

## NVREC linemen travel to South Carolina to restore power in wake of Hurricane Helene

In October, three Nishnabotna Valley REC linemen joined 42 other linemen from Iowa's rural electric cooperatives to aid in the recovery efforts after Hurricane Helene.

Dave Monson, Jake Cook, and Dillon Clark departed on Thursday, October 3, traveling over 1,100 miles to Abbeville, S.C., where they helped restore power to thousands of members of Little River Electric Cooperative. In the aftermath of the storm, more than 95 percent of their members were without power across the co-op's service area about 2.5 hours east of Atlanta, Ga.

The Nishnabotna Valley REC crew worked closely with a local "bird dog," or safety guide, from Little River Electric to ensure safe operations as they tackled 16-hour shifts over 10 days.

"Our main tasks were removing fallen trees from power lines, replacing broken poles, and restringing lines to restore electricity to residents," shared Dave Monson. "The majority of the damage was within the right-of-way, so clearing debris was essential before we could even start restoring lines."

What struck the crews most was the resilience and generosity of the people in the community.

"These folks had their homes and lives torn apart by the storm, yet they went out of their way to write us thank-you notes or bring snacks, water, and essentials like toothpaste," Monson noted. "Each morning, we prayed together for safety, and on Sunday, a pastor led a short service, which was a comfort to all of us."

In times of need, Nishnabotna Valley

REC, too, receives support from fellow cooperatives, especially after severe weather events like snowstorms or the tornadoes that ripped through our service area earlier this year. This

spirit of "cooperation among cooperatives" is one of the seven cooperative principles and is a valued part of being a member-owner of Nishnabotna Valley REC.



Nishnabotna Valley REC lineworkers Jake Cook, Dave Monson, and Dillon Clark spent ten days in Abbeville, S.C., assisting a fellow electric cooperative with storm restoration.



(l-r): Nishnabotna Valley REC lineworkers Jake Cook, Dave Monson, and Dillon Clark.

# Board approves \$259,899 patronage retirement

*Eligible members to receive their share this December*

Member-owners of Nishnabotna Valley REC will receive their share of the \$259,899.80 patronage this December, either on their bill or in the mail. The money comes from patronage dividends allocated for the year 2003 and a portion from the year 2023.

When you signed up to receive electric service from Nishnabotna Valley REC, you became a member-owner of an electric utility. While investor-owned utilities return a portion of any profits back to their shareholders, Nishnabotna Valley REC allocates and periodically retires patronage dividends based on how much a member spent with the co-op during a year. Electric co-ops operate on an at-cost basis, so our goal is to provide you with electricity at a price that is as close to cost as possible.

These funds have helped us keep the lid on rates, reduce the amount of money we needed to borrow from outside lenders to build, maintain, and expand a reliable electric distribution system, and cover emergency expenses.

If you were a member of NVREC in 2003 or in 2023, you should be a recipient of patronage dividends in December. If the amount due to the member is less than \$20, it will be rolled over and combined with future dividends until it equals \$20 or more (unless it is the final payment to that member).

Members of Nishnabotna Valley REC have received over \$7.2 million in patronage dividends since the cooperative began in 1936.

Please visit [NVREC.com](http://NVREC.com) for more information about patronage dividends.

## How Does Patronage Work?

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, excess revenues are returned to members in the form of patronage dividends, also known as capital credits.

1

Your co-op tracks how much money you pay for electricity throughout the year.

2

At the end of the year, your co-op completes financial matters and determines whether there are excess revenues, known as margins.

3

Your co-op allocates, or designates, the margins to members as patronage based upon how much they spent with the co-op during the year.

4

When the co-op's financial condition permits, your board of directors decides to retire, or pay, the patronage dividends to you.

5

You receive a bill credit or check for your portion of the patronage dividends being retired.



February 20-21, 2025

Sheraton West Des Moines Hotel

[MomentumIsBuilding.com](http://MomentumIsBuilding.com)

Iowa Builders and Contractors:

*Earn CEUs, network, and learn new techniques*

## Momentum is Building coming in late February

Iowa builders and contractors are invited to explore the latest in energy efficiency technologies at the 2025 Momentum is Building Conference, set for February 20-21, 2025, at The Sheraton West Des Moines in West Des Moines, Iowa.

