

## MANAGER'S UPDATE

### Reliability Requires "All-of-the-Above" Approach



Keaton Hildreth, CEO

The energy industry is undergoing a dramatic transformation as more renewable energy comes online and innovation and technology continue to advance. I recently wrote about the North American Reliability Assessment and the need for an All-of-the-Above energy approach. This month, let's delve deeper into what an

All-of-the-Above energy strategy means and how renewable energy growth has contributed to the shuttering of many baseload power plants across the country, potentially impacting the reliability of electric service.

Green energy is certainly not new. Solar and wind power have been around for decades. Government-provided tax incentives make renewable generation sources affordable, we have seen exponential growth in renewable energy across the country, including in our state.

Recent innovations and advances in renewable technology have led to sharp decreases in cost, making it more feasible and accessible. In recent years, Corn Belt Power, Calhoun County Electric Cooperative's power supplier has adjusted our fuel mix by utilizing more renewables in our generation portfolio. Last year, 25.8 percent of the energy delivered to Corn Belt Power's member cooperatives comprised of renewable energy resources such as wind and hydropower, up from 17 percent in 2015. This is a remarkable transition to a cleaner and greener generation mix when you consider the national average electricity cost has only increased a little over two percent over the same time period.

An All-of-the-Above energy approach favors the incorporation of renewable resources like wind and solar to work alongside traditional reliable sources of energy like coal, oil, and natural gas. For us, adopting a strategy incorporating renewable energy sources must be done in a way that protects our members financially and does not impede their power supply.

*continued...*

### Manager's Update

Front

Reliability Continued

### New Mobile App

Front

Download today!

### Farming Safety

Page 2

Grain bins

### RECare

Page 3

Donate today

### Sweet Corn Daze

Page 3

Parade

### Power of Preparation

Page 4

National Preparedness Month

### Member Challenge

Page 4

Find the answers within the newsletter for a chance to win a bill credit

## Download our App

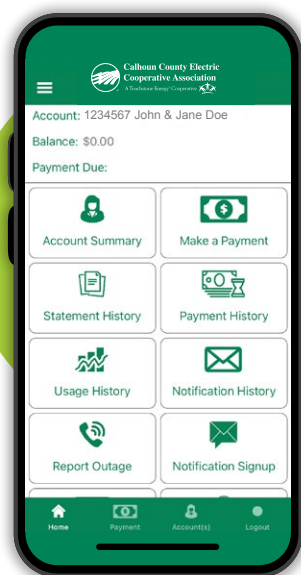
### Features include

- Outage Reporting
- Bill pay
- Notifications
- Usage History



It has been a mission of ours to continue to add ways for our members to connect with us. We are excited to announce the launch of our new mobile app. You will be able to view and pay your bill electronically, monitor your usage, and make decisions on how you'd like us to communicate with you plus it gives you the ability to report outages from your phone!

Available for Apple or Android phones – open the camera on your mobile device to scan the appropriate QR code to the left and download the CCECA app.



## Manager's Update...continued

It takes a slow and logical approach to transition electric generation away from fossil fuels in such a way as to maintain the affordability and reliability of your power supply.

While renewable generation such as wind and solar remains an affordable supplemental generation resource to an overall energy mix, these resources are considered "intermittent" power since the sun does not always shine, and the wind does not always blow. Often, there is minimal wind or solar generation on the coldest days of the year or the hottest. Proponents of these resources are correct in their position that renewable energy will provide a path forward to an energy future that will be more carbon-constrained. However, the intermittency of these resources alone will not sustain the increasing energy demands of our growing economy. Battery storage remains costly, and its long-term storage capacity has not kept up with the growth of renewable energy across the country nor the increasing demands for energy to power our economy. Unless battery storage technology advances, we must rely on dependable baseload, fossil fuel power plants to keep the lights on all the time.

