



NEWS *Lines*

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE MEMBER-OWNERS OF NORTH WEST RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

FEBRUARY 2021

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SCHOLARSHIPS *Available*



North West REC and Basin Electric Power Cooperative will be sponsoring several scholarships to dependents of members of North West REC in 2021.

There will be two \$1,000 scholarship winners from each of the four districts of North West REC (Ida, O'Brien, Plymouth, and Sioux). The selection process for the \$1,000 scholarship winners will be based on a combination of SAT/ACT scores, overall grade-point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, a personal statement of career goals, and a written reference or appraisal by a third party.

In addition, there will be several \$500 and \$250 scholarships awarded to scholarship applicants. Several \$500 scholarship winners will be randomly drawn in each of the four districts with all remaining scholarship applicants receiving a \$250 scholarship.

Scholarship applicants will be asked to participate in a virtual conference call, likely via ZOOM, this spring where North West REC staff will share the vision, mission, and values of our cooperative. During this call, the \$1,000 winners will be announced and the random drawing for the \$500 scholarships will take place. Details of this virtual conference call will be communicated at a later date.

North West REC members may qualify if their dependent meets the following criteria:

- Must be a U.S. citizen.
- Are current North West REC members.
- Must be a senior in high school for the 2020-2021 school year and planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate or graduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school.
- Submit an application as provided by North West REC.
- Return all completed forms no later than Friday, February 26, 2021.

You can apply online by visiting our website at www.nwrec.coop or you can e-mail Renee at rwynia@nwrec.coop and she will send you an application. If you have any questions, please call Renee at 712-707-4935 or 1-800-766-2099. All entries for the scholarship must be returned to the REC no later than Friday, February 26!

Annual Meeting

Tuesday evening March 30th
More information in the Manager's Report
on pages 4-5 in this newsletter.

SAVE!
the **DATE!**

CHANGES TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY *2021 Rebates*

Changes to our energy efficiency rebates are effective as of January 1st, 2021. We want to make sure all our members are aware of these changes. See the full list of rebates and changes below.

- There will no longer be any Smart Choice Bonus Rebates offered.
- There will no longer be any Lighting Rebates offered and there will no longer be light bulbs given out.
- The rebates for the ASHP and GSHP have changed.
- AreoShield insulation will now qualify as a type of insulation approved for the insulation rebate.

Please contact the office if you have any questions about the changes to these rebates.

GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMP – NEW UNITS INSTALLED ON OUR SYSTEM

	NEW LOAD	REPLACEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RESIDENTIAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF \$10,000 AND 30% OF EQUIPMENT COST/UNIT INSTALLED • COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/AG PROJECTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF \$75,000 AND 30% OF EQUIPMENT COST/UNIT INSTALLED 	\$1,400 PER TON	\$750 PER TON

AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP – NEW UNITS INSTALLED ON OUR SYSTEM

	NEW LOAD	REPLACEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RESIDENTIAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IF BACK UP HEAT IS ELECTRIC - IF NO BACK UP HEAT OR IF BACK UP HEAT IS PROPANE OR GAS - MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF \$10,000 AND 30% OF EQUIPMENT COST/UNIT INSTALLED • COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/AG PROJECTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IF BACK UP HEAT IS ELECTRIC - IF NO BACK UP HEAT OR IF BACK UP HEAT IS PROPANE OR GAS - MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF \$75,000 AND 30% OF EQUIPMENT COST/UNIT INSTALLED 	\$700 PER TON \$500 PER TON	\$700 PER TON \$500 PER TON

DUCTLESS MINI-SPLIT HEATING/COOLING & P-TAC UNIT - NEW UNITS INSTALLED ON OUR SYSTEM, ENERGY STAR CERTIFIED

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RESIDENTIAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IF BACK UP HEAT IS ELECTRIC - IF NO BACK UP HEAT OR IF BACK UP HEAT IS PROPANE OR GAS - MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF 50% EQUIPMENT COST - REBATE LIMITED TO TWO UNITS PER SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING OR OUTBUILDING • COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/AG PROJECTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IF BACK UP HEAT IS ELECTRIC - IF NO BACK UP HEAT OR IF BACK UP HEAT IS PROPANE OR GAS - MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF 30% EQUIPMENT COST - LIMIT OF ONE REBATE FOR EACH LEASABLE HOTEL ROOM 	\$1,000 PER UNIT \$600 PER UNIT	\$500 PER UNIT \$300 PER UNIT
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CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONER – NEW UNITS INSTALLED ON OUR SYSTEM, ENERGY STAR CERTIFIED

