



NEWS *Lines*

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



NOVEMBER 2024

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Operation Round-Up Report

Disbursements made from North West REC's Operation Round Up Trust in the third quarter of 2024 totaled \$12,550. This brings the total disbursements made from Operation Round Up since its inception in June of 1999 to \$740,495.

Thank you to all of our members who willingly participate in the program to round up their bills to create change in our communities and help those in need. You have all made this program such a success. Thousands of local people have been helped since the start of this program thanks to you.

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, organizations, and families right in your local area.

\$ 4,500.....Medical Emergencies — Assists families with unusual expenses resulting from serious health problems and accident related injuries

\$ 8,050.....Program support — All Kids Can, Gehlen Catholic School, Ida County Crisis Funds, Le Mars Backpack Program, Le Mars United Way, Love Inc of Greater O'Brien County, Midwest Honor Flight, Noah's Ark Daycare, Orange City Community Chest, South O'Brien Backpack Program, Special Olympics Iowa, Upper Des Moines/O'Brien County Outreach, Whispers of Love, Hope, & Joy Inc.



L to R: Whispers of Love, Hope, and Joy employees; Pastor Deb Rensink and Becki Leusink, North West REC employee Brent Van Beek.

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

What Type Of Insulation Is Best For Your Home?

Insulation is an essential component of any home, as it helps regulate the temperature and reduce energy consumption. There are several types of insulation available for homeowners, including spray foam, blown-in, foam board or rigid foam panels, and loose fill cellulose. Each type of insulation has its own unique properties and is best suited for specific applications.

1. **Spray foam insulation:** This type of insulation is made from polyurethane foam. It is typically used in unfinished walls, including foundation walls, floors, and ceilings. Spray foam insulation is an excellent choice for insulating hard-to-reach areas and can help reduce air infiltration.
2. **Blown-in insulation:** This type of insulation is made from cellulose or fiberglass. It is typically used in unfinished walls, including foundation walls, floors, and ceilings. Blown-in insulation is an affordable option that can be installed quickly and efficiently.



3. **Foam board or rigid foam panels:** This type of insulation is made from polystyrene, polyisocyanurate, or polyurethane foam. It is typically used in unfinished walls, including foundation walls, floors, and ceilings. Foam board insulation has a high insulating value for relatively little thickness and can be easily cut to fit any space.
4. **Loose fill cellulose:** This type of insulation is made from recycled paper products that have been treated with fire retardant chemicals. It is typically used in unfinished walls, including foundation walls, floors, and ceilings. Loose fill cellulose insulation can be blown into hard-to-reach areas and can help reduce air infiltration.

When choosing the right type of insulation for your home, it's important to consider several factors such as the area of your home that needs to be insulated and your budget. You should also consider the R-value of the insulation material you choose as it indicates its insulating efficiency.

NORTH WEST REC BUILDING INSULATION REBATE - FORM ON OUR WEBSITE TO FILL OUT, PLEASE INCLUDE A COPY OF YOUR INVOICE

- BUILDING MUST BE ALL ELECTRIC AS THE PRIMARY HEATING SOURCE WITH ELECTRIC BACKUP
- MUST BE PROFESSIONALLY INSTALLED FOR BLOWN-IN, SPRAY FOAM, INSULATING CONCRETE FORMS, AEROSHEILD, RIGID STYROFOAM PANELS, AND/OR STRUCTURAL PANELS
- 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

Energy Assessments Available To Members

In addition to offering energy efficiency rebates, our Member Service department offers energy assessments to our members. Your Coop has an infrared camera to do these energy assessments. This camera creates images of temperature and points out where cold air leaks into a home or where electrical circuits might be dangerously hot.

When scheduling appointments, it is important to know that there needs to be at least a 20 to 30 degree difference between the inside and outside temperatures for the camera to work effectively.

Members will be charged \$45 for an energy assessment, applied to your electric account. Please call the office at 712-707-4935 to schedule an appointment. One of our member service personnel will conduct a walk-through of the house, with the member present, to look for possible ways to save energy. They will review a detailed list of energy efficiency ideas for potential savings. Simple changes in both lifestyle and in the home will pay you back year after year. Some of those improvements won't cost you a lot of money to put into effect.



Member Appreciation Days Thank You

It was great to see so many of our members at our four Member Appreciation events this fall. We want to take this opportunity to thank the members who attended. We have some pictures from the events and a list of the prize winners of the Blackstone electric griddle, electric leaf blower, Roomba, and kids bikes below.

