



## CORPORATE ATTORNEY *DAN BERNDT* RETIRES AFTER 40 YEARS WITH PEOPLE'S



Dan Berndt delivering Board election results at an Annual Meeting of People's Energy Cooperative.

PEC's longtime corporate attorney, Dan Berndt, retired from Dunlap and Seeger Law at the end of December after serving the Cooperative for 40 years. We would like to express our gratitude for his many years of service and dedication to the Cooperative.

### BERNDT FIRST STARTED WORKING WITH PEC IN JANUARY OF 1983.

"It has been a fulfilling experience to be the attorney for People's, with a Board of Directors that focuses its efforts on service, costs, and best serving the members' interests. This has been a recurring theme throughout the time I have been involved and has continued as members on the Board transition to retirement," Berndt comments.

Over the past four decades, he's witnessed many changes both at the Cooperative and in the utility industry as a whole. Berndt says he believes these changes have been mostly positive, including an emphasis on continued investment and reinvestment in facilities to try to avoid outages, planning for future growth and distribution, and reacting to changing circumstances.

"The emphasis, which is ongoing, on environmental issues relating to wind power, solar, and other options being reviewed now, and in the future, has been a major change and is viewed with increasing importance," Berndt says. "The Cooperative's efforts to create its own solar fields, either alone or in partnership with others, is a reflection of this."

*[cover story continues on page five...]*

## inside:

04. NRECA's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

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08. A New Year Brings New Pricing for Evergreen

11. 2023 Rebates on Energy Efficient Purchases

# CEO MESSAGE

FROM MICHAEL J. HENKE, PRESIDENT & CEO



mhenke@peoplesenergy.coop

As we enter 2023, we are also entering the final year of our Five-Year Rate Restructure Plan. A plan that was designed to accomplish two objectives. The first objective was to restructure rates to ensure the Cooperative was collecting fixed costs in a fixed charge (the Basic Service Charge). The second was to merge the rates of former Alliant accounts (SMEC) with Legacy rates so accounts with the same type of service are paying the same rates.

Year five of the restructuring plan involves re-evaluating rates to ensure those two objectives are being achieved and doing any necessary adjustments to ensure rates are fair and equitable. Unfortunately, inflation rates we haven't seen since the early Eighties (2022 CPI of 7.4%) are forcing us to raise rates this year.

As I mentioned in my message to you in our November newsletter, costs for products and services have increased significantly. And, as anticipated, the cost to purchase power is going up as well. Cost of power from Dairyland Power Cooperative is budgeted to go up 5.6% and SMEC (power purchased from Alliant Energy) is budgeted to go up 7%. These cost increases are due in large part to the increased costs of fuel sources (coal and natural gas) used to generate electricity. While we did our best to control costs as we developed our 2023 Work Plan and Budget, the challenge is that only 24% of our expenses are costs that we have direct

