

NOVEMBER 2024

# iowa

**ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING**

**Iowa co-ops support  
Hurricane Helene restoration**

**Smart home tech on a budget**

**Thanksgiving side dishes**

**Harrison County REC families share favorite recipes ▶ See Pages 4-5**

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### ON THE COVER

Special thanks to Morgan Spykerboer, a Lyon REC member-consumer, for supplying this month's cover image. Submit high-resolution photos for consideration to editor@ieclmagazine.com. You could receive \$100!

# THE POWER OF FACE-TO-FACE ADVOCACY

BY ETHAN HOHENADEL



It's not just what you say, but how you say it. Delivering a message in person, rather than by phone or email, can have a profound

impact on how the message is received. One way the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) achieves this goal is by coordinating legislative fly-ins to Washington, D.C., twice a year.

Each spring and fall, a group of directors and senior staff from Iowa's electric cooperatives journey to our nation's capital to meet with Iowa's congressional delegation and their staff. These face-to-face meetings provide us with valuable opportunities to discuss priorities and issues facing the rural Iowa members and communities we serve.

## Fly-in facilitates important conversations

During our recent September fly-in, our group of 20 Iowa co-op advocates met with all six members of Iowa's congressional delegation. We voiced our concerns about recent cuts to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant (REDLG) program and how vital these funds are to retaining and creating jobs in rural Iowa.

Iowa's electric co-ops lead the nation in utilizing the REDLG program to spur economic development in the small towns and rural areas we serve. We encouraged our senators and representatives to support efforts to restore REDLG funding in 2025 with intentions to maintain optimal funding levels in 2026.

We also asked our elected officials to support reasonable permitting reform to allow utilities to build sorely needed electric transmission

capacity more quickly. Finally, we shared our objections to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new power plant rules, which threaten the reliability and affordability of electricity for the Iowans we serve. We join America's electric cooperatives in opposing the EPA's power plant rules on the grounds that they are unlawful, unrealistic and unachievable.

## In-person meetings make a powerful impact

Investing time and resources to meet with our elected officials in person makes a powerful impact. They appreciate face time with constituents, and we value the opportunity to talk with them and their staff in-depth about energy and economic issues. As the trade association for Iowa's electric cooperatives, IAEC is actively involved in educating our state and federal legislators on energy issues.

## How you can join our grassroots efforts

We also engage with our legislators and policymakers on the grassroots level through our Iowa Rural Power advocacy efforts. As a member-consumer of an Iowa electric cooperative, we invite you to join this group and receive updates on rural Iowa energy and economic issues that may impact your community. Learn more at [www.IARuralPower.org](http://www.IARuralPower.org) or search for "Iowa Rural Power" on social media.

Iowa's locally owned and governed electric cooperatives are committed to our mission of powering lives and communities. Maintaining positive relationships with our elected officials and policymakers is just one way we work hard to ensure safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity.

*Ethan Hohenadel is the director of policy and advocacy for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.*

## EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

### WIN AN iROBOT ROOMBA VAC!

Your chore list just got shorter. The Roomba Vac Essential robot is a vacuum loaded with cleaning essentials and powered by iRobot OS. Its cleaning system has three levels of powerful suction for a custom clean on carpets and hard floors.

#### Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting [www.ieclmagazine.com](http://www.ieclmagazine.com) no later than Nov. 30. You must be a member of one of Iowa's electric cooperatives to win.

There's no obligation associated with entering, we don't share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified.

The winner of the Toro Leaf Blower from the September issue was **Norman Harrison**, a **Consumers Energy** member-consumer.



**ENTER ONLINE BY NOV. 30!**

# FROM OUR FAMILY TABLE TO YOURS

The holiday season is upon us, and we're excited to gather with friends and family to reflect on the wonderful year.

At Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), we are looking forward to taking this holiday season as an opportunity to spread joy and spend quality time with our loved ones. Account number three one zero one nine one zero.

From our holiday table to yours, we hope you enjoy these tasty treats and savory dishes as you gather with loved ones. From all of us at Harrison County REC, we wish you a safe, happy and healthy Thanksgiving.



## BUTTERMILK PANCAKES

Submitted by Tara Wakehouse (wife of Robert Wakehouse, sub foreman)

- 1½ cups flour
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1¼ cups buttermilk
- ½ stick butter, melted
- 2 eggs
- ½ teaspoon vanilla

Whisk together flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Set aside. In a separate bowl, whisk together buttermilk, melted butter, eggs and vanilla. Add to dry mixture and mix. Preheat buttered griddle, then drop ¼ cup pancake batter evenly spaced onto hot griddle.



