



NEWS *Lines*

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



DECEMBER 2022

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Fight the Winter Chill and Save Energy

We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings and all the fun outdoor activities that go with it. But there's one thing we can all agree on: high winter bills are never fun. North West REC is here to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check.

Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

1. Mind the thermostat. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.
2. Button up your home. The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.
3. Use window coverings wisely. Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.
4. Consider your approach to appliance use. When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles.
5. Think outside the box. If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up—beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.



Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills. Visit our website at www.nwrec.coop for additional energy-saving tips.

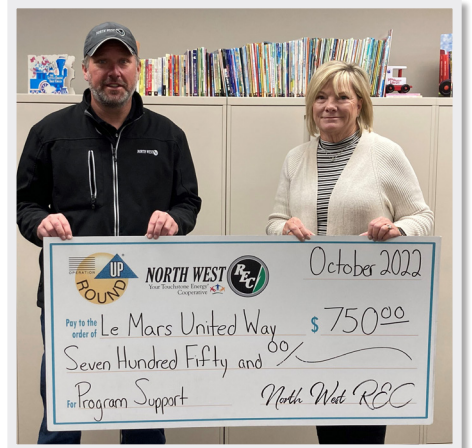
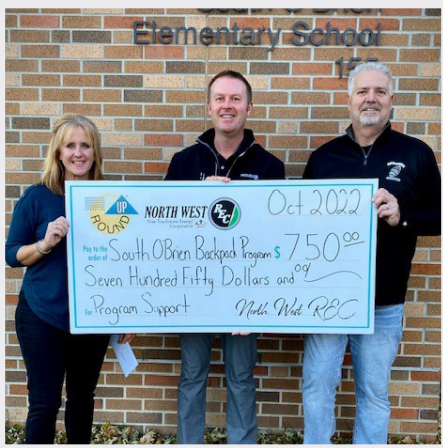
Operation Round-Up Update



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.

This month a few of the businesses we were able to present checks to offer program support to were South O'Brien Backpack Program, All Kids Can, and Le Mars United Way

If you are currently not participating in Operation Round Up and would like to become a part of this worthwhile program or to receive an application of assistance, please call the office at 800-766-2099.



Sign up for

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 a Presto Pizza Pizzazz Plus in December.

Don't receive Smart Choices?
 Subscribe by scanning the QR code with your mobile device or visit our website:
www.nwrec.coop/smart-choices-sign-up



KYC12712DEC

Employees Recognized for years of service

North West REC is thankful for the many years of hard work and dedication these employees have given. Congratulations to the following individuals on reaching service milestones this year.



35 YEARS
 Scott Wubben
 Journeyman Lineman



25 YEARS
 Rob Driesen
 Member Services Director



10 YEARS
 Adam Gesink
 Journeyman Lineman



10 YEARS
 Justin Nippert
 Journeyman Lineman

Committee on Nominations are Selected

The Board of Directors has selected the Committee on Nominations, and they will be meeting in January to select nominees for election to the Board of Directors of North West REC. There will be a director election in districts 1, 2, and 3 this year. They will be voted on and elected at the Annual Meeting of the Cooperative.

Contact one of the nominating committee members in your district if you have any interest in running for the Board of Directors or you know of any member that would be interested. For your information, please review the director qualifications listed below.

Your Current Board of Directors

District 1

Steve Abma, Rock Valley
Dave Bosma, Hospers*
Jeff Rehder, Hawarden

District 3

Doug Becker, Hinton
Shirley Schroder, Le Mars*
Steve Brown, Merrill
Scott Feuerhelm, Merrill

District 2

Chad Dau, Paullina*
Tom Wagner, Primghar

District 4

Dan Hoffman, Ida Grove
Dale Ullrich, Arthur

**Director whose term is up for re-election in 2023*



Pictured left to right: Steve Brown, Dave Bosma, Chad Dau, Scott Feuerhelm, Jeff Rehder, Doug Becker, Dan Hoffman, Shirley Schroeder, Steve Abma, Dale Ullrich, and Tom Wagner.

