



**Clark Electric  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Tim Stewart,  
CEO/Manager

## PLANNING PROCESS GETS UNDERWAY

During the fourth quarter of each year, the cooperative's management and staff begin to prepare a series of planning documents that will provide the tools for financial planning for the cooperative in the upcoming year. The board of directors meets with cooperative staff to review various department activities and the upcoming business plan.

Besides providing short-term goals and objectives, the business plan must also be consistent with the cooperative's long-range planning studies, goals, and objectives. It is vital that short-term goals and objectives are established to reach long-term objectives such as equity management plans, cash flow requirements, Rural Utilities Service requirements, maintenance funding, construction activities, and the member needs and service requirements. The board of directors and

management are aware of the need to maximize the value of expenditures and contain costs where appropriate and feasible.

Our mission today is as it was years ago: to provide reliable, competitively priced energy and related services to our members while maximizing value for

**Simply stated, our mission is to provide the best possible service for the best possible price.**

our members consistent with the wise use of resources and technology. Simply stated, our mission is to provide the best possible service for the best possible price. We continuously strive to work with our members to improve the social and economic well-being of our local communities.

In closing, as the holidays are upon us I would like to offer a few holiday safety tips. Many of us have treasured holiday mementos that we bring out of storage and proudly display every year. These items are often handed down through generations and might lack modern safety features. Take a few moments to carefully inspect all of your holiday items to ensure everything is in safe working order. A few things to look out for include:

- Brittle insulation on wires
- Rodent damage to wires
- Chafed or frayed wires, especially at stress points
- Worn switches with the potential to short circuit
- Corroded metal parts
- Broken legs, unstable bases, and other tip-over hazards

### Extension Cords are Temporary

Extension cords are designed for temporary use and should never be used as a permanent or long-term solution. Don't place them in walkways or underneath rugs.



Be careful when hanging outdoor lights. If you're using a ladder, be sure you're a safe distance from any power lines.

### Never Defeat Safety Devices

There are reasons why some devices have fuses, some plugs have three prongs instead of two, and one prong is wider than the other on two-prong outlets. When those safety features get in the way of your grand holiday décor plans, you might be tempted to tamper with or defeat those features. If your plugs won't fit together, that means they're not designed to work together.

### Look Up and Live

When working outside with a ladder, be mindful of the location of overhead power lines. Always carry your ladder so that it is parallel to the ground. Before placing your ladder in an upright position, look around to ensure you are a safe distance from any power lines. This includes your service extension, the overhead wire bringing power from the utility pole to your house. You should treat this line the same way you'd treat any other power line on our system and maintain a safe distance.

We wish you all a merry and safe holiday season.



## WELCOME, NEW EMPLOYEES

### Clark Electric Cooperative welcomes new employees to our Operations Department

**Zach Johnson**, apprentice lineman from Greenwood, graduated from CVTC in Eau Claire with a technical degree in Electrical Power Distribution in the spring of 2018. Jake worked as a 1,000-hour employee for the cooperative since May 2019 and was hired full time in October 2019.

Zach lives on a hobby farm just outside of Willard. He enjoys being outdoors, hunting and fishing, as well as attending local sporting events.

**Wyatt Phillips**, apprentice lineman from Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, is a native of Spencer and has returned to his home territory with his wife, Katie, and his 2-year-old daughter, Joanna. Wyatt served in the U.S. Army for almost four



Zach Johnson (left) and Wyatt Phillips recently became full-time employees of Clark Electric's Operations Department.

years. He attended Northwest Lineman College in Meridian, Indiana, and worked as a lineman for Access Energy Cooperative in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, before coming to Clark Electric Cooperative. He began his career here at Clark Electric on October 31, 2019.

Wyatt enjoys watching sports, spend-

ing time with his family, and playing golf and basketball.

Please extend a warm welcome to Zach and Wyatt when you see them in your neighborhood working hard to ensure your power is on when you flip the switch.