## CREAMY ALFREDO LASAGNA SOUP

Submitted by Alyssa Hamik (wife of Derek Hamik, journeyman)

- ½ pound ground sausage
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 4 cups baby spinach
- 5 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- ½ box bow tie pasta
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- ½ teaspoon dried basil
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese, grated

Brown sausage in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add onion, cook for 5-6 minutes over medium-low heat. Add garlic and spinach, cook for 1 minute while stirring. Add chicken broth, simmer for 5 minutes. Add bow tie pasta, oregano and basil. Bring to a low boil, cook for 10-12 minutes or until the noodles are tender.

Meanwhile, in a skillet over medium-low heat, melt butter. Whisk in flour and cook for 1 minute, whisking constantly (the mixture should start bubbling). Slowly whisk in milk until the mixture is smooth and thickened, about 3-5 minutes. Turn off heat and slowly whisk in Parmesan cheese. If the cheese is not melting, place skillet over very low heat and whisk constantly. When the Parmesan is fully melted and the mixture is creamy, slowly whisk into the soup mixture.



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## PUMPKIN CRUNCH

Submitted by Alexis Boes (customer service representative/billing specialist)

- 30 ounces pumpkin puree (not pumpkin pie filling)**
- 12 ounces evaporated milk**
- 4 eggs**
- 1½ cups sugar**
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon**
- 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice**
- 1 box yellow cake mix**
- 1 cup butter**
- 1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts**
- whipped cream for serving**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Spray a 9x13-inch baking dish and set aside.

In medium-sized mixing bowl, combine pumpkin puree, milk, eggs, sugar, cinnamon and pumpkin pie spice. Mix to combine and pour into prepared baking dish. Pour the dry yellow cake mix evenly over the top of the pumpkin puree mixture. Melt butter and pour on top of cake mix.

Spread the chopped nuts evenly over the top of the cake. Bake for 1 hour. After baking, enjoy warm or let cool and serve with whipped cream.



## MACARONI AND CHEESE

Submitted by Linda Ramsey (wife of Larry Ramsey, Harrison County REC board member for District 9)

- 1 package elbow macaroni**
- 2 tablespoons salted butter**
- salt, to taste**
- pepper, to taste**
- onion powder, to taste**
- milk or evaporated milk, measure to desired consistency**
- Velveeta cheese, as desired**
- shredded cheese, of any kind, depending on preference**
- 1 can chicken**

Boil elbow macaroni to package instructions. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, melt butter. Once butter is melted, add salt, pepper, onion powder and flour to pan and whisk to combine. Cook mixture until a golden color. Add milk until the texture is smooth. Add Velveeta cheese (measure with your heart and use as much as you prefer). Mix in noodles and can of chicken. Top with shredded cheese and enjoy.

# NOTICE TO OUR MEMBERS

Should you have an issue with your electric service, Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) encourages members to contact our office at 712-647-2727 during regular business hours, or you may contact us via email at [HarrisonInfo@hcrec.coop](mailto:HarrisonInfo@hcrec.coop).

If your complaint is related to service disconnection, safety or engineering standards, or renewable energy and Harrison County REC does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Commission by calling 515-725-7300, or toll-free 877-565-4450, by writing to 1375 E. Court Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069, or by emailing [customer@iuc.iowa.gov](mailto:customer@iuc.iowa.gov).

## DID YOU READ OUR NEWSLETTER CAREFULLY?

We have selected  
two lucky winners  
for a \$25 bill credit!



Spot your account number in our newsletter and call us! (Example: Account 4321 is written four three two one.) Members must contact Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative by Nov. 29 to be eligible to claim this credit. Questions? Contact our office at 712-647-2727.

# ANSWERING THE CALL IOWA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES SUPPORT HURRICANE HELENE RESTORATION EFFORTS

BY ANN FOSTER THELEN

Photo Source: Chariton  
Valley Electric Cooperative

In the wake of Hurricane Helene, which devastated parts of the southeastern U.S., Iowa's electric cooperatives answered the call for assistance, demonstrating the true spirit of the co-op principle of Cooperation Among Cooperatives. This massive Category 4 storm left an estimated 1.25 million electric cooperative members without power, with the Carolinas suffering the most severe damage. Hurricane Helene has been the deadliest hurricane in the Atlantic so far this year, killing at least 228 people. Amid the destruction, Iowa's electric cooperatives quickly mobilized to support their fellow cooperatives in South Carolina, bringing manpower and essential equipment to help restore power in the hardest-hit areas.

