

# living with energy IN IOWA



Guthrie County REC  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

MARCH 2018

High school seniors: Apply for 2018 Guthrie County REC scholarships by April 6 ▶ See page 5

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Guthrie County REC  
Board approves  
2018 annual budget

Win a 7-in-1,  
programmable  
electric cooker!

Your co-op's linemen  
are the **power**  
behind your power

## Guthrie County REC Board approves 2018 annual budget

At the end of each calendar year, Guthrie County REC begins its annual budgeting process. Cooperative staff and management work together to develop a schedule for the upcoming year, with final approval required from the Guthrie County REC Board of Directors. This extensive process takes at least 2 months to finalize but is an essential function to control costs and provide fiscally responsible power to our members.

At its January meeting, the Board of Directors approved the 2018 Annual Operating Budget for Guthrie County REC. The \$14.1 million budget keeps your cooperative operating in line with its mission to provide safe, reliable and affordable power to you, our member-owners.

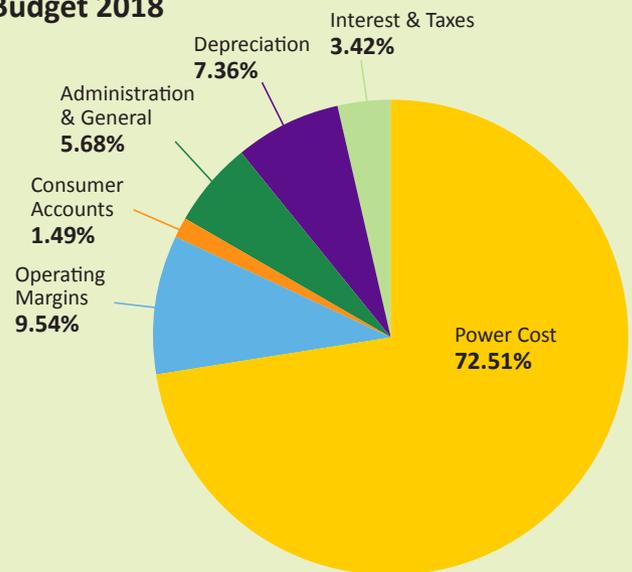
The budget includes \$2.1 million earmarked for the Construction Work Plan. This money will be used for 34.8 miles of line conversions within the service territory, as well as member extensions, pole replacements, service wire upgrades, replacement of meters and transformers. It also includes the purchase of a basket truck, a pickup truck and additions/upgrades to office equipment. All of these services are essential to providing a reliable source

of electricity to our members.

As a distribution cooperative, Guthrie County REC purchases electricity from our power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative. This is our single biggest expense each year – almost 73 percent of our annual revenue. The rates at which we purchase power have remained stable, allowing us to prepare and plan well in advance knowing what those costs will be.

The annual budget is a big responsibility that your cooperative takes very seriously. We work hard to anticipate and mitigate any potential

### The Cost of Electric Service: Budget 2018



issues that could escalate the costs of energy. Whenever and wherever possible, you can be assured that we work to minimize the impact those issues might have on your monthly electric bill. ⚡

### ABOUT ENERGY

## Chalfant attends annual MIB conference

Despite some questionable weather, the annual Momentum is Building (MIB) conference went ahead as scheduled Feb. 8-9 in West Des Moines. More than 230 attendees were welcomed.

Guthrie County REC member service clerk Marlene Chalfant attended the event, which was geared toward educating rural Iowa's home building trade professionals on energy-efficient construction and remodeling techniques.

"I attend MIB every year to learn about emerging technology and practices in energy efficiency," said Chalfant. "I can then take that information and use it to help our members make informed decisions about energy-efficient upgrades to



their homes or businesses."

Now in its 26th year, MIB is sponsored by Iowa Cooperatives for Energy Efficiency. The conference educates contractors, builders, electricians, heating and cooling professionals, and others about state-of-the-art energy efficiency methods; provides networking opportunities; and encourages sharing best practices. ⚡



**Guthrie County REC**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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**Office Hours**  
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Telephone Number**  
641-747-2206 or 888-747-2206  
Calls answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

**Website**  
[www.guthrie-rec.coop](http://www.guthrie-rec.coop)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Randol makes the most of college experience

For some, the first year of college can be confusing, because it's the start of figuring out if your passions align with your talents. But for Jeramy Randol, there's very little doubt that his career will be focused on sports, or more specifically sports administration, after being active in athletics at Panorama High School.

Randol was the 2017 recipient of a Guthrie County REC scholarship. He says the biggest learning curve at college has been managing his time.

"Without having good time management skills, college is really a struggle," he said. "But it's something that I have become a lot better at doing since beginning in the fall."

His goal is to one day be an athletic director. To get there, he's taking business courses in economics, accounting and sports management – as well as introductory courses in public relations and sociology at Simpson College. He's also on the Simpson football team, a passion he developed in high school.

"Football is pretty much a year-round thing at the collegiate level, but I really enjoy it," he said. "It's truly a humbling experience to have an opportunity that not everyone has."

Randol also keeps busy as a student ambassador, planning a dance marathon and participating in intramural sports. He said receiving the scholarship helps him stay motivated to do well.