• NEW UNITS ONLY - LOAD MANAGEMENT SWITCH REQUIRED	\$100 PER UNIT	\$0 PER UNIT
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MARATHON WATER HEATERS - SOLD ONLY TO MEMBERS & INSTALLED ON OUR SYSTEM. LOAD MANAGEMENT SWITCH REQUIRED INSTALLED TO RECEIVE REBATE. REBATE TAKEN OFF COST OF WATER HEATER – YOUR COST:

50 GALLON MARATHON	\$550
85 GALLON MARATHON	\$400
100 GALLON MARATHON	\$550
105 HD GALLON MARATHON	\$550
HOG BUILDINGS (50 GALLON ONLY)	FULL PRICE
NEW HOME WITH ALL ELECTRIC HEAT (PRIMARY HEAT & ELECTRIC BACKUP)	85 GALLON FREE

ELECTRIC APPLIANCES – NEW UNITS INSTALLED ON OUR SYSTEM, ENERGY STAR CERTIFIED

EACH MEMBER IS LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF \$250 PER CALENDAR YEAR IN COMBINED APPLIANCE REBATES.

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| - CLOTHES WASHER | \$50 PER UNIT | - FREEZER | \$25 PER UNIT |
| - REFRIGERATOR | \$25 PER UNIT | - DISHWASHER | \$25 PER UNIT |
| - DRYER | \$25 PER UNIT | | |

Look for this logo on your yellow energy guide to determine if your appliance is energy star certified



BUILDING INSULATION

- BUILDING MUST BE ALL ELECTRIC AS THE PRIMARY HEATING SOURCE WITH ELECTRIC BACKUP
- MUST BE PROFESSIONALLY INSTALLED FOR BLOWN-IN, AREOSHEILD, SPRAY FOAM, INSULATING CONCRETE FORMS, RIGID STYROFOAM PANELS AND/OR STRUCTURAL PANEL TYPE INSULATION
- RESIDENTIAL (HOUSE) – REBATE LIMITED TO 30% OF INSTALLED INSULATION COST UP TO A MAXIMUM REBATE OF \$800 PER BUILDING PER CALENDAR YEAR
- COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/AG BUILDINGS – REBATE LIMITED TO 10% OF INSTALLED INSULATION COST UP TO A MAXIMUM REBATE OF \$2,000 PER BUILDING PER CALENDAR YEAR

VARIABLE SPEED AND SOFT START MOTORS

- \$30 PER HORSEPOWER – NEW ONLY
- COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/AG BUILDINGS (SEASONAL APPLICATIONS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE)
- UP TO A MAXIMUM REBATE OF \$5,000 PER MOTOR

MOTOR REBATE PROGRAM WILL RUN UNTIL AN ALLOTTED AMOUNT OF MONEY RUNS OUT. PLEASE CALL BEFORE SUBMITTING A REBATE TO MAKE SURE THERE IS MONEY AVAILABLE.

“YOU PULL THE PLUG” APPLIANCE DISPOSAL PROGRAM

MEMBER AGREES TO SELF-REMOVE AND RECYCLE QUALIFYING APPLIANCE (REFRIGERATOR OR FREEZER IN WORKING ORDER) VIA AN APPROVED AND CERTIFIED APPLIANCE DE-MANUFACTURER OR DROP-OFF LOCATION.

MEMBER WILL RECEIVE A \$50 REBATE, PER QUALIFYING RECYCLED APPLIANCE, UP TO THREE APPLIANCES, PER CALENDAR YEAR. A DATED COPY OF A RECEIPT BY THE CERTIFIED VENDOR/LANDFILL/RECYCLER MUST ACCOMPANY THE REBATE APPLICATION FORM (AVAILABLE FROM OUR OFFICE OR ONLINE).