## Iowa's mutual aid response

Hurricane Helene was one of the most destructive storms ever to hit the co-op community, particularly in South Carolina, where more than 425,000 cooperative members lost power. Responding to an urgent

request for help, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) coordinated the deployment of 10 crews made up of 40 linemen, 10 bucket trucks and 10 digger trucks from 11 Iowa co-ops. These crews were crucial to the restoration efforts in the Palmetto State.

On Sept. 29, as power outages spread across South Carolina, the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina reached out to Scott Meinecke, IAEC's director of safety and loss control, for help. Six Iowa electric cooperatives – **Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative, Farmers Electric Cooperative (Greenfield), Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative, Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative** and **T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative** – responded immediately by sending five full crews to assist Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative.

"In Southern storm terms, a crew is four to five men, one digger

with pole trailer and one bucket truck," Meinecke explains.

The next day, with the scope of the damage becoming clearer, South Carolina issued a second request for more assistance. In response, four more Iowa co-ops – **Clarke Electric Cooperative, Consumers Energy, Midland Power Cooperative** and **Western Iowa Power Cooperative** – deployed an additional 16 linemen, four bucket trucks, four diggers and four pole trailers to assist Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative.

## Meeting unprecedented challenges

The damage caused by Hurricane Helene was described as one of the most catastrophic in South Carolina's history. The storm snapped more than 5,000 power poles, downed thousands of power lines, and left many areas inaccessible due to fallen trees and flooding. In the hardest-hit regions, particularly those served by Little River Electric Cooperative, 99% of members

lost power. Restoring service in these areas posed significant challenges, with some regions facing weeks of outages.

Despite these challenges, Iowa's electric cooperatives continued to send help. **Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative** and **Midland Power Cooperative** dispatched crews to assist Little River Electric Cooperative in restoring power to the approximately 10,000 meters still without service.

**The cooperative spirit in action**

The work Iowa's electric cooperatives undertook in South Carolina is part of a broader, nationwide effort to assist regions hit by natural disasters. The response to Hurricane Helene was no different. Crews from 23 states were involved in the restoration effort in South Carolina alone, with more than 3,200 lineworkers working around the clock.

**MiEnergy Cooperative**, an electric co-op serving members in Iowa and Minnesota, also sent a team of linemen and a bucket truck through the Minnesota Rural Electric Association, extending Iowa's reach beyond direct coordination with South Carolina.

This vast mobilization of resources was instrumental in restoring power to over 363,000 consumers in South Carolina, with only 7% of the cooperative members still without power by the end of the first week of recovery efforts.

The restoration work included clearing debris, replacing snapped poles and repairing broken lines – often



Photo Source: Linn County REC



Photo Source: Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative



Photo Source: Midland Power Cooperative



Photo Source: Western Iowa Power Cooperative

dangerous and grueling work. Crews operated in flooded areas, navigated around downed trees and worked long hours in harsh conditions.

**Support and gratitude**

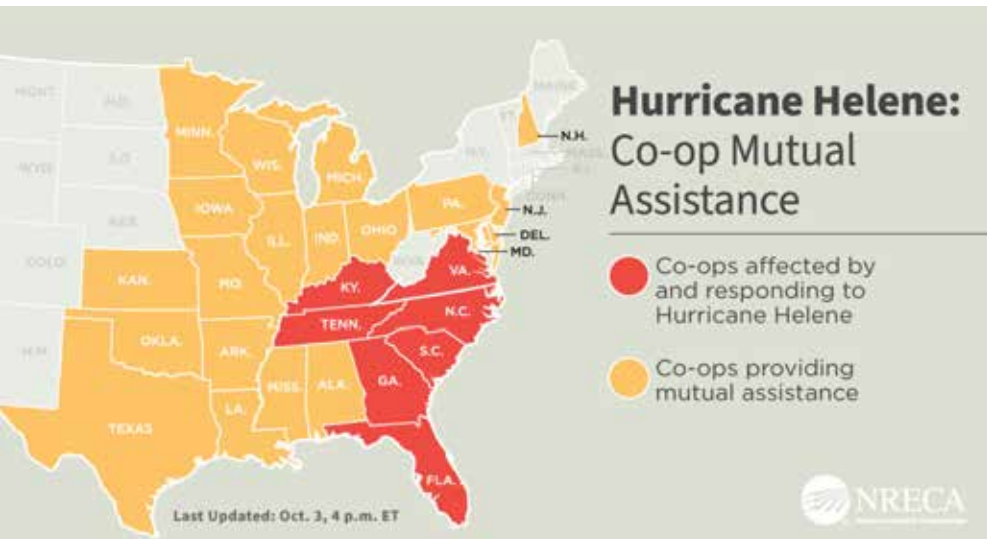
These efforts were not unnoticed. South Carolina's co-op leaders expressed deep gratitude for the help they received from Iowa and