Committee on Nominations

Contact a committee member in your district if interested in running for the Board of Directors!

District 1 Sioux County

Marva Haak
2955 Fir Ave
Rock Valley, IA 51247
712-460-2026

Mark Van Roekel
3891 390th st
Orange City, IA 51041
712-540-8710

Michael J. Wilbert
2020 440th st
Ireton, IA 51027
712-578-9382

District 3 Plymouth County

Greg Roepke
38724 C70
Kingsley, IA 51028
712-378-2297

Luke Langel
21956 Noble Ave
Le Mars, IA 51031
712-540-6820

District 2 O'Brien County

Jeremy Rohwer
4063 Pierce Ave
Archer, IA 51231
712-298-0932

Michael Wagner
6322 420th st
Primghar, IA 51245
712-348-1775

Adam Schmidt
17743 Jade Ave
Le Mars, IA 51031
712-540-2588

Brad Harvey
17771 K18N
Akron, IA 51001
712-551-6565

Director Qualifications:

The Cooperative's bylaws establish that a director must be a member, individually, and a bona-fide resident of the district from which they are elected to represent.

To do a competent job, a director is expected to:

- Attend all regular monthly board meetings. The Board holds daytime meetings usually scheduled for the last Thursday of each month. Meetings last approximately six hours.
- Attend the annual meeting of the Cooperative.
- Attend meetings of related organizations such as Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative, Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, Federated Insurance, and others, when necessary.
- Read and be familiar with information, data and reports received from cooperative management, national, state and other local associations.
- Establish and maintain contact with members of the Cooperative in his or her locale.
- Work in harmony with the other members of the Board and employees for the good of all members of the Cooperative.
- Attend special meetings of the Board, or of committees to which assigned by the president.



