

MiNews

April 2022 Vol. 6 Issue 4
A monthly publication for members of
MiEnergy Cooperative.

What you need to know about lineworkers

Families share their
stories of dedication
to members

Carefree
renewable
energy
options

5 questions to ask your home inspector

CONSIDERING AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE?

Pictured is Brooks Lickteig sneaking into his dad's work boots.
His dad, Clint, is a lineworker at MiEnergy. Read comments from
his family along with other MiEnergy families inside this issue in
honor of Lineworker Appreciation Month.

Considering an electric vehicle?

The current gasoline prices at the pump have more and more members thinking about making the switch to an electric vehicle. MiEnergy Cooperative has resources available to assist you with making that decision. We also offer rebates on charging stations and a special off-peak electric rate was launched in 2019 to maximize the value of an electric vehicle (EV).

Unfortunately, buying any type of car or truck is difficult today due to availability, so your biggest challenge may be where to find an EV to buy.

Today, nearly every manufacturer offers an EV option. In addition to the style, comfort, seating and features traditional gasoline vehicles offer, with an EV you will want to specifically check out the range of the battery. They can vary from 100 to over 400 miles on a single charge.

Charging your EV directly relates to the discussion of range. Based on surveys of current EV owners, 80% of the charging will take place at your home. When purchasing an EV, you will likely get a standard level one charger from the dealership that will plug into a standard 120-volt outlet in your garage. The level one charger will provide you 3-5 miles of range per hour, so charging will take considerable time. A level 2 charger requires the installation of a 240-volt circuit that will provide 10-55 miles of range per hour. The level 2 charger is what we believe to be the preferred residential charging choice. Level 3 chargers are designed for fast public charging and are 480-volt three-phase chargers that can provide up to 300 miles of range per half an hour.

MiEnergy is working with local electricians within our service territory in southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa on the distribution, product availability and installation of level 2 chargers for members' homes. It is our intention

to provide a distribution network for our partnering electricians to provide level 2 chargers to members. Rural Electric Supply Cooperative, which MiEnergy is a member of, provides ZEF Energy chargers to CHARGE EV™, which is a cooperative organization comprised of over 50 electric cooperatives across the Midwest that are building a regional EV charging network.

Whitewater Travel Plaza, just off Interstate 90 in St. Charles, installed both a level 2 and level 3 fast charger in 2020. MiEnergy is also developing a local charging network. The cities of Caledonia, Harmony, Houston, Lanesboro, Mabel, Rushford, Spring Grove and St. Charles have all accepted a level 2 charger from MiEnergy and will be installing them this summer. MiEnergy also has level 2 chargers installed at its offices in Cresco and Rushford.

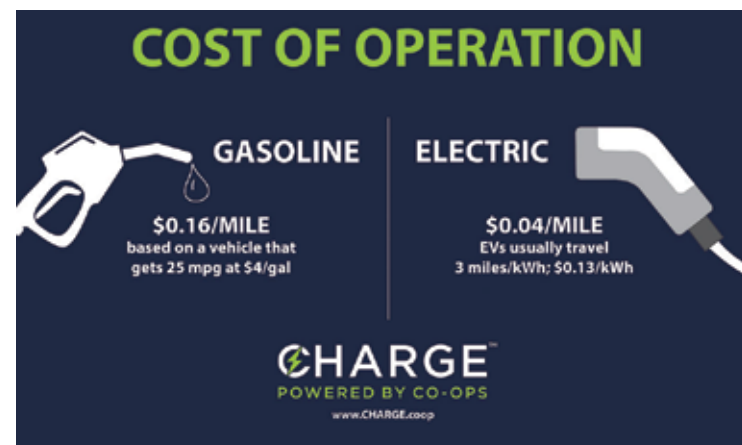
MiEnergy's rate for home charging is 4.9¢ per kWh from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. The electric rate is equivalent to purchasing gasoline at 37¢ per gallon. If you get 25 miles per gallon of gas, the equivalent is 7.5 kWh.

Electric vehicle choices are growing daily. There are currently 40 vehicles with plugs available in the United States. Tesla, Mustang Mach E, Volkswagen ID.4, Nissan Ariya and the Kia EV6 (robot puppy not included) are all being aggressively promoted, along with the Ford Lightning and Electric Silverado. The VW ID Buzz is also going to be available in 2023. By 2024, more than 120 EVs are expected to be available.

I recommend that you take the time to educate yourself when considering an EV to make sure you are satisfied with the vehicle decision you make, and we welcome the opportunity to talk more about chargers and electric rate options.



Visit www.mienergy.coop/electric-vehicle-charging for resources on electric vehicles.



Board room highlights | March 31, 2022

- CFO Hove provided a favorable financial report for February.
- Compliance and Training Coordinator Brad Pecinovsky gave a quarterly report.
- Approved \$3,226,162 for the 2021 margin allocations.
- Approved the filing of annual reports for the Iowa Utility Board and State of Minnesota for distributed generation.
- Approved Resolution 22-02 authorizing that an application to the USDA loan and grant programs be submitted for the Northeast Iowa Child Development and Discovery Center.
- Approved Resolution 22-03 authorizing the transfer of funds for a Federal Financing Bank loan.
- Appointed the Credential and Election Committee.
- Recognized Director Fisher for his 31 years of service.
- CEO Krambeer provided subsidiary organization updates.

