



# TIPS From T.I.P.

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**OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE**

**September 2021**

**Brooklyn, Iowa**

## General Manager's Update



**Dean A. Huls**

Hello Member-Owners,

I would like to thank everyone for attending the drive-thru Annual Meeting. If you were unable to attend, you can find the Annual Meeting reports on our website or make sure to read your October

TIPS newsletter which will have the highlights.

Many of you have seen our line trucks going down the road near your homes. Our commitment to safety and reliability is always at the forefront of your cooperative. Our Operations Department is busy again this year upgrading our facilities to better serve you. They are always facing new challenges to keep your power on. This summer we had to use our spare dual-wound substation transformer to keep the power on at our Webster Substation just southeast of Belva Deer County Park, in our Sigourney territory. The existing transformer at the substation went offline on 6/1/2021 because of an internal wiring failure. This spare dual-wound transformer was purchased back in 2010 for \$85,000 and can be used at any of our substations due to the dual-wound voltage capabilities. If we were to purchase this spare transformer today, it would cost over \$275,000. The decision to purchase this unit in 2010 was difficult but in hindsight these were dollars well spent to maintain our systems reliability.

We have completed replacing another section of the underground cable going north and east out of our Madison Substation just southwest of Holiday Lake. This phase of the project completed the replacement of cable going north and started the first phase of replacing the underground conductor going east out of the substation. The original cable was installed in 1978 and has surpassed its life expectancy.

Our Sigourney crews are busy changing poles out on our Lancaster and Ollie substations. In March and April, we had SBS Contractors come in and test all the poles on these substations. There were 72 poles rejected out of 2,770 which is a 2.60% rejection rate. This low percentage shows the strength of our system maintenance investments.

Soon you will see the line crews using our new digger derrick truck in the Sigourney territory. We are retiring a 2007 Freightliner which had 9,665 hours and 115,873 miles on it which was purchased for \$219,833.30. The new digger truck that was delivered on 7-27-21 cost your cooperative \$344,190.25, a 52% increase in 14 years. This new truck will be capable of reaching 54.5 ft. and have a digging reach of a minimum of 21.2 ft and maximum of 33.5 ft. which will enable our line crews to do their jobs more efficiently.

If you see any of the employees of your cooperative, please give them a big thank you, as they work so hard to keep your lights on.

## Tips for a Safe Harvest

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous - even deadly - when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, call 911 immediately and remain inside the tractor or vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.
- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

### Green Power is Available for Purchase

The term “green power” refers to electricity supplied from renewable energy sources. Quite often, electricity is produced using a combination of fossil fuels and renewable resources, which is called a green power blended product. When you choose to purchase green power, you support renewable energy resources.

A resource is called renewable if it can be naturally replenished. In general, renewables have lower environmental impacts than non-renewables. Some types of renewable energy sources for electricity are solar, wind, hydro, biomass and geothermal energy.

As a T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative member you have the opportunity to buy renewable or green power energy. Through green power pricing any participating member will pay a green power charge to cover the extra cost of the renewable energy. Green power is available in blocks of 100 kWh at a cost of \$2.00 per block per month. This charge is added on top of your normal monthly kWh charges as an extra charge. A contract of 12 months is required to participate. You, as a customer, can decide how much green power you want if you choose to enroll.

It is important to remember that the green power you purchase is not actually delivered to your home. Instead, it is generated and supplied to the power grid. From there it will be delivered into the T.I.P. system that serves all our customers.



We welcome your participation and are pleased to offer this option to you. Remember what you pay for when you buy green power is the benefit of displacing other non-renewable energy sources from the grid. If you are interested in purchasing green power or have any questions, you can go to our website [www.tiprec.com](http://www.tiprec.com), click on the “Renewables” tab at the top and click on “Green Power” or call our office at 1-800-934-7976.

#### T.I.P. REC Green Power Enrollment

If you wish to participate in T.I.P.’s Green Power plan, please fill out this form and mail it to our office. Please specify the total number of 100 kilowatt hour blocks you wish to purchase each month. Each block will be an extra charge of \$2 per month on your bill, which is in addition to your monthly kWh billing. When you choose to purchase green power, you support renewable energy sources.

Number of blocks at \$2 per block per month \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

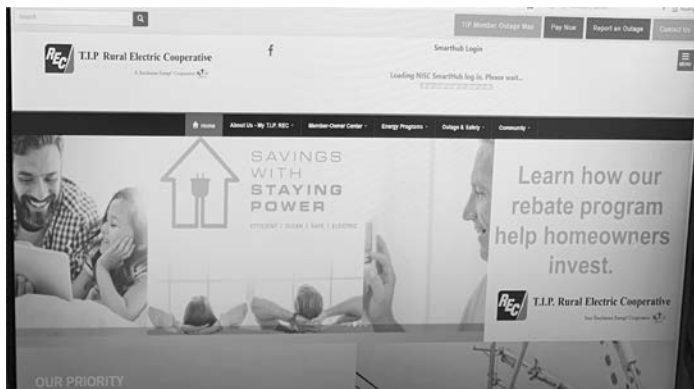
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**I understand that by signing this form I have entered a one year contract to purchase green power.**

### New Website Going Live Soon



Pictured above is one of the rotating tiles from the Homepage on our new website which will go live soon.

We are excited to release the new website which is more streamlined and full of information for our member-owners.

You can also like us on Facebook to find more energy-saving tips and information about your cooperative.

