



THE ENERGY CONSERVATION & OPTIMIZATION ACT PASSES THE LEGISLATURE



AFTER NEARLY FOUR YEARS of work, the Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act (HF164/SF 227) has passed the legislature and was signed by Governor Walz on May 25.

The Act modernizes the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) that mandated annual conservation goals for all utilities, including PEC. Mandates that required annual energy savings equivalent to 1.5 percent of gross annual retail energy sales plus required utilities to invest 1.5 percent of gross operating revenue in the establishment and marketing of energy conservation programs.

For instance, the amount we spend on load management programs (including labor) counts towards this spending goal. CIP has achieved success through widespread adoption of electricity saving measures, but as it was, the CIP program was unsustainable and out of date.

Some of the revisions to the ECO Act include changes in the annual 1.5 percent reduction of retail energy sales. Current law requires 1.0 percent of those savings come from implementing traditional conservation measures, termed "energy conservation improvements." Under the ECO Act, that number is now down to 0.95 percent for cooperatives and the rest of the goal (0.55 percent) can be met using current measures, but also by a new source of energy savings, such as the use of efficient fuel-switching improvements. The required investment of 1.5 percent of gross operating revenue for energy conservation improvements annually has been eliminated. Cooperatives now have three years to reach their energy conservation improvement goals.

Another high point is cooperatives will see no change in their low-income requirements and up to 15 percent of spending on low-income programs may now fund pre-weatherization measures, such as repairing a broken window or leaky roof, which provides additional flexibility for cooperatives, such as People's.

This is by far the most significant reform to the State's energy efficiency standards since they were implemented in 2007. Cooperatives avoided moving backward in any respect through this reform and achieved some important steps forward that will help reduce costs and carbon footprints. With the changes implemented under the ECO Act, People's will have more regulatory flexibility and financial savings!

inside:

04. High School Scholarship Winners, 2021

07. What Home Security System Is Right For You?

09. Green Energy Efforts Spotlight: Wescott Orchard

11. Help Prevent Electric Shock Drowning

CEO MESSAGE

FROM MICHAEL J. HENKE, PRESIDENT & CEO



Michael J. Henke

mhenke@peoplesenergy.coop

The 2021 regular legislative session adjourned May 17. Although the pandemic affected Minnesota lawmakers' priorities and how they conducted legislative business, it didn't deter our advocacy for and the advancement of our top state legislative priority for 2021.

The most exciting development was the Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act passed its final hurdle on the last day of session. This was our key legislative issue for 2021. We are thrilled to finally see it move forward.

The ECO Act will expand Minnesota's nation-leading Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) beyond just energy efficiency. Some of the updates include, but are not limited to, eliminating the energy conservation spending requirement, allowing for plans to be submitted to cover three years versus only one, enhancing efforts to address low-income needs, and expanding to include beneficial electrification. To learn more about the ECO Act and its benefits to the Cooperative and our members, check out this month's cover article.

Legislation related to load control receivers (HF 215 / SF 181) that addressed a clarification on the need for permits and inspections when maintenance is performed on load management equipment did not move forward this year despite having a hearing in the Senate. Therefore, our statewide association, Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) will be working with the Governor and the Department of Labor to try and get an administrative fix. Load management equipment enables us to partner

with members to reduce demand for electricity during peak usage times. This helps to control consumer costs, reduce carbon emissions, and is an important component of conservation improvement efforts that help achieve the objectives of the State's Conservation Improvement Program. This, in turn, helps keep our grid reliable and electricity affordable for our members.

Our final statewide initiative, Broadband (HF 686), focused on continued efforts toward deploying broadband to rural areas and closing the gap between rural and urban accessibility to reliable, high-speed broadband technology. As a review, the bill would allow electric cooperatives to use their existing electrical easements for the purpose of deploying broadband and help expand internet access across rural Minnesota. It also would provide due process for landowners. Our Cooperative has no plans to invest in broadband, however we do recognize its importance to our membership, and therefore we support any legislation that removes barriers to access. We are hoping this provision will be included in the overall final Commerce/Energy Bill.

As you can see, it was an incredibly active session where we worked to engage legislatively and advocate on behalf of you, our members. We will continue to do so next session!

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



ARE YOU ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

We are! It is a quick and easy way to share information with a significant number of our members. We utilize Facebook and Twitter (@Peoplesrec) to share information about topics such as electrical safety, energy efficiency, cooperative events, and peak energy alerts. We also provide members information when major outages occur.

MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

highline

Vol. 85 • Issue 06

PEC's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on May 25. During the meeting, the following items were discussed: *the handling of an automated calling issue on April 30 which impacted members; continued strong financial results and reliability metrics; Heartland Security Services named a new CEO effective July 1; the passing of the Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act; Dairyland's resource diversification; a review of Articles 1 through 3 of the Bylaws; training on identity theft prevention to protect member privacy; a report on our IT security measures; 69 kV transmission line review; and Dairyland Annual Meeting logistics.*

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

- ▶ **Approved the application of a 1.4140 mill power cost adjustment for May usage billed in June.**
- ▶ **Accepted the updated cost of service and rate study.**
- ▶ **Approved the updated five-year rate plan.**

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

DISTRICT 2:
Jodie Tvedt

DISTRICT 3:
Robert Hoefs

DISTRICT 4:
Tracy Lauritzen,
Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 5:
Jerry Wooner,
Board Chair

DISTRICT 6:
Art Friedrich
Vice Chair

DISTRICT 7:
Jeff Orth

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

GENERAL INFO

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

Telephone: 507-367-7000

Toll-Free: 800-214-2694

Web Address:
www.peoplesenergy.coop

Gopher State One Call:
1-800-252-1166
(digging & line location)

ask us!

QUESTION: "Is there any money set aside for the disposal of solar panels at the end of their usefulness, or will that be addressed at the time of disposal?" – *Curtis Kueker*

ANSWER: While solar panels have finite lifespans and are difficult and expensive to recycle, there are multiple states implementing solar waste regulations including Arizona, California, North Carolina, and Texas.

Minnesota is not far behind in terms of plans to recycle solar panels. People's Energy Cooperative is staying attune to future solar panel waste legislation, proven innovative solutions for disposal, and is open to collaboration with other electric utilities to potentially make disposal and/or recycling of end-of-life panels more cost effective and safe for the environment.

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE COOPERATIVE?

Email memberrelations@peoplesenergy.coop or message us on Facebook. Your question may be highlighted online and in the next newsletter!

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: THANK YOU TYLER!

Congratulations to our Staking Engineer **Tyler Larsen** for 10 years of service at People's Energy Cooperative!



Tyler

OUR 2021 HIGH SCHOOL Scholarship Winners!

WE ARE HONORED TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO 32 graduating high school seniors whose parents or guardians are members of the Cooperative, including one \$2,000 scholarship to a senior who will be pursuing an education to become a lineworker. Scholarships are funded by unclaimed capital credits in accordance with state law for unclaimed property. Recipients were chosen by a volunteer member committee that based its decisions on the following: involvement in community, responses to application questions, and completeness of the application. HERE'S TO A BRIGHT AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE, CLASS OF 2021!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR 2021 GRADUATES!

\$2,000 Recipient:

- **Carter Wallerich**
Lake City – Lincoln

\$1,000 Recipients:

- **Malia Becker**
Plainview Elgin Millville
- **Gabriel Bungum**
Kasson-Mantorville
- **Saydie Clark**
Plainview Elgin Millville
- **Kyra Courson**
Dover-Eyota
- **Autumn Danielsen**
Rochester – Century
- **Eve Danielsen**
Rochester – Century
- **Cael Degener**
St. Croix Lutheran Academy
- **Madison Flickinger**
Kasson-Mantorville
- **Brady Folkert**
Plainview Elgin Millville

- **Benjamin Fretland**
Chatfield

- **Connor Fruth**
Grand Meadow

- **William James Fulton**
Homeschool/PSEO at RCTC

- **Olivia Funke**
Lake City – Lincoln

- **Lydia Gillis**
Kasson-Mantorville

- **Grace Gora**
Homeschool/PSEO at RCTC

- **Kaylee Hutchison**
Plainview Elgin Millville

- **Alyssa Jones**
Stewartville

- **Breya Kobs**
Chatfield

- **Jade Krenik**
St. Charles

- **Katie Lambrecht**
Byron

- **Katelyn McClellan**
Stewartville

- **Morgan Meyer**
Plainview Elgin Millville

- **Miah Mikel**
Stewartville

- **Evan Oehlke**
Grand Meadow

- **Cooper Reed**
Stewartville

- **Greta Springer**
Plainview Elgin Millville

- **Kendra Stevens**
Rochester – Mayo

- **Ethan Warmkagathje**
St. Charles

- **Elizabeth Willenborg**
Stewartville

- **Lexy Williams**
Dover-Eyota

- **Mitch Wozney**
Plainview Elgin Millville

Congrats Grads!

