



CCECA NEWS

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MANAGER'S REPORT

WHAT RISING POWER COSTS MEAN FOR YOUR COOPERATIVE

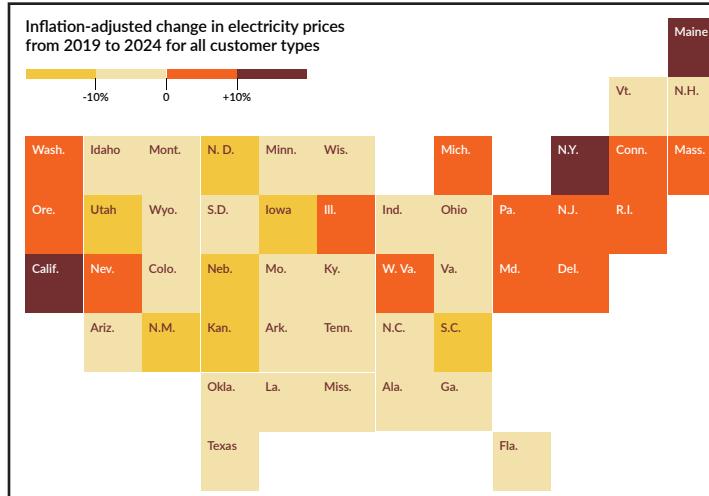


Keaton Hildreth, CEO

As we begin a new year, I want to thank you for your continued trust and support of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative (CCECA). We appreciate the opportunity to serve you and your family, and we remain committed to providing reliable electric service at the lowest possible cost.

Across the country, the cost of producing electricity has been rising. Utilities nationwide are facing higher expenses driven by fuel costs, infrastructure investments, growing electricity demand and the rising need for around-the-clock power to support industry and data centers. As shown in the accompanying graphics, electricity prices have climbed sharply in many parts of the U.S. over the past several years.

The data also shows that the Midwest – and Iowa in particular – has seen smaller increases than many coastal and high-growth regions. While that is encouraging, it does not offset the impact of rising wholesale power costs that affect all electric providers, including CCECA. The cost of the electricity we purchase continues to increase, even in areas where retail prices have remained relatively stable.



Addressing Rising Costs

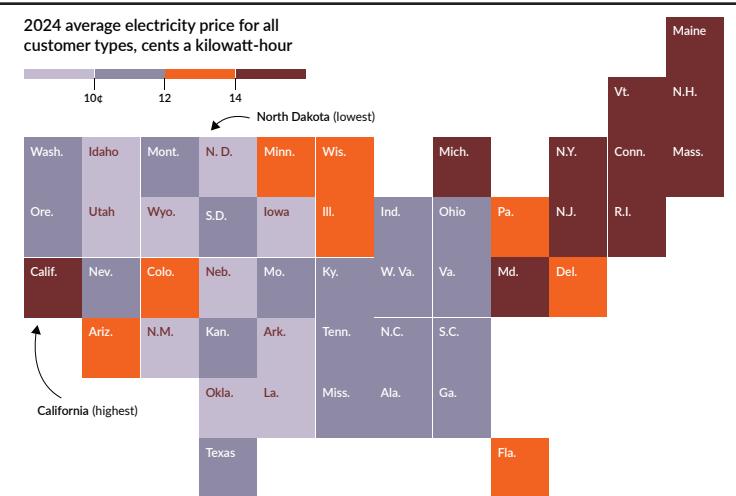
To address these increases, CCECA will utilize a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) previously known as an Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA). You will see this change in effect for the first time on your February bill, based on your January energy use. The PCA is designed to recover the higher costs CCECA pays for wholesale electricity from our power suppliers, Corn Belt Power Cooperative and Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Wholesale power is the single largest expense for your cooperative. The PCA allows CCECA to directly address these higher power costs without changing base rates. The amount you see will be tied to your electricity usage and will reflect the price of the power needed to serve you.

We understand that any change to your electric bill raises questions. Transparency is vital to us, and we encourage members to reach out if they would like help understanding the PCA, reviewing their energy use or learning about tools and programs available through our online bill pay portal/mobile app and CCECA to manage energy consumption.

Even as costs rise nationwide, CCECA remains financially strong and focused on long-term stability. Our goal is to continue delivering safe, reliable and affordable electricity while being open and responsible with the dollars you entrust to your cooperative.

Thank you for being a member-owner of CCECA and for your continued confidence in us as we move through 2026.



COOPERATIVES SPEAK WITH LEGISLATORS IN FORT DODGE

On December 16, 2025, local Cooperatives including Calhoun County Electric Cooperative had the opportunity to meet with local legislators to discuss issues facing electric cooperatives and the communities we serve. Meetings such as the Legislative Breakfast in Fort Dodge allow us the opportunity to advocate the Cooperative's position on issues that could affect our member-owners.

THE GOOD KIND OF AUDIT

By: Curt Batta, Energy Services Manager



Colder weather typically results in higher energy bills, and with winter in full swing, we'd like to remind you about a free co-op service that can help you boost efficiency and save money.