## Come join us at Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite for our

# Open House

## December 9–13

Appliances on sale

Sign up for Exede satellite internet!

Check out our First Call Medical Alert Monitoring System

Enjoy coffee – apple cider – cookies

*It's our way of saying thank you for your business. It is our pleasure to be of service to you.*



# WINTER IS HERE

## Be alert for peak alerts

Winter is upon us, and with that comes the time for peak alerts for cooperative members. A peak alert is likely to occur on colder days during the winter months. On these days, the demand for electricity is highest, which also brings the need to conserve energy use whenever possible. The level of demand determines a large portion of the cooperative's energy costs during this time. Reducing or delaying your electrical usage during a peak alert helps lower this cost.

The key is to reduce your consumption between the hours of 4 and 9 p.m. on these coldest winter days. This helps Clark Electric save on our wholesale power bill, and this

savings is passed along to the members. By turning off unneeded lighting and appliances, you can help us save a substantial amount.

On these days, the peak-alert messages will be broadcasted on the local radio stations. You can also look up the status on our website at [www.ccecoop.com](http://www.ccecoop.com). Go to the Operations Tab, Load Management Program and click on the load management status link.

Whether you hear the peak-alert message or not, please help us control our costs by reducing the amount of electricity you use on cold winter days between 4 and 9 p.m.

## Happy Holidays

The holiday season brings to mind all sorts of memories about experiences and days gone by, such as decorating and lighting the Christmas tree, anticipating the aroma of home-baked Christmas cookies, or sharing together with our families and friends.

Whatever your memories are, this is the time of year when our actions can become part of warm memories for others and ourselves in the future. All of us at Clark Electric Cooperative hope you and your family has a safe and a very joyful holiday season.

Our office will be closed:  
 Tuesday, December 24  
 Wednesday, December 25  
 Wednesday, January 1

## THE HEATING SEASON IS HERE!



## GEO THERMAL

### When COMFORT Matters

Looking for an efficient, cost effective and environmentally friendly heating and cooling system? A geothermal heat pump is the greenest system available. Geothermal systems don't emit carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide or other greenhouse gases that can be harmful to the environment or, more importantly, your family. Save money and rest easy knowing your family will be comfortable and safe.



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# SAFE DÉCOR FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

It's almost time to deck those halls! Statistics show that home fires and electrical accidents typically increase during winter months, so keep these holiday lighting tips in mind for a safe holiday season.

**Carefully inspect all electrical decorations before you use them. Cracked or damaged sockets and/or loose or exposed wires can cause serious shock or start a fire.**



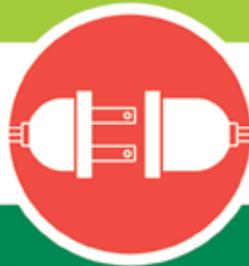
**Consider purchasing LED lights, which use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights.**

**Never mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.**



**Make sure that cords are not pinched in doors, windows or under heavy furniture, which could damage the cord's insulation.**

**Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.**



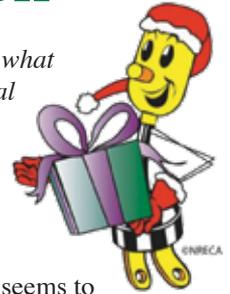
**Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.**



*Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International*

## Clark Electric Cooperative GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

*Need ideas about what to get that special someone for the holidays?*



We all have someone on our shopping list who seems to have everything. How about giving them the gift of energy with a gift certificate from Clark Electric Cooperative? If they receive electric service from Clark Electric Cooperative, contact our Billing Department at 715-267-6188 or 1-800-272-6188 to obtain a gift certificate.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

**Laundry Tip:** Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter clothing. You'll spend less time drying the lighter-weight items.

—Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



### Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

1209 West Dall-Berg Road, P.O. Box 190, Greenwood, WI 54437  
email us at [info@cecoop.com](mailto:info@cecoop.com) or [tnelson01@cecoop.com](mailto:tnelson01@cecoop.com)  
[www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com)



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