



## Community solar subscriptions still available

Have you ever considered solar energy as a part of your home's energy mix but have been discouraged by the high costs and maintenance requirements?

Our community solar array allows our members the benefits of solar energy without the worry of installation or maintenance. The subscription price for a module is now \$616, expected to be worth approximately \$1,200 to \$1,500 in bill credits over 25 years.

The array, located outside of Franklin REC's office on Hwy. 65 north of Hampton, has 508 modules. Each module is 350 watts and produces approximately 380 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. The energy is then distributed to the power grid and participating members receive monthly bill credits that lower their energy bills.

Let us take care of installation, maintenance, and insurance fees while you reap the benefits of solar power.

*Contact Franklin REC for details!*

### Community Solar for Franklin REC members

- Subscriptions sold: 107 modules
- Subscriptions available: 401 modules
- Cost per module: \$616

#### Total Energy Produced

- 758.49 Mega Watts (MWh) as of mid-June

#### Environmental Benefits



CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Saved  
1,174,485.88 Pounds



Equivalent Trees  
Planted 8,874.3

## SPARKS of news

### Board room highlights

At their most recent meeting, Franklin REC directors:

- Accepted an Interim Manager Agreement with former Franklin REC manager, Francis Buckel.
- Approved several policy manual updates to accommodate COVID-19 restrictions.
- Approved 2020-21 membership in National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the payment of dues.
- Approved 2020-21 membership in Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) and the payment of dues.

## Reminder: Cash your patronage check

In June, Franklin REC mailed patronage checks to anyone with a refund over \$50 who was a member in 2001, 2002, and/or 2019.



If you have not yet cashed your check, please do so.

We return excess margins to members—not investors. Franklin REC exists to meet your needs, not stockholders' needs. Your patronage refund is part of the cooperative difference.

# We're here to help you save

Your electric cooperative is here for you with information and ideas to help you save energy and money.

Summer is a great time to conduct an energy assessment of your home and identify ways to boost energy efficiency. Understanding how your home uses energy can help you determine the best ways to modify energy use and keep more money in your wallet.

An energy assessment is one of the best ways to determine how energy efficient your home is—and can help you identify areas for potential energy savings. Try ENERGY STAR®'s online assessment. Visit [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov), then enter “home energy yardstick” in the search box to get started. Or, you can contact us to conduct an assessment.

Another way to save is to shift

some of your daily chores such as running the dishwasher or doing laundry during off-peak hours (when people are using less electricity). By doing so, you may see meaningful savings on your energy bills.

Or, if you have a furnace, use your programmable thermostat to adjust the settings so that your heating and air conditioning systems sync with the off-peak rate periods. You can also use automatic timers to run hot tubs, pool pumps, water heaters, and other appliances in the same way. Be sure to program the timers to coincide with the less expensive off-peak times.



And finally, if you are in the market for a new appliance, look for the ENERGY-STAR® label on the Energy Guide to be able to take advantage of your electric cooperative's rebates.

As your trusted energy advisor, we're here to help. If you have questions about your bill or additional ways to save energy, please let us know. We're only one click or phone call away.

## Attending Farm Progress Show?

Visit the Rural Electric Cooperatives of Iowa at Lot 10S to enter in prize drawings, learn about electric safety and energy efficiency, and more!

September 1 - 3 • Boone, Iowa

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

## Visit us at Farm Progress Show

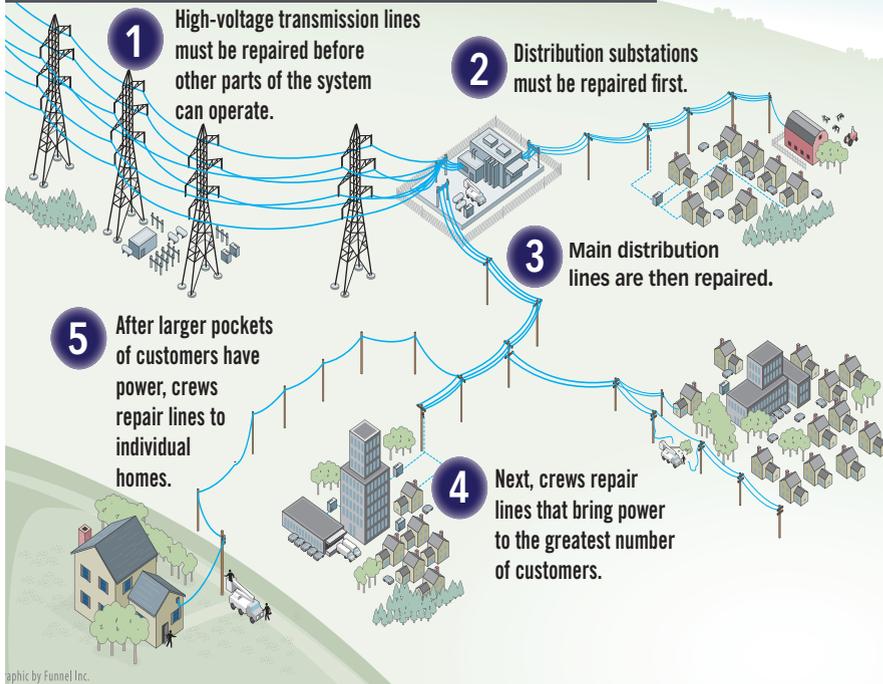
The Farm Progress Show, our nation's leading outdoor farm show, will be in Boone Sept. 1–3, and we want to see you there.

