



**Calhoun County Electric
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Monthly publication for member-owners

CCECA NEWS

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Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Takes Part in Farm Safety Day

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association was proud to take part in Farm Safety Day on September 10-11, 2025, hosted by ISU Extension and Outreach Calhoun County. The event took place at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds in Rockwell City.

On Day 1, CCECA Line Foreman Reid Galloway and Lead Lineman Doug LeMonds gave Manson Northwest Webster 2nd and 3rd grade students an up-close look at electrical safety with a live line demonstration, assisted by Energy Services Manager Curt Batta. Students also had the chance to try on lineman gear and ask questions.

On Day 2, our team shared the same important lessons and demonstrations with South Central Calhoun 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade students.

Teaching the next generation how to stay safe around electricity is just one of the many ways we live out our cooperative commitment to community because safety always comes first.



NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative
recognizes Veterans Day on Nov. 11.

Our office will be closed in observance
of Thanksgiving on Nov. 27-28.

Veterans Day
Nov. 11

and

Thanksgiving
Nov. 27-28

Looking Ahead: Wholesale Power Costs Are Rising in 2026

Three-Tiered Power Supply System Explained

By: *Keaton Hildreth, CEO*



In September, the Basin Electric Board of Directors – one of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative’s power suppliers - authorized a wholesale power rate increase of approximately 10% effective January 1, 2026.

We understand the significance of this decision and the impact it will have on our members and our communities.

For years, electric cooperative members have enjoyed mostly stable rates as a result of long-term, forward-thinking investments made 40 or more years ago in the power plants, transmission lines, and infrastructure we rely on today. Those investments have served us well, but many aspects of that system are now nearing the end of their useful life. To keep reliability strong and prepare for future growth, Basin will need to reinvest—just as those before us did. Unfortunately, planning for the future requires large amounts of capital today, which will result in upward pressure on rates.

Over the next 10 years, Basin Electric’s load growth is

projected to increase by 2.5% annually—well above the national average. To serve that growth, the cooperative will invest an estimated \$11 billion in capital expenditures, more than doubling its assets. These investments will increase Basin Electric’s dispatchable generation by 50% and expand its transmission system by more than 30%. Dispatchable generation – coal, natural gas, etc. – is critical to our electric grid because it’s power that can be turned on or off to match demand on the system, keeping power supply steady and reliable.

At the same time, the cost of building new infrastructure has risen dramatically. The book value of generation assets that make up our current fleet average \$800 per kilowatt. Future generation assets are projected to cost \$2,700 per kilowatt. Similarly, the book value of the transmission assets that reliably deliver power across our footprint average approximately \$400,000 per mile, but future projects are expected to cost around \$2 million per mile.

In addition, through 2024, Basin Electric and its subsidiaries have already invested more than \$2 billion of member capital in environmental control technology, with \$190 million spent in 2024 alone to operate and maintain those systems.

Local Response

Since Basin’s increase was announced, CCECA’s management and local board of directors have carefully reviewed the details to better understand what it means for our cooperative and our members. When Basin Electric’s wholesale power cost increase takes effect, the cooperative will utilize its Power Cost Adjustment (PCA), formerly known as Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA) to collect the necessary revenue to address the increase in power cost expense. The PCA is a formula that simply finds the difference in the cooperative’s new overall cost of power compared to the cost of power included in the base rates. A per kWh charge or credit is then added to each member’s monthly bill. This adjustment allows the cooperative to maintain its necessary financial strength.

Transparency and communication are key to the cooperative difference, and we remain committed to keeping you informed every step of the way. We know that this is unwelcome news. Calhoun County Electric Cooperative is dedicated to doing everything we can to ensure we keep your lights on and your electric rates as low as possible. Unfortunately, this increase to power costs is unavoidable.

Thank you for being a member-owner of this cooperative. We look forward to providing you with the same exceptional level of service you have come to expect from CCECA in 2026.

