

# HIGHLINES

November 2020

A publication for members of Pella Cooperative Electric

## Go Electric With Your Water And We'll Set You Up with an Electric Water Heater for FREE



**P**CEA members who switch their gas water heater to an electric water heater, or for a new residential construction, can get a 50 gallon Ruud water heater from PCEA for free.

### Why make the switch?

- Not as expensive as natural gas water heaters, and may cost less to install and maintain.
- Safer for the home.
- Electric water heaters have highly insulated tanks and use less energy in heat loss recovery.
- The cost of electricity remains a good value, and does not fluctuate as much as other commodities.
- PCEA will cover the cost of your new Ruud electric water heater, and we'll deliver it for you.
- The Ruud water heater comes with a six year warranty on the tank, and a one year warranty on component parts.

### What's the catch?

- No catch! Simply, PCEA is an electric co-op and encourages members to use electricity as opposed to other fuel sources.
- Member is responsible for the installation and cost to run electric to the new water heater.

**Interested?** Call our Member Relations Manager Stan Eysink at (641) 628-1040 for more information.

## Committed to You

**O**ver the past several months, like so many of you, we've risen to meet new challenges and strengthen the safety net for our community, particularly for those who are most vulnerable. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we've made numerous adjustments to programs and operations to maintain business continuity while staying focused on the bigger mission of helping our members during this turbulent time.

While our purpose is to provide safe and reliable energy to you, the members we serve, we have a greater mission—to be a catalyst for good.

You're probably aware of our RECare program, where we take donations from generous members like you who have donated on their electric bill to help our most vulnerable neighbors pay their bills. Or our college scholarship program, where we offer scholarships to our local students.

PCEA invests in the economic development of the community through an active role in our local PACE Alliance, and we've pumped millions back into the economy through our USDA loan programs.

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We know that our core job is to keep the lights on; but our passion is our community. Because we live and work here too, and we want to make it a better place for all.

If there's anything we can do to help you—whether providing energy-saving advice to help lower your monthly bill or discuss payment plan options during these difficult times—please reach out to us at Pella Cooperative Electric.

Concern for community is the heart and soul of who we are. And no matter what the future brings, you can count on your electric co-op to care about you.



Jon Miles, CEO

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## Ways to Save Energy in the Kitchen

The kitchen is undeniably one of the most-loved rooms in our homes. It's where we gather with family and friends for our favorite meals and memories. But like most of us, you probably aren't thinking about saving energy when you're planning that perfect dish. Here are four ways you can save energy in the kitchen with minimal effort.



### Use Your Crockpot

When possible, cook with smaller appliances. Using smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers, toaster ovens and convection ovens is more energy efficient than using your large stove or oven. According to the Department of Energy, a toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.



### Unplug Appliances

Unplug appliances that draw phantom energy load. Halloween may be over, but it's possible you have energy vampires in your kitchen – these are the appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, like coffee makers, microwaves and toaster ovens. The Department of Energy has estimated that one home's energy vampires left plugged in year-round can add up to \$100-\$200 in wasted energy costs.



### Help Appliances Work Smarter

Help large appliances work less. There are small ways you can help your larger kitchen appliances run more efficiently. For example, keep range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they'll reflect heat better. When it's time to put leftovers in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool down first. That way, the fridge doesn't have to work harder to cool warm food.



### Wash Dishes Efficiently

Use your dishwasher efficiently. Only run full loads, and avoid using the "rinse hold" function on your machine for just a few dirty dishes; it uses 3-7 gallons of hot water each use. You can also save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher doesn't have an automatic air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.

### Bright Idea



Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

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



# HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

PCEA's office will be closed on November 26 and 27.



## Lely North America Joins the PCEA Membership New Headquarters Breaks Ground

**P**ella Cooperative Electric staff and board members attended Lely North America's groundbreaking event for their new headquarters on October 22.

Lely North America provides robotic milking technology in the U.S. and Canada. For many years, their office has been located adjacent to the Vermeer campus. Lely's groundbreaking ceremony officially launched the construction of their new headquarters, which will be located just south of Highway 163 on Adams Avenue.

PCEA is pleased to welcome Lely North America as a new member to the cooperative. Lely's new building, which is expected to be completed in 2022, will add significant load to the cooperative's local electric grid. PCEA's new Howell substation will be located just west of Lely's new headquarters, and will provide a dedicated circuit to serve Lely's property.



