

INACTIVE SERVICES, SEASONAL DISCONNECTS SUBJECT TO CO-OP'S NEW IDLE SERVICE FEE



As an electric cooperative, we are committed to maintaining a safe and well-maintained system. To that end, we invest heavily in building and servicing our distribution system.

When members elect to discontinue service, the costs associated with maintaining service to their meter don't simply disappear. Instead, they are shifted to the remaining active cooperative members.

Inactive services also represent a liability and safety concern. Unused equipment can become damaged or weatherworn without notice, result-

ing in increased danger to both the public and our linemen.

Earlier this year, the Nishnabotna Valley REC board of directors voted to enact an idle service policy. Under this policy, members who disconnect their service for more than 60 days are subject to an idle service fee of \$18.00 per month (single phase), \$23.00 per month (multi-phase small), or \$46.00 per month (multi-phase large).

Members who elect not to pay the monthly idle service fee are subject to having the service's electric facilities removed at the cooperative's dis-

cretion. This can include the poles, wire, and transformer feeding an inactive service.

While there is no cost to the member to have the service removed, if a member elects to reestablish service in the future the service would be subject to "new service" fees and any associated charges. The member will also be required to pay both the cost of the initial removal and the cost of reinstallation for the necessary facilities.

If you have an inactive service and wish to keep your inactive service in place, please contact the office at (712) 755-2166 to sign up for our idle service rate. Alternatively, if you'd like to have the service retired, please let us know that as well.

The change will help ensure that each member pays their portion of the cost to maintain and operate the distribution infrastructure necessary to deliver electricity to their home, business, well, farm, or agricultural building.

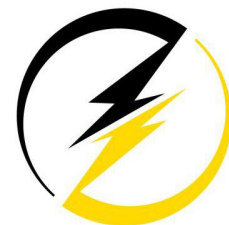
Save money on winter heating with Switch Makes Cents

Nishnabotna Valley REC members have been participating in the Switch Makes Cents voluntary load management program for nearly 40 years. By signing up for Switch Makes Cents, members enjoy a reduced electric rate to power their water heater, air conditioner, and electric furnace or heat pump.

Recently, NVREC began replacing aging switches. Service crews have replaced nearly 1,000 switches to date in members' homes.

If you participate in Switch Makes Cents, and our crews have not been out to your home to change out your device, please contact us to set up a short 20-minute appointment.

Contact Kylie Beebe today at 712-755-2166 to schedule your Switch Makes Cents device exchange.



SWITCH MAKES CENTS

LOAD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Board approves \$356,629 patronage retirement

Eligible members to receive their share in December

Member-owners of Nishnabotna Valley REC will receive their share of the \$356,629 patronage this December, either on their bill or in the mail. The money comes from patronage dividends allocated for the year 2002 and a portion from the year 2021.

When you signed up to receive electric service from Nishnabotna Valley REC, you became a member-owner of an electric utility. While investor-owned utilities return a portion of any profits back to their shareholders, Nishnabotna Valley REC allocates and periodically retires patronage dividends based on how much a member spent with the co-op during a year. Electric co-ops operate on an at-cost basis, so our goal is to provide you with electricity at a price that is as close to cost as possible.

These funds have helped us keep the lid on rates, reduce the amount of money we needed to borrow from outside lenders to build, maintain, and expand a reliable electric distribution system, and cover emergency expenses.

If you were a member of NVREC in 2002 or in 2021, you should be a recipient of patronage dividends in December. If the amount due to the member is less than \$20, it will be rolled over and combined with future dividends until it equals \$20 or more (unless it is the final payment to that member).

Members of Nishnabotna Valley REC have received over \$7.2 million in patronage dividends since the cooperative began in 1936. Please visit NVREC.com for more information about patronage dividends.

How Does Patronage Work?

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, excess revenues are returned to members in the form of patronage dividends, also known as capital credits.

1

Your co-op tracks how much money you pay for electricity throughout the year.

2

At the end of the year, your co-op completes financial matters and determines whether there are excess revenues, known as margins.

3

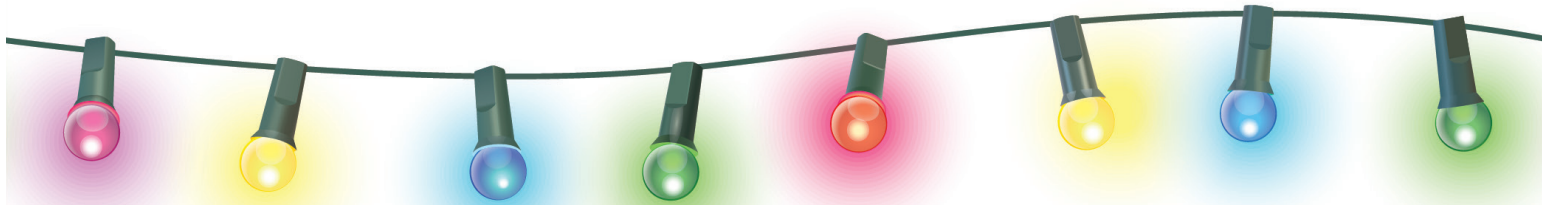
Your co-op allocates, or designates, the margins to members as patronage based upon how much they spent with the co-op during the year.