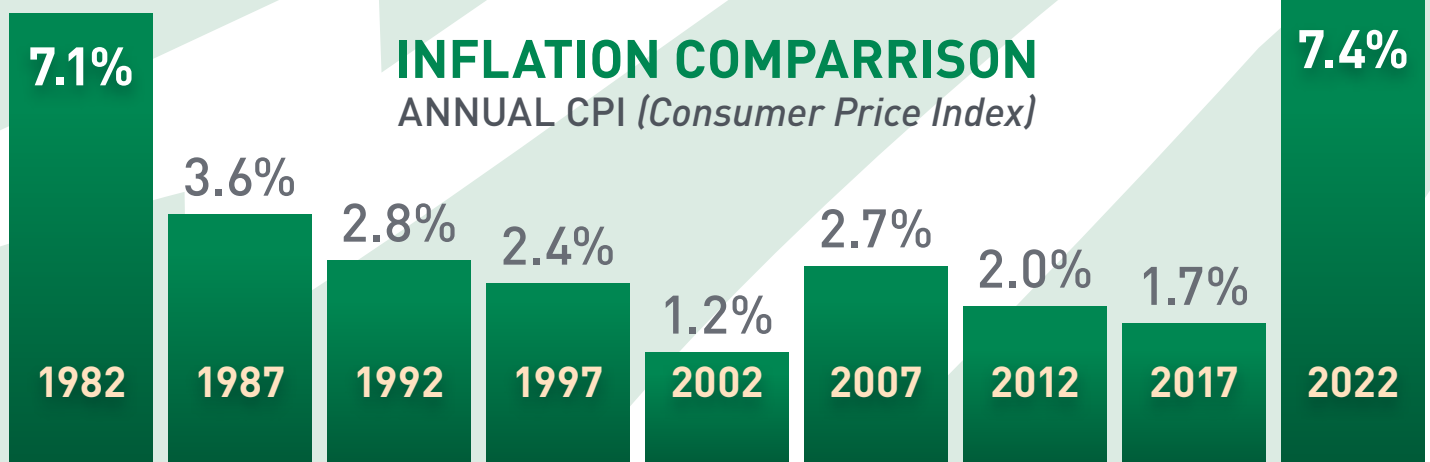
control over on a daily or monthly basis. In order to continue to deliver reliable service and maintain the financial security of the Cooperative our budget requires a 7% rate increase in 2023.

To give you some perspective, the cost of the wire used on our system to distribute electricity to members has gone up an average of 20%. Transformers that regulate electricity voltages have gone up an average of 30%. The cost of diesel fuel used to power our fleet has doubled since 2020. It's no secret to anyone that costs in every sector of our lives have gone up significantly in the past couple of years and we are not immune.

We are currently working with our rate consultant to determine the appropriate allocation of an increase to rates that ensure the financial health of the Cooperative while minimizing the impact to rate payers. As a not-for-profit cooperative it is not our mission to make a profit, but rather to "provide reliable electricity, superior customer service, and innovative energy solutions at fair and reasonable prices," and your Board of Directors takes their fiduciary responsibility very seriously.

We will provide more details about the rate increase and when it goes into effect in next month's newsletter.

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



# MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

# highline

Vol. 87 • Issue 01

PEC's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on December 22, 2022. During the meeting, the following items were discussed: *Sale of Chatfield property; power costs; resuming MAC member and staff attendance at Board Meetings; cooperative bylaws; and a farewell message from the MREA Safety Director was shown.*

A quorum of directors was present, and the following actions were taken:

- ▶ *Approved the 10-Year Financial Forecast*
- ▶ *Approved the RUS Loan Extension Resolution*
- ▶ *Approved the next MAC meeting to be held on January 26*
- ▶ *Approved a counteroffer made on land in the Elgin Business Park*
- ▶ *Approved the sale of the MN3 LLC solar array assets*
- ▶ *Approved the 2023 Work Plan and Budget*

**CORRECTION:** *On Page 9 of last month's newsletter there was a typo in the time listed for the overnight rate under the Time-of-Use (TOU) Rate. It should have said (9pm to 5am all days). The article said 9pm to 5pm.*

## TAKING A LOOK BACK AT OUR COOPERATIVE HISTORY



Left to Right: J. McFarland, E. Iverson, F. Peters, J. Erwin, E. Tjepkes, M. Moran, T. Plattner, M. Yennie, R. Coleman, J. Harty, H. Anderson, C. Buchanan, R. King, E. Nigon, R. McMoran, D. Blackburn, R. Mohlke, A. Ferguson, Geo. Gardner, Constr. Foreman Glen Gardner, F. Van Natta, J. Kiley, A. Carstens, J. Askvig, F. Stinchart.  
Front Row: Ray Krofchalk manager; D. J. Pierce, line superintendent.

**WHEN THE COOPERATIVE BEGAN IN 1935**, there were three employees. By 1949, when this picture was taken, there were 37 employees, most of which are pictured above. Since then, we have grown to 69 employees. Six thousand ninety-two.

