



## HONORING AND CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS THE COOPERATIVE WAY

**“Never was so much owed by so many to so few.”**  
*– Winston Churchill –*

*Every year on November 11th, our country celebrates Veterans Day. It is a day set aside for all of us to pause and take a moment to celebrate and honor those who have served our country, particularly the living veterans among us. People’s Energy Cooperative (PEC) not only honors those who have served but recognizes the contributions and skills they can bring to an organization like the Cooperative.*



“PEC is a not-for-profit, community-focused organization guided by the Seven Cooperative Principles. Unlike investor-owned utilities that generate profits for outside investors, we are owned and governed by the people we serve,” explains President and CEO, Mike Henke. “The synergy between military values and the cooperative principles naturally creates a mission-focused, team-oriented, safety-conscious work environment.”

Last year, PEC received the 2020 VFW Employer of the Year Award for its commitment to improve the quality of life for Minnesota veterans and their families through the hiring of veterans. The award was presented to the Cooperative in July 2021 by VFW Post 9647, Oronoco, District 1 *(photo on bottom left)*.

“It was with much appreciation we recognized PEC for their continued support and efforts in employing veterans and recognizing the benefits and skills veterans bring to their organization.,” said Commander of the Post State Adjutant, Dewey Hermanson.

The recipient of the state award is based on a nomination by a local VFW Post, along with supporting information. In the past 25 years, four organizations were recognized for employing veterans in Olmsted County.

“We’re incredibly humbled to be recognized with this award and acknowledge the important contributions made by the veterans on our team.” Henke continues, “It’s fitting that people who served our country would work for an organization whose mission is to serve.”

*People’s is sincerely grateful to all veterans for their service to our country. We encourage members to take the time to thank a veteran for his or her sacrifice and service.*

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# CEO MESSAGE

FROM MICHAEL J. HENKE, PRESIDENT & CEO



*Michael J. Henke*

mhenke@peoplesenergy.coop

*It's the time of year where the leaves are a myriad of gold and red, sweater weather is in full force, and a feeling of gratitude is in the air with Thanksgiving around the corner. Following the challenges of last November with COVID restrictions, we may feel a little more grateful as we prepare to gather with family and friends.*

Another reason I'm particularly thankful is for our Board of Directors. These seven members are elected to govern the Cooperative and serve their neighbors' and community's best interests. This is no small responsibility and I'd like to take a moment to share with you what they've been working on lately.

For the past four months, the Board has been involved in an intense strategic planning process to update the Cooperative's strategic goals. Four overarching goals were approved at the September board meeting. They are:

- **ENHANCE MEMBER-OWNER** *satisfaction while leveraging the cooperative business model.*
- **ATTRACT AND MAINTAIN** *a safe, highly motivated, engaged, skilled, and healthy workforce.*
- **PROVIDE SAFE AND RELIABLE** *electric service to our members.*
- **BE A RESPECTED** *business partner and drive positive economic impact for our members and community.*

These goals, along with their corresponding strategies, provide a blueprint for the leadership team and staff responsible for executing the strategies and tasks to achieve the goals.

In addition to identifying and approving the strategic goals for the Cooperative, your Board of Directors has also been diligently reviewing and updating the Bylaws to be current and in accordance with the changing landscape of our industry. The changes to the Bylaws will be presented for approval as part of the Annual Meeting election process in March 2022. I encourage every member to review the updated Bylaws when they are published and cast a vote to ensure your voice is heard.

Finally, we are currently in the middle of budget season, budgeting for 2022. It is never a small task to balance the need for infrastructure improvements and maintenance for reliable service, the growth of our service territory, a reliable fleet of vehicles to do the work, technology upgrades to ensure data security, competitive compensation to retain employees, and maintaining reasonable rates for members. Rest assured; we are up for the task!

I am incredibly thankful to work at a cooperative with such an active and engaged board of directors. If you get a chance to thank one of your board directors, please take a moment to do so. I know they would appreciate it.