The next board meeting will be held at the Cresco office on April 28 at 9 a.m.

5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR HOME INSPECTOR

Many factors go into buying a home. For most people, energy efficiency does not top the list, and unfortunately, houses don't typically come with energy efficiency ratings.

It can be difficult to know how efficient a home is, but your home inspector can help you identify potential energy costs and energy-efficiency upgrades.

There's nothing wrong with buying an inefficient home, but you will want to know what you're getting into and that you can afford the energy costs once you get the keys.

Here are five questions to ask your home inspector:

1 WHAT IS THE CONDITION OF THE ELECTRICAL PANEL AND WIRING THROUGHOUT THE HOME?

A panel upgrade or rewiring can be a costly endeavor. An older panel and wiring aren't inefficient, but it can make some energy-efficiency projects more expensive. For example, wiring may need to be replaced before insulation can be added.

Make sure the panel can accommodate any new appliances you might want to add, such as air conditioning or an electric vehicle charger.

2 HOW OLD IS THE HVAC SYSTEM AND HOW EFFICIENT IS IT? HAS IT BEEN MAINTAINED?

The typical lifespan of an HVAC system is 15 to 25 years. As the largest energy user and often the most expensive equipment in the home, you will want to know the energy, maintenance and replacement costs. If the HVAC system is old, consider the cost for a replacement.

3 HOW OLD IS THE WATER HEATER?

The lifespan of a storage water heater is about 10 years. The cost to replace a water heater ranges from \$400 to \$3,600, depending on the unit type and installation costs. If an older water heater is in a finished space, replace it before it fails and potentially causes water damage. MiEnergy has great rebates on electric water heaters for members.

4 WHAT ARE THE LEVELS AND CONDITIONS OF INSULATION IN THE ATTIC, WALLS AND FLOOR?

Insulation is one of the easiest and most beneficial energy-efficiency upgrades you can make. It isn't as pretty as new countertops, but it can make a home more comfortable, waste less energy and reduce outdoor noise.

To cut down on drafts and make insulation more effective, air seal before insulating. Seal cracks, gaps or holes in the walls, floors, ceiling and framing between heated and unheated spaces.



If your new home needs insulation and air sealing, make this your efficiency priority. The sooner you do it, the more energy you will save over time. Recommended insulation levels vary by location. You can find information about insulation and air sealing at www.energy.gov.

5 ARE THERE ANY EXTRAS IN THIS HOME THAT WILL INCREASE MY UTILITY BILLS?

Any motors in the home or on the property should be assessed, including pumps for wells and septic systems. When it comes to extras, remember life's luxuries aren't free. You will want to be able to afford the cost of operating amenities, such as pools, hot tubs and saunas.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

You can request the home's utility bills for the previous two years from the seller or realtor. Your bill will not be the same due to your personal energy habits, but this information will give you an estimate of the home's energy costs.

Miranda Boutelle is the director of operations and customer engagement at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy efficiency company. She also writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

Capturing carbon

One approach to reducing emissions

Providing reliable, affordable electricity is the top priority for electric cooperatives. Co-ops and other electric utilities continue to incorporate additional energy generated from renewable sources, but until these technologies fully mature, fossil fuels remain a part of our overall generation mix to ensure power reliability.

As the U.S. moves forward with carbon reduction goals, utilities are also looking for ways to offset the carbon that's generated during power production. Capturing carbon emissions at their creation source is one of those approaches.

Carbon capture involves a series of steps that removes carbon dioxide (CO₂) from its original source to prevent it from reaching the Earth's atmosphere. During the capture step, CO₂ is removed either before or after combustion.

Post-combustion capture is the most common method used at existing power



Basin Electric Cooperative's Dry Fork Station in Wyoming is located near a site being developed for a large-scale carbon storage project.

plants. After electricity is generated, the CO₂ is removed from the gas mixture found in a plant's flue.

In pre-combustion capture, the fuel sources are heated with pure oxygen (or steam and oxygen) to release CO₂.

Once captured, the CO₂ is transported to its next destination. Typically, CO₂ moves as compressed gas in pipelines but can also be transported by tanker trucks or ships.

Captured CO₂ can be injected into geological formations or recycled for other uses.

One appeal of carbon capture is the abundance of underground natural storage locations, such as deep aquifers, porous rock and unproductive coal mines. The U.S. Geological Service

estimates the U.S. has the potential to store 3,000 metric gigatons of CO₂, the equivalent of centuries worth of emissions.

Research on how to recycle CO₂ is ongoing, but established uses include using the gas in enhanced oil recovery, growing fish food from lab-grown bacteria that feed on CO₂ and creating carbon-negative concrete or other carbon-based materials.

