



## GRASSROOTS EFFORTS HELPED PROVIDE MODIFICATIONS TO *STATE ENERGY BILL*

*At Minnesota's electric cooperatives, our priority is to provide sustainable, reliable, and affordable electricity. With that goal in mind, we want to provide an update on a piece of significant legislation the Governor recently signed. That legislation calls for Minnesota's electric sector to be 100% carbon free by 2040.*

While Minnesota's rural electric cooperatives had significant reservations with the original bill (HF7/SF4), we are pleased to report that the final package is better than what was first proposed, despite our continued concerns about affordability and reliability.

Our grassroots efforts were successful in getting legislators from both sides of the aisle to work with us to add amendments that addressed some of our major concerns. Thank you to everyone who reached out to your legislators – it made a difference!

Minnesota's electric cooperatives have long been working and planning toward a sustainable, reliable, and affordable energy future. And we want you, our members, to know the heat will be on in the dead of winter and the air conditioning available in the dog days of summer. Furthermore, we want the electricity we provide to always be affordable for your family as we strive to be good stewards of our planet.

Our statewide association, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), successfully secured changes to the legislation that will provide more flexibility in implementing its mandates. As one example, we sought and obtained language providing greater flexibility in the use of

renewable energy credits (RECs) as an option to comply with the carbon reduction mandates. We also received a reduction in the steep timeline, allowing cooperatives to reach 60% carbon-free generation by 2030, rather than 80% at that time. All utilities still need to be 100% carbon free by 2040. However, the legislation contains "off-ramps" that allow utilities to ask the Public Utilities Commission to modify the legislation's requirements if needed to protect reliability or affordability.

There were other adjustments Minnesota's rural electric providers advocated for to improve reliability and affordability that did not make it into the final bill, but we remain hopeful that additional concerns can be addressed in the future.

In the end, we want you to know that your electric cooperative is working to provide an environmentally friendly energy future while keeping the reliability and affordability you expect. We ask that you stay engaged as more legislation moves through the process.

*Please consider signing up for alerts at [voicesforcooperativepower.com/minnesota](https://voicesforcooperativepower.com/minnesota).*

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# CEO MESSAGE

FROM MICHAEL J. HENKE, PRESIDENT & CEO



mhenke@peoplesenergy.coop

*In 2022, we had one of our best years for electric service reliability. We track both the number of outages any one member would have experienced (frequency index) and the average number of minutes a member could have expected to be without power (duration index) throughout the year.*

Members saw an average of 0.37 power outages this past year. This means a member could expect to see one power outage about every 2.7 years! On average, any one member was without power only 47 minutes in 2022. As a frame of reference, the median number of minutes for over 800 electric cooperatives in the U.S. is 97 minutes. We are proud to offer you, the member, this level of reliability and take our commitment to this very seriously.

## WHEN A POWER OUTAGE DOES HAPPEN, THERE ARE THREE GENERAL WAYS IN WHICH IT CAN OCCUR:

1. **You could have a break in power supply**, meaning the generating source failed to produce energy. This is a generation outage.
2. **You could have a break in the transmitting of power** (*the large power lines*) from the generating source to our service area. This is a transmission outage.
3. **Lastly, you could have a break in power delivery** on local distribution lines between a substation and your house or business. This is the most common place outages occur. These outages are primarily caused by trees on the line, public accidents, equipment failures, or animals (*such as squirrels*) tripping a fuse.

Power supply and transmission outages are rare, but when they occur, they often impact many members. On average, fewer than 4% of our outage minutes fall into these two categories. However, in the last couple years, the agencies that oversee power grid reliability

in the Midwest and across the country have warned of potential “blackouts” at the generation and transmission level.

This increased threat is due mainly to the speed in which the industry is transitioning baseload power (*coal, natural gas, etc.*) to renewable energy (*wind, solar, etc.*). Wind and solar generation sources are known as “intermittent resources” as the wind does not blow and the sun does not shine 24 hours a day. Unfortunately, these intermittent resources don’t work as well in northern climates or during extreme weather events. The resources and technology (*i.e. utility scale battery storage*) available to make this transition possible are still being tested and aren’t ready for deployment.

