

T.I.P. *Current* Connection

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

December 2025

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



CEO/General Manager's Update



Scott Long

Greetings everyone, as you are reading this, we have closed our fall work and are heading straight into our winter work. Our fall weather was good, and we were able to complete many capital projects that we had on our priority list this year. In our Sigourney

territory, we focused on overhead line revisions that had been in private right-of-ways across your fields and next to your trees. By moving these to the public road right-of-way, we were able to remove poles from your fields and pastures, away from trees, and closer to the public road access. This allows for better access to our lines and quicker outage recovery times. In our Brooklyn territory, we had our pole testing and ground testing contractor SBS come this spring. This is following our reliability plan that we submit to the Iowa Utilities Commission for each of our twenty-one substations over a ten-year cycle. On our Belle Plaine REC and Tama REC substations, we had 3,652 poles tested and 1,365 grounds inspected. Out of the 3,652 poles tested, we had a 4.2% rejection rate resulting in 154 poles needing to be changed out. This rejection rate aligns with past years and proves the value that this maintenance program has towards maintaining our 99.97% reliability and ensuring the lights will be on for our member-owners.

As you are aware there is a new line item on your electric bill, "Demand Charge", under Current Service Details. This is your individual peak demand charge for the month. Currently, this new line item has no charge and is only there for you to follow. Although we have not charged for demand on residential and three-phase regular rate structures in the past and our rate structures have only focused on energy, demand has always been part of the electrical service. Demand is the maximum capacity needed to provide the electrical service you expect. Demand is a driver behind your electric bill fluctuations season to season and year-to-year, as it is not the same every day. In our newsletter, our November bill insert, and our website, we have shown illustrations of how peak demand can influence your individual electric

bill. Not using all your appliances at the same time can reduce your individual electric demand and can keep your electric bill lower. If you are signed up for SmartHub, you can track your individual demand and utilize ways to reduce it. On May 1st, 2026, we will begin to start billing for your individual monthly peak demand.

Our bottom line is providing environmentally safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. While we balance expenses and cover the overhead costs of business, when we have profitable margins, we give them back to our member-owners. Returning patronage dividends is a major advantage of being a member of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative and is one of the reasons being a co-op member matters.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative employees and Board of Directors would like to wish you and your family a safe and joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year!



The T.I.P. REC employees and Board of Directors wish you and your family a Wonderful Holiday Season!

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



How Was Your Energy Year?

It's December and another year is ending. While we're gearing up for the holidays, it's also a time to reflect on the year that's passed. So, how was your energy year?

If you're not sure, let's compare. The typical U.S. household spends nearly \$1,900 a year on energy costs, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Examine your energy bills over the past year. If they're higher than average, look at your energy-using behaviors.

Common energy-wasting habits

Here are some things people do every day that waste energy. Do they sound familiar?

- Forgetting to adjust the thermostat to save energy when your house is unoccupied.
- Leaving lights and electronic devices on when they're not being used.
- Running the dishwasher or clothes washer with only a small number of items.
- Taking long, hot showers and running water while shaving or brushing your teeth.
- Standing in front of an open refrigerator deciding on what to eat.
- Falling asleep in front of the television.

Make your New Year more energy efficient

Use these simple, low-cost tips to save energy next year and beyond.

- Adjust the thermostat to save energy at night or when no one is home. Smart, programmable models make it easy by automatically adjusting temperatures while providing you with remote control.
- Install energy-efficient LED bulbs throughout your home. They use 75% less energy than conventional bulbs and last longer. Also, hit the OFF switch when you're the last to leave a room.
- Plug electronic devices into smart plugs or advanced power strips. They automatically cut power to devices when they're not in use.
- Install WaterSense®-labeled low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators. They use less water while still providing a comfortable flow. Remember to take shorter showers and turn off the tap.
- Run your dishwasher and laundry only when you have a full load. If your appliances are older or in need of repair, replace them with ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which use less energy than standard models.

Consider a home energy audit. A qualified professional third party vendor will inspect your home and provide you with a set of custom recommendations to reduce your energy bills all year long. The cost to the member-owner is \$175 with T.I.P. REC picking up the remaining portion of the charges. Commercial energy audits are available but handled on an individual basis. You can schedule an energy audit by calling 800-934-7976.

Timing is Everything: Shifting Energy Usage to Help Lower Your Demand

Think for a moment, what's the first thing you do when you get home from work or school? Turn on the air-conditioning, TV and all of your lights? Take a shower? Preheat the oven to start dinner? Re-charge your gadgets? Start a load of laundry? If you answered yes to any of the above, you're not alone.

While we all have our own routines, in general, the majority of our schedules tend to follow the same pattern. A pattern that causes entire communities to increase their energy usage at the same time, placing an enormous strain on our nation's interconnected electrical system. While household electronics have become more energy efficient in recent years, every day we seem to acquire more plugged in gadgets and gizmos, build new homes and businesses, and continue to rely on electricity to sustain our lifestyles. Energy providers across the country are already incorporating renewable sources of generation into their portfolios to help meet demand but sometimes this "peak" in electrical consumption forces power providers to rely on costly energy resources to meet our energy needs. Read on to see how you can help avoid this from happening.

How can you shift your energy usage?

1. Shift Energy Intensive Activities

If possible, avoid energy intensive activities by adjusting your schedule so that you're not using your washer, dryer, oven, and dishwasher all at the same time. Appliances that generate heat and steam are among some of the most energy hungry devices in your household. Many appliances now feature a "delay" setting that allows a device to begin operation after a set number of hours. For example, you can load your dirty dishes into your dishwasher after dinner, but "delay" the wash until the middle of the night when you do not have other appliances running.

