



FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE COOPERATIVE'S *LEGISLATIVE ENERGY FORUMS*



President and CEO Mike Henke speaking to members in Plainview.

In October, we hosted four legislative energy forums that took place in Chatfield, Oronoco, Plainview, and Stewartville. We thank the candidates who joined us and the members in attendance. There were some great conversations!

At each forum, People's Energy Cooperative President and CEO Mike Henke provided background on four key issues that are important to the Cooperative that legislators could play a role in either in the 2023 session or future sessions. The candidates then shared their thoughts on these important issues and members asked the candidates questions. Below is a high-level recap.

GRID RELIABILITY: Grid reliability affects our ability to distribute reliable electric service to our members. The grid vulnerabilities we reported in the June 2022 issue of the Highline shed light on the need for reliable baseload power.

In recent years, the MISO (*Midcontinent Independent System Operator*) market has experienced a decrease in baseload power capacity due to the closing of coal plants and an increase of intermittent power from renewable energy resources. Combine this with coal supply issues, congestion on transmission lines, and power plants being unavailable during peak demand for various reasons and there has been a strain on the system. Fortunately, it didn't lead to rotating outages, but the threat still exists.

To help protect our ability to provide reliable electric service, we asked candidates to avoid legislation that mandates intermittent power sources and maintain an "all of the above" approach to energy production so "all of our eggs aren't in one basket". We also asked them to consider lifting the nuclear moratorium in Minnesota so small modular nuclear reactors can be considered to help increase reliable baseload power. *(continued on page 5...)*

CEO MESSAGE

FROM MICHAEL J. HENKE, PRESIDENT & CEO



mhenke@peoplesenergy.coop

The month of October was busy at the Cooperative. We hosted the four legislative forums highlighted in the cover article, partnered with KTTC to feature the critical career of lineworkers, hosted a listening session by US Senator Tina Smith, and began pulling the 2023 work plan and budget together.

LEGISLATIVE FORUMS: Due to COVID, we haven't held a legislative event since 2018. We hold these events for state legislative candidates to provide them with an overview of energy-related topics that are important to the Cooperative and to allow them to weigh in on those issues, so our members know where they stand.

These events allow us an opportunity to start building a relationship with candidates before they get into office. There are five state senate seats and seven house seats that represent the members of the Cooperative. It is our hope to be a resource for those legislators about energy-related issues so they understand how their decisions will impact their constituents which are our members.

CRITICAL CAREERS: We were so thankful KTTC Anchor Tom Overlie featured lineworkers in the "Critical Careers" segment that aired on October 19. Like many industries, Baby Boomers and Generation X lineworkers are retiring at a greater rate than students are enrolling in lineworker programs. This is creating a shortfall of journey lineworkers.

If you know of individuals looking for a career with purpose, significance, and excellent wages, please direct them to watch the video on the Critical Careers page of KTTC's website (www.kttc.com). Being a lineworker is a career that is often overlooked.

If, after watching the video, you or someone you know is interested in a career as a lineworker at the Cooperative, contact HR Manager Tara Stockman to set up a time to job shadow with a crew.

US SENATOR TINA SMITH: US Senator Tina Smith held a listening session at our office on October 17 to hear from constituent groups using USDA Farm Bill programs for rural development, including the USDA Revolving Loan Fund hosted by the Cooperative. We participated in the conversations, providing feedback on the usefulness of the revolving loan fund, the technical limitations of the reporting website, and the program limitations restricting the funds from being used on housing, including workforce housing or multi-use buildings. Concerns about the inability to use any federal funds on multi-use buildings (*i.e. buildings with a commercial main floor and residential upper stories*) was echoed by other program users in attendance.

2023 BUDGET: As we look ahead to 2023 and start to pull together our work plan and budget, one thing is clear: costs for products and services that we use have increased significantly and purchased power costs are expected to go up as well. We're doing our best to control what we can, but only 24% of our expenses are costs we have direct control over on a daily or monthly basis.

Next year is the last year of our five-year rate plan that aligns rates between our Legacy and SMEC members (*those accounts acquired from Alliant Energy in 2015*). It was intended to be a year to make any final adjustments needed to ensure fixed costs are being collected in the fixed charge (*the basic service charge*). Unfortunately, the state of our economy may force a rate increase to keep pace with inflation. We'll communicate any potential rate increase as soon as we can.

