


THE MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS OF SOUTHERN IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.



living with energy

IN IOWA

SEPTEMBER 2011

Focus on farm safety this fall!

Win a ceiling fan you can install in just 5 minutes

See Page 5



Federal regulations spur new lighting options

Glass-block windows are a safe and efficient option

Cleaning a bathroom fan doesn't have to be exhausting

Safety Matters

Are your grain bins ready for harvest?

Harvest season is fast approaching. SIEC encourages you or your electrician to check your grain bin electrical services before harvest season, to be sure they're in proper working order.



Planning ahead will help eliminate delays during the harvest. Please contact the co-op at 641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027 to schedule assistance in getting your equipment ready.

Also, always be aware of overhead lines when working around grain bins. Have a safe and bountiful harvest!



Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Our mission is to serve our members and community by safely providing reliable and environmentally responsible power and other services efficiently and at a competitive price to benefit members and improve the quality of life in the areas that we serve.

Office: 22458 Highway 2, P.O. Box 70, Bloomfield, IA 52537-0070

Phone: 641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027

Phone Payments: 800-927-5341

Report Outages: 800-607-2027

Call Before You Dig – Iowa One Call: 800-292-8989

Web Site: www.sie.coop

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

Management

Mark Aeilts, Manager/CEO

Tami Weilbrenner, Finance and Admin. Manager/CFO

Jeremy Wilcox, Operations Manager/COO

Board of Directors

Paul Wells, President

Dean Black

Trent Gregory, Vice President

Darrell Downing

Joy Evans, Treasurer

Donnie White

David Hopkins, Secretary

Dave Yahnke

Fred Zeitler

What to Do in Case of Trouble

- ▶ Check for blown fuses or tripped breakers.
- ▶ Check with your neighbors. Ask if their electricity is off and whether they have reported the outage. If not, call Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., and report the problem 24 hours a day: 641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027.

Service Charges

ACH (Electronic Payment).....	No Charge
Bill Collection.....	\$30
Meter Tampering.....	\$150
Overtime Service Call.....	\$150
Convenience Charge (Online or Phone Payment).....	\$5
Disconnect.....	\$30
Posting.....	\$30
Returned Check.....	\$30
Reconnect.....	\$75
Trip Charge.....	\$30

Local Perspective

You're sharing your home with energy vampires!

BY MARK AEILTS

Your home probably has at least a few – or, more likely, several – electronic and electrical devices that continue to consume electricity even when they're turned off. On average, these items are responsible for an estimated 10 percent of the electricity you use every month.

Here are some tips from Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., that can help you drive a stake through the heart of these vampires, saving energy and money.

One way to identify energy vampires is to look for devices with remote controls – for example, TVs, digital video recorders and audio equipment. Then target gaming consoles, computers, monitors, printers – and chargers for cell phones, iPods, small DVD players and laptops. Many chargers draw energy even when they're not charging anything, so unplug them when their charging cycles are done.

The Natural Resources Defense Council has ranked the biggest energy hogs in the home, and the thing that's gobbling up the most power probably isn't what you think: It's the pairing of your digital video recorder and high-definition cable or satellite set-top box. The environmental monitoring

group says that a set-top box, when combined with a high-definition DVR, uses up to 446 kilowatt-hours per year.

That's more than a new Energy Star® qualified 21-cubic-foot refrigerator, which uses about 415 kilowatt-hours per year. The worst part is that these devices waste many hours of energy when they're not being used.

An easy way to seal the coffin on energy vampires is to plug components of your computer or home entertainment system into a power strip. With a single flip of a switch, you can cut power to them all. In addition, when you're not using it remember to unplug any appliance – such as a coffee maker or toaster oven – that has a digital clock.

According to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives Web site TogetherWeSave.com, pulling plugs and employing power strips can save you around \$222 in electric bills per year. Check that site for a variety of energy- and money-saving tips. You also can visit www.energysavers.gov or call the efficiency experts at Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative at 641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027. ⚡

Mark Aeilts is the manager/CEO of Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc.



Watts Going On?

Davis County Fairgoer captures co-op's grand prize

Deanna Pitman (left) of Bloomfield was the big winner of SIEC's Davis County Fair prize drawing. She picked up her prize, an Energy Star® qualified Frigidaire compact refrigerator/freezer worth \$180, at the office from SIEC's Lori McAllister. Congratulations, Deanna!



