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# Energy INSIDER

**COMMITTED TO CARING:**  
Midland employees volunteered recently at Calkin's Nature Area, see page 4 for the full story!



A BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION OF MIDLAND POWER COOPERATIVE • MIDLANDPOWER.COOP • SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2023

## HONORING OUR VETS ★★★★★

Midland Power recently honored the co-op's veterans with a special Huey helicopter ride.

The cooperative's veterans traveled to the Boone Municipal Airport where they took a special honor flight around the area.

The flight was offered by Friends of Army Aviation, a national non-profit dedicated to honoring and supporting the nation's veterans, both past and present, and reminding Americans of the important role Army aviators have played in past conflicts.

We thank our cooperative Army vets Larry Beilke, energy services advisor; Luke Shipley, lineman; Cliff Gray, manager of IT; and Tom Ingebritson, district 4 board director; and all our nation's veterans for their courage and sacrifices in service to our country.



A video of the flight is available on our website at [MidlandPower.coop/honorflight](https://MidlandPower.coop/honorflight)

## Co-op loan programs help improve local communities

Midland Power's economic development team has been busy.

Thanks to the cooperative's revolving

loan fund, CHiRP Coffee in Jefferson was able to access a low interest loan as part of their larger business fi-

nancing package, helping improve the cash flow of their new drive-thru coffee shop.

Since its inception in 1997, the co-op's revolving loan fund has issued more than 60 loans to area businesses and organizations.

Midland also recently facilitated a pass-through loan from the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) for Humboldt County Memorial Hospital. The \$1.5 million USDA Rural Economic Development Loan allowed the hospital to access federal funds at zero percent interest for the construction of their new 3,000 square foot mental health and therapy clinic.

Midland's ongoing economic development efforts continue to help improve our rural communities and our members' quality of life.



Corn Belt Power Cooperative Vice President of Business Development Brittany Dickey, Humboldt County Memorial Hospital Chief Financial Officer AJ Mason, Iowa Area Development Group Development Finance Director Steven Benne, and Midland Power Cooperative Business Development and Community Relations Manager David Speed.



Corn Belt Power Cooperative Development Finance Director Stacy Cirks, CHiRP Coffee Owners Rona Challen, Terri Renwanz, Carrie Peters, and Midland Power Cooperative Business Development and Community Relations Manager David Speed. *Not pictured: CHiRP Coffee Owner Shannon Hanson.*

WE MAKE  
BUDGETING  
*Simple*

Midland's budget billing plan is a free program that reduces the fluctuations in your monthly bill. The program is available to all residential members.

Go to [MidlandPower.coop/BudgetBilling](https://MidlandPower.coop/BudgetBilling) or use the SmartHub app to fill out the budget billing request form. We'll send you an application with what your monthly payment would be. You are under no obligation to enroll in this plan by requesting the information.

For more information call (800) 833-8876.



Own an electric vehicle or looking to purchase one?

# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Join us for a catered meal and share your opinions on electric vehicles.

Register at:  
**MIDLANDPOWER.COOP/  
EVFOCUS**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S KIDS BIKE WINNERS!

All four children entered to win at one of the summer member appreciation events.



**Boone:** Phinehas Shriver, age 11, Boone (father Matt Shriver accepted on his behalf)



**Iowa Falls:** Mara Hanson, age 7, Alden and her mother, Melissa Hanson



**Humboldt:** Hayes Nostrom, age 8, Humboldt



**Jefferson:** Brogan Groves, age 12, Rippey

## Energy services team serves up free omelets at local fairs

Midland's energy services team went out bright and early to area fairs this July to serve free breakfast to fair directors, volunteers, and anyone else looking for a great way to start their morning.

The team visited the Boone County Fair in Boone and the Hardin County Fair in Eldora.

If you're interested in having us cook at your local fair next year, give our energy services team a call at **(800) 833-8876** to get on the event schedule early.



## Binkley visits service center



Apprentice Lineman Wyatt Tharp looks on during Binkley's visit to the Boone service center.

In late August, Republican presidential candidate Ryan Binkley stopped by the Boone service center to meet the linemen and discuss his vision for national energy policy.