As promising as carbon capture sounds, the costs and risks limit the technology's ability to be implemented on a larger scale. Post-combustion capture often requires expensive retrofitting of power plants. Pre-combustion capture, while more effective than post-combustion, has been limited due to high costs of equipment and pure oxygen.

In addition to these costs, the processes require a large amount of energy. Transportation of the gas increases in cost for longer distances between the source and destination, making plants located far away from sequestration locations less feasible. Sequestration also carries the concern of CO₂ leaks, which would negate the effort to remove it from the atmosphere.

Despite these hurdles, carbon capture is seen as an important technology in reducing emissions.

In 2015, XPRIZE, a technological development competition, kicked off and aimed to award \$20 million to develop new and emerging technologies that use CO₂. The competition was based on how

— Carbon capture cont. on page 10

Eight cities receive level 2 EV chargers from MiEnergy Cooperative

Article written by Chris Meyer and reprinted with permission from Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs). Meyer is the Southeast CERTs Coordinator for the University of Minnesota's Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships. CERTs' mission is to connect individuals and communities in Minnesota to resources they need to identify and implement community-based clean energy projects.

A 2020 Consumer Reports survey about electric vehicle (EV) ownership indicated that while 70% of Minnesotans are interested in getting an EV, 43% of them said that lack of charging infrastructure was holding them back and another 36% said range anxiety was an issue.

MiEnergy Cooperative has been working to address both problems in their electric service territory across Fillmore, Houston and Winona Counties. In 2021, MiEnergy offered a free commercial level 2 EV charger to each of their 15 municipal customers.

Currently, the Department of Energy's Alternative Fuels Data Center identifies just five public charging stations in those three counties, and the majority of those are in the City of Winona. The adoption of this offer by eight municipalities will more than double the charging options in the region.

The program was part of a larger effort by Dairyland Power and 28 other electric cooperatives to form CHARGE EV, LLC, with a goal of improving the charging network across the upper Midwest. Kent Whitcomb, vice president of member services, shares some of the reasons MiEnergy supports the efforts.

"Assisting with the adoption of EVs, falls under our overall goal of promoting beneficial electrification. Having level 2 chargers in our rural communities can decrease range anxiety, and they can be an economic development tool to help encourage people to visit local businesses because they know a charger is available," said Whitcomb.

According to Whitcomb, implementing a charging network will help MiEnergy research how public charging affects its electrical system. Most people will charge their EV at home. "Home charging provides opportunities for us to provide programs to incentivize charging of vehicles during off-peak use times, like overnight," said Whitcomb. "But public charging happens during the day, during peak energy use hours."



The new company, CHARGE EV, LLC formed for this initiative, bought 5% of ZEF Energy. ZEF, located in Minneapolis, manufactures and sells electric vehicle chargers and has a software platform for the chargers called ZEFNET. This platform has load management software for utility-facing control, as well as a driver-facing application to accept payment. As Whitcomb explains, "Other networks collect customer payment for EV charging with credit



card readers which might be convenient but are much more expensive to implement and support. ZEFNET uses a QR code that a driver can scan with their smart phone and then arrange for payment through the ZEFNET Dashboard app, which is a lot less costly."

Through this partnership the cities of Caledonia, Harmony, Houston, Lanesboro, Mabel, Rushford, Spring Grove and St. Charles will be installing chargers. Each received a free dual-head, pedestal-mounted, level 2 EV charge station, that could charge at 7.7 kW per hour (or adding 20-30 miles range) valued at \$5,139. For an additional cost, they could upgrade to faster chargers adding as much as 45-60 miles per hour. Whitcomb indicated that all of the cities but one upgraded to a faster charger.

The municipality is responsible for siting the charger, paying for installation, and deciding how to handle the cost of electricity. Whitcomb says the ZEFNET payment collection system is available at no charge for 5 years if the municipality wanted to use it to collect payment from the EV drivers. Other billing options were available but would involve additional fees.

Whitcomb says the offer was made to cities in MiEnergy's territory during 2021 and was followed up with in-person visits and presentations to each interested city council. MiEnergy planned to have all orders placed by July of 2021 and installed by the end of 2021. He shares, "Some of our meetings had to be held later and so our timeline changed. There were also some supply chain delays. We now expect final deliveries in March and hope to install in spring of 2022."

One of the cities installing a MiEnergy charger is Houston, Minn. Their installation efforts are supported by a \$2,500 CERTs Seed Grant, which will assist with labor costs. Houston City Clerk Michelle Quinn sees the EV charger as a benefit to the community.

