WITH MEMBERS OF

FRANKLIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Franklin REC Holiday Hours

We will be closed: Thursday, Dec. 24 Friday, Dec. 25 Friday, Jan. 1

Our phones are answered 24/7: 641-456-2557 Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 🔨

December 2020

SPARKS of *news*

Scholarships available

Dependents of Franklin REC members are encouraged to apply for scholarships to be used for college in the fall of 2021 (including two-year and four-year schools and vocational and technical schools). Visit franklinrec.coop for details and see the inside pages of this newsletter for information on each scholarship.

SAVE THE DATE: YOUR 2021 ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021

We love hearing great news from our members!

"Wow! My electric bill really went down! Guess I needed that new Marathon water heater! It owes me nothing!

Can you believe it made it 30 years? Thanks again. Love my REC."

From Franklin REC member, Mary Jackson



Heat pumps: They do more than heat

What are heat pumps and how do they work?

In general, a heat pump extracts heat from one place and transfers it to another (similar to how an air conditioner or refrigerator cools). In warmer months, it takes heat from inside a home and relocates it outdoors, helping to make your home cooler. In the cooler months, it produces heat energy from the outside and moves it inside, which helps to warm your home.

Do they save energy?



Contact us to discuss your best heat pump option.

Energy.gov estimates that heat pumps can reduce a home's electricity use for heating by approximately 50 percent compared to furnaces and baseboard heaters.

Is there more than one type?

- Air-to-air or air-source: The most common and powered by electricity. With an outdoor compressor/condenser unit that warms or cools the coils inside the air handler, it then circulates the warmed or cooled air through the system and pushes the air through ducts back into rooms.
- Air-to-water: Called a "reverse cycle chiller," which generates hot and cold water rather than air, allowing it to be used with radiant floor heating systems.
- Geothermal: Also known as ground-source or water-source heat pumps, can heat, cool, and even supply hot water to a home by transferring heat to or from the ground (or nearby water source). They cost more to install than other versions but have lower operating costs and are typically more efficient.
- Absorption: Similar to air-source heat pumps except instead of using electricity to operate, they use alternative energy sources such as natural gas, propane, or solar- or geothermal-heated water.

Four ways Santa saves energy in his workshop

The holiday season is upon us, and Santa and his elves have been especially busy as they gear up for their biggest night of the year.

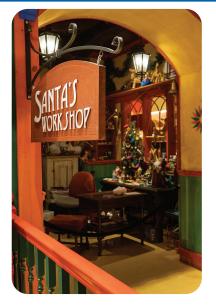
Here are four ways Santa saves energy in his workshop.

- 1. Santa uses LED holiday light strands, so he's able to save on his energy bills. LED holiday strands can last up to 40 seasons, which make them a great option for any festive home.
- 2. Santa requires several power tools to make

a year's worth of new toys. That's why he insists on using cordless power tools with the ENERGY STAR® rating. According to energystar.gov, if all power tools in the U.S. used ENERGY STAR®-rated battery chargers, 2 billion kWh hours of electricity could be saved—equivalent to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1.7 million tons!

- Mrs. Claus loves to keep warm by the fire in the evenings, and Santa 3. knows one of the best tricks to ensure fireplace efficiency. While a fireplace can keep a small area of your home cozy and warm, it can also pull heated air from the room through the chimney. That's why Santa always closes the fireplace flue when a fire isn't burning.
- 4. Santa also saves energy by using power strips. Power strips are ideal for workshops, craft nooks, game rooms, and other spaces in your home. With one simple switch, you can conveniently control several devices and electronics plugged into the power strip.

This holiday season, let's follow Santa's lead and remember to save energy when possible.





Space heaters can be a cost effective option when heating no more than one or two small areas.

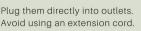


Review and follow all manufacturer directions.

Place them out of high-traffic areas and on a hard, level floor surface.



Keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items.





Turn them off before you leave the room or go to sleep.

Learn Safe Electricity.org more at: f 💟 🖸

LED holiday lighting rebate

When you purchase new LED holiday lights and decorations, you are eligible for a rebate of up to \$2 per each item (not to exceed purchase price).

Contact us for more information and a rebate form.



- Dependents of cooperative members are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship for tuition at a twoyear or four-year college. Contact your electric cooperative for an application form.
- Corn Belt Power Cooperative partners with Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC) in Sheldon, Iowa, to offer four \$500 scholarships. Recipients must be students at NCC studying Electrical Technology, Powerline, or Powerline Technology. Contact Sheila Van Engen, 800-352-4907 ext. 246 or svanengen@nwicc.edu.
- Corn Belt Power also partners with Iowa Lakes Community College to offer one \$500 scholarship for students enrolled in the Wind Energy and Turbine Technology program. For more information, contact Alison Mason, 712-362-0491 ext. 4491 or amason@iowalakes.edu.

