

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATE PROGRAM

Energy efficiency rebates are available from North West REC to help you save money, live more comfortably in your home and protect the environment.

The rebate program includes:

**Ground-source heat pump** - \$1,800 rebate per unit plus an additional \$200 per unit if desuperheater is installed. New construction or replacement units qualify if they meet minimum Energy Star® requirements.

**Air-source heat pump** – rebates are \$400 to \$600 per unit based on Energy Star rating. New construction, replacement and add-on units qualify.

**Water heaters** – Must be 50 gallon or larger with minimum 90 percent energy factor and enrolled in the Switch Makes Cents load control program. Rebates will be taken off price of water heater for new load or replacement.

**Building insulation** – 30 percent of professionally installed insulation cost up to a maximum of \$500 per building; qualifying building must have electric heat as the primary heating source.

**Appliances** – rebates for Energy Star models; clothes washers \$50; refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers \$25 each; maximum appliance rebate per member-consumer account \$250.

**Central air conditioning** – rebates range from \$100 to \$200 per unit based on Energy Star rating.

**Window or portable air conditioner** - \$25 rebate per Energy Star unit.

**Appliance recycling** – Participate in our appliance recycling program and turn your old refrigerator, freezer or window air conditioner in for a \$25 rebate per appliance. Limit three appliances per member.

To learn more about how you can be more energy efficient and qualify for a rebate, call North West REC at 712-707-4935 or 800-766-2099. We're here for you!

## North West Rural Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 435 • 1505 Albany Place SE • Orange City, IA 51041-0435

**Office Hours:**  
Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. till 4:00 p.m.

Orange City office open  
during noon hour

Ida Grove & Le Mars offices  
closed 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.

Outside Depository Available  
for After Hours Payments

**Phone:**  
**ORANGE CITY** (712) 707-4935  
(800) 766-2099

**IDA GROVE** (712) 364-3341

**LE MARS** (712) 546-4149

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# NEWS Lines

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## LOCAL BUSINESSES ADD DISCOUNTS TO CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD

We are excited to announce that several local businesses are offering discounts to our members when you show them your new Co-op Connections Card. Be sure to thank these businesses for participating when using your card for the discount. Watch our website [www.nwrec.coop](http://www.nwrec.coop) and the newsletter as we add new businesses.

Here's what we have at this time:

**Pizza Ranch Restaurants** - Visit [www.pizzaranch.com](http://www.pizzaranch.com) for individual location hours

Buy one adult buffet, get the 2nd adult buffet for \$5.99 – Available at Akron, Hawarden, Hull, Le Mars, Orange City, Primghar, Rock Valley, Sanborn, Sheldon and Sioux Center

**Malcoms Paint & Hardware** - 512 2nd St, Ida Grove – 10% off regular priced merchandise under \$50

**Family Table Restaurant** – 88 E State Hwy 175, Ida Grove – Buy a meal and get an appetizer half off

**Brenner's** – 700 Second St, Ida Grove – Will match North West REC rebate on Energy Star appliances

**Subway** – 500 W State Hwy 175, Ida Grove & Hwy 75, Hinton – One free cookie with purchase of sandwich fresh value meal

**Joe's TV & Appliance** – 223 Central Ave NE, Orange City

\$50 off total purchase of \$499 or more, \$100 off total purchase of \$1,099 or more – Discount must be mentioned at time of sale, cannot be added after sale complete. This discount may not be combined with any other discounts or offers.

**Subway** – Le Mars – Purchase a footlong sandwich and receive a free 21 oz. beverage of choice

Check out all the national discounts at [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop). If you do not have access to a computer or the Internet, you can call our office or stop in to request a written listing. Participating pharmacy location list can be found at [www.locateproviders.com](http://www.locateproviders.com). Our group # is 22203.

Call 712-707-4935 or 800-766-2099 if you have questions or need more information.

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## REC MEMBERS TOUR POWER SOURCES

Members of North West REC took to the road this summer to see where their power originates.

This summer's massive Missouri River flooding provided unusual sights for the tourists at their first stop, the Oahe Power House near Pierre, SD, where the mighty river produces power that flows into western Iowa and other areas of the Midwest.