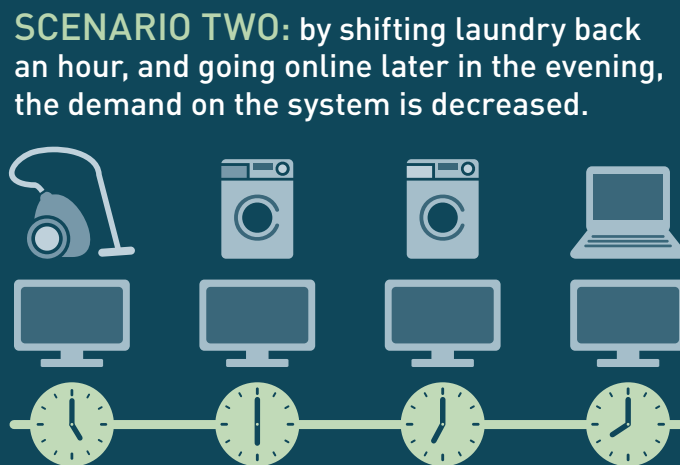
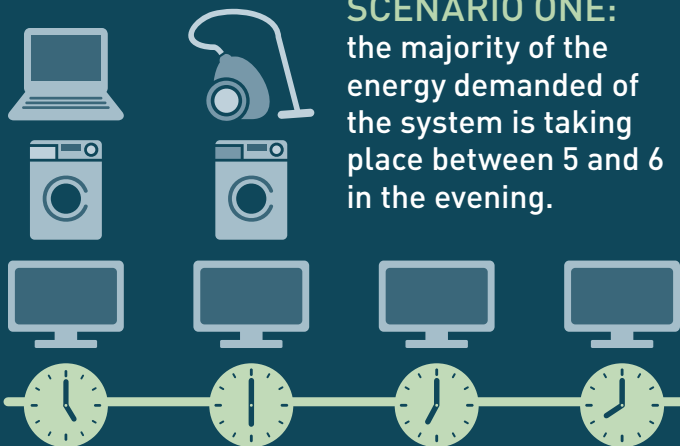
POWER DOWN

for energy conservation

IT IS NOT UNCOMMON

for most people to need a lot of energy around 5 pm when they get home from work. Many people will arrive home, turn on the TV, start a load of laundry, go online, or even vacuum before dinner.

By ordering your evening tasks this way, you demand a lot of energy right at 5 pm. If you move your first load of laundry back one hour and wait until after dinner to log onto your computer, the demand you are putting on the system at a given time decreases. The two scenarios below show just how easy shifting our habits can be. Thirty-one thousand eight hundred seventy-five.



WHEN WE CHANGE OUR HABITS, WE CAN LOWER THE DEMAND we place on the regional electric grid. This reduces our need for additional power plants and helps the Cooperative better control electricity costs.

POWER DOWN IS A PROGRAM that gives members the chance to voluntarily reduce their electric usage during times of peak energy demand. It's as easy as 1 - 2 - 3 to participate. Visit peoplesenergy.coop/power-down-voluntary-load-reduction to get started.

1. SIGN UP TO RECEIVE POWER DOWN alerts through *SmartHub*, our free online account management tool.
2. WHEN YOU RECEIVE A PEAK ENERGY ALERT, voluntarily reduce your energy use however able.
3. WHEN THE PEAK ENERGY ALERT IS OVER, resume your normal energy use.



PreK On My Way Curriculum

This summer, Kasson-Mantorville (K-M) Community Education will again provide academic programming in order to ensure students are Kindergarten ready this coming fall. Through the Operation Round Up program, People's Energy Cooperative awarded K-M Community Education a \$1,875 grant to purchase specialized curriculum for summer preschool students.

"Operation Round Up funds help so many of our projects that we just don't have the budget for," says K-M Community Education Recreation Coordinator Katie Schroden. "Especially since COVID hit, we've been very tight with what we can do. This grant will allow us to get extra curriculum and an iPad to help bridge the gap between what is happening in the classroom and at home."

The PreK On My Way curriculum purchased with the grant helps build language, literacy, and math skills, as well as growing students' social-emotional capacity. This will better prepare the students for entering Kindergarten in the fall.

According to Schroden, there are already 15 kids enrolled in the summer preschool program. "We are looking to max out this section of summer preschool at 20. If there is more interest, we will open another section of summer preschool," she says. "Most of the kids signed up right now have special needs and really need this additional help to move to Kindergarten."