ENERGY ASSESSMENTS - CALL THE OFFICE TO BE PUT ON THE SCHEDULE

RESIDENTIAL

\$45 CHARGE

- MUST BE AT LEAST 30 DEGREE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INSIDE AND OUTSIDE TEMPERATURES

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS

- LEVEL 2 CHARGERS: 2.9KW-17KW, 208-240V
- MUST BE HARDWIRED AND INSTALLATION MUST MEET LOCAL CODE
- MEMBER REQUIRED TO PROVIDE CHARGER MAKE, MODEL, S/N, SPECIFICATIONS
- CANNOT BACK-FEED INTO THE SYSTEM
- RESIDENTIAL \$750 PER CHARGER, 50% MAX EQUIPMENT COST, MAX 2 CHG/HOUSE
- COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/AG \$1,200 PER CHARGER, 50% MAX EQUIPMENT COST, MAX 5 CHG/ACCOUNT

REBATE FORMS FOR NEW ELECTRIC APPLIANCES, BUILDING INSULATION, AND PULL THE PLUG ARE AVAILABLE AT OUR OFFICES AND CAN ALSO BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE AT NWREC.COOP UNDER THE MEMBER SERVICES TAB.

NO FORM IS NEEDED FOR THE OTHER REBATES, SIMPLY SUBMIT COPIES OF THE INVOICE FOR THE REBATED EQUIPMENT TO NORTH WEST REC, AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM NORTH WEST REC WILL INSPECT THE INSTALLATION PRIOR TO THE REBATE BEING PAID TO VERIFY THAT IT HAS BEEN INSTALLED AND IS OPERATING.



Lyle D. Korver

MANAGER'S *Report*

"We will now be offering two \$1,000 scholarships in each of our four districts, along with a number of \$500 and \$250 awards."

COMMITMENT TO OUR YOUTH IMPORTANT SCHOLARSHIP & YOUTH TOUR REMINDERS

North West REC has a long history of supporting our youth. A couple of ways that we demonstrate this commitment is our scholarship and Youth Tour programs. Last year we made a significant enhancement to our scholarship program for graduating seniors who plan to continue their education beyond high school. We made a substantial increase in the number of scholarships that we award, and we had 65 seniors receive a scholarship in 2020. I am excited to share that the Board of Directors has decided to provide another enhancement to this important program in 2021. We will now be offering two \$1,000 scholarships in each of our four districts, along with a number of \$500 and \$250 awards.



Additional information about our 2021 scholarship program and \$500 powerline scholarship program can be found in this newsletter and on our web site. We are hopeful that the participation will be strong again this year. The deadline to apply this year is February 26, 2021.



On a sad note, we have learned that the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. will not be happening this summer due to the uncertainties associated with COVID-19. We have been offering this program for over forty years and we were really disappointed that it was cancelled last year and now again in 2021. We are hopeful that we will be able to send a couple of students to Washington D.C. on the Youth Tour again in 2022.

PRELIMINARY ANNUAL MEETING PLANS

As you might recall, we had to cancel our four annual district meetings last spring due to the outbreak of COVID-19. We limited attendance to our Annual Meeting to just the Nominating Committee members and a few board members and staff. The Annual Meeting was recorded and shared with our members on our web site.

With the ongoing uncertainty of what the COVID-19 situation will look like in March, the Board of Directors has decided to not have our annual district meetings again this year. **We will still have our Annual Meeting and it will be held on Tuesday evening, March 30, at the Terrace View Events Center in Sioux Center.** Due to concerns related to the pandemic, we will not be serving a meal and will not be having entertainment. The meeting will consist of a short business meeting, and a questions and answer session.

Our plan is to live stream the meeting on Facebook Live. We will provide more information to our members when we mail out our Annual Report and director election ballots in early March. In the meantime, we wanted to make our members aware of our tentative plans for this year's Annual Meeting. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we continue to navigate through this pandemic situation.

SAVE! *the* DATE!

