

Southwest Lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

Corning | Mount Ayr

December 2025

Merry Christmas & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Employees and Directors of Southwest Iowa REC would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you for your continued patronage and may you and your loved ones have a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

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Kay Fast-Deyoe
Mark Herzberg
Alan Spencer

Adam Boswell
Dana Morgan
Bonnie Larson
Jason Smith

Justin Akers
Marilyn Werner



Look forward to more information on Southwest Iowa REC's scholarship opportunities in next month's newsletter.

Can't wait until then? Updated information is located on our website!



Southwest Iowa REC offices will be CLOSED:

On Thursday, December 25th and Friday, December 26th for Christmas and

Thursday, January 1st for New Year's.

Have a safe and happy holiday!





Phil Kinser CEO

Working Together to Lower Demand

When outdoor temperatures drop, electricity use naturally rises. Colder weather drives us indoors, where we rely more heavily on home heating systems, more lighting and household appliances. Heating systems run longer and more frequently to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures. Combine that with the fact that most people use electricity at the same times—typically in the mornings and early evenings—and the result is significant pressure on our electric grid.

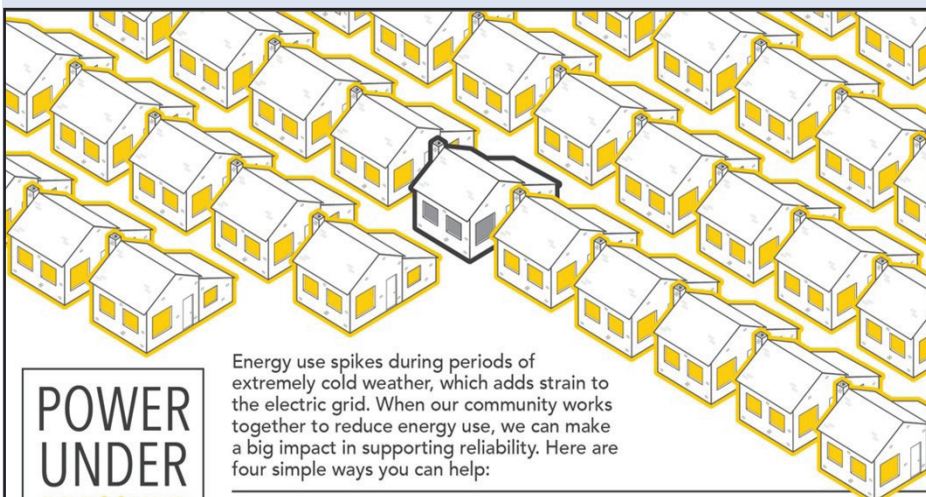
Southwest Iowa REC works closely with Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), our local generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative, to plan for these seasonal weather patterns and changes and ensure you have reliable power every day of the year. This partnership involves detailed resource and infrastructure planning to make certain electricity is available whenever you need it. However, it's important to remember that our local system is part of a much larger regional and national electric grid.

During the winter months, when homes and businesses across the country are using more electricity simultaneously, overall demand can approach—or occasionally exceed—available supply. This is especially true during severe weather events, such as ice storms, sudden temperature drops or equipment malfunctions that reduce generation capacity. In rare cases when demand threatens to outpace supply, the regional grid operator may call for temporary, controlled outages—often referred to as rolling blackouts—to prevent broader system failures. If such a situation arises, Southwest Iowa REC will provide timely updates and information to members.

To prepare for these scenarios and minimize risks, Southwest Iowa REC and our G&T partner take proactive measures to strengthen reliability year-round. These include routine system maintenance, investments in grid modernization and comprehensive disaster response planning. These proactive steps are designed to ensure our portion of the grid remains resilient even under extreme conditions. Yet, maintaining a reliable electric system requires a collective effort—and every member plays an important role in lowering demand when the grid is under stress.

You can help by taking simple actions during periods of high electricity use, especially on the coldest days of winter:

1. Lower your thermostat slightly. Even reducing the temperature by a few degrees can help.
2. Delay using large appliances during peak hours, which are 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Run dishwashers, washing machines and dryers during off-peak hours—typically midday or late evening.
3. Adjust your water heater. Setting it to 120 degrees F and spacing out showers helps conserve both energy and hot water.
4. Unplug unnecessary devices. Power used for lighting and electronics adds up and accounts for a significant portion of home energy use. Disconnect unused items to reduce energy waste.



POWER UNDER PRESSURE

Four Ways to Ease Grid Strain This Winter

Energy use spikes during periods of extremely cold weather, which adds strain to the electric grid. When our community works together to reduce energy use, we can make a big impact in supporting reliability. Here are four simple ways you can help:

1. Lower your thermostat. Even a difference of a few degrees can help.
2. Delay using large appliances. Run them in the evenings or midday when demand is lower.
3. Lower your water heater to 120 degrees and avoid back-to-back showers.
4. Unplug unnecessary devices. Electronics and lighting add up. Unplug any unused items.