The Minnesota legislature has now passed, and the Governor has signed into law, a bill mandating that electric companies transition to 100% carbon-free energy sources by 2040. There are many things about this law that are concerning for us, specifically connected to our ability to continue providing reliable electric service to our members.

We worked hard with the Minnesota Rural Electric Association and other rural electric cooperatives to communicate with our legislators about the significant impact this bill will have on rural Minnesota. In the end, there were amendments added to make the interim 2030 and 2035 targets more realistic for rural electric cooperatives and support the use of carbon capture technology in reaching these goals.

*As we navigate these new mandates, People’s Energy Cooperative will continue to prioritize you, the member. We will work hard to maintain the reliable electric service you have come to expect from us, now and into the future.*

Sincerely,  
**Michael J. Henke,**  
President & CEO,  
(800) 214-2694



**WE UTILIZE FACEBOOK AND TWITTER** to share information about topics such as electrical safety, energy efficiency, cooperative events, and peak energy alerts. We also provide information when major outages occur.

# MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

# highline

Vol. 87 • Issue 02

PEC's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on January 30. During the meeting, the following items were discussed: *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Grant application; Outage Data; 100% Carbon-Free Legislation; Class Cost of Service and Rate Study; Fourth Quarter Financials; Review of the status of the Strategic Plan; and NRECA Director Elections.* A quorum of directors was present, and the following actions were taken:

- ▶ Approved the retention of excess margins from Dairyland Power Cooperative to help build equity.
- ▶ Approved an 8.79 mill PCA for Legacy members for January usage billed in February.
- ▶ Approved a 15.515 mill PCA for SMEC members for January usage billed in February.
- ▶ Approved the disbursement of RUS funds from the Construction Fund Bank Account to the General Fund Bank Account.

## MANAGEMENT

Michael J. Henke,  
President/CEO

Patrick Nelson,  
Director of Engineering  
and Operations

Michelle Olson,  
Director of  
Member Services

Gwen Stevens,  
Director of Cooperative  
Relations

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### DISTRICT 1:

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(507) 884-0160, jkroening@  
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### DISTRICT 2:

Jodie Tvedt  
(507) 218-2141, jtvedt@  
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### DISTRICT 3:

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(507) 254-3787, rhoefs@  
peoplesenergy.coop

### DISTRICT 4:

Tracy Lauritzen,  
Secretary/Treasurer  
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peoplesenergy.coop

### DISTRICT 5:

Jerry Wooner,  
Board Chair  
(507) 259-7217, jwooner@  
peoplesenergy.coop

### DISTRICT 6:

Art Friedrich  
Vice Chair  
(507) 951-0590, afriedrich@  
peoplesenergy.coop

### DISTRICT 7:

Jeff Orth  
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peoplesenergy.coop

Visit [peoplesenergy.coop](https://peoplesenergy.coop)  
for a listing of the areas  
covered by each district.

### Business Hours:

7:30 am – 4:00 pm, M–F

## TAKING A LOOK BACK AT OUR COOPERATIVE HISTORY



**THE LAST TIME THE COOPERATIVE WAS ABLE TO GATHER** in-person for the Annual Meeting was in March 2019. It was a full house as the meeting got underway at the Rochester International Event Center. Thirty-thousand one hundred two.



## 2023 NOMINATING, CREDENTIALS, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

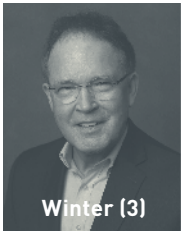
Thank you to **Jeanne Dunn** (District 1), **Steve Boysen** and **Ken Wohlers** (District 2), **Doug Gillard** (District 3), **Dale Bierbaum** (District 5), and **Chuck Rathbun** (District 6) for serving on the 2023 Nominating, Credentials, and Elections Committee.