The tourists were part of three, three-day educational power supply tours sponsored by North West REC and Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative of Le Mars, the cooperative's power supplier. In addition to the educational portion of the tour, members enjoy good food, fun and fellowship.

At the Oahe Power House, after seeing the massive quantity of water flowing through the dam's flood gates, participants could try their skill at controlling the Missouri River during adverse weather conditions. An interactive display shows the many considerations the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers takes when operating the dams.

On the second day of the tour, the members were amazed at the number of products made from lignite coal at the Great Plains Synfuels plant and Antelope Valley Station near Beulah, ND. Electric power and natural gas are the principle products, but there are also many other chemicals, fertilizers and adhesives, as well as carbon dioxide, which is piped to Canada and used for oil recovery.

Another highlight of the tour was a visit to the adjoining coal mine. Seeing some of the largest equipment in the United States in operation was spectacular. The members were pleased to know there is enough coal for generations to come and to see the successful results of reclamation of the land after mining is complete. The land is carefully returned to natural prairie, wetlands or cropland depending on its original use.

A close-up look at the Wilton Wind Energy Center, where 130 turbines turn North Dakota wind into electricity, completed the tours. The members also get a brief look at electric cooperative history, and gain new understanding and pride in their ownership of the cooperative. The tours are part of the cooperatives' commitment to provide education for directors, employees and member-owners.

One tour member said, "We are much more aware of how electric power is made and have a better appreciation of it, as well."

If you would like to be a part of this experience next year, watch this newsletter in the spring for the opportunity to enter the drawing.

See a video about the Energy Trail Tours at <http://bit.ly/nipco10>



Attending the first tour were (l to r): Roger & Kathleen Hawkins, Le Mars; Ken & Doris Hoksbergen, Hull; Kenneth & Glenda Kroger, Hartley; Dave & Barbara McKenney, Hinton; Steve & Eve Schreier, Ida Grove; and Dale & Sandy Voss, Granville.



Attending the second tour were (l to r): Harlan & Bertha Lammers, Maurice; Bob & Rita Richter, Paullina; Tim & Cindy Stoppel, Ida Grove; Nancy & Roger Werneburg, Ida Grove; and Jack & Julia Zylstra, Sheldon.



Attending the third tour were (l to r): Curt & Pat Ahrenholz, Orange City; Larry & Rita Frahm, Galva; Paul & Evonne Gregory, Sioux City; Ken & Karla Less, Merrill; Dave & Mary Ann Pick, Merrill; and Curt & Nancy Rupert, Holstein.

## APPLIANCE RECYCLING PROGRAM

While you are cleaning up the falling leaves and the remains of your summer garden, think about cleaning out any old, inefficient working appliances, too.

North West REC will pay you to get rid of old, working refrigerators, freezers and window air conditioners and, even better, send a certified recycling company to take those old appliances away.



You can receive a \$25 reward for each old appliance, up to a total of \$75, from North West REC when you participate in the program.

North West REC encourages recycling old working appliances because they use more electricity than modern, efficient appliances – sometimes two to three times more.

Just call the cooperative at 1-800-766-2099 to arrange for easy pickup. We're here between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. Appliances must be in working condition to qualify for the recycling program.

## ENERGY ASSESSMENTS AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

North West REC is continuing to place more and more emphasis on energy efficiency. In addition to offering energy efficiency rebates, our member service department will begin offering energy assessments to our members on September 1.

Your Cooperative has purchased a new infrared camera to help with these energy assessments. When scheduling appointments, it is important to know that there needs to be at least a 20 degree difference between the inside and outside temperatures for the camera to work effectively.

There will be a charge of \$45 to the member, applied to your electric account. We will provide the member with an energy efficiency kit as part of this program. Included in this kit are several kinds of caulk, a showerhead, faucet aerators, two CFL bulbs and energy efficiency information.

One of our member service personnel will conduct a walk-through of the house, with the member present, to look for possible ways to save energy. They will review a detailed list of energy efficiency ideas for potential savings. Simple

changes in both lifestyle and in the home will pay you back year after year. Some of those improvements won't cost you a lot of money to put into effect.

For non-residential buildings, we will do the energy assessment for \$95 for up to four hours. If the member requests longer than that for using the infrared camera on a number of motors, panels, etc., there will be an additional cost per hour.

