



**Calhoun County Electric  
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Monthly publication for member-owners

# CCECA NEWS

Visit us online at [www.calhounrec.coop](http://www.calhounrec.coop)



## CCECA MAKES A DONATION TO OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative recently made a \$250 donation to the Calhoun County New Opportunities Food Bank to help support local families in need.

This contribution reflects Cooperative Principle #7 — Concern for Community — one of the seven guiding principles that shape the cooperative difference. At CCECA, we believe that our responsibility extends beyond providing safe and reliable electricity; it also means lending a helping hand to the communities we serve.

The Calhoun County New Opportunities Food Bank plays a vital role in ensuring individuals and families across the county have access to food, especially during times of need. By supporting their efforts, CCECA continues its commitment to strengthening the well-being of our member-owners and neighbors.

*Pictured above is Member Account Manager Rachel Sedlacek with Calhoun County New Opportunities employees Sharona Daisy and Jessica Peters.*

If you could use help with winter heating costs, assistance is available through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). To learn more or apply, contact your local resource center.

At CCECA, we care about our members — please reach to us out at 712-297-7112 if you need guidance or have questions about available assistance programs.



On November 2, 2025, Menley Hildreth, presented the 2025 Top 4-H awards. This year CCECA helped recognize Top 4-H Junior, Brooks Stuart, Top 4-H Intermediate, Lyla Stuart, and Top 4-H Senior, Makinlee Hingeley. CCECA is happy to help support and recognize the 2025 Top 4-H members!

*Pictured L to R: Makinlee Hingeley & Menley Hildreth*

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Offers Basin Scholarship

Dependents of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative members are eligible to apply for a scholarship provided by Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative, power suppliers of CCECA. The top applicant will receive a **\$1,500 scholarship** and the runner-up will receive a **\$1,000 scholarship**.

The scholarship program is designed to encourage and recognize the achievements of a student living on electric cooperative lines. The scholarship must be used for educational costs and the student must enter college in the fall of the school year for which the scholarship is given. The applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two year or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school. This scholarship is awarded without regard to other awards, loans, or financial assistance the applicant may have obtained. Award of the scholarship is based on the following criteria: SAT/ACT scores, grade-point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, a statement by the student explaining his/her educational and career goals, essay and an appraisal completed by a third party.

Applicants for this scholarship will first be screened anonymously by CCECA judges. The top applicant will be forwarded to Corn Belt Power Cooperative to be considered for their scholarship.

### Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association Scholarship

Locally, Calhoun County Electric Cooperative awards **four \$500 scholarships** each year. Any senior student who is a dependent of a CCECA member is eligible to apply. All applications are anonymously reviewed by our Board of Directors, who select the four recipients.

**Additional information and applications for both scholarship opportunities can be found on our website at [www.calhounrec.coop/scholarships](http://www.calhounrec.coop/scholarships).**

**The application deadline for both scholarships is **Friday, February 6, 2026 at 4:00 PM.****

For additional questions, contact our office at 712-297-7112 or [mhildreth@calhounrec.coop](mailto:mhildreth@calhounrec.coop).

# OFFICIAL RATE INCREASE AND RESTRUCTURE NOTICE

BY KEATON HILDRETH



During the October 2025 board meeting, the Board of Directors of the Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association (CCECA) made the difficult decision to implement a system rate increase, phased-in over two years. The increase in 2026 is 4.24% and in 2027 it will be 3.07%. The goal of a phased-in

approach is to help reduce the immediate impact the full increase would have on the membership.

Your cooperative is a not-for-profit entity that exists to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electric service to its members. We are very aware of the impact rate increases have upon all members of the Cooperative and we do not take the decision lightly. Changes to rates are implemented only when they are necessary. The electric utility industry continues to experience dramatic cost increases on the materials and equipment used to bring you reliable electric service. The board and management team continually seek solutions to mitigate rising costs. We will continue to minimize expenses and increase operating efficiencies whenever and wherever possible. We value you as a cooperative member-owner and we work tirelessly to ensure you have reliable electricity with the quality service you expect and deserve.

The process to adjust rates began several months ago when the cooperative worked with an independent consultant to perform a cost-of-service-study, which determines what it costs to provide service to each

rate class and the revenue needed to cover those costs. Discussions on this topic spanned multiple board meetings and many factors were considered when making this decision.