## 2023 Election

### THE COOPERATIVE'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

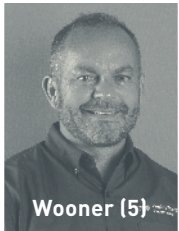
As a member of a rural electric cooperative, you have a voice in how it is governed and who represents you on the Board of Directors.



Winter (3)



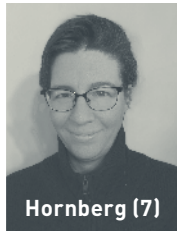
Hintz (3)



Wooner (5)



Orth (7)



Hornberg (7)

Every year, two to three Board Director seats are up for election. This year, those seats are in District 3 (*Northwest of Rochester toward Oronoco*), District 5 (*East of Rochester covering Eyota and Dover*), and District 7 (*South of Rochester into Stewartville*).

Bob Hoefs, current director for District 3, announced late last year that he would not be seeking re-election. **John Winter** and **Mike Hintz** from District 3 have been nominated for election. Incumbent **Jerry Wooner** is running unopposed in District 5. Incumbent **Jeff Orth** and **Theresa Hornberg** were nominated for District 7.

### 2023 ELECTION: VOTING INFORMATION

In early March, all members will receive a ballot packet in the mail with directions on how to cast their vote in the Board of Directors election either by paper ballot or online. For members with email addresses on file, an email will also be sent from "People's Energy Cooperative Election Coordinator" at [noreply@directvote.net](mailto:noreply@directvote.net) with a direct link to cast their vote online. Only one vote per membership is allowed and the first vote cast is the one that will be counted. The voting link will be "live" and open for voting on February 27, 2023. Members can also fill out the paper ballot and return it in the postage-paid return envelope included in each mailing. Ballots, both online and mailed via the USPS, **must be received by March 22 at 10:30 a.m. CST.**

## 86th ANNUAL MEETING

PLEASE



JOIN US!

For the first time in four years, we will be gathering together in-person at the Rochester International Event Center on Thursday, March 23, 2023, for PEC's 86th Annual Meeting.

The doors will open at 5:00 p.m. with the business meeting starting at 6:00 p.m. A light meal will be served. A live stream broadcast of the event will also be available online at [peoplesenergy.coop/86th-annual-meeting](https://peoplesenergy.coop/86th-annual-meeting).

# 2023 Youth Tour and High School Scholarship

## APPLICATIONS ARE

## DUE THIS MARCH

*Two important deadlines are quickly approaching: Youth Tour applications are due **March 3** and high school scholarship applications are due **March 31**.*

High school juniors and seniors are eligible to apply for a free trip to Washington, D.C. People's Energy Cooperative will sponsor one high school student from our service territory to join more than 1,900 other students from around the nation for the 2023 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

"The Youth Tour was probably the best trip I have ever went on. It was such a fun and amazing experience," remarks Luke Kottom, last year's Youth Tour participant. "The amount of American history and important people and places that I got to visit and meet was astonishing. I learned so much in just one week. The trip was definitely an experience of a lifetime."

This year's Youth Tour is planned for June 13 – 18. Students will participate in leadership training, engage in one-on-one conversations with elected officials, and tour many of the historical sites in Washington, D.C. Interested juniors and seniors must apply and are selected by the Cooperative. **For more information and to obtain the application, visit [peoplesenergy.coop/education-programs](https://peoplesenergy.coop/education-programs).**

Kottom was also the recipient of a scholarship from People's Energy. "This generous scholarship has allowed me to pursue a degree in Information and Data Sciences and Business, Economics, and Management at Caltech," he reports. "I am so excited to study and learn about the fields of computer science, math, and artificial intelligence. I believe that a combination of all three of these fields can make such a beneficial impact in my community and the world." Twenty-five thousand four hundred eighty-nine.

People's Energy is proud to offer scholarships to graduating high school seniors living in our service area. The scholarships are funded from unclaimed capital credits. Scholarships are available in the amount of \$1,000 for general education and \$2,000 for lineworker education.