Call our office today to set up an appointment for your energy assessment.



# ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHT BULBS PROVIDE SAVINGS WITH A TWIST

*Save now on CFL bulbs. Save later on your electric bill.*

The Change a Light campaign encourages Americans to make energy efficient changes at home and work. You can save energy and help preserve the environment with a simple twist of the wrist.

Lighting, which accounts for 20 percent of the average home's electric bill, is one of the easiest and most effective places to start saving. Just one compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) can save an average of \$30 or more in electricity costs over its lifetime.

From September 1, 2011 through December 16, 2011, or while supplies last, residential members of North West REC are eligible for rebates from participating stores to purchase up to 12 Energy Star qualified CFL bulbs.

Compared to standard incandescent light bulbs, ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs:

- Use up to 75 percent less energy,
- Last up to 10 times longer and
- Save you money.

Switching to energy-efficient lighting is a simple and effective first step toward saving energy at home while helping the environment at the same time! For more information, visit [www.iowachangealight.com](http://www.iowachangealight.com).

*The participating stores in our service territory are:*

M & H True Value Hardware – Rock Valley	Dollar General – Ida Grove
Neal Chase Lumber Co – Orange City, Sheldon, Alton	Fareway – Orange City, Sioux Center, Sheldon, Le Mars
Weidaman's True Value Hardware – Paullina	Wal-Mart – Sioux Center, Le Mars
Dollar Tree – Le Mars	Hy-Vee – Le Mars

## TURN IN DEFECTIVE CFLS TO OUR OFFICES

As more and more people are purchasing CFL (compact fluorescent light) bulbs, there will be some defective ones. If you ever have one that no longer works, we urge you to take it to one of our three offices, and we will properly dispose of it for you. We have an authorized disposal bucket that we will send away when full to have the bulbs disposed of safely and in an environmentally friendly way. Any member or non-member is welcome to use this service at no charge.



# MID-SIOUX OPPORTUNITY, INC. TO HELP WITH HEATING BILLS

The 2011-2012 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), offered through Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc., may be able to help you pay your winter heating bill. This program is funded through the Iowa Department of Human Rights and has been established to help qualified low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season.

Your local Mid-Sioux office will be taking applications from November 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012. Each applicant will need to furnish a copy of their most recent heating, electric and telephone bill, original Social Security or I-94 card for each household member, and proof of the household's income for the past three months (13 weeks), the past twelve (12) months, or 2010 or 2011 tax return.

Eligibility for participation is established according to the federal income guidelines listed below. Applicants eligible for the help will be paid on a first come, first served basis, and all payments are subject to availability of funds.

INCOME MAXIMUMS	
Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$ 16,335
2	\$ 22,065
3	\$ 27,795
4	\$ 33,525
5	\$ 39,255

For households with more than five members, add \$5,730 for each additional member.

### APPLICATION

**Social Security Card or I-94 Card** – We require a copy of the original card for each household member.

**Current Heat Bill and Electric Bill** – This may be two separate bills.

**Current Telephone Bill** – To apply for the Lifeline Telephone Assistance Program.

**Proof of Income** – This includes total household gross income from all sources. We must have complete proof of income to process your application.

- **Fixed Income:** Includes Social Security Income, Aid to Families with Dependent Children or F.I.P., Veterans' Assistance, Unemployment Insurance and Pensions. Provide a copy of your most recent check or a bank statement showing automatic deposit.

- **Wage Earners:** Attach copies of your check stubs for three months (13 weeks) preceding the date of application, the past 12 months or the most recent calendar year Federal Income Tax Return 2010 or 2011.
- **Self-Employed/Farmers:** A copy of your 2010 or 2011 Federal Income Tax Return.
- **Other Income:** Alimony and child support will also need to be verified.

