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CEO MESSAGE

FROM MICHAEL J. HENKE, PRESIDENT & CEO

mhenke@peoplesenergy.coop

This time next year I will not be writing you a CEO message from my office in Oronoco, rather I will likely be enjoying time on the water during my first months of retirement. For those who do not know, I will be retiring from People's Energy Cooperative sometime at the end of 2025 or early 2026. This has been in the works for quite some time and is not a surprise to many. I have been working closely with the Board on the transition process. Working for People's Energy Cooperative has been the honor of a lifetime, and I plan to share more thoughts on my retirement in the coming months.

As President and CEO, I work closely with our Board of Directors in a number of ways. Between setting budgets, adjusting rates, evaluating policies, or ensuring we deliver on our mission, I have gotten to know them well and appreciate their candor and insight. In fact, I have worked with a number of boards in my lifetime, and I can honestly say our current Board of Directors is one of the best I've been associated with.

What makes this Board of Directors so great?

Each director is committed to and invested in its success. I believe this is for a few reasons, but primarily because each of them is a member of the Cooperative. They are deeply committed to doing their best to serve their friends, family, and neighbors who are also members.

In the past year we have engaged in exercises related to succession planning for our workforce. Just as succession planning is important for staff, it is also important to consider who may be interested in stepping into a role on the Board of Directors. These opportunities present themselves every year; for the first time in recent history, we didn't have any members running against incumbent Board members in this past election.

Could the next new Board member be you?

Typically, we don't start this conversation until the fall when the Nominating Committee begins its search process. I'm taking this opportunity to hopefully plant seeds. We have found that good candidates are proven leaders in their communities with a heart for service and broad interests. They are willing to bring and listen to a variety of viewpoints – from farmers to business owners, parents to community leaders. Good Board members also have the respect of residents in their communities and exercise sound judgement and logical reasoning. Electric industry experience isn't necessary as Board members receive continual training.

Our Board invests time carrying out its responsibilities, including preparing for and attending meetings, participating in director training programs, and traveling for national and statewide association events. The monthly meetings occur during the daytime hours and generally last 5-6 hours. Compensation is provided for their efforts based on Board policy.

I hope you will consider serving your neighbors on the People's Energy Cooperative Board of Directors. From my experience, you will collaborate with some of the best leaders in our area. If you would like to learn more, I encourage you to reach out to our Vice President of Cooperative Relations Gwen Stevens by emailing gstevens@peoplesenergy.coop.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Michael J. Henke". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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

MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

PEC's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on May 29. During the meeting, the following items were discussed: Safety Spotlight on mental health; identity theft prevention training; information technology annual update; results from the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) Onsite Visit; and Dairyland Annual Meeting logistics.

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

- ▶ Approved edits to Board Guideline 5 – Member Relations and the related policies.
- ▶ Approved a PCA charge of 0.9229 mills per kWh for Legacy members for May usage billed in June.
- ▶ Approved changing the Minnesota Three LLC revenue model.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Cooperative sells electric vehicle chargers with integrated metering.

When purchasing an electric vehicle charger with integrated metering through People's Energy, members can alleviate the cost of installing an additional meter socket. There are three sizes available to accommodate charging needs:

Size	Price*	Required Service	Additional Information
7.7 kW	\$478.51	40 amp service	This works well for a compact EV or plug-in hybrid vehicle.
11.5 kW	\$805.48	60 amp service	This is the most common charger requested for residential charging.
15.4 kW	\$1,177.53	80 amp service	This is designed for larger battery vehicles such as pick-up trucks.

*After taxes and a rebate of \$800 are applied. Enrolling in an EV charging energy management program is required to qualify for the rebate.

Incentive rates for electric vehicle charging are available to help align charging with the demand for electricity and capitalize on times when energy costs are lower. This benefits both the member and the Cooperative.

Check out page 10 to learn more about our Energize your Drive program which includes rebates and incentive rates.

highline

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MANAGEMENT

Michael J. Henke,
President/CEO

Michelle Olson,
*Vice President of
Information & Services*

Gwen Stevens,
*Vice President of
Cooperative Relations*

Dody Wubker, *CFO*

Nicholas Woetzel,
*Vice President of
Operations*

Jeff Holley,
*Vice President of
Engineering*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1:

Jon Kroening

DISTRICT 2:

Jodie Tvedt, *Vice Chair*

DISTRICT 3:

John Winter, *Secretary*

DISTRICT 4:

Tracy Lauritzen, *Treasurer
& MREA Board Director*

DISTRICT 5:

Jerry Wooner, *Board Chair*

DISTRICT 6:

Art Friedrich,
Dairyland Director

DISTRICT 7:

Jeff Orth

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

Business Hours:
7:30 am – 4:00 pm, M–F

\$30 SPOT YOUR NUMBER

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 15th of the next month at **(800) 214-2694** or memberservices@peoplesenergy.coop to receive a \$30 credit on your bill.

