

MiNews

June 2024 Vol. 8 Issue 6
A monthly publication for members of
MiEnergy Cooperative.

Co-op gives \$70,000
as community
service scholarships

DISCOVER
SUMMER SHIFT TIPS

Analyze heating & cooling
costs of electric

A
JOURNEY
DOWN
MiRoads
WITH MEAGAN MOELLERS

Celebrating the brotherhood of
lineworkers for Father's Day



Summer storm season sweeps in

On May 21, we received our first notice from Mother Nature that summer storm season has officially arrived. Straight line winds with at least one confirmed tornado in Winona County caused significant damage throughout our electric distribution system, which impacted over 1,300 members with power outages and damages to their individual properties.

As expected, MiEnergy lineworkers rose to the occasion restoring electric service to our membership immediately as outage calls came in. They worked throughout the night to restore power to as many services as possible. The remaining individual outages were restored by Wednesday morning, many of which were not yet reported to our dispatch.

Toppled trees and fallen tree branches made work difficult and time consuming. Most notable is that no injuries, close calls or equipment damage occurred. Truly a job well done to safely and efficiently restore electric service to the membership.

Crews coordinated with local fire departments, county sheriff's officers, local police and county employees to remove downed power poles and conductor on highways and county roads. We greatly appreciate the calls from members who provided additional information on poles and trees that were related to outages. We also appreciated the emergency calls notifying us of poles and power lines down on roadways. Remember to always be aware of downed power lines and equipment. They could still be energized, even when on the ground, so please stay clear and keep others away.

Our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, also played a critical role in our storm restoration efforts. A transmission line that feeds our Stockton Substation was damaged from the storm, rendering the substation out of service. This required extensive line

switching by MiEnergy crews to backfeed the substation from Lewiston. Another Dairyland Power transmission line near the Minnesota and Iowa border sustained substantial damage resulting in 21 transmission structures on the ground.

Behind the scenes, employees were putting the restoration plans together and communicating with crews all night. It took a tremendous team effort. I am thankful for great leaders and employees with strong dedication to our cooperative membership.

I also want to thank the membership for all of their support, communications, patience and understanding during a storm event. I cannot stress the importance of calling in to report your power outage to MiEnergy. Those calls typically are picked up by our after-hours call center, Cooperative Response Center. Keeping your phone number up-to-date on your account helps automate this process. Members can also report outages through the SmartHub app.

The cooperative communicates the storm restoration process through the media and MiEnergy's Facebook page when applicable. It is important to know that comments left on Facebook do not get registered into our outage management system. Therefore, please use your phone or the SmartHub app to report your outage.

In 2021, we launched a tool for power outage notification. I encourage members to sign up at www.MiEnergy.coop/ outage-text notifications. It's free and a great way to get confirmation of an outage and its restoration via text messaging for your electric service.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer season.

As always, I welcome your calls, emails and personal visits.

Board room highlights | May 29, 2024

- Received a favorable financial report from CFO Shelly Hove.
- Marketing and Communications Manager Brenda Tesch provided an update on the Operation Round Up program.
- Approved Incumbency certificate for our supplemental lender.
- Approved an application submission to USDA for SnoPac Foods.
- Approved a revolving loan fund application for Decorah Jobs.
- Received subsidiary updates and director reports.

The next board meeting will be held at the Cresco office on June 27 at 9 a.m.

4th of July

MiEnergy Cooperative will be closed on Thursday, July 4.

To report an outage, call 800-432-2285 or use the Report an Issue/Inquiry link in SmartHub.

Payments can be made by calling the payment line at 877-853-6517, placing payment in the drop box onsite or online through SmartHub.

A JOURNEY DOWN MiRoads WITH MEAGAN MOELLERS

In honor of Father's Day A tribute to father figures working the lines

MiEnergy's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones — even Father's Day. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers with careers at electric cooperatives. This month, as we celebrate the father figures in our lives, let's honor those who work at the co-op and love serving our members.

Historically, it's a career that has deep roots within families, with the love of power line work being passed on through generations of family members. Here at MiEnergy, our co-op family is no different. Many of our lineworkers have spent an entire career at the cooperative, while others are just getting started on their journey.

