



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

Co-op Community Grants Awarded

With a \$10,000 matching grant from CoBank's Sharing Success program, RECC was able to contribute a total of \$20,000 to deserving charities. Donations were made to local food pantries in Taylorville, Virden and Loami. An additional grant was awarded to Refuge Ranch in Rochester. The 2020 recipients were very thankful for the donations and emphasized how difficult the pandemic has been on their fund-raising efforts. We commend these charities and the volunteers who have dedicated their lives to making a better community for all. RECC will continue to support the communities we serve.



Aubrie Megginson (center) presents grant to Pam Moses (left) and Amy Hagen (right).



Matt Evans (center) awards donations to Verna Scharfenberg (left) and Jill Murphy (right).

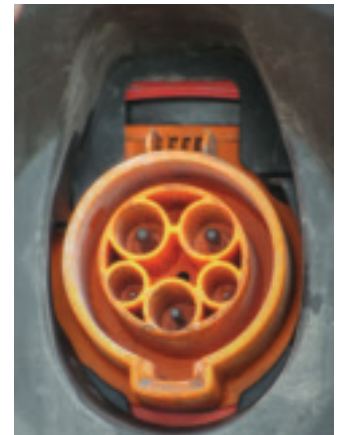
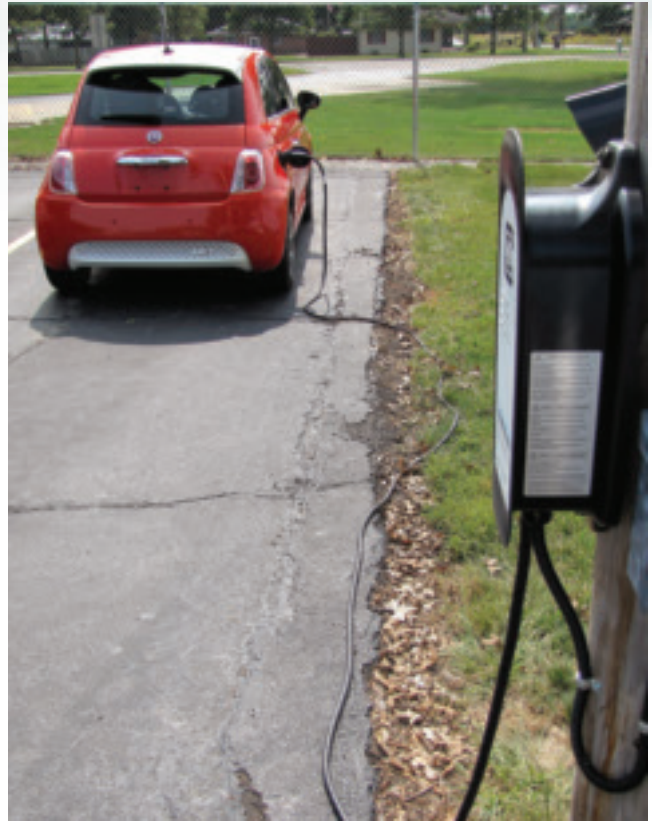


Drayton Davis (left) presents checks to Nancy Renfro (right).



Sandy Lex (left) and Nick Hays (center) awards donation to Chris Daniels.

Charging station installed in employee parking lot



Over the past few months, RECC has been looking to add an electric vehicle to our fleet. Unfortunately, the pandemic brought everything to a screeching halt. For now, the co-op's EV exploration is still a work in progress. That was not the case for Manager of Finance and Administration Aubrie Megginson. She was presented with an opportunity

to purchase a preowned Fiat 500 and leaped without hesitation.

As EVs become more popular in our rural areas, the demand for EV charging stations will continue to grow. The cooperative has promoted the benefits of electric vehicles and many believe that EVs are the transportation of the future. RECC has taken the first step toward electrifying our transportation

by installing an EV charging station in the employee parking lot. It is available to all employees who wish to purchase an EV. If future demand grows as anticipated, this will not be the last charging station we install at the cooperative. If you are considering an EV or installing a charging station in your home, give us a call today.