As your trusted energy partner, we believe savings and efficiency are within reach for everyone, and we want to help you get there. That's why Calhoun County Electric Cooperative offers free home and business energy audits.

An energy audit provides a holistic view of your home's efficiency. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to adjust energy consumption, improve problem areas and ultimately keep more money in your wallet. An energy audit can also identify potential safety issues surrounding electrical wiring and HVAC systems, making your home safer. You could say this is a good kind of audit.

So, what does an energy audit look like? First, our energy advisor conducts a walk-through of your home or business, examining energy use and identifying problem areas. The advisor will look at specific elements of your home impacting energy use such as doors, windows, and insulation levels. The advisor will also examine major appliances including your heating and cooling system and conduct a room-by-room assessment. During the assessment, the advisor will ask questions about your energy use habits and review past energy bills.

In the testing phase, the advisor could evaluate the seal of your home by conducting a blower door test to identify the source of any air leaks or drafts. The advisor will also conduct thermal imaging of the home to detect heat loss that is invisible to the naked eye. Thermal imaging can reveal inadequate insulation levels, HVAC airflow, radiant heat malfunction and additional key factors.

Finally, the advisor will provide you with a detailed evaluation. This is a written report with a description of your home, an analysis of your energy use, recommendations regarding energy consumption and steps you can take to improve efficiency and save money.

Want to request an Energy Audit for your home? CCECA makes this process easy. Start by calling our office at 712-297-7112. We will take your information and help schedule you for a home energy audit with our trained energy advisor. One of the many values we can provide for our members is helping you understand how you use electricity and more importantly, identifying ways you can use it more efficiently.

CCECA NEWS

REDUCING USAGE DURING PEAK TIMES

Electric demand peaks occur when many members use electricity at the same time, placing increased strain on the electric system and driving up costs for everyone. By being mindful of when and how electricity is used, members can play an important role in keeping energy reliable and affordable.

Peak times typically happen during periods of extreme temperatures, when heating or cooling systems are running heavily. Simple actions like delaying laundry, dishwashers, or other high-energy activities during possible peak hours can make a meaningful difference.

Peak Demand Period

■ Unlikely Peak Period

■ Possible Peak Period

Summer

June - September

■ 12 AM	■ 12 PM	■ 12 AM	■ 12 PM
■ 1 AM	■ 1 PM	■ 1 AM	■ 1 PM
■ 2 AM	■ 2 PM	■ 2 AM	■ 2 PM
■ 3 AM	■ 3 PM	■ 3 AM	■ 3 PM
■ 4 AM	■ 4 PM	■ 4 AM	■ 4 PM
■ 5 AM	■ 5 PM	■ 5 AM	■ 5 PM
■ 6 AM	■ 6 PM	■ 6 AM	■ 6 PM
■ 7 AM	■ 7 PM	■ 7 AM	■ 7 PM
■ 8 AM	■ 8 PM	■ 8 AM	■ 8 PM
■ 9 AM	■ 9 PM	■ 9 AM	■ 9 PM
■ 10 AM	■ 10 PM	■ 10 AM	■ 10 PM
■ 11 AM	■ 11 PM	■ 11 AM	■ 11 PM

Winter

October - May

Even small changes, when practiced by many members, help reduce overall system demand. Members are encouraged to shift higher-energy activities away from possible peak periods when possible, as overall system usage is typically higher. Taking advantage of unlikely peak periods helps balance the load on the system while still allowing members to use electricity when it's needed most.

Working together to reduce usage during potential peak times helps control costs, protect the electric system, and support reliable service for all member-owners. A little flexibility goes a long way in powering our cooperative community efficiently.

Energy Trail Tour 2026

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association and Corn Belt Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of two Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer. This 3-day adventure will allow you to experience, first-hand, how your power providers convert energy from water, wind, and coal into electricity. View coal being mined and see how those mines are then returned to productive farmland and native grass lands. Enjoy interactive walking tours through a hydroelectric and coal-fired energy generation facility and other stops along the way. Meet other cooperative member-owners while traveling together across the Dakotas on-board a motor-coach bound for the North Dakota's Energy Loop. Two lucky couples from Calhoun County Electric will be selected at random from those who sign up.

First Person _____

Second Person _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

YES, please enter our names in the drawing for the trip. We understand that if our names are drawn, we will be billed \$100.

Our first and second choice of dates:

June 24-26 1st 2nd (please circle)
July 15-17 1st 2nd

I/we have have not participated in this tour in the past.

Clip this coupon and return to cooperative by April 29, 2026.

HELP SHAPE CCECA'S FUTURE: GET INVOLVED IN BOARD LEADERSHIP

At Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association (CCECA), our members are more than customers – you are the owners of the cooperative. One of the most meaningful ways to help shape CCECA's future is to get involved in our democratic governance process, either by serving on the nominating committee or by running for the board of directors.