"I am extremely blessed to have received this scholarship from the Guthrie County REC," he said. "It not only has helped my family and me pay for my education, but also helped me get on the path to achieve my career goals. Being selected to receive this scholarship also gives me more motivation to do well in school, so I don't let the great people of the Guthrie County REC down. I know that they work hard on behalf of their members, so it's the least I can do to succeed and obtain a degree. Once again, thank you for awarding me this wonderful scholarship. I am forever grateful." ⚡

### High school seniors: Apply for 2018 scholarships by April 6

High school seniors in the Guthrie County REC service territory who are interested in continuing their education in any field of study – or a power line program – are invited to apply for one of three \$1,000 scholarships to be awarded by the cooperative for 2018.

You'll find more details and the application at [www.guthrie-rec.coop](http://www.guthrie-rec.coop).

## State law requires notification of Alternate Energy Production

In 2012, the Iowa Legislature approved a bill that requires notification of electric utilities prior to installation of an alternate energy source. The notification requirement applies to any type of electric generating technology including:

- Solar
- Wind turbine
- Waste management
- Resource recovery
- Refuse-derived fuel
- Agricultural crops or residue
- Wood-burning facility that will be connected to an electric transmission or distribution line

Under this legislation, the owner of an alternate energy production facility must provide written notification to his or her electric utility at least 30 days before construction or installation of the alternate energy source.

If you're considering installing an alternate energy system, please contact Guthrie County REC at 888-747-2206. Let us provide information and assistance before you decide to purchase any type of alternate energy system that requires interconnection with the electric grid. ⚡



### EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

## Win a 7-in-1 electric cooker!

The Instant Pot 6-Quart Pressure Cooker combines functionality, user-friendliness and energy savings – all wrapped up in a countertop unit that lets you cook healthy food fast. Inside, there's a food-grade, stainless steel cooking pot, so you can use the appliance as a pressure cooker, slow cooker, rice cooker, yogurt maker, steamer, sauté pan and food warmer. The suggested retail is \$140; visit [instantpot.com](http://instantpot.com) for more details.

For your chance at winning this Instant Pot, check the rules on the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) and complete the entry form no later than March 31, 2018. ⚡



IN THE COMMUNITY

# Show you care with RECare

Being a member of an electric cooperative like Guthrie County REC means there are many opportunities to support your community. Your cooperative is proud to serve our hometown communities in ways that can make a difference.

You may have neighbors who struggle to pay their electric bills each month. One way you can help is by participating in RECare, a program through which Guthrie County REC members can help their fellow co-op members with electric bills and weatherization costs. You can donate funds for distribution by local community action agencies to low-income members; your donation will go directly to families near you. ⚡

## YES, I want to be a part of members helping others and contribute to RECare.

- I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.
- I will contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month to RECare. I understand that this amount automatically will be added to my monthly electric bill.
- I will have my monthly electric bill rounded. I understand this amount automatically will be added to my monthly electric bill and rounded up to the next highest dollar. For example, if your bill was \$154.85, then we would bill you \$155.00 and donate 15 cents to RECare. By the same token, if your bill was \$154.01, we would bill you \$155.00 and donate 99 cents to RECare.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guthrie County REC Acct. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

CO-OP FAQ

# Here's a look behind the scenes

BY REBECCA SCHWARTZ

For some people, the only connection to their local utility is through their bill payments. But Guthrie County REC offers much more than that – there are lots of things happening behind the scenes!

If you call our office, more than likely you'll speak with Dea Kress. She's our billing clerk and has worked at the cooperative since 2010. Dea can help you with your bill questions or payments, payment agreements, budget billing, SmartHub or paperless billing.

If Dea is unavailable, you might speak with me. I work on cooperative communications and handle advertising, social media, our magazine pages, scholarships and accounts payable. I've worked here since 2014.

Marlene Chalfant is our member service clerk and may be familiar to many of you. Employed here since 1998, Marlene is on the front lines handling rebates, patronage, high-usage accounts, heat meters, materials and inventory, water heater sales and key accounts.

Lori Hix keeps things running smoothly as the office manager. She handles payroll and benefits, human

resources, most of the cooperative's finances and accounting, and work orders. Lori has been with Guthrie County REC since 1994.

We have 11 linemen on the job from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. each weekday – and they remain on call throughout nonbusiness hours as well, to respond to outages. Elden Wolfe is our line superintendent; he oversees the line crew, making sure they're working in safe conditions, receiving the training they need, scheduling maintenance and other daily tasks, and keeping track of the budget.

Finally, Cozy Nelsen is our CEO. She's been with Guthrie County REC since 1993 and has served as CEO since 2002. Cozy oversees the day-to-day operation of the cooperative, works with our board on policies and strategic planning and ensures the cooperative meets its goals in providing electric service to our members.

We're always happy to hear from our members. If we missed you at our annual meeting in January, you can connect with us on Facebook, call us at 888-747-2206, contact us through our website at [www.guthrie-rec.coop](http://www.guthrie-rec.coop) or even stop by the co-op's office. We love having visitors! ⚡



## Celebrate Iowa's Farmers on National Ag Day March 20, 2018



Guthrie County REC Board Member Don Schwartz



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