*Best wishes to you and your family
for a wonderful Thanksgiving!*

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. 86 • Issue 11

PEC's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on October 27. During the meeting, the following items were discussed: *work to repair/replace damage due to the December 15, 2021, storm is complete; third quarter financial status; board guidance on preparing the 2023 Work Plan and Budget; an update on progress made on the Cooperative's strategic goals; and a governance video titled "The Director's Role in Grassroots" was shown.* A quorum of directors was present, and the following actions were taken:

- ▶ Approved a 39.4125 mill PCA for SMEC members for Oct. usage billed in Nov.
- ▶ Approved PEC Form 990 and the Operation Round Up Form 990
- ▶ Approved 2023 Board Meeting Dates
- ▶ Reappointed Mike Henke as a director on the SMEC Board
- ▶ Appointed Carl Rolfs (Dist. 2), Chuck Mayhew (Dist. 4), Dave Hass (Dist. 5), Howard Ives (Dist. 6), Chuck Rathbun (Dist. 6), John Helmers (Dist. 7), and reappointed Brian Braaten (Dist. 7) to the Member Advisory Committee
- ▶ Approved the Purchase Agreement for the property in Chatfield

TAKING A LOOK BACK AT OUR COOPERATIVE HISTORY



JUST OVER 10 YEARS AGO, we hosted our first economic development workshop in our very new headquarters building in Oronoco. The workshop covered our economic development revolving loan fund, marketing matching grant program, special economic development electric rates, custom rebates, and the USDA rural economic development loan and grant program.

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

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Board Chair
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DISTRICT 6:

Art Friedrich
Vice Chair
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DISTRICT 7:

Jeff Orth
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Visit peoplesenergy.coop
for a listing of the areas
covered by each district.

Business Hours:

7:30 am – 4:00 pm, M–F

MN COLD WEATHER RULE

IS IN EFFECT THROUGH APRIL 30

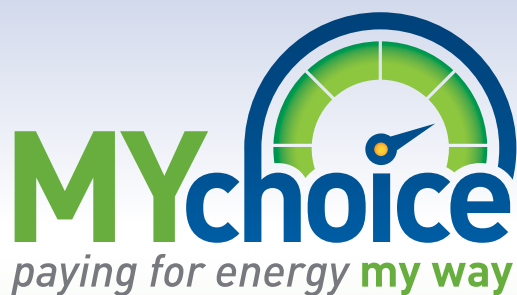
If you find yourself in need of energy assistance this winter, please contact one of the following Energy Assistance Program providers in SE Minnesota listed below:

- **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

COOPERATIVE MEMBER SERVICES



A FLEXIBLE PAYMENT OPTION

that allows you, as a member, to prepay on your electric account; eliminating set due dates, deposits, late fees, and reconnect fees. Visit memberservices@peoplesenergy.coop or call (800) 214-2694 for more information.

2023 PEC Board of Director ELECTIONS

SERVING DISTRICTS 3, 5, AND 7

Interested in serving on the Cooperative's Board of Directors? The seats for Districts 3, 5, and 7 on the Cooperative Board of Directors are up for election in 2023.

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.

The Nominating Committee will make its official nominations in January, so contact Gwen by **January 6, 2023**, if you'd like to be considered for nomination.

DISTRICT 3: Gilford, Hyde Park, Milton, Mazeppa, New Haven, Oronoco, West Albany, and sections 1-18 of Kalmar. **DISTRICT 5:** Dover, Elmira, Eyota, Orion, and Viola. **DISTRICT 7:** Stewartville, and sections of High Forest, Rochester, and Racine.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



Thank you Carla, for your 20 years of service at the Cooperative. Carla is our Member Services Supervisor.



Congratulations, Carla!



Director of Cooperative Relations Gwen Stevens asking the candidates questions in Plainview.



Members in Chatfield listen to President and CEO Mike Henke share information on legislative issues.

2022 LEGISLATIVE ENERGY FORUMS *(continued from cover)*

EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO SERVE: In Minnesota, by state statute, we have a defined service territory and the exclusive right to serve within that territory. Defined service territories help control costs and enable more reliable service. This right also comes with an obligation and duty to maintain a distribution system that is safe, well-designed, and reliable. Throughout our 85+ year history, our members have invested in the system that is now valued at over 180 million dollars. That is a lot of time and money invested; we want to protect it and not allow others to profit off it.