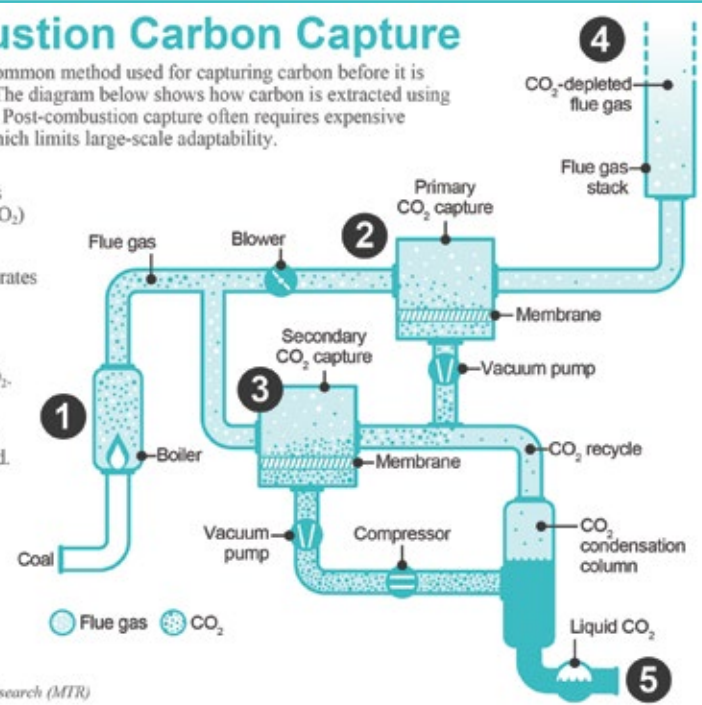
"This project will position our small rural community and show forward thinking to help reduce carbon footprint. It will reduce hesitation for visitors from the Twin Cities Metro, or other large urban areas already embracing EV technology, to utilize their EVs to travel to greater Minnesota, since necessary facilities will be more widely available," said Quinn. Quinn shared that as a result, Houston has chosen to place the charger "within easy walking distance of the Houston Nature Center and International Owl Center."

The ZEF chargers placed through MiEnergy will work with all plug-in vehicles including the Chevy Bolt, Chevy Volt, Tesla Model 3, Nissan Leaf, Kia Soul and Ford C Max. Once installed, you can find their locations on the ZEFNET Network website.

Post-Combustion Carbon Capture

Post-combustion is the most common method used for capturing carbon before it is released into the atmosphere. The diagram below shows how carbon is extracted using membrane system technology. Post-combustion capture often requires expensive retrofitting of power plants, which limits large-scale adaptability.

- 1 Coal combustion creates heat, gases (including CO₂) and particulate.
- 2 Primary membrane separates CO₂ from the flue gas.
- 3 A secondary membrane further separates out CO₂.
- 4 Flue gas, with nearly all CO₂ removed, is released.
- 5 Pure, liquified CO₂ is used to create beneficial products.



Source: Membrane Technology & Research (MTR)

You've likely noticed MiEnergy's crews out working on power lines and other electrical equipment. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

The job requires technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. It takes 7,000 hours of training (or about four years) to become a journeyman. That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, MiEnergy's lineworkers are committed to powering our rural area. Severe weather events can bring major power outages, and lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, in some cases days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. MiEnergy has 30 lineworkers that are responsible for keeping power flowing around the clock, every day. They maintain 5,500 miles of power lines, across nine counties, servicing over 19,000 members. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to rural life. Without their exceptional dedication and commitment, we simply would not have the reliable electricity necessary for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. They are the power behind your power. And remember, there's also a family behind them that is just as dedicated to serving the members of the co-op. Please join us as we recognize them in April, and follow #ThankALineworker on social media.

The Power Behind Your Power I wish people knew this about lineworkers...

IT'S LINEWORKER APPRECIATION MONTH: THE FAMILIES OF LINEWORKERS EMBRACE THEIR LOVED ONES' DEDICATION TO SERVICE TOO

JEFF HENDERSON, JOURNEYMAN, 33 YEARS

"There's a brotherhood among the linemen. They not only watch out for each other, but for their families as well," explains Jeff's wife, Tammy. "And it's a life cycle at the co-op. Jeff is one of the longest employed workers at MiEnergy now, but I remember when he first started at the co-op. The elders took him under their wing. Now it's his turn. That brotherhood runs deep. It even applies to when his three sons who each got a chance to be employed at Hawkeye REC [MiEnergy's predecessor] as summer help."

Kyle, with a slight laugh, recalls his dad making him hardware poles with a brace and a bit. Jeff liked teaching his boys the hard way to do things. Jeff, also known as Chops, is a jokester so while teaching his boys a great work ethic, which they have carried on into their careers, he is usually doing it with a smirk or smile on his face.



The Henderson Family: Jeff Henderson (second from the right) stands behind his wife Tammy with their three sons and their families.

Son Jeremy, who works for MidAmerican Energy states, "Dad was my superhero when I was kid. That's one of the reasons I choose a career as a lineman."

"We grew up with dad having to leave at all times of the day and night. We didn't know anything different. If there was bad weather, we just knew he was probably going to be leaving for work. We didn't know mom was scared to death of storms. We didn't know that side of the story until later in life, finding out that she was really just bucking up and being brave for us kids," reminisces son Matt, who also attended line school and now works for the state of Iowa.