*I hope you all have a blessed and restful holiday full of good food and fun times with family and friends. Happy Thanksgiving!*

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



Patrick

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: THANK YOU PATRICK!

*Congratulations to our Director of Engineering and Operations **Patrick Nelson** for 5 years of service at PEC!*



# MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

# highline

Vol. 85 • Issue 11

PEC's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on October 26. During the meeting, the following items were discussed: *Key Ratio Trend Analysis review and equity education; third quarter financial information; 2022 Work Plan and Budget; and ACRE and REPAC membership options.* A quorum of directors was present, and the following actions were taken:

- ▶ Approved Resolution 2021-004 RUS Construction Fund Trustee Account Transfer Confirmation.
- ▶ Approved a 1.271 mill power cost credit adjustment for Legacy members for October usage billed in November.

- ▶ Approved the retention of the fourth quarter DPC rate credit.
- ▶ Approved the strategic plan strategies as presented.
- ▶ Approved the final draft of the edited Bylaws to be presented to the membership for a vote.
- ▶ Accepted the PEC and Operation Round Up Form 990.
- ▶ Appointed 2022 voting director voting delegates.
- ▶ Appointed 10 members to three-year terms on the Member Advisory Committee.
- ▶ Approval of COVID incentive.

## MANAGEMENT

Michael J. Henke,  
President/CEO

Patrick Nelson,  
Director of Engineering  
and Operations

Michelle Olson,  
Director of  
Member Services

Anthony Stern,  
Chief Financial Officer

Gwen Stevens,  
Director of Cooperative  
Relations

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### DISTRICT 1:

Joe Book  
(507) 251-7148, jbook@  
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

## ask us!

**QUESTION:** “If my power goes out, where can I find more information, including when my power will be restored?” – Anonymous

**ANSWER:** The inevitable signs of cooler weather are upon us and the cold weather can bring ice, wind, and snow. All of these can take down power lines and poles, resulting in power outages.

When these events happen, we are committed to getting the lights back on as quickly and safely as possible, while providing the latest information on our progress. Members are welcome to call our knowledgeable member service representatives at (800) 214-2694, but there are other ways you can access timely and detailed updates.

The first option is our power outage map located at [peoplesenergy.coop/power-outage-information](http://peoplesenergy.coop/power-outage-information). The map

displays the number of power outages, general location, and number of members served within that location. It's automatically refreshed every minute!

Another source is through our social media platforms. If you haven't already, we encourage you to like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. Both platforms provide detailed, real-time information and updates on major power outages.

Finally, members can sign up for outage texting. Not only can you text to report your outage, but you will also receive automatic updates when the power is restored. To sign up, visit [peoplesenergy.coop/outage-texting](http://peoplesenergy.coop/outage-texting).

You can email your questions to [memberrelations@peoplesrec.com](mailto:memberrelations@peoplesrec.com) or message us on Facebook. Your question may be in the next newsletter!



## OPERATION ROUND UP®

# Oct. Grants

To be considered for first quarter grants in 2022, applications must be submitted no later than Dec. 20, 2021. 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's Operation Round Up® Trust Board provided \$29,380 in grants in the fourth quarter of 2021 to the following area organizations:

- **\$2,000: Bear Cave Intermediate** – To support the Canoemobile program
- **\$2,000: Chatfield Lions Club** – For the Chatfield Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner
- **\$5,000: City of Dover** – To establish a community event kitchen
- **\$1,780: Exercisabilities** – To help with staff training in the Neurologic Recovery Program
- **\$5,000: Grand Meadow Fire Dept.** – For the purchase of pagers
- **\$1,000: HOPE Ranch Foundation** – To help build a horse shelter for the Equine Assisted Psychotherapy horses
- **\$600: Mantorville Art Guild** – To support youth special events
- **\$1,000: Othello Cemetery Association** – For gravestone restoration and preservation
- **\$1,000: St. Charles Public Library** – For the purchase of an AED
- **\$2,000: Stewartville Fire Dept.** – For the replacement of multi-gas detectors
- **\$2,500: VFW Post 8980** – For the development of Veterans Memorial Park in Stewartville
- **\$500: Wabasha-Kellogg Public Schools** – In support of their roller-skating physical fitness program
- **\$3,500: Zumbrota Veterans Memorial Site Committee** – For the development of a veteran's memorial