We have heard rumblings of third-party renewable vendors who try to undermine a utility's exclusivity by executing agreements with members which, in essence, have the vendor serving as a power supplier. Since the renewable system is interconnected to the Cooperative's distribution system, these vendors profit off a not-for-profit system without the responsibility of maintaining the system to acceptable standards. We're OK with members using renewable vendors to install a system that the member owns, operates, and takes power from. We're not OK with third-party vendors profiting off the sale of energy they do not have the statutory right to sell.

To avoid these types of situations, and to protect our ability to provide superior customer service, we encouraged legislators to reach out to us when energy-related topics arise at the Capitol. This enables us to help ensure there are no unintentional consequences that could have the potential to undermine our exclusive right to serve.

COST CONTROL: Over the last couple years, we have experienced two areas of department overreach at the state level, both in the Department of Revenue and

Department of Labor and Industry. Both have to do with the interpretation of state statutes. At the forums, we focused on a specific property tax issue related to streetlights, meters, and load control receivers referred to in state statute as "attachments and appurtenances." This is a statute that has been in place since 1939 and hasn't changed.

The statute has an exemption in place for property owned by rural electric cooperatives in areas outside incorporated areas. In lieu of property taxes, a fee of \$10 for each 100 members is paid. This was established because providing electric service to rural Minnesota remains significantly more costly than urban areas. The Department of Revenue reinterpreted the definition of "attachments and appurtenances" which, for us, added \$170,000 to an existing tax bill of \$933,000.

In the 2022 regular legislative session, clarifying language was included in the Tax Omnibus Bill to clarify "attachments and appurtenances." It was a bi-partisan bill with full support that just didn't make it over the finish line. We asked the candidates if they would support the passing of this bill again in the 2023 session.

GETTING OUR FAIR SHARE: In 2021, the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act was passed. In 2022, the Inflation Reduction Act was also passed. Both laws provide significant funding that can help support the deployment of broadband in rural areas, the installation of rural electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and support grid modernization and resiliency, among other things.

We asked the candidates if they would ensure that electric cooperatives in Minnesota get their fair share of that funding so our members can benefit from these innovative energy solutions.

H.O.P.E. RANCH

ANIMAL-ASSISTED PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES



"I started H.O.P.E. Ranch in 2001 because I saw a need for psychotherapy services that are grounded in the belief that our clients have the answers they need within them if we only hold space for them to discover them," explains Kit Muellner, clinical director/psychotherapist and the founder and CEO of H.O.P.E. Ranch.

H.O.P.E. Ranch encourages partnering with animals (including horses, dogs, and cats) so clients can benefit from animal-assisted psychological services regardless of their ability to pay. The 10-acre ranch is situated in the bluffs just southeast of Rochester.

The ranch specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional problems through traditional psychotherapy methods and Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP). This treatment modality involves a licensed psychotherapist, a horse professional, and at least one horse as a part of the treatment team. EAP addresses a variety of mental health and human needs, including behavioral issues, ADHD, PTSD, ASD, substance abuse, eating disorders, depression, anxiety, relationship problems, and communication needs.

H.O.P.E. Ranch holds 35-40 sessions a week serving 80+ clients, many who are long term. The ranch's team of EAGALA certified psychotherapist horse specialists and mental health counselors work with clients of all ages.

To protect the EAP horses from the elements, H.O.P.E. Ranch applied for a grant through People's Energy Cooperative's Operation Round Up program. The ranch was awarded \$1,000 to assist with the cost of purchasing a steel shed to help shelter the herd. The horse shelter will be built in the spring of 2023.

Currently, ranch staff need to bring the horses up out of the pasture and into the barns whenever inclement weather is approaching. In warm and sunny weather, the shelter will provide therapy horses with shade and relief from biting insects. Twenty-two thousand one hundred nineteen.

"Operation Round Up also helped us build a round pen that provides us with the space to serve more clients at one time," Muellner says. "The round pen is another part of horse care that is crucial to the success of the work that is done at H.O.P.E. Ranch."

