



NEWS *Lines*

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

JANUARY 2024
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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 2024. Last year we awarded \$33,000 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 2023-2024 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 16, 2024.

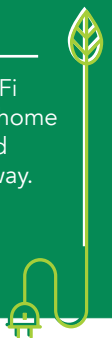
You can apply online by visiting our website at www.nwrec.coop or you can e-mail the scholarship committee at scholarships@nwrec.coop and they will send you an application. If you have any questions, please call us at 712-707-4935 or 800-766-2099. All entries for the scholarship must be returned to the REC no later than Friday, February 16, 2024!

Energy Efficiency — Tip of the Month

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away.

For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY STAR® label.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Apply Now for the 2024 Youth Tour Trip to D.C.

North West REC will send two high school juniors on an all-expenses paid Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. on June 15-21, 2024!

At North West REC one way we invest in the next generation of rural Iowa leaders is by participating in the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program. We're looking for high school junior students with a passion for government and public service to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital in June.

Two students will be selected from eligible candidates to attend the 2024 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 16-21, with orientation June 15th in Des Moines, along with 40 other student leaders from Iowa. The Iowa Youth Tour group will join with hundreds of students from across the country as they learn more about electric cooperatives and American history and come home with a greater understanding of their role as an American citizen. Students will also learn about U.S. government and meet with their members of Congress. On the trip, students take in the sights of D.C. as they visit monuments, museums, and historical landmarks. Students who go on Youth Tour often call it the trip of a lifetime!

We are accepting Youth Tour applications now through February 16, 2024. Dependents of North West REC member-consumers are eligible to apply. The student must currently be a junior in high school. You can download our youth tour application at www.nwrec.coop. You can also call 800-766-2099, email nwrec@nwrec.coop, or stop by our office and we can get you a copy. Contact our office for more info.

For more than 60 years, Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives have been sending deserving students to D.C. This program is a great resume builder for student leaders and a wonderful opportunity to kickstart one's passion for government affairs or advocacy. **Make sure to apply for Youth Tour 2024 by Friday, February 16, 2024!**



Students can apply now for a trip to Washington, D.C., from June 15-21!

High school students interested in public service and government are encouraged to apply! Learn more at IowaYouthTour.com



Director Profile

Jeff Rehder

Family: Wife - Kelly, Daughters - Jenna and Leah, Son - Jordan

Occupation: Crop & Livestock Farmer

Interests: Spending time with family

What he enjoys about serving as an NWREC Director: Getting to work with a great group of people and keeping up with what is new and growing in the area.





North West REC \ Basin Electric Power Cooperative 2024 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 2023-2024 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 from 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. Please make a list of all your high school honors, school activities, community involvement, and employment history. Then compose a short essay on 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 16, 2024

A Storm is Brewing: Electric Reliability is in Jeopardy

Thank you Rep. Feenstra for writing this joint opinion article with Chuck Soderberg. This was published in the Washington Times on October 6, 2023



By Congressman Randy Feenstra, representing Iowa's 4th Congressional District, and Chuck Soderberg, Executive Vice President and General Manager of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives

Supply chain delays. Disorderly retirements of dispatchable electric generation. Complex regulations on power plant emissions. Regional warnings about a lack of generation capacity to cover electric demand. Permitting delays for needed electric transmission infrastructure.

Individually, any one of these issues is enough to seriously impact reliability of electric service. But all these scenarios are playing out simultaneously across the nation and a perfect storm may be on the horizon.

Electric reliability across America is in serious jeopardy, and frankly, it's unacceptable. Here are the facts:

Dispatchable sources of electric generation like coal and nuclear are being retired far too early. And their generation capacity is being replaced by intermittent sources of generation like wind and solar. The downside: These intermittent sources only work when the wind blows and the sun shines.

Battery storage is not yet feasible for longer durations on a utility-scale level. For all practical purposes, electricity must be generated as it is being consumed. This becomes

a problem when the wind isn't blowing or the sun isn't shining and energy consumption is high.

