

HIGHLIGHTS

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

Come See Us At the Iowa State Fair!

The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa are pleased to once again sponsor the 4-H Exhibits Building at the 2024 Iowa State Fair.

Pella Cooperative Electric is proud to be a Touchstone Energy member, which means we're part of a nationwide network of locally owned co-ops that provides resources and leverages partnerships to help member-consumers use energy wisely.

**AUGUST
8-18
2024**

IowaStateFair

**OFFICIAL
SPONSOR**

If you're planning a visit to the Iowa State Fair from August 8-18, make sure to stop by and see us in the air conditioned 4-H Exhibits Building on the southwest corner of the fairgrounds.

Electric co-op staff from across the state will hand out plastic hard hats and suckers for the kids while supplies last.

Kids can also try on some lineworker safety gear and take fun photos in our co-op safety selfie station!

We look forward to connecting with our co-op members at the Iowa State Fair this summer. Please stop by our booth and say hello!

Board Briefs

- The Board of Directors reviewed and approved the Cooperative's policy renewal with Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange for the upcoming fiscal year.
- The operations department reported on the outages during recent storms. Line Superintendent Rob Burton also discussed our efforts to provide mutual aid to Consumer's Energy in Marshalltown, IA.

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.

2023 CIPCO Power Supply Report: POWERING PROGRESS TOGETHER

*By: Duane Ver Ploeg
Representative on the CIPCO Board of Directors*

As the energy landscape continues to shift around us, I'm happy to report that our cooperative renewed our long-term commitment to Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) by signing a new wholesale power contract. Negotiations lasted several years until CIPCO, and its member-owner electric cooperatives came to an agreement on the updated terms that provide a framework to integrate new technologies and serve as a foundation for critical long-term resource decisions while maintaining flexibility.

Although 2023 began amid a backdrop of economic uncertainty, persistent inflation, and ongoing supply-chain disruptions, the wholesale power markets somewhat calmed and CIPCO's financial results reflected a year of strong performance and competitive rates. CIPCO is proud to maintain competitive rates that, today, remain below rates charged to Pella Cooperative Electric Association more than 10 years ago.

As your representative on the CIPCO Board of Directors, I was involved in discussions around the challenges we expected to come from the Environmental Protection Agency's Greenhouse Gas Standards and Guidelines for Fossil Fuel-Fired Power Plants, released in April this year. As expected, this barrage of new EPA rules ignores our nation's ongoing electric reliability challenges and is the wrong approach at a critical time in our nation's energy future. Additionally, these rules push additional essential "always available" generating resources such as coal off the grid just as the nation is depending on electricity to power more of the U.S. economy.

On behalf of its member-owners, CIPCO stands united with its cooperative and industry peers to challenge detrimental regulations and advocate for sensible energy policies. Intermittent generation resources such as wind and solar are a valuable and growing portion of CIPCO's energy mix, but coal and natural gas generators are critical to preserve reliability, minimize emissions and keep electricity rates at an affordable level for Pella Cooperative Electric Association and its member-owners.

Severe weather events underscored the need for a robust transmission system in 2023. On March 31, a widespread tornado outbreak swept through the eastern part of Iowa, causing 23 system outages and 47 damaged transmission structures for CIPCO. In August, CIPCO reached a new all-time peak demand of 675 MW during a period of sustained high temperatures. I'm pleased to report that CIPCO met all its generation requirements as requested by the Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) and did not need to call on any of its member-owners to shed load.

Despite these events and others, CIPCO maintained an overall outage rate of 0.209 hours per customer, one of the best years for reliability in CIPCO's history. For 2023, Pella Cooperative Electric's was 2.08 hours per member. In 2023, both Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings maintained CIPCO's 'A' ratings which confirm CIPCO's financial strength.

CIPCO remains dedicated to sound financial practices that allow margins to be returned to its members in the form of patronage, a key component of the cooperative business model. In 2023, CIPCO returned patronage totaling \$160,213 to Pella Cooperative Electric Association.

I can assure you that the CIPCO Board, member CEOs and the CIPCO management team are focused on finding solutions that balance the reliable, affordable and sustainable energy our members expect and deserve. No matter the complex issues before us, cooperative solutions are the answer.



*Duane Ver Ploeg
PCEA President and CIPCO Representative*

PCEA Employees Practice Safety Procedures

At Pella Cooperative Electric, safety is our number one priority each and every day.

Monthly safety meetings, conducted by our partner organization, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, provide employees skills and education needed to keep safety at the forefront of their jobs. Topics covered include: first aid, CPR, pole top and bucket rescue, climbing competency, mayday calls and much more.

The June safety meeting held on June 5 covered mayday calls, bucket rescues, and climbing competency. All PCEA linemen completed the climbing competency testing and practiced bucket rescue with mayday calls with the office staff.



Apprentice Lineman Owen Ellingson testing for climbing competency.

Pictured right: Lineman gather in the pole yard to practice bucket rescue training.

Schmitz Attends National Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Alongside 36 other students from across the state of Iowa and nearly 1,800 from across the nation, Pella High School junior Ellie Schmitz attended the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

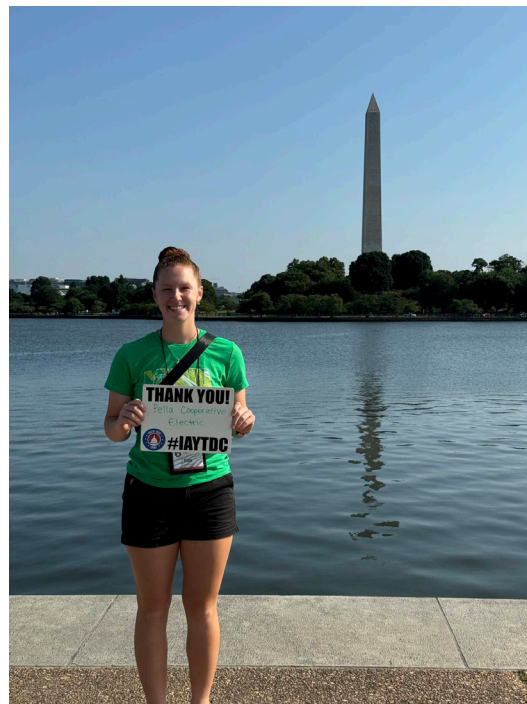
The students departed from Des Moines on June 15 and returned June 21, 2024.

Ellie and the students learned about the electric cooperative business model and American history through touring monuments, museums and historical landmarks in our nation's capital.

Giving back to our communities and investing in the next generation of leaders is a large part of Pella Cooperative Electric's mission.

We hope you had an awesome trip, Ellie!

If you or your child is interested in attending the trip in 2025, please reach out to Emma Henning at ehenning@pella-cea.org.



4 Ways to Beat the Heat & Save Energy this Summer

- 1 Instead of cranking up the A/C, use ceiling fans to make rooms feel a few degrees cooler.
- 2 Delay heat-producing chores like running the dishwasher or doing laundry until the evening hours.
- 3 Keep blinds and curtains closed during the day – especially for east- and west-facing windows.
- 4 Use your outdoor grill for summer cooking! Using your oven indoors heats up your kitchen, which will kick on the A/C in high gear.



PCEA's Nondiscrimination Statement

As a recipient of Rural Development funding, Pella Cooperative Electric follows USDA's Nondiscrimination policy, which is as follows:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, USDA, its Mission Areas, agencies, staff, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Program information may be made available in language other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible Mission Area, agency, or staff office; the USDA TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY); or the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of the alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- (2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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