other states. Mike Couick, CEO of the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the lineworkers, stating, "Our folks are doing everything they can to help by restoring power as quickly as possible to the communities that remain out. Our work won't stop until the very last light is back on."

Back in Iowa, IAEC and its member co-ops kept their communities informed through updates on social media and encouraged their followers to keep the linemen in their thoughts and prayers as they worked to restore power to South Carolina's residents.

Iowa's linemen, alongside thousands of others from across the country, have shown that when disaster strikes, the cooperative network stands ready to help – no matter how far they have to go to lend a hand.

*Ann Foster Thelen is the editor of Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine.*



THANKSGIVING

## SIDE DISHES



## APPLES &amp; YAMS

- 2 large yams
- 2 apples
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon corn starch
- ⅛ teaspoon ground cloves
- ½ cup orange juice
- 3 tablespoons pecans or walnuts, chopped water

Fill a large saucepan with water and boil unpeeled yams for 30 minutes, until tender but firm. Cool yams enough to handle, then peel and slice crosswise, ¼-inch thick. Core and slice apples ¼-inch thick. In a shallow 1-quart baking dish, overlap the apple and yam slices. In saucepan, combine brown sugar, corn starch and cloves. Add orange juice and blend. Cook over low heat, stirring until sugar dissolves and sauce thickens. Pour sauce over apples and yams. Sprinkle with nuts and bake at 375 degrees F for 20 minutes.

Karen Caldwell • Albia  
Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## CORNBREAD BAKE

- 1 stick butter, melted
- 1 can cream style corn
- 1 can whole corn, undrained
- 8 ounces sour cream
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 small box cornbread mix

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl. Pour mixture into a lightly greased 9x9-inch pan or baking dish. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees F for 55-60 minutes. Serve warm. Serves 8

Kristine Frakes • Melrose  
Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## SCALLOPED CHICKEN DISH

- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 13 ounces evaporated milk
- 1 quart chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 chicken, cooked and boned
- 2 cups celery, diced
- 1 onion, diced
- 4 cups croutons
- 2 teaspoons sage
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste

Mix eggs, soup, milk, broth and butter. Add chicken, celery, onions, croutons and seasonings. Bake covered at 375 degrees F for 1½ hours. Serves 15

Jana Overholtzer • Russell  
Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## CREAM CHEESE MASHED POTATOES

- 5 pounds potatoes
- 1-2 cups sour cream
- 6-8 ounces cream cheese
- 2 teaspoons onion salt
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 2 tablespoons butter
- shredded cheese, optional

Peel, cube and cook potatoes. Mash potatoes and add remaining ingredients, mix well. If potatoes are too stiff, add a little milk. Shredded cheese can be mixed in or put on top. Freezes well. Serves 8

Ranita Gehman • North English  
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative



## SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE WITH PRALINES

- 6 cups sweet potatoes
- 1½ cups sugar
- 3 teaspoons vanilla, divided
- 2 sticks butter, softened, divided
- 2 eggs
- 1¾ cups brown sugar
- 2 cups pecans, chopped
- 1 cup flour

Cook, drain and mash sweet potatoes. Mix with sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla, 1 stick butter and eggs. Spread in greased 9x13-inch pan. Mix brown sugar, 2 teaspoons vanilla, pecans, 1 stick butter and flour. Sprinkle on top of casserole. Cover with foil and bake at 350 degrees F for 20 minutes. Uncover and bake an additional 15-25 minutes, until heated through and topping is browned. *Serves 12-24*

