities

Number of consumers served: 32



Revenue:

**\$79,000**

*Sources: EIA, 2016 data.  
Includes revenue and consumer  
averages per mile of line.*

## Economic development loan funds available

Grundy County REC has a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) available, and we are accepting applications. We will accept and consider applications for loans from the RLF for projects that will significantly benefit rural areas. The RLF is not intended to compete with other public and private lenders but to collaborate with them to provide the financial package necessary to make the project happen.

The RLF seeks to improve the quality of life in rural areas by contributing to the long-term improvement in the economy including job creation and retention; diversification; improving skills of the rural workforce; and upgrading the public infrastructure to improve the health, safety and/or medical care of rural residents.

For more information call Grundy County REC and ask for Vicki Daily.



## Commitment to Community

Grundy County REC and our generation and transmission cooperative, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, will provide support to this year's American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Grundy County scheduled to be held June 8 in downtown Reinbeck.

Entertainment at the "Rock for Relay" includes a performance from Urban Legend. A Survivor's Reception, Victory Lap and the Luminaria Ceremony honor and remember those whose lives have been touched by cancer.

*Relay for Life - 2018*



### UTILITY POLES ARE NOT BULLETIN BOARDS

**Think before you post that sign!**

Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs and fliers create dangerous obstacles for electric lineworkers.

*Their jobs are dangerous enough - help us keep them safe!*

## Green Pricing member contribution plan

This program will allow individual members to voluntarily contribute to the development of alternate energy production facilities in Iowa. Alternate energy production facilities may include wind energy, biomass, solar and other nontraditional generation technologies. The money collected from members participating in the green pricing program will be used to assist in the purchase of alternate or "green" energy in Iowa.



### Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of the Green Pricing Program.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will make a one-time contribution to Green Pricing. My check is enclosed.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month to Green Pricing. I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Account \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to: Grundy County REC \* Green Pricing Program \* PO Box 39 \* Grundy Center, IA 50638

INtouch is published monthly for members and associates of Grundy County Rural Electric Cooperative  
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