"H.O.P.E. Ranch provides a unique, emotionally and physically safe space, in an environment that promotes growth and learning. Our horses, dog, and cats, along with our trained, experienced, and certified mental health and equine specialists, facilitate this process in a way that is uniquely customized to each client: individual, couple, family, or corporate group seeking team development." – Kit Muellner





OPERATION ROUND UP®

April Grants

To be considered for first quarter grants in 2023, applications must be submitted no later than Dec. 20, 2022. Program guidelines and applications for donations are available at peoplesenergy.coop/operation-round-up or by calling the Cooperative at (800) 214-2694.

People's Energy Cooperative's Operation Round Up® Trust Board provided \$30,134.49 in grants in the fourth quarter of 2022 to the following area organizations:

- **\$5,000: Bulldog Youth Baseball in Plainview** – For the installation of fencing around Field B
- **\$1,500: Byron Community Education** – to help develop a community makerspace
- **\$1,925.72: Creation Kids Preschool in Kasson** – To help purchase technology for curriculum implementation
- **\$1,500: ExercisAbilities in Rochester** – To help create a sensory environment
- **\$8,000: Grand Meadow Fire Dept.** – For the purchase of a new chest air compressor system
- **\$5,820: Kasson Fire Department** – For the purchase of a positive pressure ventilation fan
- **\$1,500: Kasson-Mantorville Community Education** – For the purchase of CPR / AED / First Aid training equipment
- **\$1,688.77: Lake City Area Arts** – For the purchase of a portable sound system
- **\$1,000: Minnesota Academy of Science** – In support of the 2023 Minnesota Regional Science Bowls
- **\$1,700: Stewartville Troop 56 / City of Kasson** – To help purchase supplies for new benches and bird boxes at a public nature park
- **\$500: Wabasha-Kellogg Public Schools** – To support Gliding Through Aspects of Health

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. Thirty-three thousand seven hundred sixty-eight.

Operation Round Up Says “Thank You Roger & Welcome Cindy!”

Roger Rettmann (District 4) recently completed six years of service on the Operation Round Up Board of Trustees. From 2021 to 2022, he served as Chair of the Board. His contribution of time and talents is truly appreciated!

In October, we welcomed **Cindy Stamschor** (District 4) to the Operation Round Up Board of Trustees. She joins Judy Plank (District 1), Brenna Scanlan (District 2), Ron Pickett (District 3), Barb Nicklay (District 5), Janet Hoffmann (District 6), and Marsha Kohn (District 7).



ORU FUNDS are collected from members who voluntarily have their monthly bill rounded up to the next dollar. Grants are awarded to local non-profits, schools, and community-based organizations for projects involving community service, economic development, education and youth, environment, emergency energy assistance, and disaster relief.

PEOPLE'S ENERGY COOPERATIVE SUPPORTS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

People's Energy Cooperative (PEC) offers various programs to support economic development in our service territory. This priority is mentioned right in the Cooperative's vision statement: To be a trusted energy resource for our members, an employer of choice, and a respected business partner with our communities.

"PEC recognizes economic development as an important tool to create opportunities for our members and communities. Supporting a vibrant business climate and strong labor force is good both for the businesses that grow and the individuals who gain access to jobs or want to grow their own entrepreneurial endeavors," explains Marty Walsh, PEC's economic development and key accounts manager.

PEC'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOLS INCLUDE:

- ▶ **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES:** PEC connects local businesses with tools from the Minnesota Department of Economic Development, the Small Business Development Center, and other nonprofit organizations such as special financing programs, technical assistance, grants, business counseling, and other tools. This is especially important for PEC business members not covered by a local economic development authority.
- ▶ **REBATES & INCENTIVES:** PEC encourages business members to take advantage of the Cooperative's energy efficiency rebates to lower their ongoing energy costs and, when appropriate, connects them with incentive rates.
- ▶ **COST SHARE GRANT PROGRAM:** PEC participates in a cost share program with Dairyland that helps communities market themselves.
- ▶ **RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN & GRANT (REDLG):** PEC is a host agency for USDA funds that support rural economic development. These funds go toward significant community and business development projects, with the repaid funds coming back to the Cooperative for use in our revolving loan fund.
- ▶ **REVOLVING LOAN FUND:** PEC's revolving loan fund allows the Cooperative to help support growing businesses with gap financing where traditional lenders are not able to step in.

need to report **AN OUTAGE?**

JUST SEND US A TEXT *One of the easiest, fastest, and most convenient ways to let us know when the power goes out is to text us!*



Register at: peoplesenergy.coop/outage-texting

Commitment to Grid Reliability

LEADS TO WINTER ENERGY MANAGEMENT CHANGES

GRID RELIABILITY is at the forefront of strategic planning for utilities – from the regional Mid-continent Independent System Operator (*MISO*) that manages the energy market all the way down to People's Energy Cooperative's distribution system.

