

May 2024 Vol. 8 Issue 5  
A monthly publication for members of  
MiEnergy Cooperative.

# MiN News



**Annual meeting recap**

**Benefits of electric  
lawn care equipment**

**Why choose an electric  
water heater?**





## Cooperative subsidiaries

Every month, I get the opportunity to share the important actions, opportunities or challenges being undertaken or impacting your electric cooperative. At this year's annual meeting, a member asked about our subsidiaries' profitability. Great question!

MiEnergy's operations include maintaining 5,500 miles of electric distribution line through some of the most beautiful parts of Iowa and Minnesota. It's also the most challenging parts of the states for building and maintaining our electric infrastructure. We have 75 employees that operate your electric cooperative. This includes 24/7 outage restoration and service; and managing material, equipment, work plans, staking, compliance reporting, digital mapping and internal electronic communication. We also bill 24,300 accounts monthly and maintain billing and account information for the 19,200 members receiving electric service from MiEnergy.

I've stated that I'm blessed to work with a tremendous team of employees I consider the best. Over the past two decades, we've established subsidiaries that support our MiEnergy employee team and MiEnergy operations.

One of the very first subsidiaries we established was MINNOWA. This organization is a shared service company with neighboring Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative and Heartland Power Cooperative. We share an arborist, a safety and compliance coordinator and work together to save money on supply purchases. This subsidiary has no revenue; we simply share costs between our neighboring electric cooperatives for these specialized services.

STAR Energy Services is another organization that provides specialized shared services. STAR helps us capitalize on

shared services and to have an engineer operating out of our office who knows the operation of our electric system. The service desired by the original founding cooperatives has skyrocketed and has become a service desired by other electric cooperatives across the Midwest. STAR has grown from engineering services, system design and rate making to staking services, electronic mapping, GIS, power quality inspections and customized outage management systems. STAR has been highly successful and profitable, with a continued focus on quality and affordable cooperative services.

Minnesota Three is a partnership with neighboring cooperatives Freeborn-Mower Electric Cooperative and People's Energy Cooperative. In 2014, we built a 517-kilowatt solar array in Oronoco, MN, along Highway 52. We sell the array's output to our power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative. The system had a 3-year payback through incentives and a front-end loaded power contract. Minnesota Three has generated small margins. It is paid for and has added renewable energy to our portfolio without added costs.

Heartland Security is another cooperative partnership subsidiary. It's owned by 14 electric cooperatives in Iowa and Minnesota. This for-profit LLC was developed to provide medical alert and security systems with 24/7 central station monitoring. It was developed out of a lack of service available to members in the area. Today, it provides security monitoring and home medical monitoring to over 8,000 accounts. In 2023, it paid a sizeable dividend to the participating electric cooperative owners.

MiBroadband is our newest subsidiary, created in 2018. It includes a partnership with Spring Grove Communications and Mabel Cooperative Telephone Company to extend fiber broadband service across the MiEnergy service territory. In the not-too-distant future, broadband will be critical to assist in future operations of our electric distribution system, and it provides essential broadband service to our membership. Broadband expansion across the MiEnergy service territory is our single greatest economic development opportunity this decade allowing new business opportunities, residential home development – working from home, telemedicine availability, enhanced education and training, and improvements in the quality of life for our membership.

MiBroaband is in its infancy with a massive buildout of nearly \$70 million in projects - \$36 million awarded in grants. It currently provides broadband service to over 3,000 accounts. All project grant applications have projected a modest return of investment beginning at 8 years, which is significantly better than our electric operations. Just like the

Cooperative subsidiaries  
Cont. on page 3

## Power up lawn care with electric equipment

The landscape of lawn and garden care is evolving, and electric equipment is at the forefront of this change. While electric lawn tools aren't new, advancements in technology and more options mean prices have become more competitive, making electric equipment an accessible option for many consumers.

### BENEFITS OF ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT

Electric lawnmowers have come a long way since the days of extension cords tethering you to an outlet. Battery-powered mowers offer the same freedom of movement as gas-powered models but with reduced noise and maintenance.