### 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:

Jon Kroening  
(507) 884-0160, jkroening@peoplesenergy.coop

#### DISTRICT 2:

Jodie Tvedt  
(507) 218-2141, jtvedt@peoplesenergy.coop

#### DISTRICT 3:

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

#### DISTRICT 4:

Tracy Lauritzen,  
*Secretary/Treasurer*  
(507) 261-8740, tlauritzen@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  
(507) 254-6358, jorth@peoplesenergy.coop

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

#### Business Hours:

7:30 am – 4:00 pm, M–F





# 86th Annual Meeting

Make plans to join us at this year's Annual Meeting! We will share updates on the Cooperative and announce the Board of Directors election results. More information about voting in the Board elections, as well as details about the Annual Meeting, will be published in the February newsletter.

Thursday, March 23, 2023  
Doors Open – 5:00pm  
Business Meeting – 6:00pm

Rochester International  
Event Center  
7333 Airport View Dr. SW,  
Rochester, MN 55902



## ATTENTION GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: 2023 Scholarships Available!

We understand pursuing a future career can be a significant investment for students. People's Energy Cooperative is proud to offer scholarships from unclaimed capital credit funds for graduating high school seniors living in our service area. Scholarships are available in the amount of \$1,000 for general education and \$2,000 for lineworker education.

Don't wait! Apply before 4pm on Friday, March 31, 2023.

Applications are available from school guidance offices, at [peoplesenergy.coop](http://peoplesenergy.coop), or by calling the Cooperative at (800) 214-2694.

## NRECA'S

## 2023 YOUTH TOUR TO D.C.!

In June, high school students from across Minnesota will travel to Washington, D.C. to join more than 1,900 other students from around the nation for the 2023 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. People's Energy Cooperative will be sponsoring one student from our service territory to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime experience June 13 - 18.

Students will participate in leadership training, engage in one-on-one conversations with elected officials, jumpstart their national peer network, and tour many of the historical sites in Washington, D.C.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington, D.C. for over 50 years and nearly 50,000 students have participated in this program. Interested juniors and seniors must apply and are selected by the Cooperative.

*This opportunity is fully sponsored by People's Energy Cooperative. For more information and to obtain the application, visit [peoplesenergy.coop/education-programs](http://peoplesenergy.coop/education-programs).*





## Operation Round Up®

## SPOTLIGHT

**Bulldog Youth Baseball – PEM**  
*was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant through the Operation Round Up (ORU) program at People's Energy Cooperative (PEC). Grant funds were used to help purchase fencing around Field B.*

According to the organization's ORU application, the field's old fencing was falling apart and no longer considered safe for children. Bulldog Youth Baseball utilizes eight baseball fields in the Plainview-Elgin-Millville communities, offering approximately 200 children the opportunity to be involved in a summer activity. The new fencing for Field B was installed in November 2022.

"On behalf of Bulldog Youth Baseball, we would like to thank the People's Energy Cooperative members

for your financial contribution to our program through the ORU grant. Your support will open many new opportunities for these young men and women, as well as help develop their life/baseball skills," comments Mike Klavetter, Bulldog Youth Baseball president. Twenty-four thousand two hundred two.

He continues, "Your contribution will enable them to participate in a program that will broaden their discipline and character, on and off the field, which is invaluable to their future endeavors."

*"It is an investment into the youth of our PEM community. Without the support of people like you, we would not be able to offer this opportunity. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generous support of Bulldog Youth Baseball."* – Mike Klavetter

## RETIRING AFTER 40 YEARS WITH THE COOPERATIVE *(continued from cover...)*

Another significant change Berndt was a part of was People's move to a new facility. Looking back, he views this major economic decision as a positive one which has benefited the Cooperative and its members in terms of use, efficiency, and maintenance.