Stop by to learn how to be safe around electricity, improve energy efficiency, and much more. Members are encouraged to register for prizes, ask questions of co-op staff, and watch a high-voltage safety demonstration!

Hosted in Iowa every two years, this major agricultural event gives visitors the opportunity to see the latest equipment, seed, crop chemicals, field demonstrations, livestock handling, equine events, rural life programs, entertainment, arts and crafts, and more.

The 2020 show will be held at the Central Iowa Expo at 1827 217th Street in Boone, Iowa. Learn more at [www.farmprogressshow.com](http://www.farmprogressshow.com). We look forward to seeing you!

# How line crews restore power



## Understanding power outages

While your electric cooperative does everything it can to reduce the possibility of outages to your home or business, they do occur. There are a variety of reasons power outages can occur, including severe storms, tree limbs coming into contact with power lines, vehicles crashing into utility poles, and animals causing short circuits while climbing electrical equipment.



The number one focus of your cooperative is public safety. This means crews will clear lines and equipment that could pose safety hazards to the public. Next, they will turn their attention to power generation facilities that generate the actual electricity that powers your home or business. After that come the transmission line and substation equipment repairs. Then, we will focus on distribution lines and tap lines that provide power to homes or businesses, and then connections to individual members.

What can YOU do to keep your family safe? We suggest you:

- Call us immediately.
- Use safe alternative food preparations. A barbecue grill is an excellent way to prepare food. Always grill outside.
- Have a storm kit (with items like flashlights, battery-operated radio, batteries, and first-aid supplies) prepared.
- Turn off electrical appliances and unplug major electronics. Power sometimes comes back in surges, which can damage electronics. Leave one light on to indicate that power has been restored. Wait a few minutes and then turn on other appliances and equipment—one at a time.

For more information, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



## Feel a shock? Swim away from the dock

We want to help keep the fun in water recreation activities so we are sharing the message, “If you feel a shock, swim away from the dock,” to educate people on how to stay safe from a hidden hazard called electric shock drowning (ESD).

Outdated wiring and a lack of proper safety equipment on boats and docks can cause situations where electricity “leaks” into the water. It’s a particularly dangerous hazard because it’s impossible to tell by sight if the water is energized. According to the Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association, most ESD deaths have occurred in public and private marinas and docks.

Safe Electricity recommends that individuals do not swim around docks with electrical equipment or boats plugged into shore power. If you are in the water and feel electric current, shout to let others know, try to stay upright, tuck your legs up to make yourself smaller and swim away from anything that could be energized. Do not head to boat or dock ladders to get out.

If you see someone who you suspect is getting shocked, do not immediately jump in to save them. Throw them a float, turn off the shore power connection at the meter base, and/or unplug shore power cords. Try to eliminate the source of electricity as quickly as possible; then call for help.

# ENERGY STAR appliances: Do they really save money?

If you are in the market for a new appliance, you might wonder if buying an ENERGY STAR-certified version will make a difference in your energy bills.

**The short answer is yes,** when you compare its estimated energy costs to its less-efficient counterpart.

Appliances with the ENERGY STAR logo use 10 to 15 percent less energy and water than standard models, according to Energy.gov.

**And the longer answer is yes,** if you consider the appliance's lifespan.

ENERGY STAR appliances and other products can save you a collective \$750 over their lifespan, according to Energy.gov.

The biggest bang for your energy-savings buck might be your refrigerator, especially if it is 15 years old or



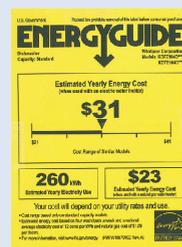
older. By replacing your old fridge with a new ENERGY STAR-certified model, you can save more than \$200 over a 12-year lifespan.

Tip: EnergyStar.gov offers a "Flip Your Fridge" calculator to estimate savings depending on the size and age of your largest kitchen appliance.

Bottom line? The typical U.S. family spends around \$2,200 a year on home utility bills. Switching to ENERGY STAR products can help lower these costs over time.

When shopping for appliances look for the ENERGY STAR label, and then contact us for rebates on clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, freezers, and refrigerators.

Check the Energy Guide for the ENERGY STAR label.



According to EnergyStar.gov, if every appliance purchased in the United States this year earned the ENERGY STAR, Americans would:

- Prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the emissions from 225,000 cars.
- Save more than 1.3 billion kWh/year of electricity.
- Save \$425 million in annual energy costs.
- Save more than 28 billion gallons of water per year.\*

\*Includes ENERGY STAR-certified clothes washer, dishwasher, and refrigerator. Dollars savings reflect savings generated from the reduction of energy and water usage.

## Consider helping our communities

Did you know that by rounding up your electric bill to the nearest dollar you can help your community? As a participant in Operation Round Up®, each month your bill will be rounded up to the nearest dollar. The maximum possible contribution is only \$11.88 per year per account. When combined with other members' contributions, this can add up to make a significant impact on the community well-being. The program is voluntary, there are no fees to participate, and at any time you can choose not to participate.

Periodically, your Franklin REC directors meet to distribute 100 percent of the collected funds to those who demonstrate a need. Funds are used for everything from helping a family in need to supporting a local nonprofit organization.

Please consider participating by completing and returning the form below.

### Operation Round Up® contribution form

Yes, I want to participate in the community service program Operation Round-Up® provided by Franklin REC. I understand that my electric bill(s) will be rounded up to the next dollar. Those funds will be used for nonprofit community activities as well as helping families in need.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Account No: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and return to Franklin REC. Thank you for your support.



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