Battery life was once a major drawback to making the switch to electric lawn tools. But today's growing demand for electric equipment has resulted in major advancements for lithium-ion batteries, making them more reliable, cost-effective and efficient. For most consumers, electric lawn tools can get the job done just as well as gas-powered models.

### Cooperative subsidiaries

Cont. from page 2

electric buildout in 1935, the unserved locations and low-density areas need the cooperative's initiative. The fiber buildout benefits our electric cooperative and our membership.

Finally, in March, all members received a copy of our annual report which included financials for the year. While we had just over \$6 million in total margins for 2023, \$5.3 million was due to electric sales/revenue. The balance, \$665,000, was non-operating margins that include all of our subsidiaries, interest income on savings/short-term investment accounts and capital credits MiEnergy receives from cooperatives. In 2023, that amount was slightly higher than usual, with the sale of the old Spring Valley Outpost.

As always, I welcome your calls, emails and personal visits. Have a safe spring.

Many electric mowers offer push-button starts, and because they are lighter, they are easier to maneuver around tight turns. Improved batteries provide longer run times to tackle larger spaces. Like their gas-powered counterparts, electric mowers are available in push, self-propelled/walk-behind and riding models. And there's no need to refill gas cans or change oil and air filters, resulting in less hassle and maintenance.

Like mowers, electric blowers, string trimmers and chainsaws have fewer moving parts, require minimal maintenance and are quieter. Because electric tools are generally lighter in weight, they're also more ergonomic and easier to maneuver. This feature is especially handy for projects that require tools like chainsaws for precise work.

### CHOOSE ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT TO MEET YOUR NEEDS

Electric lawn tools have some limitations, so the size and terrain of your outdoor space are important

considerations when purchasing new equipment. When comparing gas-powered and electric mowers, consider the torque rating—this is the driving force behind a blade's rotation. On average, electric lawnmowers generate less torque than gas mowers. If you have a challenging outdoor space that includes overgrown brush, tall grass, or hills and dips, torque is a key factor.

Choosing the right type and size mower is particularly important for spaces larger than half an acre. If you have a large property, consider purchasing an extra battery to ensure uninterrupted workflow.


Many manufacturers offer interchangeable batteries and chargers, providing flexibility and convenience. Choosing a single brand can ensure charging compatibility across your lawn tools and streamline charging.

While both gas and electric lawn tools can get the job done, electric equipment generally requires less maintenance, is less expensive to operate and is kinder to the environment.

Source: Consumer Reports

### Making the Switch to ELECTRIC LAWN EQUIPMENT

Considering electric equipment to maintain your outdoor space? Check out the benefits of electric and considerations before making the switch.



<p><b>Benefits of Electric Equipment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Battery-powered equipment produces zero emissions</li> <li>• No hassle and mess from gasoline and oil</li> <li>• Quieter and more reliable than gas-powered equipment</li> <li>• Require less energy to do the same amount of work as gas-powered tools</li> </ul>	<p><b>Considerations Before Going Electric</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchasing from a single brand can streamline charging</li> <li>• Consider the size of your property and battery run time</li> <li>• Backup batteries may be needed for larger properties</li> <li>• Electric equipment is pricier up front</li> </ul>
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### Board room highlights | April 30, 2024

- Undertook the annual cooperative board of directors reorganization. Officers remain the same and are as follows: Chair Dean Nierling, Vice Chair Ron Stevens, Secretary Dennis Ptacek, Treasurer Don Petersen; and Jenny Scharmer will continue to serve on the Dairyland Power Cooperative Board of Directors.
- Received a favorable financial report.
- Recapped and discussed the annual meeting.
- Approved a power purchase agreement with OneEnergy for a site located near the Caledonia Substation.
- Received subsidiary updates and reports from directors.
- Discussed MiEnergy's support of municipal members.
- Approved voting delegates and director attendance for upcoming meetings.

The next board meeting will be held at the Rushford office on May 30 at 9 a.m.



# ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

## MiEnergy's incumbents re-elected to the board

MiEnergy Cooperative celebrated its eighth annual meeting on April 10. Approximately 124 members attended the event at the Mabel Community Center. The event was also live-streamed through YouTube.