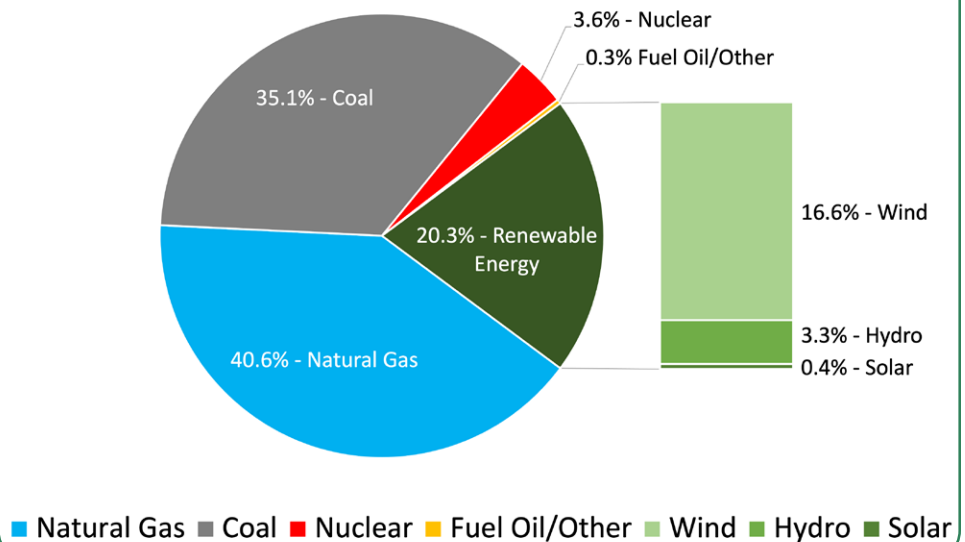
At the same time, the economics behind tax-subsidized green energy has contributed to the closure of many fossil fuel, baseload power plants. Reliance on a generation mix that depends heavily on renewables will impact the overall affordability of your power. When the wind is blowing and the sun is shining, energy generation is abundant, and power is inexpensive. However, severe weather events can also negatively impact renewable generation resources, inhibiting their operation, thus driving up costs to purchase energy from the markets at a premium.

That was evident at 4:44 p.m. on July 11, when the Southwest Power Pool, reached a new all-time peak load of 51,377 megawatts (MW). During that time, almost 80 percent of power generated to meet the load was made up of either coal, natural gas or nuclear (see chart to the right).

I don't mention these statistics to scare you. Instead, it demonstrates the value of our abundant baseload generation sources in an All-of-the Above energy mix. If not for reliable baseload generation, predominately made up of fossil fuels, many of us would be in the dark during times of peak electric demand. Our goal is to provide our members with safe, affordable, reliable, and sustainable forms of energy in a way that moves us toward a cleaner energy future.

It all boils down to having reliable baseload generation for when renewables aren't available. It's why we call it "All-of-the-Above." We will continue to advocate on your behalf for that energy strategy on a state and federal level.

Sources of Generation on July 11, 2022 (New SPP Record Peak Demand)





## BACON AND CHEESE BREAKFAST EGG BITES

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tube of crescent roll dough
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
- 6-7 slices of bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 6 eggs
- ¼ cup half and half
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon onion powder

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Prepared a mini muffin tin with non-stick spray.
2. Unroll the crescent roll dough and tear off a piece that is about 2x2 inches. Press dough into the bottom of each mold and onto the sides.
3. Sprinkle a pinch of cheddar cheese and bacon crumbles into the bottom of each bite.
4. In a medium bowl, whisk together the eggs, half and half, salt, pepper, and onion powder.
5. Spoon the egg mixture into each bite just to the top. Finish by sprinkling more cheddar cheese on top of each bite.
6. Bake for 10-12 minutes. Cool slightly and enjoy.

## 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 lowincome consumers. You may make a onetime 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

## Sweet Corn Daze

**Lineman Chad Krukow and family participated in the Rockwell City Sweet Corn Daze parade on August 6, 2022!**



Standing – Chad and Brecken

On Truck – Krissi and Elliot

# THE POWER OF PREPARATION

With severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in safe



place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).

- Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your emergency plans.
- Fill your car with gas.
- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

At Calhoun County Electric Cooperative, we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.



**The electric heat rate begins with energy used October 1 – April 30 and will reflect on your November billing statement. The electric heat rate will go from .095/kWh to .053/kWh.**

## September Member Challenge



1. Name one thing you can do on our new mobile app: \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is National Preparedness Month.
3. An All-of-the-Above energy approach favors the incorporation of \_\_\_\_\_ resources like wind and solar to work alongside traditional reliable sources of energy like oil and natural gas

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Find the answers within the stories, features, and content of this newsletter and you could win a prize. Send your answer to [kwiederin@calhounrec.coop](mailto:kwiederin@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:**

**Vanessa & Jared Solko, Kelly & Hillaree Meyer and RDR Ag LLC**



## Reach Us

### OFFICE HOURS:

8 a.m. to 4:30 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

LaVerne Arndt,

Vice President - Sac City

Jason McKenney,

Secretary - Somers

Ron Hanson,

Treasurer - Pomeroy

Duane Beschoner - Lohrville

Steve Boedecker - Rockwell City

Scott Hicks - Lake City

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.

**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.