

KWF, LLC Honored with Iowa Venture Award

Nishnabotna Valley REC member KWF, LLC was one of seven Iowa companies to be honored with a 2022 Iowa Venture Award by the Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) and its rural cooperative partners.

KWF was started by Kyle Kirchoff as a part-time business making small products for local businesses in his garage in Griswold. Since then, KWF has experienced steady growth and now employs 14 people. It has a five-building footprint housing CNC metal fabrication equipment and a state-of-the-art paint booth.

KWF manufactures material handling equipment for

feed milling, flour milling, grain milling, and pet food manufacturing. They also do contract manufacturing for specialized equipment.

With products sold nationally and internationally, their customer base has grown to include Purina and Tyson Foods pet food programs.

“The Iowa Venture Award provides an opportunity to recognize and thank companies that are innovating, creating jobs, and investing in Iowa,” said IADG President/CEO Bruce Nuzum.

“IADG and its partners are proud to recognize KWF for the contributions they are making in their community, state of Iowa, and beyond.”



Bill McKim, CEO, Nishnabotna Valley REC; Bruce Nuzum, President/CEO, IADG; Debi Durham, Director, IEDA/IFA; Kyle Kirchoff, President/Owner, KWF; Maggie Kirchoff; Janell Leinen, Communications Specialist, Nishnabotna Valley REC

Winter Reliability: Serving Your Energy Needs

In November, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) released a report outlining its 2022/2023 Winter Reliability Assessment.

In the report, NERC raised concerns regarding several regional transmission organizations (RTOs), their challenges related to electric generation, and the capacity to meet electric demand during the winter months.

The topic of reliable and affordable power is a newsworthy one. When temperatures drop, the available power supply becomes a prominent news story. While local and regional media share a bleak outlook, it is essential to know the facts about reliability close to home.

NERC's Reliability Assessment

NERC's Annual Winter Reliability Assessment looks at several factors when evaluating the generation resource and transmission system adequacy needed to meet consumer demand. The assessment considers weather, fuel risks,

and railroad transportation uncertainty. The evaluation establishes a risk level for the supply and demand for power within individual regional transmission systems throughout North America.

NERC's assessment reports “winter weather conditions that exceed projections could expose power system generation and fuel delivery infrastructure vulnerabilities.”

Many electric utilities across the country are members of one of nine regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs), also referred to as power pools. These entities are federally regulated by FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) and work on a regional scale to coordinate, control, and monitor supply and demand on the electric grid. RTOs do not own the power grid, but they work as “air-traffic controllers” of the grid to ensure reliable power supplies, adequate transmission

infrastructure, and “day-ahead” electric market coordination of wholesale electricity prices on behalf of their members.

Many regional systems, including MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator), which serves some electric cooperatives and utilities in Iowa, have been identified at a marginal or higher risk for power capacity shortages under extreme conditions. MISO was declared high risk due to the retirement of 4.2 gigawatts (GW) of coal and nuclear plants since last winter, along with the potential impact of extreme cold weather that could compromise generation and fuel sources.

Southwest Power Pool (SPP), the regional transmission organization (RTO) that serves western and some central Iowa cooperatives, has been



Ongoing inflation necessitates modest rate increase



Bill McKim
CEO, Nishnabotna Valley REC

Working for a member-owned electric cooperative, I'm always reminded of how unique our member-owners are.

Maybe it's the deep roots many members have in our communities, or the patience and resiliency that comes from raising livestock and farming. Whatever the reason, I'm constantly struck by our members' willingness to embrace change and adapt.

Since their formation in the late 1930's, electric cooperatives like Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative have worked to help educate our members on the benefits that electricity brings to all our lives. From electric irons and refrigerators, to milking machines and water pumps, we introduced members to new technologies that revolutionized life on the farm.

In more recent years, Nishnabotna Valley and electric co-ops across the nation have promoted the concept of beneficial electrification – adopting money-saving technologies such as heat pumps and electric water heating to improve our members' quality of life.

These technologies provide both comfort and energy savings to our members, while enabling us to better manage and control energy demand, allowing us to keep rates stable and affordable. Unfortunately, the current inflationary climate has demonstrated that some costs are simply beyond our control.

SUPPLY COSTS ARE RISING

As we discussed previously in *News Lines*, the cost of everyday goods is climbing. The consumer price index (CPI), which calculates inflation by measuring the cost of common urban goods and services, has been steadily increasing. The most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows the CPI rising 6.5 percent compared to this time last year.