The meeting marked the director elections for members living in districts two and three. A total of 1,309 ballots were cast (1,102 by mail, 200 electronically and 7 onsite)

District 2 had two seats up for re-election. Incumbent Ron Stevens, of Preston, prevailed over challenger Vance Haugen, of Canton. Incumbent Dean Nierling, of Decorah, ran unopposed.

District 2 board directors represent the following townships: Amherst, Arendahl, Bristol, Canton, Harmony, Holt, Houston, Money Creek, Norway, Preble, Preston, Rushford and Yucatan in Minnesota; and Albion, Burr Oak, Forest City, Fremont, Howard Center, Orleans and Vernon Springs in Iowa.

In District 3, incumbents Don Petersen, of Hokah, and Skip Wieser, of La Crescent, ran unopposed.

District 3 board directors represent the following townships: Black Hammer, Brownsville, Caledonia, Crooked Creek, Dresbach, Hokah, Jefferson, La Crescent, Mayville, Mound Prairie, New Hartford, Newburg, Sheldon, Spring Grove, Union, Wilmington and Winnebago in Minnesota; and Hesper, Highland, Iowa, Union City and Waterloo in Iowa.

Other than those listed on the ballot, no other members applied to be on this year's ballots. All directors serve three-year terms. The election results were certified by an independent election vendor, Survey and Ballot Systems, and Dennis Puckett from Sullivan & Ward.



Director Dennis Young, of Decorah, was recognized at the meeting for his 20 years of service as a board director for MiEnergy and its predecessor Hawkeye REC. He announced in 2023 that he would not be seeking re-election in District 3, and the board approved reducing the size of the board from 11 directors to 10 in accordance with the bylaws. Each of MiEnergy's five districts is now represented by two directors.

Board Treasurer Petersen reported that the cooperative remained in good financial condition and met all its lenders' financial requirements. Eide Bailly audited the financials, which gave the cooperative a favorable report.

President/CEO Brian Krambeer highlighted the history of the cooperative and Cooperative Principles as part of the evening's theme.

Interestingly, REA [Rural Electrification Administration] officials encouraged residents working to form an electric cooperative in Howard, Winneshiek and Chickasaw counties and those in Houston, Fillmore and Winona counties to join forces. They formed Hawkeye Tri-County and Tri-County Electric.

"One could say we followed that recommendation 81 years later in forming MiEnergy with the merger in 2017," Krambeer stated.

Krambeer spoke about the community involvement of MiEnergy's workforce, their specialized training and the

cooperative's economic development support.

"Over the years, we've provided over \$12.5 million in loan and grant resources in our service territory," Krambeer said.

Other highlights related to the Cooperative Principles included the cooperative granting 70-\$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors who demonstrate volunteerism and Operation Round Up, which has donated over \$169,000 in grants to local organizations since its inception.

Krambeer then provided a summary of 2023 and an outlook for 2024 that focused on its core business of safely providing affordable, reliable and sustainable electric service.

Despite maintaining 5,500 miles of power line, the number of outages members experience and the length of power outages remain low. The cooperative has six licensed drone operators who use infrared scanning to help identify equipment issues before an outage occurs.

Krambeer also announced there would be no rate changes for 2024, even as costs rise, and other electric utilities have revealed significant rate increases.

While MiEnergy members receive 47% of their energy from renewable resources (nameplate capacity) and the co-op is recognized as a leader in its policies and rate design to incorporate distributed generation (member-owned generation), Krambeer made clear the importance of reliable baseload and dispatchable generation.