**Amber Wetzel • Linden**  
Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative Association

## SWEET POTATO CRANBERRY CASSEROLE

- ½ cup flour
- ½ cup oatmeal
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 2 17-ounce cans yams, drained  
or 4 cups sweet potatoes, peeled, cut and cooked
- 2 cups fresh cranberries
- mini marshmallows, optional

Combine flour, oatmeal, brown sugar and cinnamon. Cut in butter (can substitute margarine). In a large bowl, combine yams (or sweet potatoes) with 1 cup of the crumb mixture and cranberries. Place in 2-quart casserole dish. Top with remaining crumb mixture. Bake covered at 350 degrees F for 35 minutes. If desired, uncover and top with marshmallows and cook an additional 5 minutes or until marshmallows are browned.

**Laurie Thompson • Parnell**  
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

## BEANS ROYALE

- 1 21-ounce can pork and beans
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- ¼ teaspoon dry mustard
- ¼ teaspoon chili powder
- ⅛ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon minced onion
- 1 tablespoon vinegar
- 1 14.5-ounce can chopped tomatoes

Combine all ingredients in a 2-quart casserole dish. Bake at 350 degrees F for 20 minutes. For more tang, substitute dry mustard with liquid mustard. *Serves 6-8*

**Joanne Fox • Sioux City**  
North West Rural Electric Cooperative

## SCALLOPED POTATOES WITH MUSHROOMS

- 1 can coconut milk
- 1 can water (using coconut milk can)
- 1 cup raw cashews
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon Maggi seasoning sauce
- ½ cup nutritional yeast
- 6 potatoes, peeled, thinly sliced
- 1 can mushrooms, chopped small
- 1 medium sweet onion, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon parsley flakes

In a blender, add the first seven ingredients and blend until smooth, creating a sauce. Pour ⅓ of the sauce in bottom of a 9x11-inch pan. Layer half the potatoes, mushrooms and onions in pan. Cover with ⅓ of the sauce. Layer remaining potatoes, mushrooms and onions. Cover with remaining ⅓ of the sauce. Sprinkle parsley flakes on top. Bake covered at 350 degrees F for 1 hour, until potatoes are tender. The thinner the slices, the quicker they will cook. Uncover and bake for an additional 15 minutes or until the top is light golden brown. *Serves 6*

**Jacque Minikus • Pisgah**  
Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative

**WANTED:**

## SEAFOOD RECIPES

**THE REWARD:**  
**\$25 FOR EVERY ONE WE PUBLISH!**

**Deadline is Nov. 30**

Submit your **favorite recipes using seafood**. Please include your name, address, telephone number, co-op name, recipe category and number of servings on all submissions.



**EMAIL:** [recipes@ieclmagazine.com](mailto:recipes@ieclmagazine.com)  
(Attach your recipe as a Word document or PDF to your email message.)

**MAIL: Recipes**  
Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine  
8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48  
Des Moines, IA 50322



# BEST SMART HOME TECH ON A BUDGET

BY MIRANDA BOUTELLE

With all the buzz around smart technology, you may be asking yourself how to get the most bang for your buck. Smart technology can make it easier to save energy by simplifying or automating tasks. It can also optimize energy use to reduce waste and improve efficiency.

When upgrading to smart technology at home, consider the purchase cost and long-term savings. For example, you may pay a little more for a product with the latest technology, but it could result in significant savings each year and over the lifetime of the appliance.

Consider these smart devices that will take the work out of saving energy.



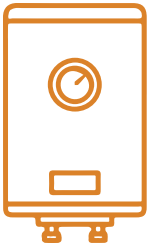
## Smart thermostats

Smart thermostats save energy by automatically adjusting

your heating or cooling system. For example, you can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling costs by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for eight

hours a day, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

You can program a smart thermostat to change the temperature while asleep or away or use a smartphone app to adjust the settings. Some models use artificial intelligence to maximize efficiency by learning your patterns and preferences. Prices range from \$80 to \$250, depending on features. Smart thermostats do not work with all heating and cooling systems, so check compatibility before you buy.



### Water heaters

Your water heater can also be controlled for energy savings. According to the DOE, installing a timer on your electric water heater can

save 5% to 12% of the energy it uses by turning it off at night and when you don't need to use hot water.