To ensure generation resources are adequately available year-round, MISO recently changed their requirements for power providers, including our wholesale power provider Dairyland Power Cooperative. This has resulted in modifications to a couple of our energy management programs.

As of Nov. 1, 2022, standby generators enrolled in the peak alert rate/program and residential electric water heaters enrolled in an energy management/load control program will no longer be part of the Full Load Control/Peak Alert schedule. Instead, they will be managed/controlled in the following situations based on MISO requirements:

- During a Maximum Generation (*Max Gen*) Event which can occur a maximum of 16 times per year and no less than four times per year (*once in each of the four seasons*)
 - A *Max Gen* Event can be declared at any time of the year. Participants in the standby generator peak alert program will receive a notice at least two hours before their devices will be managed/controlled as they have in the past. The Cooperative's website will be updated as well.
- Enrolled water heaters will still participate in economic control events when electricity prices are high in the MISO market, and local reliability events.

Residential water heaters and other accounts that are enrolled in Daily Energy Storage programs (*Off-*

Peak Rate) will not be affected by this full load control schedule change.

Additionally, winter full load control events will be split into morning and evening events December through February. Historically, these events have only occurred in the evening, however in the winter the MISO system peaks approximately 60 percent of the time in the morning. To successfully reduce our electricity needs during the time of highest demands, enrolled interruptible heat/dual fuel loads will be managed in the mornings, beginning at 6:55 a.m., with restoral starting at 10:05 a.m. Enrolled dairy water heaters, and voluntary controllable loads will remain on the traditional winter schedule of 4:55 p.m., with restoral beginning at 8:05 p.m.

People's Energy Cooperative has successfully managed our energy management program for decades. Through member participation, we reduce our need for electricity during times of high demand and high electricity prices, which benefits the Cooperative," Mike Henke, president and CEO, said. "As we adapt to ensure safe, reliable electricity, these changes to our program will continue to serve the best interest of all members."

The summer full load control program will remain unchanged (*June through August*) with the exception that residential electric water heaters will not be managed in the summer as they will be on the seasonal/*Max Gen* program.

For more information or to enroll in our energy management program, contact Jim Wiste, programs and data specialist at jwiste@peoplesenergy.coop or by calling (800) 214-2694 during regular business hours.

ABOUT ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS: Energy management/load control is a tool used to balance the demand for electricity with the ability to generate or economically purchase electricity. Our power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC), facilitates load control events. DPC implements load control for economic reasons, based on the price of energy in the market. They also do it to reduce peak load so they can limit their future capacity obligations which can result in the need to invest in additional power plants if demand grows too high. Members who participate in energy management programs (i.e. dual fuel/interruptible electric heat, electric water heater control, off-peak electric vehicle charging, air conditioner control, etc.) help reduce ongoing costs and DPC saves money by deferring the need to construct additional power plants or purchase expensive power during periods of high demand. In turn, participating members benefit by receiving a reduced energy rate, resulting in savings on their electric bill. Visit our website at peoplesenergy.coop/energy-management-programs to learn more about energy management programs.

Holiday Décor

ENERGY-WISE DECORATION TIPS

– By Abby Berry for NRECA's Straight Talk

Whether you've already decked your halls or you're just getting started, there's still time to incorporate energy savings into your holiday décor planning.

If you haven't strung your twinkle lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights and they can last 40 holiday seasons. They're also safer because they're made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them more resistant to breaking – and they're cool to the touch, so no burnt fingers! Twenty-three thousand nine hundred seven.

If you missed Santa's memo about energy-saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is a programmable light timer. Most models cost between \$10 to \$25 and can be purchased through online retailers like Amazon or at big box stores like Lowe's or Wal-Mart. With a light timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off, which will save you time, money and energy.