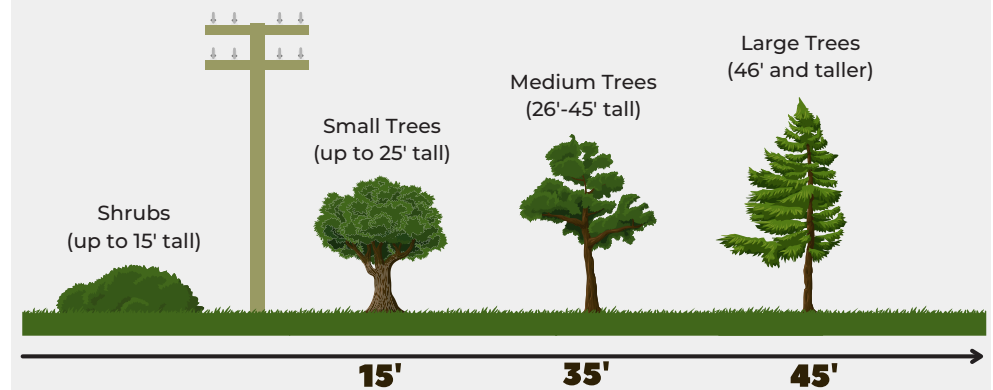
"Wind and solar are intermittent resources...reliability is a critical piece of the puzzle that goes along with sustainability and affordability," Krambeer stated.

Krambeer also explained MiEnergy's continued engagement with legislative issues in Iowa and Minnesota.

The buildout of broadband to unserved and underserved members continues to be important as broadband becomes necessary not only for improved quality of life but also for MiEnergy's electric distribution infrastructure in innovative grid applications in the future.

## Plant the **RIGHT TREE** in the **RIGHT PLACE**

The larger the tree, the farther it should be from a power line. Avoid planting beneath power lines, near poles or close to electrical equipment.



Remember, know what's below by calling 8-1-1 before you dig.

Learn more at: [Safe Electricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)

### PRIZE WINNERS

#### IN PERSON

**\$100 ELECTRIC BILL CREDIT**  
DALE / LYNN ADAMEK | PRESTON

**\$50 ELECTRIC BILL CREDIT**

ARLYNN HOVEY | PRESTON  
MICHAEL PECINOVSKY | CALMAR  
DENNIS OSTWINKLE | DECORAH  
ROGER HOVEY | RIDGEWAY  
MYRON HACKMAN | FORT ATKINSON  
DAVID PECINOVSKY | CRESCO  
DAVID SACQUITNE | DECORAH  
WAYNE HAUG | LANESBORO  
EDNA JACOBSON | DECORAH  
LARRY / CYNTHIA KOSTOHRZY | CRESCO  
LEWIS REIMAN & SONS | UTICA  
HARVEY BENSON | HARMONY  
FRANCIS / LOIS MEIER | ELMA  
DON LEEPS | DECORAH

#### HEARTLAND SECURITY TRAVEL CUP

JOHN MANLEY | ORONOCO  
EDWARD / SHARON CHRISTOPHER | DECORAH

#### STREAMING VIEWERS

**\$50 ELECTRIC BILL CREDIT**  
PAUL / JUDY ULLAND | LA CRESCENT  
KATHY / TOM RECKER | ALTA VISTA  
JOYCE / RICHARD JIRAK | CRESCO  
GARY / JOANNE HUINKER | CALMAR

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# Working on MiLines

DAY | NIGHT | RAIN | SHINE



MiEnergy crews took part in a training on how to string aerial fiber. Crews are pictured stringing fiber to the cooperative's substation. Fiber enhances security in communications to electronic devices that transfer data from the cooperative's meter infrastructure, substation feeder controls and security cameras to the office. This is one of many substations to be equipped with fiber as part of the co-op's technology plan to enhance safety and reliability.

Above, Greg Becker participates in the training session. Pictured at bottom left, Andy Prinsen (l) and Davin Thompson (r) get hands-on training with aerial fiber. At bottom center, Justin Svoboda (l) and Josh Carolan (r) prepare a pole for stringing fiber.



## An easy way to support renewable energy

Participate in Evergreen, a voluntary green program that helps our generation portfolio

**SOLAR | WIND | HYDRO | BIOGAS**

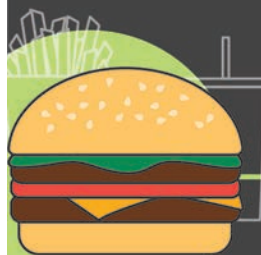
Would you like to support renewable energy? Thanks to Evergreen, it only takes 65¢ per month to contribute. Evergreen is a green power program available to all co-op members that supports electric generation by wind, solar, landfill gas-to-energy and animal waste-to-energy. Members can purchase 100 kilowatt-hour blocks at 65¢ 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](http://www.MiEnergy.coop) > Programs and Products > Evergreen.



### THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY



**\$5.36**

average cost of a Big Mac®

**\$4.57**

average daily cost of power



Electricity is expressed on a daily basis using EIA 2022 Average U.S. Monthly Residential Bill of \$137. Big Mac® is a registered trademark of McDonald's Corporation. McDonald's Corporation does not endorse or sponsor this material.

Sources: Economist.com and EIA, Dec. 2022

### SHINE THE LIGHT



**Nominate a local volunteer and they could win \$3,000 for their charity!**

Contest entries accepted during June at [IowaShineTheLight.com](http://IowaShineTheLight.com)

## POWER OUTAGES GET NOTIFIED

MiEnergy offers power outage text notifications. Sign up online at [www.MiEnergy.coop/outages](http://www.MiEnergy.coop/outages). Select Power Outage Notification Sign Up and be prepared with your electric account number. The site will walk you through the set-up to have a text message sent to you when your power is out and another when power has been restored.



April 18, 8:57 PM

MiEnergy: Your service location is currently involved in a power outage. Service Address: 12345 POWER LINE RD

MiEnergy: This number is opted in to receive power outage notifications from MiEnergy Cooperative. Reply STOP to cancel.

April 18, 10:06 PM

MiEnergy: Our system shows your power has been restored. If not, please call 1-800-432-2285. Service address: 12345 POWER LINE RD



# Curb energy use in June, July & August

## Keep electric rates affordable

Keeping electric rates affordable is a top priority for MiEnergy. One way to help is to reduce electric use on weekdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. during the months of June, July and August.

Historically, about two-thirds of MiEnergy's operating costs are for purchasing wholesale power. The cooperative is considered a summer peaking system. The cost for power is highest during the summer months on weekdays between the hours of 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Members who can shift or reduce their energy use during this timeframe can help the co-op save on wholesale power costs. It means smaller rate increases and/or less frequent rate increases in the future for the membership. It is as easy as delaying the dishwasher, shifting the start of laundry and setting your thermostat for air conditioning a few degrees higher.

Members will be able to hear and see reminders of this summer's campaign in the form of bill inserts, radio ads, print ads, website content and social media posts. This is the 13th year the co-op has committed to running a campaign to encourage members to shift electric use during the summer months.



## Why choose an electric water heater?

### It's a smart energy choice

The co-op has been selling efficient, electric water heaters for decades. Members can get discounts on 85- and 105-gallon electric water heaters purchased at the cooperative. MiEnergy provides free service, parts and labor during normal business hours. A service charge applies after regular business hours. To qualify for this discount, the water heater must be on the MiEnergy load management program.

Whether you are in need of a water heater for a new construction or to replace an electric or gas model, call the energy experts at MiEnergy today or visit our website at [www.MiEnergy.coop](http://www.MiEnergy.coop).

MiEnergy has programs to manage your water heater's energy use so that it heats your water during off-peak hours when the cost of electricity is lowest. This results in cost savings for you. And, because the new electric water heaters are larger and better insulated, they'll keep all the water you want hot until you need it. The life expectancy of an average water heater is 10-15 years for electric and 8-12 for gas. Prepare now, so you know your options.

An electric-powered water heater is a smart energy choice for your water heating needs. It is safe, reliable, clean, easy to install and has stable operational costs.

#### WATER HEATER PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS

- The co-op has electric water heaters available in two sizes: 85 gallons and 105 gallons.
- Co-op members can receive a FREE water heater with the construction of a new home.
- MiEnergy offers a FREE lifetime tank warranty and FREE service calls during normal business hours with the purchase of a water heater from the cooperative.
- When combined with the co-op's energy management device, it runs like a "smart appliance," providing stability and efficiency to the power grid by heating water when demand for electricity is low and storing it for later use.
- All water heaters on the storage strategy are powered by four 100 kWh Evergreen blocks for FREE upon request.