Three-Tiered Power: Power Supply Costs Impacts CCECA Members

The power grid is a complex system. For electric co-ops in this part of the country, the system is owned and maintained on three different levels or tiers. The parts you see close to home such as poles, wires, meters, and transformers are just a small portion called the distribution system. That’s the part of the system that Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association (CCECA) is directly responsible for.

The larger power lines and substations that scatter the landscape are part of the second tier called transmission. CCECA is a member-owner of Corn Belt Power Cooperative, located in Humboldt, Iowa, which represents the transmission tier.

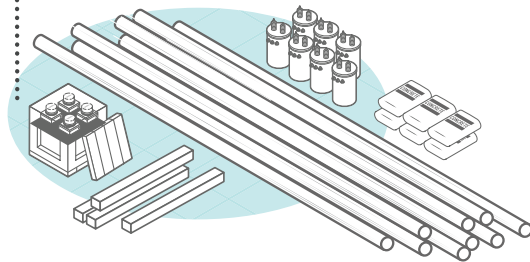
The third level of the system is the power generation component. Corn Belt and CCECA are member-owners of Basin

Cost Increases

The past five years have been a period of exploding costs for the electric utility industry and for broadband providers, pushed by soaring demand, supply chain challenges, raw materials shortages, increased labor costs and tariffs. The impact has been rapid increases in the cost of producing power, longer and more unpredictable project timelines and the need for more financing, all of which have driven electric rates up for residences, businesses and other end-users. Here's a look at what's contributing to the trend. **Percent increase since 2020:**

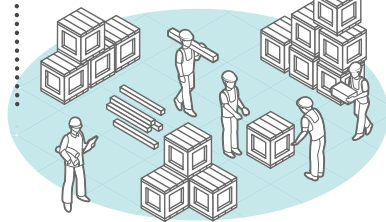
● Infrastructure

Utility poles (wood, steel, composite)	+25-40%
Crossarms & braces (steel/wood).....	+20-35%
Conductor wire (aluminum/copper).....	+30-50%
Transformers.....	+70-100%
Grain-oriented electrical steel.....	+80-100%
Oil/dielectric fluids.....	+25-40%
Copper wiring.....	+50%
Concrete.....	+25-35%
AMI meter.....	+20-35%
Pad-mounted switchgear.....	+25-40%
Circuit breakers/reclosers.....	+20-35%



● Build-outs

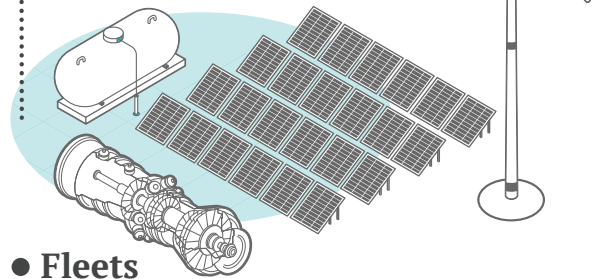
Utility construction labor.....	+20-40%
Freight/logistics.....	+30-60%



Sources: BLS; energynews.com; Reuters; Wood Mackenzie; NREL; IEA
Design: Kevin Kepple

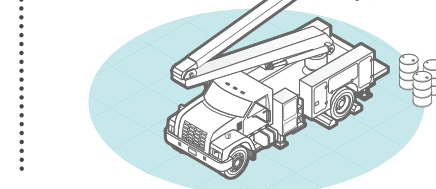
● Generation

Diesel gensets.....	+20-40%
Gas turbines.....	+20-30%
Solar PV systems.....	+25-35%
Wind turbines.....	+25-35%
Hydropower components.....	+20-30%
Battery storage.....	+25-40%
SCADA/EMS systems.....	+20-30%
Inverters.....	+20-30%
Relays & switchgear.....	+25-40%
Natural Gas.....	+20-120%
Coal.....	+30-60%
Diesel/fuel oil.....	+40-70%