If you are already planning to replace your electric storage water heater with a heat pump water heater, consider a model equipped with smart technology features, including Wi-Fi capabilities for controlling it remotely or during peak demand times, viewing the amount of hot water available and tracking energy use. There are a variety of modes, including vacation, efficiency, and high demand, which produces more hot water. Some models can notify you or shut off if a leak is detected. Depending on the manufacturer and size of the unit, a smart heat pump water heater may only cost a few hundred dollars more than a standard heat pump water heater.



### Smart lights, switches and plugs

Smart lighting gives you the power to remotely control lights in your home or set a lighting schedule

that fits your lifestyle. This can be beneficial for energy savings and provide home security benefits. If you or other household members are notorious for leaving lights on, smart lighting can help. Numerous features are available, including dimmable bulbs and color-changing effects.

Smart light switches are another budget-friendly way to control lighting. They're priced from about \$10 to \$50. Smart switches with dimmable options are available and can also control ceiling fans. Some have occupancy sensors that turn lights off when no movement is detected in a room.

A smart plug fits into any outlet to control whatever is plugged into it. Set it to automatically turn off and

on or control it using a smartphone app. Prices range from \$8 to \$25.



### Smart controls

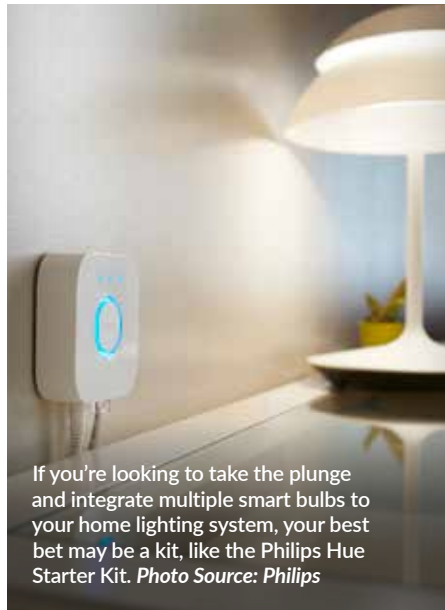
A wide variety of smart shades, curtains and blinds are available, including styles with integrated controls. You can also

add smart controls to your existing blinds or curtains. Both options allow you to adjust the tilt of blinds and open or close curtains. Set a schedule, control them remotely or use a voice command paired with a voice

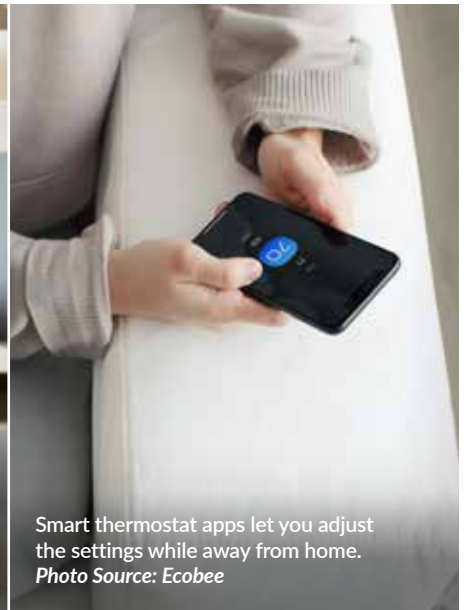
assistant, such as Alexa or Google Home. This allows you to reduce cooling needs in the summer and heating needs in the winter. Smart controls start at around \$70. To save the most energy, prioritize windows with the most incoming light.

Upgrading to smart home technologies can make using less energy at home easy. Choose options that make the most sense for your lifestyle to optimize savings.

*Miranda Boutelle writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*



If you're looking to take the plunge and integrate multiple smart bulbs to your home lighting system, your best bet may be a kit, like the Philips Hue Starter Kit. *Photo Source: Philips*



Smart thermostat apps let you adjust the settings while away from home. *Photo Source: Ecobee*



Smart heat pump water heaters have automation features that help you use less energy. *Photo Source: Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance*

# MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

## Learn more about RECare

RECare provides local community action agencies with funds to help low-income families pay for winter heating bills and weatherize their homes. This program allows you to help those who need it most.

Through RECare, you may make a one-time contribution or a monthly pledge that will automatically be added to your monthly electric bill. Even \$1 a month will help others.

Visit [www.hrec.coop/recare](http://www.hrec.coop/recare) to sign up today or complete the form below.



**Yes! I want to be a part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.**

I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.