# MiRecipes | Family Favorites

Submit your family's favorite recipe for consideration to be printed in the August 2024 newsletter. Deadline is July 15. Send to Meagan at PO Box 90, Cresco, IA 52136 or email: [mmoellers@MiEnergy.coop](mailto: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.

### BLACK BEANS FOR BREAKFAST | NATHAN MOORE, WINONA

1 lb. (dry) black beans (Goya or La Preferida are good)  
 2-3 onions  
 cilantro bunch; leaves and stems separated (Aldi is generally best quality)  
 garlic (one bulb)  
 ½ lb. carrots  
 7 oz. can chipotles in adobo (Embasa is gluten-free)  
 ¼ c. lemon or lime juice  
 1-2 T. ground cumin  
 1 t. salt  
 olive oil  
 3 one-quart canning jars w/lids

About 15 minutes of work, spread over 40 minutes

1. Pressure cook (Instant pot) 2 c. dry black beans in 2 quarts (8 c.) of water for 4 minutes. Let rest until the onions are ready.
2. In olive oil, sauté 2 onions (diced). Then add 1 bulb garlic (crushed, peeled, chopped) and diced cilantro stems.
3. While sautéing, peel and chop 4-6 carrots.
4. Beans: Release pressure, pour off and save most of the bean liquid. Add sauté and carrots to beans. Add enough bean liquid or water to just cover the beans (appx. 2 c.).
5. Pressure cook for 10 minutes, let rest 10 minutes.
6. Add salt, ½ can (7oz) chipotle in adobo, lemon or lime juice, cilantro leaves (diced) and ground cumin.

This makes about 3 quart jars of black beans. Serve warm with fried egg, microwaved sweet potato, rice or avocado for breakfast.

### MOLASSES SUGAR COOKIES | RUTH OLSON, LANESBORO

1 c. Crisco shortening  
 ½ c. butter (room temperature)  
 2 c. white sugar  
 ½ c. molasses  
 2 eggs (room temperature)  
 4 t. baking soda  
 2 t. ground cinnamon  
 1 t. ground ginger  
 1 t. ground cloves  
 1 t. salt  
 2 t. vanilla extract  
 4 c. flour plus scant ½ c. flour

Cream sugar and shortenings, add eggs, molasses, vanilla and mix well. Add flour & spices, mix well. Chill dough couple of hours. Use #40 scoop, roll into balls and then into sugar (do not flatten). Place on parchment lined cookie sheets, bake 11-12 minutes in a 375-degree oven, leave on cookie sheet for a few minutes. (I use a 1-½" scoop and roll into balls). Enjoy, they also freeze well.

### FUDGY'S | DENNIS & MARCIA REPS, UTICA

4 T. butter  
 3 t. baking cocoa  
 1/3 c. powdered sugar  
 4 T. creamy peanut butter  
 1/3 c. almond flour

In a small saucepan, melt the butter, remove from heat. Add cocoa and sugar, stir. Add peanut butter and almond flour. Stir until mixed. Drop by teaspoon onto waxed or parchment paper. Can use mini baking cups. Keep in refrigerator; they will melt if you leave them out.

### CHOCOLATE ZUCCHINI CAKE | KRIS HASKOVEC, CRESCO

½ c. oleo or butter  
 ½ c. oil  
 1¾ c. sugar  
 2 eggs  
 1 t. vanilla  
 ½ c. sour milk or buttermilk  
 2 c. flour  
 4 T. cocoa  
 ½ t. baking powder  
 1 t. baking soda  
 ½ t. salt  
 ½ t. cloves  
 ½ t. cinnamon  
 2 c. zucchini (shredded)  
 ½ c. chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 325°. Cream butter, oil, and sugar. Add eggs, vanilla and sour milk, beat well. Sift together dry ingredients and add to mixture. Stir in zucchini. Pour into greased and floured 9x13 inch pan. Sprinkle chocolate chips on top. Bake for 40-45 minutes. Frost with a cream cheese frosting. Cool Whip or ice cream.

