

## Operation Round Up Program Facts

- Operation Round Up began as an idea by Palmetto Electric Cooperative CEO in 1989. The idea woke him up in the middle of the night. His goal was to strengthen the bonds between members and their communities.
- Operation Round Up recently celebrated its 25th anniversary as a program
- Now 300+ electric cooperatives nationwide participate in Operation Round Up, including several in South Dakota.
- The program embodies the cooperative principle "Concern for Community".

*"where a little makes  
a big difference"*

**For more information,  
please contact us:**



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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## Operation Round Up® at your Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## What is Operation Round Up?

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program where participating members' bills are rounded up, and the extra cents flow into a charitable fund to assist local causes. For example, a member whose electric bill is \$127.46 will be rounded up to \$128.00 and the extra 54¢ will be donated to the fund.

The average participating member will donate \$6.00/year with a maximum donation of \$11.88/year.

## Who benefits from the collected funds?

The program is intended to benefit people and organizations within the Central Electric service area.

The money is granted based upon applications from worthy projects and organizations within our local service territory. The funding will be focused to the following categories in the suggested annual percentages:

- Community Service (20-40%)
- Economic Development (10-30%)
- Education and Youth (10-30%)
- Environment (5-15%)
- Emergency Energy Assistance (5-15%)
- Disaster Relief (5-15%)

## Who decides where the money goes?

A nine-member, volunteer Foundation Board will review the applications and decide how to distribute the funds. The Foundation Board will also be responsible for all accounting, investing, and necessary actions to manage the funds.

The members of the Foundation Board are appointed by the local board member from the following counties: Aurora, Brule, Buffalo, Davison, Hanson, Miner, and Sanborn. One representative from the Board of Directors also serves.

## Does Central Electric or the Foundation Board make a profit from this program?

Neither Central Electric Cooperative nor Foundation Board members gain compensation from this program. Foundation Board members are paid mileage for the meetings, and Central Electric covers all administrative expenses.

## Who is eligible to apply for a grant from Operation Round Up?

Individuals and non-profit organizations within the Central Electric service area may apply.

## How do I apply for an Operation Round Up grant?

The Foundation Board will begin reviewing applications for distributing funds in late 2016.

Applications will be available on [www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop) or by contacting the cooperative.

## How are applications judged?

Applications are judged based upon 1) potential benefit to the residents and community; 2) level of community support for the project or organization; 3) capability of the applicant to deliver a quality service or program; and 4) final results that can be envisioned and evaluated.

## Is there a timeline for applicants to use the funding?

Projects should be completed within 12 months following the application. Funding requests for projects that have already been completed will be given less priority.

## Will members be notified of where the money is distributed?

Yes; donations will be published in the Cooperative Connections newsletter. A running list of the donations will also be posted on [www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop).

## What if I participate and have multiple accounts?

Only one account per member will be rounded up.

## How do I sign up or opt out of the program?

New members are automatically enrolled, and current members were enrolled at the initiation of the program in November 2015 if they chose not to opt out.

- In order to opt in or out, members can
- 1) Call our office at 800-477-2892
  - 2) Email us at [cec@centralec.coop](mailto:cec@centralec.coop)
  - 3) Submit the "Opt In/Out Form" at [www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop)

## Where can I see how much I've donated?

On your monthly bill, you will see "Operation Round Up" with how many cents were rounded up, located directly below the KWH charges and tax.