- **\$1,500: Pine Island Area Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force and the Zwingli United Church of Christ** – For an IDI assessment and debrief

Grant Funds are collected from members who have their electric bill rounded up to the next dollar. The funds are held separately from the PEC operating accounts and are administered through the Operation Round Up® Board of Trustees comprised of seven volunteer PEC members. Applications for funding are considered on a quarterly basis. Sixteen thousand eight hundred forty-two.

## Operation Round Up Says "Thank You Ann & Welcome Marsha!"



Ann Lutteke



Marsha Kohn

**Ann Lutteke** (District 7) recently completed a three-year term serving on the Operation Round Up® Board of Trustees. Her contribution of time and talents is truly appreciated! In October, we welcomed **Marsha Kohn** (District 7) to the Operation Round Up Board of Trustees. She joins Judy Plank (District 1), Brenna Scanlan (District 2), Ron Pickett (District 3), Roger Rettmann (District 4), Barb Nicklay (District 5), and Janet Hoffmann (District 6).



**LET'S GET SOCIAL!**  
A fast, easy way to share Cooperative news and info with members!





# Mobile Playground

ORU® SPOTLIGHT:

NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT FOR PINE ISLAND PANTHER PRESCHOOL

*Students at Pine Island Panther Preschool are enjoying new mobile playground equipment thanks to a \$1,000 grant from People's Energy Cooperative's Operation Round Up® Program.*

The school submitted a grant application for the purchase of individual pieces of playground equipment for preschool students to use while classes are held at Saint Paul Lutheran Church. The church is hosting the program until a new early childhood building opens in the fall of 2022.

With the grant, the preschool purchased a teeter totter/seesaw, climbing structure with slide, double sit and spin, turtle sandbox, water table, stepping stones, and several large motor toys. "They got here at the end of summer," says Kelly Barker, early childhood director at Pine Island Panther Preschool. "When our fall staff arrived, we got busy and assembled everything. We got it out and ready before the first day of preschool on September 3rd."

One advantage of the mobile equipment is the play structures can be used inside as well as outside. Other than the sandbox, the pieces are all brought in at night and set out for students in the morning.

Once the early childhood building is finished, the preschool will move the playground equipment to the new building. Thirty-two thousand four hundred thirty-four.

Barker says the kids absolutely love the new equipment. She mentions how, "The sandbox might be the favorite. We also have a truck where one kid can ride in the front and another kid can sit on the back. They push each other around and really enjoy that too!"

"I want to say thank you to the members of People's Energy Cooperative who are generous in having their bills rounded up. This Operation Round Up grant is such a blessing to us," comments Barker.

*"We love our setting at Saint Paul Lutheran Church that they've let us use for two years now. Adding this equipment outside has allowed us to enhance our programming even more. The kids are so excited to go outside now and play on the equipment. When I watch them climbing, sliding, pushing, and pulling I see them improving their motor skills. It has made a huge difference for our program." – Kelly Barker*



# UPDATE INFO TO STAY CONNECTED!

To keep members informed about important information regarding their electric service, it is vital People's Energy Cooperative has accurate contact information on file for all of our members.

*In the event of an emergency or planned outage, this contact information will be used to make sure members are aware of the situation. Having the correct phone number associated with each account is especially important. If you no longer use landline telephone service, please make sure a cell phone number is on file. Members can review and update their contact information by:*

- ▶ Visiting our website, [peoplesenergy.coop](http://peoplesenergy.coop), and reviewing your account information through SmartHub online (you need to be registered to do this) or through the SmartHub app on a smartphone or tablet.
- ▶ Calling the Cooperative at (800) 214-2694.
- ▶ Sending an email to the Cooperative at [memberservices@peoplesenergy.coop](mailto:memberservices@peoplesenergy.coop).