A key attraction for attendees is the opportunity to earn CEUs (continuing education credits) in Iowa's plumbing/mechanical, HVAC, and electrical codes. Attendees will also have the chance to network with industry peers, learn from leading experts in energy

efficiency and the building trades, and gain insights into current energy efficiency regulations and incentives.

Sponsored by the Iowa Cooperatives for Energy Efficiency (ICEE), the annual Momentum is Building Conference links Iowa's construction industry with the services and resources provided by local electric cooperatives, which serve nearly 650,000 Iowans across all 99 counties.

For more than 30 years, the Momentum is Building Conference has created a platform for electric cooperatives and

contractors to collaborate in providing rural Iowans with safe, efficient, and cost-effective home comfort solutions.

For more information or to register for the 2025 Momentum is Building, visit [MomentumIsBuilding.com](http://MomentumIsBuilding.com). Early bird registration runs until January 20, 2025.

For more information about the conference and to see if you qualify for financial support to attend MIB, please contact Kylie Beebe by calling 712-755-2166 or by email at [kbeebe@NVREC.com](mailto:kbeebe@NVREC.com)

# NVREC hosts electric vehicle test drive event for National Drive Electric Week

More than a dozen members stopped by the office to kick the tires on an all-electric Ford F-150 Lightning and learn about the pros and cons for driving an electric vehicle (EV) during our EV test drive event in September.

Held in conjunction with National Drive Electric Week, the event offered members the opportunity to test drive the truck and learn about the different types of fully electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles currently available.

Just as Nishnabotna Valley REC embraces an "all of the above" energy strategy to provide reliable electricity to our members' homes, farms, and businesses, we also support a diverse mix of energy sources for fueling vehicles, including homegrown energy solutions like ethanol.

## Growing EV sales

Despite claims to the contrary, EV sales continue to grow. According to Kelley Blue Book, EV sales in the U.S. grew by 11 percent year over year in the third quarter of 2024, reaching record highs in both volume and market share. In fact, nationwide EVs accounted for 8.9 percent or all new vehicle sales and leases.

Their increasing popularity is being driven by several factors, including an increasing number of models, increases in range capacity, aggressive pricing discounts by many manufacturers, a growing number of public charging stations, and other financial incentives including federal tax credits available on many models.

While EVs don't work for everyone's daily driving requirements, EVs can provide many benefits, such as potentially lower operating costs and less maintenance.

If you're considering making the switch to an EV, Nishnabotna Valley REC is here to help. As your trusted local energy partner, we can help you make informed decisions about home charging options and help you decide if an EV works for your typical driv-



(l-r): Members of Nishnabotna Valley REC had the exciting opportunity to test drive the Ford Lightning and explore questions about electric vehicles. Pictured are Richard Daberkow; Ryan Henn, director of marketing, communications, and energy services at Midland Power; along with Terry and Stacey Torneten.

ing needs. We can also provide an estimate on how adding an EV may impact your electric bill.

## EV 101

There are three common types of EVs. All-electric vehicles, also known as battery electric vehicles or BEVs, are powered solely by a large battery. Because BEVs are powered by a rechargeable battery and do not use gasoline, they produce zero emissions. On average, BEVs can run on a full battery for 110-300 miles.

Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) are powered by a combination of a large battery, an electric motor and a gas-powered engine. PHEVs recharge battery power from regenerative braking and can also be plugged in to a standard outlet. Depending on the model, they can run on full battery power (alone) for 15-60 miles.

Hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) use an electric motor to assist gas-powered engines. Similar to PHEVs, HEVs can also recharge their battery power from regenerative braking, but

the power comes from the gas engine, and they do not plug in to an electrical outlet.

## Home charging options

Most new BEVs and PHEVs include a Level 1 charging unit (110-volt-compatible), which can be plugged into any standard household electrical outlet. A Level 1 charger typically provides two to five miles of range per hour of charging, which may work for those with shorter daily commutes.

For lengthier daily drive times, Level 2 chargers can be installed for faster charging, at 10-30 miles of range per hour. A Level 2 charger uses 240-volt service, which may require electrical upgrades conducted by a licensed electrician.

