

# living with energy

IN IOWA



Chariton Valley  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative



JANUARY 2017

Win an early-warning emergency crank radio for your storm preparedness kit! ▶ See page 5

## Eat healthy:

Recipes from Iowa's  
co-op cooks

Students: It's time  
to apply for the  
**2017 Youth Tour**

Think you'll need a  
portable generator?  
**Plan ahead!**

We're celebrating  
a 75-year legacy of  
**cooperative values**

Visit our website at [www.cvrec.com](http://www.cvrec.com)



# Hay!

## It's for sale!



Chariton Valley Electric has 15 1,800-lb. (approximate) net-wrapped, second-cutting, clover grass hay bales for sale. We're asking \$40 each.

If interested, please contact Charles VanDePol at 641-932-7126 or [cvandepol@cvrec.com](mailto:cvandepol@cvrec.com).



#### Office

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P.O. Box 486  
Albia, IA 52531-0486

#### Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

#### Telephone Numbers

Days, nights or holidays:  
641-932-7126 (local)  
or 800-475-1702

#### Website

[www.cvrec.com](http://www.cvrec.com)

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We accept



## Electric cooperatives are ready to work with elected officials

As the nation prepares to welcome a new administration and Congress, America's electric cooperatives are ready to welcome back old friends and introduce ourselves to newcomers.

The co-ops' message to elected officials, both old and new, Republican and Democrat, will be the same: We all need to work together to protect consumer access to safe, reliable and affordable electric service. We have reason to believe this message will be well received. After all, co-ops speak for more than 42 million electric consumers nationwide, a sizeable constituency by any measure.

Moreover, whatever you thought of the 2016 campaign, one message came through loud and clear: Many people don't believe their concerns are being heard. For member-owned cooperatives, listening to people is at the heart of our business model. And we carry our members' concerns to public officials every day.

As co-ops reach out to engage with elected officials, they will build on the strength of Co-ops Vote, the grassroots initiative to reverse declining voter turnout in rural areas. Co-ops Vote did more than just register voters. This initiative sent a strong message to the country's elected officials that rural electric consumers matter.

Co-ops will be reinforcing this message with a request that

policymakers keep the needs of consumers front and center. Needs such as funding for infrastructure, especially transmission lines and access to natural gas. Increasing the efficiency of the electric system. Determining the future of hydropower and nuclear energy. Elected officials will be making decisions affecting every aspect of the electric system.

Advocating for these issues is nothing new. In fact, we've been doing it for years. And we're ready to continue the fight on your behalf. The time is now to reach out to *all* elected officials, new and returning.

In Washington, D.C., our national trade association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, will be conducting similar introductions, speaking with key agencies and departments within the new administration. It is likely many of these new policymakers will know little or nothing of the co-op model.

Forging an energy future that serves rural consumers – and protecting access to safe, reliable and affordable electric power – will be a bipartisan effort. Electric co-ops are optimistic. As we work with our elected leaders, we hope to renew a spirit of cooperation in the nation's capital and in statehouses across the country.

After all, cooperation is what co-ops do best! ⚡

**Here at Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., we have already reached out to local and state officials. At a meeting held in early December with State Sens. Rozenboom and Sinclair and State Reps. Chelgren, Sheets, Heartsill, Fry, Gaskill and Hanson, we reviewed the unique member-owned, not-for-profit co-op business model, as well as discussed issues that are important to all rural electric cooperatives.**



## Get involved in your co-op!

Have you ever wondered how you could get more involved in *your* electric cooperative, but maybe didn't know how – or even what you could do?

Consider running for the Board of Directors! Serving as a director is a wonderful opportunity to expand your horizons by learning more about the electric utility industry, gaining knowledge of how a cooperative operates, becoming more involved in national and state organizations, working closely with local and state

legislative representatives and – most importantly – being a voice for all of the members of Chariton Valley Electric.

A director is expected to attend the monthly board meetings and is encouraged to attend various training meetings held throughout his/her term as a director. Because the board is responsible for establishing the policies and rates under which the cooperative operates, it's important that directors commit sufficient time



to read and learn about the electric utility industry and be familiar with the information and financial reports from the cooperative and state and national associations.