She mentions how difficult COVID-19 has been for some of these young students. It can be very challenging for preschoolers to do distance learning because of their

shorter attention spans. These kids have not only been impacted academically, but socially and emotionally as well. The PreK On My Way curriculum and iPad will be useful for helping summer preschool students catch up to their peers and will continue to benefit students in the years to come. Nine thousand sixty-two.

"I can't stress enough how much value these Operation Round Up grant funds will bring to our programs. We are so thankful for this support. It might not seem like a big thing, a couple of cents a month, but it's making a big difference here for our kids, their families, and our staff." – Katie Schroden, K-M Community Education Recreation Coordinator



OPERATION ROUND UP FUNDS are collected from members who voluntarily have their monthly bill rounded up to the next dollar. Over 17,000 members participate with the average donation of \$6.00 a year per member which equates to about \$100,000 in grant dollars per year. The funds are held separately from the PEC operating accounts and are administered through the Board of Trustees comprised of seven PEC member volunteers. Applications for funding are considered by the ORU Board on a quarterly basis. 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.



What Home Security System Is Right For You?

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT HEARTLAND SECURITY

As a homeowner, you've probably thought about the best ways to protect your home. You might even have considered or purchased a security system or cameras. But how do you know what system or cameras are right for you? There are so many options, from do-it-yourself (DIY) kits to professionally installed systems.

However, being a co-op member gives you an advantage! People's Energy Cooperative co-owns Heartland Security, a local professionally installed and monitored security system and camera company. Here's why getting a new camera system can help you see things more clearly:

Heartland Security is an authorized Alarm.com dealer, which means they use reliable and tested equipment from Alarm.com. Their cameras use what's known as video analytics. This means their cameras can tell the difference between important events (such as someone coming to your door) and other activity (such as an animal running through the yard). Then, based on your preferences, you'll receive alerts only for the things you want to see, versus getting notified about every leaf that blows through your yard.

Alarm.com "smart" cameras let you create "tripwire" alerts to show people using specific

pathways, like driveways, sidewalks, or gates, while "ground zone" alerts are best for observing specific areas where activity is important but unpredictable, like porches or backyards.

Each Alarm.com smart camera can support up to three rules: tripwire, ground zone, or both. You can also program your lights with each rule so that when an area is tripped, the lights automatically turn on.

Using the "tripwire" and "ground zone" rules, you can customize your alerts. For example, create a "tripwire" across your driveway and add on that the outside lights will turn on when the tripwire is triggered. Then, pick "Person" and "Vehicle" while ignoring "Animal" and you and your guests will get a bright welcome while animals get to stay in the dark.

Regional Sales Manager Tom Vega will come to your home or business and work with you to create a personalized security solution to meet your needs. A professional alarm technician will install your equipment and make sure you know how to use it and get notifications. If you have questions, Heartland Security technicians are just a phone call away.

For a free security analysis, please call 888-264-6380 or visit Heartland Security online at www.heartlandss.com.

WITH ALARM.COM'S VIDEO ANALYTICS, YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHING THAT MATTERS:

- ▶ **CARS:** Know when a car enters your driveway or stops outside your home, but not every time a vehicle drives by.
- ▶ **INTRUDERS:** Focus on people and ignore animals, as well as set up rules to turn lights on when a zone is triggered.
- ▶ **VISITORS:** Alarm.com's Touchless Video Doorbell uses video analytics to alert you automatically to visitors, whether or not they press the doorbell button.
- ▶ **PETS:** Know if your dog jumps up on the couch while you're away.





Economic DEVELOPMENT FOCUS:

Business Retention & Expansion Survey

In order to identify opportunities to help local businesses grow, as well as obstacles that may prevent them from growing or putting them at risk of leaving the area, PEC is developing a Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) survey.

The Cooperative is partnering with the University of Minnesota Extension Service Community Development team to conduct the survey across PEC's service area this summer and fall. The survey will include questions about electrical service and the general needs of doing business.

"We will target a diverse sample of businesses but invite all businesses to reach out if they want to have a chance to provide input," explains Marty Walsh, PEC's economic development and key accounts manager. "Existing businesses represent the core of our job opportunities and community property tax base. It's important for us, as an electric cooperative, to have quality electric loads that help us control costs and maintain superior service."

In preparation, People's Energy Cooperative is reaching out to local economic development organizations to recruit volunteers to help complete the in-depth surveys. Volunteer training will run through July, with surveys conducted in the late summer. Twenty-seven thousand nine hundred sixty-three.