### Thanks to the Shine the Light Contest Participants

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative would like to thank Marna Montgomery for nominating Dawn Hamilton and Nancy McMann for nominating Dan and Carol Patterson in the Shine the Light Contest held this summer.

Another BIG thank you goes to the nominees: Dawn Hamilton who has a full-time job, is the Mayor of Malcom, Iowa, is always available to lend a helping hand AND she runs the Malcom Food Pantry; and Dan and Carol Patterson who saw people in need for food in their community so they decided to set-up and operate Marengo Food Distribution. During COVID, they delivered and boxed food for curbside pickup which benefitted 67 people per month. They recently opened a space in downtown Marengo for those who are able to do their own shopping and have provided opportunities for our youth to assist them in the pantry and with deliveries. Thanks again for helping those in need and for helping our small communities thrive!

### Let's Beat the Peak Together

As a member of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, you know how to make smart energy choices that help you save money. But did you know that *when* you use electricity can be just as important as how much you use?

Throughout the day, energy use fluctuates based on consumer demand. Typically, most households use larger amounts of electricity in the morning when most people are getting ready for their day, and in the evenings when people return from work, cook dinner, wash clothes and watch television.

These times when people in our community are using more electricity at the same time are called “peak” hours. The cost for T.I.P. REC to provide power is higher during these times because of the additional demand for electricity.

By shifting some of your energy use to hours when demand is lower, also known as off-peak hours, you can save money on your energy bills and help keep rates lower.

Here are a few easy ways you can shift energy use to off-peak hours:

1. Adjust your thermostat. During summer months, raise the thermostat a few degrees during peak hours.
2. Wash full loads of clothes in cold water during off-peak hours.
3. Run the dishwasher right before you go to bed, or air-dry dishes by opening the dishwasher instead of using the heated dry cycle.
4. Turn off lights and electronics when not in use. (Try to make this a daily habit, whether during peak or off-peak hours.)



There are many ways to save energy and money by making a few minor adjustments to your daily routine.

### T.I.P. Employees and Board Members Help Raise \$10,000 for Charity

This summer some of the employees and board members participated in a charity outing sponsored by CIPCO, your cooperative's power supplier, which raised \$10,000 to support Special Olympics Iowa. This is an organization that provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

T.I.P. REC was excited to be a part of this charity event.

### Live Line Demo at Keokuk County Expo and Poweshiek County Fair



## We're Looking for High School Students Who are Interested in Public Service and Leadership

**\*Students who attend our Zoom sessions in October will have a chance to win AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship!**



Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative has been supporting students in the communities we serve through scholarships and leadership opportunities. We've also been sending deserving

high school students to our nation's capital every summer as part of the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program.

Iowa's electric cooperatives are pleased to offer a new opportunity for rural students to learn more about advocacy, electric cooperative career opportunities and the cooperative business model with a three-part webinar series in October. The Iowa Youth Leadership Academy is open to any high school student in our service area and they are invited to register at [www.IowaYouthTour.com](http://www.IowaYouthTour.com).

Once students register online for the Iowa Youth Leadership Academy, they can attend the webinars from their own computer or mobile device. Each Zoom session will last around 45-60 minutes and focus on a specific topic:

- Tuesday, Oct. 5, 7:00 p.m. - Cooperative Business Model
- Thursday, Oct. 14, 7:00 p.m. - Rural Iowa Advocacy
- Tuesday, Oct. 26, 7:00 p.m. - Civic Involvement and Leadership

At the end of each live session, one lucky attendee will be selected at random to win a pair of Apple AirPods. Students who attend all three sessions will be entered into a random drawing for a \$1,000 college scholarship.

During the Zoom sessions, students will be inspired by our line-up of speakers and presenters. Students will learn how to advocate for issues that are important to them and learn about leadership development from a motivational speaker. Attendees will also hear from former Iowa Youth Tour students who pursued their passion for government service and leadership after attending the weeklong trip to Washington, D.C. The 2022 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is slated for June 18-24 next summer.

**NOTICE: The Brooklyn office will be closed on Wednesday, September 22nd from 8:00 a.m. till Noon for an all-employee safety meeting.**

## Operation Round-Up®



“Commitment to Community” is one of our cooperative principles and that's why T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative is offering our member-owners the opportunity to help give back to your communities through the Operation Round-Up® Program.

How does the Operation Round-Up® Program work? When you sign up, your **monthly** electric bill will be rounded up to the nearest whole dollar. The funds collected will then be dispersed to various local organizations and individuals in need. (There is a place to sign up on the back of your bill and on our website.)

The average contribution amount per member is 50 cents per month, or \$6 dollars per year. The least amount of money that could be donated after opting in is 12 cents per year, the maximum amount is \$11.88 per year.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative is dedicated to making a meaningful difference in our communities and we hope you will help by signing up for Operation Round-Up®. The Power of Many, Working as One!

### Did You Miss the Annual Meeting?

Make sure and check out the annual meeting highlights in the October newsletter or on our website: [www.tiprec.com/content/annual-meeting](http://www.tiprec.com/content/annual-meeting) There will be pictures, reports, prize list, results from the election of your Board of Directors and videos for those of you who could not attend.

**Notice: Your REC office will be closed Monday, September 6th to observe Labor Day. Have a safe holiday!**

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### Non-Discrimination Statement

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TIPS from T.I.P. is published monthly for members of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, 612 W. Des Moines St., Brooklyn, Iowa 52211.