Tammy agrees, "I am always terrified for two reasons when storms come rolling in. One, I just hate storms and two because I know my husband and the other linemen will be heading out to work in it. I don't think I will ever learn to love a good thunderstorm as people say, but I have learned to live the life of a line wife and the worry that goes with it. In the mid-90s a severe summer thunderstorm with either a tornado or straight-line winds came through and our family was down in the basement and we heard a huge crash. Jeff's phone rang from the co-op's after-hours service. He was putting on his boots and I said, 'You can't possibly leave us now'. A tree had just landed on the roof of our home as the storm continued to rage on. His reply was, 'Well, get your stuff then, I will drop you at my parents, because I've got to go! There wasn't even a thought of anything else, the job was calling.'"

"That's the thing that I hope most people understand during these major storms. Yes, people are without power. Yes, that is incredibly frustrating. But please know, the linemen working are just as frustrated as the members. They want your power back on as bad as you do, they take pride in that. I can remember many times waiting for phone calls from him, wanting to know when he would be home to get a little rest after hours and hours of working, and when he finally calls, he says, we're just going to stay a little longer and get one more member on. That's their dedication and commitment every time there are outages. That's just the way it is."

"I am so proud of my husband and our three sons. They all attest to knowing that their life was normal in their eyes. Dad wasn't there for different events, but it never seemed to bother them too much. Now as they have grown, and have their own careers, there was a time a when we had four different on-call schedules to work around to plan family get togethers. We have just learned not to plan a lot of things ahead of time! And that's ok. As Matt said, we don't know anything different."

BRIAN BAUER, JOURNEYMAN, 26 YEARS

"I am a very proud lineman's wife," says Brian's wife, Rhonda. "Brian and I met at work, and we both have so much pride and commitment to our jobs. He's very dedicated to our members, restoring the power as quickly and safely as possible. He always goes on the call if he's available. He's had to miss many family get-togethers, holidays, birthday parties, and other events."

"I don't think most people realize how often or how much Brian is gone. It's not just when the weather is bad—outages occur even on nice, sunny days due to animals, trees, and other reasons. There are some weeks we barely see him. Honestly, it was really hard when our girls were little. I always had to figure that Brian would be gone working, so we've had to rely on friends, family and babysitters to help me out many times, whether to pick up or watch the girls, or even to help me get out of the driveway. Many times, I've felt like a single parent. He is an awesome husband and father, but whenever possible, he leaves when the call comes in. And I love that about him. But it's not always easy for his family."

"I've seen him run to the house to quickly change into his FR [fire retardant] clothing and run back out again less than a minute later when it's a fire call. I've seen him change into his work clothes and wait, monitoring the outage map on his phone, ready to walk out the door the second he gets the call during storms. I've not seen him for days at a time while he's restoring power during storms and floods. I've woken up to him gone in the middle of the night more times than I can count, and always have an instant worry, and start praying to God to please keep him safe. When the weather is bad and people are told to stay home, whether it is winter storms, blizzards, thunderstorms, tornadoes, or flooding, that's usually a guarantee that he'll be going out. Not only are the roads treacherous, but just imagine climbing a 30-plus foot pole or going that high in a bucket truck to restore the power in horrible weather conditions."

And the work is extremely dangerous! It is so scary for me as a wife. I have to trust that he and his coworkers will always pay attention to what they are doing and not be distracted. Because one wrong move can mean the difference between someone going home or not."

"We know and appreciate the importance of lineman work and being part of a cooperative, and it plays a key role in our family. Between the two of us, Brian and I have nearly 47 years of working for MiEnergy Cooperative [and its predecessor Tri-County Electric]. Our oldest daughter works at an electric cooperative and youngest son went to line school."

"I understand it is inconvenient when your power goes out. Please know that dedicated linemen are on their way, and their families are telling them, 'Goodbye, I love you, work safe,' and then waiting for them to return home."



The Bauer Family: Brian Bauer (holding his granddaughter) and wife Rhonda (center) with their two sons and three daughters.

TRAVIS CUMMINGS, JOURNEYMAN, 14 YEARS

"When linemen are on call, they often have to miss out on their children's activities, family gatherings, and celebrations that are out of town," explains Travis' wife, Jessica. "When a call comes in, they have to drop everything and go. My husband has had to leave in the middle of church, parent-teacher conferences and our children's sporting events to restore power. Without ever a complaint, he and the other linemen at MiEnergy take pride in serving their members and wanting to help them out in a time of need."



The Cummings Family: Travis and Jessica Cummings with their two daughters and son.

CLINT LICKTEIG, JOURNEYMAN, 4 YEARS

"I am so proud to be married to a lineman. My husband loves his job and takes a lot of pride in his work," says Clint's wife, Felicia. "But once he gets that outage call, I have an overwhelming feeling of worry. How long will he be gone, did he get something to eat, will he return safe and so much more. We always make sure that before he leaves, we all say I love you and be safe. He misses holidays, birthdays, bedtime stories with the kids and so much more, but knowing he is getting power back on for other families, local farms and businesses makes us so proud of him. So, thank you to our lineman and all the other linemen for your hard work and dedication."