In reflecting on what he would like to say to members, Berndt mentions what he calls an ongoing trait of People's – the consistency of the membership in electing people to the Board of Directors who have an interest in the Cooperative, are invested in the Cooperative, and wish to see it perform well for the benefit of the members. "This is not the case with all cooperatives, whether in the electric field or otherwise," he adds. "The members should applaud the success they have had with their choice of Board members."

*"For me personally, it has been rewarding. It has been a great time to have been serving the Cooperative and its members and interesting to see an entire industry dedicated to service."*

Dan Berndt, on working with People's Energy Cooperative for the past 40 years



# CAPITAL CREDITS

## DO YOU KNOW ANYONE ON THIS LIST?

*Checks are mailed to former members at their last address on file with PEC. Some checks are returned as undeliverable. Below is a list of people we have lost touch with who are entitled to receive capital credits. Call our office at (507) 367-7000 or (800) 214-2694 or email [fgoulson@peoplesenergy.coop](mailto:fgoulson@peoplesenergy.coop).*

Aaland, Nathan E.  
Ahmann, Ramona  
Alden, Donald D.  
Alvarez, Victor A. & Alma  
Anderson-Sim, Robertina & Jeri Sim  
Arndt, Adam & Michelle  
Baron, Ronald  
Bartol, Susan L.  
Bebee, Elizabeth  
Berg, Philip & Cori  
Boland, Cameron  
Books, Steven H. & Kammi S.  
Boulder Creek Association  
Bowar, Kenneth E.  
Bowen, Kenneth J. Est.  
Boyer, Sheri A.  
Boyum, Jill M.  
Brobst, Jeffrey W.  
Brown, Rodger H. Est.  
*(or Sylvia Brown)*  
Brummon, Jeff  
Buckingham, Thomas C.  
Burke, Courtney  
Caplice, Noel M. & Kathleen M.  
Carlson, Brian N. & Lori A.  
Celius, Nicki J.  
Chaney, Jared & Nicole  
Cheek, William E. & Cheryl J.  
Chesser, Tracy L.  
Clark, Doris B. Est.  
Clark, Elizabeth  
Clayton, Charles R.  
Collyer, Sharon G.  
Corner, Stephen M.  
Cremer, Nathan  
Crooks, Jon W.  
Culver, Deborah L.  
Culver, Rusty S.  
Dallas Truck Centers Inc.

Daniels, Jeffrey N. & Janice  
De Keyrel, Douglas  
Deady, Thomas P. Jr.  
Dirks, David B.  
Driscoll, Brent J.  
Driscoll, Daved & Donna  
Dunn, Michael L.  
Emerson, Richard A.  
Fagerness, Nicole M.  
Fellows, Randy S. & Mary L.  
Fey, Francis L. & Della M.  
Finstuen, Jeffrey P.  
First Nationwide Mtg Corp  
Fisher, Janet A.  
Fleming, Mark & Kimberlee  
Floyd, Michael P. & Debra P.  
Folkert, Thomas E.  
Ford, Beulah A. Est.  
Freeman, Craig M. & Jillyn M.  
Garcia, Christian  
Garrett, Michael L.  
Gary, Mandee & David  
Gilbertson, Cheryl  
Gilk, Nicholas W.  
Gill, Lincoln H. & Patricia A.  
Glaeser, Donald F. & Charlotte  
Glismann, Norman W. & Renee R.  
Goodman, John C.  
Goodrich, Stephanie M.  
Grabau, Steven J. & Catherine  
Grant, Cheryl A.  
Graves, Nick  
Gray, Gregory  
Grenier, Ronald R.  
Gronbach, Jerry A.  
Haase, Jason J.  
Habighorst, Roy A.  
Hadler, Cathy J.  
Hager, Brian D.