Demand for electricity continues to grow as our society becomes increasingly reliant on electricity.

Locally owned electric cooperatives work hard to provide reliable and affordable electricity for the member-consumers they serve.

Co-ops are mission driven to power lives and empower communities and they make long-term decisions to ensure power is available when it's needed.

That's why we believe in a power generation strategy that prioritizes energy diversity. The same adage used for sound financial investing also applies to power generation: don't put all your eggs in one basket. Iowa's electric cooperatives use dispatchable sources of power like coal and natural gas because they can control the output and ramp up generation when needed to match sudden increases in electric demand. But our ability to provide reliable electricity is in jeopardy.

In May, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency released its proposed rule to limit greenhouse

gas emissions from new and existing fossil-fuel-fired electric generating units. The proposal is part of the current administration's misguided regulatory agenda to create a carbon-free power sector by 2035 and net zero emissions economy-wide by no later than 2050. We believe this proposal will further strain America's electric grid and undermine decades of work to reliably keep the lights on across the nation.

But that's not the only threat we face. The 2023 NERC summer reliability assessment is just the latest in a series of alarming reminders about the new electric reliability challenges facing the nation. Nine states experienced power interruptions last December as the demand for electricity exceeded available supply.

It's imperative that policymakers work to prioritize reliability in every energy policy discussion. Federal policies must recognize the compromised reliability reality facing the nation before it's too late.

The families, farms and businesses served by electric cooperatives deserve affordable AND reliable electricity to power their lives.



Bid Form - Vehicle for sale

FOR SALE - 2016 Chevy Silverado K1500 Pickup, 193,081 miles.



This vehicle will be sold on a bid basis and "as is". Bids can be mailed to North West REC, PO Box 435, Orange City, IA 51041, or bids can be dropped off at any of the three cooperative offices. Bids will be accepted until 4:00 pm, Wednesday, February 15, 2023. We reserve the right to accept or reject any bid. The sale will be on a cash basis only. Please call 712-707-4935 or 800-766-2099 to set up a time to see it. The vehicle will all be available for viewing at the Orange City office 1505 Albany Place SE.

Name of individual submitting bid: _____ Bid: \$ _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

We hope and pray that you had a healthy and successful 2023. As we begin another year, we want to wish all of our members continued good health and success. Happy New Year!

North West REC is blessed to have a very loyal and supportive group of members that has enabled your Cooperative to be successful. The directors and employees thank you for your ongoing support and we pledge to continue to work hard to provide all our members with reliable and affordable electric service.



2024 Energy Efficiency Rebates

All changes to our energy efficiency rebates are effective as of January 1st, 2024. We want to make sure all our members are aware of the current rebates. See the full list of rebates we offer below.

Rebate forms for New Electric Appliances, Building Insulation, Pull the Plug, and Electric Vehicle Chargers are available at our offices and can also be found on our website at www.nwrec.coop under the member services tab.

No form is needed for the other rebates, simply submit a copy of the invoice for the rebated equipment to North West REC, and a representative from North West REC will call you to set up a time to inspect the installation prior to the rebate being paid to verify that it has been installed and is operating.

GEOHERMAL 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 30% OF COST UP TO \$10,000 • COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/AG PROJECTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF 30% OF COST UP TO \$75,000 		\$1,400 PER TON	\$750 PER TON
		\$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 30% OF COST UP TO \$10,000 • 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% OF COST UP TO \$75,000 		\$700 PER TON	\$700 PER TON
		\$500 PER TON	\$500 PER TON
		\$700 PER TON	\$700 PER TON
		\$500 PER TON	\$500 PER TON