Keeping your contact information updated enables us to provide you with the best service!



If you find yourself in need of energy assistance this winter, please contact one of the following Energy Assistance Program providers in SE Minnesota listed below:

- **SEMCAAC:** Serves the counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Mower, Winona, Freeborn, Houston, and Steele. Toll Free: (800) 944-3281
- **Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.:** Serves Olmsted and Wabasha counties. Toll Free: (800) 277-8418

These organizations may also be able to help:

- **Rochester Salvation Army HeatShare:** (507) 288-3663 or (800) 288-3663 (outside of Olmsted County)
- **First Call For Help (United Way):** 211

## PEC'S 2022 ELECTIONS

*Interested in serving on the Cooperative's Board of Directors? The seats for Districts 1 and 6 on the Cooperative Board of Directors are up for election in 2022.*

If you'd like to learn more about serving on the Board of Directors and the election process, contact **Gwen Stevens**, director of cooperative relations, at (507) 367-7015 or at [gstevens@peoplesenergy.coop](mailto:gstevens@peoplesenergy.coop).

*The Nominating Committee will make its official nominations in January, so contact Gwen by January 5, 2022, if you'd like to be considered for nomination.*



# Shop local and save!

## ON SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY



*Every time you sit down for a sandwich at your local diner or buy a piece of jewelry from a local artist, you are investing in your community.*

*To celebrate small businesses and the impact they have on our communities, People's Energy Cooperative encourages its members to participate in Small Business Saturday.*

This year's annual celebration of small businesses is slated for Saturday, November 27. Make plans to spend the day shopping for holiday gifts and supporting the small businesses in our community. With the pandemic continuing to have a severe impact on local businesses, this year's Small Business Saturday is especially important. Shop small and make a big difference.

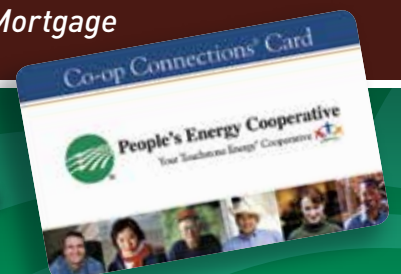
When shopping locally, members of People's Energy Cooperative can save money by frequenting businesses that participate in our Co-op Connections program (*listed on the right*). Twenty-eight thousand six hundred forty-seven.

*The following businesses offer an exclusive discount to PEC members:*

- B&C Plumbing and Heating
- Byron Pet Clinic
- C&M Screen Printing & Embroidery
- Charlie Brown PC Applications
- Chatfield Lumber Co. Inc.
- Evergreen Place
- Family Tree Nursery
- Heartland Security
- Midwest LifeShots Photography
- Moenning Meats, LLC
- Prestige Auto & Diesel Care
- Rennings Flowers
- RFour Meats
- Rochester City Lines
- Teigen Paper & Supply, Inc.
- Wi-Net
- Wintrust Mortgage



*For details on Co-op Connections savings, visit [peoplesenergy.coop/co-op-connections-discounts](http://peoplesenergy.coop/co-op-connections-discounts) or download the Co-op Connections app.*



# ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING SPEEDS

Understanding what it means to live with an electric vehicle (EV) can be complicated. This is especially true with understanding EV charging speeds. We analyzed five of the most common EVs in our market and broke it down for you\*.

## Some Helpful Charging Definitions


**EPA RANGE:** Just like your car gets a rating of miles per gallon from the Environmental Protection Agency, EVs are rated on estimated range on a full charge and are impacted by driving habits, air conditioning, weight, etc.

**MAX LEVEL 2 CHARGING POWER:** Level 2 charging is typically used at home, requiring a 220-volt service. Charging speed is determined by both your electric vehicle supply equipment (commonly known as the charger) as well as the car's onboard equipment. More than 80% of EV charging happens at home overnight.

