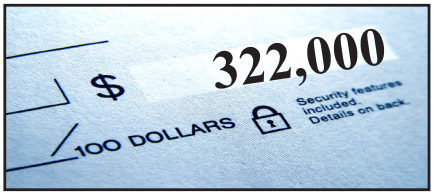
REC Woodbury County Moville, Iowa
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

LIVE LINES

Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative
November 2025

$322,000 Being Returned To Members

Electric cooperatives, such as Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative, are unique in the electric utility industry in that they are not-for-profit. Any money that the REC receives, throughout the year that is not needed for operations, is allocated back to the membership at the end of each year These allocated "profits" are called capital credits. In time, your capital credit allocation will be refunded to you.

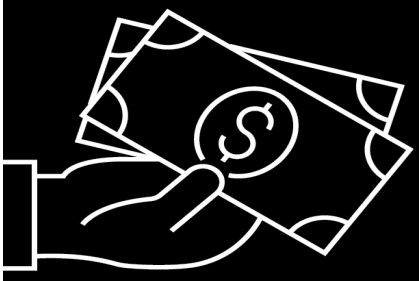


Bill Credits and Checks Mailed In November

Woodbury County REC will be refunding capital credits in the total amount of $322,000 this month. If you were a past member of the REC receiving electric service in 2009 and 2010 your check will be mailed in November. If you were a member then and are currently a member, the cooperative will pay the retired amount by crediting refunds of less than $100 to your next bill or mailing checks for refunds larger than $100. The exact amount of your check or bill credit will be determined by the amount of electricity you used in that time frame. This payment represents the remaining portion of 2009 and approximately 30% of the 2010 allocation.

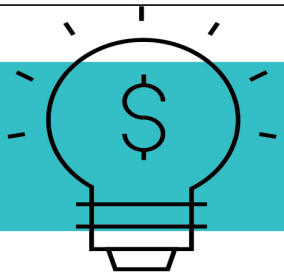
$9.67 Million Paid Back

With this latest capital credit refund, the REC has paid back to the membership a total of $9,672,000 over the years.

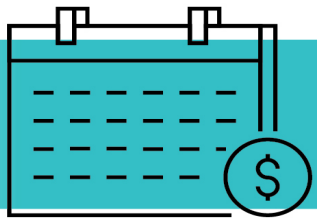


HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK

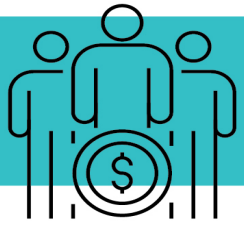
Electric co-ops are not-for-profit and operate at cost. Capital credits are a financial benefit of co-op membership.



1. Members pay their electric bills, and we track their business with us each month.



2. The co-op pays operating expenses throughout the year and allocates any leftover operating revenue as capital credits.