Understanding how winter weather impacts electricity demand is key to maintaining system reliability. By practicing simple energy conservation habits at home, you not only save money on your monthly bill—you also help strengthen the resilience of the grid that powers our community. Together, through small actions and shared awareness, we can ensure that our homes remain warm, our lights stay on and our local grid continues to serve us reliably throughout the season.

For Sale

1998 Polaris Ranger 6x6, 500cc, 595 hours, Manual dump bed. Starts good, brakes are good, tires are ok but getting down there.



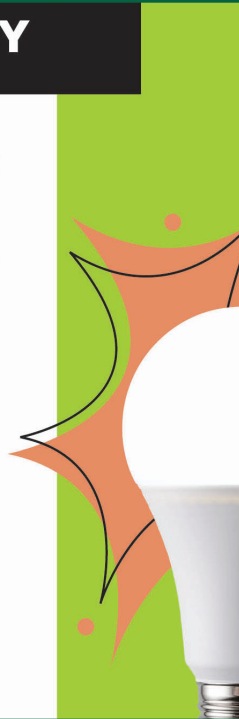
Has a sputter under full throttle but cruising it does fine. \$2,000 as is. Can be seen at our Mt. Ayr location during regular business hours by appointment only. Call 888-220-4869 Option 2 for inquiries.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.

Source: energy.gov



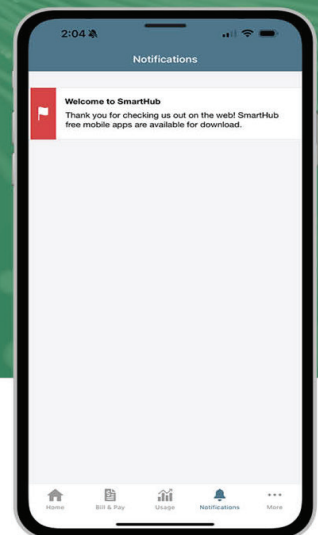
TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Look out for the “energy-saving device” scam. Whether sold on social media platforms or through random emails, consumers have fallen victim to scams where these products claim to reduce or even eliminate energy bills. These products are advertised as devices that will “balance” or “clean” the power in your home, thus saving you money. There is no such device that can simply be plugged in to lower energy use.



ALERTS & NOTIFICATIONS



Receive the information you need to make the right decisions about your account.



Visit swiarec.coop/smarthub for more information.

2 Ingredient Apple Cinnamon Roll Bake

Ingredients

- 2 x 17.5 oz Pillsbury Grands! Cinnamon Rolls, (two tubes)
- 2 x 21 oz Apple Pie Filling, (two cans)

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Coat a 9x13" baking dish with non-stick spray and set aside.
2. Unwrap the cinnamon rolls from the tube and set the included frosting aside for later use. Cut each of the cinnamon rolls into fourths and place in a large bowl.
3. Spoon the apple pie filling into the bowl and gently stir to combine. Pour the cinnamon roll mixture into the prepared baking dish and spread into an even layer.
4. Bake for 45 to 50 minutes, or until the center is cooked through and no longer doughy. Remove from oven and drizzle the top of the cinnamon roll bake with the icing. Serve warm and enjoy!

Notes

*You can half the recipe and bake in an 8x8" dish for just 25 to 30 minutes.

**If needing to prepare ahead of time: cover prior to baking and place in the fridge for up to 24 hours.

Enjoy!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

To maximize your fireplace's efficiency, always keep the damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. An open damper is like an open window, allowing warm indoor air to escape and cold air to enter. Consider installing a fireplace insert, which improves heat output by circulating warm air into the room rather than letting it escape up the chimney. Also, burn only seasoned hardwood to ensure a hotter, cleaner burn. Regularly clean and inspect your chimney to maintain safe and efficient operation.

Source: energy.gov



RECare Customer Contribution Fund

Southwest Iowa REC's RECare program makes it easy to help Cooperative neighbors in need this winter. With rising heating fuel prices this season, more and more Iowans are seeking assistance with energy, heating and weatherization costs. While some federal and state dollars exist to help those in need, there are still shortfalls.

Consider a monthly contribution to Southwest Iowa REC's RECare program. Your contribution – whether it is \$1 or \$10 a month – when combined with those of other generous members, can go a long way in helping those who can't afford winter's heating bills. To help, fill out the form:

Consumer Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of "members helping members" and contribute to RECare.

____ I will make a 1-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.

____ I will contribute \$____ per month to RECare. I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.

Name _____ Account # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Mail to: RECare – SW Iowa REC
2248 Avenue of Industries; Box 367; Corning, IA 50841

OR RECare – SW Iowa REC
1502 W South Street; Box 391; Mt Ayr IA 50854

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