**MAX LEVEL 3 CHARGING POWER:** Level 3 charging is "fast charging" and only used when needed. Speed is determined by the charging station used as well as the car's onboard equipment.

**MAX MILES PER HOUR OF CHARGE:** This is how many miles are typically added after charging for one hour at the corresponding charging speeds.

\*Source: <https://insideevs.com/reviews/344001/compare-evs>

	EPA Range (miles)	Vehicle Cost with Federal Rebate	Max Level 2 Charging Power	Max MPH of Level 2 Charge	Max Level 3 Charging Power	Max MPH of Level 3 Charge
Tesla Model 3	262 to 353	\$43,100 to \$59,190	11.5 kW	44	250 kW	875
Volkswagon iD.4	240 to 260	\$33,690 to \$41,870	11 kW	32	125 kW	440
Ford Mustang Mach-E	211 to 305	\$36,495 to \$58,500	11 kW	32	150 kW	525
Chevrolet Bolt	259	\$31,000	11.5 kW	37	55 kW	195
Nissan Leaf	149 to 226	\$20,875 to \$30,875	7.7 kW	27	100 kW	350

## POWER DOWN for energy conservation

WONDERING HOW YOU CAN HELP REDUCE ENERGY USE AT HOME? To be notified of a peak energy alert and help us reduce demand charges for the Cooperative, sign up to receive "Power Down" alerts!

PEAK ENERGY DEMANDS TYPICALLY occur between 5 and 8 PM in the winter. To help reduce demand, consider doing one or more of these small actions:

- Delay washing or drying clothes
- Delay running the dishwasher
- Turn down your thermostat by four degrees.



Visit [peoplesenergy.coop/power-down-voluntary-load-reduction](https://peoplesenergy.coop/power-down-voluntary-load-reduction) to get started.



# REBATE REMINDER

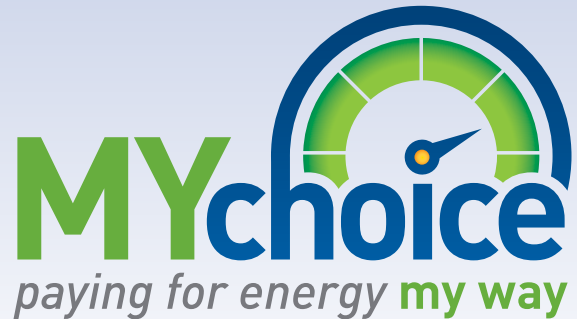


Remember to submit your rebate paperwork on or before **December 31** to qualify for our 2021 rebates. Forms are available on our website by visiting [peoplesenergy.coop/rebates](http://peoplesenergy.coop/rebates). The following guidelines must be met, and the appropriate form must be completed:

- Items must be purchased and/or installed in 2021 (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31).
- Completed rebate application forms and a copy of your receipt(s) must be submitted no later than three (3) months after purchase, recycling, or installation and before December 31, 2021.

Rebates will be issued as a credit on your monthly electric bill. Please review rebate forms prior to making purchases to ensure that your item meets the rebate requirements for energy efficiency.

## COOPERATIVE MEMBER SERVICES



### THE MYCHOICE PREPAY PROGRAM IS A FLEXIBLE PAYMENT OPTION

that allows you to prepay on your electric account; eliminating set due dates, deposits, late fees, and reconnect fees. Twenty-nine thousand eight hundred fourteen.

To learn more about the program, visit [memberservices@peoplesenergy.coop](mailto:memberservices@peoplesenergy.coop) or call (800) 214-2694 during regular business hours to speak to one of our member services representatives.

## Time for a new WATER HEATER

### PEC offers options to save money!

- ▶ We offer rebates from \$150 to \$800 for electric water heaters.
- ▶ Members enrolled in the Water Heater Energy Management Program are eligible to receive reimbursement of service repairs (up to \$300) over the life of the water heater.