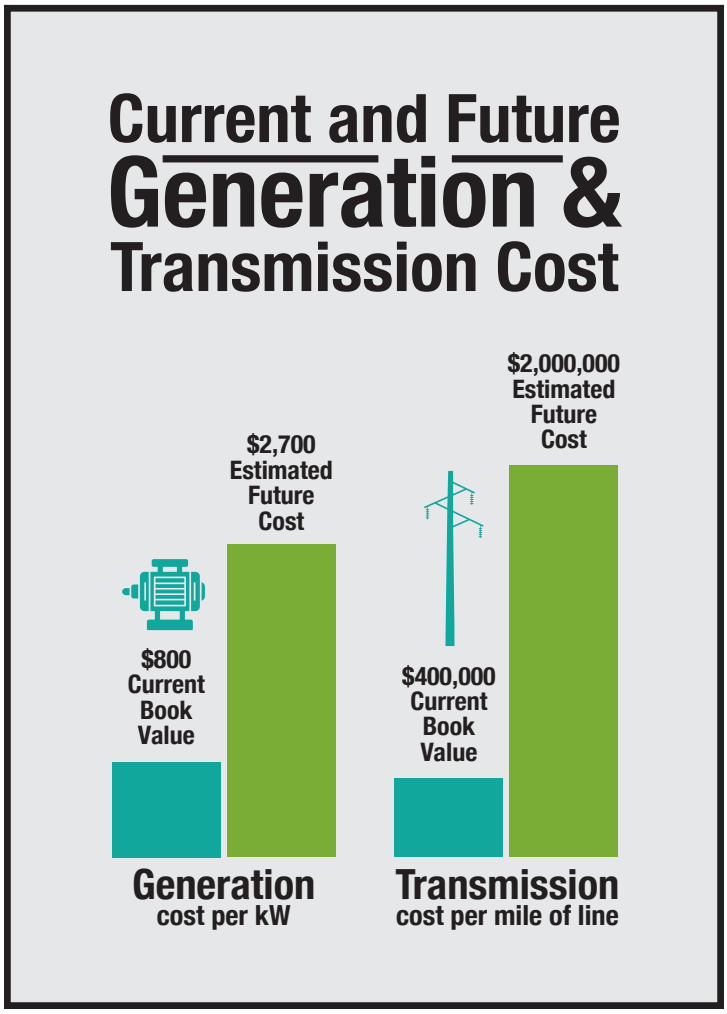


3. When financial conditions permit, the co-op board votes to retire (pay) capital credits to the members.

4. We send members their share of capital credits as a bill credit or check.

Reinvesting In Our Grid: Preparing for the Future Together

For years, members of Woodbury County Rural Electric Power Cooperative have benefited from reliable, affordable electricity. That stability didn't happen by chance, it's the result of smart, long-term investments made decades ago in the generation and transmission systems that keep power flowing to our homes, farms, and businesses today.



Many of those facilities are now reaching the end of their useful life. At the same time, our communities are using more electricity than ever before to power modern homes, farm operations, and businesses. To continue proving the reliable service you expect and preparing for future growth, our power suppliers are investing in the electric grid - just as those before us once have.

Woodbury County REC purchases its wholesale power from Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO), who in turn purchases most of its power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, based in Bismarck, North Dakota and the remaining portion from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). Both WAPA and Basin Electric provides generation and transmission services to cooperatives across a nine-state region, working behind the scenes to keep electricity reliable and affordable.

Like many utilities across the country, Basin Electric is facing higher costs for new construction, equipment, and fuel. The cost of building new power generation has tripled in recent decades—from about $800 per kilowatt to an estimated $2,700 per kilowatt today. Similarly, transmission lines that once cost $400,000 per mile now average nearly $2 million per mile to build.

To keep pace with rising demand and maintain reliability, Basin Electric expects its electric load to grow by 2.5% each year over the next decade—well above the national average. To meet that need, the cooperative plans to invest approximately $11 billion in generation and transmission projects that will increase dispatchable generation (resources that can be turned on or off as needed, such as natural gas or coal) by 50% and expand its transmission system by more than 30%.

Some of the projects underway or recently completed include:

- Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV – 580 MW of new natural gas-fired generation that began operation in August 2025.
- Leland Olds Station to Tande Transmission Project – A 160-mile line essential for regional system reliability, scheduled for completion in 2026.
- Bison Generation Station – 1,490 MW of new natural gas-fired generation, one of Basin Electric's largest projects, expected to be completed by 2030

Although many of these generation facilities are located in North Dakota and surrounding states, they strengthen the entire Basin Electric system—and that means stronger reliability right here in western Iowa. Because Basin Electric's system operates as one interconnected network, every new project benefits all members across the region by improving reliability, increasing efficiency, and enhancing energy security.

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In October, as a result of increased power cost from WAPA and Basin Electric, The NIPCO Board of Directors approved a wholesale power rate increase of approximately 10%, effective January 1, 2026. This change will have a downstream impact on Woodbury County REC's power costs.

At this time, we are currently evaluating how NIPCO's rate adjustment will affect Woodbury County REC and the membership. Once our board and staff have evaluated the impacts of the cost increase, we will share our findings with you. Transparency and communication are key to the cooperative difference, and we remain committed to keeping you informed.