**The rate for single-phase and small commercial accounts will be restructured to include a small demand charge. In turn, the energy charge for these rate classes will see a slight decrease. This change is being made to better align members' bills with the cooperative's power cost.**

A driving factor for this change is an increase in the cost of power and the increased emphasis on demand charges due to rising capacity costs for our power suppliers, as we have written about these past few months. For the past year, we've been printing members' demand on statements at no charge, as a way of helping all becoming familiar with the concept. On the following page we'll specifically address Demand and how it could impact you.

There are ways to take control of your energy bill. Energy efficiency and rebate programs are available to help you find ways to lower your usage. We also offer energy audits that can help members better understand their usage. Our free mobile app is a great place to track monthly energy and demand usage. You can also use it to view and pay your bill and report outages. There are instructions for downloading and using the mobile app on our website at [www.calhounrec.coop](http://www.calhounrec.coop).

As always, feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns that you may have by sending an email to [info@calhounrec.coop](mailto:info@calhounrec.coop) or by calling our office at 712-297-7112.

*Keaton Hildreth is the CEO of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative.*

## SINGLE PHASE (RESIDENTIAL) RATE COMPARISON

Facility Charge (Monthly)			Demand Charge (per kW)		
Existing Rate	Phase 1	Phase 2	Existing Rate	Phase 1	Phase 2
\$52.00	\$55.00	\$55.00	-	\$0.75	\$1.50
Energy Charge (per kWh)					
First 1,200 kWhs per month			Over 1,200 kWhs per month		
Existing Rate	Phase 1	Phase 2	Existing Rate	Phase 1	Phase 2
\$0.13640	\$0.12540	\$0.12840	\$0.09500	\$0.12540	\$0.12840

IMPACT ON AVERAGE MEMBER BILL							
Average Member Usage		Proposed			Change - \$		
kW	kWhs	Existing Rate	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
6.30	1,366	\$222.34	\$232.74	\$241.57	\$10.40	\$8.82	\$19.22

A formal letter and detail comparison of all rates has been mailed to all CCECA member-owners.

**CCECA NEWS**



# UNDERSTANDING DEMAND

At Calhoun County Electric Cooperative, we understand that electric bills can be complicated, but understanding your bill can help you learn how to control it.

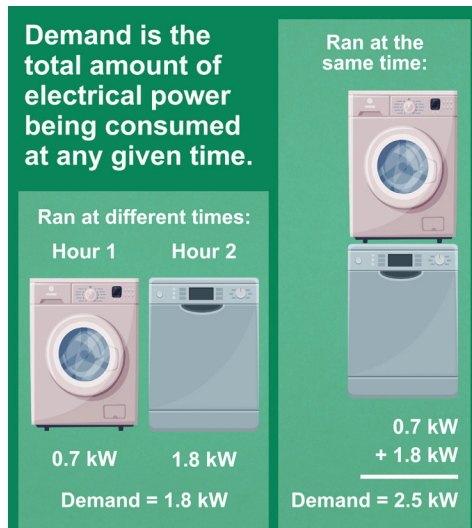
Generally, utilities charge a basic fee for service, which is called the “Facility Charge” for Calhoun County Electric Cooperative members. The “Energy Charge” on your bill is the charge for how many kilowatt-hours (kWh) or the amount of electricity you used, over time, for the month. Understanding the “Demand Charge” of an energy bill is more complicated and may require some additional explanation.

## What is Demand?

Electric Demand is the amount of power used at a given time and is measured in kilowatts (kW). On January 1, 2026, single-phase accounts, including residential services and small commercial accounts will be charged for demand, and the energy charge will be reduced. Your monthly demand amount started being printed on your bill, at no charge, in November of 2024. Large commercial accounts were already being charged for demand.

The “Demand Charge” listed on your bill represents the 30-minute interval when you used the highest amount of kW demand of electricity during that monthly billing period.

To put this into context, think about how your dishwasher and washing machine both use electricity. The amount of electricity (kWh) they use is the same regardless of when you use them if the settings are kept the same. If you use them both at the same time, you demand more electricity at that time. If you use them at different times, your demand on the system is lower.