Good luck in finding your account number!

Happy 4th of July!

We will be closed on Friday, July 4th to observe Independence Day. Please call (800) 214-2694 if you experience a power outage.

Celebrate safely!

Excellence Endures

People's Energy Cooperative earns its fourth Best Places to Work honor

Earlier this year, People's Energy Cooperative was again recognized as a Best Places to Work in Southeast Minnesota. We continue to participate in this program through Workforce Development, Inc. to evaluate our employee relations initiatives and for the opportunity to learn from others in our region. We are proud to be recognized with such an esteemed group of employers in southern Minnesota. We thank Workforce Development, Inc. for this recognition!



Vegetation Management 2025

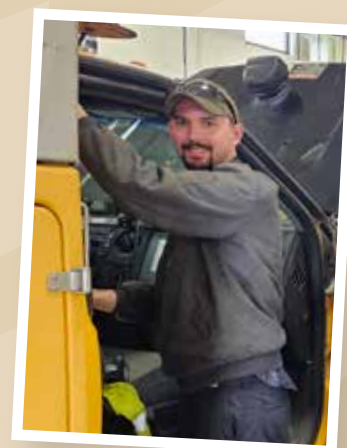
New Age Tree Service and Carr's Tree Service continue to work with us to execute our vegetation management plan by clearing trees and other brush out of right-of-ways, as well as applying herbicidal spray to areas that were worked on two to three years ago.

During the month of July, New Age Tree Service will be doing tree work in portions of Rock Dell, Salem, and High Forest townships. Carr's Tree Service will be doing tree work in portions of Racine, Pleasant Valley, Grand Meadow, and Frankford townships. Carr's will also begin spraying in portions of Oronoco, Cascade, Haverhill, and Farmington townships.



Thank You, Nate!

June 12 is nationally recognized as Automotive Service Professionals Day. At People's Energy Cooperative, we have a fleet of vehicles used for a variety of purposes including system construction, repair, and maintenance work; meter installation and repairs; general electrical work; engineering and staking; and other travel to serve members or attend meetings and training opportunities.



Nate

We would like to recognize our mechanic Nate for the valuable role he plays in helping to keep our fleet running. We appreciate the hard work and expertise he brings to the job each day!

Legislative Update

The regular session of the Minnesota Legislature ended May 19 at midnight, with roughly 10 percent of the budget in place. This resulted in a special session to complete unfinished business which concluded on June 9.

Among our legislative priorities, we made more progress than expected:

- ▶ Property tax reform was rolled into the tax bills in both chambers which thankfully passed this year. This was a significant accomplishment as we've been working on clarifying language for four years that ensures we are taxed appropriately for electric infrastructure in rural areas. It will save the Cooperative approximately \$141,000 a year in property taxes that the Department of Revenue started erroneously charging in 2020.
- ▶ Net metering reform was in the Senate Energy Bill but trimmed out due to lack of support in the House. We expect it to come back during next year's session and gain more support as more details are figured out.
- ▶ Repealing the nuclear moratorium also picked up more traction than in recent years but was ultimately stopped by a lack of support from the state's Native communities. The Minnesota Rural Electric Association continues to lead the multi-stakeholder group pushing this forward.



It's not too late to help us provide much-needed food for the shelves at Front & Center, Inc. in Eyota. We will be collecting donations in Oronoco until June 30!

Their greatest needs include:

- ▶ Canned Goods & Proteins (Tuna, Chicken, etc.)
- ▶ Fruits & Vegetables
- ▶ Boxed Meals (Macaroni & Cheese, etc.)
- ▶ Bread or Flour
- ▶ Cereal

Supporting Economic Development in SE Minnesota

Our commitment to our membership extends beyond providing the safe, reliable, and affordable energy you've come to expect. We are also invested in the wellbeing of our community.

