



NEWS *Lines*

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

JULY 2023

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Thinking of Joining SmartHub?

Save time and money with our **bank draft** and **SmartHub e-bill options** by having your monthly electric bill deducted from your bank account and receiving your bill electronically. You would no longer receive printed billing statements in the mail. **To sign up for SmartHub, please register at www.nwrec.coop. You can also sign up for bank draft online once you register for an account.**



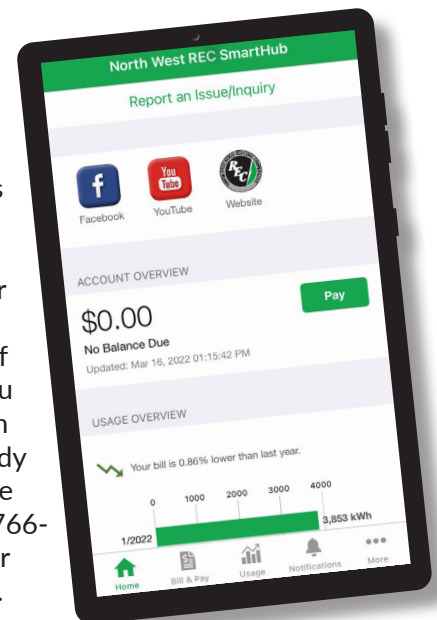
Why sign up for the automatic bank draft and SmartHub e-bill option?

- No more writing a check to North West REC for your electric bill.
- Your electric bill will be paid on the due date - no worrying about getting your check to our office on time.
- Accurate record keeping from your financial institution showing the direct payment you make to NWREC on your bank statement.
- Access to your electric information at all times online - view your billing and payment history with bill details.
- Easy sign up for SmartHub e-billing at www.nwrec.smarthub.coop or download the free app available for Android and iOS Apple devices.

What else can you do with SmartHub?

- View your electric usage and history.
- Report outages directly from your SmartHub account!
- Sign up to receive e-mail or text alerts for power outages and restorations.
- Contact our office with questions and account issues.

Your financial institution automatically transfers the amount of your monthly electric bill from your account to North West REC each month. The amount transferred will also appear on your monthly bank statement. The amount due will be transferred out of your account on the 8th of each month for payment of your electric bill. You will receive an e-mail notice on the 20th of each month that your monthly electric bill is now ready to be viewed. This will indicate the amount to be withdrawn from your account. Please call 800-766-2099 if you have any questions or check out our website: www.nwrec.coop for more information.



Energy Trail Tour Winners Announced

The response was great again this year from our members who want to join the fun on the Energy Trail Tour sponsored by North West REC and NIPCO. We want to thank everyone for their interest and for sending in their coupon. The following names were drawn for the two trips:

- Len & Lee Rhoda - Sioux Center
- Paul & Deanna Stoll - Hospers
- Robert & Linda Oldenkamp - Sanborn
- Stacy & Teresa Jasper - Alton
- Ron & Pat Lorenzen - Westfield
- Jerry & Kathy Sindt - Holstein
- Donna & Erick Carlberg - Sioux City
- Galen & Nancy Beyer - Sanborn
- Maynard & Linda Ravensborg - Sioux City
- Steven Tonsfeldt & Amy Crouch - Remsen
- Donavon Davenport - Ida Grove
- Mark & Kristin Konz - Hospers

What's it all about?



Tour the **Oahe Dam and Powerhouse** in Pierre, SD. One of the world's largest earth-rolled dams, Oahe Dam and Lake provide more than \$371 million in annual benefits to the American people. Other authorized benefits include flood control, power generation, recreation, navigation support and fish & wildlife enhancement. Seven turbine generators at the Oahe Powerhouse generate a maximum capacity of 118.2 megawatts of electricity, which is enough to power the annual electric needs of 259,000 homes.

Learn about the **Great Plains Synfuels Dakota Gasification Company Plant**, the only commercial-scale coal gasification plant in the country that manufactures natural gas using the Lurgi gasification technology. Located NW of Bismarck, ND, it is capable of producing 13 products, including: synthetic natural gas (SNG), ammonium sulfate, anhydrous ammonia, carbon dioxide, cresylic acid, krypton and xenon gases, liquid nitrogen, naphtha, phenol, tar oil, and urea.