4

When the co-op's financial condition permits, your board of directors decides to retire, or pay, the patronage dividends to you.

5

You receive a bill credit or check for your portion of the patronage dividends being retired.



MERRY, BRIGHT AND EFFICIENT HOLIDAY LIGHTING

Decking the halls doesn't have to take a toll on your energy bill! Keep your holiday lighting merry, bright and energy efficient with LED light strands.

- Consider replacing older light strands with new ENERGY STAR LED® lights. LED strands are 70 percent more efficient and last 10 times longer than the age-old standard bulbs.
- You can get the look of cozy lighting with LEDs. Just look for "warm white" on the label.
- Unlike older light strands, LED lights give off virtually no heat, making them safer for kids and pets (and reindeer).
- Save energy by setting a timer for outdoor lighting and decorations. Program the timer so the lights turn on in the evening and turn off later at night when you typically go to sleep.

Get your home ready for comfort and efficiency all winter long

Don't wait until the first cold winter day to find out that your furnace doesn't work. By spending a little time getting ready now, you'll be prepared when the season changes.

Check your HVAC system: It's a good time to replace your air filter if it's dirty. Also, call a pro for a seasonal maintenance checkup to make sure your furnace or heat pump is in good working order.

Check insulation and air sealing: Air seal windows and doors to reduce drafts and make sure insulation is working up to its full potential. Add more insulation if needed. Proper insulation and air sealing in the attic can not only make your home more efficient, but prevent ice dams on the roof.

Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms: Check smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and change batteries if needed.

Change ceiling fans: Switch ceiling fans to rotate clockwise and set them to run slowly while you're home. This distributes warm air more evenly so that your furnace doesn't have to work as hard to keep you comfortable.

Check fireplace: Check your fireplace and chimney to make sure they're clean and that the flue is in working order.

Insulate pipes: Insulate pipes in crawlspaces or any place where freezing temperatures might cause pipes to freeze and burst.

Drain hoses and cover hose bibs: Outside, drain hoses and store them for the winter. Protect hose bibs with covers.

Clean gutters: Finally, clean out gutters so that they don't clog and freeze. This can damage the gutters and siding.

Want even more energy saving ideas?

Visit our website at [NVREC.com/saveenergy](https://www.nvrec.com/saveenergy) to take the Home Energy Adventure and start saving today.





Iowa Builders and Contractors:

**REGISTRATION
IS OPEN!**

**February 8 and 9 in Altoona at
The Meadows Event Center**

[MomentumIsBuilding.com](https://www.MomentumIsBuilding.com)

Iowa-based electric cooperatives announce details for 2023 Momentum is Building Conference for contractors and builders

Iowa-based builders and contractors are invited to learn about energy efficiency technologies at the 2024 Momentum is Building Conference, scheduled for Feb. 8 and 9, 2024, at The Meadows Events and Conference Center in Altoona, IA.

A major draw for electricians, plumbers and HVAC professionals is the opportunity to earn CEU credits at the conference. Momentum is Building attendees can also network with industry professionals, hear from recognized energy efficiency and building trades experts, and gain insight on energy-efficiency regulations and incentives.

Sponsored and organized by the Iowa Cooperatives for Energy Efficiency (ICEE), the annual Momentum is Building Conference also connects Iowa's construction industry with electric cooperatives, which serve nearly 650,000 Iowans across 99 counties.

"Electric cooperatives have long supported energy efficiency efforts, and one of our goals is to help mem-

ber-consumers use energy wisely," states Angela Catton, manager of member relations and development at Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative. "We invest in this conference to build relationships between cooperatives and the contractors who provide services to the members we mutually serve."

"Informing contractors about cutting-edge energy efficiency and ensuring our building trades partners are up on the latest codes is important to Iowa-based electric cooperatives," said Ryan Cornelius, vice president of corporate relations at Corn Belt Power Cooperative. "For over 30 years, the Momentum is Building Conference has provided both electric cooperatives and contractors an opportunity to come together to provide rural Iowans with safe, efficient and cost-effective home comfort solutions."

Speaker Jay Gubrud will kick off the conference by illustrating his powerful approach to improving personal and

professional productivity, while connecting with colleagues and clientele alike.