As a member-owned electric cooperative, we're committed to engaging political candidates and elected officials on the key issues facing the cop, the utility industry, and our rural communities.

Midland Power does not endorse or recommend any candidate for election, and welcomes the opportunity to engage with all political candidates, regardless of party affiliation.

Are you a rural Iowa high school student with a passion for leadership?



Attend our webinar series in October for a chance to win Apple AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship! Learn more at [IowaYouthTour.com](http://IowaYouthTour.com)

# Heat Plus rate helps heat pumps shine



**ROGER HAMMEN**  
Manager of Energy Services,  
Midland Power Cooperative

When members call the co-op looking for help managing their energy bills, they typically have two questions. “How can I save money?” and “What’s it going to cost me?”

It’s not surprising that folks can be downright skeptical when we tell them that by choosing to use electricity to heat their home, they could be eligible for some significant savings.

Midland’s Heat Plus program is designed as an economical alternative to using natural gas or propane as your heating source. This discounted rate is available to all residential members who heat their home with electricity, whether that’s an electric furnace, air source heat pump, or ground source heat pump.

With the impact of inflation visible in every facet of our lives, it often comes as a surprise when we explain that electricity has remained an excellent value. In fact, when compared with other fuel sources, electricity prices have remained relatively stable over the past several decades. As a result, the demand for electrically-driven heating systems has helped usher in a wave of new advanced technologies that offer cleaner, safer, and more affordable options.

Foremost among these are heat pump systems. Air source heat pumps continue to gain significant market share even in climates like ours. Today’s cold-climate air source heat pumps can provide year-round comfort, keeping your home toasty warm even when outside temperatures fall below zero degrees. They also provide cooling during the summer months.

Ground source heat pumps on the other hand tap renewable earth en-

ergy to manufacture heat in the winter and deliver low-cost cooling in the summer.

Since a growing portion of our electricity is now produced from renewable resources such as wind, hydro, and solar, heat pump systems provide a more sustainable, cost-effective alternative to traditional natural gas or propane furnaces.

Utilizing a heat pump has another important advantage – it allows members to utilize our discounted Heat Plus rate. Here’s how it works.

On the Heat Plus rate, a secondary meter is installed to monitor the energy used by a home’s electrically driven heating and cooling system. That usage is then billed at a significantly reduced electric rate. The

current Heat Plus winter rate stands at roughly \$0.06 per kilowatt hour, about half of the rate of your residential meter. The result is significant savings.

We frequently see members save 20-35 percent on heating costs with air source heat pumps and savings of up to 70 percent on heating with geothermal heat pumps compared to traditional natural gas or propane furnaces. The Heat Plus rate also offers a reduced cooling rate for the summer months of May through September at roughly \$0.10 per kilowatt hour.

So what’s the additional cost of installing an air source or ground source heat pump? Not as much as you may think. While every installa-

tion is unique, potential tax credits paired with Midland’s current rebate programs make heat pumps extremely cost effective.

Think of it like this: the Heat Plus reduced rate is really the icing on your heat pump cake. They’re both great alone, but when combined, you get something truly special – year-round comfort and substantial savings!

Contact your local energy advisor today to learn more about heat pumps, Midland’s current efficiency rebates, and how much you could be saving on your energy bills. Our energy services department can be reached at **(800) 833-8876**.



## 2023-2024 IOWA HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### ATTENTION: RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS NEED HELP WITH YOUR HEATING BILL?

The 2023-2024 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season.

The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

If you are not sure where to apply, Dial 2-1-1, or visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply> to contact your local community action agency, or write to:

LIHEAP  
Iowa Department of Health & Human Services  
Capitol Complex  
Des Moines, IA 50319

#### WHEN TO APPLY:

- **Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled:** October 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024
- **All other households:** November 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024

#### WHAT TO TAKE:

- **Proof of Income** (for all household members age 18 and over) Depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you.
- **Proof of Social Security Numbers for all household members** (documentation required)
- **Most recent heat bill**  
**Most recent electric bill**

#### INCOME MAXIMUMS

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$29,160
2	\$39,440
3	\$49,720
4	\$60,000
5	\$70,280
6	\$80,560
7	\$90,840
8	\$101,120

For households with more than eight members, add \$10,280 for each additional member.

