

Let's Go Green Together

Get your REC newsletter electronically

You can now subscribe to receive the Hawkeye REC Newsletter monthly by email! You can do your part to help save paper, save money on mailing costs and help save our environment!

Go to www.hawkeyerec.coop to sign up (on the bottom of the home page). You will receive a monthly email with a link to the electronic newsletter. You must have Adobe Acrobat Reader downloaded on your computer (a free version is available at www.adobe.com). Remember to notify us if your email address changes at any time. Your email address remains confidential.

If you do not contact the REC office, you will still receive a printed copy of the newsletter

each month by mail.

Remember, a copy is also always available to download on our website at www.hawkeyerec.coop.

Save a Stamp

Why not sign-up for E-Bill or automatic payment programs too!

When you sign up for the E-Bill (online payment program), you can choose to receive your bill electronically as well.

Become environmentally friendly together with your electric cooperative.



New!

Receive your copy of the REC newsletter by email.



How They Reduced Their Carbon Footprint

Have you heard the expression “reducing your carbon footprint”? With all the recent buzz of ‘going green’ and being environmentally friendly, it’s important to understand this terminology. Hawkeye members John and Lou Ann Hall of rural Cresco have made a major impact on their carbon footprint and would like to share the small changes they implemented with the rest of the membership. They reduced their annual kilowatt usage by 30 percent!

First of all, what is a carbon footprint? A carbon footprint is a measure of the impact your activities have on the environment, and in particular climate change. It relates to the amount of greenhouse gases produced in our day-to-day lives through burning fossil fuels for electricity, heating and transportation etc. The carbon footprint is a measurement of all greenhouse gases we individually produce and has units of tonnes (or kg) of carbon dioxide equivalent.

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Become An Energy Manager

This past month I had the opportunity to meet with the Hawkeye REC Board of Directors and offer my assistance on an interim basis to serve as your cooperative's general manager. My name is Brian Krambeer and I am the President/CEO of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Rushford, Minnesota. Electric Cooperative's have a long history of helping each other out. I welcome the opportunity to work with the staff and members of Hawkeye REC and to provide the Hawkeye Board of Directors the time to make a good decision on the future management of your cooperative.

As you well know, electric energy costs are on the increase not only at our cooperative, but with electric utilities all across the county. We're projecting more electric appliances, electronic devices and lifestyle uses for electric energy in the future. There is also discussion on the movement from other fuels to electricity. Transportation and the movement away from gasoline to rechargeable electric cars is just one example. This all adds up to increasing demand for electricity, but we have only started the beginning stages of a national energy policy led by President Obama to determine the sources of our future generation resources.

There have been few new baseload generation plants constructed in the past five years. The limited generation has predominantly consisted of gas combustion turbines – subject to volatile price swings. Climate change legislation has limited new coal generation facilities being built and additional nuclear power re-

mains undecided, while decisions on long-term storage facilities at Yucca Mountain are buried in Congress. While we're seeing lots of wind generation being constructed, wind is only a very small piece of the puzzle. Technology remains to be developed for wind power storage to improve its limited availability, which as a nation was recently calculated at less than 25%. So what do we do today?

A recent Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) report states that "Energy Efficiency" is our greatest opportunity to help bridge the time gap between the development of new technologies to economically and efficiently generated electricity. This report estimates that the demand for electricity can be reduced as much as 22% over the next 20 years, reducing the annual growth from 1.07% to .083%. Energy efficiency is a tangible task we can do today that will provide a direct benefit to members that take action. In addressing energy efficiency, it is also important to differentiate it from conservation.

Energy efficiency is simply using energy more efficiently, such as using compact fluorescent lights (CFL's) rather than incandescent lights. It's using a ground source heat pump for heating and cooling rather than an 85% efficiency furnace and a window air conditioner. It's purchasing a new energy efficiency refrigerator and not putting the old one in the garage to cool beer. It's not a change in lifestyle or comfort so much as it's being efficient with the energy used.

Conservation on the other hand is much different than energy efficiency. Remember President Carter encouraged everyone to put on a sweater and turn down the thermostat



Brian Krambeer
Interim General Manager
(563) 547-3801 • (800) 658-2243
bkrambeer@tec.coop

to save energy? Conservation is not adding CFL's, it's doing without or changing your lifestyle.