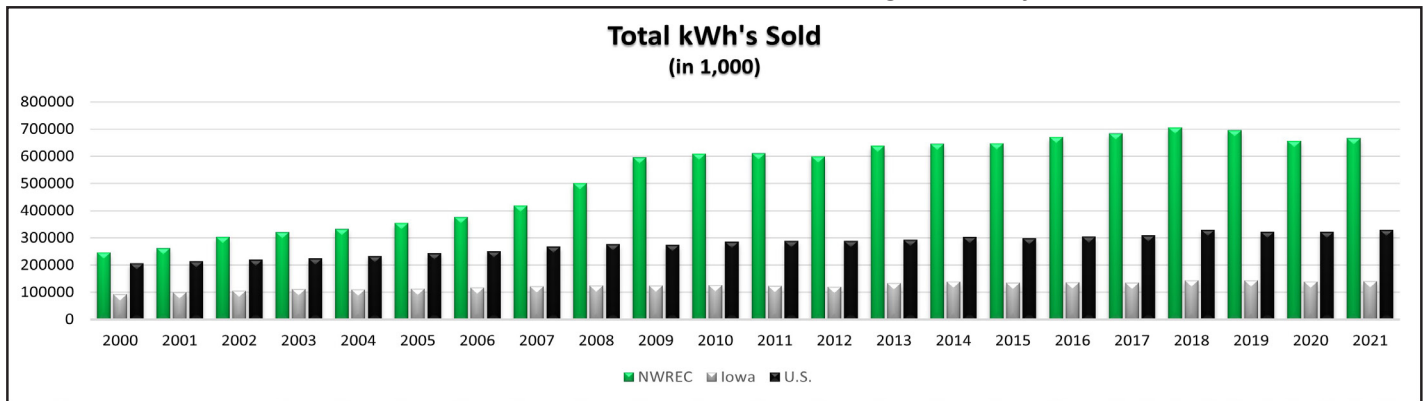
Lyle D. Korver

MANAGER'S *Report*

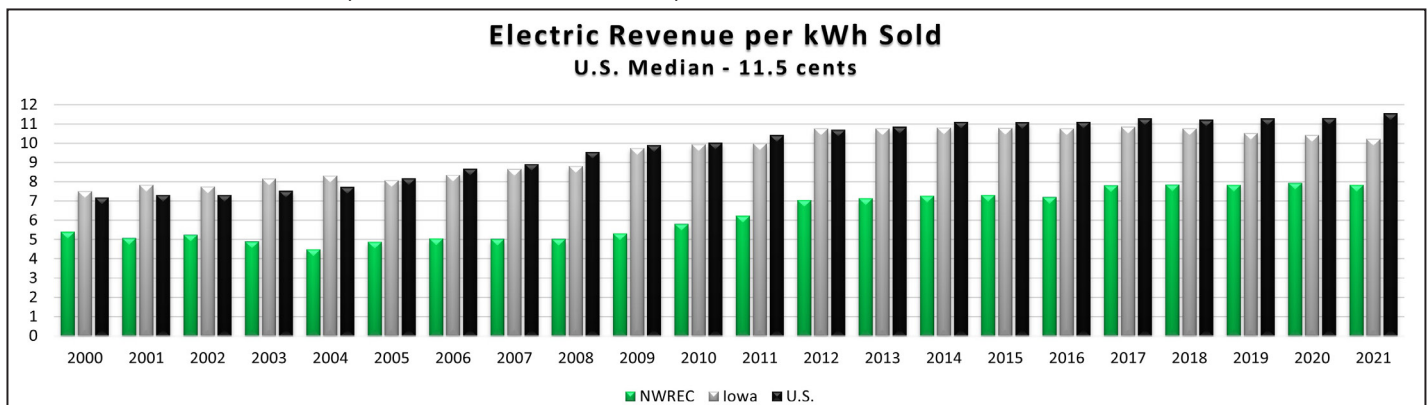
CFC Releases 2021 Benchmarking Report How Does NWREC Compare?

Our lender, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), completes a statistical analysis each year, which gives the member cooperatives the opportunity to compare their financial and operating ratios with other REC's around the country. This analysis is called the Key Ratio Trend Analysis or KRTA. It is a great benchmarking tool for us and highlights our financial and operational strengths, weaknesses and trends. There are 812 REC's included in this analysis, and I'm pleased to report that your Cooperative continues to compare very well overall.

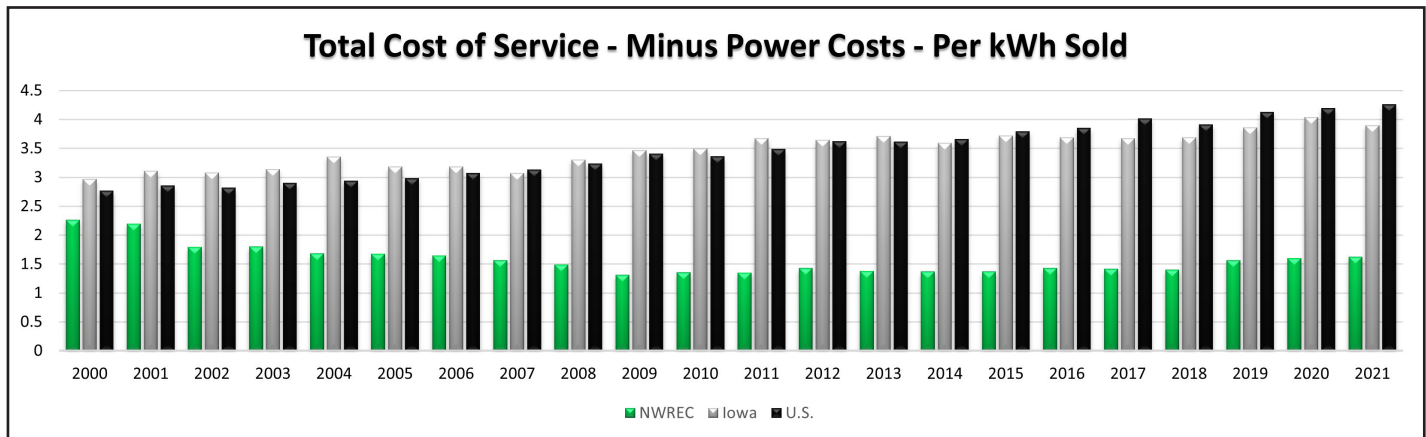
This report includes 145 ratios and compares NWREC's data to REC's within Iowa and also throughout the U.S. It highlights our strengths and trends, and it points out areas where we could make improvements. One of the key areas that positively impacts many of our ratios is our kilowatt-hour (kWh) sales total. The graph below shows how NWREC's kWh sales have increased significantly over the last twenty years and that they are nearly double the sales level of the median REC in the U.S. Our kWh sales are also the highest of any of the 31 REC's in Iowa.