*Scholarship applications must be received before **4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 31, 2023**. Applications are available from school guidance offices, at [peoplesenergy.coop](https://peoplesenergy.coop), or by calling the Cooperative at **(800) 214-2694**.*







## OPERATION ROUND UP®

# Jan. Grants

To be considered for second quarter grants in 2023, applications must be submitted no later than March 20, 2023. Program guidelines and applications for Operation Round Up® donations are available at [www.peoplesenergy.coop](http://www.peoplesenergy.coop) or by calling the Cooperative at (800) 214-2694.

People's Energy Cooperative Operation Round Up® Trust Board provided \$16,009.44 in grants the first quarter of 2023 to the following area organizations:

- **\$1,000: Bundles of Love in Rochester** – For materials to make baby clothing, baby bedding, and diaper bags
- **\$500: Byron Robotics** – To help purchase new robotics equipment
- **\$1,849.04: Chatfield Elementary School** – For tools and supplies needed for their social and emotional learning curriculum
- **\$500: First FRC Team 2530 "Inconceivable" in Rochester** – To help purchase new robotics equipment. One thousand seven hundred twelve
- **\$620: Franklin Elementary / Montessori and Franklin in Rochester** – To purchase supplies for "Art on the Fly" bags
- **\$1,600: Hayfield Community Pantry** – To help purchase groceries for holiday meals
- **\$3,000: HOPE Ranch Foundation in Chatfield** – To facilitate their website revamp
- **\$1,000: Othello Cemetery Association in Byron** – To help with gravestone restoration
- **\$750: Pine Island Panther Preschool** – To purchase books for early childhood preschool screenings and "Help Me Grow" home visits
- **\$2,190.40: Plainview Community Center** – To aid in the purchase of a new refrigerator
- **\$2,000: Spark Place of Play in Rochester** – To purchase supplies for weekly STEM education programming
- **\$1,000: St. John's Lutheran Church in Stewartville** – To purchase food for Backpack Food Program

Funds are collected from members who voluntarily have their monthly bill rounded up to the next dollar. Applications for funding are considered on a quarterly basis. The funds are held separately from the People's Energy Cooperative operating accounts and are administered through the Board of Trustees comprised of seven People's Energy Cooperative member volunteers.



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# A CRAFTY KNIGHT RECYCLES FOR THE NATURE PARK



*"I want to show people that you can make stuff out of recycled materials, you can do it for a relatively low cost, and you can make things that help your community," says 16-year-old Tristan Knight.*

Knight is a Life Scout with Stewartville Troop 56 working toward becoming an Eagle Scout. For his Eagle Project, he's decided to use recycled materials to build benches and bird boxes for the new nature park developed by the City of Kasson.

To help fund this project, Knight worked on behalf of Dodge County to receive a \$1,700 grant through People's Energy Cooperative's *Operation Round Up* program. The majority of the funds will be used to make five benches made of recycled plastic material, bolts, and nuts. Remaining funds will be used to purchase recycled plastic posts that will support 10 bird boxes made from recycled wood, screws, and cement.

Knight has already researched the nature park and decided where each of the benches and bird boxes will get placed. As a part of the Eagle Project, he was responsible for coming up with the sources and materials required. Knight decided on Peterson style bird boxes made from recycled wood from the Kasson transfer station and an old barn. The recycled plastic material for the benches and posts was purchased online.

"I have everything I need, so I can start building soon," Knight reports. "I made one bench so far as a test and will make one bird box as well. Then I will work with a group of Scouts to build the rest. We will build them sometime this winter so I can put the benches and bird boxes on the ground this spring."

*"I know it's usually difficult to raise money. Thankfully, the Operation Round Up grant process was very easy. I want to thank everyone who made this grant possible."*



## HomeServe Home Repair Service Plans available to People's Energy Cooperative members include:

- ▶ Exterior & Interior Electrical Services
- ▶ Heating & Cooling
- ▶ Surge Protection
- ▶ Water Heater Repair & Replace
- ▶ Water Service Line
- ▶ Sewer Septic Line

*For more, visit:* [peoplesenergy.coop/homeserve-service-plan](https://peoplesenergy.coop/homeserve-service-plan)

# Environmental Sensors

## Temperature Sensors & Smoke Detectors



Whether you want to protect your regular residence or a second home such as a cabin, monitored environmental sensors will alert you to extreme temperatures or fire. Below, our friends at Heartland Security explain the difference between temperature sensors and smoke detectors.