One of the most tremendous joys of a cooperative family is welcoming new family members to the group who grow up with the co-op state of mind and values. Could their children perhaps be a part of the next generation, building upon the strength and commitment found in the brotherhood of lineworkers and their families? Whether they follow in their father's footsteps or not, we are proud of the dads that wear the MiEnergy logo, working day and night to keep the lights on for our members. We thank you!

Happy Father's Day to all father figures throughout the MiEnergy service territory as we journey down MiRoads together. Keep making a difference in our world as role models for our future generations, possibly paving the way for the next wave of dedicated power lineworkers along the way.



JOSH CAROLAN AND SON, BOWEN
4/30/2024

BREAKING IT DOWN Energy Management Events

Cost Management

Peak Alert



GOAL: Reduce electricity use during high demand/prices
WHEN: Summer (Jun., Jul., Aug.) or Winter (Dec., Jan., Feb.)
WHAT: **Summer** - enrolled air conditioners, irrigation, dairy water heaters | **Winter** - enrolled interruptible heat (a.m.); enrolled peak alert accounts, dairy water heaters, grain dryers (p.m.)
WHY: Dairyland Power Cooperative initiates a Peak Alert when the regional grid is expected to reach its peak demand for the season, resulting in higher wholesale prices. Electric supply at these times is sufficient to cover demand, but the cooperative wants to reduce the amount of electricity purchased at high prices.

Cost Management

Summer Shift



GOAL: Help keep electric rates affordable
WHEN: June, July and August; 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. weekdays
WHY: MiEnergy's highest energy peaks are during the summer months. Every day has a peak energy use period. By reducing electricity use during this timeframe, it reduces the peaks. Reducing the peaks helps save on the cost of electricity, which helps keep rates affordable for all members.

Grid Reliability

Maximum Generation Event



GOAL: Reliability/Stabilize Electricity Supply
WHEN: Any time (enrolled devices will be **tested** once each season (4x/yr) unless an event has occurred that season)
WHAT:** Enrolled residential electric water heaters, auto standby generators; then, if needed: enrolled air conditioners or interruptible heat systems, dairy water heaters; enrolled peak alert/standby generators, grain dryers, irrigation
WHY: MISO, the regional grid operator, initiates a Maximum Generation Event when there is a reliability concern. There may be a risk of insufficient generation resources to power our members' needs. Reducing electricity use during a Maximum Generation Event is crucial for all members, but only enrolled devices will be affected.
***These devices will be called upon as needed, not all at once.*



DISCOVER SUMMER SHIFT TIPS

Electricity is a crucial part of our daily lives and smart electricity use helps keep electricity rates stable. That's why MiEnergy Cooperative encourages members to "Do the Summer Shift" on weekdays during the months of June, July and August. Anyone can participate in the Summer Shift by shifting or reducing energy used between the hours of 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. With a successful Summer Shift program, the cooperative's wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, purchases less electricity during times of peak demand and high prices. Reducing the price paid for our wholesale power contributes to stable retail electricity rates in the long-term.

The top three easy ways to reduce electric use during that timeframe include:

- Turning up the thermostat by 4 degrees.
- Delaying the dishwasher.
- Shifting the start of laundry.

Those tasks can be automated by programming a thermostat and by selecting the delay button on the dishwasher and washing machine.

DISCOVER SUMMER SHIFT TIPS

In addition to using automation, there are other ways to conserve energy from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. on summer weekdays:

- Cook outdoors to avoid additional heat from the oven.
- Air dry clothes instead of putting them in the dryer.
- Use an air fryer instead of your oven.
- Use an ENERGY STAR dishwasher over hand washing to conserve water and energy.
- Open up the dishwasher door to let dishes air dry.

Analyzing heating & cooling costs A closer look at electric versus gas

There are several types of electric heating and cooling systems that when combined with MiEnergy's energy management rates, make electricity a safe, affordable and efficient choice. Electric heat pumps are a super efficient way to heat and cool a home. If you've wondered how the cost per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for heat pumps compares to the cost of other heating systems and fuels, check out the graphs below.

AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS (ASHPS)

This is one of the most efficient ways to heat and cool your home with central venting systems. New cold-climate units can provide heat with lower temps than in the past. A backup heating system is required to be on the energy management rate.

Mini split systems work great in homes with no heating or cooling ducts in place, such as older homes or new additions.

The level of efficiency of ASHPs range from 200% to 400%. Lower efficiencies typically occur during the coldest winter days.

Electricity per kWh	Gallon Propane	Gallon Fuel Oil	Natural Gas/Therm
7¢	43¢	50¢	47¢
9¢	56¢	65¢	61¢
11¢	68¢	79¢	74¢
13¢	80¢	93¢	88¢

The chart above compares the cost of a 300% efficient ASHP (10.2 HSPF) to a 92% efficient propane and natural gas system and a 70% efficient fuel oil system. If your cost per kWh is 11¢, it is the equivalent to paying 68¢/gallon for propane, 79¢/gallon for fuel oil or 74¢/therm of natural gas.

GEOHERMAL HEAT PUMPS

This is the most efficient heating and cooling system available because it uses a renewable energy source: the earth. It will meet 100% of a home's heating and cooling needs. The efficiency level of a geothermal system can be in the range of 300% to 600% efficient.

Electricity per kWh	Gallon Propane	Gallon Fuel Oil	Natural Gas/Therm
7¢	35¢	40¢	38¢
9¢	44¢	52¢	49¢
11¢	54¢	63¢	59¢
13¢	64¢	75¢	70¢

The chart above compares the cost of a 500% efficient geothermal heat pump (5.0 COP) to a 92% efficient propane and natural gas system and a 70% efficient fuel oil system. If your cost per kWh is 11¢, it is the equivalent to paying 54¢/gallon for propane, 63¢/gallon for fuel oil or 59¢/therm of natural gas.

If you have questions about electric heating and cooling systems, contact the co-op for more details. MiEnergy rebates are available for qualified purchases. The Inflation Reduction Act has dollars available for qualified heat pump purchases.



Want more information about electric options for your home? Check out our website at www.MiEnergy.coop/heating-cooling and download the Electric Choice brochure.



Community service rewards students with \$1,000 scholarships



MiEnergy Cooperative awarded \$70,000 in scholarships to 70 local high school students who exemplify commitment to their local community. MiEnergy's scholarship program reflects the core cooperative principle of commitment to community by recognizing high school seniors who demonstrate cooperative spirit through service to others. The scholarships are funded through unclaimed capital credits that would otherwise be turned over to the state. A video of the award winners can be viewed on the cooperative's website, [MiEnergy.coop](https://www.mienergy.coop/scholarships), at <https://www.mienergy.coop/scholarships>. This year's 2024 MiEnergy Cooperative Community Service Scholarship winners are as follows:

Caledonia: Sean McCormick, child of Michael and Bernie McCormick; Alicia Schroeder, child of Shar and Kevin Schroeder; and Styrk Myhre, child of Francis and Heather Myhre.

Central Springs: Carly O'Donnell, child of Patrick and Carol O'Donnell.

Chatfield: Taylor Ask, child of Peter and Tiffany Ask; Evelyn Goldsmith, child of Katie and Rob Goldsmith; and Kieran Schmaltz, child of Scott Schmaltz and Stacie Conway.

Cotter: Audrey England, child of Amy and Ron England; and John Fritts, child of John and Tessa Fritts.

Crestwood: Kaleb Adams, child of Mike and Melissa Adams; Ava Ferrie, child of Nick and Katie Ferrie; and Cody Kerian, child of Lori Kerian and Randy Kerian.

Cyber Village Academy: Kaelyn Kath, child of Rebecca and Tony Kath.

Decorah: Cade Averhoff, child of Forry and Amy Averhoff; Cody Carolan, child of Jason and Sherri Carolan; Elayna Hook, child of Emily and Byron Hook; Jeremiah Rediske, child of James and Amy Rediske; and Ciara Wedmann, child of Bill Wedmann.

