

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC



Landowners: Know the Facts Before Signing a Solar Project Lease

If you're a landowner in rural Iowa, you may have received solicitations in the mail offering land lease options for proposed solar projects. Often, these letters offer attractive per-acre rental payments for various phases of a long-term proposed project, promising steady and predictable income. However, like with all contracts, the devil is in the details. Before signing an agreement, we encourage you to do some homework and seek legal counsel to protect your rights.



Most of these letters are coming from companies outside of Iowa looking to lease land for future solar projects. We have noticed that many of these letters refer erroneously to Iowa law; referencing legislation (Senate File 2356) that did not pass last session. In fact, Iowa's electric cooperatives and other groups registered in opposition to the legislation due to its likely negative impact on electric co-ops and our members.

Some solicitations falsely claim local support for their solar initiative or that the electric output would somehow benefit your neighbors or the local electric cooperative. We have also seen letters that deceptively include endorsements attributed to the Iowa Farm Bureau. IFB's legal team is working to remove these perceived endorsements.

Please consult your legal counsel before signing any agreement or contract. Your legal counsel can help explain the benefits and disadvantages of these agreements, answer any questions you have, and help negotiate fair and equitable terms. These are long-term agreements that can give the solar company exclusive options and control of your land for decades. Spending some extra time up front to better understand the terms and conditions of the proposed agreement can save you significant time, money and headaches in the future.

Pella Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Open weekdays: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm;
excluding holidays

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Pella Cooperative Electric is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative, governed by an elected Board of Directors. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. See pella-cea.org > Non-discrimination Statement for more information.



Happy Labor Day!

Our office will be closed Monday, September 2.



Powering Lives, Empowering Communities: The Impact of Iowa's Electric Cooperatives

Iowa's electric cooperatives are proud to be owned by the members we serve. For more than 85 years, we've been committed to providing power that is safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable.

Electric cooperatives cover more than two-thirds of the state's land mass and maintain enough power lines to wrap around the equator two and a half times - that's close to 62,000 miles! Electric co-ops serve almost 240,000 households, farms and businesses throughout the state, which means we power the lives of approximately 650,000 Iowans throughout all 99 counties.

We serve primarily rural areas of the state and we're mission driven to improve quality of life for our member-owners. We adhere to seven core principles that guide all cooperatives:

1. **Voluntary and open membership:** The co-op is open to any persons who are able and willing to join, accept responsibility as a part of the organization and can use the organization's services.
2. **Democratic member control:** Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.
3. **Members' economic participation:** Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative.
4. **Autonomy and independence:** The members of the co-op determine everything it does, which allows the co-op to function independently.
5. **Education, training and information:** Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.
6. **Cooperation among cooperatives:** Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.
7. **Concern for community:** While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.

Board Briefs

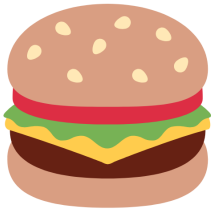
The PCEA Board of Directors met on July 25 and the following was discussed:

- Board President, Ver Ploeg, and CEO Stewart attended the IAEC's Managers' and Presidents' Summer Conference to share and learn about ideas on topics including safety, power supply, government relations, and other industry trends.
- Cassie Cason, CFO, gave a mid-year report on 2024 capital improvements. During the first half of the year, the cooperative has invested in line rebuild projects in the Pleasantville and Kilduff areas along with other maintenance projects around our service territory as needed.

MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY DRIVE-THRU BBQ

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

11AM - 1PM



WHERE

Pella Cooperative Electric
2615 Washington Street, Pella



DRIVE-THRU

Drive thru the co-op's parking lot for a hamburger or hotdog on us, grilled by the Marion County Cattlemen. We'll hand you a member gift on your way through!