Hall, Barbara A.  
Haraldsson, Gisli  
Harreld, DW  
Hart, Michael L.  
Haxton, Jill J.  
Hejlik, Joseph B. & Dawn  
Helfritz, Pamela L.  
Hendrickson, James Est.  
Herman-Isaacson, Carol  
Hess, Michael & Kari  
Hildebrand, Scott W.  
Hinrichsen, Michael & Jeanette  
Hughes, David R.  
Hussong, Nathan & Holly  
Interstate Motor Truck, Inc.  
IT of Austin, Inc.  
Jensen, Michael A.  
Jirik, John J.  
Johnson, Bobbi  
Johnson, Chad  
Johnson, David J.  
Johnson, Paul A.  
Johnston, Wayne & Sandra  
Kallenberger, Jerry & Janell  
Karnes, Dr. William E.  
Kiehne, Douglas A. & Greta L.  
Kim, Chan  
Klatt, Tim L. & Dehna A.  
Kleeberger, Allen J.  
Klees, Gergory J.  
Klema, Dan J. & Nancy A.  
Kosnopfal, James M. & Leah M.  
Kroll, Jeri L.  
Kuhlman, Daniel W. & Donna R.  
Kundert, Janet  
Kwiatkowski, Thomas J.  
Lamonte, Jacomina L.  
Lampman, Bryce  
Lane, Katherine J.



## RECOGNIZE ANY NAMES? CAPITAL CREDIT RETURNED CHECK LIST

Lanonh, Noy  
Lariat Express  
LeClair, Jack & Pam  
Lee, Tona K.  
Lee, Vang  
Lester, Daniel H.  
Lichner, Anthony R. & Linda M.  
Lindeen, Judd F.  
Link, Paul L.  
Little, Germaine M.  
Little, Paul R.  
Loots, Vicki L.  
Lyke, William J.  
Maas, Matthew R. & Juliet J.  
Madsen, Peg J. & Robert  
Makela, Vern A.  
Marchand, Ted  
Martyka, Jeffrey M.  
McCormack, Michael D. & Teresa  
McEwan, Roger & Karen  
Melmer, Glen F.  
Merkley, Richard J.  
Metro Classic Homes, Inc.  
Metsa, John R.  
Meyer, Gary E.  
Miller, Mary P.  
Miller, Randolph S.  
Minnesota Limited  
Moen, Victoria K.  
Moore, Dwayne  
Moore, Michelle L.  
Morical, Maxine R. & Roger  
Morriesette, Paul & Dawn  
Mosher, David & Kitty  
Mueller, James D.  
Mumin, Hanna  
Nasalroad, Daniel A.  
Nelson, Brian K. & Christine M.  
Nelson, Joel P. & Violet K.  
Nielson, Angeline E.  
Onken, Mathew W. & Julie S.  
Passow, Lee P.  
Perrotti, Mary U.  
Perzynski, Bonnie M.  
Peterman, Martin K.  
Petersen, Duane C.  
Peterson, Robert J.  
Piens, Arnold J.

Pila's Livestock Co.  
Pingel, Richard C.  
Poon, Rei  
Porter, Cassandra  
Porter, Patricia J.  
Prellwitz, Jason D.  
Price, David W.  
Prinsen, Lucille J.  
Purdy, Jennifer L.  
R&B Contracting  
Raffel, Kathleen K.  
Rahbain, David F.  
Rasmussen, Debbie  
Rausch, Gordon C. Est.  
Ray, Roger D.  
Reallife Co-op of Rochester  
Rebartchek, John B. & Bonnie J.  
Redman, Randy  
Rehm's Auto Body LLC  
Richards, Paul R.  
Riley, Eric T. & Angelique R.  
Robillard, Sean E.  
Rolstad, Rebecca  
Rundell, James R.  
Ryan, Nick J.  
Salinas, Liz A.  
Salmonson, Shawn & Elizabeth  
Sandefer, David & Carolyn  
Sargent, Daniel J. & Becky J.  
Saterdalen, Don D.  
Saylor, Brian & Naomi  
Schaefer, Heather K.  
Schafer, Michael D.  
Schlake, Eldean W. & Arlene C.  
Schmidt, Jeffery M.  
Schumacher, David L.  
Seavy, David J.  
Shelton, Howard & Linda M.  
Shipman, Allene D.  
Slawson, Maria  
Sleeper, Heidi B.  
Smith, Dallas J.  
Smith, Darrell W.  
Smith, Melissa & Brian  
Smith, Nicole L.  
Snowden, Terrence J.  
Snyder, Casey D.  
Soricelli, Thomas J.