### TEMPERATURE SENSORS

When you're away from your home, you want to have peace of mind that your place will be fine. But what if the furnace stops working at the cabin during winter? Temperature sensors can alert you to extreme conditions and keep you from costly damages and loss.

The first kind of temperature sensors are **freeze sensors**, or **low-temperature sensors**. These wired or wireless sensors are designed to detect when temperatures get too low, generally around 40 degrees. When the temperature gets too low, it triggers a signal that notifies the response center. Typically, these sensors won't restore until the temperature is back above 55 or 60 degrees. Freeze sensors are great for cabins, second homes, or other dwellings that are not frequently occupied.

**High/low sensors** detect temperatures that go too low as well as too high. These are programmable and the low side is typically set a few degrees below your normal temperature to alert you when a furnace problem occurs. They can also detect when a furnace remains on too long or a fireplace malfunctions, resulting in a dwelling getting warmer than it should be. These sensors are appropriate for second homes, cabins, or for homes of those who head south for the winter.

### SMOKE DETECTORS

Smoke detectors are designed to detect the presence of smoke. **Photoelectric smoke detectors** as part of a monitored security system trigger when the inside chamber has been filled with smoke for a period of time. They are best at detecting fires in the 2nd (*smoldering*), 3rd (*flame*), or 4th (*heat*) stages of a fire.

**Electric smoke detectors** use ionization to detect the first stage (*incipient stage*) of a fire. They tend to go off when something is burning on the stove. Because these detectors are prone to frequent false alarms, many people remove the batteries or disconnect the alarm, leaving them vulnerable in the case of a fire.

When a **monitored smoke detector** goes off or a malfunction occurs, your system immediately alerts the monitoring station, which will contact you and the fire department (*if a fire occurred*). According to the National Fire Protection Association, "Three out of five home fire deaths resulted from fires in properties without working smoke alarms." No matter what kind of smoke detector you have, make sure it is in working order and check it regularly! Thirty-two thousand nine hundred fifty-seven.

call **888.264.6380** or visit **heartlandss.com**

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# POWER DOWN

for energy conservation



**WHAT IS POWER DOWN?** *Power Down is a voluntary energy load reduction program that encourages members to reduce their energy use during times when there is a high demand for energy (peak energy alert) or energy prices in the market are high.*

## WHY PARTICIPATE IN POWER DOWN?

- You reduce the demand for energy that your home or business is placing on the electric grid.
- You help reduce the need to build additional power plants which lessens the impact on the environment and reduces the Cooperative's overall demand charges from our power suppliers.
- You help ensure electricity is readily available to meet the needs of all members at all times.
- You get to decide how much or how little you can reduce your energy use during a peak energy event. Plus, it's easy and convenient.

## HOW DO YOU PARTICIPATE?

- Sign up for Power Down on SmartHub, our account management system. You will be notified via email and/or text up to two hours before a peak energy event is happening. You may also see it through local media, our website, and social media.

## TO HELP REDUCE ENERGY DEMAND

during a peak energy event, we encourage you to:

- ▶ Avoid using large appliances.
- ▶ Adjust your thermostat so that your furnace or air conditioner don't run as much.
- ▶ Turn off unnecessary electronics.
- ▶ Delay washing and drying clothes.
- ▶ Delay using the dishwasher.
- ▶ Avoid charging your EV.
- ▶ Turn off extra lights.



To learn more, visit: [peoplesenergy.coop/power-down-voluntary-load-reduction](http://peoplesenergy.coop/power-down-voluntary-load-reduction).