During this difficult economic period, we need to utilize both energy efficiency and conservation. I believe we can use less energy and still retain our lifestyle. It is our goal at your cooperative to provide educational resources and information for you to become an energy manager for your home, farm and business. We will provide you all the tools and resources you need to improve energy efficiency and lower your electric bills.

Thank you for your support of Hawkeye REC and I encourage you to stay in touch with the programs and resources available for you from Hawkeye REC to control your energy costs.

I welcome your call, e-mails and personal visits.


Brian

New State Electric Inspection Program

As of March 1, 2009, most new electrical installations in the State of Iowa are subject to an electrical permit and inspection program, either by an existing political subdivision or by a state electrical inspector.

Hawkeye REC is required to follow section 103.28(1) of the Iowa Code. This states that “no electrical installation under this chapter shall be newly connected or reconnected for use until the electrical inspector has filed with the electrical utility supplying power a certificate stating that the electrical inspector has approved such energization”.

If the state does not perform an inspection within three working days of the request, the electric utility can energize the electric service. It is important that members realize the extra time needed so that scheduling, inspections and releases can be performed in a timely matter.

This new policy could affect the timing of turning on the electric service for new home construction and remodeling projects, as well as re-connecting a service after it has been shut off. This includes grain bins and pump services that have been disconnected when not in use.

Inspectors in our area

Chickasaw & Howard counties:

Tony Servantez • (641) 425-5133

Winneshiek County:

Jay Schroeder • (563) 451-7029

NE District Electrical Inspector Supervisor:

Chuck Carpenter • (319) 415-4952
carpenter@dps.state.ia.us

For more information including a fee schedule, please call (866) 923-1082 or visit iowaelectrical.gov

Do I Still Have to Read My Meter?

It's very important to look closely at your bill statement as you may have to read your meter again

Have you been confused on whether or not you need to read your meter? Has your meter reading been estimated recently? Even if an AMR (automated meter reading) meter has been installed at your location for months or even years, it is possible that you may need to provide a meter reading again. You are not alone. When implementing any new technology, there are always a few issues to work out. The AMR meters have been no exception. Throughout our service territory, some of these meters are not reading electronically on a regular basis.

Your cooperative is working hard to resolve this issue and we apologize for the inconvenience. Shown here are two examples of the monthly billing statement.

This example shows a meter that is read automatically by Hawkeye REC (means the AMR meter provided an electronic meter reading).

Account Number: 12345678, Amount Due Upon Receipt: 269.79, Statement Date: 03/11/2009, Delinquent After: 04/01/2009

IMA MEMBER
123 ANY STREET
ANYTOWN, IA 00000

Hawkeye REC
PO Box 90
Cresco IA 52136-0090

Your meter(s) are automatically read by Hawkeye REC.

This example shows a location where we did not receive an electronic meter reading by the last day of the month and the member needs to provide a reading.

Account Number: 12345678, Amount Due Upon Receipt: 269.79, Statement Date: 03/11/2009, Delinquent After: 04/01/2009

IMA MEMBER
123 ANY STREET
ANYTOWN, IA 00000

Hawkeye REC
PO Box 90
Cresco IA 52136-0090

Enter Meter Reading(s) Below: 6 5 7 8

Note: If you have multiple accounts, some may be automatically read and some may require the member to provide a meter reading that month.

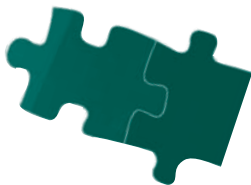
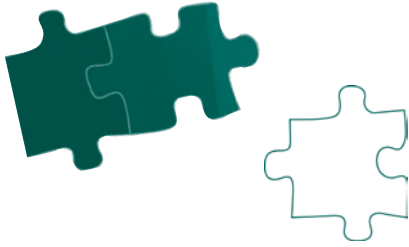
An electronic meter reading is generated on the last day of each month. If that particular meter doesn't generate a reading, the kilowatt usage gets estimated for the month which can fluctuate the charges reflected on the bill.

Thank you for your cooperation during this project.

Three ways to submit a reading:

- return with bill payment
- call (800) 658-2243
- online at www.hawkeyerec.coop

Bringing All the Pieces Together



Plan to attend your cooperative's annual meeting and learn how we are "Bringing all the pieces together."