Fillmore Central: Alyssa Britton, child of Craig and Lori Britton; Luke Hellickson, child of Abbey and Matt Hellickson; Jayce Kiehne, child of Benjamin and Kristi Kiehne; Kathryn Pickett, child of Colin and Jennifer Pickett; and Tori Raaen, child of Tracy and Kurt Raaen.

Hayfield: Chelsea Christopherson, child of Jackie and Chet Christopherson.

Homeschool: Aubrey Ingvalson, child of Casey and Shannon Ingvalson; and Audrey Redalen, child of Judd and Abbie Redalen.

Houston: Preston Peterson, child of Matthew and Suzanne Peterson.

Kingsland: Katelyn Hauser, child of Steven and Amy Hauser; Kensie Heusinkveld, child of Nate and Misty

Heusinkveld; Kaylin Mensink, child of Shane Mensink and Missi Koebke; Dylan Schultz, child of Kim and Kevin Schultz; and Connor Tangen, child of Matt and Cindy Tangen.

La Crescent Montessori and STEM School: Emma Osley, child of Heather Barak and Darren Osley.

La Crescent-Hokah: Samantha Fabian, child of Kelly and Heath Fabian; and Logan Hill, child of Lenys and Mark Kramer and Ryan Mahlum.

Lanesboro: Lucas Ruen, child of Eric and Kristi Ruen.

Lewiston-Altura: Carly Brummer, child of Jennifer and Tobin Brummer; Georgia Mundt, child of Tara and Curtiss Mundt; Tiegana Prigge, child of Trevor and Terri Prigge; Anders Shurson, child of Eric and Shawna Shurson; Owen Sommer, child of Sarah and Chad Sommer; Caidance Veraguth, child of Mandi Gensmer; Alexa Wardwell, child of Garrett and Carly Wardwell; Isabelle Wenzel, child of Audrey and Mike Wenzel; and Jordan Wing, child of Tricia and Kerry Wing.

Luther: Benjamin Crabtree, child of Joe and Diann Crabtree; and Elijah Hoppe, child of Karl and Lori Hoppe.

Mabel-Canton: Colton Tollefsrud, child of Diane and Don Tollefsrud.

New Hampton: Jenna Heeren, child of Janet and Larry Heeren; Hailee Pesek, child of Tara and Jamey Pesek; Ethan Swehla, child of Travis and Janell Swehla; Ava Thronson, child of Stefanie and Eric Thronson; and Addison Trower, child of Tony and Stacy Trower.

Riceville: Kaden Kobliska, child of Derek and Crystal Reddel.

Rushford-Peterson: Ava Drazkowski, child of Chelsea and Joey Drazkowski; and Tayler Helgemoe, child of Jenny and Matt Helgemoe.

South Winneshiek: Avery Humpal, child of Darryl and Michelle Humpal; Kendric Langreck, child of Kenny and Jackie Langreck; Autumn Schmitt, child of Greg and Sara Schmitt; and Hailey Thuente, child of Timothy and Kris Thuente.

Spring Grove: Ethan Crouch, child of Sue and Jason Crouch; Joshua Newgaard, child of Brent and Becky Newgaard; and Elijah Solum, child of Michael and Deanna Solum.

Stewartville: Garrett Norton, child of Travis and Heather Norton; and Logan Skustad, child of Benjamin and Melisa Skustad.

Turkey Valley: Megan Blong, child of Ron and Donna Blong; and Halle Weber, child of Jeremy and Teresa Weber.

Winona: Melanie Butenhoff, child of Michael and Vanessa Butenhoff; Marin Keller, child of Michelle and Cameron Keller; and Hailey Yender, child of Tanya and Matthew Yender.

Unlock comfort and savings

If you're working on your summer to-dos, consider adding home weatherization to your list.

According to [energystar.gov](https://www.energystar.gov), a home with insufficient insulation and air leaks wastes more than 20% of the energy used to heat or cool the home. That's essentially throwing money out the door.

The simplest and most cost-effective weatherization strategies include air sealing around windows and exterior doors.

