

● MARCH 2025

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING



**Changes in Washington
signal positive energy impact**

**Inside Iowa's power
plant museum**

Seafood recipes

Youth Tour applications open until March 21 ▶ See Page 5

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ADVOCATE FOR AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE POWER

Nearly 170 senior staff and directors from Iowa electric cooperatives, including Prairie Energy Cooperative, traveled to downtown Des Moines on Jan. 14 to attend our annual reception at the start of the 91st General Assembly of the Iowa Legislature. At the event, co-op advocates were able to discuss concerns and priorities face to face with their state legislators. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives hosted the reception in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Communications Alliance, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and FUEL Iowa.

Representatives from Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives covered several important issues that could impact the affordability and reliability of electricity for the members and communities we serve.

Our top legislative priority this session is protecting the state's defined electric service territories. In Iowa,



your location determines which electric utility will serve your home, farm or business. For almost 50 years, these defined electric service areas have provided certainty to electric cooperatives as we work to maintain affordable rates, foster a resilient electric grid and invest in economic development throughout rural Iowa. We strongly oppose any efforts to change or amend the service territory law and you can learn more about this issue at www.ProtectRuralIowa.com.

Advocacy continues throughout the session

In the coming months, Iowa's 91st General Assembly will be addressing a multitude of issues, including

energy-related matters that are central to Iowa's rural economy. Beginning with the Welcome Back Legislative Reception, Iowa electric cooperatives will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues as we work to power lives and empower communities. We'll have another opportunity to advocate for our members and communities at our annual Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) Day on the Hill event on March 19.

Learn more about our advocacy efforts at www.IARuralpower.org.



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Office Hours:
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Closed Saturdays, Sunday and holidays

Phone:
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1-800-728-0013 (24/7)

Email: prairieenergy@prairieenergy.coop

Facebook: facebook.com/PrairieEnergyCooperative

Website: www.prairieenergy.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer



SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR TWO POSITIONS ON THE PECO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Prairie Energy Cooperative (PECO) is a member-owned electric cooperative governed by a board of directors. As a member, one of your most important roles is to participate in the election of directors. You can get more involved in your cooperative by serving on the board of directors.

Two positions on PECO's seven-member board of directors will be open for election this June. The two-year terms of the following directors will expire: Allyn Waddingham, District 3, and Donald Christopherson, District 7.

Christopherson will not seek re-election. Waddingham has indicated his willingness to serve another term.

If you are a member in either District 3 or District 7 and are interested in serving on the board of directors, contact the nominating committee member in your district by March 15.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

District 3

Dean Avery

1050 Yale Ave
Meservey, IA 50457
641-512-2322

District 7

Sharon Mitchell

2496 Swallow Ave
Duncombe, IA 50532
515-351-7281

Wayne Salgren

3111 Taylor Ave
Lehigh, IA 50557
515-359-2921



HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS: WIN A FREE TRIP TO D.C.



Apply for Youth Tour
2025 by March 21!

At Prairie Energy Cooperative (PECO), 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 sophomore or junior with a passion for government and public service to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital in June.

We are accepting Youth Tour applications now through March 21.

High school students from any of PECO's 11 counties are eligible to apply and the student must be a current high school sophomore or junior. The application process consists of completing our application form, which includes an essay question.

You can download our form at www.prairieenergy.coop/youth-tour or stop by our office for a printed copy. Contact our member services

staff Darren Johnson or Chad Chapman at 515-532-2805 or mbrsrv@prairieenergy.coop for more information.

For more than 65 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 a passion for government affairs or advocacy.

