

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

JULY 2025

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 2025 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.

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

- At the June board meeting, licensed engineers Adam Toth and Will Deckard from Toth & Associates presented a draft of the Cooperative's new Construction Work Plan. This plan serves as a roadmap for how the Cooperative will invest in system improvements over the next several years. This will ensure the electric system remains, safe, reliable and capable of meeting future member needs.

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 > Non-discrimination Statement for more information.

2024 CIPCO Power Supply Report: Member Driven. Reliability Focused

By: Duane Ver Ploeg

Representative on the CIPCO Board of Directors

The reliable and affordable power we benefit from today is the result of careful planning and prudent investments that occurred decades ago. To be sure, when Pella Cooperative Electric Association was founded in 1936, the energy landscape looked quite different than it does today. Once in its infancy, our bulk electric system has now matured with the assistance of diversified power generation sources and improved technology.

As your representative on the Central Iowa Power Cooperative Board of Directors, I am committed to the critical work of continuing the stewardship of your electric service that began all those years ago. Decisions made then, and decisions made now will determine our future path to success. To get there, we need to keep our eyes focused on the horizon.

For that reason, the CIPCO Board of Directors began 2024 by refreshing our strategic plan. Safety and security, reliability, strategic partnerships and financial strength were the pillars upon which we weighed every action we took on behalf of our Member-owner electric cooperatives. We mindfully and conservatively deliberated plans for much-needed new power generation, fortified by the findings of an updated Integrated Resource Plan, which clearly asserted the demand for electricity shows no signs of slowing down. Basically, the sooner we can have new generation up and running, the better.

Rising demand for electricity across our region stems from industrial expansion of manufacturing facilities, data centers, mining cryptocurrency, small businesses and ongoing residential growth and general electrification. While it certainly presents an opportunity, it is not risk-free. Today's complex regulatory environment complicates our business and has threatened the affordability and reliability of the generation we need to serve these large loads. Our ongoing partnership with fellow CIPCO Member-owners to mitigate some of these risks through innovative rates and contract structures has prepared us to welcome new businesses and industries and expand existing ones.

As a CIPCO Board member, I am excited about what the future holds for CIPCO, and Pella Cooperative Electric Association, as we pursue opportunities to bolster our balanced and diverse portfolio with reliable energy and capacity that will consistently serve us for decades to come. The planning for the development and construction of new generation assets in 2024 will be remembered as the launch of the latest capacity expansion for CIPCO. CIPCO's positive financial standing is due to the long-term support of its Member-owners like PCEA. For 2024, CIPCO realized a net margin of \$30.4 million, well ahead of budget. Throughout the year, CIPCO maintained stable rates, returned patronage capital to our cooperative, and strengthened the balance sheet as we planned for major capital additions.

Despite May 2024 tornado outbreak that caused widespread damage across the CIPCO system, CIPCO maintained an overall outage rate of 0.84 hours per consumer, still under the target of 1.00 hour per consumer. For 2024, PCEA's was 0.39 hours per member. On the financial side, in 2024, both Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings once again maintained CIPCO's 'A' ratings which confirm CIPCO's financial strength. This was echoed in the sound financial practices that allowed margins to be returned to CIPCO Member-owners in the form of patronage, a key component of the cooperative business model. In 2024, CIPCO returned patronage totaling \$257,248 to Pella Cooperative Electric Association.

CIPCO was created for one reason: to serve its Member-owner cooperatives. Its transmission system remains reliable, and its growing power supply resources enhance the value of membership. We are proud of our accomplishments and remain confident that the path ahead will bring continued reliability and opportunities for your local electric cooperative.



*Duane Ver Ploeg
PCEA President and
CIPCO Representative*

Congratulations to Lineman Owen Ellingson!

After 4 years, over 8,000 hours of training, and one serious commitment to growth, Owen Ellingson has officially completed the rigorous IAEC apprenticeship program and earned his Journeyman Lineman certification!

Owen joined Pella Cooperative Electric in April 2021 and has been a dedicated, hard-working part of our team ever since.

“This journey’s been tough but incredibly rewarding,” Owen said. “I’ve learned so much and grown not just as a lineman, but as a person. I’m proud to be part of this co-op and excited for what’s ahead.”

The 8-step apprenticeship program—developed by Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives in partnership with the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities and Northwest Iowa Community College—is sanctioned by the U.S. Department of Labor and includes 8,000 hours of on-the-job training, testing, evaluations, and skill certifications. It ensures lineworkers like Owen are trained with consistency, safety, and excellence.

“We’re incredibly proud of Owen’s achievement,” said Line Superintendent, Rob Burton. “Becoming a journeyman lineman is no small feat—it reflects grit, discipline, and a passion for the job. Owen embodies all of that and more, and we’re lucky to have him at Pella Cooperative Electric.”



Line Superintendent presenting Owen his Journeyman Lineman certificate.

A promotional poster for Member Appreciation Day. The background is a blue wooden plank texture. On the right side, there is a red and white checkered tablecloth with a large silver fork and spatula. The text is as follows:

Save the Date
**MEMBER
APPRECIATION
DAY**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Pella Cooperative Electric
2615 Washington Street, Pella

 **DRIVE-THRU**
Hamburgers and hot dogs on us!

 **GIVEAWAYS!**
Free giveaway per vehicle!

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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