## Let NVREC help!

As consumer interest in EVs grows, NVREC is ready to help our members determine if an EV is right for their lifestyle and pocketbook.

Our knowledgeable staff can

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## TEST DRIVE FROM PAGE 3

provide information about charging requirements and vehicle options, as well as check your transformer size to ensure it can adequately handle the additional load.

If you own an EV or are considering purchasing one in the future, we encourage you to contact Todd Bruck at 712-755-2166 for more information about your charging options and requirements, as well as energy-saving tips for the road ahead.

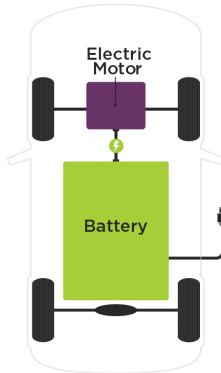


(l-r): Ryan Henn and James Burmeister.

# EV BUYER'S GUIDE

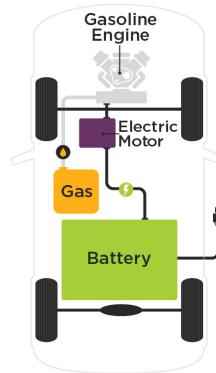
Considering an electric vehicle? Use this guide as you consider vehicle options.

## Types of EVs



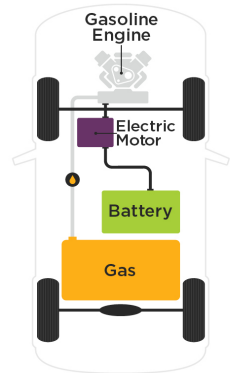
### Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV):

Fully powered by an electric battery; no gas-powered components.



### Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV):

Contains an engine, electric motor and large battery; can operate in electric-only mode, engine-only mode or hybrid mode (battery and gas).



### Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV):

Low-emission vehicles; electric motor assists gas-powered engine. Fully powered by gasoline (no charging).

## Average Battery Range



**BEV:** 110-300 miles \*full battery

**PHEV:** 15-60 miles on battery power \*full battery  
(PHEVs can run on battery and/or gas power.)

## Home Charging Options

### Level 1:

- 110-volt service
- 2-5 miles of range per hour of charging
- Typically does not require electrical upgrades

### Level 2:

- 240-volt service
- 10-30 miles of range per hour of charging
- Faster than level 1
- May require electrical upgrades



## Considerations Before Buying

- Public charging options near you
- Federal, state and local financial incentives
- Battery warranties
- Potential changes to auto insurance

# NVREC LIGHTS UP THE NIGHT WITH PINK IN OCTOBER FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

The REC tower shone bright in pink during October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, symbolizing hope and strength in the fight against all forms of cancer. Let's stand together, spread awareness, and support the journey toward a cancer-free future.

Special thanks to lineman Aaron Nippert for inspiring the idea.



# DON'T WAIT FOR YOUR OLD WATER HEATER TO SPRING A LEAK!

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high-efficiency electric water heater.

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**AMAZING**  
**MEMBER PRICES!**

## **MARATHON<sup>®</sup>** **MEMBER PRICING\***

50 gallon (reg. or short): **\$550**

85 gallon: **\$675**

105 gallon: **\$950**

*\*Member pricing assumes all incentives/  
agreements and is not eligible for any additional rebate.*

**All prices subject to change.**



# Bachman earns loss control certification



(l-r): Nishnabotna Valley CEO Bill McKim and Director of Safety Chase Bachman.

Nishnabotna Valley REC Director of Safety Chase Bachman recently completed an intensive program in electric utility safety and loss control, designed to help cooperatives keep their employees safe and rates affordable.

The rigorous Certified Loss Control Program consists of four week-long sessions designed to challenge and educate participants in new, innovative safety techniques. The program requires students to successfully pass a series of challenging tests, a 30-hour Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) course, and complete a detailed final course project. Participants must also maintain their certificate by attending courses yearly to stay on top of industry changes.

According to OSHA, nearly 4 million workplace injuries occur annually. Program graduates are charged with applying the lessons they learned to their cooperatives, designing and implementing innovative programs to help keep their employees, cooperative members, and the general public safe.

The program is offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in conjunction with the National Utility Training & Safety Education Association.

