

## CCECA Members Experience the 2023 Energy Trail Tour

Electricity must be generated at the same exact time as you flip the switch to use it. This summer, two members of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative joined members from thirteen other electric cooperatives from western and north central Iowa on a three-day excursion through the Dakotas to learn about where their electricity comes from and have some fun along the journey. Stops included the Oahe Power Plant and Dam, Antelope Valley Station, and the Coteau Properties Company Freedom Mine. Over these three educational and fun-filled days, members gained a deeper understanding of the cooperative difference, the history of rural electric cooperatives, the Seven Cooperative Principles that guide all cooperatives, and the Touchstone Energy® brand's four foundations of service: Integrity, Accountability, Innovation, and Commitment to Community.

For More information on the 2023 Energy Trail Tour, please visit our webpage at <https://calhounrec.coop>.



*"We really enjoyed the trip and saw some amazing things. We hope others will have the chance to go also. Highly recommended." - Jeff and Sherri Ellis*



*"We toured the Antelope Power Plant and then went to the Freedom Cole Mine and were taken by our tour guide and bus down into the open mine. This portion of the North Dakota Energy Tour was very meaningful to me because my grandfather immigrated to America from Crimea, Germany in the late 1890's at age 18. He worked for the Power Plant in this coal mining area and the town of Halliday, North Dakota, was where my mother was born." - Donna Lott and son, Russell*

## Congratulations Rachel!

The CCECA staff and board would like to congratulate our Member Accounts Manager, Rachel, on her wedding that took place on August 5 to her husband Lance. May the years ahead be filled with love and joy. Congratulations!

For more information about what Rachel does for our cooperative, look for her employee spotlight in next month's newsletter.



### Energy Trail Tour 2023

#### Front

CCECA Members  
Experience the 2023  
Energy Trail Tour

### Congratulations Rachel!

#### Front

Congratulations Rachel &  
New Husband, Lance

### NRECA Update

#### Page 2

EPA Threatens Reliability

### Iowa Youth Tour

#### Page 2

Tristan Blair Takes part in  
Wreath Laying Ceremony

### Welcome to the Team

#### Page 3

Welcome Abbey

### Electric Heat Rate

#### Page 3

October 1- April 30, 2024

### Farm Safety

#### Page 3

No One Can Take Your  
Place

### Recipe of the Month

#### Page 3

No Bake Banana Split  
Dessert

### RECare Members Helping Members

#### Page 4

Members helping  
Members

### Sweet Corn Daze

#### Page 4

August 5, 2023

Calhoun County Electric  
Cooperative Association  
Rockwell City, IA 50579  
(712) 297-7112 • (800) 821-4879  
[www.calhounrec.coop](http://www.calhounrec.coop)

# Proposed EPA Rules Threaten Reliability

The Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule to eliminate power plant emissions of carbon dioxide by 2035 will place electric reliability at risk, hike electricity costs and hurt the U.S. economy, NRECA CEO Jim Matheson said.

"EPA's proposal is unrealistic, unachievable, unlawful and will reduce key generating resources just as Americans are increasing their reliance on electricity," Matheson said.

"This proposed rule will result in higher costs and greater uncertainty for Americans and magnify today's reliability challenges with grave consequences for an already stressed electric grid."

Electric cooperatives are national leaders in developing tools, methods and technologies to reduce emissions, including significant research in carbon capture and sequestration, but the rule proposed by EPA "is the wrong plan at a critical time for our nation's energy future," Matheson said.

In comments to the EPA on Aug. 8, NRECA explained how the proposal would hamper reliable, affordable service to the millions of Americans who depend on electric co-ops. It would also hinder operation of natural gas plants and result in the closure of baseload coal units when the rule's full restrictions take effect.

"EPA's proposal represents the biggest, most consequential set of rules to regulate new and existing power plants," Matheson said.

NRECA urged the agency to withdraw its power plant rule because it:

- Violates the law and exceeds EPA's authority while also disregarding recent Supreme Court rulings.
- Hinges on widespread adoption of technologies that are promising, but not ready for prime time.
- Contains timelines that are unrealistic and unachievable.
- Will jeopardize reliability and result in more blackouts, higher costs, and greater uncertainty for American families and businesses.