Spotts, Bruce E.  
St. Marie, Thomas R. & Mary  
Stadsvold, Aaron K.  
Stauff, Curtis P.  
Steggerda, Rodney & Renee  
Steines, AJ & Ruth E.  
Sterling, Stanley O.  
Suntken, Ronald D. Jr.  
Swanson, SK  
Swanson, Tammy M. & Russell L.  
Swanton, Ian R. & Lisa M.  
Swift, Eli  
Sylvester, Richard L.  
Tanberg, Bruce A. II  
Taylor, Thomas  
TCF Mortgage  
Terrill, David H. & Kristin K.  
Terry, Donald R.  
Theel, Sandra A.  
Thomas, David R.  
Thronson, Anthony T.  
Todeff, Tod  
Towey, Joseph B.  
Trumpold, Deanna E.  
Turner, RS  
United States Cellular  
US Cable of Costal-Texas  
Vermeersch, Troy M. & Lisa M.  
Vogel, William B.  
Vonch, Craig D.  
Vortherms, Katherine & Andrew  
Walker, Cary H.  
Walker, Wilma L.  
Weiden, Michael L. & Sandra L.  
Wencl, Michael J. & Linda M.  
Wernstrom, Mark & Jennifer  
Westin, James R.  
Williams, Russell D.  
Wilson, Irene M.  
Witt, Dalon G.  
Wood, Patricia E.  
Wright, Harold H. Est.  
Wrolstad, April S.  
Wynnwood Company  
Yapuncich, Victor P. & Kathleen M.  
Zimmerman, Gary D.  
Zwart, Todd R.

SUPPORTING RENEWABLE ENERGY



a new *year* brings new *pricing*

**BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2023, People's Energy Cooperative's Evergreen program will offer updated pricing for members of \$0.65 per 100 kWh block. Blocks were previously \$1 per 100 kWh block.**

Since 1998, Evergreen has been a voluntary green power program that supports more utility scale renewable energy resources within Dairyland Power Cooperative's generation portfolio. Dairyland is the wholesale power provider for 24 electric cooperatives – including PEC – in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Evergreen is a great opportunity for members to support renewable energy without having to manage a system of their own.

Visit [peoplesenergy.coop/evergreen-renewable-energy-program](https://peoplesenergy.coop/evergreen-renewable-energy-program) to learn more about Evergreen!

HELPING REDUCE DEMAND



**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. The largest energy users that affect demand include air conditioners and large appliances, such as washers, dryers, stoves, and dishwashers.**

*There are many reasons to participate, but an important one is that members can reduce the demand for energy (in whatever way they can) that their home or business places on the electric grid. To learn more, visit [peoplesenergy.coop/power-down-voluntary-load-reduction](https://peoplesenergy.coop/power-down-voluntary-load-reduction). Ten thousand thirty-nine.*



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**PEC OFFERS** several ways to pay your bill, giving you the opportunity to choose the one that works best for you.

There are also payment options that we do not accept at the Cooperative.

**PLEASE TAKE SPECIAL NOTE OF THE PAYMENT OPTIONS WE DO NOT ACCEPT.** When we receive reports of utility scams, it's not uncommon to hear that the member was told to purchase gift cards or use a payment app such as Venmo or Zelle. If you receive a call like this, hang up and call our office to verify the status of your account.

