

MiNNews

CEO explains the why behind energy management and alerts



**Need a water heater?
Check out what the co-op offers**

**Local business receives \$75,000
economic development loan**





Energy management, peak alerts and max generation alerts

For over 30 years, your electric cooperative has been a leader in providing energy management programs. We encourage our members to make energy-efficient decisions on purchasing new appliances and encourage participation in our off-peak programs that save our members money.

In 2023, MiEnergy Cooperative paid over \$446,000 in rebates to members who installed new energy-efficient electric water heaters, heat pumps, lighting and ENERGY STAR appliances.

PEAK ENERGY ALERTS

During the winter months, you may have noticed messages on local television stations, radio or social media from MiEnergy regarding "peak alerts." It is another energy management practice we have been implementing for decades. A peak energy alert indicates that the regional grid's electricity demand is predicted to be high. They usually occur on the coldest days of the winter and the hottest days of the summer, but not always. While electric demand may be higher than usual on these days, sufficient electric generation is still available.

MiEnergy and our power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, use peak alert messages to shave our peak demand and lower wholesale power costs. Members using less electricity during high-demand periods help keep electric rates affordable.

Just like our members, every month MiEnergy Cooperative receives a power bill. Our power bills come from Dairyland Power Cooperative and include:

- All of our members' kilowatt-hour use.
- Our substation costs.
- Transmission demand fees for the delivery of electricity to our 43 substations.

The monthly transmission fee is based on our highest kilowatt demand for the month and our seasonal peak demand. Communicating a peak energy alert to our membership and having members voluntarily reduce their electric use during these periods helps save our cooperative money on wholesale power costs.

During winter, peak alerts can be for morning, evening or both. Members enrolled in energy management programs for dual fuel/interruptible heat have their heating system managed from approximately 7 a.m. - 11 a.m. Members enrolled in the cooperative's dairy water heater and grain dryer programs will see systems managed from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Members can conserve electricity by lowering the thermostat on their electric heating systems to at least 68 degrees, running the dishwasher or doing laundry outside the conservation timeframes, and using a microwave instead of the oven for cooking. Each seemingly small action can collectively make a big difference in lowering our system demand peaks.

MAXIMUM GENERATION ALERTS

A maximum generation alert is much different than a peak alert. Maximum generation (Max Gen) alerts are called by the regional grid operator, which in our case is MISO (Midwest Independent System Operator), and are only implemented when there is a reliability concern and a risk of insufficient generation resources to power our members. Members reducing electricity use during a Max Gen event is crucial to our regional utility grid.

There has been a lot of discussion in the media on regional grid reliability with the closing of baseload generation resources (coal/natural gas/nuclear) and replacing them with intermittent generation resources (wind/solar). As I have stated before, MiEnergy Cooperative's objective is to maintain reliability, affordability and sustainability. While we support adding intermittent resources, we need the reliability of baseload or peaking plant resources.

In recent months, there has been a lot of serious discussion from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, MISO and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation concerning reliability assessments for sufficient operating reserves to replace baseload generation with intermittent resources.

— CEO Message cont. on Pg. 3

BEST BETS FOR Winter Savings

Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

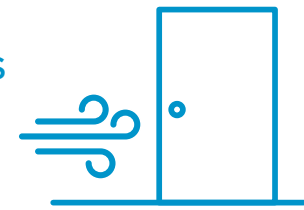
UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE



Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.

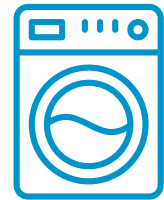
ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS

Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.



USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER

Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.

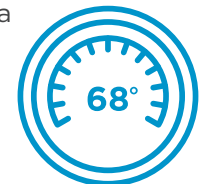


MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT

Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.

LOWER THE THERMOSTAT

Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).