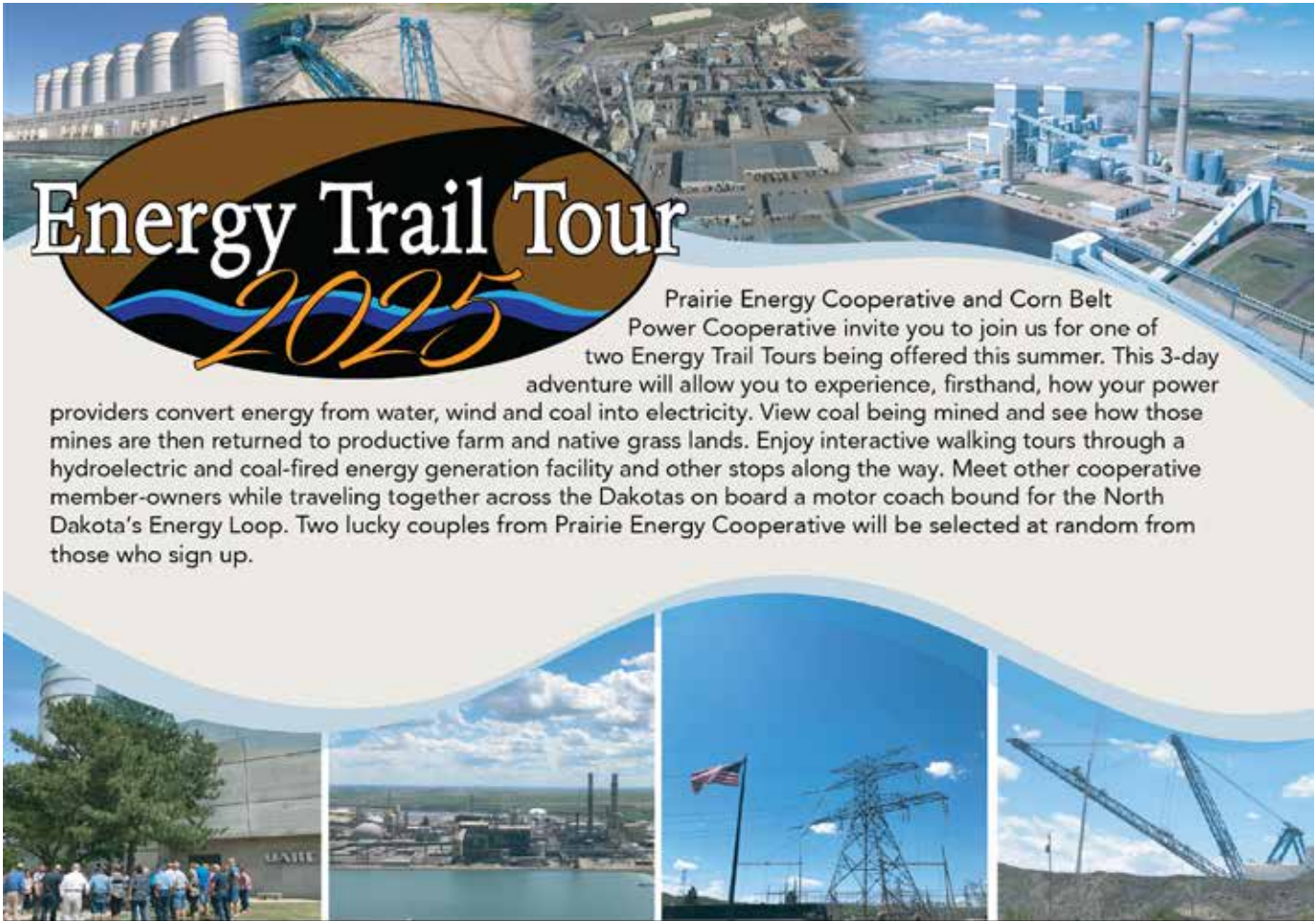


SAVE THE DATE

Save the date for Prairie Energy Cooperative's Annual Member Appreciation Day on Thursday, July 17, in Clarion. The event will be from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and it will be fun for the whole family! Keep an eye on future newsletters as well as our Facebook page for teasers and more information. We look forward to seeing you!



Save the date for Member Appreciation Day • July 17



Energy Trail Tour 2025

Prairie Energy Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of two Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer. This 3-day adventure will allow you to experience, firsthand, how your power providers convert energy from water, wind and coal into electricity. View coal being mined and see how those mines are then returned to productive farm and native grass lands. Enjoy interactive walking tours through a hydroelectric and coal-fired energy generation facility and other stops along the way. Meet other cooperative member-owners while traveling together across the Dakotas on board a motor coach bound for the North Dakota's Energy Loop. Two lucky couples from Prairie Energy Cooperative will be selected at random from those who sign up.