I will contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to RECare. I understand this amount will be added to my monthly electric bill.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail this form to:**

RECare - Harrison County REC  
 PO Box 2  
 Woodbine, IA 51579



## MINI-SPLITS AT A GLANCE

Mini-split systems, also known as ductless air-source heat pumps, heat or cool a home through an outdoor unit that connects to one or more individual indoor air handlers, which are typically mounted on a wall. Depending on the size of your home and personal preferences, a mini-split system is worth considering when you need to replace or upgrade your heating or cooling system.

**Mini-split system benefits:**

- Zone-controlled heating or cooling
- Higher energy efficiency ratings
- Easy to install
- Good for heating or cooling home additions

**Mini-split system considerations:**

- Potentially higher upfront cost
- Appearance
- May require electrical upgrades
- Not as effective in large spaces



# WINTER CAN CREATE ADDITIONAL HAZARDS FOR DRIVERS

Driving in the winter can create hazards, especially when sleet, ice or snow covers the roads. It is important to be prepared for a potential accident. Vehicle crashes always present danger, but when electricity is involved, decisions made in the moments after the accident are especially crucial. Account number two one two zero zero nine one three.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, 24% of weather-related vehicle crashes occur on snowy or icy pavement.

Follow these tips to stay safe on the roads this winter.

## Before the winter storm

Prepare ahead for cold temperatures, snow and ice with seasonal maintenance on your car to ensure:

- Batteries are charged
- Tires have sufficient tread
- Spare tire is inflated
- Jumper cables are in good condition
- Windshield wipers work
- Headlights, brake lights and turn signals work
- Gas tank is at least half full

## Create a car emergency kit

Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle, which should include:

- Blankets
- Flares
- Ice scraper
- Portable shovel
- Sand or kitty litter for traction
- First aid kit
- Phone charger
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Warm hat
- Nonperishable snacks
- Bottled water

## If you are stranded in your car

Observe the following precautions:

- Do not stay in one position for too long
- Stay awake
- Do not overexert yourself to avoid strain on your heart
- Watch for warning signs such as a change in skin color, numbness, shivering, slurred speech, loss of coordination or confusion

# DOWNED POWER LINES

Downed power lines present a threat because they could still be energized when they are on the ground. Coming into contact with a downed line can be life threatening. Keep these safety tips in mind:

- 1 Slow down when driving in icy conditions, and always keep your eyes out for hazardous conditions or downed power lines. Also, watch for debris near down poles and lines, as it may be energized as well.
- 2 If you see a car in an accident with a power pole, your first instinct may be to rush toward the vehicle to offer help. Always remember to keep your distance from the vehicle and all electrical equipment that has been damaged. Instruct those in the car to stay inside until the power has been shut off.
- 3 If a power line falls on your vehicle, and you must exit the vehicle because it is on fire, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Keeping your feet together, shuffle or “bunny hop” to safety. Doing this will ensure that you will not have different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another.
- 4 Keep in mind that a downed line does not need to be sparking to be energized. It is best to assume that all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous.
- 5 Never drive over a downed line because that could pull down a pole or other equipment, causing additional hazards.
- 6 If you see a downed line, do not get out of your car. The safest place is inside your vehicle. Contact 911 to notify the utility immediately.



# CONFERENCE PROVIDES ENERGY EFFICIENCY RESOURCES TO TRADE PROS

In today's world, sustainability and energy efficiency have become paramount in the construction industry. Iowa's electric cooperatives invite building trades professionals to the **2025 Momentum is Building (MIB) conference**, scheduled for Feb. 20-21, 2025, at the Sheraton West Des Moines. The annual conference aims to equip contractors and their staff with the knowledge and tools necessary to excel in a rapidly changing construction landscape.

According to the 2023 National Association of REALTORS® Sustainability Report, 63% of real estate professionals recognize the value of promoting energy efficiency in property listings. Homebuyers increasingly prioritize features that reduce carbon footprints and lead to long-term utility savings.

Iowa's electric cooperatives serve as a source of information and provide expertise to help members save energy and lower their electric bills. Educating Iowa home builders and contractors about the latest energy-efficiency innovations is another way electric co-ops assist members in reaching their energy goals. For more than 30 years, the annual conference, sponsored and organized by the Iowa Cooperatives for Energy Efficiency, has connected Iowa's construction industry with the local services and resources available from Iowa-based electric cooperatives, which serve nearly 650,000 Iowans across 99 counties.

