



# Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

## Co-op Community Grants Awarded

RECC donated \$10,500 to Panhandle, North Mac, and Franklin school districts. The grants were made possible with matching funds from CoBank's Sharing Success program. The winning applications were submitted by those who invested their time and energy to acquire project funding. The cooperative

applauds their efforts and encourages others to apply for a Co-op Community Grant next year.

In the past six years, schools in Auburn, Ball-Chatham, Edinburg, Morrisonville, Pawnee, Raymond, Waverly, New Berlin, Taylorville Northwestern, and Kincaid have received Co-op Community Grants.

The primary recipients have been local schools, but food pantries in Taylorville, Virden, and Loami have been selected in recent years. The Refuge Ranch in Rochester, Auburn's Helping Hands and Virden's Prairieland Ambulance have also received similar grants through the Sharing Success program.



**The Panhandle School District was awarded \$4,000 to purchase a new projector for its auditorium. Superintendent Hopper is pictured here with RECC's Shelley Barnes presenting a check to Curriculum Director Dana Schott.**



**The Panther Pack program received a Co-op Community Grant to provide food for North Mac students. RECC linemen Andrew Boston on the left, and Matt Evans to the right, present a \$3,500 check to Panther Pack Coordinator Jill Murphy and Special Education Teacher Amy Crowdson.**



**Franklin High School was awarded \$3,000 to supply calculators for junior and senior classrooms. Curriculum Director Danielle Evans accepts the grant funds from RECC Warehouseman Dave McCarty.**



## Rebate available for EV owners who install a Level 2 Charger



### Rebates expand to include EV charging station

For several years, RECC has offered rebates on electric appliances such as water heaters, ranges, and dryers. Members have also received checks for installing heat pumps and geothermal heating and cooling systems. In 2025, charging stations for electric vehicles or EVs will be added to this list. Like other available rebates, members must apply and provide a receipt of their installation within one year of their purchase to receive their rebate check. Look for an updated rebate form on our website. As always, some limitations will apply, and rebates will be limited to one per member in some categories.

### Retroactive EV and charging rebate available until 12/31/2024

For the remainder of the year, any member who owns or leases an EV, and has installed a Level 2 charging station, will be eligible for a \$250 rebate. The temporary program was designed for members who recently purchased an EV and a charging station without cooperative incentives. This includes those members with older EVs who have installed a Level 2 charger within the past 10 years.

### Eligible Participants Must:

- 1) Be an active member of RECC in good financial standing
- 2) Provide proof that a Level 2 charging station is installed and operational
- 3) Document that an EV is registered to the address that is on the RECC billing statement

### Incentive provides valuable data

Rebates are more than incentives; they offer information on buying habits and industry trends. Our best estimation is that approximately 20 EVs are owned and charged regularly within RECC's service territory. This number is based on state reports provided by the counties and anecdotal evidence gathered through member contacts. The satisfaction survey also provides supporting data, but the responses are often dated. Rebates are still the most efficient method of acquiring useful information and providing incentives.

### Apply for your EV rebate now

Email Jeff Lancaster at [ev@recc.coop](mailto:ev@recc.coop) or call us at 217-438-6197 for more information. For those interested in our EV loaner program or a test drive in our VW ID.4, sign up at [recc.coop](http://recc.coop) today.



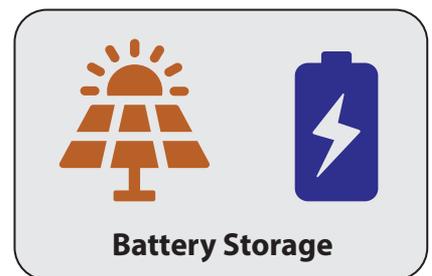
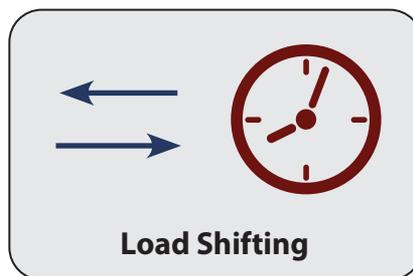


## Members determine how their solar energy is used

Owners must acknowledge that their solar panels are interconnected with the cooperative's distribution system, providing an outlet for excess member-generated energy. Any surplus or over-generation not used on the premises will be metered and purchased by the cooperative at the Avoided Energy Cost. Those kilowatts will be calculated monthly and appear on the next billing statement as a monetary credit. When their solar system cannot provide enough energy, the demands will be met with electricity provided by the cooperative and billed at the appropriate retail rate.

The solar system's value will be greatest when production and consumption occur simultaneously, so timing is important. Each family must choose a strategy that works best for them. Shifting energy-consuming loads to daylight hours could be beneficial and reduce energy costs. Adjust the thermostat to allow the heating and cooling to correspond with the sunlight. Schedule laundry activities to occur during the daytime. Install timers on water heaters. Strategically add electric heat or other electric appliances if consumption is lower in the winter months.

Members can utilize their system's full potential by installing batteries, but storage technology can be expensive. Batteries provide additional control of overgeneration and may be a wise investment for some homeowners. Storage allows the excess energy to be used in the evening or on a cloudy day, reducing the number of kilowatts purchased at the retail rate. Battery packs can also supply backup power during an outage when combined with a transfer switch. Homeowners should evaluate their needs and do their own calculations before investing in this emerging technology.



## Transferring electric service with a solar system

When a member moves into a home with distributed generation or solar equipment installed on the premises, it is important to know how it operates. As a safety precaution, the inverter will automatically shut down during an outage and not provide standby power. If the system is interconnected with RECC's distribution lines, it was most likely inspected and approved before being energized. The previous member/owner would have paid the construction fees, maintained insurance requirements, and executed an interconnection agreement with the cooperative.

The new owner will be responsible for overseeing the safety and compliance of this facility. Since the design specifications were previously approved and the system is fully functional, there are only three requirements to remain interconnected. Please call the office at 217-438-6197 with any questions.

1. Complete - Transfer Application
2. Sign - Interconnection and Parallel Operation of Distributed Generation Agreement
3. Document - \$1,000,000 Insurance Coverage

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Journeyman Lineman Shane Norris with wife Holly, and family

## Former RECC Director passes away



Ted Dowson passed away at the age of 85. He was a long-time cooperative member and a director on RECC's Board from 1993 to July 2014. Ted was a third-generation farmer in the Auburn-Divernon area, where he was active with the family's dairy and hog operations.

**Ted Dowson**  
12/5/1938 - 8/5/2024