The Lickteig Family: Clint and Felicia Lickteig with their two daughters and son.

"They can be out working for three or four days. My dad drives special trucks to carry all their tools to fix the power lines. It could be a tree or a squirrel that makes the power go out, not just bad weather. He wears special clothes to keep him safe," says daughter Nevaeh, age 8.

"Sometimes my dad is out on a call for a long time and I miss him," says daughter Sienna, age 4.

"Daddy's boots!" says son Brooks, age 2.

Carefree renewable energy possibilities

Renewable RaysSM Community Solar
The POWER of Cooperative SOLAR



Did you know that nationally, 75 percent of people who want to power their home with solar are unable due to poor solar resources and/or shade, inadequate structural support, no room, zoning restrictions, because they are renters or condo owners, and financial position.

MiEnergy is proud to offer local renewable energy options at its offices for members to participate since 2014. The co-op worked with other entities to create the model for non-profit utilities to own community solar, and it was rolled out across the country. It was the first of its kind in Iowa and Minnesota.

Members can purchase the output of a unit for a one-time cost that will allow for a one-for-one credit from the output of the community solar project to the member's monthly electric bill now through 2034. The unit output cost includes insurance, operations, maintenance and all other costs associated with operation.

For more information on participation, please contact Kent Whitcomb at 800-432-2285 or email kwhitcomb@MiEnergy.coop.

Support renewable energy starting at just \$1 per month

Would you like to support renewable energy? Thanks to Evergreen, it only takes \$1 per month to contribute. Evergreen



is a green power program available to all co-op members that supports electric generation by wind, solar, landfill gas-to-energy and animal waste-to-energy. Members can purchase 100 kilowatt-hour blocks at \$1 per month, which is added to your monthly MiEnergy statement.

Renewable energy makes up 25 percent of Dairyland Power Cooperative's generation portfolio and the number continues to grow with member support of Evergreen.

For more information or to sign up for this green power program, call the co-op at 800-432-2285 or visit www.MiEnergy.coop/evergreen.

IT'S OUR WAY OF LIFE



Being there, every minute, or every day. As your hometown electric cooperative, it's not just our way of doing business, it's our way of life. And as a Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative member, that means value that goes far beyond the energy we provide, value you can't really put a price on.



MiRecipes | Family Favorites

Submit your family's favorite recipe for consideration to be printed in the June 2022 newsletter. Deadline is May 10. 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.

SALSA VERDE CHICKEN ANNA MAY, HOUSTON

2 lbs. chicken breast ¼ t. black pepper
½ c. onion (chopped) 1 t. extra virgin olive oil
1 t. minced garlic 2 c. salsa Verde
1 t. kosher salt


Combine all ingredients in slow cooker and cook on high for 3 hours. Shred cooked chicken and cook another half hour. Ready to serve on tacos, tortillas, salads or your favorite south of the border dish.

REFRIGERATOR HORSERADISH PICKLES JANICE DOUGHERTY, WAUKON

2 qts. Vlasic baby dills
2 (5 oz. jars) Horseradish
2 c. sugar
1/3 c. water
2/3 c. dark vinegar

Drain pickles. Cut in chunks and return to jars. Pour 1 of the 5 oz. jars of horseradish over each pickle jar (don't drain horseradish). Top with a syrup made from the sugar, water and vinegar brought to boil. Seal tight. Shake well and refrigerate. Shake jar several times a day. Ready in 2 days. Keeps 2 months or longer.



Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

CHICKEN ENCHILADAS COLEEN NELSON, HOUSTON

1 (10 oz. can) Rotel
1 (8 oz. pkg.) cream cheese
2 c. cooked chicken (cubed)
8 (8 inch) flour tortillas
2 c. Monterey Jack cheese (shredded)
2 c. whipping cream

Preheat oven to 350° and spray 9x13" pan. Add Rotel and cream cheese to a large skillet over medium heat, until well combined. Add chicken. Spoon 2-3 T. per tortilla. Roll up, place seam down. (I leave ends open). Sprinkle with cheese, pour cream over top. Cover with foil and bake for 30 minutes. Remove foil, bake until golden brown. Recipe says 15 minutes. I noticed more like 20-25 minutes. Makes 8 servings. A great recipe for ease, very tasty which makes it a great recipe to give to a family, friend or neighbor in need.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

It's Easy! It's Free!

Planning a digging project in your yard or on your property? If you dig without knowing what is located below, you could damage an underground line.

Not only could you become seriously injured, but you will be responsible for the cost of repairs. To avoid hassles and fines, call 811, the Call Before You Dig number, at

least two business days prior to breaking ground. (811 locators do not mark privately owned underground lines or pipes, such as service to outbuildings, sprinkler systems or invisible fences.)

An uneventful digging project is the best kind to have.