DUCTLESS MINI-SPLIT HEATING/COOLING & P-TAC UNIT - NEW UNITS INSTALLED ON OUR SYSTEM			
<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 30% OF COST UP TO \$10,000 - 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% OF COST UP TO \$75,000 - LIMIT OF ONE REBATE FOR EACH LEASABLE HOTEL ROOM 		\$700 PER TON	\$700 PER TON
		\$500 PER TON	\$500 PER TON
		\$700 PER TON	\$700 PER TON
		\$500 PER TON	\$500 PER TON

MARATHON WATER HEATERS - SOLD ONLY TO MEMBERS AND INSTALLED ON OUR SYSTEM. MUST HAVE LOAD MANAGEMENT SWITCH INSTALLED TO RECEIVE REBATED PRICE. REBATE IS FOR THE MAIN WATER HEATER ONLY, IT DOES NOT INCLUDE STORAGE TANKS FOR GEOHERMAL. SOLD AT REBATED PRICES

	<u>COST</u>	<u>REBATE</u>	<u>MEMBER PRICE PLUS TAX</u>
50 GALLON MARATHON	\$1,200	\$400 REBATE	= \$800
85 GALLON MARATHON	\$1,650	\$850 REBATE	= \$800
100 GALLON MARATHON	\$1,800	\$900 REBATE	= \$900
105 HD GALLON MARATHON	\$1,800	\$900 REBATE	= \$900
HOG BUILDINGS - 50 GALLON ONLY	\$1,200	FULL PRICE - No REBATE	= \$1,200
NEW HOME WITH ALL ELECTRIC HEAT (PRIMARY HEAT & ELECTRIC BACKUP)		\$1000 REBATE ON AN 85 GALLON MARATHON	

PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE FOR CURRENT PRICES

ELECTRIC APPLIANCES – NEW UNITS INSTALLED ON OUR SYSTEM, MUST BE 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
- 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 - FOR NEW LEVEL 2 CHARGERS ONLY

- RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL UP TO \$1000 TOWARD COST OF CHARGER AND INSTALLATION, REBATE CANNOT EXCEED INVOICE AMOUNT. (HYBRID VEHICLE CHARGERS \$750 MAX).
 - LEVEL 2 CHARGE 208-240 VOLT
 - MUST BE HARD WIRED AND INSTALLATION MUST MEET LOCAL CODE
 - MEMBER REQUIRED TO PROVIDE CHARGER MAKE, MODEL, S/N, SPECIFICATIONS
 - CANNOT BACK-FEED INTO THE SYSTEM
 - SUB METER AND LOAD CONTROL SWITCH ARE REQUIRED FOR REBATE
 - LIMIT OF 1 REBATE PER ELECTRIC VEHICLE



Switch Makes Cents is a load management program that our cooperative has offered to members since 1985. In fact, our co-op served as an early pioneer of this technology. It is energy efficient and curbs electric demand during peak times to prevent the need to build additional generating facilities or incur higher wholesale power costs. The Switch Makes Cents load management program reduces our system peak by as much as 20 megawatts (MW) in the summer and 12 MW in the winter...the equivalent of powering approximately 3,200 homes! This is done by reducing total demand during times of peak-use, generally between 6-10AM and 3-9PM, when people are commonly at home running washers, dryers, dishwashers, air conditioners, heaters and so on.

THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST REC

1. What is the deadline for seniors to apply for scholarships?
2. What certification must your new appliance have to qualify for a rebate?
3. Which grade do you need to be in to apply for Youth Tour?

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 February 4. 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*

Wayne Storm - Archer
 Rodney Pottebaum - Alton
 Lane Volkert - Holstein
 Donald Luksan - Le Mars
 Dan Hurt - Alton

NOVEMBER 2024

Gary Meyer - Granville
 Robert Zenk - Le Mars
 Joe Cronin - Holstein
 Dan Varenhorst - Le Mars
 Allen Mulder - Rock Valley



ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

What is Switch Makes Cents?

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 February 4. Each month, one name will be randomly drawn from all correct entries for a \$25 bill credit.

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 anytime 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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