Annual Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, April 15
Crestwood High School
Cresco

- 6:30 p.m. Doors open and registration begins
- 7:00 p.m. Business Meeting
Election of 3 Directors
Unfinished/New Business
Drawing for Attendance Prizes
Milk, coffee and kolaches served after the meeting

Remember to Vote

You should have received your official notice for the annual meeting along with candidate biographies and a voting ballot for members in Chickasaw and Winneshiek counties. There is an uncontested election in Howard County this year. Please vote and return your ballot in the provided return envelope to your electric cooperative before April 15. The incumbent in Howard County will be elected at the Annual Meeting and therefore no ballot is needed for members in Howard County.

Director Candidates

Chickasaw County



Dean Fisher



Neal Schwickerath

Howard County



Roger Nibaur

(running unopposed)

Winneshiek County



Charles Frana



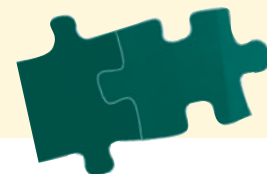
William McGee

Top Ten Reasons to Attend Your Annual Meeting

10. Enjoy the delicious FREE kolaches & refreshments.
9. Everyone receives an attendance gift.
8. Bring your registration card for a chance to win an electric bill credit.
7. Enjoy a photo slideshow recapping the year 2008.
6. Test your cooperative knowledge by completing the annual meeting crossword puzzle.
5. Check out the cooperative's products and services - see how you can save energy.
4. Be a part of the democratic process and vote for your board of directors.
3. Socialize with other cooperative members – greet old friends and meet new ones.
2. Meet your cooperative employees and directors.

And the number one reason you should attend your cooperative's Annual Meeting is:

1. It's your cooperative!
You are a member, and as a member you own the business – so find out more about how you personally benefit from being a cooperative member.



Living Alone?

Security whenever you need it, for as long as you need it!

Meet Esther Linderbaum, a Hawkeye client that has appreciated the security of the First Call program for 13 years. This is the longest for any client in the program. It wasn't long after Hawkeye REC implemented the First Call emergency response unit program that Esther's family called to install a unit for their mother. Not only does Esther appreciate it, but the safety and security that it provides Esther has given her family peace of mind. And they realize what a good decision it has been. Esther has used it to summon help on three different emergency situations.

"I wouldn't be able to live here alone without it. No way. This is my key to independence and I'm 95 years old!" Esther explains.

Over 300 clients depend on this local and reliable service from Hawkeye REC. Hawkeye has been providing this great service since 1993, which is open to members and non-members in Chickasaw, Howard and Winneshiek counties. Call Karen at Hawkeye today to sign-up one of your family members who would like to keep their independence and live in their own home.

"Help is available 24-hours a day at the press of a button."



Esther Linderbaum of Cresco.



\$30.50 monthly fee
\$47.50 install fee
(plus tax)

Accepting Bids for Lawn Mowing

Please submit a sealed bid if you are interested in lawn mowing and general grounds keeping responsibilities at Hawkeye's corporate headquarters. Bids must be returned by April 15. Please put 'LAWN MOWING BID' on the outside of the envelope.

For information regarding bids please contact Cindy at Hawkeye.



Replacing your Grain Dryer...Adding Geothermal in 2009?



USDA Rural Development is offering grants and guaranteed loans to help rural business or agricultural producers looking to produce renewable energy or make energy-saving improvements to their facilities or farms. A popular use of the program has been to assist in the purchase of new, more efficient grain-drying systems.

**Funds are not available for residential use.*

Contact Pat Boyle at (563) 547-3801 for more information or go to www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia.

Hawkeye members received over \$365,000 in grants during 2008 for energy efficiency/renewable energy projects.

Spring is Here...

As the weather turns nicer, here are a few things to remember during the spring season



Plant Seeds of Caution Around Power Lines

The risk of electrocution remains one of the greatest hazards on Iowa farms. Before heading back into the fields this spring, Hawkeye REC reminds farm workers to be particularly alert to dangers near overhead power lines.