EPA is expected to finalize its proposed power plant rule in the spring of 2024.

Matheson said co-ops are being smart and strategic as they work towards a responsible energy future, but EPA's proposal will simultaneously increase reliability risks and costs for consumers.

"From deploying microgrids and renewables to launching demand response programs, electric cooperatives take an innovative and diverse approach as they work towards a responsible energy future," Matheson said.

"But expecting the industry to generate more electricity with fewer resources while adhering to unrealistic timelines is not a serious or practical approach. The proposed rule must be withdrawn."

Keaton Hildreth, CCECA's CEO, sent comments to the EPA to show collective opposition to the EPA's proposed regulations on new and existing power plants. Your Electric Cooperative is actively engaged with NRECA's efforts to oppose the EPA's plans.

To learn more about the EPA's proposal and why it impacts Co-ops, please visit: <https://voicesforcooperativepower.com/how-co-ops-are-impacted-by-threats-to-reliability/>.

## Another Great Year for Iowa's Youth Tour

Each year, CCECA sponsors one student from its service territories to attend the Iowa Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. This year, Tristan Blair, a soon to be senior at South Central Calhoun High School, represented CCECA on the 2023 youth tour to Washington D.C.

Tristan got to experience the National Mall, numerous memorials, and monuments, and had a chance run in with the only active-duty drum and bugle corps serving in our armed forces, The Commandant's Own. Along with these momentous



events, Tristan was also one of the four students selected to take part in the wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. He was awarded this opportunity based on an essay he wrote about the importance of the wreath laying ceremony.

Tristan wrote, "I want to participate in the ceremony because I feel as though it is a very important occasion that they perform at DC. Honoring the unknown soldiers is very important not only for our history but for honoring the great courage that they provided for our freedoms. Me having a military family know how important it is to honor the sacrifices made by troops for our nation and with troops being unknown this monument is crucial in remembering those troops who died."

Thank you, Tristan, for being so passionate about your country and for representing CCECA so positively. We hope you enjoyed your time in Washington, D.C., and that you learned more about the nation we call home.





### Tell us about your family -

I have been married for 4 years to my husband Josh. Josh works in Carroll as a machinist but also owns his own business. We have a 14 month old son named Oliver and two dogs, Copper and Otis.

### What does an Administrative Assistant/Communications Specialist do at CCECA?

I primarily focus on cooperative events, news releases, website management, scholarships, educational programming, and any marketing that needs communicated to our member-owners.

### What are you most excited to work on or experience in your new roll?

I'm most excited to be able to learn more about Electric, Electric Cooperatives, and have networking opportunities that will help me grow as a communicator for CCECA.

### What food could you eat everyday?

Mexican Food



Name: Abbey Conrad

Title: Administrative Assistant & Communications Specialist



### **NO BAKE BANANA SPLIT DESSERT RECIPE**

#### **INGREDIENTS:**

- 8oz cream cheese, softened
- ¼ cup butter, softened
- 3 cups powdered sugar
- 4 medium bananas, sliced
- 20oz can crushed pineapple – drained
- 16oz Cool Whip
- 1 jar of maraschino cherries
- ½ cup crushed walnuts
- ½ cup hot fudge sauce

#### **Crust Ingredients**

- 12 full graham cracker sheets, finely crushed
- 9 Tablespoon butter, melted
- ⅓ cup granulated sugar

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Lightly coat a 9x13 baking dish with non-stick cooking spray.
2. Combine the graham cracker crumbs, butter and sugar in a medium size bowl. Mix until all of the butter has coated the crumbs and the mixture sticks together when pressed.
3. Pour into your baking dish and firmly pack down the graham cracker crumbs. Set aside.
4. In a medium mixing bowl, combine the cream cheese, 1/4 cup butter and powdered sugar. Mix until smooth and creamy.
5. Scoop the cream cheese mixture on top of the crust and spread evenly across the top.
6. Spread the sliced bananas on top, pressing slightly into the cream cheese mixture.
7. Spread the crushed pineapple on top of the bananas, following with the Cool Whip.
8. Finally, decorate the top of your dessert with the walnuts, cherries, and hot fudge.
9. Chill for several hours, or overnight, before cutting and serving.