MIB serves as a resource to provide the information area contractors need to design and improve homes that are energy-efficient, healthy, comfortable and affordable.

For more information about the conference or to register, visit [www.momentumisbuilding.com](http://www.momentumisbuilding.com) or contact your local electric cooperative.



## Momentum is Building conference

Feb. 20-21, 2025  
Sheraton West Des Moines



### MIB ALLOWS ATTENDEES TO:

- **Stay ahead of the curve.** Get the latest insights on industry trends, green building best practices and innovative construction technologies. Earn valuable Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for electricians, plumbers and HVAC professionals.
- **Gain insights.** MIB keynote speaker Bill McAnally, a long-time friend and energy-efficiency expert in Iowa, will look back at energy-efficient homebuilding and the lessons learned.
- **Learn about sustainability.** Discover energy-efficient products and practices and chat with the experts who market and sell products and services that can save money, attract more clients and contribute to a greener future.
- **Network.** Connect with fellow contractors, builders, energy-efficient product specialists and industry experts. Share experiences and foster valuable partnerships.

# LEADERS' VISION HONORS VETERANS

BY DARCY DOUGHERTY MAULSBY

I always enjoy hearing from *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* readers. One reader, Carolyn, asked if I could share more information about the history of the renovated Community Memorial Building in my hometown of Lake City.

The idea for this exceptional building took root in the wake of World War I. The Community Memorial Building was built in 1919-1920 to honor local military members and provide a multipurpose facility for the community's use.

The philosophy of project supporters was: "That the dead not be forgotten, and that the living be honored, was the purpose of this memorial. Not cold, gray marble shafts, but a place where all may meet and enjoy the blessings saved for us by the boys in blue and khaki."

Local women spearheaded this ambitious project. The Lake City Civic Improvement Society led the campaign to build the \$85,000 structure. That equates to more than \$1.5 million in 2024 dollars!

I chuckle whenever I read this comment from a 1921 edition of the *Dearborn (Michigan) Independent* newspaper, which ran a feature story on Lake City's Community Memorial Building. "The Lake City Civic Improvement Society is the peppiest organization in town.

There are nearly 250 members of this society from the town and surrounding country. The strange part of it is, they are all women."

## Hiring the best of the best

The Community Memorial Building was no ordinary place. Des Moines-based Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson, Iowa's foremost architectural firm at the time, designed the two-story, brick structure. This firm also designed the Memorial Union at Iowa State University (ISU), and courthouses in Polk County and Greene County.

Neumann Brothers Inc., which is still in business today, built the Community Memorial Building. Neumann Brothers also built the Equitable Building in Des Moines (the first skyscraper in Iowa), the Cowles Library at Drake University, and ISU's Memorial Union, which honors students and alumni who died during World War I.

Lake City's Community Memorial Building opened to the public on Armistice Day in November 1920. The gala celebration included speeches, building tours, a three-act musical comedy called "Miss Bob White," and a football game between the Lake City and Rockwell City American Legions.

Through the years, local veterans' groups have met at the Community Memorial Building. Countless events have also been hosted in this iconic building.



Major renovations transformed the Community Memorial Building in 2020-21.

## Vision: the difference between success, failure

About five years ago, a group of community leaders led a fundraising campaign to support an extensive renovation of the Community Memorial Building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. I was fortunate to attend the November 2021 re-dedication of this architectural gem and community center as it continues to honor members of the military and veterans.

Today, you can rent this elegant venue for wedding receptions, meetings and other events. Each time I step inside, I'm reminded of the wisdom of Sir Winston Churchill, who noted, "We shape our buildings; thereafter, they shape us."

Those women who proposed the idea for the Community Memorial Building so long ago knew this. So did the writer of "Community Building: A Great Necessity," which appeared in the May 1, 1919, edition of the *Lake City Graphic*: "The difference between success and failure is often a difference in vision. To accomplish any material thing, an insight into the future is essential. People must have a vision to gain inspiration. Communities grow in proportion to their vision."

Darcy Dougherty Maulsby lives near her family's Century Farm northwest of Lake City. Visit her at [www.darcymaulsby.com](http://www.darcymaulsby.com).



Lake City's Community Memorial Building opened to the public on Armistice Day in November 1920.



For more than a century, the Community Memorial Building has been a centerpiece of the community.



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