For NVREC, the effects of inflation have been significant. Like other local businesses, we've been negatively impacted by the rapid rise in the cost of goods and services. Everything from poles and wire to our contracted tree trimming service have escalated in price.

While we've worked hard in recent years to find creative solutions to absorb these added costs, a small rate increase

has become necessary to maintain the solid financial footing of the cooperative.

In December, NVREC's member-elected board of directors approved a modest rate increase to take effect March 1, 2023. For the average residential or farm single-phase service, the increase will be about three percent, well below current inflationary levels.

The new rates will be reflected on your March bill. This marks the first rate increase since March 2017. The revised rates can be found on the next page.

By maintaining the fiscal health of the cooperative, we are well positioned to continue serving our member-owners during this very challenging economic time.

As with all electric distribution cooperatives, wholesale power costs continue to make up our biggest expense. In 2022, more than 60 cents out of every dollar we spent went to the purchase of wholesale power. Thankfully, we continue to benefit from our long-term contracts with our wholesale power provider Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative.

While I recognize that rate increases are never welcome news, there is a silver lining. By acting now to protect the financial health of the cooperative, we can continue to focus on delivering great value to our members.

As we've always done, Nishnabotna Valley will continue to balance the need to make smart investments in our distribution system while also working to control costs and reduce expenses. This approach will enable us to continue focusing on our core priorities of:

- Enhancing reliability across our more than 900 miles of distribution line.
- Maintaining a well stocked warehouse, allowing us to restore power quickly during unplanned outages.
- Ensuring our linemen continue to have the tools and training necessary to do their jobs safely under even the harshest conditions.
- Providing our members with innovative energy efficiency programs and rebates to better help them manage their electric bill.

HELP REDUCE DEMAND COSTS

As a member, you can help us control costs. Often, when you consume power is just as important as how much you consume.

During times of extremely heavy usage – think hot summer weekday afternoons, when air conditioning units are working

their hardest or cold winter mornings when members turn up their heat to get ready for work or school – a peak system demand occurs.

Nishnabotna Valley, like all electric utilities, pays a demand charge to our wholesale power provider based on how much electricity is being consumed during these peak demand times.

To better control these demand costs and ensure reliability, NVREC has been actively exploring creative ways to reduce the amount of power we purchase during these peak usage times. With the ongoing adoption of cleaner, more affordable technologies, such as electric vehicles, we must look to the past as we plan for the future.

Just as we've moved from party line phones to smart phones, we are exploring alternative rate structures to help meet today's economic realities.

INNOVATIVE RATE STRUCTURES

One alternative rate design is time-of-use (TOU) rates. These innovative rates use variable pricing, with the price members pay per kilowatt-hour shifting over the course of the day or even the day of the week. Typically, TOU rates divide each day into higher priced "on-peak" and lower priced "off-peak" periods.

By charging more during on-peak periods, TOU rates encourage members to shift a greater portion of their energy use to times of the day when demand is lower. This shift helps to flatten a co-op's demand curve, reducing wholesale demand charges. These savings are then passed back to their members in the form of cheaper off-peak energy.

A growing number of electric cooperatives both here in Iowa and around the nation have already adopted these types of rate structures.

As we move into 2023, Nishnabotna Valley will continue to explore rate options and structures that offer flexibility and benefits to our membership. We'll also continue to promote programs that reward members for installing highly efficient equipment and embracing better, more efficient building practices that reap long-term rewards for you and your cooperative.

We remain committed to our mission of delivering the safe, affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible power our members depend on. We will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of our member-owners and the communities we proudly serve.

Help those in need this winter

Cold weather can wreak havoc on electric bills during long and windy winter nights. Thankfully, Nishnabotna Valley REC members can help their fellow Iowans through a program called RECare.

This program provides local community action agencies with the funds to help low-income families pay for winter heating bills, weatherize their homes, and 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 one dollar a month will help others. To participate, please clip out the form below, complete the required information, and return it 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 _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please mail to: RECare, Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative,

P.O. Box 714, 1317 Chatburn, Harlan, IA 51537; (712) 755-2166



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

NVREC supports local library

As a member-owned electric cooperative, NVREC is proud to support charitable organizations within our service area. That commitment will be on display next month when the Friends of the Griswold Public Library hosts a silent auction fundraiser at the library. The event will raise funds to update the children's reading area and expand their available technology options.