## Rate Changes Will Happen Early Next Year

**L**ast month, PCEA announced upcoming changes to rates come December. Upon further review, the co-op's staff decided additional time is needed to study the proposed rate change. Therefore, rate changes will now occur in early 2021 as opposed to December 2020 as originally planned.

Ensuring rates are fair and equitable across all rate classes is important to co-op members, because the revenue derived from the rates paid by the members for electric service is what funds the operation of the electric cooperative. The cooperative uses the philosophy that the cost causer should be the cost payer. Having multiple charges in each rate allows the cooperative to bill members as fairly and accurately as possible. As a not-for-profit cooperative, it is important for PCEA to periodically review rates and adjust as needed to cover expenses across the varying rate classes (residential, commercial, etc.).

Look for more information about changes to your electric rates in the mail and on PCEA's website at [www.pella-cea.org](http://www.pella-cea.org).

## Thank You Veterans



*PCEA Journeyman Lineman  
Matt Ainsworth*



*PCEA Journeyman  
Lineman Lance Fremel*

**N**ovember 11 is Veterans Day - a day to recognize and thank all military veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. PCEA especially recognizes two employees who wore the uniform and served their country. PCEA Journeyman Lineman Matt Ainsworth served in the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserves from 2001-2007. PCEA Journeyman Lineman Lance Fremel served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2003-2007.

**Thank you** to all our veterans, and to Matt and Lance for serving.

# Utility Bill Assistance Available for Iowa Households

**G**overnor Reynolds announced a new program designed to provide eligible Iowa households up to \$2,000 towards their electric, natural gas and water bills if they are at risk of disconnection due to an inability to pay because of a COVID-19 related loss of income.

As part of the federal CARES Act funding allocated to Iowa, the Residential Utility Disruption Prevention Program is managed by the Iowa Economic Development Authority and the Iowa Finance Authority. Payments through the program will be made directly to utility providers and applied to the applicants' accounts.

To be eligible to receive assistance, a residential electric, natural gas and/or water utility consumer must have:

- A primary Iowa residence with active residential utility accounts (renters may apply as long as the utility account is in the applicant's name);
- An unpaid utility bill balance or have previously entered into a payment plan with their utility provider;
- An annual income that is 80% of the median family income, based on county and household size;
- Experienced a COVID-19 loss of income (job loss, reduction in hours, reduction in pay) on or after March 17, 2020, that resulted in hardship in paying bills for electric, natural gas, and/or water utility service provided between March 17, 2020, and October 31, 2020.

Applications will be accepted at [www.iowahousingrecovery.com](http://www.iowahousingrecovery.com) through November 20, 2020, or until funding is depleted, whichever comes first. Assistance will be awarded based on application completeness and eligibility in order received until



all funds have been exhausted. The website includes answers to frequently asked questions and complete eligibility requirements. You can also call Iowa's Utility Recovery Hotline at 515-348-8976 or 877-463-3269 for more information about this program.

If you receive electricity from Pella Cooperative Electric and need assistance with documentation for your application, please contact us during office hours at 1-800-619-1040 or [service@pella-cea.org](mailto:service@pella-cea.org).

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## Want to Take an Active Role in PCEA's Election Process? *Serve on the Nominating Committee*

**P**ella Cooperative Electric is looking for at least five members to serve on the nominating committee. The committee members serve the membership by seeking members to run for election to the board of directors.

Committee members learn and follow the policies and processes of being a nominating committee member, which are found in

the co-op's ByLaws. The committee meets at least once between now and the annual meeting.

The co-op's next Annual Meeting is currently scheduled to be held on April 6, 2021. Members interested in serving in this capacity should contact the cooperative for more information at 1-800-619-1040.

## HIGHLINES

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

Pella Cooperative Electric is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative. The co-op exists to provide electric service at cost. It is the members (anyone who gets electricity from the cooperative), not outside investors, that own and control the co-op. Cooperatives are governed by a member-elected Board of Directors. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. See [pella-cea.org](http://pella-cea.org) > Nondiscrimination Statement for more information.

**Board of Directors:** Bryce Arkema, Darrell Boot, Carroll Hoksbergen, Steve Inskeep, Bob Van Soelen, Jon Van Woerkom, Duane Ver Ploeg, and CEO Jon Miles.