If a director position is not the right fit for you, another option might be serving on the Nominating Committee. This is an important role in the election process, as this committee nominates director candidates for election at the cooperative's Annual Meeting. Every committee member is required to be a member of

Chariton Valley Electric, canvas a district for a nominee to be placed on the ballot and be able to attend at least one meeting of the Nominating Committee held in early June to officially nominate candidates for election.

If you're interested in being nominated, would like to nominate someone or would like to serve on the nominating committee, contact any current board member or call CVEC at 641-932-7126. ⚡

## Students: It's time to apply for the 2017 Youth Tour



Iowa's local electric co-ops believe in youth. That's why CVEC sponsors the Iowa Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. – a weeklong summer trip that allows participants to explore our nation's historic sites and see the government in action.

### Who can attend?

Youth Tour participants are chosen by their cooperatives. High school students typically are eligible to apply during their sophomore, junior or senior years.

### Is it fun?

You bet. An action-packed week awaits! Tour historic sites. Meet congressional leaders. Spend a day on Capitol Hill. Explore the Smithsonian museums. Take a cruise on the Potomac River. Make new friends from Iowa and across the nation.

### Don't miss the chance of a lifetime!

Become one of hundreds of Iowa youth who have experienced Youth Tour. You'll be glad you did!

### When does it happen?

June 9-15, 2017

### How do you apply?

For an application, click on the Community tab/Youth Tour link on our website at [www.cvrec.com](http://www.cvrec.com), call Charles VanDePol at CVEC at 641-932-7126 or ask your guidance counselor at high school. Your application must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2017. ⚡

## EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

## Win an early-warning emergency radio!

Your list of things to keep handy in case the power goes out should include a flashlight with fresh batteries, an AM/FM portable radio and a fully charged backup battery for your mobile phone or tablet. The Midland ER310 emergency radio incorporates all of these things – plus weather alerts, an SOS beacon and an electronic, ultrasonic whistle rescue dogs can hear.

Suggested retail is about \$70; go to



[www.midlandusa.com](http://www.midlandusa.com) for more details. Enter the contest by Jan. 31, 2017, at the all-new *Living with Energy in Iowa* website: [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com). ⚡

## Check these resolutions for a slimmer energy bill in 2017

New Year's is a favorite time for making resolutions, like dieting and saving money, to improve your life. This year, combine these two ideas by going on an **energy diet**. Post these simple reminders from CVEC on your refrigerator, and start trimming your energy costs and environmental impact today! ✂



### 11 resolutions for a slimmer energy bill

1. Switch to energy-efficient LED lighting.
2. Clean and replace furnace filters regularly.
3. Plug energy-wasting air leaks with weather stripping around windows and doors.
4. Take advantage of natural sunlight and window shading for no-cost lighting, heating and cooling.
5. Maintain water heater temperature at 120 degrees, and take short showers instead of baths.
6. Adjust your thermostat when your home is unoccupied to avoid heating or cooling an empty house.
7. Run the dishwasher and clothes washer only when fully loaded.
8. Air-dry clothes whenever possible.
9. Turn off and unplug computers, battery chargers and other electronics when not in use.
10. When replacing older appliances and equipment, purchase high-efficiency Energy Star® products.
11. For more energy savers, visit [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com).

## CVEC helps community during the holidays

Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., once again demonstrated Cooperative Principle No. 7 – Concern for Community – during the holiday season by participating in Albia's Victorian Stroll live Christmas windows. CVEC is proud of the communities we serve and live in, and we look forward to many more community activities in the upcoming year! ✂



### Important NEW YEAR Resolutions . . .

That don't involve diet or exercise!



1. Make sure outlets have GFCIs in the kitchen, bathroom & laundry
2. Replace frayed electrical cords
3. Check for loose-fitting plugs
4. Replace missing or broken wall plates
5. Check for overloaded outlets
6. Make sure light bulb wattage matches the fixture requirements
7. Have an electrician check outlets that are warm/discolored



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