SPRING INTO SAFETY

Spring is in the air and that means more than just a change of season for farmers. During the busy planting season, follow these eight safety tips:



TRANSPORT SAFELY

Ensure equipment is compliant with agriculture road and travel safety rules



SHARE SAFETY TIPS

Teach anyone working or doing business on your farm about electrical hazards



ENCOURAGE YOUNG WORKERS

Be sure to match age and ability level with each chore



BE CLEAR

Explain where the "back 80" or Smith field is; not everyone may know how to get there



WRITE IT DOWN

Keep directions (with proper road and farm ground names) at home, in the shop and in cabs



LOOK AROUND

Inspect your space and look for hazards before you start planting



EVALUATE PROCEDURES

Consider new safety precautions you can implement, such as lockout/tagout



MEET AND DISCUSS

Conduct morning safety meetings to brief everyone on the day and talk about potential hazards

Sources: Rural Mutual Insurance Co., farmprogress.com



Carbon capture

cont. from page 4

much CO₂ was converted and the economic feasibility of the project. XPRIZE concluded in 2021, and the winning project was a carbon-negative concrete created by a team of UCLA researchers called CarbonBuilt. The research team conducted tests at Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Integrated Test Center in Wyoming to turn flue gases and fly ash into carbon-negative concrete. The process reduces the carbon emissions of concrete production and traps additional carbon long-term within the final product.

The federal government is making carbon capture a funding priority in 2022. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides \$927 million for large, commercial-scale pilot projects as well as \$3.5 billion for six demonstration projects at coal and natural gas plants.

The Slowing CO₂ and Lowering Emissions (SCALE) Act was introduced in 2021, and provides funding to overcome expansion barriers. The SCALE Act aims to reduce costs by financing scaling projects for pipeline infrastructure, creating regional storage infrastructure and providing grants for creating products derived from large-scale capture.

Capturing carbon is an important tool in reducing CO₂ emissions generated from fossil fuel use. When this emerging technology can be deployed on a larger scale, the future of carbon capture will look much more promising.

Katherine Loving writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

ALTERNATE ENERGY PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT NOTICE

MINNESOTA MEMBERS | In compliance with Minnesota state laws, MiEnergy Cooperative adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production. MiEnergy is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. MiEnergy Cooperative is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by MiEnergy Cooperative. Interested members should contact Kent Whitcomb at MiEnergy Cooperative, P.O. Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971, kwhitcomb@MiEnergy.coop or call 800-432-2285.

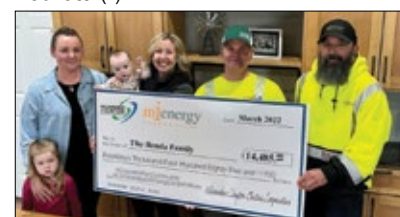
IOWA MEMBERS | Owners of alternative energy production equipment, no matter how small, even solar-powered heat pumps, are required to provide written notification to their utility of the intent to construct or install such facilities/equipment at least 30 days prior to construction. Alternate energy production facilities are defined as solar, wind turbine, waste management, resource recovery, refuse-derived fuel, agricultural crops or residues, or wood burning facilities used to generate electricity. This Iowa State Law went into effect on January 1, 2013.

MiEnergy has a form to complete as well as other information regarding interconnection that can be found on our website at www.MiEnergy.coop. Interested members should contact Kent Whitcomb at MiEnergy Cooperative, P.O. Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971, kwhitcomb@MiEnergy.coop or call 800-432-2285.



COOKIE DELIVERY—CRESCO & RUSHFORD

MiEnergy delivered Girl Scout cookies to show support for local healthcare workers. Deliveries were made to Good Shepherd Lutheran Services and Winona Health's Rushford Clinic, both of Rushford, and to Regional Health Services of Howard County, of Cresco. Pictured at right is MiEnergy's Meagan Moellers (l) and Regional Health Service's Jennalee Pedretti (r).



9TH ANNUAL REC ARCHERY SHOOT—WEST UNION, IOWA

Life for the Benda family, of rural Decorah, was turned upside down when Iowa State Trooper Ted Benda succumbed to injuries from an automobile accident north of Postville while driving to respond to a call, leaving behind his wife Holly and four daughters.

Proceeds from this year's 9th Annual REC Archery Shoot went to the Benda family. The annual event raises money for a family in need who are members of MiEnergy or Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative (ACEC). ACEC and MiEnergy sponsor the food. Above left from l-r with a check for \$14,485 are Vivyan Benda, Holly Benda, Hollee McCormick (ACEC, holding Sylvia Benda), Josh Abbott (ACEC), and Dave Wilkes (MiEnergy).

LEGISLATIVE DAY—ST. PAUL, MINN.

