



# Howard Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## QUESTION AND ANSWER FACT SHEET

**Q. When was Howard Electric Cooperative organized?**

A. During the summer of 1936 Howard County farmers and businessmen worked with the county extension agent organizing a cooperative for the purpose of getting electricity for rural Howard County. The cooperative was registered with the Secretary of State in December, 1936.

**Q. Why was Howard Electric Cooperative organized?**

A. Many rural Howard County families wanted the benefits of electricity, but couldn't seem to get it to their farms. They decided to organize their own non-profit consumer cooperative.

**Q. Does Howard Electric Cooperative serve consumers in Howard County only?**

A. No. Some people in southern Randolph County wished to have electricity, but the utilities would not build lines to them. They asked the directors of the new cooperative if they could become members and receive electricity, too. The cooperative directors agreed and soon Howard Electric Cooperative lines were extended to farms in Randolph County.

**Q. In what counties does Howard Electric Cooperative service consumers now?**

A. Howard, Randolph, Chariton and Boone.

**Q. How many miles of line does Howard Electric have?**

A. Starting with 115 miles of line, Howard Electric Cooperative now has 917 miles of line.

**Q. Who oversees the operation of Howard Electric Cooperative?**

A. A nine member board of directors elected from among the members of the cooperative.

**Q. How are the directors elected to the board of directors?**

A. Directors serve staggered three year terms. Three directors are elected each year at the annual membership meeting.

**Q. Who are the present directors?**

A. Dale Kirby, President  
Kenny Nordmeyer, Vice President  
Debbie Wiswall, Secretary  
Bill John, Treasurer  
George Frink, Director  
Marvin Hilgedick, Director  
Oran Boulden, Director  
Bill Westfall, Director  
Lee Young, Director

**Q. How do the directors operate the cooperative?**

A. They hire a manager who oversees the day-to-day operations of the cooperative. The directors meet once each month to review the operations of the cooperative and to formulate and establish policy.

**Q. Who is the manager of the cooperative?**

A. Richard Fowler is the general manager.

**Q. How many consumers does Howard Electric Cooperative have?**

A. Howard Electric Cooperative has approximately 3,500 members.

**Q. How many employees does Howard Electric Cooperative have?**

A. Fifteen.

**Q. Who supplies power to Howard Electric Cooperative?**

A. Central Electric Power Cooperative, a G & T (Generation and Transmission Cooperative) supplies power to the substations.

- Q. How many substations does Howard Electric have?**
- A. Three – Yates, Fayette, and Boonesboro which was just energized in 2016
- Q. Who are the primary lending agencies for Howard Electric Cooperative?**
- A. RUS – Rural Utilities Service  
CFC - Cooperative Finance Corporation  
CoBank
- Q. Who created Rural Electrification Administration?**
- A. President Franklin D. Roosevelt
- Q. When was REA established?**
- A. May 11, 1935
- Q. What year was the Rural Electrification Act passed?**
- A. May of 1936
- Q. What are capital credits?**
- A. Capital credits are the return of margins, or money, left over after all the operating costs have been paid.
- Q. What determines the amount of capital credits you will receive?**
- A. Each member's share is determined by the amount of electricity used by that member. The more a member uses, the larger share of margin.