Our high level of kWh sales is partly due to our aggressive involvement in economic development and our very progressive service area. The goal with continuing to try to add new load on our system is that it enables us to spread our fixed costs over more kWh's and this positively impacts our electric rates. As this graph highlights, NWREC's average revenue per kWh sold of 7.8 cents per kWh is in the bottom 4% nationally.



Related to the kWh sales and low average retail rates is the ratio that shows NWREC's total cost of electric service, excluding our purchased power costs, is only 1.6 cents per kWh. This is the cost of distributing electricity to our members from the substations to your home or business service. There are only 18 other REC's in the U.S. that have a lower distribution cost per kWh out of 812 – that puts us in the bottom 2%.



NWREC compares very well in many of the other financial and operating ratios also and the following is a summary of the key ratios for 2021.

Ratio	NWREC	U.S. Rank	State Rank	U.S. Median
Avg. Farm/Res. Usage per month	2,255 kWhs	3rd highest	3rd highest	1,151 kWhs
Residential Revenue per kWh sold	9.1 cents	26th lowest	Lowest	12.7 cents
Total margins per kWh sold	7.2 cents	280th lowest	3rd Lowest	9.0 cents
Total controllable expenses per kWh sold	9.1 Mills	16th lowest	Lowest	25.7 Mills
Long Term Debt per kWh sold	68.5 Mills	150th lowest	2nd lowest	131.5 Mills
Equity %	48.52%	345th highest	17th highest	45.97%
Service Reliability – Avg. Outage Minutes per Consumer	56 Minutes	84th lowest	2nd lowest	208 minutes

Our CFC Regional Vice President, Darrin Lynch, attended our October board meeting and shared this information with the Board of Directors. While these are good numbers, we want to assure you that we will continue to work hard on behalf of the members to try to improve on these already strong ratios. We know there is always room for improvement and we use these types of reports and comparisons to evaluate areas we need to focus on. Thank you for your continued support of NWREC.



Scholarships Available



North West REC and Basin Electric Power Cooperative will be sponsoring several scholarships to dependents of members of North West REC in 2023. Last year we awarded \$30,000 in scholarships to 75 students!

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.

Scholarship applicants, who are not awarded a \$1,000 scholarship award, will be asked to watch an educational video on North West REC and the cooperative model and then complete a questionnaire. This will then enter applicants into a random drawing for a \$500 or \$250 scholarship. All applicants will receive at least a \$250 scholarship. Details of this video and questionnaire 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 in our service territory for the 2022-2023 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 17, 2023.

You can apply online by visiting our website at www.nwrec.coop or you can e-mail the scholarship committee at scholarships@nwrec.coop and they will send you an application. If you have any questions, please call us at 712-707-4935 or 800-766-2099. All entries for the scholarship must be returned to the REC no later than Friday, February 17, 2023!

