CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Volume 85, No. 2 | February 2025

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

Board Approves Rate Increase

The Clarke Electric Board of Directors approved a rate increase effective May 1, 2025. The rate increase will encompass all rate classes, including the kWh usage, monthly service charge fee, and heat rate. The annual revenue increase for the cooperative will be approximately $1,336,444, or 9.16%. This will be the first kWh increase in 12 years and the third increase in the monthly service charge in eight years.

Clarke Electric Cooperative works in many ways to create a rate structure that is fair and reasonable as required under Iowa law. One way is to perform a periodic cost-of-service study (COSS) which helps ensure that all member-consumers pay their fair share of the cost of providing electricity, including the facility, maintenance, poles, wires administrative costs and more. We also create a budget to manage expenses incurred in the cost of providing power to our member-consumers.

This type of study is important because cooperatives typically average fewer member consumers per mile of electric line than other types of electric utilities. On average, we serve 2.9 member consumers per mile of electric line compared to investor-owned utilities and government-owned municipal utilities that serve up to 60 consumers

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Scholarship Opportunity

DEADLINE : April 1, 2025

WHO: 2025 high school graduates with parents or legal guardians who reside within Clarke Electric's service territory.

WHAT: The scholarships may be used for college or vocational technical school.

HOW: Apply online at www.cecnet.net

INCLUDE: Applicants must include a copy of their transcript and a short essay on the topic, "Why are electric cooperatives important to you?"

CONTACT: Kim Griffin, (641) 342-2173; kgriffin@cecnet.net

Reading pays! We have hidden two of our members' account numbers in this issue. If you find your member location number, call during February to have $10 deducted from your monthly energy account.

Rate Adjustment Follows Comprehensive Study

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per mile of line. Because we elect to live in a rural agricultural setting, member-consumers are spread out geographically and therefore controlling costs and methodical rate setting is paramount.

We analyze the cost to serve members on a cooperative-wide basis and study costs for specific groups based on electric usage characteristics such as kWh usage, time of day, and demand. Members with similar usage patterns are grouped, such as single-phase residential (non-commercial) and three-phase commercial and industrial consumers. Our study indicates a need to reclassify some members based on their usage characteristics.

Key factors considered in group or rate class allocation include:

- Line extension costs for secluded homes beyond the average amount built into rates.
- Maintenance costs for services not used full-time.
- Compliance with city ordinances requiring underground facilities.

Assigning common costs is a multi-step process to allocate expenses fairly. Once costs are assigned to groups, rates are designed to recover these costs. Traditional residential rate design includes a fixed monthly service charge and a per kWh price, a widely used approach that works well with central station generation such as coal or hydropower. Rate-setting principles include:

- Providing stability.
- Reflecting the cost of service for each class.
- Approximating competitive market pricing.
- Ensuring rates are understandable and administratively efficient.

Rate setting is a detailed process that your cooperative takes seriously as the electric industry changes to include more on-site generation at homes and businesses, the rate-setting process will be examined to ensure that those who directly benefit from service are paying an appropriate share of the cost. 29-24-06-00

Please be assured that we are proactively planning for your future energy needs. We work hard to anticipate any potential issues that could escalate the costs of energy and whenever possible, we work to minimize the impact those issues could have on your energy bills. In addition, we do what is necessary to maintain and enhance the reliability of your service, including:

- Installing technology to reduce outages.
- Reducing line loss.
- Managing right of way.
- Removing idle services.

We are committed to providing you with a reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible electric service. ***Please watch for the updated rate schedule to be published in the March newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this rate increase, we encourage you to call our offices at (641) 342-2173.***

We will do our best to answer your questions and we look forward to working with you on ways that you may be able to reduce your monthly bill.

Ways to Save

One strategy may be to implement energy efficiency improvements in your home or sign up for our budget billing program. Look for more ideas each month in our newsletter, *REC Headlines*, and on our website at www.cecnet.net

We're here to help and to deliver the reliable power you've come to know and expect.

Questions or Complaints?

Clarke Electric strives to provide you with the best service at the lowest possible cost. But sometimes you may have questions regarding your electrical service or billing, or possibly a complaint. If you have a complaint, you can reach a representative by contacting us or by writing to:

Member Advocate
Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.
1103 N. Main St.
Osceola, IA 50213

Or by telephone at (641) 342-2173 or toll-free at (800) 362-2154

If you have a complaint related to Clarke Electric's service rather than its rates, and your complaint is not resolved, you may ask for assistance from the Iowa Utilities Commission by calling (515) 725-7321 or toll free (877) 565-4450, by writing to 1375 E. Court Ave., Room 69; Des Moines, IA 50319-0069, or by email to customer@iuc.iowa.gov.