Tour the **Dakota Coal Company Freedom Mine**, which delivers approximately 14 million tons of lignite coal per year, making it the largest mine in the US in deliveries. The mine reclaims about 400 acres of land annually. Here you'll learn how lignite coal is produced at a surface mine and how the land is reclaimed according to strict high environmental preservation standards. A guided drive-through tour will bring you into active mining areas where you can see giant earth moving equipment in action.

Tour the **Antelope Valley Station**, the newest coal-based power plant in North Dakota. Its two units, each rated at 450 megawatts, are designed to be environmentally sound. Basin Electric consistently invests in environmental control technologies for all of its facilities. At the Antelope Valley Station, you'll learn how electricity is made. The tour includes an overview in the model room, guided walking tour of the power plant with stops at the turbine deck, control room, boiler and observation deck on the 17th floor!

The tour will include stops at coal mines, power plants and hydro-electric dams producing the electricity used by us daily. Congratulations to our winners, we hope you enjoy your trip! Watch the newsletter early next spring for the next chance to participate.

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH

at the **COUNTY**

Fairs

Sioux County

July 9-13

O'Brien County

July 22-27

Plymouth County

July 26-30

Ida County

July 18-23

A NIGHT OF FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

2023 MEMBER

APPRECIATION DAYS

MEAL, INFLATABLES, PATRONAGE CHECKS, PRIZE DRAWINGS, & MORE!

5-7 PM	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Ida County</p> <p style="color: #2e8b57; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">August 24</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Ida County Fairgrounds 2332 Hwy 59 Ida Grove</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Plymouth County</p> <p style="color: #2e8b57; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">August 29</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Plymouth County Fairgrounds 500 4th Ave NE Le Mars</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Sioux County</p> <p style="color: #2e8b57; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">September 5</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Terrace View Event Center 230 St. Andrews Way Sioux Center</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">O'Brien County</p> <p style="color: #2e8b57; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">September 7</p> <p style="margin: 0;">O'Brien County Fairgrounds 555 3rd St. Primghar</p>
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2022 Patronage Dividend Assignment

Your patronage dividend is one of the primary benefits of being a member of North West REC. Your cooperative had an excellent year of financial operations in 2022, and as a result, the board of directors assigned \$3,900,000.00 in patronage dividends to the member-owners. North West REC members who received electric service during the year 2022 will receive a patronage dividend assignment. Your portion of this assignment is based on the amount of electricity you purchased from the cooperative in 2022.

Shown here is an example of the patronage dividend allocation notice as printed on your electric bill that you received at the end of June. The patronage has no cash value and cannot be used in payment of electric bills.

Patronage dividends are retained by the cooperative until the board of directors approves them to be paid. Upon approval, a certain percentage of past allocations are retired to the members.

If a member becomes deceased, patronage dividends can be refunded. The member's estate then needs to fill out the required paper work to have the past patronage dividends refunded.

If you have a change in address, please keep the cooperative informed of your new address. This will ensure any future patronage checks will be mailed to your correct address.

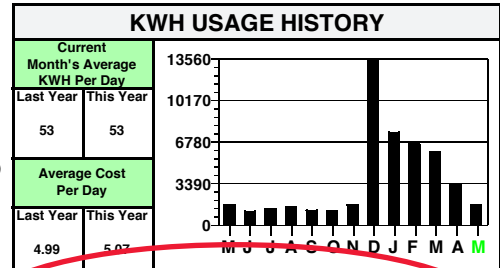
NORTH WEST REC
Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

PO Box 435 1505 Albany PI SE
Orange City, IA 51041
www.nwrec.coop

Phone: (800) 766-2099 or 712-707-4935
Office Hours: 7:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday - Friday
Le Mars 2496 Lincoln Ave SW 712-546-4149 (Closed 12:00 -12:30pm)
Ida Grove 5975 Hwy 175 East 712-364-3341 (Open Wednesdays 9am - 2pm)

Before reporting an outage, check your fuses, breakers, and equipment first.
To report an outage, please call the (800) number listed above.

NORTH WEST REC MEMBER



YOUR PATRONAGE DIVIDEND ALLOCATION FOR 2022 IS \$128.61. PLEASE SEE YOUR NW REC NEWSLETTER FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

A late payment charge of 1.5% per month on the unpaid balance will be charged if payment is not received in our office by due date.