Stay safe as you go over the river and through the woods this holiday season

The winter holiday season is a busy time of year. Along with putting out decorations and baking cookies, we often spend more time in our cars than usual, which can mean facing extreme weather conditions that can make safe driving difficult.

Along with risk of injury, possible damage to your vehicle, and plain inconvenience, collisions may also involve downed power lines or other electrical hazards. Knowing what to do in this situation can save lives.



If you are in an accident involving a downed power line:

- Call 9-1-1, and tell the dispatcher a downed power line or other electrical equipment is involved.
- Put your window down and alert others not to approach the scene.
- Never attempt to drive over a power line or through water, snow, or other debris that could be hiding one.
- Do not exit the vehicle UNLESS the vehicle is on fire or you see smoke.
- If you MUST exit the vehicle, cross your arms across your chest, put your feet together, and make a clean jump from the vehicle. Then hop with feet together as far as you can— at least 50 feet away. Once a power line is in contact with a car or truck, the ground, or other objects, it energizes the area. The electrical current spreads to the vehicle and ground, and it ripples out. Each "ring" of the ripple represents a different voltage. Stepping from one voltage to the next can cause your body to become a path for electricity and electrocute you.
- If a power line is inside the vehicle due to damage or an open window, stay in the vehicle. DO NOT touch or try to move the wire.
- If your vehicle collides with a pad-mounted transformer, which houses electrical equipment connected to underground power lines, the same safety precautions apply.

Reep your family safe while on the road this holiday season!



Need a recipe?

Looking for a new recipe for the holidays? Visit the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at livingwithenergyiniowa.com and click on Recipe Archive

at the top and search by main ingredient and/or category.



Have a recipe everyone loves? Living with Energy in Iowa is always looking for recipes for the magazine. If yours is chosen, you will earn a \$25 power bill credit! Take a look at Page 9 in any issue of the magazine to learn how to submit your recipe either by email or by mailing to the magazine's headquarters.

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY -**IT COULD BE YOURS!**



FRANKLIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative XX

Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative (FREC), located at 1560 Highway 65, PO Box 437, Hampton, Iowa, 50441, is holding unclaimed property resulting from a refund due to the persons listed below.

Please take a moment to look at the list. Those listed have had checks mailed out that were not cashed or their checks were returned to the FREC office. If you are in possession of an uncashed check or see your name or the name of a family member or friend, contact us at the address above, email kringleb@franklinrec.coop, or call Karen at 641-456-2557.

If the cooperative is not contacted by the owner within six (6) months, the cooperative is allowed to retain this property in accordance with Iowa law or deliver this property to the State Treasurer's Office for disposition as abandoned property.

(If no state is listed, the town is in Iowa.)

AGWEB LLC; Akron Angel, Roger D; Mason City Arndt, Kyle A/Jackie; Rochester, MN Avers, Jamey; Bristow Banger, Tim; Farmington MO Barkela, Dennis; Sheffield Barkema, DuWayne; Cedar Falls Barker, Harlan; Clear Lake Behrhorst, Dennis; New Hartford Bertram, Robert E/Della M; Janesville Blanchard, Jill M; New Hartford Blomker, Catherine J; Sheffield Blomker, Dennis; Sheffield Borcherding, Sylvia A; Latimer Brighton, Sandra; Iowa Falls Buseman, Anika; Alexander Calles, Jose; Alexander Campbell, Donald S; Eldora Campbell, Lynne; Woodward Carr, Ken/Rosemary Blau Carr; Sheffield Cates, Robert; Mason City Christensen, Greg M; Savage, MN Crawford, David W; Belmond Daugherty, Nicholas M/Susan K; Dougherty Dean, James D; Cedar Falls Despenas, Regina/Aaron; Sheffield Dodd, Donald L; Hampton Dunn, Roger & Sons; Alden Engels, Mat; Swaledale Evans, Marti J; Iowa Falls Faris, Doris H/Robert D; New Providence Fitz, Allan; Granger Fitz, Jeanette K; Latimer Floy, Chris; Weslaco, TX Frimml, Betty; Gibson City, IL Froning, Laura; Albert Lea, MN