SWITCH MAKES CENTS LOAD MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPDATE

For over thirty-five years, our members have enjoyed the benefits of our Switch Makes Cents program. As a reminder for those members who are not familiar with Switch Makes Cents, homes and businesses that have electric heat as their primary heat source can receive a discounted rate for their electric heating, air conditioning and water heating usage. The “off peak” Switch Makes Cents rate is currently 4.9 cents per kWh and that compares to our regular rate end block of 8.1 cents per kWh.

A load management switch is installed, and these connected loads are interrupted during peak times to reduce peak demands and to lower our purchased power costs. The peaks during the winter months are typically in the early to mid-morning time frames. During the summer months, the peak times are typically late afternoon to early evening. The savings that North West REC (NWREC) receives from our power supplier by reducing electric demand during these peak times are then passed on to our members through the Switch Makes Cents rate.

Your Cooperative was one of the first in the nation to install a load management system back in the mid 1980's. Today, we have over 7,000 load management switches installed, and it results in over \$1.5 million in annual purchased power cost savings.



With technology continuing to change and our current equipment becoming obsolete, it is important that we prepare for the next generation load management system. To ensure that we find the best system, we have been participating in a couple of pilot projects to determine which new system would be the best option for future deployment. We have now completed those pilot projects and have decided to install a new Eaton RF (Radio Frequency) mesh system. One of the advantages of this new technology is that we will be able to use the same mesh infrastructure system for both load management and our automated metering.

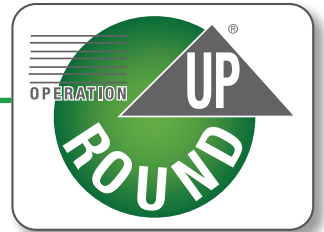
We have started the implementation process and it will likely take three to five years to replace our older load management switches and meters with the new ones. Our Member Service Department will be replacing 7,000 load management switches and nearly 15,000 meters in the next few years.

They will be assisted by our Operations Department employees at times and it will also involve the Billing and IT departments. It is a major undertaking, but having up-to-date and reliable load management and metering systems are extremely important to the Cooperative and our members.

We will try to keep our members informed on the areas that we are working in. We will make every effort to schedule times that are convenient for members when we need to change out a load management switch that is in the members' basement. We appreciate the cooperation we always receive from our members for these types of projects. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.



OPERATION ROUND UP *Report*



Disbursements made from North West REC's Operation Round Up Trust in the fourth quarter of 2020 totaled \$18,200. This brings the total disbursements made from Operation Round Up since its inception in June of 1999 to \$538,745. Many people and organizations have been helped thanks to our members.

- \$5,500 Medical Emergencies – assist families with unusual expenses resulting from serious health problems and accident related injuries
- \$8,250 33 Local Fire Departments - program support
- \$3,900 All Kids Can, ATLAS (Orange City and Sioux Center), Bethany Christian Services, Autumn's Center, Food Bank of Siouxland, Inspiration Hills, Project Youth Daycare Center, Siouxland Youth for Christ - Program Support
- \$500 Ida Grove Community Foundation - community support for events/projects

Operation Round Up funds are generated through a voluntary rounding up of cooperative members' electric bills to the next nearest dollar, and dollars are used to assist worthy causes and organizations right in your local area.

If you are currently not participating in Operation Round Up and would like to become a part of this worthwhile program, please call our office for information or fill out the form available on our website. To receive an application for assistance, please call the office at 707-4935 or 800-766-2099.

Plug into the Power of **smart choices**



Each month North West REC hides a code in our *Smart Choices* news stories. Find the code below in the Smart Choices article, complete the prize entry registration form and submit for a chance to win one of the two \$25 bill credits in February.



Don't receive Smart Choices?

Subscribe by scanning the QR code with your mobile device or visit our website:

www.nwrec.coop/email-signup



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NORTH WEST REC OFFERS *Powerline Scholarship*

North West REC is again sponsoring a powerline scholarship. This program is designed to assist persons enrolled in a course of powerline training at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon.

A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to an individual who has met the eligibility requirements. To be considered for the scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Reside in the four county area served by North West REC (Ida, Plymouth, O'Brien and Sioux Counties)
- Be a member or the child of a member of North West REC
- Be accepted as a full time student in the powerline program at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon
- **Submit a scholarship application to North West REC by Friday, February 26, 2021**

All applicants are required to submit an application form as well as their most recent academic transcript. The criteria for the award will be based upon community and school activities, potential for success and grade point average.