Account Number	Map Location	Service From	Service To	Due Date	Amount Due
123456	84-01-01-1234	05/01/2023	05/31/2023	07/10/2023	204.00

Meter Number	Rate Description	Present Reading	Previous Reading	Difference	Multiplier	Kwh Used	Kwh Charge
3000001	1 - RESIDENTIAL SINGLE P	10124	10061	63	40	860	113.76
3500001	338 - 338 SUB INT HP WH AC	9261	9178	83	20	1660	83.84

OTHER CHARGES		AMOUNT	BILLING INFORMATION		AMOUNT
Previous Bill		200.00	Current Electric Charge		197.60
Balance Forward		-200.00	Power Cost Adjustment .0016000		4.03
Balance Forward		0.00	Local Option Tax		2.01
Operation Roundup		0.36	Total Current Billing		203.64
Total Other Charges		0.36	Net Amount Due		204.00
			Gross Amount Due After 07/10/22		204.00

PLEASE DETACH BOTTOM PORTION AND RETURN WITH YOUR PAYMENT

Account Number	123456
Name:	NORTH WEST REC MEMBER
Amount Due on 07/10/2023:	204.00
Amount Paid:	

Amount After Due Date: 204.00

NORTH WEST REC
PO BOX 435
ORANGE CITY, IA 51041-0435

Primary phone number: 712-123-4567.
If not correct, please update. _____
Thank you.



Lyle D. Korver

MANAGER'S *Report*

Board Approves a Record \$2,051,000 Patronage Retirement

I'm pleased to report that the Board of Directors has approved a significant deferred patronage dividends retirement to the members again this year. The total amount of the retirement will be \$2,051,000, which represents a record retirement amount. These patronage retirement funds will be distributed to the members at the fall Member Appreciation Day events.

What are deferred patronage dividends?

One of the benefits our members realize from being a member-owner of North West REC (NWREC) is to share in the net income or margins of the Cooperative. Following the closing of the Cooperative's books each year, the margins are assigned to the members based on the dollar amount of electricity they have purchased during the year. These assignments are referred to as deferred patronage dividends, and they are part of NWREC's equity and are retained for a period of years to enable NWREC to finance construction projects and other operating expenditures.

How long do I need to wait to receive the patronage dividends that have been assigned to me?

These deferred patronage dividends are retained by the Cooperative for a period of years and represent equity for the organization until the point in time when they are returned to the members. We are currently using a combination First In, First Out (FIFO) and Last In, First Out (LIFO) method. This gives an opportunity for both our long-time and our newer members to see the benefits of being a member of the Cooperative.

What year of business will this years' retirement be based on?

This year's retirement will cover the remaining assignment of the year 2010 and a portion of 2022's assignment.

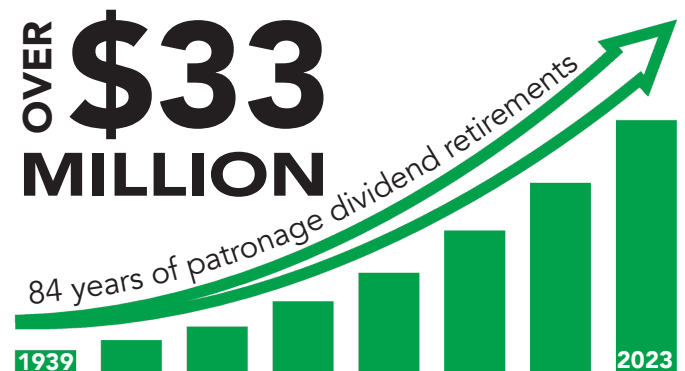


How will I receive my patronage refund?

We will be handing out patronage checks at our four Member Appreciation/Patronage Day events in August and September. (The dates are listed on page 2 of the newsletter.) If you aren't able to attend one of these events, your check will be mailed out later in September. If your refund amount is less than \$50, your patronage refund will be made in the form of a credit on your electric bill dated September 20.

How much has the Cooperative returned to the members in patronage refunds?

With this \$2,051,000 patronage refund, it brings the total patronage that has been returned to the members during the last 84 years to over **\$33 million!** We believe this is a true demonstration of what a Cooperative is about.



Two New Substations Under Construction

As we continue to experience load growth through the addition of new and expanding electric services, it's very important that we work closely with our power suppliers to ensure that we have adequate generation, transmission, and substation facilities to serve this load. Our power supplier, NIPCO, owns and operates the transmission and substation facilities, and Basin Electric owns and operates the generation facilities. With longer lead times and increasing costs, it is becoming increasingly challenging to plan and build new resources.