The conference will close with inspirational speaker, Dr. Charlie Cartwright. Drawing on his deep understanding of what motivates and drives people, "Dr. Charlie" has uncovered the essential elements that pave the way for unlocking human potential.

The Momentum is Building 2024 Conference will be held at The Meadows Events and Conference Center from 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 8, running through noon on Friday, Feb. 9, 2024.

Registration is available online at www.MomentumIsBuilding.com. Early Bird registration is open until Jan. 17, 2024.

For more information about the conference and to see if you qualify for financial support to attend MIB, please contact Janell Leinen by calling 712-755-2166 or by email at jleinen@NVREC.com



Nation, Iowa's electric reliability is now in jeopardy



Chuck Soderberg

(left) executive vice president and general manager of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives

Congressman Randy Feenstra

(right) representing Iowa's 4th District

Supply chain delays. Disorderly retirements of dispatchable electric generation. Complex regulations on power plant emissions. Regional warnings about a lack of generation capacity to cover electric demand. Permitting delays for needed electric transmission infrastructure.

Individually, any one of these issues is enough to seriously impact reliability of electric service. But all these scenarios are playing out simultaneously across the nation and a perfect storm may be on the horizon.

Electric reliability across America is in serious jeopardy, and frankly, it's unacceptable. Here are the facts:

Dispatchable sources of electric generation like coal and nuclear are being retired far too early. And their generation capacity is being replaced by intermittent sources of generation like wind and solar. The downside: these intermittent sources only work when the wind blows and the sun shines.

Battery storage is not yet feasible for longer durations on a utility-scale level. For all practical purposes, electricity must be generated as it is being consumed.

Demand for electricity continues to grow as our society becomes increasingly reliant on electricity.

Locally owned electric cooperatives work hard to provide reliable and affordable electricity for the member-consumers they serve. Co-ops are mission driven to power lives and empower communities and they make long-term

decisions to ensure power is available when it's needed.

That's why we believe in a power generation strategy that prioritizes energy diversity. The same adage used for sound financial investing also applies to power generation: don't put all your eggs in one basket. Iowa's electric cooperatives use dispatchable sources of power like coal and natural gas because they can control the output and ramp up generation when needed to match sudden increases in electric demand. But our ability to provide reliable electricity is in jeopardy.

In May, the Environmental Protection Agency released its proposed rule to limit greenhouse gas emissions from new and existing fossil-fuel-fired electric generating units. The proposal is part of the current administration's misguided regulatory agenda to create a carbon-free power sector by 2035 and net zero emissions economy-wide by no later than 2050. We believe this proposal will further strain America's electric grid and undermine decades of work to reliably keep the lights on across the nation.

But that's not the only threat we face. A recent North American Electric Reliability Corporation reliability assessment is just the latest in a series of alarming reminders about the new electric reliability challenges facing the nation. Nine states experienced power interruptions last December as the demand for electricity exceeded available supply.

It's imperative that policymakers work to prioritize reliability in every energy policy discussion. Federal policies must recognize the compromised reliability reality facing the nation before it's too late.

The families, farms, and businesses served by electric cooperatives deserve affordable AND reliable electricity to power their lives.

A large background image showing a lush green cornfield in the foreground, with a chain-link fence in the lower right. In the background, several high-voltage power line towers stand against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

"Federal policies must recognize the compromised reliability reality facing the nation before it's too late."

- Chuck Soderberg, Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, and Congressman Randy Feenstra (Iowa's 4th District)

Shining the light on local volunteer

Congratulations to Nancy Hering of Oakland on recently being nominated for the statewide Shine the Light contest. Nancy was nominated by Layna Bentley, Doris Bane, Brenda Windmuller, and Julie Kent for her work with Riverside Food Pantry in Oakland.

Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, our Shine the Light contest celebrates our cooperative commitment to community. During the month of June, member-owners, employees, and retirees of Iowa's electric cooperatives were invited to nominate local volunteers who are making a positive difference in their communities at IowaShineTheLight.com.

This year, the contest

received 126 volunteer nominations, which were all listed in the August issue of Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine, which can be found at IECLmagazine.com.

While her entry was not selected as one of the three statewide winners, Nishnabotna Valley REC commends Nancy for her service. To celebrate her commitment to community, NVREC made a donation of \$250 to the Riverside Food Pantry in her honor.

Thank you, Nancy, for volunteering your time and talent to making our community a better place.

For more information about Iowa's Shine the Light visit IowaShineTheLight.com. Nominations for 2024 will open this summer.



RECare: members helping members

RECare is a program through your cooperative which provides local community action agencies the funds to help low-income families pay for winter heating bills and weatherize their homes. This program allows you to help other less fortunate rural

electric cooperative members.