Installing an EV charging station at home



EV display in dash shows charging in progress.

Check with the cooperative and a qualified electrician before modifying your electrical system or installing a charging station. An electrician will need to make sure your home's wiring complies with national codes and local regulations, and a permit may be needed before installing the charging station.

Level 1 chargers are usually included with the car and require no additional costs. Installing the Level 2 charging station can cost around \$1,200, but that price can vary based on charging station features, contractor costs and government incentives. Allow for additional costs if it is necessary to upgrade the service going into your home. Contact RECC's engineering department for service upgrade information.

Charging a plug-in hybrid or electric vehicle (EV) at home makes sense for many eco-friendly drivers. Instead of spending a few hours each day waiting around at a public charging station, you can rest easy knowing that your vehicle is fueled up and ready to go whenever you need it.

You will need to determine what type of charger you need. Your installation process is determined by the type of charger. Level 1 EV chargers plug into standard 120-volt wall outlets and can charge your car in 15 to 24 hours. Level 2 chargers plug into 240-volt outlets, which allows your EV to charge up to seven times faster. Some vehicles can utilize quick and powerful Level 3 charging found at public charging stations, but they are

not practical for home use.

Installing a Level 1 charger is easy. Simply plug it into a standard outlet, just like any other electronic device. The process for installing a Level 2 charger will be more complicated and you may need the help of an electrical contractor.

If your home has a 200-amp electric service, you will just need a qualified electrician to install a 240-volt receptacle for the charging station to plug into. The National Electrical Code (NEC) requires that Level 2 charging outlets are on a separate branch circuit. If your home's electrical service is 100-amps or smaller, the panel will probably not support a Level 2 charger. You will need a service upgrade.

A standard 240-volt Level 2 chargers cost about \$600, but some charging stations include features like a longer cord, enhanced touch-screen display and smartphone app control that will add to that cost. Your EV manufacturer should be able to recommend equipment that is compatible with your vehicle.

Remember that EV owners do more than 80 percent of their charging at home, so it is important to get a charging system installed that best fits your needs. Afterward, you can take advantage of the stable electric rates and the convenience of avoiding the gas pumps.

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

3973 W. State Route 104
P.O. Box 19 • Auburn, IL 62615
(217) 438-6197
e-mail: recc@recc.coop
www.recc.coop

Find us on 

Board of Directors

Mel Repscher, Chairman
Chris Wilcox, Vice Chairman
Clayton Bloome, Secretary/Treasurer
Jimmy L. Ayers, Asst. Sec.-Treasurer
Cassie L. Eigenmann
Andy Goleman
Thomas Hart
Garry Niemeyer
Lou Weitekamp

President/CEO

David Stuva

Editor

Jeff Lancaster

Choose your payment option!

- At our office front desk or outside drop-box
- Mail to: PO Box 19, Auburn IL 62615
- Set up recurring bank draft or credit card payments
- Online, with Pay Now from our website
- Use SmartHub portal, online or mobile app
- By phone to our office, using credit card or checking account
- By phone using automated payment (217) 438-6197

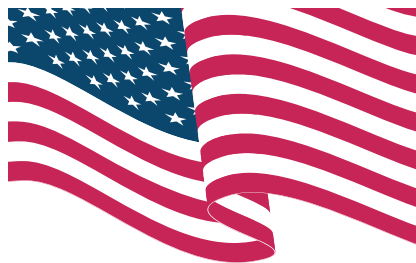
See our web page for monthly
Board meeting reports.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Walt Wallace retirement



The co-op thanks Walt for his many years of service and congratulates him on his recent retirement. The journeyman lineman said he enjoyed working here for 34 years and looks forward to the next phase of his life. Walt plans to remain active on the family farm for several more years. Everyone at RECC wishes Walt a long and happy retirement!



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED
VETERANS DAY

Our office will be closed Nov. 11



Our office will be closed Nov. 26-27



**Election Day
November 3**