At the present time, NIPCO has thirty-two (32) substations in our four-county service area. With the continued growth that your Cooperative is experiencing, we have requested NIPCO to build two (2) new substations. One of these will be one mile south of Orange City and will serve the new MOC-Floyd Valley Elementary school and housing growth that we are seeing on the south edge of Orange City.



A third substation, the Hartley substation in O'Brien County, will be expanded to serve the growing value-added ag load in that area.

As we have shared many times, new load growth is good for our members and the Cooperative. It enables us to spread our fixed costs over more kilowatt hours and this has been one of the key factors that has positively impacted our rate stability efforts.



(Pictured above is the new Nassau substation south of Orange City. The crews have been busy working on installing the new underground line to the substation and to tie in with two of our other substations. Having the ability to "tie in" or transfer load from one substation to another during outages is an important factor in providing reliable service for our members.)

The second one is on the east edge of Rock Valley in the Rock Ridge Development park. Several existing businesses have continued to expand, such as Kooima Company and Kooima Ag, and we have seen a number of new businesses build in this area including a new Grand Stay Hotel, D & D Global, Frosted Frog and Valley Industrial Powder Coating, just to name a few.



2023 REBATES



Geothermal Heat Pump

Residential & C&I/Ag	\$1,400 per ton (new installs) \$750 per ton (replacement)
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Air Source Heat Pump

Residential & C&I/Ag	\$700 per ton (all electric heat) \$500 per ton (not all electric)
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Ductless Mini Split Heating/Cooling & P-Tac Unit

Residential	\$700 per unit (all electric heat) \$500 per unit (not all electric)
C&I/Ag all electric	\$800 per ton (new installs) \$400 per ton (replacement)
C&I/Ag not all electric	\$400 per ton (new installs) \$200 per ton (replacement)

Marathon Water Heaters - rebate applied your cost:

**Must have a switch to purchase at rebated price*

Size	Full Price	Rebated price
50 gallon	\$1,200	\$800
85 gallon	\$1,650	\$800
100 gallon	\$1,800	\$900
105 HD gallon	\$1,800	\$900
Hog Building (50 gallon only)	Full Price \$1,200	
New Home with all electric heat	—\$1000 off an 85 gal.	

Energy Star Certified New Electric Appliances

Clothes Washer	\$50 per unit
Clothes Dryer	\$25 per unit
Refrigerator	\$25 per unit
Freezer	\$25 per unit
Dishwasher	\$25 per unit



Appliance Recycling Program - max of 3 per year

Freezer	\$50 per unit
Refrigerator	\$50 per unit

Building Insulation

Residential	30% of install cost up to \$800
C&I/Ag	10% of install cost up to \$2,000

Variable Speed Motor & Soft Start Motors

C&I/Ag	\$30 per horsepower
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Electric Vehicle Chargers

Residential/ C&I/Ag	up to \$1000
*Hybrid Vehicles	up to \$750

Energy Assessments - call the office to schedule

Residential	costs \$45
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Many rebates have forms, maximum limits, and certain criteria that needs to be met in order to receive the rebate. For complete details on all of our rebates, and forms to apply, visit our website nwrec.coop or contact the office and we would be happy to review them with you.

Energy Efficiency LOANS FOR HOMEOWNERS



An energy-efficiency loan from North West REC can be an effective way to improve your home and save energy. The loan may be made for qualifying energy efficient home improvements such as new electric heating systems, an electric water heater, or energy efficient windows and doors.

If interested in an energy efficiency loan, members must complete a loan application and provide a complete itemized bill. This bill may include electric heat equipment, wiring, labor, electric water heater, and electric space conditioning equipment for cooling. Insulation expense, to improve the integrity of the building and the space to be conditioned, may also be included in a loan. Once submitted, the loan application and credit check will be reviewed by the board of directors for approval.

Other specifics of our loan program for North West REC members include:

- Minimum amount of \$500 to \$999 written for one year.
- Maximum amount of \$7,000 for equipment upgrade, written for three years.
- Maximum amount of \$4,000 for house improvement of insulation, doors, windows, caulking, weather-stripping, etc.
- 5.50% simple interest
- Monthly payments included on electric bill
- No penalty for early pay-off

North West REC will deduct any rebates from the total itemized bill and will finance up to 90% of the remainder upon approval from our board of directors.

Call us to find out if your home improvement project qualifies!