CEO Message cont. from Pg. 2

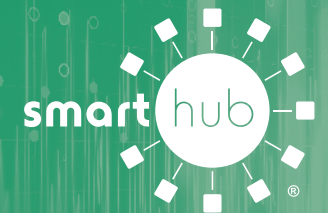
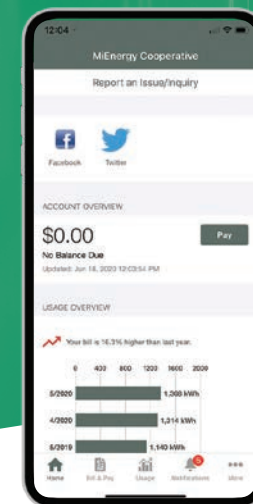
Unfortunately, our recent peak energy alert messages have been misinterpreted as Max Gen events. Again, peak alerts are implemented to reduce wholesale power costs, and Max Gen events are regional grid reliability warnings.

While MiEnergy is a leader in embracing solar energy through power purchase agreements and member-owned distributed generation, energy management programs and peak alert communications remain important in managing electricity demand and costs.

We understand, as your local electricity provider, that we must act wisely to maintain reliability and affordability to attain our sustainability goals.

Thanks for your cooperative support. As always, I welcome your calls, emails and personal visits.

AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS



Experience the convenience of securely automating your monthly bill.



Visit www.MiEnergy.coop/smarthub-info for more information!

Board room highlights | Jan. 30, 2024

- Received a favorable financial report for December and year-end.
- Reviewed the report from the nominating committee regarding the district 2 and 3 director elections.
- Approved the 2024 operating budget that included no adjustment in the cooperative's retail rates for 2024.
- Reviewed and approved the 2024 safety committee goals and objectives.

The next board meeting will be held at the Cresco office on February 29 at 9 a.m.

The smart energy choice

ELECTRIC-POWERED WATER HEATERS

If you've been a co-op member for a while, you likely know that MiEnergy has been selling electric water heaters for decades. Member surveys show that 69% of our members see the co-op as their go-to resource for electric water heaters.

The life expectancy of an electric water heater is 10-15 years and 8-12 years for gas. If you have one nearing the end of its lifespan, now is a great time to learn more about MiEnergy's water heaters.

One great perk is that members building a new home can get a water heater from MiEnergy for free. For members replacing a water heater or swapping out a gas model for an electric one, the co-op has great discounts on the water heaters it has in stock. The co-op also offers a free lifetime tank warranty and free service, parts, and labor during regular business hours with the purchase, making MiEnergy your one-stop shop for purchasing and maintaining your electric water heater.

MiEnergy's 85 and 105-gallon water heaters are better insulated to make sure you have all the water you want hot until you need it.

As a bonus, when combined with MiEnergy's energy management program (all water heaters sold by the co-op must be on a program), the water heater runs like a smart appliance. It provides stability and efficiency to the power grid by heating water when the electricity demand is low and storing it for later use. The water heater is wired to a device that is pre-programmed, and you don't have to do anything but enjoy hot water.

Whether you need a water heater for a brand-new home or to replace an electric or gas model, call the energy experts at MiEnergy today or visit our website at www.MiEnergy.coop.



ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS 101

Energy management programs, also known as load control, help balance supply and demand. It consists of interrupting electric water heaters, electric heat systems, air conditioners, irrigation pumps, grain drying systems and business operations during critical times. It reduces electricity demand during peak use hours and in turn helps keep electric rates affordable.

Dairyland Power Cooperative, MiEnergy's wholesale power supplier, operates a network of radio transmitters which send out signals to interrupt power to devices that are part of the cooperative's energy management programs. These signals are received by a special receiver installed at a member's home or business.

Rather than starting up a power plant for a short period of time or purchasing more expensive power from the market, electrical demand is reduced by "snoozing" the devices of members who participate in MiEnergy's energy management programs.

Members can check the status of energy management 24/7 by calling 877-437-6130 or clicking on Load Control Status at www.MiEnergy.coop.