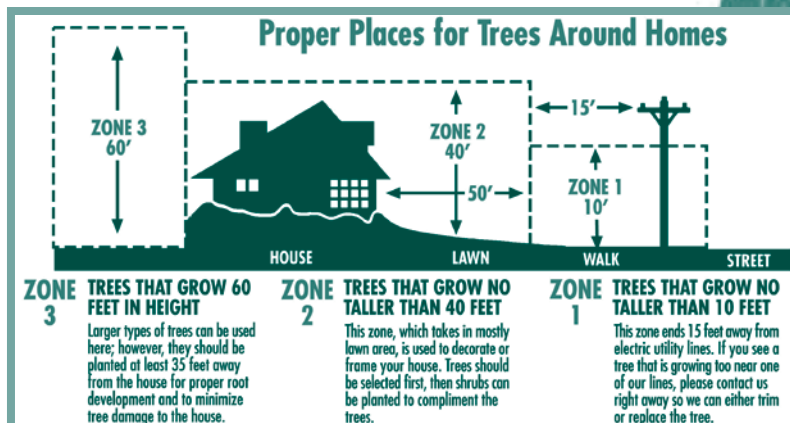
ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

811

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

Safe Digging is No Accident: Always Call 811 Before You Dig

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig. Visit call811.com for more information.



Earth Day is April 22

2009... the Green Generation Campaign!



Take Pride
in Our
Environment



Commute
Smart



Use
Energy
Wisely



Support
Renewable
Energy



Use
Less
Water



Reduce
Reuse
Recycle

Smart Shopping

500 million to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide annually.

Received YOUR free, reusable shopping bag at your annual meeting on April 15.



Ditch Burning...

can cause a great deal of trouble if the fire is allowed to burn around Cooperative poles, guy wire anchors or underground cable cabinets.

Uncontrolled fires endanger lives, damage electrical facilities and cause unnecessary interruptions in electric service. Please take care when burning ditches this spring season.

She's
off to
save the
earth.



You can help.

For as little as \$1.50 per month you can do more to support renewable energy and protect our environment.

Evergreen
YOUR ENERGY CHOICE FOR THE FUTURE

Renewable Energy from
Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative



If interested in signing up, please call the office or go to www.hawkeyerec.coop to download the form and return to Hawkeye.

Three Long-time Hawkeye Employees Retire

A combination of over 100 years of service to Hawkeye REC



Roger Halverson

Roger Halverson started as a lineman on April 16, 1973. Roger was most recently the Operations Manager at Hawkeye. Some of his favorite things to do in his spare time include hunting, long rides in his jeep and working with his Brittany puppy, Charlie. Roger's family includes his wife Becky, and children Tamara, Troy, Trent and Erin. Roger also enjoys spending time with his grandchildren. Roger's last day was March 16th.



Eldred Rethamel

Eldred Rethamel, known as El to most Hawkeye employees, started as an operator/lineman for Hawkeye May 1, 1972. El was born and raised in Howard County. El loves the outdoors with fishing and hunting at the top of his list. El and his wife Pat enjoy their pets, a black lab and four cats. El is looking forward to traveling, spending time on his farm near Schley and of course more hunting and fishing. El's last day was March 31st.



Dick Schorr

Dick Schorr, more commonly known around Hawkeye as RAS (Richard Allen Schorr), started as an operator/lineman for Hawkeye May 1, 1973. Dick and his wife Linda have two children, Chad who is a lineman for Mid-American Energy and Lori. They also have two grandchildren, Cohen and Logan. Dick and Linda enjoy NASCAR and riding their Harley. Dick's last day was February 13th.



We wish you all the best in your retirement! Thank you for your dedication to the cooperative for so many years.

Carbon Footprint (from front cover)

Let's take a look at the comparison from John and Lou Ann's usage from 2005 to 2008. (This is solely based on electric consumption)

	2005	2008
Total kWh's:	8,362	5,824
Average kWh's:	696.8	485.3

They saved 2,538 kWh's which is equivalent to a savings of over 1 ton of coal.

They reduced their kilowatt usage by 30 percent since 2005 and used 47 percent less than the national average in 2008.

What an impressive change! All members of Hawkeye are encouraged to do the same! Let's make a difference in our future!

What they did to reduce their energy usage:

- Purchased a new energy star washing machine
- Purchased a dehumidifier for the summer
- Used the air conditioner less
- Reduced dryer use by 60 percent in the summer
- Kept their house a few degrees warmer in summer
- Kept their house a few degrees cooler in winter (65°)
- Replaced some light bulbs to CFL's (compact fluorescent light bulbs)
- Turned off lighting in rooms when not in use
- Turned off hot water heater designated for their in-floor heat during the summer



"They reduced their kilowatt usage by 30 percent since 2005 and used 47 percent less than the national average in 2008."