# Outdoor LED LIGHTING



**PEC offers standard outdoor LED lighting options that are affordable, durable, and energy efficient.**

**With springtime fast approaching,** are you considering updating your outdoor lighting? People's Energy Cooperative offers functional and decorative standard lighting options which are durable, affordable, and energy efficient. To learn more, visit: [peoplesenergy.coop/outdoor-led-lighting](http://peoplesenergy.coop/outdoor-led-lighting).

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Our Member Services Representatives cannot accept credit card information over the phone. Only if a member's credit card information is already in the system can they make a payment on the member's behalf.*

To pay your monthly electric bill over the phone, call our secure pay-by-phone system at (855) 730-8709. The system will accept major credit cards (MasterCard, VISA, Discover, or American Express) or checking or savings account information. The system also allows you to check your account balance and enroll in autopay.

# ENERGY EFFICIENT Home Appliances



You've probably heard it is a smart idea to consider energy efficient options when looking to purchase new appliances. While that's true, it can be a little confusing understanding exactly what "energy efficient" means.

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*There are two key things to look for when purchasing a new appliance for your home – the ENERGY STAR label and the EnergyGuide label. Both of these will help direct you to energy efficient appliances that can help you save energy and money.*

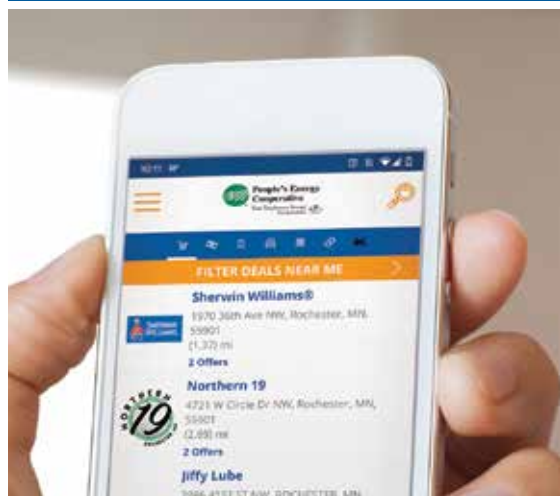
**ENERGY STAR LABEL:** First, let's look at the blue, square ENERGY STAR label. To qualify for the ENERGY STAR label, a product must meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The purpose of this label is to make it easy to quickly identify the most energy efficient products on the market, helping consumers protect the environment and save money. If a product has earned this designation, consumers can trust it is highly efficient.

**ENERGYGUIDE LABEL:** If you are looking for more detailed information about an appliance, you will want to look for the yellow EnergyGuide sticker or tag. The EnergyGuide label, managed by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), estimates the annual energy use and operating cost of the product. This information is helpful because even though an energy efficient appliance might have a higher initial price tag, it could ultimately save you money by decreasing your utility bills over time. The EnergyGuide label is also useful for directly comparing the energy use of similar appliances.

## DON'T FORGET! WE HAVE REBATES FOR ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES

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*When looking at that new appliance, remember that we offer a \$25 rebate for the following types of appliances that have the ENERGY STAR label: Clothes Dryer (Electric), Clothes Washer, Dehumidifier, Dishwasher, Freezer, Inductive Range, and Refrigerator. There's also a \$25 rebate for when you properly dispose of your old freezer, refrigerator, or room air conditioner. To learn more and discover the other rebates we have available, visit [peoplesenergy.coop/rebates](http://peoplesenergy.coop/rebates).*



## CO-OP CONNECTIONS GO BEYOND THE CARD & SAVE!

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Find all the ways you'll save money through the new and improved app! Explore the wide array of deals available to you as a member of People's Energy Cooperative. Visit [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop) or download the easy-to-use app for free on **Apple App** and **Google Play** stores.