Online Resources

- PAY YOUR BILL
- VIEW ENERGY USE
- SEE CURRENT OUTAGES
- TIPS FOR SAVING ENERGY
- WAYS TO STAY SAFE
- LATEST NEWS

Discover more at www.MiEnergy.coop



DON'T CUT CORNERS

USE POWER TOOLS SAFELY



Use extra care when operating power tools. Dangerous scenarios that can cause serious injury or death include:

- Having incorrect or insufficient electrical wiring
- Using equipment or cords in disrepair
- Misusing electrical tools

IF USING EXTENSION CORDS:

- Do not daisy-chain them together
- Use heavy-duty cords rated for the job
- Use them as a temporary solution

POWER TOOL SAFETY:

BEFORE USING THEM:

- Wear proper personal protective equipment
- Examine cords and plugs for signs of damage
- Read the instruction manual
- Hire a licensed contractor to ground a metal workbench
- Make sure the area is clean and dry
- Store flammable liquids away from work area

WHEN USING THEM:

- Plug into outlets equipped with GFCIs (ground fault circuit interrupters)
- Operate as intended and within design limitations
- Do not use in damp or wet locations
- Unplug before changing accessories or blades
- Do not hold fingers on switch button while carrying
- Keep a steady stance and maintain good balance
- Do not remove safety guards
- Keep cords and hoses away from heat, oil, and sharp edges

AFTER USING THEM:

- Unplug before servicing or cleaning
- Unplug and store in a dry place

LEARN MORE:



MiRecipes | Family Favorites

Submit your family's favorite recipe for consideration to be printed in the May 2024 newsletter. Deadline is April 12. Send to Meagan at PO Box 90, Cresco, IA 52136 or email: mmoellers@MiEnergy.coop. MiRecipes will be printed quarterly in this publication. If we publish your recipe, you will receive a \$5 credit on your next electric bill. Limit one recipe published per member annually.

SPAM HOT DISH | SUSAN BAIN, LEWISTON

1 can SPAM (cubed) ½ bag frozen peas
1 can cream of mushroom soup ½ bag Chow Mein noodles
1 soup can of water

Preheat oven to to 350°. Mix all ingredients together. Pour into a casserole dish. This will be juicy, but the noodles soak up the moisture. The hardest part of this recipe is getting the SPAM out of the can. Bake for 40 minutes.

MADE OVER DILLS | DALE & DIANE MAKLENBURG, WAUCOMA

1½ c. sugar
½ t. mustard seed
½ t. celery seed
½ c. vinegar

Drain off all liquid from a store bought jar of small dill pickles. Boil all 4 ingredients for 2 minutes then pour over the pickles in the jar. Let sit in refrigerator for 2 weeks. Enjoy!

MICHAELA'S FAVORITE CREAMY CHICKEN PICCATA JILL WALTON, CRESCO [SPOUSE OF MIENERGY EMPLOYEE MIKE WALTON]

2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, butterflied and halved. 1½ t. cornstarch
(1 flatten them until they are 1/2-1/4 inch thick) 2 T. lemon juice
1/3 c. flour 1 T. butter
2 ½ T. olive oil 1/4 c. heavy cream
1 T. minced garlic 2 T. capers
1/4 c. + 1 T. chicken broth Salt and pepper
Parsley

- Whisk together flour with ¼ t. salt and ¼ t. pepper.
- Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat.
- Dredge both sides of the chicken outlet in flour then add to the hot skillet.
- Sear the chicken on both sides until brown; about 4-5 minutes until cooked through. Transfer to a plate and keep warm.
- Add garlic to the pan; sauté until soft.
- Pour in 1 ¼ c. chicken broth and bring to a boil while scraping the bottom of the pan. Simmer and let it reduce by half. About 4-5 minutes.
- Whisk together remaining broth with the cornstarch and pour mixture into the skillet with the lemon juice. Allow to simmer to thicken.
- Stir in butter and pour in cream. Season with salt and pepper.
- Return chicken to skillet pouring sauce over the chicken. Sprinkle with capers and parsley.



1 serve over angel hair pasta with a side of grilled asparagus.



CANTON HEATING & COOLING, LLC – CANTON



MiEnergy was pleased to administer a \$75,000 economic development loan courtesy of USDA's revolving loan fund program to Canton Heating and Cooling, LLC. Owners Bill and Carla Richardson will use the funds to remodel and expand their current office space to create a new clerical office, a new employee training/conference room, update lighting and electrical outlets, convert the current heating system to heat pumps and revamp the load out area/warehouse. Pictured l to r: MiEnergy's VP of Member Services Kent Whitcomb, Carla and Bill Richardson.