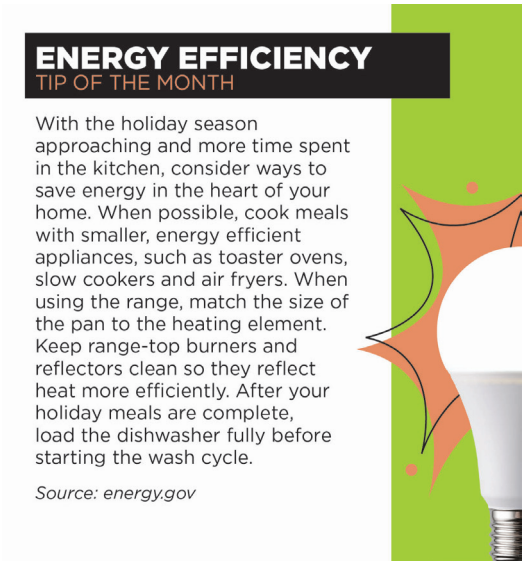
The Woodbury County REC Board and Staff remain dedicated to providing you, our member-consumers, with safe, reliable, and affordable electric service and we will hold these principles close when conducting our daily duties and planning for the future.

The Recipe Corner

Baked Crunchy Chicken

1 egg
1 tablespoon milk
1 can French-fried onions crushed
¾ cup grated Parmesan cheese
¼ cup dry bread crumbs
1 teaspoon paprika
½ teaspoon salt
Dash pepper
1 broiler/fryer chicken (3 to 4 pounds), cut up
¼ cup butter, melted

In a shallow bowl, whisk egg and milk. In another shallow bowl, combine the onions, cheese, breadcrumbs, paprika, salt and pepper. Dip chicken in egg mixture, then roll in onion mixture. Place in a greased 9"x13" baking dish. Drizzle with butter. Bake, uncovered at 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes or until juices run clear.



Ways to Save Energy and Money

There are many ways to make your home a more efficient that do not cost a dime:

- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise in cold months and counterclockwise in warmer months.
- During the winter, open up curtains on sunny days to let the warm sunlight in. At night, make sure to close the curtains. In the summer, keep your curtains closed.
- When cooking, match the pot size to the burner size. Also, do not unnecessarily open the door to the oven while cooking or baking. Heat escapes, and the oven will have to reheat.
- For laundry, wash clothes in cold water. Hang clothes to dry when you can.
- Only start the washing machine or the dish washer when loads are full.
- Turn off electronics and unplug chargers when they are not in use.

Here are some low cost ways to boost your home's efficiency that will quickly pay for themselves:

- Install a programmable thermostat to make automatic changes to your home's temperature.
- Replace furnace and air conditioning filters on a monthly basis.
- Caulk cracks between windows/doors and walls.
- Purchase an insulating blanket to use on your hot water heater.
- Install motion sensors, dimmers, and timers for indoor and outdoor lighting.
- Invest in low-flow shower heads to save water.
- Fix leaky faucets.

Woodbury County REC office will be closed Tuesday November 11th to observe Veterans Day and Thursday - Friday, November 27th and 28th in observance of Thanksgiving.

If you experience an outage you can report it using our SmartHub App or call us at (800)469-3125 or 712-873-3125. Rembember our phone

What Would You Do If You Encountered A Downed Power Line?

A downed power line always means danger

While typically not an everyday occurrence, overhead power lines, padmount transformers (green boxes) or other electrical equipment can become damaged due to storms, fires, car accidents, animal interference or from cars slipping off the road, for example.

(Spoiler alert. Do not do any of these things.) If you were in an accident involving a downed overhead power line, would you get out of the car and run? If you saw a car accident involving a downed line or damaged green box, would you run to the scene to help? If you saw a downed line across a road, would you approach it or try to move it?

Any of these actions can cause serious injury or electrocution (death). Downed lines and other damaged equipment can energize the ground, nearby people and objects. Never go near a downed power line or try to move it with an object. Electricity can jump from a wire or object to you to find the quickest path to ground.

The safest place to be after an accident involving a downed power line is inside your vehicle or cab. Unless your vehicle is on fire or giving off smoke, here is what you should do:

- Stay inside your vehicle or cab.
- Call 9-1-1 and report that there are downed or damaged power lines.
- Try to remain calm.
- Wait for the utility crew to arrive to deenergize the power.
- Do not get out until someone from the utility says it is safe to do so.
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If you must get out of the vehicle because it is on fire, cross your arms over your chest and make a clean, solid jump out, then intentionally hop with your feet together as far away as you can. If you are unable to make solid hops, shuffle with your feet close together.

When you exit, do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time. You could become electricity's path to ground from touch potential (touching something energized and the ground at the same time).

Hopping helps avoid step potential (placing each foot at a different voltage). When electricity escapes into the ground, it is likened to ripples in a pond, with each ripple representing a different voltage.