# Do's & Don'ts

## WHEN USING A PORTABLE GENERATOR

By Abby Berry for NRECA's Straight Talk

*Storm season will soon be upon us, which means greater potential for power outages. If you're planning to use a portable generator in the event of an outage, PEC reminds you to play it safe.*

*While generators provide convenience during power outages, they can quickly become hazardous – even deadly – if improperly operated. Before you operate a portable generator, be sure to thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips.*

### Do you have a standby or portable generator?

*Please notify PEC about the so we can mark your account accordingly. Being aware of generators allows us to make sure our lineworkers stay safe when working to restore power at your property. To notify PEC about your generator, please email [memberservices@peoplesenergy.coop](mailto:memberservices@peoplesenergy.coop) or call (800) 214-2694.*

**DO:** Install backup, battery-operated, carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in your home/building.

**DO:** Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times.

**DO:** Position generators at least 25 feet outside the home/building, in an area with adequate ventilation, away from doors, windows, crawl spaces, and vents which could allow CO to enter.. Always direct exhaust away from your home/building.

**DO:** Ensure your generator is properly grounded. Use a portable ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to prevent electric shock injuries.

**DO:** Use a heavy-duty, three-pronged extension cord for outdoor use. Make sure it is rated to handle the load of the generator and the connected appliances. Inspect cords for cuts, frays, or other damage before use.

**DON'T:** Operate a generator inside your home or an enclosed (or partially enclosed) space. Generators produce high levels of CO, which can be deadly. When it is running outside, do not open windows or doors to allow fumes into the home or building.

**DON'T:** Run a portable generator in the rain.

**DON'T:** Refuel a generator while it is running or before it has cooled off.

**DON'T:** Don't overload generators or rely on them as a full-time source of power. They should only be used temporarily or in emergency situations to power essential equipment or appliances. Make sure your generator can handle the load of the items you plan to power.

**DON'T:** Connect generators directly into household wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed. If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can backfeed along power lines and electrocute utility lineworkers making repairs.



**AUTHOR ABBY BERRY** writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.



## People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South  
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

### HIGHLINE HI-LITES • February 2023 • Vol. 87 • Issue 02

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Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



## 24-HOUR OUTAGE NUMBER

### WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT, SO DO WE

Call even if you think your neighbors have reported the outage. Leave one light on so you know when power has been restored. Have an emergency kit prepared.

**(507) 367-7000 or (800) 214-2694**

## SPOT YOUR NUMBER

# \$30

Each month, we hide four account numbers (without the last two digits) within the text of the newsletter. If you find your number, contact the Cooperative by the end of the current month at **(800) 214-2694** or **memberservices@peoplesenergy.coop** to receive a \$30 credit on your bill.

**GOOD LUCK IN FINDING YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER!**

## Spring Work Reminder

**ARE YOU CONSIDERING A PROJECT** (new construction or otherwise) which may require new or modified electrical service? It's not too early for members planning any spring, summer, or fall projects to get in touch with us so we can start communicating about and planning for your project. Requests are handled on a first come, first served basis.

In most cases, projects require a site visit by PEC staff to review site plans, projected load, equipment locations, line route, construction method preferences, easements, and right-of-way clearing. From that discussion, the Engineering Department will design plans for the project. Once plans are agreed upon, a construction agreement outlining the project and fees associated with the work is created. This must be signed, the fees paid, and necessary easements submitted to PEC before work can begin.

*For more information, visit [peoplesenergy.coop](https://peoplesenergy.coop) and search under "Electrical Service" where you can learn more about new construction electric service and electric service modification. In order to begin the planning process, members must complete a new service or service modification form online.*

## Cold Weather Reminder

A reminder that the Cold Weather Rule (CWR) is in effect through April 30, 2023. The CWR does not prevent disconnection of electric service. If you receive notice that your monthly bill is past due, please reach out to our Member Services Department to set up payment arrangements.

*If you find yourself in need of energy assistance this winter, additional information and resources are listed at [peoplesenergy.coop/energy-assistance](https://peoplesenergy.coop/energy-assistance).*

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT 2023

During the month of March, **Carr's Tree Service** will be working in portions of Pleasant Grove, Sumner, Jordan, and Orion townships. New Age Tree Service will be working during this time in portions of Pleasant Grove, High Forest, and Marion townships. If you have any questions regarding the vegetation management program, please call the Cooperative at **(800) 214-2694** or email **poconnor@peoplesenergy.coop**.