Personnel change at the co-op

RETIREMENT

Roger Carman retired from MiEnergy on January 5. He has worked for the cooperative since February 2002 as the mechanic for our fleet of vehicles. Thanks to Roger for his 22 years of service and dedication.



Roger Carman



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OFFICE INFORMATION

Open Monday-Thursday 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday by appointment.
IOWA 24049 Highway 9, PO Box 90, Cresco, IA 52136
MINNESOTA 31110 Cooperative Way, PO Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PHONE NUMBERS

LOCAL 563-547-3801 (Cresco); 507-864-7783 (Rushford)
TOLL-FREE & 24/7 OUTAGE REPORTING 800-432-2285
PAYMENT LINE 24/7 877-853-6517
UNDERGROUND CABLE LOCATING 811

ONLINE

WEBSITE www.MiEnergy.coop
SOCIAL MEDIA Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1 Dennis Ptacek, secretary and Jeff Redalen
DISTRICT 2 Dean Nierling, chair and Ron Stevens, vice chair
DISTRICT 3 Don Petersen, treasurer, Skip Wieser and Dennis Young
DISTRICT 4 Kyle Holthaus and Carl Reicks
DISTRICT 5 Beth Olson and Jenny Scharmer

MANAGEMENT STAFF

BRIAN KRAMBEEER president/chief executive officer
SHELLY HOVE chief financial officer
JILL HUFFMAN broadband chief operating officer
STEVE OIAN vice president of electric operations
VASSIL VUTOV vice president of information technology
MIKE WALTON vice president of engineering and planning
KENT WHITCOMB vice president of member services

MINEWS STAFF

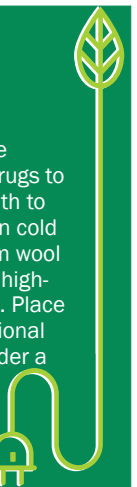
MEAGAN MOELLERS communications specialist, editor
ANNIE HOILAND communications specialist
BRENDA TESCH marketing and communications manager

2024 OFFICES CLOSED

MARCH 26 Employee Development Day
MARCH 29 Good Friday
MAY 27 Memorial Day
JUNE 4 Employee Development Day
JULY 4 Independence Day
SEPTEMBER 24 Employee Development Day
NOVEMBER 28-29 Thanksgiving Holiday
DECEMBER 17 Employee Development Day
DECEMBER 24-25 Christmas Holiday
DECEMBER 31 New Year's Eve, close at 11 a.m.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days. Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier.



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DEADLINES NEARING

COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS

MiEnergy gives scholarships to high school seniors to help them further their education. Applications are due **March 4**.

FREE TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Two area high school students will be selected by MiEnergy to represent the cooperative as delegates on the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour in June 2024. Contest deadline is **March 1**.

DETAILS AVAILABLE AT WWW.MIENERGY.COOP

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Remembering Jeff Henderson

July 19, 1963 - January 16, 2024

Our hearts are deeply saddened by the passing of our friend and coworker Jeff Henderson. Jeff's career with MiEnergy Cooperative and its predecessor Hawkeye Tri-County Electric Cooperative spanned over 35 years. He loved the work he did in providing electricity to our members, day or night, rain or shine, and always with a smile or a joke to share.

The memories of your voice and laughter will continue to fill our hearts long after today.

Lighting accounts for approximately 5-10% of your household energy bill. This amount may not seem like a lot, but it can add up quickly. Energy efficient lighting is easy and results in immediate energy savings to lower your bill.

POTENTIAL SAVINGS

Check out the potential savings you can see by replacing just five of your more frequently used bulbs with energy efficient alternatives.

LIGHTING YOUR HOUSE

TYPE OF BULB	Incandescent (60W)	CFL (13W)	LED (10W)
Approximate Cost	\$2.50 (5 bulbs at \$0.50 each)	\$10.00 (5 bulbs at \$2.00 each)	\$15.00 (5 bulbs at \$3.00 each)
Life Span When Used 3 Hours/Day, 7 Days/Week	~10 months	~9 Years, 1 month	~22 years, 9 months
Number of Bulbs Needed in LED Life Span	125	13	5
Yearly Electricity Cost (11.3¢/kWh)	\$37.12	\$8.04	\$6.19
Lifetime Savings with LED	\$756	\$62	---