O'Brien County Winners

Blackstone: Alexandra Fischer (Granville)

Leaf Blower: Wayne & Sheryl Storm (Archer)

Roomba: Blake Solsma (Primghar)

Bike: Ruth Wolters (Katie & Chris Wolters) (Sanborn)

Bike: Joseph Derry (Justin & Shaunna Derry) (Granville)

Sioux County Winners

Blackstone: Danette & Shawn Burrington (Maurice)

Leaf Blower: Bruce Mulder (Hull)

Roomba: Garret & Betty Visser (Sioux Center)

Bike: Navi Keizer (Brittany & Derek Keizer) (Sioux Center)

Bike: Micah Van De Stroet (Caleb & Denise Van De Stroet) (Inwood)

Ida County Winners

Blackstone: Colton & Marissa Skirvin (Ida Grove)

Leaf Blower: Keith Leonard (Holstein)

Roomba: Clay & Kimberly Miller (Ida Grove)

Bike: Macy Van Wyhe (Korey & Krystal Van Wyhe, Ida Grove)

Bike: Paisley Wittrock (Bryce & Ashley Wittrock, Ida Grove)

Plymouth County Winners

Blackstone: Bruce & Cleo Spence (Sioux City)

Leaf Blower: Orval Hinrichsen (Hinton)

Roomba: Duane & Shane Konz (Remsen)

Bike: Easton Breuer (Kevin & Jackie Breuer, Le Mars)

Bike: Emma Simonsen (Patrick & Kristina Simonsen, Le Mars)





Lyle D. Korver

MANAGER'S *Report*

Powering Lives, Empowering Communities: The Impact of Iowa's Electric Cooperatives

Iowa's electric cooperatives are proud to be owned by the members we serve. For more than 85 years, we've been committed to providing power that is safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable.

Electric cooperatives cover more than two-thirds of the state's land mass and maintain enough power lines to wrap around the equator two and a half times – that's close to 62,000 miles! Electric co-ops serve almost 240,000 households, farms and businesses throughout the state, which means we power the lives of approximately 650,000 Iowans throughout all 99 counties.

We serve primarily rural areas of the state and we're mission driven to improve quality of life for our member-owners. We adhere to seven core principles that guide all cooperatives:

- 1. Voluntary and open membership:** The co-op is open to any persons who are able and willing to join, accept responsibility as a part of the organization and can use the organization's services.
- 2. Democratic member control:** Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.
- 3. Members' economic participation:** Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative.
- 4. Autonomy and independence:** The members of the co-op determine everything it does, which allows the co-op to function independently.
- 5. Education, training and information:** Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.
- 6. Cooperation among cooperatives:** Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.
- 7. Concern for community:** While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.

Your Cooperative, North West REC, is governed by an 11 person board that has been elected by the members. The board and management team make decisions that are based on our Mission, Vision and Values Statements to benefit the member owners.

Our Mission

We will safely and efficiently provide reliable and affordable electric service to our members.

Our Vision

We want to enhance our members' quality of life by being their trusted and valued energy partner.

Our Values

Safety · Integrity
Accountability · Excellence
Innovation · Dependability
Environmental Responsibility ·
Commitment to our Members,
Employees, and Community

The following is a brief summary of the discussion and decisions from the board meeting that was held on September 28, 2023

- The monthly safety report was reviewed and approved.
- Membership applications of new members were approved.
- Manager Korver provided an update on operations, kWh sales, staffing and service reliability.
- Received financial reports from Curt Ahrenholz, Finance Director. kWh sales for August were up 7.5% and margins were very good. Margins year-to-date are above budget.
- An updated tariff was approved for filing with the Iowa Utilities Commission.
- A summary report was shared on the four Member Appreciation Day events that were held in August and September. We had a great turn out of members and young families. 2,434 people were served.
- James Vondrak, Information Technology Director, shared a technology update.
- Director Wagner gave reports on the recent NIPCO and Basin Board meetings.
- Director Rehder gave a CFC Board Report.
- Roxanne White, CEO of Evertek shared an update on the Holstein fiber project we are working on together through our N.E.T. Broadband partnership.
- Manager Korver reported on the meetings that were recently held with four of our State Senators and Representatives to visit about issues that will likely be on our legislative priority list for the 2025 session.
- Approved Operation Round-Up donations to several charitable organizations and medical emergency situations.



Left to Right: Shirley Schroeder; Steve Brown, Secretary; Doug Becker, Vice President; Jeff Rehder, President; Scott Feuerhelm; Steve Abma; Dale Ullrich, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; Daniel Van Beek; Dave Bosma; Dan Hoffman; Tom Wagner, Treasurer.



Why Should You Invest In A Heat Pump?

Maybe you were in the process of buying a home, watching the latest episode of your favorite house-hunting reality show, or just making small talk at the office water cooler when you heard the term "heat pump." Perhaps you wondered what it is or what it does. Although it has the word heat in its name, it does more than help warm your home.



Heat pumps for larger homes can save energy with a zone-heating feature, warming only rooms that are in use. High-efficiency heat pumps also dehumidify better than standard systems, resulting in less energy usage.

To determine the best heat pump system for your home, contact a reputable heat pump installer/contractor to assess your home's needs.