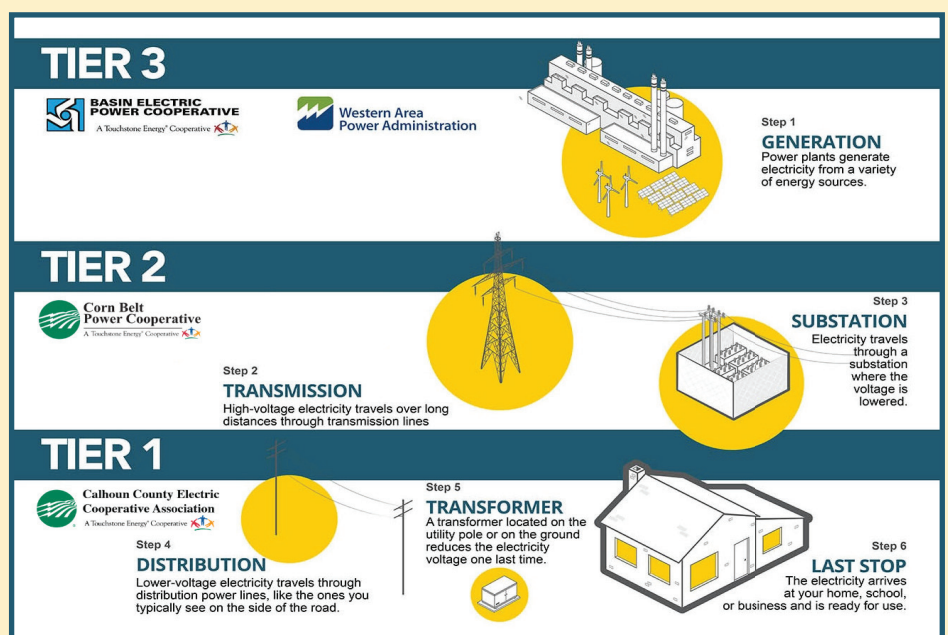
● Fleets

Light trucks.....	+25-40%
Bucket trucks, digger derricks.....	+20-50%
Fuel costs (especially diesel).....	+20-30%
Maintenance.....	+15-25%
Insurance premiums.....	+20%



Electric Power Cooperative, located in Bismarck, North Dakota, which generates electricity from a diverse energy mix including coal, natural gas, wind, and solar. Additional power comes from the Western Area Power Administration which generates electricity from dams on the Missouri River.

CCECA pays a monthly power bill to Corn Belt for our share of the generation and transmission cost. Corn Belt then pays a power bill to Basin Electric Power Cooperative and the Western Area Power Administration. Transmission and Generation account for more than 60 percent of your electric bill and those power supply costs are increasing, putting pressure on your electric rates.



Pole-Top Rescue Training at Calhoun County Electric Cooperative

Safety is more than just a priority for Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association (CCECA); it's a way of life. Our crews focus on keeping the lights on for our members, but just as importantly, they work hard to keep each other safe.

During the September Safety Meeting, CCECA linemen took part in their annual pole-top rescue training. This exercise prepares lineworkers for one of the most critical situations they might face: rescuing a fellow lineman who becomes incapacitated while working on a pole.

The training requires each lineman to climb a pole and safely lower a 160-pound mannequin to the ground within four minutes. Once on the ground, the drill continues with CPR practice, reinforcing the life-saving steps needed in an emergency.

Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives Job Training & Safety Instructor Brett Hansen, conducted the training and commended the CCECA crews.

This annual training ensures that if the unthinkable happens, our crews are ready. Every second matters when a teammate's life could be on the line.

CCECA is proud of our linemen for their dedication to safety and their commitment to protecting one another. They reflect the cooperative values of working together, looking out for one another, and prioritizing safety in everything we do.



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)

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Keaton Hildreth, CEO

November 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 December 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 September winners:
June Urelus, Renee Mosbach,
and Mike Barrett

1. Teaching the next generation how to stay safe around electricity is just one of the many ways we live out our commitment to community because _____ always comes first.
2. The larger power lines and substations that scatter the landscape are part of the second tier called _____.
3. Transmission and Generation account for more than _____ percent of your electric bill and those power supply costs are increasing, putting pressure on your electric rates.

Name _____



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