The auction will take place on Friday, February 24 from 6 - 8 p.m. in the library located at 505 Main Street in Griswold. Entertainment and refreshments will be provided.

The Griswold Public Library has been serving the residents of Griswold and the surrounding area since they first opened their doors in 1914. Today, the library is a key community gathering spot and provides a much-needed after-school program focused on enhancing childhood literacy and fostering a lifelong love of reading.

The program provides a safe, supervised place for kids to read, have a snack, socialize with friends, work on the computers, and play video games.

Nishnabotna Valley, along with numerous other local businesses, donated a gift basket for the event.



Notice of Rate Increase

On December 21, 2022, Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative's board of directors approved an increase in rates and charges affecting prices for electricity service that you receive. The increase will apply to your electricity consumption beginning March 1, 2023.

The increase in annual revenues will be approximately \$531,103 or 3.0 percent.

Although the effect of the increase on your bill will vary depending upon the type and extent of usage, the average monthly increase per customer for the primary customer classes are:

| | Current Monthly Customer Class | Current Rate | Monthly Increase | New Rate | Percentage Increase |
|-----|--------------------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 1) | Multi-Purp. Single ph. | \$173.97 | \$5.11 | \$179.08 | 2.94% |
| 3) | Multi-Phase Small | \$483.09 | \$14.11 | \$497.20 | 2.92% |
| 4) | Multi-Phase Large | \$1,818.25 | \$53.27 | \$1,871.52 | 2.93% |
| 6) | Controlled Int. Heat | \$115.00 | \$3.4 | \$118.40 | 2.96% |
| 7) | Controlled Dual Fuel | \$101.66 | \$2.93 | \$104.59 | 2.88% |
| 9) | Uncontrolled Electric Heat | \$468.94 | \$13.88 | \$482.82 | 2.96% |
| 10) | Controlled Gen | \$556.17 | \$16.13 | \$572.30 | 2.90% |
| 13) | L Power TOU <1000 | \$9,282.13 | \$298.88 | \$9,581.01 | 3.22% |
| 14) | L Power TOU >1000 | \$44,824.80 | \$1,394.05 | \$46,218.85 | 3.11% |

A written explanation of current rate schedules is available without charge from our local business office. If you have any questions, please contact our business office at (712) 755-2166.

Now accepting Youth Tour applications

NVREC is once again looking for a lucky student to send on an all-expense paid trip to our nation's capital as part of the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

This unique experience brings together students from across Iowa and the nation to learn more about electric cooperatives, American government, and to meet with their members of Congress.

NVREC is currently accepting applications from area high school sophomores and juniors.

For more information, contact Janell Leinen at 712-755-2166 or visit our website NVREC.com.

Applications are due by Friday, March 17, 2023.



Students can apply now for a trip to Washington, D.C., from June 17-23!



High school students interested in government and public service are encouraged to apply! Learn more at IowaYouthTour.com



Energy Trail Tour 2023

Nishnabotna Valley REC and Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of three Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer.

This 3-day adventure will allow you to view, first-hand, how your power providers convert energy from water, wind, and coal into electricity. View coal being mined and see how those mines are, then, returned to productive farm and native grass lands. Learn how the energy industry is evolving to become more dependent on renewable power generation and glimpse into the future of carbon capture technology. Enjoy the fellowship of other cooperative member-owners on a comfortable motor coach journey to North Dakota's Energy Loop. \$100 per couple covers your lodging, meals and entry fees. The remainder of your tour costs are covered by Nishnabotna Valley REC.

Ten lucky couples from NVREC will be selected at random from those who sign up.



YES, please enter our names in the drawing for the trip. We understand that if our names are drawn, we will be billed \$100.

Our first and second choice of dates:

| | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|
| June 28-30 | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | (please circle) |
| July 12-14 | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | |
| July 26-28 | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | |

I/we have have not participated in this tour in the past.

First Person _____

Second Person _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Clip this coupon and return to cooperative by May 15, 2023.



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
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2023 ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES

GEOTHERMAL

New: \$1,400/ton • Replacement: \$750/ton
Up to 30% cost. Max \$10,000 per home.

AIR-TO-AIR HEAT PUMP

New or replacement with electric backup: \$700/ton
New or replacement without electric backup: \$500/ton
Up to 30% cost. Max \$10,000 per home.