To learn more on how to reduce your carbon footprint and to calculate your actual footprint, go to <http://www.carbonfootprint.com/>

LAST CALL

Hawkeye REC offering five \$500 scholarships

Any graduating high school senior, whose parents or guardians are members of the Cooperative, are eligible for the Hawkeye REC scholarship. Applications are available at your area high school guidance counselor office, at the REC office or can also be downloaded at Hawkeye's website www.hawkeyerec.coop. Please visit our website for additional information, requirements and this year's essay question.

Return the completed application to the Cooperative by **April 13, 2009** with the following:

- Copy of the student's high school transcript
- Letter of recommendation from a teacher, advisor or counselor
- Essay (minimum 250 words)

"Do You Remember When?"

In December of 2011, Hawkeye REC will be celebrating 75 years since the formation of your electric cooperative. We will be celebrating throughout the anniversary year, but would like to first gather stories and photos from people who "remember when the lights came on." Please contact Meagan at the REC office if you or someone you know would be interested in passing their story down through the generations. In order to meet deadlines to publish the anniversary book, please contact Meagan by May 1, 2009.

Are you replacing lighting in your home, business or agricultural facility?

You could qualify for a rebate from Hawkeye

Requirements:

Must be purchased in 2009

Must be a Hawkeye REC member

Download the rebate form at www.hawkeyerec.coop or call for a form.

Hard-wired CFL (electronic ballast)	\$5 per ballast
Cold Cathode CFL	\$2 per lamp
Light Emitting Diode (LED) lamps	\$2 per bulb
LED Holiday Light Strings (12 per account)	\$2 per string
LED Exit Sign	\$5 per sign

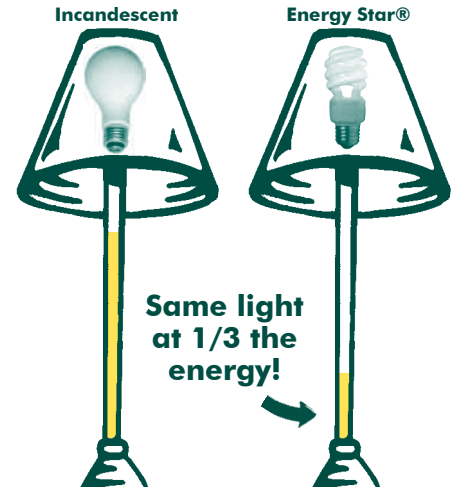
Energy Efficient Lighting

- New lighting systems and retrofits of existing systems are eligible
- Any combination of five ballasts or fixtures is required as a minimum
- Ballasts or fixtures must be hard-wired

Electronically ballasted fluorescent fixtures = \$6.50 per ballast

Metal Halide Fixtures = \$10.00 per fixture

Sodium vapor fixtures = \$10 per fixture



Purchase a CFL lightbulb from Hawkeye

Stop in and purchase a bulb today.

Price does not include tax.

Other styles also available.

14-watt (60-watt equivalent) = \$1.50

20-watt (75-watt equivalent) = \$2.00

23-watt (100-watt equivalent) = \$2.50

To The Hawkeye REC Team -

I want to send a heart-felt personal note of thanks to your whole team who helped respond to the down power line at our home on Monday afternoon (March 2)! Your prompt and expert help is so appreciated! Thank you for a job well-done!



With Thanks,
Kirsten Heine
Decorah



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Artificial lighting accounts for nearly 15 percent of a household's electricity consumption. Use of new lighting technologies can reduce lighting energy use in homes by 50 to 75 percent. Reduce energy use by selecting lighting that uses energy more efficiently, and by installing lighting controls.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Recipes...

Save Time & Money...

Cooking meals in a microwave can use up to 50 percent less energy than using a conventional oven.

Send or e-mail your favorite recipe.

If we print your recipe in our newsletter you'll receive \$5 off your next electric bill.

E-mail to: mmoellers@hawkeyerec.com

May – Recipes that use bananas (Need by April 15)

June – Recipes that use ice cream (Need by May 15)

All recipes can be found on our website.



Microwave Goulash

1 lb. ground beef	1/3 c. ketchup
1 small onion (chopped)	1 T. brown sugar
1 c. uncooked macaroni	1/2 t. salt
1 (8 oz.) can tomato sauce	1/4 t. pepper
1 1/2 c. water	1/4 t. chili powder

Crumb ground beef in 2 quart glass casserole. Stir in onion. Cover. Microwave on high for 3 minutes. Drain and stir in remaining ingredients. Recover and microwave on DEFROST for 30-35 minutes or until macaroni is tender. Let stand, covered for 5 minutes before serving.