2. Practice Conservation

Simple, small changes in timing, when performed by everyone, can yield large results. Turn off unnecessary lights, TV's and electronics in empty rooms. Unplug electronics that consume energy even when they are in standby mode. Set timers on energy hungry appliances such as pool pumps and spa heaters. Depending on the weather, open or close windows and window coverings in addition to adjusting your HVAC system 1-2 degrees.

Winter Weather Safety Tips



Winter weather can bring extreme cold, as well as potentially hazardous snow and ice. It's important to be prepared and take necessary precautions. Here are some tips to help keep you and your

family safe and comfortable all season long.

To stay warm:

- Cover every part of your body — including your face — and wear layers of loose-fitting clothing to protect against frostbite and hypothermia when outside. In cold weather, your body actually loses heat faster than it can produce it.
- Stay inside when temperatures are dangerously cold. And remember that certain people are at higher risk than others, especially the elderly.
- Seek immediate medical attention for any person whose body temperature falls below 95°F.

To get around safely:

- Wear sensible footwear when streets and sidewalks are snow-covered and icy. Flat-soled shoes with treads — not smooth soles — make it easier to plant your entire foot securely on the surface, which improves balance. Water-resistant boots designed to protect your feet from the cold are also a good choice.
- Walk slowly and take shorter steps in icy, snowy conditions. This allows for adequate reaction time if you suddenly encounter a slippery patch of pavement.
- Wear bright clothing so others can see you in wintry conditions. Something as simple as a colorful scarf or hat can make a big difference.
- Be aware of your surroundings. When walking, always look ahead to anticipate any change in conditions, such as a patch of ice or uneven pavement. Avoid using headphones that block out the sound of oncoming vehicles — especially snow plows.

To remove ice and snow:

- Take time to stretch before you start to shovel snow. This helps prevent injury, especially because you'll be using muscles that may have been inactive for a while.
- Clear the snow a little bit at a time. It may seem sensible to wait until the snow is done falling to clear it away, but that actually makes it more difficult. Instead, try to stay ahead of the snowfall by shoveling every couple inches.
- Avoid heavy lifting. A better approach is to push the snow off to the side because it requires less exertion, and

that means less stress on your body.

- Take water breaks. Just as you would during any physical activity, it helps you stay adequately hydrated. Periodic rests are a must, especially if you're not accustomed to this type of intense activity.
- Use a shovel with a long arm and a blade that's somewhat flat. It will be easier on your back. Lifting heavy snow is never a good idea, but if you must, bend at the knees and let your legs do the work.

By following these tips, you'll be able to safely and comfortably enjoy all that winter has to offer.

SAVE THE DATE

FEBRUARY 19-20, 2026

IOWA BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS:
Ask us about Momentum is Building Energy Efficiency Conference to learn more about how you can earn CEUs, network, and learn new techniques

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December Work Anniversaries

Nate Egerton - 5 years
Adam Hawkins - 6 years
Scott Long - 28 years

Thank You!

REC T.L.P. Rural Electric Cooperative
Your Technative Energy Cooperative

Veteran Flag Initiative Donation



Pictured left to right: Allyson Miller, Grundy County REC, Anne Gardiner, Butler County REC, Tyler Schick, VFI Representative, Derek Snakenberg, Grundy County REC First Class Lineman who raises funds and awareness for VFI, and Scott Long, CEO/General Manager of T.I.P. REC.

This fall, T.I.P. REC along with Grundy County REC, Butler County REC, Cornbelt Power Cooperative, and Central Iowa Power Cooperative joined together and donated a total of \$4,500 to the Veteran Flagpole Initiative (VFI).

Originally formed in 2021, VFI quickly and effectively established a core focus of providing veterans with a permanent visual reminder of our appreciation for their service and sacrifice. Their mission is to fund and install flagpoles in the yards of veterans at no cost. The volunteers install a 20' telescopic heavy duty flagpole, handstitched US flag, a State of Iowa flag and a solar powered light to shine on the flags at night.

VFI is comprised of a passionate, purpose-driven, and patriotic volunteer force consisting of 10 teams in three states reaching anywhere in Iowa and beyond. So far the VFI volunteers have installed 149 flags in four states and 58 Iowa counties, with a goal to install flagpoles in all 99 Iowa counties by 2028.

T.I.P. REC's portion of the group donation will be going towards the new veteran's memorial at the Victor Cemetery that the Victor Veterans Legion is building. In addition, it will fund eight more veteran flags.

Concern for Community is just one of our cooperative principles that make T.I.P. REC unique. We are proud to be a part of this amazing donation group that honors our veterans.

← CHECK THIS OUT!

T.I.P. REC offers REBATES on electric water heaters, central air conditioners, clothes washers, electric clothes dryers and much more. Go to tiprec.com/rebates for more details.

Surveying

Brooklyn and Sigourney crews will begin their annual surveying schedule to ensure that all our lines and equipment are in top operating condition. In December, crews will be surveying on these substation areas:

Hayesville
Homestead
Koszta
North English
Toledo
Victor
Vining

Thank you for your cooperation during this maintenance program.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



To maximize your fireplace's efficiency, always keep the damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. An open damper is like an open window, allowing warm indoor air to escape and cold air to enter. Consider installing a fireplace insert, which improves heat output by circulating warm air into the room rather than letting it escape up the chimney. Also, burn only seasoned firewood to ensure a hotter, cleaner burn. Regularly clean and inspect your chimney to maintain safe and efficient operation.

NOTICE: The Brooklyn office will be closed on Wednesday, December 17 from 7:00 am till 1:00 pm for an all-employee safety meeting.

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Non-Discrimination Statement

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

T.I.P. Current Connection is published monthly for members of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, 320 Industrial Drive, Brooklyn, Iowa 52211.