If you have older windows, odds are you have air escaping through tiny cracks and gaps around the frame. If you can see any daylight around the frame or the windows rattle easily, you likely have air leaks. Also check for any small cracks around the frame that may not be visible with sunlight.

If you plan to apply new caulk around windows, be sure to remove the old caulk and clean the area well before application. Caulking materials vary in strength and properties, but estimate a half-cartridge per window.

Silicone caulk is a popular choice and can also be used to seal joints between bathroom and kitchen fixtures. If you have any leftover caulk, use it to seal those areas.

Another effective weatherization project is installing weatherstripping around exterior doors. The most common types are V-channel, felt and foam tape. To choose the best type for your home, consider temperature fluctuations and weather exposure. Most homeowners opt for felt or foam tape; both options are easy to install but will need to be

replaced every couple years, depending on wear and tear. Weatherstripping should be installed around the top and sides of the door.

If you see daylight around the bottom of an exterior door, consider installing a door sweep in addition to weatherstripping. Door sweeps are available in aluminum, plastic, vinyl and felt options.

Weatherstripping can also be installed around windows, typically to the sides of a double hung or sliding window, or around the window sash.

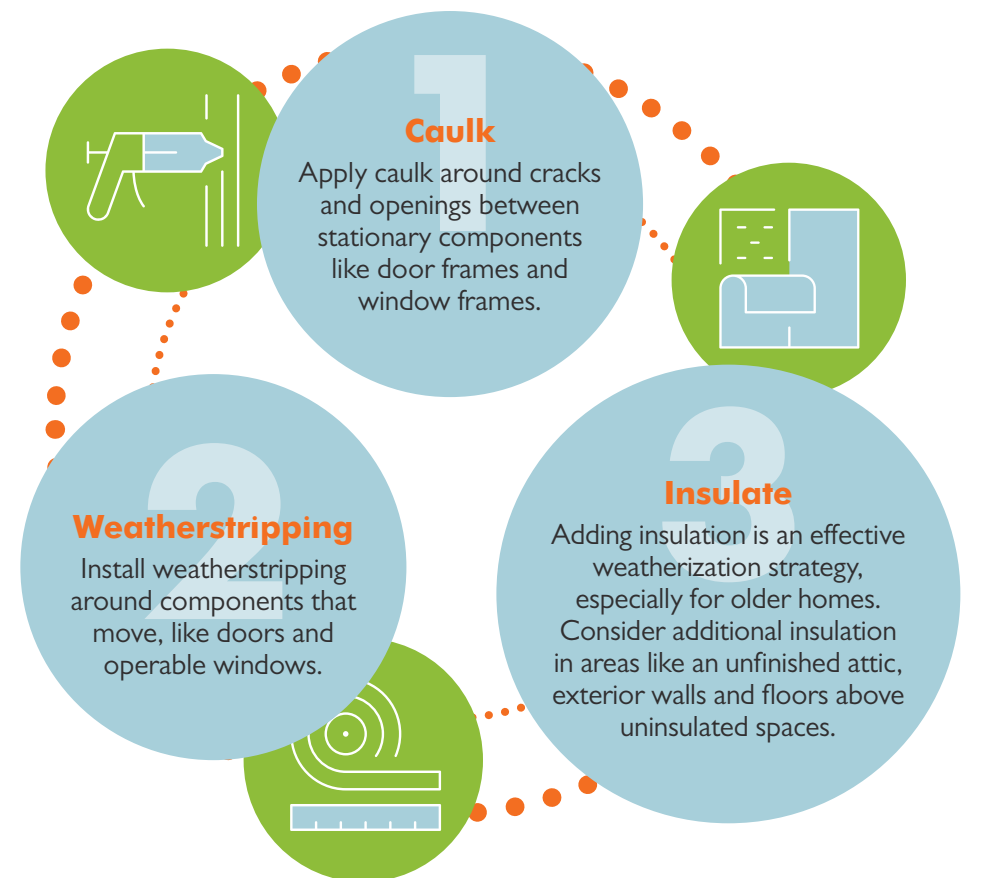
If you're unsure how to install weatherstripping or apply caulk, check out trusted websites like [Lowe's.com](https://www.lowes.com) or [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov) for step-by-step instructions and video tutorials.