DUCTLESS MINI-SPLIT HEAT PUMPS

With electric backup: New \$700 • Replacement: \$700
Without electric backup: New \$500 • Replacement: \$500
Up to 30% of the cost.

CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONER

New with load control: \$100 (*stand alone*)

CONTROLLED WATER HEATERS

50-74 gallons: \$300 • 75-84 gallons: \$350 • 85-104 gallons: \$400 • 105+ gallons: \$500
*Does not apply to on-demand or tankless systems. Residential or commercial.
Must be 50+ gallons with EF of .90 or greater. Lump sum or 30% of cost, apply lesser of the two.*

BUILDING INSULATION

- *Electric heat is the main source for qualifying rooms.*
- *Professionally installed, blown-in, spray foam, AeroShield, insulating concrete forms, rigid styrofoam panels, and/or structural panel type insulation*
- *30% of the installed cost up to a max of \$800 per building/year*

ENERGY STAR RATED APPLIANCES

Washer: \$50 • Dryer: \$25 • Refrigerator: \$25 Freezer: \$25 • Dishwasher: \$25
Must be new appliances

APPLIANCES ELIGIBLE FOR RECYCLING REBATE

Refrigerator or freezer: \$50 (*max 3/year*)
Appliance must be delivered to a qualified landfill, and member must receive a receipt from the landfill that a qualifying appliance was recycled.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS

Residential: 50% cost, up to \$750/charger, max of 2/household
Commercial: 50% cost, up to \$1,200/charger, max of 5/location
*Level 2 or higher: 2.9-14kW, 208-240V • Must be hardwired and installation must meet local code
Member to provide charger make, model, S/N, specifications • Cannot back-feed into the system
Load control switch required • Must have built in accessible meter or REC meter installed*

To see if you qualify for any of these energy efficiency rebates, contact our member service department at 712-755-2166.

Rebate forms available at NVREC.com.

NVREC welcomes back state legislators in Des Moines



Gene Kenkel, Director; Janell Leinen, Communications Specialist; Representative Steve Holt; Representative Tom Moore; Donna Olson, Director; Bryan Greve, Director; and Dave Applegate, Director.



Dave Applegate, Director; Bryan Greve, Director; Senator Jason Schultz; Donna Olson, Director; and Gene Kenkel, Director.

Several NVREC directors recently met with legislators during the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' annual Welcome Back Legislative Reception in January.

The event drew more than 150 directors, managers, and employees from Iowa's electric cooperatives to Des

Moines to discuss legislative priorities with the more than 100 state legislators in attendance.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to meet with state legislators at the beginning of the 2023 Legislative Session to highlight the issues that impact rural electric cooperatives and the

communities we serve.

This year's session is expected to include several contentious energy related bills, including efforts to circumvent Iowa's electric service territory laws, place arbitrary siting restrictions on utility-scale solar arrays, and create burdensome aggregated solar installations.



identified as a "lower risk" thanks to the addition of 3.7 GW of added generation capacity, including natural gas and wind generation, since 2021.

What does this mean for NVREC?

While electric cooperative members in western Iowa hear stories of power supply shortages, it is essential to know that our cooperative's power supply is sufficient under normal conditions. Nishnabotna Valley REC's power suppliers, NIPCO, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), are well-positioned to meet this winter's peak demand.

In fact, SPP projects that there is enough generation capacity to satisfy consumer demand for power across its entire 14-state footprint, which includes western Iowa. However, that doesn't eliminate the risk of an isolated energy emergency alert (EEA) that could be prompted by a widespread, prolonged weather event, unplanned outages at generation facilities, or damage to the existing transmission system.

December's Winter Storm Elliott

tested the limits of power grids across the US as it produced double-digit sub-zero temperatures, high winds, and precipitation producing blizzard warnings and power outages impacting millions of people. Western Iowa felt the impact of Winter Storm Elliott as these conditions hung over the region for several days, including those leading up to the Christmas holiday. With families gathering together to celebrate, water heating, appliances used for holiday baking and keeping up with laundry, coupled with record levels of home heating, pushed electric consumption in the NIPCO service territory to all-time highs.

Meeting the power demands of cooperative member-consumers in western Iowa during Elliott's wrath supports the data reported in NERC's winter reliability assessment. NIPCO set a new all-time record peak of 269.36 MW (megawatts) at 5:30 pm on December 22, 2022. This value represents a 12.97 MW (five percent) increase from the previous peak, recorded on February 16, 2021, of 256.39 MW during Winter Storm Uri.