"The University of Minnesota Extension Service Community Development team will analyze the results of the survey and provide us with a summary," says Walsh. "The team will also help plan action items that we will announce in the fall."

The Cooperative plans to share information gathered from the survey with local cities and other important community partners. Area businesses interested in participating in the Business Retention and Expansion survey should contact the Cooperative at 800-214-2694 or 507-367-7000.



YOU BOUGHT AN EV... NOW WHAT?

Your new electric vehicle (*EV*) is sitting on your driveway and you're figuring out how to live with a plug-in car. We have two suggestions to make charging your electric vehicle as easy as possible:

- ▶ **GET A LEVEL 2 CHARGING STATION AT YOUR HOME**
New electric vehicles typically do not come with fast chargers. A level 2 charger will charge your car more quickly and be safer than trailing a cable across your garage floor to the nearest outlet. Don't forget, we have rebates and charging rates for these!
- ▶ **SIGN UP TO A CHARGING NETWORK (OR SEVERAL)**
Networks like **CHARGE EV** allow members to ease range anxiety when they head north for the weekend. It ensures you always have access to a charging station when you are far from home.

CHARGETM
POWERED BY CO-OPS



Wescott Orchard

SETS SIGNIFICANT SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

“Responsible energy sourcing is important to Honeybear Brands, as we want to ensure that we can produce high-quality eating apples for years to come. That means taking care of the land where those apples are grown,” says Honeybear Brands Sustainability Program Manager Sarah Wescott.

This priority of responsible energy sourcing is evident in the sustainability push currently underway at Wescott Orchard – an Elgin, MN based orchard that grows and sells regional varieties of apples. Wescott Orchard serves as the centerpiece of a national and international group of growers under the sister company Honeybear Brands.

To support Wescott Orchard with its sustainability efforts, People’s Energy Cooperative (PEC) recently helped the orchard enroll in the Evergreen for Business Program. This voluntary green-power program is available to electric cooperative member businesses and government entities within Dairyland Power Cooperative’s four-state service territory.

“We chose to enroll in the Evergreen for Business Program as it offered the most cost-effective and efficient way for us to transition to renewables,” Wescott explains. “With just a small yearly increase in our energy bill, we could feel good about sourcing our power from locally available and renewable sources like wind and solar.”

One of the company’s newly created sustainability goals aims to transition all facilities to renewably sourced energy by 2025, with a hope to reach carbon neutrality by 2040. The Evergreen for Business Program puts them closer to this goal, while supporting a positive shift in the local energy infrastructure.

“The best part is we were able to do this at a price that worked for our business,” Wescott continues. “Moreover, enrollment in the program was simple and seamless. We had a short visit with Marty Walsh

(PEC’s economic development and key accounts manager) which gave us the opportunity to talk through all of our questions. Then, with one quick form, we were well on our way to cleaner energy sourcing. We would highly recommend that other businesses join the Evergreen program. This program has made achieving our goals far easier than expected!”

2020 SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- ▶ **TRANSITIONING** the Elgin and Lake City facilities to renewably sourced electricity.
- ▶ **HAVING THE ELGIN AND LAKE CITY** facilities audited for energy efficiency.
- ▶ **PILOTING PLASTIC-FREE** packaging.
- ▶ **CREATING THE ADOPT-AN-ACRE** Pollinator program in collaboration with CUB Foods.
- ▶ **REVIEWING FOOD LOSS DATA** and finding that less than 2 percent of fruit is lost within their supply chain.



suds+savings

10 WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM – *By Abby Berry*

YOUR CLOTHES WASHER AND DRYER account for a significant portion of energy consumption from major appliances, and let's face it – laundry is no one's favorite chore. Make the most of your laundry energy use! There are several easy ways you can save energy (*and money*) in the laundry room. The Department of Energy recommends the following tips for saving on suds:

▶ **WASH WITH COLD WATER.** *Switching from warm water to cold water can cut one load's energy use by more than half. By using a cold-water detergent, you can still achieve that brilliant clean you'd normally get from washing in warm water.*

▶ **WASH FULL LOADS WHEN POSSIBLE.** *Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up if you can.*

▶ **USE THE HIGH-SPEED** or extended spin cycle in the washer. *This setting will remove more moisture before drying, reducing your drying time and the extra wear on clothing.*

▶ **DRY HEAVIER COTTONS SEPARATELY.** *Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.*

▶ **MAKE USE OF THE "COOL DOWN" CYCLE.** *If your dryer has this cycle option, you can save energy because the clothes will finish drying with the remaining heat in the dryer.*