Another way to improve comfort in your home is adding insulation. While this is a more costly project and requires a professional's help, it's an effective way to decrease heat flow, which impacts energy use in winter and summer months. Older homes may need additional insulation to either replace older materials or meet newer efficiency standards. Contact a qualified installation specialist if you suspect your home's insulation levels are inadequate.

In addition to saving energy, air sealing can help you avoid moisture control issues, improve indoor air quality and extend the life of your heating and cooling system. Weatherize your home to unlock year-round comfort and savings on monthly energy costs.

3 WAYS TO SEAL IN COMFORT

In addition to increased comfort, weatherizing your home is an excellent way to save energy and lower your cooling and heating costs. Here are three ways you can seal in comfort and savings.



SET YOUR HOME TO VACATION MODE



The equipment in your home is hard at work getting through the daily grind. While you are off enjoying a new adventure or time away, give your home's equipment a vacation, too. Doing so can reduce unnecessary energy waste and unneeded wear and tear on your heating and cooling system, appliances and more. Here's how to set your home to vacation mode.

THERMOSTAT

Your heating and cooling system keeps you comfortable. If you aren't there, setting the thermostat closer to the outdoor temperature can save you energy and money. Don't completely turn off the heating or cooling system. In extreme weather, your heating and cooling system also helps protect your home from freezing pipes or damage from excessive heat.

As a rule, you can typically set your thermostat 5 to 10 degrees closer to the outdoor temperature when you aren't home. Each home is different, and the weather varies depending on where you live. Consider the right temperature balance for your home.

Installing a smart thermostat gives you the ability to control your settings remotely from your smart phone. This allows you to adjust the temperature after you leave home and right before you return.

WATER HEATER

Most water heaters include a vacation mode setting. This setting drops the temperature to reduce wasted energy when you're away. A storage water heater is like an insulated tea kettle, standing by and ready for you to have hot water whenever you need it. Give that water heater a vacation, too. Changing the setting to vacation mode keeps it on at a lower setting, saving energy. Leave yourself

a note with a reminder to turn it back on when you get home, so you don't wind up with a disappointing shower before the first day back at work.

CURTAINS

Closing the curtains can provide two benefits. It can keep heat from the sun at bay. This reduces the load on your heating and cooling system, which saves energy. It also has the benefit of blocking visibility into your home when you're away.

LIGHT TIMERS

For security, some people use timers or leave on exterior lights. Make sure any lights left on are LEDs, instead of incandescent or compact fluorescent bulbs. LEDs use less energy and have less impact on your electric use when left on all night. You can also consider adding smart LEDs to your home. Smart LEDs can be controlled remotely through an app on your phone.

UNPLUG DEVICES

Did you know there are devices in your home that continue to draw power from your electrical outlets even when turned off or on standby? Before you leave, walk through your home and unplug devices and small appliances. Make sure gaming consoles and computers are fully powered down. Unplugging any devices that have lights, clocks or use standby mode can also reduce wasted energy.

Having peace of mind that your home is powered down and secure can help you enjoy your vacation. After all, we all need an occasional break.

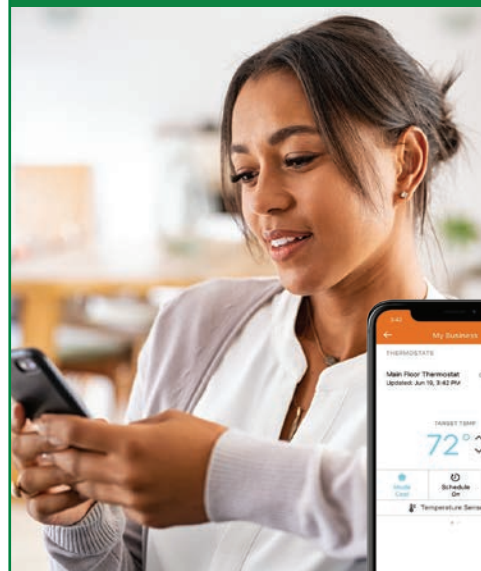
Around the CO-OP

NEW HIRE

Grady Hengel accepted the position of temporary lineworker. He recently completed his power technology degree at Minnesota West Community Technical College in Jackson, Minn. and will be working to gain knowledge and experience during the next six months. Grady started his new position on May 20. Welcome Grady to the MiEnergy Cooperative family!



