



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

February electric bill reflects “rate decrease”

While virtually all aspects of today’s cost of living continues to rise, RECC members have enjoyed one of the longest periods of rate stability in recent history. In fact, all RECC electric rates are now lower than they were in 2009!

In 2016, the board approved a new 10.5-year Power Supply Contract with NextEra Energy Power Marketing, LLC. This long-term contract significantly lowered the cooperative’s wholesale power costs and neutralized our exposure to the electricity markets.

In 2018, the first year of our new wholesale power contract, the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) went from a “charge” of \$0.0085 per kWh to a “decrease” of \$0.006 per kWh. When compared to 2017, RECC members saved \$1,616,128 in lower electric bills. The PCA reduction of \$0.006 per kWh will continue for all electric rates in 2019!

On Dec. 11, 2018, the board extended our Power Supply Contract with NextEra Energy through 2033. The fixed rate protects our members from an unstable energy market, which includes fluctuating natural gas prices and environmental uncertainties.

In addition to the PCA reductions, all members on Rates 1, 5, 25 and 27 will

see their Facility Charge reduced by \$6 per month (\$72 per year). Most of our members are served by the Residential/Farm Rate 1.

The PCA reduction of \$0.006 per kWh will continue for all electric rates in 2019!

Residential/Farm Rate 1 example: Members, who use 1,000 kWhs per month, will save \$72 from the \$0.006 per kWh PCA reduction and \$72 from the Facility Charge decrease. Together, the savings will total \$144 annually. Members who use 500 kWhs per month will save \$108 annually.

Once again, all our members will realize an immediate benefit. Individuals will see varying reductions in their electric bill, depending on their rate schedule, monthly energy use and in some cases their usage patterns, such as peak demands.

“Even with the recent rate reductions, we know that members are concerned with more than just price,” said President/CEO David Stuva. “Member satisfaction is the right combination of price, quality of service, reliability and commitment to the communities we serve.”

Rate 1, 25, and 27



Rate 5



Postcards bring good news to co-op members.

Rate 1 decrease continues a decade of stability

There are over 4,200 RECC members on Rate 1, which is officially described as the Residential and Farm Service rate. The current Rate 1 schedule was established back in 2009, with a \$35 Facility Charge and a three-tiered rate that declined as electrical use increased. In the last 10 years, only minor changes were made: including a slight increase in the over 3,000 kWh block and Power Cost Adjustments (PCA) ranging from \$0.0030 to \$0.0085. These PCAs were applied to each kWh to help the cooperative

compensate for escalating power prices and increases in transmission charges.

PCAs are not always bad. They can be used to provide credits to members when wholesale power costs are less than expected. That's what happened in January 2018 when RECC changed its wholesale power provider to NextEra Energy. The \$0.0085 PCA was removed and replaced with a PCA credit of \$0.006. Those changes amounted to an approximate penny and a half per kWh reduction and is illustrated in

the difference between the 2017 and 2018 columns below.

After a successful first year of our new power contract, the board determined that additional reductions could be made. On Jan. 1, 2019, the Rate 1 Facility Charge was reduced by \$6, while continuing the \$0.006 PCA credit. The chart below shows that all 2019 totals are \$6 less than 2018. The Facility Charge decrease and PCA credit improved a rate that has been stable for the last decade.

10 - Year Comparisons for Rate 1

Monthly Use	2009	2011	2017	2018	2019
500 kWh	\$97.00	\$100.10	\$102.86	\$95.60	\$89.60
1,000 kWh	\$159.00	\$162.50	\$170.70	\$156.20	\$150.20
3,000 kWh	\$395.00	\$404.00	\$420.50	\$377.00	\$371.00

Tyler Mullen wins \$250 drawing

Tyler Mullen was one of many who participated in RECC's Statewide Survey, and his effort did not go unnoticed. Tyler's name was drawn from a pool of survey participants and will receive a \$250 bill credit. Thanks to everyone who took time out of their busy schedule to share their opinions. The results of the Statewide Survey will help determine the future course of the cooperative. In April, we will review the survey results and highlight what we learned. For now, we will just say that RECC received our highest ACSI satisfaction score ever.



President/CEO David Stuva congratulates Tyler Mullen

Is it time to convert to geothermal?

Robert and Connie Langen have been RECC members since 1976. The couple lived in a two-story farm house before moving into their new home in 1990. They joined a growing number of families who would build an energy efficient home by choosing the ranch design. The style was a popular choice in the 90s and remains so today. The home was built and insulated to the standards of that era.

For their heating system, they installed ceiling cable in each room. Ceiling cable and base board heat were common back then and allowed for independent temperature control throughout the home. Unfortunately, the flexibility came at a price. Heating a home with resistance heat is expensive, and that's why RECC continues to promote geothermal and heat pumps. These systems are three to four times more efficient than ceiling cable or



baseboard heat and provide a more comfortable living environment.

Nearly 30 years later, the time eventually came for the Langen's to

replace their old heating system. The ceiling cable days are long gone, but the geothermal remains the most energy efficient choice. Unlike the early 90s, geothermal systems are now common and have a proven 30-year record. Many of our members know someone who has installed a geo and have compared their heating and cooling bills. Today, geothermal installers are readily available and there are generous incentives too. Our members are eligible for a **30 percent Federal Tax Credit** and a **\$250 RECC Rebate Check**.

These are just a few of the reasons that Robert and Connie went with the geothermal this time. They chose Tim Lebeck of Harvel, Ill. to install a Climate Master geothermal heating and cooling system.

Sights of rural America: Winter edition



Snowmen were spotted off Pawnee Road, and a small deer was seen walking around our poles

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Board meeting reports.

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Nominating Committee to meet March 7

The board of directors has selected nine co-op members to serve on the Nominating Committee, which will meet on Thursday, March 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the co-op's office in Auburn. The committee will select candidates for director elections in three districts to be held at the RECC Annual Meeting on June 6, 2019 in Chatham.

Director positions up for election to three-year terms this year are District 1 (incumbent Clayton Bloome of Pawnee), District 2 (incumbent Chris Wilcox of Waverly) and District 3 (incumbent Jimmy Ayers of Rochester).

Members serving on the Nominating Committee are:

District 1:	District 2:	District 3:
Rodney Bourne 35243 Black Diamond Rd Pawnee, IL 62558	Kevin Duewer 10813 Pleasant Valley Rd Waverly, IL 62692	Vince Fischer 6311 Mottar Rd Rochester, IL 62563
Gary Dunkirk 944 N 200 East Rd Morrisonville, IL 62546	Ted C Megginson Jr 12959 Lead Line Rd Auburn, IL 62615	Joe Coffey 7993 New City Rd Rochester, IL 62563
Raymond Squires 70 Michelle Dr Pawnee, IL 62558	Patricia Whalen 1009 Stenemeyer Rd Alexander, IL 62601	Dale Fesser 6101 New City Rd Rochester, IL 62563

Great news! The Nissan EV
Rebate has been extended
until April! RECC members
can get a special rebate of

\$3,500, combined with the
\$7,500 Federal EV Tax Credit.
That equals a total savings of
\$11,000 on a new NISSAN Leaf®.
Simply bring this ad and your
electric bill to your local NISSAN
dealer, and you can become
eligible to use the special Fleet
Certification Code to obtain your



special rebate. Please see eligibility requirements for more details. *This offer expires April 1, 2019!*

Does anyone remember this logo?



An old envelope with a rare co-op label was found in a filing cabinet, date unknown.