TYPES OF HEAT PUMPS

- **AIR-TO-AIR OR AIR-SOURCE PUMPS (ASHP)** are the most common and are powered by electricity. They have an outdoor compressor/condenser unit that warms or cools the coils inside the air handler. It then circulates the warmed or cooled air through the system and pushes the air through ducts back into rooms. For homes without air ducts, air-source heat pumps are also available in a ductless version called a mini-split heat pump.
- **GEOHERMAL HEAT PUMPS (GSHP)**, also known as ground-source or water-source heat pumps, can heat, cool, and even supply hot water to a home by transferring heat to or from the ground (or nearby water source), according to Energy.gov. Geothermal pumps cost more to install than other versions but have lower operating costs since they take advantage of relatively constant ground or water temperatures. They are typically more efficient and can be used in more extreme climates than air-source heat pumps (although air-source technology has improved).

WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW DO THEY WORK?

In general, a heat pump extracts heat from one place and transfers it to another (similar to how an air conditioner or refrigerator cools). In warmer months, a heat pump takes heat from inside a home and relocates it outdoors, helping to make your home cooler. In the cooler months, a heat pump produces heat energy from the outside and moves it inside, which helps to warm your home.

DO THEY SAVE ENERGY?

Since heat pumps move heat, instead of create it, they do save energy! Energy.gov estimates that today's heat pumps can reduce a home's electricity use for heating by approximately 50% compared to traditional systems like furnaces and baseboard heaters.



NORTH WEST REC ASHP & GSHP REBATES

GEOHERMAL HEAT PUMP – NEW UNITS INSTALLED ON OUR SYSTEM		NEW LOAD	REPLACEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RESIDENTIAL - MAXIMUM REBATE LIMIT OF 30% OF COST UP TO \$10,000 • COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/AG PROJECTS - 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 - 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 - 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

Make Your Harvest A Safe Harvest



The fall season brings excitement, fatigue and stress as farmers are trying to maximize their harvest with uncooperative weather, limited workers and shorter days. With the urgency felt by farm families during this season, here are a few safety reminders.

- The majority of roadway accidents involving farm equipment happen at dawn and at dusk. Check to make sure you have the recommended lighting on your tractor and wagons. Use an escort vehicle when necessary.
- When moving large equipment or high loads near a power line, always use a spotter, or someone to help make certain that contact is not made with the line.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
- Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level before moving or transporting. Use care when raising them back up.

- Always turn off the tractor BEFORE you get off the tractor to check or unclog any piece of equipment.
- Do not sacrifice your rest and nutrition. Take short breaks to get out and stretch, stay hydrated and pack nutritious snacks to eat throughout the day.

It is very important for operators of farm equipment or vehicles to know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line. It is always best to stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the REC arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.

If there is fire or imminent risk of fire, JUMP – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Continue to hop or shuffle to safety, keeping both feet together while leaving the area. Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Do your part to make this a safe harvest season!

Director Profile

Steve Abma

Family: Wife - Lavonne; Two daughters & their families - Jodi & Kevin Van Arendonk, Sydney and Ethan; Janae & Will Brown, Avery and Abe.

Occupation: Farmer

Interests: Loves going to Florida in the winter and going to Des Moines and Pella to spend time with kids and grandkids! Enjoys washing and waxing machinery.

What he enjoys about serving as an NWREC Director: I like serving on the board because we do real business with great people! Helping our members to make the cooperative work efficiently.



ARE YOU
**SWITCH
SMART?**

How does the Switch Makes Cents program save you money?

When you choose to participate in the Switch Makes Cents (SMC) load management program, you will have the benefit of avoiding peak demand costs as well as being able to receive the all-electric interruptible heat rate of just \$0.049 per KWH. This is for all KWH's sold for electric heating, cooling, and water heating usage that are connected to the switch! The SMC program also helps stabilize future power costs to your cooperative by reducing peak demand which determines, in part, the cost of electricity purchased by our wholesale power provider NIPCO. Reducing peak demand reduces the amount of electricity the electrical generation facilities need to produce, thus keeping them from having to build more facilities which would result in a higher price per kilowatt and more cost to you.

THE POWER QUIZ

NORTH WEST REC

1. How much is the rebate for a new geothermal heat pump?
2. Name a type of insulation that we rebate if your building has all electric heat:
3. Who was one of the winners at our member appreciation day events?

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 December 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*

SEPTEMBER 2024

Terry Fitzgerald - Le Mars
 Bart Peters - Sheldon
 Wilbur Wittrock - Battle Creek
 Verlyn Scheerhorn - Sanborn
 James Mai - Le Mars

Lyle Hoekstra - Sheldon
 Heath Hillrichs - Akron
 Don Riemenschneider - Kingsley
 Derek Stroman - Merrill
 Dennis Teut - Hinton



ARE YOU SWITCH SMART?

How does the Switch Makes Cents program save you money?

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 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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