Put the power in your hands.



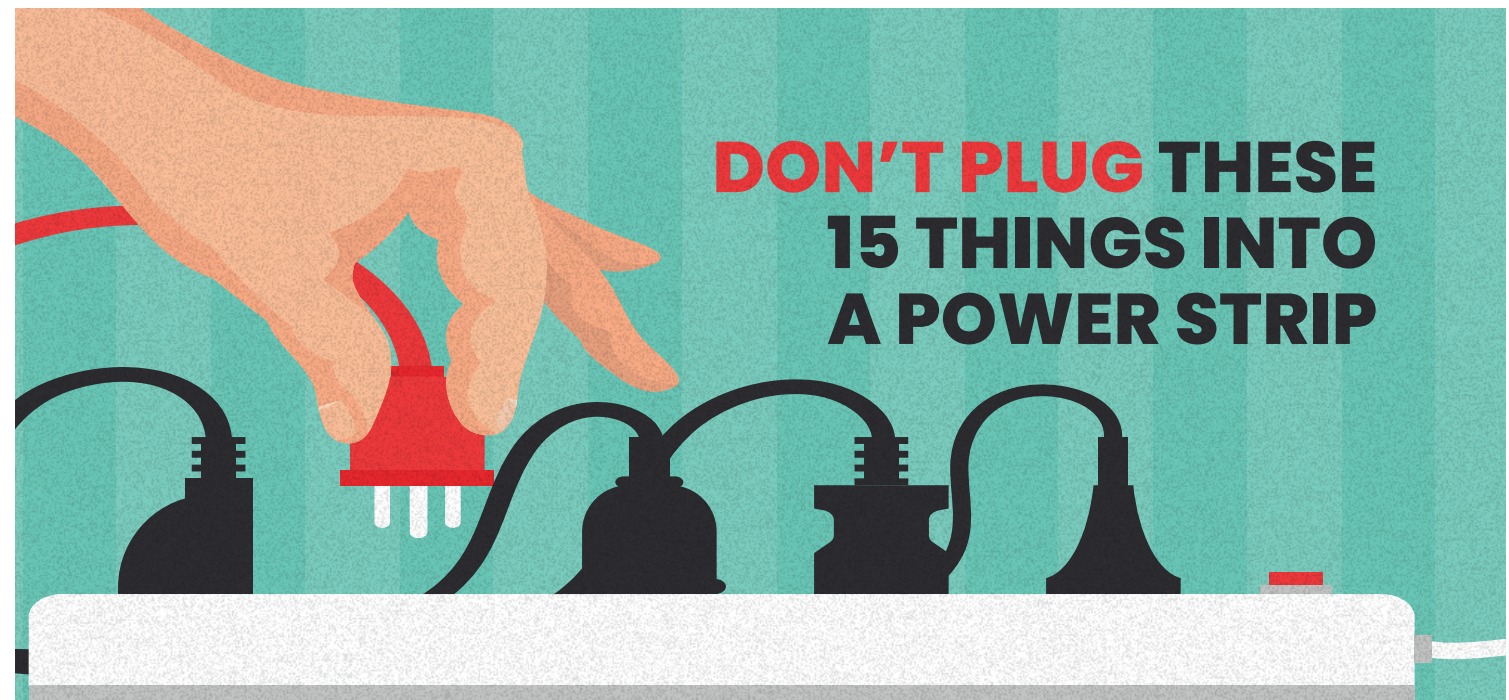
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DON'T PLUG THESE 15 THINGS INTO A POWER STRIP



It is fine to plug some things into a power strip, such as computers, lamps, phones and other light-load electronics. However, appliances that require a lot of power should not be plugged into a power strip. Do not use a power strip with the following appliances:

IN THE KITCHEN

- ✗ Refrigerators
- ✗ Microwave ovens
- ✗ Toasters
- ✗ Coffee makers
- ✗ Blenders
- ✗ Slow cookers
- ✗ Rice cookers

IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM


- ✗ Washing machines
- ✗ Dryers

ANYWHERE

- ✗ Sump pumps
- ✗ Space heaters
- ✗ Portable air conditioners

IN THE BATHROOM

- ✗ Hair dryers
- ✗ Curling irons
- ✗ Other hairstyling tools

 Do not overload power strips by plugging in appliances that consume more watts than the cord can handle. This can cause the power strip to overheat or start a fire.