### **ELECTRIC HEAT RATE**

CCECA is preparing once again for the Electric Heat Rate to go into effect for its member-owners. Each October 1st to

April 30th, the rate for electric heat changes from the summer rate of \$0.095/kWh to the winter rate of \$0.053/kWh. This is just another way your cooperative works for YOU during the heating months!

### **\$\$\$ SAVING TIPS**



### **Use an adjustable thermostat to MANAGE energy costs**

Did you know you can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling costs? Programmable thermostats can make your zoned heating and cooling even more effective by automatically adjusting your home's temperature based on daily occupancy patterns. This can help you avoid wasting money on running the HVAC in an empty room.



This month, tractors will be rolling, combines will be harvesting, and trucks will be hauling crops to the elevators. CCECA is proud to serve dozens of farms across our service territory and we want everyone to stay safe this season. By following these simple tips, your commute to and from during harvest will ensure everyone stays safe this season.

- 1.) *Be prepared for farm equipment.*
- 2.) *Slow down and keep your distance.*
- 3.) *Be sure of the farmers intentions before passing.*
- 4.) *Be Patient and enjoy the scenery if you get stuck behind slow moving machinery that isn't safe to pass.*



# RECare Members Helping Members



Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperatives

In response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your REC has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income consumers. You may make a one-time contribution or a monthly pledge that will be automatically added onto your monthly electric bill. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others.

## RECare Consumer Authorization Form

- I will contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month. I understand this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.
- I will make a one-time contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to RECare. My check is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### Return to:

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative  
1015 Tonawanda • PO Box 312 • Rockwell City, Iowa

## A Sweet Fleet for Sweet Corn Daze

CCECA enjoys being a part of the community celebrations that happen in our service territories. Lineman, Chad Krukow, and his family participated in Rockwell City's Sweet Corn Daze Parade that took place on August 5.



## September Member Challenge

1. What does NERC stand for? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What will electric heat cost from October 1 – April 30, 2024? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name one person who attended the Energy Trail Tour. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Find the answers within the stories, features, and content of this newsletter and you could win a prize. Send your answer to [memberchallenge@calhounrec.coop](mailto:memberchallenge@calhounrec.coop), clip and mail to: Calhoun County Electric Cooperative, PO Box 312, Rockwell City, IA 50579 or submit on our website: [www.calhounrec.coop](http://www.calhounrec.coop). You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember there is a deadline! Entries for this issue **must be received by October 1st**. Three names will be drawn from all correct entries. Members will receive a **\$10 credit** on their account. Members who answer the questions correctly and participate at least three times throughout the year will be eligible for a \$100 bill credit, through a random drawing, at the end of the year.

**Congratulations to the July member challenge winners:**  
Randy & Christine Batz, Ron & Sue Carlson, & Beverly Welander

## Reach Us

### OFFICE HOURS:

8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
(Mon-Fri)

Contact 24/7 with the following numbers:

### General Phone:

(712) 297-7112

### Toll Free:

(800) 821-4879

### Fax:

(712) 297-7211

### Visit us online:

[www.calhounrec.coop](http://www.calhounrec.coop)

### Email:

[info@calhounrec.coop](mailto:info@calhounrec.coop)

### DIRECTORS:

Jim Miller, President – Fonda  
Steve Boedecker,  
Vice President – Rockwell City  
Jason McKenney,  
Secretary – Somers  
Ron Hanson,  
Treasurer – Pomeroy  
Duane Beschoner – Lohrville  
Darcy Maulsby – Lake City  
Joe Parker – Lohrville  
Keaton Hildreth, CEO



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

IOWA ONE-CALL  
AT 811 OR  
(800) 292-8989  
BEFORE YOU DIG

### EASY WAYS TO PAY BILL:

**Online:** Access through [www.calhounrec.coop](http://www.calhounrec.coop) and pay online 24/7.

**Mobile App:** Download our app

**Auto Bill Pay (ACH):** Deduct from your bank account. Find the form on our website or stop by the office.

**Phone:** Call the office and make a payment over the phone with a card or checking account.

**Outside Drop Box/  
Front Corner:**

Rockwell City, IA

**U.S. Postal Mail**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.