MiEnergy was among more than 230 democratically elected directors and leaders from the state's electric cooperatives who gathered in St. Paul on March 15-16 for the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's (MREA) legislative day and annual business meeting. Issues important to Minnesota's electric cooperatives include providing adequate funding to ensure high quality broadband throughout the state, maintaining the long-standing property tax exemption for attachments to cooperative distribution lines, and preventing the Department of Labor and Industry from requiring new permitting and inspection requirements. Pictured upper right (l-r) Jeff Redalen, Brian Krambeer, Jenny Scharmer, Beth Olson, Ron Stevens, Senate Majority Leader Jeremy Miller, Don Petersen and Dairyland CEO Brent Ridge. Bottom l-r: MREA's

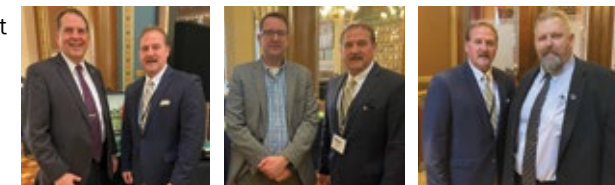


Dan Lipschultz, Beth Olson, Jenny Scharmer, Rep. Gene Pelowski, Rep. Greg Davids, Brian Krambeer, Don Petersen, Ron Stevens and Dairyland's CEO Brent Ridge.

REC DAY ON THE HILL—DES MOINES, IOWA

Nearly 200 employees and elected directors from Iowa's rural electric cooperatives (RECs) came to the Iowa State Capitol on March 22 to advocate for important issues during the annual "REC Day on the Hill" event. Specifically, advocates talked to legislators about a digital sales tax inequity that Iowa's electric cooperatives hope to resolve before the 2022 Legislative Session ends. Advocates also educated legislators on the benefits of the cooperative business model, including local ownership, cost-based rates and democratic governance.

Pictured at bottom right, Governor Kim Reynolds with Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives board members. MiEnergy's CEO/president Brian Krambeer (l) at the State Capitol to discuss the Rural Energy Tax Bill and all issues affecting electric cooperatives in Iowa. Top right, Krambeer from l-r with Rep. Michael Bergan, Rep. Todd Prichard and Sen. Mike Klemish.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OFFICE INFORMATION

Open Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
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

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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

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DISTRICT 2 Dean Nierling, chair and Ron Stevens, vice chair
DISTRICT 3 Don Petersen, treasurer, Skip Wieser and Dennis Young
DISTRICT 4 Dean Fisher, Charles Frana and Carl Reicks
DISTRICT 5 Beth Olson and Jenny Scharmer

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KENT WHITCOMB vice president of member services

MINEWS STAFF

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

2022 OFFICES CLOSED

APR 15 Good Friday
MAY 30 Memorial Day
JUN 9 Employee Development Day
JUL 4 Independence Day
SEP 5 Labor Day
SEP 8 Employee Development Day
NOV 24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday
DEC 8 Employee Development Day
DEC 23, 26 Christmas Holiday
DEC 30 Close at 11:30 a.m. (New Year's Eve observance)

Youth Tour winner Elaina Rosonke of New Hampton

Elaina Rosonke, a junior at New Hampton High School, won an educational-filled week of adventure



in Washington D.C. as MiEnergy Cooperative's Youth Tour Contest winner. Rosonke will be among a group of 1,900 students sponsored by electric cooperatives from across the country to take part in the Rural Electric Youth Tour June 18-24.


This is the first Youth Tour since 2019. COVID forced the cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 tours.

The Youth Tour was inspired in 1957 by Lyndon Johnson, then a U.S. senator from Texas, when he called on electric cooperatives to send young people to Washington, "to see what the flag stands for and represents."

The students will meet with state and federal legislators to get an up-close look at how our government works, along with experiencing the monuments, museums and history of our nation's capital.

Rosonke, is the daughter of Allen and Nikki Rosonke, of New Hampton, Iowa.

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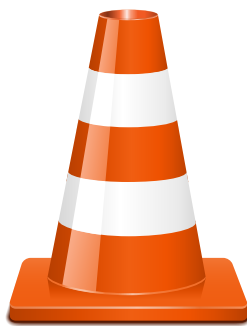
Contractors working Know who is working on behalf of MiEnergy

Spring is the onset of MiEnergy's construction and contractor season. Cooperative crews handle the day-to-day operations, but on an annual basis, MiEnergy hires contractors to assist with other projects that make sure our electric system is safe and reliable for our members. Through the



cooperative's bidding process, the following contractors have been awarded bids for the year 2022: A-1 Excavating, Acculine, Asplundh, Carr's Tree Service, Clear Line, Cranks, Dotzenrod, Highline, MiTech, New Age, PUSH and Star Energy.

Please be aware that you may see these companies working throughout our service territory in Minnesota and Iowa. If you have questions about whether a contractor is working on our behalf, you can call 800-432-2285 at any time, including after normal business hours.




CHARGING FORWARD



ELECTRIC VEHICLES ENERGY STORAGE RENEWABLE ENERGY SMART ELECTRIFICATION

The annual meeting will be livestreamed via YouTube. A link and additional information about the annual meeting can be found by visiting:

www.MiEnergy.coop/annual-meeting 

Members online can submit questions during the meeting by email: AnnualMeeting@MiEnergy.coop

VIRTUAL MEETING OPTION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 at 7:00 PM