

InTouch

WITH MEMBERS OF BUTLER COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

November 2022

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



High school juniors: Apply for FREE trip to Washington, D.C.!

The White House. The U.S. Capitol. A boat cruise on the Potomac River. Monuments and memorials.

If that sounds like a great way to spend a week next June, apply for the Youth Tour to be held June 18-23, 2023! High school juniors whose parents are Butler County REC members or residents of Aplington, Fairbank, Fredericksburg, or Readlyn are invited to apply.

We'll select one lucky student to join approximately 40 students from Iowa and over 1,800 students from co-ops around the country to go on this all-expense paid adventure to our nation's capital.

In addition, the top three students applying from Butler County REC will receive a \$500 college scholarship.

Be sure to check our website, Facebook page, and future newsletters for more information on this exciting opportunity!

Like us on Facebook!
[facebook.com/bcrec](https://www.facebook.com/bcrec)



LaBree appointed to executive committee, selected for Leadership Iowa

For Katie LaBree, business development manager at Butler County REC, life just became busier.

LaBree was recently appointed by Governor Kim Reynolds to the Empower Rural Iowa (ERI) executive committee and selected to participate in Leadership Iowa.

ERI was created by executive order in 2018. Those on the executive committee set the direction of the ERI initiative, discuss how to involve others, and establish grant eligibility guidelines. LaBree has served on the ERI Connecting Rural Iowa Task Force since inception.

Leadership Iowa is the premier issues-awareness program promoting leadership and civic responsibility in our state. Throughout their year with the program (October through June), the 40 participants convene in an Iowa community each month for a two-day session focusing on a specific topic or an issue important to Iowa.

Nominee applications for Leadership Iowa are reviewed and evaluated through an extensive selection process. Applications include three references and an essay discussing issues Iowa is facing and how the applicant would solve those issues.

LaBree stated, "I am honored to be included on the executive committee and in Leadership Iowa and grateful to work in an organization that supports our personal and professional growth. My involvement with ERI and Leadership Iowa will enable me to better serve our membership and communities."



Meter deployment update

With almost half of our new meters deployed, John Endelman, operations manager, reports that we are on track to reach our goal of complete deployment in the summer of 2023.

A number of Butler County REC employees, joined by Van Wert Company employees, spend approximately two weeks of each month installing the meters. This work will continue as weather permits. In addition, our line crews have a number of tree work orders to attend to this winter.

Members will receive a phone call prior to installation. When our employees arrive on your property, they will come to the door to alert you of the meter replacement. You might experience a brief outage during installation.

If you haven't already, be sure to download the SmartHub app to view usage, pay your bill, and contact us.

Call us at 888-267-2726 if you have questions.



Decorate safely

Homeowners have started decorating their homes for Christmas earlier and earlier—often before Thanksgiving.

If you're ready to start hanging lights, take safety precautions. Nearly three people per hour are treated in hospital emergency rooms for decorating-related injuries during every holiday season, according to the National Safety Council.

Here are five ways to keep yourself safe if you have decorating duty this season:

1. Inspect last year's lights before using them this holiday season. Discard any with frayed or exposed wires, loose connections, or broken sockets.
2. Decorate the tree with kids in mind. Place breakable ornaments and those with metal hooks near the top of the tree, where little ones can't reach them.
3. Some holiday plants, including some varieties of poinsettias, can be harmful to children and pets. Make sure these plants are out of reach. Always have the number for the Poison Control Center handy: (800) 222-1222.
4. Use sturdy ladders when decorating outdoors. Indoors, climb step ladders instead of onto chairs, which aren't designed to support someone in the standing position.
5. Don't hide extension cords under rugs or furniture; they can overheat and catch on fire. Remember when you take the tree down to unplug extension cords—they are not designed for permanent use.



SMART TIPS

SPACE HEATER SAFETY

Space heaters can be a cost effective option when heating no more than one or two small areas.



Review and follow all manufacturer directions.

Place them out of high-traffic areas and on a hard, level floor surface.