### SAUSAGE EGG ROLL | NITA HACKMAN, CRESCO

1 lb. ground pork sausage  
 6 c. coleslaw mix or shredded cabbage  
 4 cloves garlic  
 1 T. ginger  
 1 T. soy sauce  
 ¼ c. green onions (chopped)  
 1 T. sesame oil

Cook sausage. Add coleslaw mix, garlic, ginger, and soy sauce. Cook until slaw has softened a bit. Remove from heat, add onion and drizzle with sesame oil.



# MAY

## IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



Safe Electricity.org

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We use electricity every day. This invisible force has become so commonplace that it can be all too easy to overlook possible electrical hazards, even in the safety of our own homes. May is Electrical Safety Month, and a good time to put the most important safety tool you have—your brain—to work.

When it comes to electrical safety, knowledge is key. Knowing what to be on the lookout for and knowing the safe steps to take can make all the difference in preventing accidents.

Safe Electricity and MiEnergy offer the following home safety tips to help arm you with the knowledge to stay safe and help others stay safe.

- Always read and understand the operator's manual before using an appliance or tool.
- Make sure recognized safety laboratories, like UL, ETL, or CSA have certified the electrical appliance, tools, and cords you plan on using.
- Never use a product with a damaged electrical cord.
- Never use extension cords on a permanent basis.
- Only use extension cords properly rated for the devices you plan to plug into it.
- For the safety of children in your home, install tamper-resistant outlets or protective coverings.
- If your outlets are warm to the touch, immediately shut them off at the circuit breaker, and contact a qualified electrician to make repairs.
- Install ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCIs) in areas that may be wet or damp. GFCIs help protect against electrical shock. Use the test and reset button monthly to ensure they are working properly.
- Never use power tools outdoors if it is raining or the ground is wet.
- If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced.

Take some time to learn about electrical safety and share important safety tips with others.

To learn more about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## Save green on electric vehicle charging

Affordable rates & rebates available



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800.432.2285 [www.MiEnergy.coop](http://www.MiEnergy.coop)

## THE DANGERS OF EQUIPMENT TAMPERING

Posting signs on utility poles can put lineworkers at risk by tearing their protective gloves.



Safe Electricity.org **mienergy**  
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MiEnergy would like to remind everyone that it is prohibited to attach objects to our utility poles, such as: campaign signs, garage sale signs, lost and found signs, deer stands, birdhouses, satellite dishes, etc.

Signs on utility poles raise major safety concerns for our lineworkers. Staples, tacks and nails can cause more serious injuries than most people would suspect. For example, if a nail tears an insulated glove, the lineworker is no longer properly protected from the high-voltage power lines they work on. Also, nails and staples can cause the lineworker's boot spikes to cut-out of the pole, causing a serious fall from a dangerous height. In order to ensure reliable electric service, lineworkers sometimes have to climb poles in all kinds of weather, day and night.

If you notice anyone trying to attach something to a utility pole, let them know it's dangerous and illegal.



# out & about in your COMMUNITY

### LEGISLATIVE TOWN-HALL—CALMAR

MiEnergy employees Mike Walton and Shelly Hove attended a legislative town hall meeting for Winneshiek County held in Calmar as part of U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley's annual 99 county tour across Iowa.



### CRESTWOOD FFA SPONSOR—CRESCO

MiEnergy sponsored an award at the Crestwood FFA Chapter banquet. MiEnergy employee Meagan Moellers presents an Agricultural Proficiency Award to Eva Sebastian for sheep production.



### ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY—RUSHFORD

Employees took time on Earth Day to walk the ditches of Highway 16 near the Rushford office as part of the Adopt-A-Highway program. They collected 12 bags from the two mile stretch that MiEnergy sponsors. Back row l to r: Brian Krambeer, Kent Whitcomb, Charlie Mueller, June Vitse and Travis Link. Front row l to r: Brenda Tesch, Lori Clobes and Audra Skalet. Not pictured: Heather Larson.



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COOPERATIVE

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](http://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 and Skip Wieser  
DISTRICT 4 Kyle Holthaus and Carl Reicks  
DISTRICT 5 Beth Olson and Jenny Scharmer

#### MANAGEMENT STAFF

BRIAN KRAMBEER 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

MAY 27 Memorial Day  
JUNE 4 Employee Development Day  
JULY 4 Independence Day  
SEPTEMBER 2 Labor 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.

# CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY

MiEnergy Cooperative will be closed Monday, May 27 to observe Memorial Day.

To report a power outage, call 800-432-2285 or use the Report an Outage feature in SmartHub.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for an easy way to manage home energy use? Smart plugs are inexpensive and offer convenient solutions for scheduling and controlling your favorite electronic devices.

With smart plugs, you can easily manage your coffee maker, lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. Smart plugs can help you manage devices through a smart phone app, your home assistant or voice control. By conveniently powering off or scheduling devices, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: energystar.gov

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# 5 WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER

When summer temperatures rise, so do our energy bills. Here are a few ways you can reduce energy use and grow your summer savings.

## 1. Raise your thermostat.

The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temp, the more you'll save.

## 2. Install window coverings

like blinds or light-blocking curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the day.

## 3. Seal leaks with caulk and weatherstripping

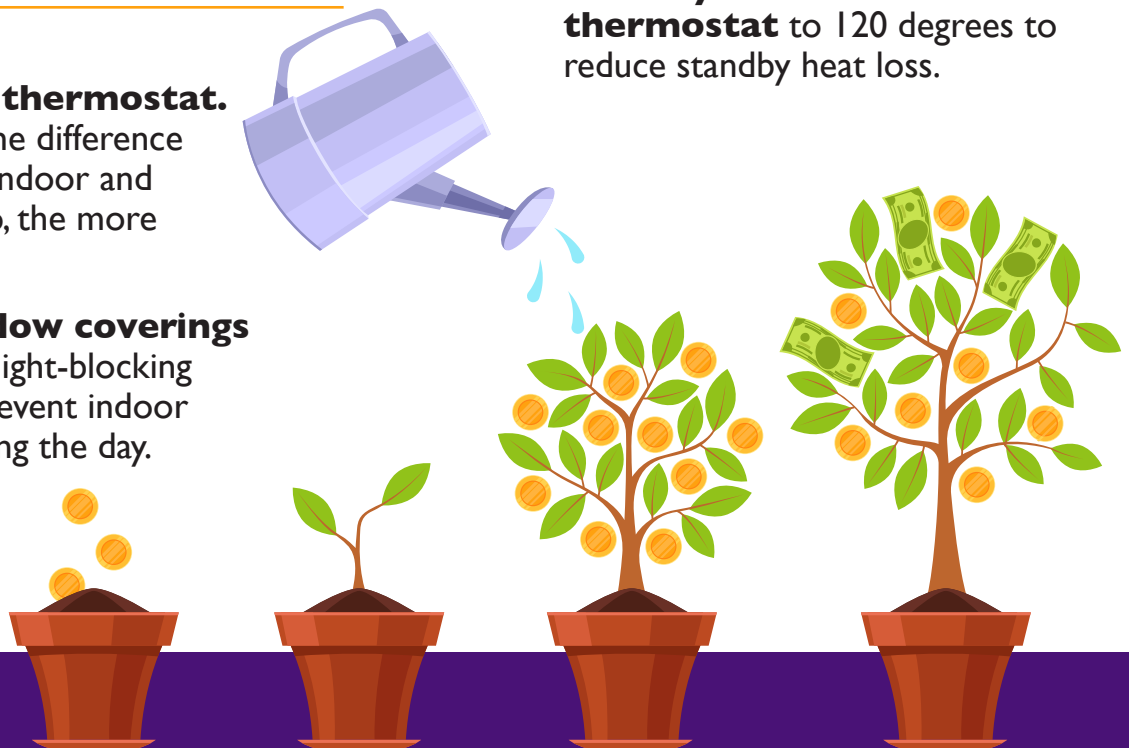
around windows and exterior doors. Air leaks force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.

## 4. Run ceiling fans

for additional cooling but turn them off when you leave the room.

## 5. Lower your water heater thermostat

to 120 degrees to reduce standby heat loss.



Source: Dept. of Energy