▶ **USE LOWER HEAT SETTINGS** to dry clothing. *Regardless of drying time, you'll still use less energy.*

▶ **USE DRYER BALLS.** *Dryer balls, usually wool or rubber, will help keep clothes separated for faster drying. They also help reduce static, so you can eliminate dryer sheets.*

▶ **SWITCH LOADS WHILE THE DRYER IS WARM.** *This allows you to take advantage of the remaining heat from the previous cycle.*

▶ **CLEAN THE LINT FILTER** after each drying cycle. *If you use dryer sheets, remember to scrub the filter once a month with a toothbrush to remove excess buildup.*

▶ **PURCHASE ENERGY STAR®-rated washers and dryers.** *When it's time to purchase a new washer or dryer, look for the ENERGY STAR® label. New washers and dryers that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating use about 20% less energy than conventional models.*

To learn about additional ways you can save energy at home, visit [peoplesenergy.coop/home-energy-savings](https://www.peoplesenergy.coop/home-energy-savings).



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.



help prevent

ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING.

A dip in the pool is a refreshing way to cool off on a hot summer day. However, a little-known electrical hazard can darken even the sunniest afternoon.

Electrical equipment in or near the pool should be checked to ensure electricity is not travelling outside of the intended circuit. If it is, it could leak into the water and create an electric shock drowning (ESD) hazard. Safe Electricity wants to help raise awareness of ESD and shares the warning signs and safety tips for those enjoying water recreation activities this summer.

ESD occurs when electric current is present in water and passes through the body of someone in that water. A swimmer who encounters electric current in the water experiences muscle paralysis, which leaves the individual unable to swim to safety. “The threat is greatest in freshwater rivers, lakes, and pools where there is electrical equipment nearby that is plugged into shore power,” explains Matt Eisenmenger, Safe Electricity Advisory Board member. “ESD is a particularly dangerous hazard because it’s impossible to tell by sight if the water is energized.”

If you are in the water and feel an electric current, which can cause a tingling sensation, shout to let others know, try to stay upright, tuck your legs up to make yourself smaller, and swim away from anything that could be energized. Do not use a metal ladder to exit the water. Twenty-nine thousand six hundred twenty.

Resist the urge to jump in the water to help someone who you suspect may be experiencing an electrical shock. Throw them a float and try to eliminate the source of electricity as quickly as possible. Have someone call 911. It is not safe to jump in the pool to save the person in distress because you will also suffer an electrical shock and be unable to help anyone.

Remember, water and electricity are a dangerous mix—even outside the pool. Never touch any electrical appliances or outlets when you are wet or standing in water. It is also important to conduct safety checks and take safety precautions around boats and docks. Outdated wiring and a lack of proper safety equipment on boats and docks can cause situations in which electricity “leaks” into the water and causes ESD hazards. Safe Electricity recommends that individuals do not swim around docks with electrical equipment or boats plugged into shore power.

If you own a boat and/or dock make sure it has proper safety equipment and complies with applicable standards and codes. Have boat and dock electrical systems checked at least once a year. All electrical installations should be performed by a professional electrical contractor familiar with marine codes and standards.

“In preventing ESD, awareness is the first step,” adds Eisenmenger. “Be sure to share information about ESD to help keep loved ones safe.”

For more information, visit SafeElectricity.org.



People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

HIGHLINE HI-LITES • June 2021 • Vol. 85 • Issue 06

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!

A REMINDER ABOUT OUR VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Throughout the year, PEC works with tree contractors to help us execute our vegetation management program for line maintenance. Part of that includes spraying an herbicide application which helps slow the growth in areas that have already been trimmed. Members affected by the herbicide application will be notified via postcard in advance of the work being completed. In July, **Carr's Tree Service** will be working in Rock Dell township. Also, during this time, **New Age Tree Service** will be working in West Albany and Oakwood townships.

Our vegetation management policy is available on our website by visiting peoplesenergy.coop/vegetation-management. If you have questions regarding the work being done, call the Cooperative at 800-214-2694.



For more info, email memberservices@peoplesenergy.coop or call 800-214-2694 to speak to one of our member services representatives.

THE MYCHOICE PREPAY PROGRAM is a flexible payment option that allows you, as a member, to prepay your electric account; eliminating set due dates, deposits, late fees, and reconnect fees.

Happy 4th of July!

We will be closed Monday, July 5th to observe Independence Day. Please call 800-214-2694 if you have an outage or electrical emergency.

Please Celebrate Safely!