Energy-Saving Projects for the Weekend Warrior

Are you a weekend warrior? If you're considering home improvement upgrades that save energy and money, we've got a few project ideas for you—all of which can be completed in a day or less! Here are three energy-saving projects that you can easily tackle whether you're a weekend warrior pro or a DIY dabbler.

Get smart about home cooling and heating.



Cooling and heating your home typically account for a large portion of energy bills. Smart thermostats can help keep your cooling and heating costs in check, with ENERGY STAR®-certified models saving about 8% on annual energy costs.

Now that smart thermostats are more affordable (as little as \$70!), this simple upgrade makes for a fun, efficient weekend project. Smart thermostats offer a variety of bells and whistles, but the average model will allow you to set custom temperature schedules, adjust the settings from anywhere (from your phone), and over time, learn your cooling and heating preferences.

Your new smart thermostat will come with step-by-step instructions, but this project typically involves shutting off your HVAC at the breaker panel, disconnecting/removing the old thermostat, installing the new smart thermostat and connecting it to your home Wi-Fi. Play it safe: remember to carefully read the installation instructions before you get started.

Boost your greenery with a rain barrel.

If you've got a green thumb, you already know that rainwater is the best water for your outdoor plants. Rainwater is free of minerals, salts and treatment chemicals found in tap water or groundwater. It also contains helpful macronutrients to foster healthy plant growth.



Installing a rain barrel is an easy way to harvest large amounts of rainwater and reduce home water use—it's a win-win. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, one rain barrel can save a homeowner 1,300 gallons of water annually. Most residential rain barrels range in size from 50 to 90 gallons, so the size you purchase will depend on your watering needs.

The simplest way to install a rain barrel is positioning a plastic or wooden barrel directly under your gutter downspout. Basic piping may be required, but this is an easy way to harvest rainwater, and the barrel won't take up much space. Consider a cover for the top of your rain barrel to keep insects and small debris out of your harvested water.

Create fresh savings with a DIY clothesline.

If you have enough outdoor space available, installing a clothesline is a great way to save energy. Not only will you save on dryer costs—in the summer, you can also save on cooling costs since unwanted heat from the



clothes dryer won't be added to your home (which makes your air conditioner work harder). Additionally, air drying is much gentler on fabrics and will keep your clothes and linens looking fresh longer.

You can create your own clothesline with two T-posts, wire and hook-and-eye turnbuckles. Depending on your soil, you may need a small amount of Quikrete to set the posts. Another option is installing the line between two trees. A typical load of laundry requires about 35 feet of line, so keep this in mind as you're determining the best location.

These are just a few simple ideas to help you save energy and money. So, get out there, roll up those sleeves and tackle a few projects.

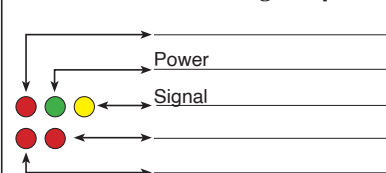


ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

Understanding your new RF switch

When our member service employees are hooking up your new RF load management switches, or replacing your old switch with one of our new RF load management switches, they will place a white or yellow sticker as shown here that explain the lights that are on your switch box. There should always be a green and yellow lights on showing there is power to your switch and it is receiving a signal. If any of the red lights are on, it means your switch is receiving a control signal to temporarily interrupt the power to the electric loads hooked up to your switch. These are electric loads such as: water heaters, air cooling and heating systems, irrigators, generators, or e-vehicle chargers.

Your Switch Makes Cents Lights Explained



712-707-4935 - Office hours
800-766-2099 - 24/7 & Outages

THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST REC

1. How much was the 2022 patronage dividend?
2. Name of the benefits to using SmartHub:
3. What is one of the dates of our Member Appreciation Days?

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 August 6. 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*

MAY 2023

Logan Kleinhesselink - Alton
 Donna Huls - Merrill
 Glenda Van Meeteren - Hull
 Alan Bennett - Galva
 Bruce Rohwer - Paullina

Steve Van Veldhuizen - Boyden
 Robert Pluegar - Le Mars
 Randy Taylor - Le Mars
 June Knop - Arthur
 Randy Van Kalsbeek - Hospers



ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

Which light is on if your switch is being controlled?

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 September 30. At the end of the quarter one name will be randomly drawn from all the correct entries for a prize. There will be a new question every month, participate up to 3 times a 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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