For an application or more information, check out our website or contact:

North West REC * Attn: Renee Wynia
PO Box 435 * Orange City, IA 51041 *
800-766-2099 or 712-707-4935
Renee.rwynia@nwrec.coop



North West REC \ Basin Electric Power Cooperative 2021 Scholarship Application



Scholarship applicants must be a U.S. citizen, a dependent of a current North West REC member, a senior in high school for the 2020-2021 school year, and planning to enroll in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. Please complete the form below; completeness and neatness ensure your application will be evaluated appropriately.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Father's Name: _____ Mother's Name: _____

Cooperative Name: _____

Please put the name and address of the high school which you will graduate this spring.

High School: _____

Address: _____

Please put the name and address of the accredited school you plan to attend in the fall.

School\College: _____ College Town\City: _____

Major course of study: _____

Signatures

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Scholarship Submittal Requirements:

1. Complete this form by typing or printing - your name should be on all attachments.
2. Recent academic transcript from high school.
3. Copy of your college entrance examination (ACT and/or SAT) scores.
4. Compose a short essay outlining your high school honors, school activities, community involvement, and employment history and how these experiences have shaped your character and future career goals.
5. One letter of reference from a teacher, counselor or employer.
6. Mail your complete application packet to:

North West REC
Attn: Renee Wynia
P.O. Box 435
Orange City, IA 51041

Scholarship applicants will be asked to participate in a virtual conference call this spring where North West REC staff will share the mission, vision, and values of our cooperative. During this call, the scholarship winners will be announced. Details of this virtual conference call will be communicated at a later date.

DEADLINE: Friday, February 26, 2021

THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST REC

1. Name one change to the 2021 rebate program: _____
2. Which college is the powerline scholarship for? _____
3. What is the date for our Annual Meeting? _____

Name _____ Acct. # _____

Find the answers within the content of this newsletter, our website or Facebook posts and you could win a prize of \$10 off your electric bill. Send your answers to powerquiz@nwrec.coop or you can send your written answers to North West REC, PO Box 435, Orange City, IA 51041. You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember the deadline is January 10. Each month, ten names will be randomly drawn from all correct entries for a \$10 bill credit. Members who answer the questions correctly and participate at least three times throughout the year will be eligible for 2 - \$250 bill credits, through a random drawing, at the end of the year.

POWER QUIZ *Winners* NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2020

Winners



Susan Streck - Ida Grove
 Fred Zenk - Akron
 John Putnam - Sutherland
 Roger Van Voorst - Sioux Center
 Dean Hibma - Maurice
 Teresa Whitmore - Le Mars
 Carlene Hamann - Danbury
 Wayne Storm - Archer
 Deserae Peck - Sioux City
 Wes Foreman - Rock Valley

Harlan De Haan - Orange City
 Robbie Trometer - Merrill
 K&E Enterprises - Hawarden
 Craig Wegner - Hawarden
 Robert Zenk - Le Mars
 Jerry Wendt - Le Mars
 Jerry Buteyn - Sanborn
 Harvard Sneller - Sioux Center
 Kevin Puhrman - Paullina
 Dave Pick - Merrill

Winners



\$250 winners for 2020 were Roger Chisholm - Kiron and Robert Eisma - Ireton.

North West Rural Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 435 • 1505 Albany Place SE • Orange City, IA 51041-0435

<p>OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. till 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Orange City office open during noon hour</p> <p>Le Mars office closed 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.</p> <p>Ida Grove office 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Mon-Fri</p>	<p>PHONE:</p> <p>ORANGE CITY (712) 707-4935 (800) 766-2099</p> <p>IDA GROVE (712) 364-3341</p> <p>LE MARS (712) 546-4149</p> <p>Outside Depository Box Available For After Hours Payments</p>	<p>Lyle D. Korver CEO & General Manager</p> <p>Curt Ahrenholz Finance & Office Services Director</p> <p>Emily Vander Velde Editor</p> <p>Find us on Instagram & Facebook!</p>
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