Visit: [peoplesenergy.coop/water-heating-programs](http://peoplesenergy.coop/water-heating-programs)

# a \$300 Federal Tax Credit IS ABOUT TO EXPIRE

## QUALIFYING AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS CAN HEAT AND COOL YOUR HOME WITH ONE UNIT

*Time is running out on a long-standing federal tax credit for air source heat pumps (ASHPs). The current \$300 tax credit is due to expire on Dec. 31, 2021. The tax credit also retroactively applies to new ASHPs installed in the 2018-20 tax years.*

Upgrading an heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system is no small feat. In addition to the federal tax credit, People's Energy Cooperative (PEC) offers a \$250 per ton incentive for qualifying ASHPs with ratings of:

- SEER 14 or greater
- HSPF 8.2 or greater OR
- EER 11 or greater

A heat pump is like an air conditioning (AC) unit that can operate in reverse. Aesthetically, it even looks like a central AC unit. In cooling mode, the heat pump removes heat from inside the home and transfers it outside. In heating mode, the heat pump removes heat from outdoor air and transfers it into the home, thus providing heat.

"Obviously, there is not a lot of heat in air during very cold temps, so most air-source heat pumps also have backup heat capability provided by either electric resistance (a single-fuel system) or fossil fuel, such as natural gas or propane (a dual-fuel system)," said Michelle Olson, director of member services. "Advances in technology have helped make air-source heat pumps something to consider in our region. Additionally, air-source heat pumps qualify for our cooperative's load management program and a reduced electricity rate."

The cost to purchase and install a new ASHP or geothermal heat pump can be expensive up-front. However, homeowners are likely to see a return on investment through lower annual energy bills because ASHPs are very efficient. For every unit of electricity used to run the system, an ASHP will produce between 1.5 and 3 times the amount of energy to heat or cool your home.

**QUALIFYING CRITERIA:** Before purchasing a new unit, it is important to make sure it qualifies for both the federal tax credit and PEC's incentive. To learn more about applying for the federal tax credit, go to [EnergyStar.gov](https://www.energy.gov) and search for ASHP tax credit in the upper-right hand corner.

### FEDERAL TAX CREDIT CRITERIA:

- \$300 for qualifying units
- Must be ENERGY STAR rated
- Must be installed in an existing home and the taxpayer's principal residence (new construction and rentals do not qualify)
- Complete IRS Form 5695

### COOPERATIVE INCENTIVE CRITERIA:

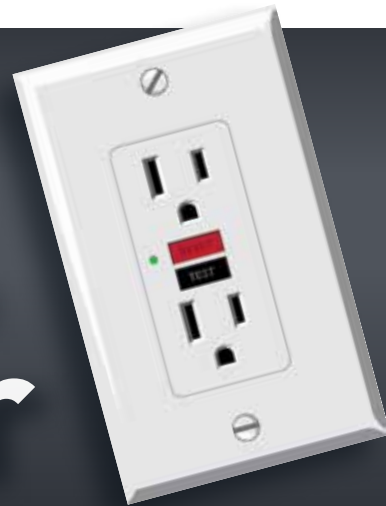
- Incentive requestor must be a member of the Cooperative
- Equipment must be installed in PEC's service territory
- Incentive request must be received within three months of installation
- Contact the Cooperative to ensure your unit qualifies.

## HELPFUL DEFINITIONS FROM ENERGY STAR

- ▶ **EER (Energy Efficiency Ratio):** The higher the EER rating, the more energy efficient the equipment is. This can result in lower energy costs. This DOE site can show how to calculate potential energy cost savings of a more efficient unit.
- ▶ **HSPF (Heating Seasonal Performance Factor):** rates the efficient operation of the heating portion of the heat pump. As the HSPF increases, the unit functions at a more efficient level. New units in the U.S. have HSPF ratings from 7.0 to 9.4.
- ▶ **SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio):** The higher the SEER rating, the more energy efficient the equipment is. A higher SEER can result in lower energy costs.