Through RECare, you may make a one-time contribution or a monthly pledge that will automatically be added to your monthly electric bill. Even \$1 a month will help others.

To participate, please complete the

form below.

Complete the required information, then return it with your monthly billing statement to *Nishnabotna Valley REC, PO Box 714, Harlan, IA 51537*.

Thank you for your support!



CONSUMER AUTHORIZATION FORM

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members 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 will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.
- My gift is a matching fund gift. The matching fund is _____.

NAME _____
 ACCOUNT NUMBER _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please mail to: *RECare, Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 714, Harlan, IA 51537; (712) 755-2166*

Recent transmission outage highlights importance of year-round preparedness

Sunny and 70 degrees. Not the weather normally associated with widespread power outages. Yet as a recent transmission outage highlighted, service disruptions can occur any time of the year.

Despite being a beautiful day, more than 950 members found themselves without service on October 20 when a neighboring electric utility experienced trouble on their system, causing three Northwest Iowa Power Cooper-



ative (NIPCO) substations in Shelby County to go dark.

While large outages like this are rare, with the winter storm season almost upon us, Nishnabotna Valley REC is prepared to respond – rain, snow, or shine – whenever an outage occurs

As an electric cooperative, we work diligently to maintain the reliable service you depend on. That means making smart investments in our distribution system to upgrade reliability and capacity. It also means maintaining a healthy supply of materials on hand, such as poles, wire, and transformers, so we're prepared to restore power quickly. And it means ensuring our linemen have the necessary training and equipment to safely get the lights on and return to their loved ones each night.

It's no secret that electricity powers our lives. We depend on it for nearly everything we do.

With more than 1,400 miles of distribution line and 5,000 service points, it takes a lot of hands to keep your power on, and even more hands to get it up and running when an outage occurs.

When an unplanned transmission or distribution outage occurs, line crews work to identify the cause of the outage and determine which towers, poles, lines, or equipment have failed or been damaged. Since NIPCO owns and operates the transmission lines

and substations that feed our distribution system, their line crews are responsible for restoring service during transmission or substation outages, with Nishnabotna Valley REC crews handling outages that arise on our distribution system.

While we strive to keep the lights on 24/7, sometimes Mother Nature has other ideas. Powerful winter storms can wreak havoc on power lines, with heavy ice or snow pulling down lines, or strong winds snapping cross arms – or in rare instances – the power poles themselves. These downed lines pose a serious safety concern until properly de-energized.

If you encounter a downed power line, always remember to:

- Assume the line is energized
- Stay at least 50 feet away
- Call 911 immediately to report the downed line
- Keep other pedestrians and motorists away until first responders arrive
- Never attempt to drive over or around a downed power line
- Stay inside your vehicle if trapped by a downed line or power pole. Call 911 and stay in your vehicle until a first responder tells you it's safe to exit

For real-time updates on major outages, stay connected with Nishnabotna Valley REC on Facebook at [Facebook.com/NishnabotnaValleyREC](https://www.facebook.com/NishnabotnaValleyREC) and on X at [X.com/Nish_Valley_REC](https://twitter.com/Nish_Valley_REC).



1317 Chatburn Avenue, PO Box 714 • Harlan, Iowa 51537

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30am to 4:00pm

Telephone: (712) 755-2166 • Fax: (712) 755-2351

Website: NVREC.com • Follow us on Facebook!

Outages after hours, holidays, weekends: (800) 234-5122

Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

President.....Donna Olson
 Vice President Gene Kenkel
 Secretary-TreasurerBryan Greve
 DirectorDave Applegate
 DirectorDarrell Stamp
 Director Tom Pattee

Director Galen Grabill
 Chief Executive Officer Bill McKim
 Director of Operations Kert Barnum
 Manager of Administrative Services..... Kara Meiners
 Communication Specialist..... Janell Leinen

Nishnabotna Valley REC

PO Box 714
Harlan, IA 51537

Address Correction Requested



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Nishnabotna Valley REC will provide safe and reliable electric service to its members in a valuable, sustainable, and environmentally responsible manner.

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HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

November & December 2022 & January 2023



The NVREC "Christmas Tree"

**THE NVREC OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED**

ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Veteran's Day (observed): November 10

Thanksgiving: November 23 & 24

Christmas: December 25 & 26

New Years Day: January 1

Electrical Safety Activity



**Energy
Explorers**

The holiday season is a festive time of year! Remember to keep electrical and fire safety in mind as you decorate your home.

Can you find the four hazards in the home below?
Use the safety tips for clues.

Electrical Safety Tips:

- Do not overload electrical outlets with too many decorations or appliances.
- Never leave a candle burning if you're not in the room.
- Make sure your tree is watered daily.
- Extension cords used for holiday decorations should be checked for fraying/damaged or exposed wires.