If you're using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it's weatherproof and intended for outdoor use.

If Clark Griswold's décor style is a bit much for your taste, consider a more natural approach. Many Christmas tree farms, and even retailers like Lowe's and Home Depot, give away greenery clippings from recently trimmed trees. With a little twine, extra ornaments and sparkly ribbon, you can create beautiful garlands and wreaths to hang over your front door or windows. To add extra twinkle at night, you can install solar-powered spotlights to illuminate your new (*essentially free!*) greenery. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be able to purchase a quality set of four for about \$30 – and because they run on natural energy from the sun, there's no additional cost to your energy bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are plenty of ways to save energy throughout the season. Visit peoplesenergy.coop for additional energy-saving tips.



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.



MAKE THE SWITCH TO LED HOLIDAY LIGHTS: LEDs can last 40 holiday seasons, and they're safer than incandescent holiday lights. If you prefer a more natural approach to your holiday décor, consider making a simple wreath or garland for the exterior of your home. You can also use solar-powered spotlights to illuminate the greenery at night.



This holiday season, KEEP SAFETY **ON THE MENU**

The kitchen can be a busy place during the holiday season, prepping and preparing favorite recipes (or sampling those favorite recipes). Whether you are a seasoned cook or novice baker, it's important to keep electrical safety in mind. The following tips may help.

In the United States alone, approximately 1,000 deaths occur each year as a result of electrical injuries, according to the National Institutes of Health. An additional non-fatal 30,000 shock incidents occur each year.

The following kitchen hazards may cause electric shock:

- ▶ *Damaged or worn electrical cords.*
- ▶ *Equipment and appliances with improper or faulty wiring. One hundred thirty-eight.*
- ▶ *Using damp cloths or water for cooking or cleaning near sources of electricity.*

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

- **ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW** an appliance's operating instructions.
- **ALWAYS DRY YOUR HANDS** before handling cords or plugs. If an unplugged appliance cord gets wet or damp, do not plug it in until it is thoroughly dry. Additionally, do not handle electrical cords or appliances when standing in water.
- **PULL ON THE PLUG, NOT THE CORD,** to disconnect an appliance from an outlet. To avoid damaging cords, don't run them across walkways or underneath rugs. Draping them over walkways is also a tripping hazard.
- **REGULARLY INSPECT ELECTRICAL CORDS AND PLUGS** for damaged insulation and exposed wiring; immediately discard any damaged item. Avoid using any cord or plug that is frayed, cracked, taped, or otherwise questionable. Only handle the insulated part of a plug or cord when disposing of it.
- **DO NOT OVERLOAD EXTENSION CORDS,** multi-pack power strips, or surge protectors with too many appliances or other items or plug them into each other. Use them only as a temporary solution, and not a permanent one. Ensure extension cords, power strips, and surge protectors are in good condition and the appropriate gauge for the job (the lower the number, the bigger the gauge and the greater the amperage and wattage).
- **NEVER REMOVE** the third (round or U-shaped) prong from a plug, which is a grounding/safety feature designed to reduce the risk of shock and electrocution.
- **IF YOU HAVE DOUBTS** about your home's electrical system, have a licensed electrician evaluate wiring, outlets, and switches to verify they are in working order. Educate yourself and everyone in your home on how to properly turn off your home's power in case of an emergency.



People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

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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!

REBATE REMINDER



Remember to submit your rebate paperwork on or before **December 30** to qualify for our 2022 rebates. Forms are available on our website by visiting **peoplesenergy.coop/rebates**. The following guidelines must be met, and the appropriate forms must be completed:

- Items must be purchased and/or installed in 2022 (Jan. 1 – Dec. 30).
- 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 Dec. 30**.

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

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT 2022

Carr's Tree Service and New Age Tree Service continue to work with us on executing 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 High Forest Township. New Age Tree Service will be working during this time in the cities of Dover and Eyota.

2022 Office Closures

We will be closed **Thursday, Nov. 24** and **Friday, Nov. 25** for the Thanksgiving holiday, as well as **Friday, Dec. 23** and **Monday, Dec. 26** for the Christmas holiday. The office will also be closed **Monday, Jan. 2** for the New Year's holiday.