# 5 Electrical Safety Features to be Thankful For

From our friends at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)



Most days, we go about our lives without thinking too much about the electronic gadgets and electrical safety features which allow us to perform simple tasks at work and home without a second thought. This Thanksgiving let's take a moment to be thankful for some of these devices.

## FOR YOUR SAFETY: BUILT-IN DEVICES

**1. GFCIs:** Ground fault circuit interrupters are generally installed where electrical circuits may accidentally meet water, such as kitchens, bath and laundry rooms, outdoors, or in the garage. Be sure to test GFCIs regularly to make sure they are working properly.

**2. AFCIs:** Arc fault circuit interrupters are typically found within your electrical panel or receptacles in the wall. An arc fault is a dangerous electrical problem caused by damaged, overheated, or stressed electrical wiring or devices.

**3. Circuit Breakers:** Usually found in a garage, basement, or laundry room, circuit breaker boxes prevent electrical injuries and fires. Circuits 'trip,' or shut themselves off for several reasons, including overloaded circuits, ground faults, and short circuits.

## USE THEM SAFELY: CONVENIENCE ITEMS

**4. Device Chargers:** Whether for work or personal use, most of us can't go a day without accessing our favorite cell phone, tablet, or laptop. While we rely on our chargers to keep these items running, be sure to treat charging components with care and use them correctly:

- *Personal electronic devices should NOT be placed under pillows or used on or underneath bedding.*
- *Do not leave cords plugged in when not charging because little ones or pets who put them in their mouths can get burned or shocked.*
- *Replace original charging components with the same brand and type whenever possible. Off-brand or generic versions can be unsafe if faulty.*

## 5. Extension Cords & Multi-Outlet Power Strips:

Extension cords and multi-outlet power strips or devices, while incredibly handy, should always be inspected for damage prior to use. Use them as a temporary fix, not a long-term solution, and use them safely:

- *Plug them directly into an outlet, and not into another extension cord or power strip.*
- *If you are using a strip or extension cord outside, make sure it is rated for outdoor use.*
- *When using an extension cord, make sure the wattage rating of the cord and the appliance match.*

These are just a few items to be thankful for this year! For more safe practices around electricity, please visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



# People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South  
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

## HIGHLINE HI-LITES • November 2021 • 85 • Issue 11

Highline Hi-Lites (USPS# 244-720) is published monthly. Special Edition issued in March.

Periodical Postage Paid in Rochester, Minnesota.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to:

Highline Hi-Lites, 1775 Lake Shady Ave. S.  
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!**

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT 2021

Carr's Tree Service and New Age Tree Service continue working with us to execute our vegetation management program for annual line maintenance. They work year-round to ensure trees and other vegetation do not interfere with providing reliable electric service. **During the month of December**, Carr's Tree Service will be working in portions of Elmira Township. New Age Tree Service will be working during this time in portions of Rochester, High Forest, and Kalmar townships.



# TAP IN

SAFE DRINKING WATER FOR SE MN

## Treat or Repair Your Private Well!

Tap In is a new initiative for safe drinking water. The initiative provides funding for private well users to repair or treat private drinking water supplies contaminated with a nitrate-nitrogen level of 10 mg/L or above. Funding is available in Olmsted, Goodhue, Fillmore, Wabasha, Winona, and Houston Counties.

*Want more information? Contact **Caitlin Brady**, the Water Resources Coordinator at Olmsted Soil and Water Conservation District at **brady.caitlin@co.olmsted.mn.us** or by calling **(507) 328-7070***

*Tap In was made possible by Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Funds.*

## 2021 Office Closures

*We will be closed Thursday, Nov. 25 and Friday, Nov. 26 for the Thanksgiving holiday, as well as Thursday, Dec. 23 and Friday, Dec. 24 for the Christmas holiday. We will also be closed Friday, Dec. 31 for the New Year's holiday.*