# RECare: members helping members

RECare is a program through your cooperative which provides local community action agencies the funds to help low-income families pay for winter heating bills and weatherize their homes. This program allows you to help other less fortunate rural

electric cooperative members.

Through RECare, you may make a one-time contribution or a monthly pledge that will automatically be added to your monthly electric bill. Even \$1 a month will help others.

To participate, please complete the

form below.

Complete the required information, then return it with your monthly billing statement to *Nishnabotna Valley REC, PO Box 714, Harlan, IA 51537.*

Thank you for your support!



## CONSUMER AUTHORIZATION FORM

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.

- I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.
- I will contribute \_\_\_\_\_ per month to RECare. I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.
- My gift is a matching fund gift. The matching fund is \_\_\_\_\_.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ACCOUNT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: *RECare, Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 714, Harlan, IA 51537; (712) 755-2166*

# HOLIDAY ENERGY SAVING TIPS

## Tips to 'gobble up' this Thanksgiving!

### Thanksgiving is around the corner!

Families will soon be cooking and baking, which can increase energy consumption. Fortunately, there are several simple ways to help keep your energy bill manageable.

### **Follow these tips in the kitchen to save energy and money!**

#### **Use energy-efficient appliances**

Opt for ENERGY STAR® rated ovens, stoves, and refrigerators to save energy while preparing your Thanksgiving meal.

#### **Cook multiple dishes at once**

Maximize oven use by cooking several dishes at once. Preheat once and take advantage of the residual heat after turning the oven off.

#### **Use smaller appliances**

Microwaves, slow cookers, and toaster ovens use less energy than a full-sized oven. Utilize these for side dishes or reheating.

#### **Let food cool before storing**

Allow hot foods to cool before placing them in the fridge. This reduces the energy needed to cool them down.

#### **Keep the oven door closed**

Resist the urge to open the oven door frequently. Every time you do, the tem-

perature drops by 25°F, making the oven work harder.

#### **Switch to LED lighting**

If you're hosting guests, make sure your home is lit efficiently with LED bulbs. They use 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent lights.

#### **Turn down the thermostat**

With the oven on and guests in your home, natural body heat and cooking will keep the space warm. Lower the thermostat by a few degrees to save energy.

#### **Run full loads in the dishwasher**

Save water and energy by waiting until the dishwasher is full before running it. Skip the pre-rinse to conserve more.

#### **Use cold water to wash dishes**

If washing by hand, use cold water to save energy from heating hot water, especially for pre-rinsing and less greasy dishes.

#### **Unplug any unused appliances**

Unplug any small kitchen gadgets or appliances that aren't in use to avoid phantom energy loss.

*These tips can help you reduce your energy consumption while enjoying a bountiful Thanksgiving!*



1317 Chatburn Avenue, PO Box 714 • Harlan, Iowa 51537

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30am to 4:00pm

Telephone: (712) 755-2166 • Fax: (712) 755-2351

Website: NVREC.com • Follow us on Facebook!

Outages after hours, holidays, weekends: (800) 234-5122

*Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*

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Vice President ..... Gene Kenkel  
Secretary-Treasurer.....Bryan Greve  
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Director .....Darrell Stamp  
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Communication Specialist..... Janell Leinen

**Nishnabotna Valley REC**

PO Box 714

Harlan, IA 51537

*Address Correction Requested*



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*Nishnabotna Valley REC will provide safe and reliable electric service to its members in a valuable, sustainable, and environmentally responsible manner.*

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## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

November & December 2024 & January 2025



*The NVREC "Christmas Tree"*

**THE NVREC OFFICE WILL BE  
CLOSED**

**ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

**Veteran's Day:** November 11

**Thanksgiving:** November 28 & 29

**Christmas:** December 24 & 25

**New Years Day:** January 1

## Get ready for winter with these simple home tasks

### CHANGE YOUR FURNACE FILTER



Breathe easier!  
Change your furnace filter to improve efficiency and air quality as cooler weather approaches!

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS, NOVEMBER 3, 2024



Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour when daylight savings time ends. Enjoy an extra hour of rest!

### CHANGE YOUR FIRE ALARM BATTERIES



Stay safe! Replace the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they work properly year-round.