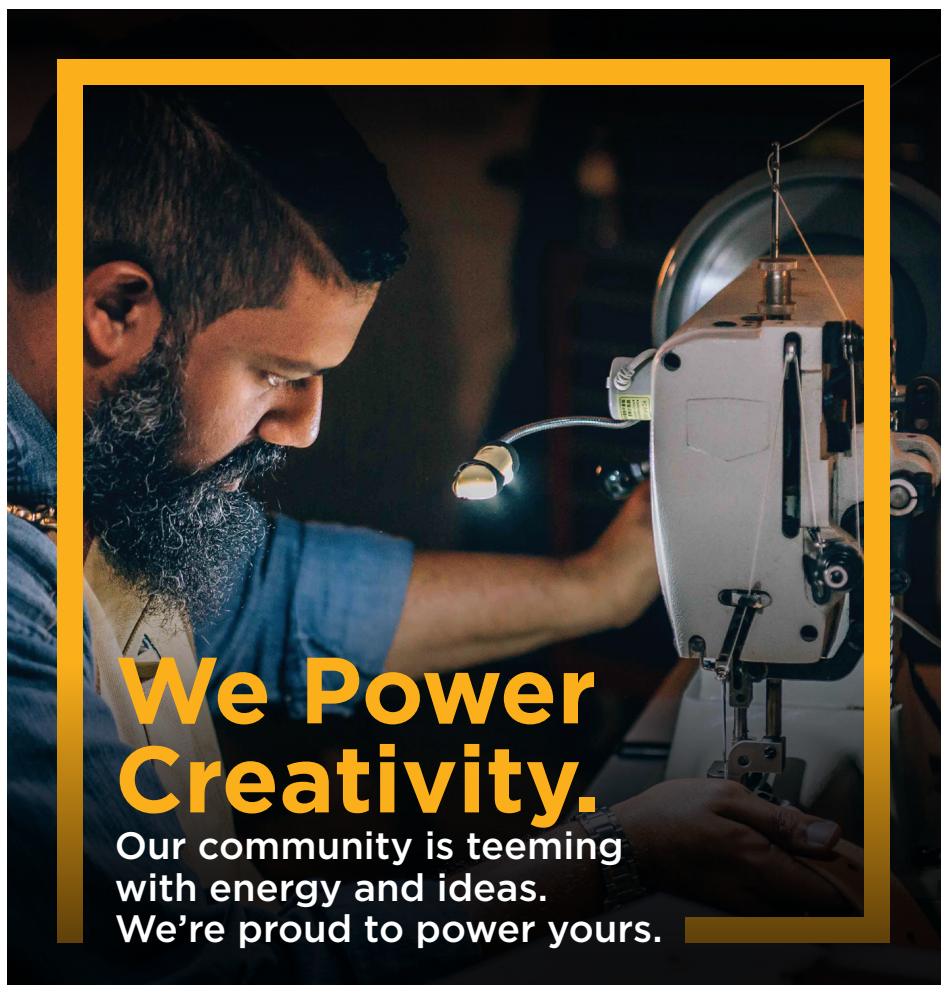


Keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items.

Plug them directly into outlets. Avoid using an extension cord.



Turn them off before you leave the room or go to sleep.





- Dependents of cooperative members are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 **Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship** for tuition at a two-year or four-year college. Contact us at 888-267-2726 or visit our website for information.
- Committed to the communities it serves, Corn Belt Power Cooperative partners with **Northwest Iowa Community College** (NCC) in Sheldon, Iowa, to offer *four \$500 scholarships to line program students* who reside in a county served by a cooperative in the Corn Belt Power system. Applicants do not have to be cooperative members. Corn Belt Power is interested in maintaining a skilled and educated workforce to serve its members well into the future. Recipients may be either first- or second-year students, but are eligible for only one scholarship. For more information, visit the college website at nwicc.edu. Application deadline is March 1, 2023.
- Corn Belt Power also partners with **Iowa Lakes Community College** in Estherville, Iowa, to offer *one \$500 scholarship for a student enrolled in the Wind Energy and Turbine Technology program*. The scholarship was established in 2006 and showcases Corn Belt Power's commitment to its service communities and renewable energy production. Applicants do not have to be cooperative members. Selection emphasis will be placed on candidate's potential for success and GPA. For more information, visit the college website at iowalakes.edu. Application deadline is March 1, 2023.

Ready your refrigerator for the holidays

If Thanksgiving is at your house this year, your family members aren't the only ones who will be stuffed. So will your refrigerator.

If your fridge is more than a decade old, it might not be up to the task. Today's models—those bearing the Energy Star label—use at least 15 percent less energy than current federal standards require, and 40 percent less than models from the early 2000s, according to the Department of Energy (DOE).

Yet more than 60 million households have refrigerators that are more than 10 years old, DOE says. By replacing it with a new, energy-efficient model, you could save up to \$300 in electricity charges over its lifetime.

When shopping for a new refrigerator or freezer, read the EnergyGuide label. It tells you how many kilowatt-hours of electricity the unit will consume over a year of operation. The smaller the number, the better. Look for refrigerators that have a freezer on the bottom or the top, as side-by-side designs consume more energy. In addition, chest freezers are typically better insulated than upright models.

Whether you're buying a new fridge this year or not, follow these



tips for more efficient use around the holidays:

- Brush or vacuum your refrigerator's coils regularly to improve efficiency up to 30 percent.
- Keeping your refrigerator full will help your unit retain cold. If you have trouble keeping it stocked, fill the extra space with bottles or containers of water.
- If your milk is frosty in the morning, reduce the refrigerator's temperature. Refrigerators should be set between 36 degrees and 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Freezers should stay between 0 degrees and 5 degrees.
- Put a dollar bill in the door's seal to see if it is airtight. If the dollar slips out easily, so will cold air.



We are thankful for the opportunity to serve you.

**Butler County REC offices are closed
Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25,**
so that our employees can spend time with their families.
If you have an emergency or an outage,
call us at 888-267-2726. We will answer.
Have a safe and blessed holiday!

Member Appreciation Event Snapshots



It's the most wonderful time of the year!

As many of us move into Christmas decorating season, don't forget Butler County REC's rebate for LED holiday lights. With our rebate, you can save up to \$2 per item with no limit on the number of items purchased.

The benefits to using LED lights:

- **Energy efficient:** They use less electricity compared to conventional bulbs
- **Long lifespan:** They last up to 50,000 hours or more when used outdoors and twice as long indoors
- **Safe:** There is no chance of combustion because the bulbs are cool to the touch, regardless of how long they are left on

Visit our website at butlerrec.coop for a rebate form or check your bill this month for a rebate coupon to make decking your halls a little more energy efficient and a little less expensive.

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