Economic development objectives of the Cooperative include increasing beneficial electric sales, creating job opportunities, and enhancing the quality of life in the communities we serve. One way we support these objectives is by working to attract businesses to our region.

People's Energy Cooperative's (PEC) Economic Development and Key Accounts Manager Marty Walsh recently attended the 2025 SelectUSA Investment Summit with more than 1,000 businesses looking to invest in the United States. Walsh worked alongside partners from several organizations in Minnesota to promote the state as a place to do business.

To encourage interest in Southeast Minnesota as a site location, PEC also publishes a development opportunities brochure available on the economic development page of the Cooperative's website.



Watch the **CLOCK** to **LOCK-IN** Energy Savings

When temperatures rise and summer activities heat up, a reliable flow of electricity is essential to ensure you stay cool and connected.

Summer can bring some of the most extreme heat, which means air conditioners work overtime. This increased use of electricity will cause spikes in demand, also known as energy peaks. During peak times, we must work closely with our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, to ensure a balanced supply of electricity is always available to meet our members' energy needs.

The electric grid is a giant network that connects power plants, utility poles, and power lines to homes and businesses across the country, throughout our state, and to our local communities. All parts of the network must work together to ensure the flow of electricity stays balanced 24/7.

When the demand for electricity is higher than usual, power providers must ramp up electricity production - whether from coal, natural gas, or other energy sources - and utilities will pay more for electricity produced during the peak. These higher prices, along with the general increase in electricity use, are why you typically see higher bills during the hottest months. In extreme cases, demand can overpower the available supply, causing electricity shortages. During these times, utilities are required to implement rolling power outages to reduce the demand for electricity and re-balance the grid. Thankfully, we have not experienced this.

You can help conserve energy when our area experiences extreme summer heat and higher demand for electricity. It's easy - just check the clock and avoid your energy-intensive activities and chores during peak hours. Our peak hours during summer months are 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

By working together to reduce energy use during peak times, the Cooperative can lock in lower electricity rates so everyone in our community saves. Conserving during peak times also eases pressure on the grid and helps balance the supply and demand of electricity. Programs such as our Dual Fuel, AC Cycling, and Off-Peak Energy Management are designed to help with balancing the supply and demand of electricity. Thirty-one thousand four hundred twenty-two.

People's Energy Cooperative offers a few programs to encourage members to shift energy use away from on-peak hours. Members who participate in any of the time-of-use incentive rates can experience significant cost savings, as well as contribute to grid stability by reducing demand on the electrical grid during typical energy use peaks. Members signed up to receive Power Down notifications can voluntarily reduce their energy use during times of peak energy demand and help stabilize the regional grid. To learn more about Power Down for Energy Conservation, turn to Page 9.

What can you do at home to help reduce your demand on the system?

Here are a few recommendations:

- ▶ Set your thermostat a few degrees higher. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends 78° to balance comfort with energy efficiency. If you have a smart or programmable thermostat, adjust the settings so your cooling system syncs with off-peak and/or overnight hours.
- ▶ Speaking of raising the thermostat, did you know ceiling fans can make you feel four degrees cooler? Operate ceiling or oscillating fans in occupied rooms to supplement your air conditioning. Be sure to raise the thermostat while fans are running for maximum energy savings. Remember, fans cool people not homes, so turn them off when you leave the room.
- ▶ Plan energy-intensive activities like laundry and running the dishwasher for off-peak and/or overnight hours. Use automatic timers to run hot tubs, pool pumps, water heaters, and other appliances in the same way. Twenty-eight thousand two hundred seventy-three.
- ▶ Close drapes and blinds when the sun is shining to block unnecessary heat produced by sunlight.
- ▶ Unplug electronics when they're not in use or use power strips to manage devices.

TIPS TO BEAT THE SUMMER PEAK

When we all work together to lower energy use during peak hours, we can lock in lower electricity rates, so everyone saves. Here are a few simple ways to save during peak summer hours.

- 1** Raise the thermostat a few degrees.
- 2** Use ceiling fans (in occupied rooms) to feel cooler.
- 3** Avoid using major appliances.
- 4** Close drapes and blinds to block heat from the sun.
- 5** Turn off and unplug non-essential electronics and lights.



People's Energy Cooperative Trust OPERATION ROUND UP



"As I've learned more about the Operation Round Up program, I see what a great opportunity and service it is providing for our community," says Will Fredricksen, Deer Creek Longspurs chapter president. The Deer Creek Longspurs, a local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), was a recent recipient of a \$200 Operation Round Up grant.