The Role of the Nominating Committee

The nominating committee plays a key role in ensuring fair, transparent, and member-led board elections. Committee members are CCECA members from the district(s) that have a director position up for election. Their role is to help identify qualified candidates for the board of directors.

Nominating Committee Responsibilities Include:

- Reviewing candidate submissions
- Identifying and evaluating qualified individuals
- Voting on candidates who will appear on the ballot
- Being available to assist with ballot counting at CCECA's Annual Meeting in September

Committee members are reimbursed for their time through per diem and mileage. No prior experience is required – CCECA staff provides all necessary information, resources and support.

Time Commitment

Serving on the nominating committee requires a relatively small-time

commitment but has a significant impact:

March: CCECA staff finds member-owners willing to serve on the nominating committee

March: The CCECA board appoints nominating committee members

April/May: Nominating committee members help identify potential board candidates

June: The nominating committee meets at the CCECA office to finalize the ballot

September: The nominating committee assists with ballot counting at the annual meeting

Why Participation Matters

Member involvement is the foundation of the cooperative model. By volunteering your time, you help ensure CCECA's leadership reflects the needs and values of the members we serve. Your participation strengthens transparency, accountability, and community-led decision-making.

Serve on CCECA's Board of Directors

In addition to serving on the nominating committee, members may also consider running for the **CCECA Board of Directors**. Directors help guide the cooperative's long-term success and represent members' interests.

At the **2026 CCECA Annual Meeting in September**, three board positions will be up for election:

District 1: Jim Miller

District 3: Jason McKenney

District 5: Steve Boedecker

Eligible candidates must be member-owners and reside within District 1, District 3, or District 5.

Board members are reimbursed for their time through per diem and mileage. No prior experience is required – CCECA staff provides all necessary information, resources and support.

What Does a Director Do?

CCECA directors play an essential role in guiding the cooperative by:

- Setting long-term strategic direction
- Providing financial oversight and ensuring fiscal responsibility
- Managing risk and planning for the future
- Representing member interests
- Advocating for policies that benefit rural electric cooperatives

How The Election Process Works

CCECA's election process ensures fair and equal representation:

1. The nominating committee reviews and recommends candidates
2. Interested members may submit their names for consideration
3. CCECA confirms candidate interest before finalizing the ballot
4. Each membership receives one vote, reinforcing democratic control

Voting options include voting by mail or delivering completed ballots in person to CCECA's Rockwell City headquarters.

GET INVOLVED

YOUR COOPERATIVE. YOUR LEADERSHIP. YOUR FUTURE.

If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, learning more about board service, or submitting your name as a candidate, we would love to hear from you. Contact our office at 712-297-7112.



Students can apply now for a trip to Washington, D.C., from June 14-20!

High school students interested in public service and government are encouraged to apply! Learn more at IowaYouthTour.com



2025 OPERATIONS BY THE NUMBERS

After another successful year of construction and maintenance on Calhoun County Electric Cooperative's **758 miles of line**, our line crew can be proud of the progress they've made to ensure safe, reliable, and affordable power for all of our members.

In 2025, CCECA **rebuilt 6 miles of line** and completed **115 system improvements**, strengthening infrastructure and enhancing overall system reliability. These efforts reflect our continued commitment to maintaining a dependable electric system for the communities we serve.

12 NEW SERVICES

- 4 CELL TOWERS
- 3 MACHINE SHEDS
- 2 NEW HOMES
- 2 GRAIN BINS
- 1 HOG SITE



Bret McAlister, Line Superintendent

CCECA LINE CREW



Back Row L to R: Bret McAlister, Reid Galloway, Doug LeMonds
Front Row L to R: Ben Wiederin, Chad Kukow, Jared Kuhlers



L to R: Senator Tim Kraayenbrink,
Director Steve Boedecker,
Board President Jim Miller



L to R: Director Steve Boedecker,
Representative Wendy Larson,
Board President Jim Miller

IAEC 2026 WELCOME BACK RECEPTION

More than 150 senior staff and directors from Iowa electric cooperatives, including Calhoun County Electric Cooperative, were in downtown Des Moines on January 13, 2026 to attend a legislative "welcome back" reception at the start of the 91st Iowa General Assembly. At the event, co-op advocates discussed priorities face to face with their state legislators.

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

Email:

info@calhounrec.coop

DIRECTORS:

Jim Miller, President – Fonda
Steve Boedecker,
Vice President – Rockwell City
Jason McKenney,
Secretary – Somers
Duane Beschorner,
Treasurer – Lohrville
Darcy Maulsby – Lake City
Joe Parker – Lohrville
Steve Pelz – Manson

Keaton Hildreth, CEO



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Online: Access through 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.

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

February 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, 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. 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 March 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 December winners:

Marlyn Holtorf, Dan Reynolds,
and Patty Johnson

- _____ times typically happen during periods of extreme temperatures, when heating or cooling systems are running heavily.
- An energy _____ provides a holistic view of your home's efficiency.
- In 2025, CCECA rebuilt _____ miles of line and completed _____ system improvements.

Name _____