



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

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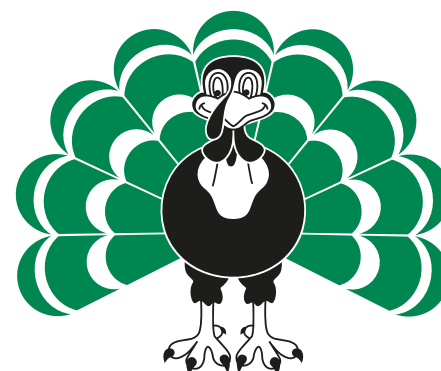


November 2022

Don't Let Turkey Day Gobble Up Electricity

Use of electricity soars on Thanksgiving Day as we use our oven, stove, refrigerator and even our heating system into overdrive as we spend extra time cooking and invite family into our homes.

Don't spoil the holiday fun worrying about energy costs. Instead, make an effort to conserve energy even as you overuse your appliances, lights and heat. Here are some tips:



- If your dining room has an older chandelier that doesn't use CFLs, dim the brightness by at least 10%. If it doesn't have a dimmer switch, install one.
- Cook as many dishes at the same time as possible. Put two or three dishes in the oven together if their recipes call for the same temperature. That way, you can turn the oven off sooner.
- Lower your home's thermostat before you put the turkey in the oven. The heat that the oven and stovetop will emit — along with the heat that having extra people in the house creates — will keep your home warm enough without cranking up the thermostat, even if it's cold outside. 12.08.02
- Cook what you can in the microwave or crockpot. They use less energy than the oven.
- Use the dishwasher instead of cleaning the dinner dishes by hand. Dishwashers use less energy and water than washing by hand.

Use Emergency Generators with Care



Frequent, more severe fall and winter storms over the past few years have led more homeowners to invest in emergency backup generators that can run a couple of appliances or keep the lights on when wind, rain and falling tree branches knock the electricity out.

Like any electric appliances, it's important to follow the manufacturer's safety instructions that came with your generator so nobody in your family gets hurt while using it. But unlike other appliances, an improperly operated generator can harm or even kill a member of a line crew who's working on a downed wire in your neighborhood.

Here are some generator safety tips:

- Generators can produce carbon monoxide, an invisible, odorless and deadly gas. Never power up a generator indoors. And place carbon-monoxide alarms in the rooms of your house that are near the location where you operate your generator.
- Never plug your generator into an electrical outlet. Instead, use extension cords to connect the appliance you want to run directly to the generator.
- Do not connect the generator to any of your home's electrical circuits. This requires a transfer switch and installing a transfer switch requires a licensed electrician.

— CEO Comments —



Jim Gossett

You have read in this space for several months about how your cooperative is dealing with and planning for the rapid changes in the way power will be delivered to our member-owners. One of the technologies we have looked forward to is utility-scale storage, or batteries. Thanks to the cooperative principle of “Cooperation Among Cooperatives,” Corn Belt Power, RVEC’s power provider, now has a trial battery energy storage system.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which provides power to electric co-ops across the Midwest including Corn Belt Power, introduced a member-owned Trial Battery Rate into its rate book in 2019. The rate allocates up to 150 kilowatts per distribution cooperative.

Corn Belt Power, collaborated with its membership, which includes RVEC, to develop a plan that allowed each member-cooperative to pool its individual allocation and create one large battery energy storage system. This system is a 1.425-megawatt Tesla® Megapack which Corn Belt Power integrated into the Hampton Substation.

Total project cost is near \$3.5 million, which includes the battery storage system, engineering, site preparation and labor. The stored power from the battery will allow Corn Belt Power to avoid purchasing 1.425 megawatts of power during peak usage times for up to six hours. This is enough energy to power roughly 145 homes for six hours at a time.

Once the battery’s energy is depleted, it will recharge during off-peak times in preparation for its next disbursement.

“We want to learn more about battery technology, from the process of procuring and installing the batteries to operation and how the batteries can benefit RVEC’s member-owners and Corn Belt Power,” said Jacob Olberding, vice president, power supply, Corn Belt Power. “We will also use the battery project as a load management resource. By doing so, we hope the batteries pay for themselves in 12 years.”

Corn Belt Power plans to share ongoing performance data with RVEC and the rest of its membership to highlight the battery’s ability to reduce member-cooperative power costs. This sharing of operational information will provide the membership with education and insights to support future use of battery storage technology. 14.35.04



Corn Belt Power’s utility scale battery storage installation at the Hampton Substation.



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Have A Yummy and Safe Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving dinner marks the start of the winter holidays and can be a time for family, fun and fabulous food. It also creates a risk for kitchen fires, usually because of unattended cooking, the use of cooking fryers and the increase in the amount of baking and cooking. Year-round, cooking starts more house fires and in-home injuries than any other activity. Increased cooking time around the holidays increases the chance of a fire.

Here are some tips for safe Thanksgiving meal prep from the National Fire Prevention Association:

- If the stovetop burners are turned on, you should be in the kitchen.
- Turkeys need to roast for hours. Check on yours often while the oven is working.
- Keep children three feet away from the hot stove. Not only could they burn themselves on a working burner, the splatter from steam, hot gravy and brewing coffee can harm them.
- Clean up before you cook. Too much clutter in the kitchen — especially near the stove or on the floor — can cause people to trip, hot food to spill and small appliances or pans to fall over.
- Don't leave knives out when you're not handling them. It might be inconvenient to take them out and put them away all day long, but that makes it harder for a child to pick one up or a cook's helper to accidentally brush against one.
- Candlelight adds ambience to the Thanksgiving table, but don't light the candles until everyone is ready to sit down. And blow out the flames before you leave the room.
- Check the batteries in your home's smoke alarms. Simply push the test button and listen for the beep.

RECare

RVEC has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare provides funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income members. 28.29.05

You may make a one-time contribution or you may make a monthly pledge that will be added to your monthly electric bill. You may also make a contribution part of a matching fund, if there is a matching fund available. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others!

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

_____ I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.

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

_____ My gift is a matching fund gift. The matching fund is to be matched by:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Account No. _____



Look Up, Look Down, Look Out!

- For a safe harvest, be extra careful and stay alert for hazards.
- Keep an eye out for overhead power lines and electrical equipment on and under the ground.
- Be especially careful with tall equipment such as combines and grain augers.

Iowa's electric cooperatives want you to have a safe and productive harvest!

RVEC Puts Safety First!

WATTS CURRENT

Published monthly by
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

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Don't Shoot!

Safety and power reliability are top priorities at RVEC. Each year, many power providers experience outages caused by people, either intentionally or inadvertently, shooting at important power equipment such as utility poles, line insulators, transformers and transmission towers. Even worse than the outages, is the potential for bodily injury caused by shooting at live electrical equipment. Not only could the shooting result in injury or even death, it also presents a risk to RVEC's line crews who must repair the damages and to member-owners who rely on the delivery of safe power for health care needs. 22.25.02

Shooting at power equipment is also vandalism and could result in fines and/or jail sentences.

If you are hunting or target shooting, we ask that you please take caution not to shoot at any utility facilities. Further, if you notice this type of vandalism on Cooperative lines, please contact the office.

Outage Information

**If you don't have power or have
an emergency call 712.659.3649.
RVEC phones are answered
24 hours a day 7 days a week.**

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
will be



Veterans Day
November 11th

CLOSED

for
&



Thanksgiving
November 24th & 25th

Spot Your Number

Read Watts Current and watch for your location number. If you spot it, call RVEC by the 20th of the month and you will receive an electrical bill credit for \$25.00.