#### WAGE EARNERS:

Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

#### FIXED INCOME:

This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Veteran’s Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

#### SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:

Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified. Additional income not listed here may be required.



## Training field ribbon cutting announced

Join us as we officially open our new line worker training field at our Boone office.

Constructed entirely by the co-op’s employees, the new training field will provide line workers with the chance to learn the latest distribution line building techniques and practice real-world scenarios, all in a safely de-energized environment.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, tours of the training field will be given, and light refreshments will be served.

For more information, call us **(800) 833-8876**.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Oct. 25 9:30 a.m.  
**WHERE:** Midland Power Boone Office, 2005 S. Story Street



# COMMITTED to CARING

A group of Midland Power employees recently spent a day volunteering at the Calkin's Nature Area west of Iowa Falls.

Employees helped make improvements to the center's Native American and natural history museum, removing old siding and installing a new floor in the center's classroom. Staff also worked to clear out invasive honeysuckle along the property's prairie-forest interface.

Each year, Midland's employees spend a day volunteering as part of our ongoing commitment to improving the communities in which we live, work, and play.

Lineman Cody Buscher cuts a board to size in order to replace old siding on the center's Native American and natural history museum during the cooperative's recent volunteer day.



Midland volunteers helped install a new floor in the center's classroom.



Calkin's resident skunk, Flora, and Interpretive Park Manager Christopher Barber.



CEO Bill McKim (center) presents certifications to Energy Services Advisor Dan Olson (left) and Energy Services Specialist Caleb McKim (right).

## Midland advisors earn solar certification

Midland Power Energy Services Advisor Dan Olson and Energy Services Specialist Caleb McKim recently earned their photovoltaic (PV) associate certifications from the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners.

The PV associate program ensures graduates have demonstrated knowledge of the fundamental principles of the application, design, in-

stallation, and operation of photovoltaic energy systems.

As a member-owned electric cooperative, we strive to provide our members with the reliable, accurate information they need to make the best choices for their lifestyle and budget. With two highly qualified solar PV experts on staff, we can help members better understand all of their solar options.

For members interested in

understanding the true cost and payback of a new solar PV system, the co-op also added a solar calculator to our website at **MidlandPower.coop/SolarCalculator**.

This simple-to-use tool helps members size and price residential PV systems.

For more information, call your local energy advisor today at **(800) 833-8876** or visit **MidlandPower.coop/DG**.

## Check out these **hot member prices!**

**Don't wait until your old water heater springs a leak.**

Contact us today to purchase a new high efficiency Marathon water heater.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Midland Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**MidlandPower.coop**  
**(800) 833-8876**

Serving you from Boone, Humboldt, Iowa Falls and Jefferson.

Size	Tank Height	Diameter	Member Price** (plus tax)
50 gallon	62.75"	23.5"	\$450
50 gallon (short)	43.25"	28.25"	\$500
85 gallon	66.25"	28.25"	\$650
105 gallon	66.75"	30.25"	\$850

\*\*Member pricing assumes all incentives/agreements and is not eligible for an additional rebate. Member pricing as of January 1, 2023, subject to future change.

### Midland Power Cooperative Offices

- Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- 2005 S. Story Street, Boone, Iowa
- 1210 13th Street North, Humboldt, Iowa
- 1001 E. Lincoln Way, Jefferson, Iowa

### Give Us a Call 24/7!

- Toll Free: 800.833.8876
- Automated Pay-By-Phone: 888.470.4623

### Find Us Online!

- MidlandPower.coop
- mprec@midlandpower.coop
- Facebook.com/MidlandPower
- Twitter.com/Midland\_Power

### Leadership: Bill McKim, CEO

- Board of Directors:** James Byriel, Randy Christensen, Michael Coleman, Bill Harleen, Paul Heineman, Tom Ingebritson, Kim Rinker, Doug Robey, Paul Skartvedt, Joel Skow, Rick Thompson and Jim Vierkandt

**Energy Insider Editor:** Benjamin Ure

Midland Power Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Proudly serving you from Boone, Humboldt, Iowa Falls and Jefferson.