COMMUNITY INVESTED

March 3 Deadline to Apply for 2025 Youth Tour

Clarke Electric Cooperative invites high school sophomores and juniors to apply for this once-in-a-lifetime free trip to Washington, D.C. June 15-21.

Important Dates

March 3: Application deadline. Visit www.cecnet.net/youth-tour to download.

March 14: Essay deadline. Everyone who applied must submit an essay if they wish to be considered. The essay should answer the question, "Of the seven cooperative principles, which two do you feel are most important and why?" Entries should be typed on one side of an 8.5"x11" paper, be no more than 500 words and a maximum of two pages.

April 2: Candidate judging and interviews at the Clarke Electric office.

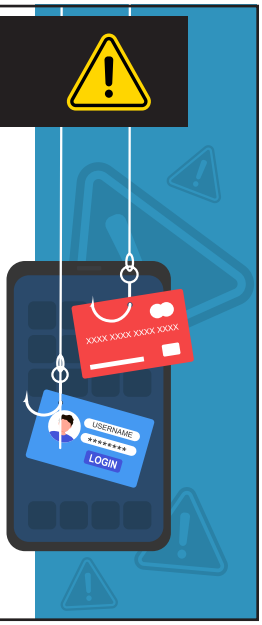
Sept. 9: The selected student will be asked to present during the Clarke Electric Annual Meeting on their experiences.

Candidates will be notified in April and the winner will be announced in the May issue of this newsletter.

For complete details, visit www.cecnet.net/youth-tour or call Cori at (641) 342-2173.

TIPS TO AVOID
ENERGY SCAMS

Scammers will try anything to deceive utility customers, including a tactic that claims customers have overpaid their bill. If you receive a call, text or email from someone claiming you overpaid a utility bill and need to provide your banking or credit card information to receive a credit, it's likely a scam. In most cases, your utility will apply a credit to your account to cover future charges or refund an overpayment with a mailed check. *Source: Utilities United Against Scams*



THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE

Annual Statement of Nondiscrimination

Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc., is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is David A. Opie, general manager of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and /or file a written complaint with this organization; or by contacting:

Administrator
Rural Utilities Service
Stop 1510, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C., 20250-1510;

or

Director
Office of Civil Rights
Room 326-W, Whitten Building
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C., 20250-9410

or calling (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

Welcome Back, Legislators

Clarke Electric representatives welcomed legislators back to Des Moines Jan. 14 as the 2025 Legislative Session got underway. Pictured from left: General Manager Dave Opie, Sen. Amy Sinclair, Board Member Liz Beck, and Member Services Manager Jason Gibbs during a Legislative Reception hosted by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Communications Alliance, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and FUELIowa.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

If you have a home office, look for opportunities to save energy in your workspace. Use ENERGY STAR®-rated equipment, which consumes up to 50% less energy than standard models. Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save energy in your home office is to use efficient lamps for task lighting. Replace any older bulbs with energy-saving LEDs. *Source: energy.gov*

Get Your Member News by Email

If you would like to receive your membership newsletter via email, just let us know. You can call or email us at Clarke@cecnet.net. We will send it at the beginning of each month.

Time to Update Your Contact Information

We are updating member-consumer information. If your phone number or email address has changed, please notify us by phone, (800) 362-2154 or email us at clarke@cecnet.net. You can also scan the QR code at right to go to our website and update the member form. 51-19-05-01

It is important for Clarke Electric to have your most current contact information. This helps us to identify who you are when you call in to report an outage or request a service. It allows us to get important information to you as necessary. The information is not sold or given to others. We do share the information with our billing affiliate, but it is done in a secure environment.

Looking Out for You:
December Outages

Equipment/maintenance failure: 3
Unknown: 3
Motor Vehicle: 2
Construction: 2
Animal/bird:1

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P.O. Box 161 | 1103 N. Main | Osceola, IA 50213-0161
(641) 342-2173 | (800) 362-2154
cecnet.net

OFFICE HOURS
Mon.-Fri.: 7:30 AM - 4 PM | Outside depository available 24/7