For more information or to apply, call or e-mail us at the following locations:

### MID-SIOUX OPPORTUNITY, INC.

<b>Ida County</b>	712-364-2175 dray@midsioux.org
<b>Cherokee County</b>	712-225-3322 jforcier@midsioux.org
<b>Lyon County</b>	712-472-3746 mlist@midsioux.org
<b>Plymouth County</b>	712-546-6603 sreed@midsioux.org
(Akron)	712-568-2242 sreed@midsioux.org
<b>Sioux County</b>	712-722-3611 mlist@midsioux.org
<b>Central Office</b>	800-859-02025
<b>Hearing Impaired</b>	call 711

Visit us on the web at: [www.midsioux.org](http://www.midsioux.org)

### UPPER DES MOINES OPPORTUNITY

**Primghar** 712-757-1023



Lyle D. Korver

*“Increased baseload energy, as part of an overall energy package that includes renewable resources, will mean reliable, affordable, safe electricity delivered in an environmentally responsible manner for the future for electric cooperative members, agribusiness and other partners in business in rural Iowa.”*

## MANAGER’S REPORT

### *Call to Grassroots*

#### **KEEP RURAL ELECTRICITY AFFORDABLE**

Your cooperative has been very active in Des Moines and Washington, D.C., making sure our legislators know what effects laws could have on utility costs for our members.

Representatives of North West REC traveled to the Iowa Straw Poll to help raise awareness about the need for power that is reliable, affordable, safe and environmentally responsible. They presented messages to prospective Presidential candidates that focused on the need for national energy policies that will ensure enough baseload energy development and investments in technology to meet future needs of rural energy consumers.

Rural electric cooperatives in Iowa are taking the lead with smart grid deployment. The advocates want Presidential candidates to answer the question, “What is your plan to ensure vital rural areas and agribusiness centers are able to compete in tomorrow’s electricity market place?”

In the past year, various out of state environmental groups have injected misleading TV, newspaper and automated telephone call advertisements into essential discussions on needed baseload generation in Iowa. We believe these out-of-state special interest groups have no legitimate stake in Iowa’s energy future and their intentions are remarkably disingenuous and intentionally misleading on proposed legislation.

Increased baseload energy, as part of an overall energy package that includes renewable resources, will mean reliable, affordable, safe electricity delivered in an environmentally responsible manner for the future for electric cooperative members, agribusiness and other partners in business in rural Iowa.

#### **Be informed:**

Sign up today to be included in e-mail communications from North West REC so you are armed with the **facts** that matter to Iowans. Sign up via e-mail today to nwrec.coop or simply fill out this form and mail it to us with your e-mail address here:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address

Send it to Box 435, Orange City, IA 51041.

If you change your mind, rest assured, you can unsubscribe simply by notifying North West REC.

*Thanks for making a difference in Iowa’s energy future!*

## OCTOBER IS COOPERATIVE MONTH

Co-op Month celebrates the many ways people work together to create better businesses for their communities.

North West REC is a local business, owned by the people it serves. That means conducting business through a locally elected board of directors and in the annual meeting where policy is proposed and voted on by members. It’s the “people” part – the personal involvement, the grassroots activities – that characterizes what electric co-ops are all about.

As we observe National Cooperative Month, North West Rural Electric Cooperative reaffirms its commitment to you, the member-owner, through the seven cooperative principles:

- Voluntary and open membership without discrimination
- Democratic member control
- Members’ economic participation
- Cooperative autonomy and independence
- Member education, training and information to the general public
- Cooperation among cooperatives
- Concern for community



### *Thank You for Operation Round Up*

The Operation Round Up Trust has been contributing money to people in our four-county area for more than 12 years. The total contribution is almost \$250,000 since June of 1999.

We recently received a thank you note requesting it be included in our newsletter for our members to read.

*“We would like to express our deepest appreciation for the generous gift that we received from the NWREC Operation Round Up Program. We have been so thankful for outpouring of kindness from our families, our church and community. Now our thanks go outside of that realm to the Northwest Iowa region, we are truly blessed to live in an area with so much love and care surrounding us. We thank God for your generosity and pray that your program will grow and be a benefit to many others in their time of need.”*

*Thank you,  
Brian & Kris Kooima of Rock Valley, Iowa.*

Operation Round Up funds are generated through a voluntary rounding up of cooperative members’ electric bills to the next nearest dollar, and dollars are used to assist worthy causes and organizations right in your local county area.

If you are currently not participating in Operation Round Up and would like to become a part of this worthwhile program, please call our office for information. To receive an application for assistance, please call the office at 707-4935 or 800-766-2099