



JUNE 2023

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

Nominate a Local Volunteer by June 30th

Do you know someone in our community who deserves to be recognized for making a difference?

Nominate them for our Shine the Light contest by June 30 and they could win \$2,500 for their local charity or nonprofit.

"We're really excited to participate in this statewide effort to celebrate our cooperative commitment to community," says Doug Stewart, PCEA CEO. "There are many volunteers throughout our service area who deserve to be recognized."



Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, this contest debuted last year and celebrates the people who make our communities better. Three winners will be announced in September and each will receive a \$2,500 donation for their charity or nonprofit. The winners will also be featured in the September issue of Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine.

How to Nominate

Member-consumers and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers. If you receive electricity from Pella Cooperative Electric, you're a co-op member-consumer and we encourage you to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member-consumer. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians.

Go to www.IowaShineTheLight.com by June 30 to make a nomination and to review the contest rules. Nominators will need to provide contact information and answer this question in 500 words or less: How has your nominee made a difference in the community and how might their local charity/nonprofit use the \$2,500 donation?

Pella Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

2615 Washington St.
PO Box 106
Pella, IA 50219

1-800-619-1040
www.pella-cea.org
service@pella-cea.org



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 > Nondiscrimination Statement for more information.

Energy-Saving Projects for the Weekend Warrior

Are you a weekend warrior? If you're considering home improvement upgrades that save energy and money, we've got a few project ideas for you--all of which can be completed in a day or less!

Here are three energy-saving projects that you can easily tackle whether you're a weekend warrior pro or a DIY dabbler.

Get smart about home cooling and heating.

Cooling and heating your home typically account for a large portion of energy bills. Smart thermostats can help keep your cooling and heating costs in check, with ENERGY STAR®-certified models saving about 8% on annual energy costs.

Now that smart thermostats are more affordable (as little as \$70!), this simple upgrade makes for a fun, efficient weekend project. Smart thermostats offer a variety of bells and whistles, but the average model will allow you to set custom temperature schedules, adjust the settings from anywhere (from your phone), and over time, learn your cooling and heating preferences.

Your new smart thermostat will come with step-by-step instructions, but this project typically involves shutting off your HVAC at the breaker panel, disconnecting/removing the old thermostat, installing the new smart thermostat and connecting it to your home Wi-Fi.

Play it safe: remember to carefully read the installation instructions before you get started.

Go green and boost your greenery with a rain barrel.

If you've got a green thumb, you already know that rainwater is the best water for your outdoor plants. Rainwater is free of minerals, salts and treatment chemicals found in tap water or groundwater. It also contains helpful macronutrients to foster healthy plant growth.

Installing a rain barrel is an easy way to harvest large amounts of rainwater and reduce home water use--it's a win-win. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, one rain barrel can save a homeowner 1,300 gallons of water annually.

Most residential rain barrels range in size from 50 to 90 gallons, so the size you purchase will depend on your watering needs.



The simplest way to install a rain barrel is positioning a plastic or wooden barrel directly under your gutter downspout. Basic piping may be required, but this is an easy way to harvest rainwater, and the barrel won't take up much space. Consider a cover for the top of your rain barrel to keep insects and small debris out of your harvested water.

Create fresh savings with a DIY clothesline.

If you have enough outdoor space available, installing a clothesline is a great way to save energy. Not only will you save on dryer costs--in the summer, you can also save on cooling costs since unwanted heat from the clothes dryer won't be added to your home (which makes your air conditioner work harder). Additionally, air drying is much gentler on fabrics and will keep your clothes and linens looking fresh longer.

You can create your own clothesline with two T-posts, wire and hook-and-eye turnbuckles. Depending on your soil, you may need a small amount of Quikrete to set the posts. Another option is installing the line between two trees. A typical load of laundry requires about 35 feet of line, so keep this in mind as you're determining the best location.

If an outdoor clothesline isn't an option, no sweat! You can easily create an indoor drying rack that folds to save space. Home improvement websites like [thespruce.com](https://www.thespruce.com) and [hgtv.com](https://www.hgtv.com) offer step-by-step tutorials for a variety of indoor clothes racks.

These are just a few simple ideas to help you save energy and money. So, get out there, roll up those sleeves and tackle a few projects.

Check out Pella Cooperative Electric's website for additional energy-saving ideas and tips.

Find Us at Thursdays in Pella on June 29

Come find Pella Cooperative Electric at the Pella town square on June 29th at Thursdays in Pella!

Each Thursday night from June through July, the Pella Area Community and Economic Alliance hosts activities and entertainment related to each theme on the town's square. Starting at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Pella Cooperative Electric will be participating in the theme "Ag in the City." We will have a bucket truck on display as well as play hard hats, coloring books and other giveaways for kids.

Come visit with us on June 29th!



Save the Date for Member Appreciation Day!

Saturday, September 16



11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Pella Cooperative Electric
2615 Washington Street, Pella

Drive-Thru



Hamburgers and
hog dogs on us!

Giveaways!



Free giveaway per car!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Board Briefs


The PCEA Board of Directors met on May 26, 2023 for the May board meet at the PCEA office. The following were a few discussion topics:

- The board discussed a recently published NERC warning for summer reliability.
- The board reviewed the April financial statements and the Cooperative by-laws.
- The board also discussed the recent CIPCO board meeting that was held on Tuesday, May 23rd in Des Moines.


Congratulations to PCEA's 2023 Scholarship Winners

As one of the seven Cooperative Principles, “Concern for Community” is demonstrated by Pella Cooperative Electric with its belief in empowering our youth. One of the ways the co-op adheres to this principle is through a \$1,000 scholarship to a student in each school district within the co-op’s service territory. These school districts include: Grinnell, Knoxville, Lynnville-Sully, Newton, North Mahaska, PCM, Pella Christian, Pella High, Pleasantville, Twin Cedars, and a homeschool student.


To be eligible, students must be a high school senior, carry a minimum 3.0 grade point average, and must reside in the co-op’s service territory. Scholarship recipients are reviewed and selected by the co-op and through Pella Dollars for Scholars. This year, applications were not received from every school district, therefore some school districts have no scholarship recipient.




Alyssa Bassett, a senior at Lynnville-Sully High School was the district’s scholarship winner. Bassett will be attending Iowa State University majoring in Ag-Undecided.



Elizabeth Vink, a senior at Pella Christian High School was the district’s scholarship winner. Vink will be attending Dordt University to cheer for the Defenders and plans to study biology and enter the pre-med program.



Aidan Van Maanen, a senior at Pella High School was Pella’s scholarship winner. Van Maanen will be attending Iowa State University majoring in Electrical Engineering.



Jonah Schumacher, a senior at Pleasantville High School, was the district’s scholarship winner. Schumacher will be attending DMACC studying agribusiness with plans to transfer to Iowa State University to major in Animal Science.

Congratulations to our 2023 scholarship winners who are pictured below. We wish you the best in your futures!



Alyssa Bassett
Lynnville-Sully High School
Parents: Kara Warrick

Aidan Van Maanen
Pella High School
Parents: Matt & Michelle Van Maanen

Elizabeth Vink
Pella Christian High School
Parents: Chad & Jana Vink

Jonah Schumacher
Pleasantville High School
Parents: Ryan & Renae Schumacher

Happy Independence Day!

Our office will be closed Tuesday July 4 to celebrate our country.