A great recipe for today's busy, working world.

Donna Rue • Ridgeway



Tip: If you have to use a conventional oven, prepare double recipes when you can and freeze what you don't eat for future use. Re-heat with the microwave.

Dangerous Microwave Cupcake

Mix well:

3 T. sugar	3 T. milk
4 T. flour	3 T. oil
2 T. baking cocoa	Splash of vanilla
1 egg	

Pour into large coffee mug. Microwave for 3 minutes at 1,000 watts. Tip out on plate and serve with ice cream. The dangerous part is that you are only a short time away from a great dessert!!!!

Arlene Riensche • Cresco

Caramel Corn

1 c. brown sugar	1/2 t. salt
1/2 c. butter	1/2 t. baking soda
1/4 c. white corn syrup	3 to 4 qt. popped popcorn

Microwave brown sugar, butter and corn syrup for 2 minutes. Add salt and baking soda; stir well. Pour over popcorn and stir. Microwave for 4 minutes, stirring after each minute. When done, spread out on waxed paper in single layer until dry, then place in baggies or airtight container.

Lynn Keck • Decorah



Swedish Meatballs

1 small onion (chopped)
1/4 c. bread crumbs
1/2 t. salt
1 egg
2 T. milk
1 lb. ground beef

Sauce:

1 can cream of mushroom soup
1/2 c. sour cream
1/4 c. milk
dried parsley

Combine eggs, milk, onion, bread crumbs, and milk. Shape into 1 inch meatballs. Cover and microwave on high 10 minutes. Drain juices. Combine soup, sour cream, milk, and parsley. Pour over meatballs. Cover and cook an additional 7-8 minutes or until heated through. They are delicious over noodles, rice or with fried potatoes.

I'm a working mom, and this recipe is one that everyone can agree on!

Leslie Raymond • Lawler



Tip: Always use a microwave safe container AND lid every time you cook or re-heat. You want to capture the water/steam and steam the food, not use the microwaves themselves to cook the food.



PO Box 90 - Cresco, Iowa 52136
1-800-658-2243 or 547-3801
www.hawkeyerec.coop

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday • 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(Closed Sat., Sun., & Holidays)

OUTAGES

1-800-927-5265

IOWA STATE ONE CALL

1-800-292-8989

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dean Fisher, President - Lawler
Dean Nierling, Vice President - Burr Oak
Dennis Ptacek, Secretary/Treasurer - Elma
Norman Dickman - Decorah
John Hockspeier - Alta Vista
Janelle Mahr - Lime Springs
Roger Nibaur - Elma
Charles Frana - Calmar
Dennis Young - Decorah

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Brian Krambeer, Interim General Manager
Mike Walton, Interim Operations Manager
Jim Murphy, Information Tech. Manager
Cindy Christensen, Communications Manager
Peggy Berg, Chief Financial Officer
Pat Boyle, Business Dev./Mbr. Serv. Manager

EDITOR

Meagan Moellers

Hawkeye REC

PO Box 90
Cresco, Iowa 52136



DATES TO REMEMBER

BILLING CYCLE DATES

- April 10 Hawkeye REC prints bills based on March meter reading.
- April 13 Bills are mailed to members from NISC in St. Louis.
- April 25 Member reads meter and records on payment voucher. Please mail your bill today to make sure it arrives to Hawkeye by the 1st of May.
- April 28 Disconnect services for non-payment.
- April 28 Automated payments from checking accounts and credit/debit cards are processed.
- April 30 AMR meters are read by the cooperative.
- May 1 Bills become delinquent.

OTHER EVENTS

- April 15 Annual Meeting
- April 29 Hawkeye REC Board Meeting



Just a
LITTLE BIT OF CHANGE
can make a whole lotta difference.

Believe it or not, when you switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs, you're changing a whole lot more than just a bulb. You're changing the way you use electricity. Or rather, the way you'll use less of it. Switching to compact fluorescent bulbs can reduce your lighting costs by up to 70%. And that's just the start. By ensuring your home is well insulated, properly sealed, and using energy efficient appliances, a lot of little changes can really add up. To learn more about saving energy, visit touchstoneenergysavers.com.



The Power Is Yours

Looking out for you.