YES, please enter our names in the drawing for the trip.

Our first and second choice of dates:

June 18-20 1st 2nd (please circle)
 July 9-11 1st 2nd

I/we have have not participated in this tour in the past.

First Person _____

Second Person _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Clip this coupon and return to cooperative by April 25.

UNDERSTANDING FACTORS THAT IMPACT YOUR ENERGY BILLS

The past couple months brought some of the coldest weather of the year, and as our home heating systems work harder and longer to keep us warm, we typically see higher energy bills.

There are a few key factors that affect electricity prices, as well as a few ways you can make a meaningful impact on home energy savings.

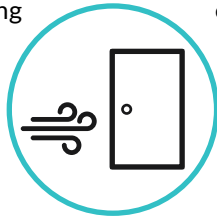
When you receive your monthly bill from Prairie Energy Cooperative (PECO), you're provided with a summary of how much electricity you used during the billing cycle. You can even see how electricity use may have spiked on days when you used more electricity, such as a particularly chilly day or when relatives were staying with you.

But you might be surprised to learn that beyond your monthly energy consumption, there are external factors that can impact the cost of electricity.

Fuel prices

PECO purchases electricity from our power generation partner Corn Belt Power Cooperative (Corn Belt Power) at a wholesale cost, then we deliver that power to our local communities. The cost of generating and transmitting electricity from our generation partner accounts for a significant portion of the cost to provide electric service to local homes and businesses.

The cost of fuels that are used to generate that electricity, such as natural gas and coal, fluctuate based on supply and demand. While these fluctuations can impact the cost of electricity, we work closely with



Corn Belt Power to plan ahead and help stabilize electricity prices for our members.

Extreme weather

While we can't control the weather, we can review weather patterns and forecasts to prepare for times of extreme cold or heat, when we know the demand for electricity will increase. But when temperatures become extremely cold and the demand for electricity spikes, the price of electricity can also increase.

Infrastructure and equipment

To cover the costs associated with providing electricity to your home or business, PECO members pay a monthly facility charge. This flat monthly fee ensures the cost of equipment, materials, labor and daily operations are covered for all members in PECO's service territory. To ensure the reliable service you expect and deserve, we must maintain the local grid, including power lines, substations and other essential equipment.

Energy policy and regulations

Federal energy policies and regulations can have a profound impact on electricity costs. As energy generation shifts to the use of more renewable sources and stricter regulations for traditional, always-available fuel sources, such as natural gas and coal plants, costly upgrades and technologies must be constructed and deployed. These additional costs are ultimately passed to consumers.

Some industry forecasts predict that U.S. power consumption could double by 2050.

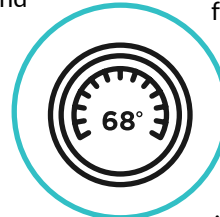


Across the country, electric cooperatives are working with members of Congress to advocate for smart energy policies that reliably power our local communities.

You have control

While many of these external factors that impact electricity costs are out of our control, we all have the power to manage our energy use at home. The most effective way to lower use is thermostat management. Since heating and cooling account for a major portion of home energy use, adjusting the thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting can help you save energy and money. Remember to service your heating and cooling system annually and replace dirty filters as needed.

You can also reduce energy use by taking advantage of off-peak periods, when the demand for electricity is lower. Reserve energy-intensive chores for off-peak times, such as early in the morning or later in the evening, to save energy. Be sure to seal air leaks around windows, doors and other areas where gaps are possible. This will help your heating and cooling system work less and improve the overall comfort of your home.



PECO is your local energy partner, and we're here to help. Visit www.prairieenergy.coop to learn about our efficiency programs designed to help you save. As always, we will continue working diligently to provide you with reliable power at an affordable cost.



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The magazine
for members of
Iowa's electric
cooperatives

March 2025

Visit our website at www.prairieenergy.coop



WHERE

WE FIND POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS

WE

WILL EMPOWER OUR MEMBERS TO

LIVE

THEIR PASSIONS



Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®

As your **Touchstone Energy® cooperative**, we are your energy community. The power we provide is much more than a way to keep the lights on, it plugs into the family, friends, and neighbors that make up your local co-op.