In the News

SIEC has a winner in magazine's monthly contest

Dave Hawk (right) was one of 10 lucky winners in the Editor's Choice Contest in the June issue of *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine. He received a CFL-ready electronic wall switch/timer and a four-pack of CFLs from Lori McAllister, the co-op's public relations coordinator.

See the Editor's Choice story elsewhere on this page to find out how you could be the next contest winner, or go to the magazine's Web site at www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com.



Editor's Choice Contest

Win a ceiling fan you can install in just 5 minutes

Most people use ceiling fans during summer to provide a cooling breeze. But have you ever considered running a ceiling fan in the opposite direction – *clockwise* – during cold weather to produce a gentle updraft in a room, forcing wasted warm air near the ceiling down into the living area and allowing you to lower the thermostat?



The traditionally styled, 52-inch Henley fan from Hunter Fan Company features a bronze finish, two-sided blades with dark cherry and medium oak finishes and a limited lifetime warranty. As a bonus, the Energy Star® qualified fan is 90 percent preassembled in the box, so you can install it in about 5 minutes – if you have a suitable ceiling box in place.

The fan is designed for large rooms up to about 400 square feet, costs about \$95 and is available exclusively at Menards. For more information or to buy this fan, go to www.menards.com and enter 3550398 in the Search box at the top of the page.

Visit our Web site, and win!

We're going to give a ceiling fan to one lucky electric co-op member this month. To enter, go to the Editor's Choice Contest at the top of the home page on our Web site (www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) by Sept. 30, 2011.

We'll pick the winner's name at random and publish it in an upcoming issue. The purpose of this contest is to encourage you to visit our Web site, and we cannot accept entries by any other means. In addition, you can enter each contest only once, there is no obligation associated with entering this contest and we do not share entrant information with anyone.

The winner of the Wind Power science kit in the July issue was Ronnie Schlak, a member of T.I.P. REC.

Operations Update

Travis Weis completes journeyman lineman training

SIEC's Travis Weis recently completed the Merchant Job Training and Safety Program (MJTS), earning him the status of journeyman lineman. The apprenticeship program is administered through MJTS and the co-op's support staff, using a sequence of study guides followed by a series of tests.

Travis attended Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo for one year; he then transferred to Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, where he completed the Powerline Program in 2009. When asked what he likes



most about his job, Travis said, "I enjoy being a lineman, because it's a job that is outdoors, challenging and everyday something new is thrown at you."

Congratulations, Travis, on your hard work and achievement!

Use a spotter when moving large farm equipment



Need help with heating bills? Here are details for the Iowa Home Energy Assistance Program



The 2011-2012 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household

income, household size, type of fuel and type of housing.

Besides meeting the income guidelines, you must furnish the Social Security numbers of all household members and a copy of recent heating, electric and telephone bills. You also must show proof of your house-

hold's gross income from all sources for the last three months, including alimony or child support.

If you're a wage earner, you should bring copies of your check stubs for the three-month period before the date of application, an award letter from Social Security or a copy of your federal income tax return. If you're self-employed or a farmer, provide a copy of your most recent federal income tax return. And if you're on a fixed income – Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Family Investment Program (FIP), Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance and pensions – bring copies of your three most recent check stubs. For FIP recipients, bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information.

In Iowa, applications for the program will be accepted on a first-come/first-served basis from Nov. 1, 2011, through April 30, 2012; the start date is Oct. 3, 2011, for elderly (60 and over) and/or disabled applicants.

For more information about the program or to find out where to apply, write: LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Human Rights, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319. You also can call your local community action agency for more information. ⚡



Reach an understanding of safety

Today's farm machinery easily can reach above the height of power lines – potentially putting your safety at risk, whenever you use or move any equipment.

Know the reach and height of

your machinery – including radio antennas – and keep all parts of the equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines.

Understanding the 10-foot rule will help keep you working safely.


LIHEAP Income Maximums

Household Size	Three-Month Gross Income	Annual Gross Income
1	\$ 4,084	\$ 16,335
2	\$ 5,516	\$ 22,065
3	\$ 6,949	\$ 27,795
4	\$ 8,381	\$ 33,525
5	\$ 9,814	\$ 39,255
6	\$ 11,246	\$ 44,985

Note: For a household with more than six members, add \$1,433 per three months – or \$5,730 annually – for each additional family member.



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