**Until supplies lasts! Meals are provided for vehicle occupants only.*



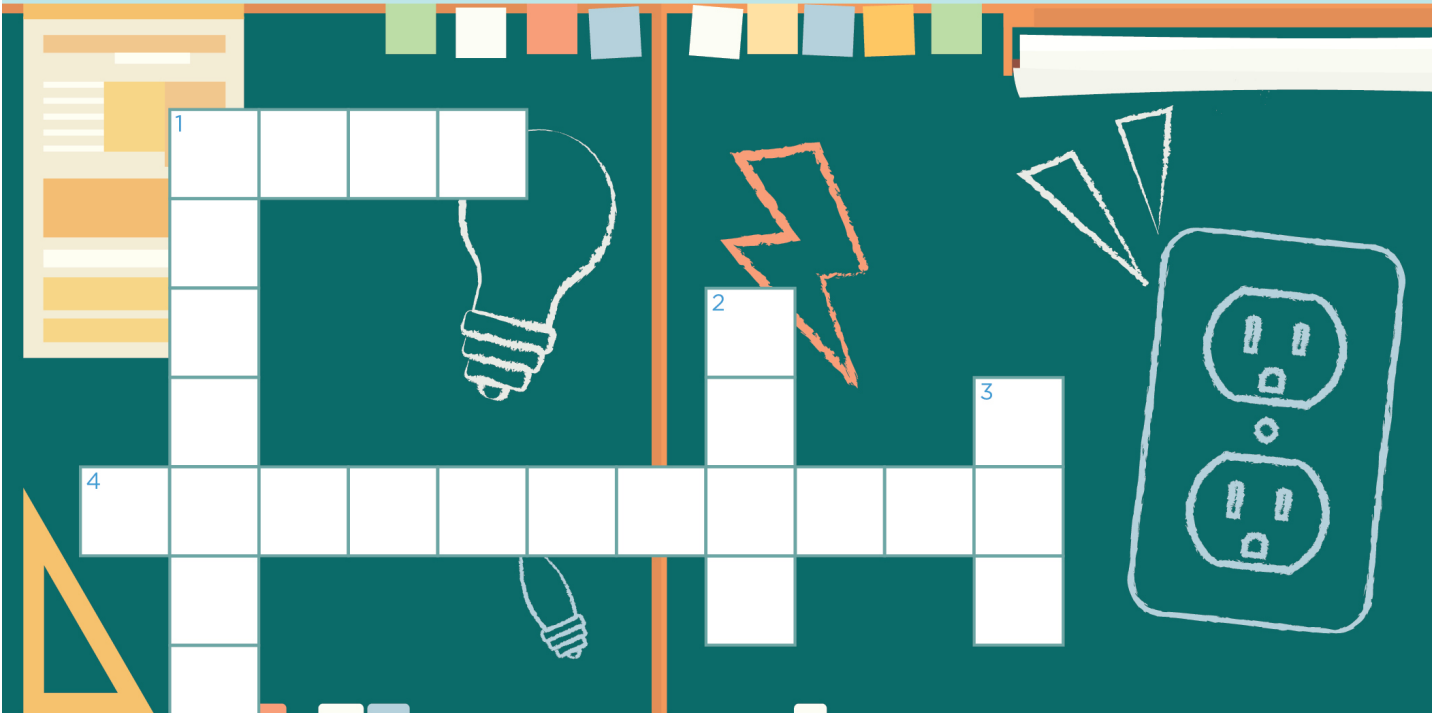
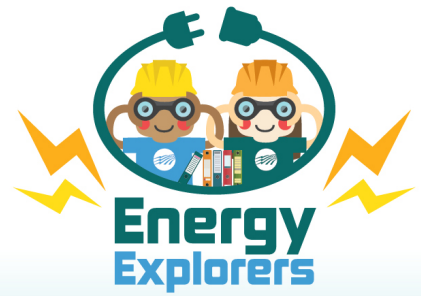
GIVEAWAYS

During the week leading up to Member Appreciation Day, we will randomly pick door prize winners to win \$25 off your electric bill! No entry needed. We'll let you know if you win! Watch our Facebook page for prize winner announcements.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

As you gear up for a new school year, remember to practice electrical safety in the classroom *and* at home. From powering electronic devices to spending time outdoors with friends, always play it safe around electricity.

Read the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle, then double check your answers in the key.



ACROSS:

1. Never insert anything other than this into an electrical outlet.
4. When outdoors, stay away from these big green boxes that lower electricity voltage.

DOWN

1. Never play around these when you're outside; you can get hurt!
2. Don't yank on a _____ when unplugging it. Instead, grab the base and pull from there.
3. Always make sure your hands are _____ before plugging anything in.

ANSWER KEY 1. ACROSS: PLUG 2. DOWN: CORD 3. DOWN: DRY 4. ACROSS: TRANSFORMER 1. DOWN: POWERLINES 2. DOWN: POWERLINES 3. DOWN: DRY