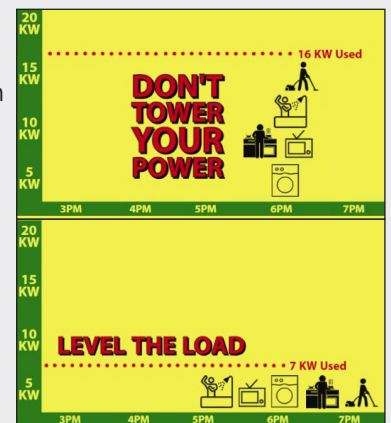


ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

Because NWREC is member owned, when the cooperative saves money, our customers save money. Using energy wisely and avoiding peak demand times means total costs to the cooperative remain low.

The cooperative levels out our load by sending a signal to the switch to interrupt power during periods of peak demand. You can do your part to level the load by spacing out the time in which you use some of your electrical appliances instead of running them all at the same time. Remember don't tower your power, level the load!

NWREC purchases power from our generation and transmission cooperative based on peak demand of our members. "Peak demand" is the time of day when the demand and price of electricity is the highest.



THINKING ABOUT SOLAR? DON'T MISS THE RED FLAGS!

"YOU WON'T HAVE AN ELECTRIC BILL!"

If a salesperson says, "You won't have an electric bill!" It's a **RED FLAG!** ▶
Owning distributed generation can help offset your kilowatt-hour needs, but the fees to be connected to the grid remain. We can help you understand rate structures and special load control rates as well as how you will be compensated for excess energy you don't use. We're here to help, *please call us to get the facts about solar and our policies.* Smart energy solutions start with smart energy decisions! Let's avoid misunderstandings, *talk to us BEFORE you sign on the dotted line.* Work with your local energy experts at North West REC.



North West REC \ Basin Electric Power Cooperative
2023 Scholarship Application



Scholarship applicants must be a U.S. citizen, a dependent of a current North West REC member, a **senior** in high school in our service area for the 2022-2023 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: _____

Parents/guardians must be active members of North West REC or have a current electric account with North West REC. In order to verify, please provide account number from a North West REC electric bill (you may need to get this from your parents/guardians 😊): _____

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: Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 435
Orange City, IA 51041

Scholarship applicants, who are not awarded a \$1,000 scholarship award, will be asked to watch an educational video on North West REC and the cooperative model and then complete a questionnaire. This will then enter applicants into a random drawing for a \$500 or \$250 scholarship. Details of this video and questionnaire will be communicated at a later date.

DEADLINE: Friday, February 17, 2023

THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST REC

1. Name a director that is up for election in 2023:
2. Name one way to save energy this winter:
3. Who should you contact if you want to run for the board of directors?

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*

OCTOBER 2022

Don Riemenschneider - Kinglsey
 Susan Streck - Ida Grove
 Patricia Schultz - Merrill
 Fred Zenk - Akron
 Debra Parker - Holstein

Marjorie Lucken - Akron
 Vernice Rahbusch - Sutherland
 Linda Husk - Akron
 Ronald Popken - Akron
 Jonathan Gingrich - Sioux Center



ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

How can you help to reduce peak demand?

Answer _____

Name _____ Acct. # _____

What do you know about the Switch Makes Cents program? Find the answers within the content of this newsletter, our website or Facebook posts and you could win a prize. Send your answers to switchsmart@nwrec.coop, fill out the question form online, or 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 December 31. At the end of the quarter one name will be randomly drawn from all the correct entries for a prize. With a new question every month, you can participate up to 3 times each quarter!

North West Rural Electric Cooperative

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

OFFICE HOURS:
 Monday through Friday
 7:30 a.m. till 4:00 p.m.

Orange City office open during noon hour

Le Mars office closed 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.

Ida Grove office open 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Wednesdays only

PHONE:
 (800) 766-2099

24/7 outage reporting using the SmartHub app or nwrec.smarthub.coop Or call 800-766-2099 anytime

Pay your bill online any-time using SmartHub



Outside Depository Box Available For After Hours Payments

This institution is an equal opportunity employer, provider, and lender.

Lyle D. Korver
 CEO & General Manager

Curt Ahrenholz
 Finance & Office Services Director

Emily Vander Velde
 Editor



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