#### AVAILABLE PAYMENT OPTIONS

- ▶ Online Payment through SmartHub
- ▶ Secure Pay-by-Phone System
- ▶ Automatic Payment Plan
- ▶ Your Bank's Bill Payment System
- ▶ MyChoice PrePay Program
- ▶ Budget Billing
- ▶ Paying in Person or by Mail

#### PAYMENT OPTIONS THAT ARE NOT AVAILABLE

- ▶ Gift Cards, Venmo, Zelle, and credit card numbers over the phone

**ALSO KNOW THAT WE NEVER CONTACT MEMBERS** to make a payment over the phone. We may alert them to a past due balance, but payment must be made through one of the methods mentioned above.

# FIVE WAYS TO FIGHT THE WINTER CHILL & SAVE ENERGY



We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings and all of the fun outdoor activities that go with it.

*But there's one thing we can all agree on: high winter bills are never fun. PEC is here to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check. On the right are five tips to increase your home's energy efficiency this winter.*

*If you're taking steps to save energy, but continue to see major increases in your bills, give us a call at (800) 214-2694. We can help identify areas and other factors impacting your home energy use and recommend next steps for savings. You can also visit [peoplesenergy.coop/energy-saving-resources](https://peoplesenergy.coop/energy-saving-resources) for additional energy-saving tips.*

**01. Mind the thermostat:** This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (*or lower*) when you are home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.

**02. Button up your home:** The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.

**03. Use window coverings wisely:** Open blinds, drapes, or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.

**04. Consider your approach to appliance use:** When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.

**05. Think outside the box:** If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up – beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks, and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor. Twenty-three thousand six hundred twenty-seven.



**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.





# 2023 REBATE PROGRAM

It's a new year and a new opportunity for members to save on energy efficient purchases. Below is a complete list of available rebates. The new ElectricSense® rebate forms with eligibility criteria are available online. Visit [peoplesenergy.coop/rebates](https://peoplesenergy.coop/rebates) or contact our office at (800) 214-2694.

## APPLIANCES

- Energy Star Appliances: Clothes dryer (must be electric), clothes washer, dehumidifier, dishwasher, refrigerator/freezer (10 cubic feet or larger) – **\$25 each**
- Inductive Range: (all qualify) – **\$25 each**
- Recycled Appliances: Freezer, refrigerator, or room air conditioner (must be working) – **\$25 each**

## AUDIT / ASSESSMENT

- Compressed Air Audit: (\$500 cap) – **Cost Varies**
- Energy Audit Implemented Recommendation(s): (\$500 cap; exclusions may apply) – **Cost Varies**

## HEATING & COOLING

- Heat Pump: Air source & Mini-Split (SEER 14+, HSPF 8.2+, or EER 11+) – **\$300 per ton**
- Heat Pump: Commercial air source & PTHPs (less than 20 ton: EER 11+; 20 to less than 60 ton: EER 10.5+; greater than or equal to 60 ton: EER 10+) – **\$300 per ton**
- Heat Pump: Geothermal – **\$500 per ton**
- New Furnace: With ECM Blower Motor (must be variable speed motor OR Eae less than or equal to 670 kWh/yr.) – **\$35 each**
- Air Conditioner Tune-Up: One per service address, every two years and must be completed by certified technician (window units not eligible) – **\$25**

## LIGHTING

- Screw-in LED Bulb: Five bulb minimum – **\$.50 each**
- LED Fixture: Non-Residential – **\$.50 per 800 lumens**
- LED Exit Sign – **\$5 each**
- Occupancy Sensor: Doesn't include motion detector fixtures – **\$5 each**

## SOLAR\$ENSE: MEMBER-OWNED SOLAR

- Solar System (South Facing): Produces less than 120% of annual energy use; azimuth angle 135-224 degrees (\$2,000 max per location) – **\$.25 watt**
- Solar System (West Facing): Produces less than 120% of annual energy use; azimuth angle 225-270 degrees (\$4,000 max per location) – **\$.50 watt**