Gamble, Greg/Shelia; Alexander Gamm, Blake W; Mason City Garza, Juan; Britt Gibbs, Lisa M/Delwin; Rawlins, WY Gjetley, Kim; Tama Glover, Larry; Jefferson, SD Greiner, Matt S; Ely Greve, Donald; Rockwell Gualke, Roger; Dows Hackbarth, Dale; Iowa Falls Hackbarth, Don J; West Des Moines Haller Farm Account; Jamestown, OH Hansen Brothers Farms; Vienna, VA Harms, Troy L; Ackley Hartkopp, Chervl; Amarillo, TX Hartson, Daryl; Fredericksburg Hartwig, Stacy; Amarillo, TX Heeren, Alan; Northwood Heitland, Jerald; Iowa Falls Henke Farm; Waterloo Hofsommer, Earl; Hampton Holland Ron; Rockwell Holzwarth, David/Rachel; Ivanhoe, MN Hovenga, Jody; Clarksville Hoversten, Sherri; Alden Isaacson, Ruth/Kevin; Big Lake, MN Jackson, Brad; Iowa Falls Jackson, Charles R Jr; Rockwell James, Laura; Rockwell Johnson, Thomas E; Winona, MN Jost Inc.; Vermillion, SD G B Keister Farm Trust; Minneapolis, MN Kelleher, Diana; Harrison, ID Ketchum, Karen; Mason City Kintzel, Cindy; Ackley Klaver, Adam; Iowa Falls Koch, Edward, c/o Jeff Koch;

Nora Springs Koppen, Peggy H; San Diego, CA Kothenbeutel, Daryl F; Clear Lake Kothenbeutel, Janice; Rockwell Kovarna, David/Susan; Mason City Krumm, Jerry E Sr; Mason City Kruse, T J; Iowa Falls Larson, Susan; Alden Lindstrom, Cindy; Kamrar Loomis Farms Inc.; New Braunfels, TX Madore, Michael; Waterville, ME Marsh, Ralph E Jr; Phillips, WI McCright, Scott A/Debbie; Colorado Springs, CO McGrane, Ray; Hampton McManus Ltd; New Braunfels, TX McPherson, Tracey; Alden Mericom Corp.; Lake Forest, CA Meyer, Merlin D; Bartow, FL Miller, Donald R; Bella Vista, AR Moore, Jeff; Radcliffe Mueller, Margaret L; Iowa Falls Mulford Concrete Inc.; Hampton Mulford, Jeremy; West Des Moines Mulford, Stephanie; Latimer Murphy, John; Mason City Myers, Steve; Latimer Nachazel, Goldie; Overland Park, KS Nix, Timothy; Waterloo Nuehring, Lester; Mason City Oltmann, Arnold H; Hampton Oudekerk, Gordon; Hampton Petersburg, David A/Michelle; Fairfield Petersen, Ralph R; Falkville, AL Peterson, Wade; Dows Point Builders Inc; Charles City Polzin, Jim; Hubbard Pope, Jodie; Mason City Ramaekers, Thomas; Mason City Rasmus, Lonnie D; Marble Rock Renken, Ardith; Iowa Falls

Rieck, Terry/Julie; Surprise, AZ Rocha, Penny K; Alexander Rodriguez, Martin; Hampton Rust, Roger; Hampton Ryken, James D; West Des Moines Saunders, Robert C Jr/Prima C; Keaau, HI SBA Inc, IA04381; Boca Raton, FL Schmidt, Justin D; Dumont Schulte, Derrick; Dows Schulte, Engelina; St. Paul, MN Shipp, Chris A/Emily; Waverly Schreckengost, Jennifer; Meservey Smith, Pennie; Iowa Falls Steenhard, LaVerne; Sanborn Stockdale, Verle Lynn; Okeechobee, FL Storr, Shenna R/James; Alexander Taylor, Donald R; Mason City Thompson, W O; Hampton Toillion, Mark; Ruthven Uhlenhpp, Jason/Jones, Christina; Dumont Unger, Chris; Dows Van Dyke, Mark R; Hampton Vande Voort, Jim; Dalhart, TX Vaughn, Sharalene/L H; Clarion Waldron, Douglas; Clarion Wallace, Tina; Iowa Falls Walsh, John L; Katy, TX Watt, Marjorie; Sheffield Weideman, Harold E; Iowa Falls Weidemann, Mark; Kingwood, TX Weiss, Dan; Victoria BC, Canada Werstein, Glenn/Patricia; Los Angeles, CA White, Susan M; Brownsdale, MN Wiedeman, Elizabeth/Brandon; Lansing, MN Williamson, Robert J; Jewell Wiseman, Coleman; Swaledale Zimmerman, Linda; Sheffield

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Online bill pay at www.franklinrec.coop

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