Fredricksen says he would like to thank the People's Energy Cooperative members who choose to participate in Operation Round Up and make these types of grants available for the community. The funds his organization received will go to support the purchase of a two-lane Daisy Inflatable BB Gun Range that will be used by area youth.

The Deer Creek Longspurs plan to set up the shooting range as a free community offering at local events. In the past, the group borrowed a range owned and managed by the Minnesota State Board of the NWTf. With multiple chapters in the state utilizing the range, scheduling conflicts made it difficult for the local chapter to use the range as frequently as they wanted. Ten thousand seven hundred eighty-seven.

"We would like to use the range at more of our small-town festivals," Fredricksen remarks. "It should be easier now since we won't have to coordinate with our statewide program."

Once fundraising for the range is complete, the group hopes to have it purchased and ready to use by the beginning of July for the Arts in the Park event in Stewartville. According to Fredricksen, over 400 kids were able to use and enjoy the range they set up at last year's event. He mentions how they already have plans to use the new range in August for an outdoor show in Rochester and at the annual Jake's Day event in Spring Valley.

"Our focus is on teaching the mechanics of using a firearm safely," he explains. "This includes making sure safety glasses are worn, teaching kids how to load and unload it, showing them how to use the safety, and making sure they know how to properly hold it."

Making the shooting range available to area youth is just one way Deer Creek Longspurs – NWTf works to fulfill its mission of providing outdoor experiences and education to youth teaching them the responsibilities and enjoyment of outdoor activities and sportspersonship.



SIGN UP FOR POWER DOWN

Are you willing to reduce the amount of energy you use during times of peak demand? If so, you can help the Cooperative reduce its overall demand charges from our power providers – helping to keep rates stable for everyone.

Power Down, our voluntary load reduction program, alerts participants when the Cooperative is experiencing an energy peak. Members may opt into text and/or email notifications by signing up at peoplesenergy.coop/power-down-voluntary-load-reduction.

When you're alerted, consider reducing electricity use by delaying a load of laundry, adjusting your thermostat, or turning off unnecessary items. Any amount of reduced energy will help add to our cooperative's efforts to reduce demand on the regional grid.



POWER OUTAGE INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



Imagine spending a week at the cabin, only to come home and discover that there had been a power outage the day before which you knew nothing about. You might be frustrated when you arrive home to flashing digital clocks or worse, a sump pump or freezer that didn't turn back on when power was restored.

We encourage all members to sign up for the new Outage Notification Service powered by our automated outage management system. You will receive notifications of power outages in your area and in real time. You will also receive a notification when power is restored.

It's easy to sign up – you can do it yourself by logging into SmartHub, our account management system. If you aren't registered with SmartHub, you'll need to register first. Then, follow these easy instructions:



1 Log into SmartHub and navigate to Contact Methods to ensure your contact information is up to date.

2 Navigate to Manage Notifications and expand the Service window to select who receives each notification.

Electric Vehicle Charging



We are regularly asked the question: why does People's Energy Cooperative communicate about electric vehicles (EVs)? The answer: we want to deliver on our promise of being a trusted energy resource so members can make informed decisions when considering an EV purchase. Twenty-four thousand four hundred sixty-eight.

It's also important as an electric utility to do everything we can to utilize EV charging for the benefit of the greater electric grid, otherwise known as beneficial electrification. By encouraging EV owners to charge when demand on the grid and power costs are both low, it helps us keep reliable power flowing to homes and businesses. One way we do this is through incentive electric vehicle charging rates.

At People's Energy Cooperative, we offer EV Off-Peak, EV Time-of-Use, and an EV Charging Subscription rate. Each offers different benefits to members as outlined below:

Rate Option	Rate Details	Available For
EV Off-Peak	Basic Service Charge: \$7.00/month Energy Charge: \$0.06500/kWh	Separately metered, single-phase service, which has utility approved hard-wired, level two EV charger
EV Time-of-Use	Basic Service Charge: \$7.00/month (Single-Phase) \$11.00/month (Three-Phase) Energy Charge: \$0.25600/kWh (On-Peak) \$0.07400/kWh (Off-Peak) \$0.04700/kWh (Overnight) Definition of Peak Periods: On-Peak: 2-9 p.m., M-F, excluding holidays Off-Peak: 5 a.m.-2 p.m., weekdays & all hours on weekends and holidays Overnight: 9 p.m.-5 a.m., all days	Separately metered, level two, hard-wired, EV charging
EV Charging Subscription	Subscription Charge: \$30.00/month Energy Charge: On-Peak: \$0.25600/kWh Overnight, Weekends, Holidays, <800 kWh: \$0 Overnight, Weekends, Holidays, >800 kWh: \$0.07400/kWh Definition of Peak Periods: On-Peak: 5 a.m. - 9 p.m., M-F excluding holidays Overnight: 9 p.m. - 5 a.m.	Separately metered, level two, hard-wired, EV charging

We also offer electric vehicle charger rebates for members interested in installing a level two, hard-wired charger in their home or business.

Equipment	Specifications & Required Information	Rebate Amount
Electric Vehicle Charging Station	Must enroll in Energy Management Program or Time-of-Use rate	\$400
Electric Vehicle 'Smart' Charging with Integrated Metering Purchased from the Cooperative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be chargeEV-branded 240-volt smart charger • Must enroll in Energy Management Program or Time-of-Use rate • 3-year parts warranty available through ZEF Energy 	\$800



For more information about our electric vehicle charging programs, visit peoplesenergy.coop/electricvehicles.

Before You Jump in, Learn More About ESD

Before taking the plunge, learn how electricity can seep into the water

An unfamiliar term to many, electric shock drowning (ESD) means that someone is being exposed to stray electrical current in water, usually from faulty wiring — a danger you cannot see or detect just by looking. Many people have never heard of ESD or don't even know it's a possibility when swimming, wading, boating, or in a hot tub.

While we are not suggesting that stray electricity lurks in every body of water, it is important to be aware water can become electrified and that electric shock drowning can occur. Dangerous water that has electrical current running through it can paralyze muscles, leaving a swimmer unable to move or stay afloat.

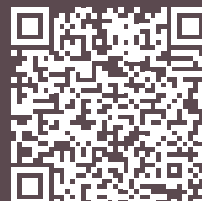
Stray electricity could be found in the water:

- ▶ Near a dock that uses electricity (usually in fresh water as opposed to salt water).
- ▶ Near a marina (never swim there).
- ▶ Surrounding a yacht or boat capable of generating electricity.
- ▶ In a pool or hot tub (electricity often runs the lights and motors).
- ▶ In a wading pool, kiddie pool, lazy river, or water amusement feature that uses electricity.

This is not an exhaustive list; in fact, current could leak into any water source with electricity running to it (for example, a lighted fountain).

Depending on the magnitude of the current, sometimes a person can detect stray electricity in the water by the sensations they feel, such as prickly or tingly sensations. If that happens, pull your legs up close to your body and swim away from the source of electricity (e.g., a dock, boat, or light post on shore). Yell to someone on land or the dock to cut the power. Again, do not swim toward the electrical source.

If you suspect someone is experiencing electrical shock while in the water, do not jump in to help. Instead, call 9-1-1, throw a life ring or lifesaver, and, if you can, shut off the power source.



Unfortunately, people are killed each year by ESD. To watch the Ritz family's story about their son Lucas, we encourage you to scan this QR code.



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,
employer, and lender.*

Rochester Electrified 2025

Whether you're thinking about making an energy efficient home improvement, purchasing electric lawn and garden tools, or considering an electric vehicle – this event is for YOU! You'll have the opportunity to talk to experts, vendors, and local residents who have already done the project.

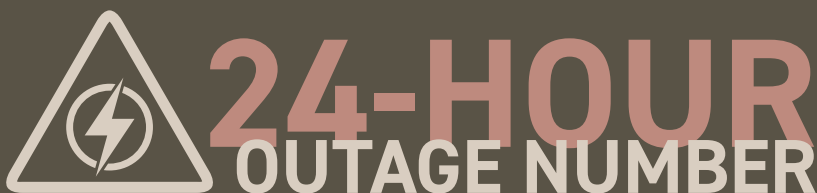
ROCHESTER ⚡ ELECTRIFIED Home & Vehicle Show

Saturday, June 28, 2025 | 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Crawford Hall at Graham Park in Rochester

We're proud to partner with Rochester Electrified on this event and look forward to seeing you there!



More detailed information about
the event can be found at
www.rochesterelectrified.com
or by scanning the QR code here.



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.

(800) 214-2694