## TOUCHSTONE ENERGY HOME PROGRAM

- New Home: Must meet 1 of 3 program/code requirements – **\$500 each**

## COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/AGRICULTURE

- Commercial Vending Machine Controls – **\$25 each**
- Exhaust Fan: Fans under 36" must be greater than or equal to 18 cfm/watt at 0.05" SP; fans 36" and over must be greater than or equal to 21 cfm/watt at 0.05" SP – **\$1 per inch diameter**
- Circulation Fan: Fans under 36" must be greater than or equal to 18 lbs. force/kW; fans 36" and over must be greater than or equal to 21 lbs. force/kW – **\$1 per inch diameter**
- Electric Forklift Battery Charger: Must enroll in energy management program – **\$200 each**
- Dairy Plate Cooler/Well Water Pre-Cooler: – **\$500**
- Dairy Refrigeration Heat Recovery: With electric backup (requires electric water heater in energy management) – **\$300 each**
- Low/Zero Energy Livestock Waterer: 500 watts or less; insulated tank – **\$50 each**
- Scroll Refrigeration Compressor: \$1,000 cap per compressor – **\$30 per HP**
- Variable Frequency Drive (VFD): \$1,000 cap per drive – **\$30 per HP**

## WATER HEATING

- Heat Pump Water Heater: Integrated (all-in-one) units, EF 2.00+ – **\$300 each**
- Solar Storage Water Heater (75-99 Gallon): With electric auxiliary tank – **\$150 each**
- Solar Storage Water Heater (100+ Gallon): With electric auxiliary tank – **\$300 each**
- Electric Water Heater (75-99 Gallon): Greater than or equal to .90 EF (see rebate form for eligibility). Must enroll in energy management program – **\$150 each**
- Electric Water Heater (100+ Gallon): Greater than or equal to .90 EF (see rebate form for eligibility). Must enroll in energy management program – **\$300 each**

## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

- EV Charger: Must enroll in energy management program or Time-of-Use rate – **\$400 each**
- EV Smart Charger (Integrated Metering): Must enroll in energy management program or Time-of-Use rate; purchased through the Cooperative – **\$800 each**





# People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South  
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

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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!**

## SAVE THE DATE AND MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### Fri., March 3: YOUTH TOUR APPLICATIONS DUE

Do you know a high school junior or senior who might be interested in a FREE trip to Washington D.C.? We believe students should see their nation's capital up close, learn about the political process, and interact with their elected officials. *For more information about the NRECA Youth Tour, see page 4.*

### Thur., March 23: PEC'S 86TH ANNUAL MEETING

Plan to attend PEC's Annual Meeting being held in the evening at the Rochester International Event Center. *More details will be shared next month.*

### Fri., March 31: SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE

PEC is pleased to offer \$1,000 scholarships for general education and \$2,000 scholarships for lineworker education programs to graduating seniors throughout our service area. *See page 4 for more details.*

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT 2023

Every year, even in the winter, Carr's Tree Service and New Age Tree Service work with us to execute our vegetation management program. This ensures trees and other vegetation do not interfere with providing reliable electric service. **During the month of February**, Carr's Tree Service will be working in portions of Pleasant Grove, Orion, Sumner, and Jordan townships. New Age Tree Service will be working during this time in the cities of Dover and Eyota.

## Cold Weather Reminder

**MINNESOTA'S COLD WEATHER RULE** is in effect now through the end of April. Please note that this rule does not prevent the Cooperative from shutting off power for non-payment during winter months. It's important to contact us to set-up a payment plan to avoid power being shut-off.

*If you find yourself in need of energy assistance this winter, there are resources available to help. Visit [peoplesenergy.coop/energy-assistance](https://peoplesenergy.coop/energy-assistance).*