What is NVREC doing?

We continue to work with policymakers and regulators on a state and federal level for a sensible "all-of-the-above"

generation approach.

The ongoing energy transition must recognize the need for time and technology development while including all available energy sources to maintain reliability and affordability. A resilient and reliable electric grid that keeps the lights on is paramount to what we do and serves as the cornerstone of our rural economy.

Electric cooperative families and businesses rightfully expect the lights to stay on at a price they can afford. To maintain the reliability of your power supply, we must adopt an "all-of-the-above" strategy that includes both renewable energy, such as wind and solar, as well as dependable resources we have come to rely on like coal, natural gas, nuclear, and hydropower. This diverse energy mix is essential to meeting reliability expectations day in and day out.

Our mission remains the same. We are here to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity that is also environmentally responsible. We do not anticipate an energy shortfall in the coming months but be assured that, as a member-owned electric cooperative, we will monitor and communicate energy supply updates as they arise.

Smart Choices drawing winners announced

Jason Petersen (left) and Dr. Larry Kintner (right) are Nishnabotna Valley REC's latest monthly Smart Choices drawing winners.

Members are encouraged to sign up for our FREE monthly eNewsletter called Smart Choices and receive valuable energy saving ideas that can help you save money on your monthly electric bill.

Each month there are also electrical safety tips, information on new technology like electric vehicles, and so much more. Sign up today at NVREC.com.



\$5,000 available for college scholarships

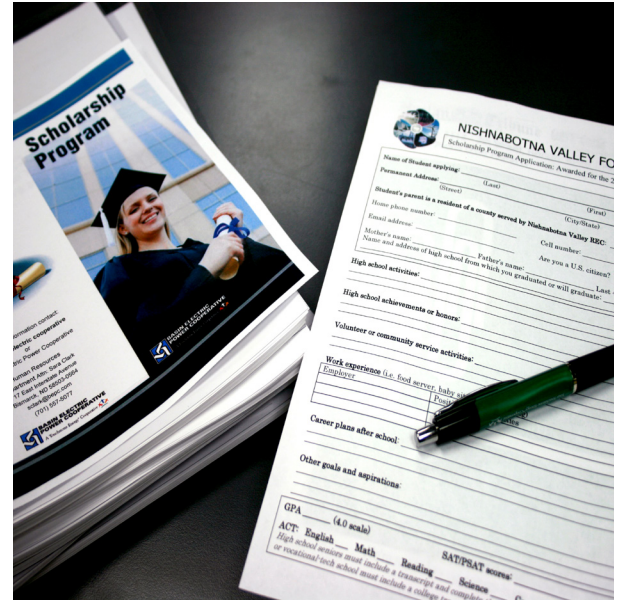
A total of \$5,000 in college scholarships will be awarded by the Nishnabotna Valley Foundation and Basin Electric Power Cooperative for the 2023-2024 school year.

Dependants of NVREC member-owners are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship through our power supplier Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, ND. The Nishnabotna Valley Foundation also has four \$500 scholarships available to all area students enrolled or planning to attend a four-year college or university. The foundation also has up to four additional \$500 scholarships, with students enrolled or planning to enroll in two-year technical school given priority.

Recipients of the scholarships will be chosen based on a combination of ACT or SAT scores and overall grade point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, career goals, an essay written by the applicant about his/her understanding of the cooperative business model, and a written recommendation by a third party.

Applicants may go to NVREC.com for an application form and details. All entries must reach the REC office no later than Friday, February 10, 2023.

If you have additional questions, please contact Janell Leinen at the REC office in Harlan at 712-755-2166.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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President.....Darrell Stamp
 Vice President Gene Kenkel
 Secretary-TreasurerBryan Greve
 DirectorDave Applegate
 Director Donna Olson
 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

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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.

Congratulations to NVREC Lineman Jarek Richardson and his wife Alli on the birth of their baby girl, Emersyn Delores!



Energy Trail Tour sign-up forms available on Page 4

NOTICE OF RATE INCREASE

Page 3

College Scholarships Available

See page 7 for details on how to apply

2023 REBATE INFORMATION

Page 5

Students: win a trip to Washington D.C.

See Page 4 for your chance to represent NVREC!