## Example of Demand Scenario

When your washing machine runs for an hour, it uses 0.7 kW – which is your demand on our system for power. When your dishwasher runs for an hour, it uses 1.8 kW. If you run both at the same time, your demand would be 2.5 kW. Your demand becomes the total of the two because you need that much power at the same time. If you

make small changes in your habits and run only one of them at a time, your highest demand for those two hours would be 1.8 kW, because it is the most demand you’ve used at one time.

Your cooperative has always been billed for demand by our power suppliers at the time the overall system is demanding the most electricity. Recently, increases to kW demand charges have outpaced the charge per kWh, causing over 60% of the cooperative’s power bill to be based on our collective demand during that 30-minute interval each month. Restructuring our local rate to include demand helps to create more cost-based rates, while giving our members control over a portion of their bill.

Your meter is programmed to record the highest amount of demand used during a single 30-minute period in each billing cycle. Based on data, peak demand typically occurs between 6:00 to 11:00 a.m. or 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. in the winter months and between 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the summer months. The best way to reduce demand is by spreading your electric usage over time and using appliances outside of the listed peak demand periods.

If you have questions about your electric bill, or demand, please contact us at 712-297-7112.

## DON'T TOWER YOUR POWER



## LEVEL OUT THE LOAD

*Lowering demand doesn't have to be complicated!  
Just remember to "Spread, Don't Stack" your electrical usage!*

*Spreading your electrical usage throughout the day  
helps lower demand and keeps rates affordable!*



### Avoid towering your power by leveling out your load!

Using a lot of electricity all at once — like running multiple large appliances simultaneously — can put extra strain on the grid and increase overall costs. By spreading out your energy use throughout the day, you can help keep the system running smoothly and efficiently. CCECA offers **free energy audits** to help identify where your home uses the most electricity and find ways to improve efficiency. If you're interested in scheduling an energy audit, contact our office at 712-297-7112.



CCECA  
TAKES PART IN  
TRUNK OR TREAT



Pictured L to R: Menley Hildreth & Rachel Sedlacek

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative was proud to take part in two nights of Trunk or Treat fun in Lake City and Rockwell City! Families enjoyed safe, festive evenings filled with costumes, candy, and community spirit. CCECA helped light up the night by handing out candy and glowsticks — just one more way we're proud to stay connected with and support our local communities!

## FEBRUARY 19-20, 2026

### IOWA BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS:

Ask us about Momentum is Building Energy Efficiency Conference to learn more about how you can earn CEUs, network, and learn new techniques



SHERATON WEST DES MOINES HOTEL

[WWW.MOMENTUMISBUILDING.COM](http://WWW.MOMENTUMISBUILDING.COM)

*Happy  
Holidays*  
TO ALL

OUR OFFICE WILL  
BE CLOSED ON  
DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> AND  
25<sup>TH</sup> IN OBSERVANCE  
OF CHRISTMAS.

&

OUR OFFICE WILL  
CLOSE AT NOON ON  
DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup> AND  
WILL BE CLOSED  
ON JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> IN  
OBSERVANCE OF  
NEW YEAR'S.

## Reach Us

### REGULAR OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
(Monday-Friday)

### SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-Th  
7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. F  
(Memorial Day-Labor Day)

### CONTACT US 24/7:

#### General Phone:

(712) 297-7112

#### Toll Free:

(800) 821-4879

#### Visit us online:

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

#### Email:

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

### DIRECTORS:

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Joe Parker – Lohrville

Steve Pelz – Manson

Keaton Hildreth, CEO

# December Member Challenge

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/member-challenge-submission](http://www.calhounrec.coop/member-challenge-submission). 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 January 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 4 times throughout the year, will be eligible for a \$100 Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Pre-Paid Debit card, through a random drawing, at the end of the year.

### Congratulations October winners:

Nancy Bruns, Wallace Lott,  
and Ron & Lori Prince

1. The application deadline for scholarships is Friday, February \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.
2. Electric \_\_\_\_\_ is the amount of power used at a given time and is measured in kilowatts (kW).
3. By spreading out your \_\_\_\_\_ use throughout the day, you can help keep the system running smoothly and efficiently.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



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### 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 Counter:**  
Rockwell City, IA

### U.S. Postal Mail

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.