Learn more at:
Safe Electricity.org

**JUNE 26-30
HOWARD COUNTY FAIR**

Featherlite Center at the Howard County Fairgrounds
Entries are judged on appearance, taste and texture.
Prizes: 1st Place – \$25 cash; 2nd Place – \$15 cash; 3rd Place – \$10 cash

Homemade Salsa Contest

- Judging at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26.
- Entry Times: 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- One pint per entry.
- Limit of two (2) entries per individual.
- Chips will be furnished.

Strawberry Dessert Contest

- Judging at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26.
- Entry Times: 12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m.
- Must be in a disposable container.
- Limit of two (2) entries per individual.

Light Bulb Decorating Contest

- Judging on Thursday, June 27.
- Entry Times: 10 a.m.–3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26.
- Open to kids 12 years of age and under.
- Each child entering will receive a new LED light bulb.
- Entries picked up between 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 30.



**JULY 9 – 13
WINNESHIEK COUNTY FAIR**

Fontanelle Shelter at the Winneshiek County Fairgrounds
Entries are judged on appearance, taste and texture.
Prizes: 1st Place – \$25 cash; 2nd Place – \$15 cash; 3rd Place – \$10 cash

Homemade Apple Pie Contest

- Judging at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 9.
- Entry Times: 10:30–11:00 a.m.
- Please use disposable pie tins for entries.
- Limit of two (2) entries per family.

Chocolate Chip Cookie Contest

- Judging at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 9.
- Entry Times: 10:30–11:00 a.m.
- Any type of chocolate chip cookie allowed.
- One dozen cookies on a disposable plate or tray per entry.

**JULY 15–21
FILLMORE COUNTY FAIR**

West End of the Commercial Building at the Fillmore County Fairgrounds
Entry is judged on communication of chosen theme, overall creativity, originality, use of space, and overall appearance.
Prizes are by lot: 1st Place – \$25 cash and 2nd Place – \$15 cash.

Light Bulb Display Contest

- Judging at 1 p.m. on Thursday, July 18.
- Decorate one or more light bulbs. Create a scene/backdrop to display not to exceed 24" square area.
- Lot 6 ages 10 and under; Lot 7 ages 11–17; and Lot 8 ages 18 and over.



PRESCHOOL VISIT – CRESCO

MiEnergy's Josh Carolan visited the Notre Dame preschool class in Cresco on April 30. He showed the students different parts of the cooperative's bucket truck and demonstrated some of the tools that a lineworker needs to wear and use to be safe when working near electricity.



TESMER FARM SAFETY DAYS— CALEDONIA AND PRESTON

MiEnergy's Darrin Peterson and Mark Dornink gave electric safety demonstrations at the Fillmore County event held in Preston at the Fillmore County Fairgrounds on May 7. MiEnergy's Randall Ashbacher gave electric safety demonstrations at the Houston County event held in Caledonia at the Houston County Fairgrounds on May 9. A total of 480 students and 52 teachers/chaperones from 19 public, private and homeschools in Fillmore and Houston counties attended over the course of the two days. They heard presentations on safety related to ATVs, general farm safety, plant identification, tractor rollovers, lawnmowers, electricity, grain bin drowning, bicycles, 911, PTO, fires, first aid, livestock and horses.



WINONA COUNTY PROGRESSIVE AG SAFETY DAY—WINONA



MiEnergy's Christian Anderson and Lucas Gravos gave electric safety demonstrations at this event held at Winona County's Farmer's Park on May 21. A total of 201 students and 21 teachers/chaperones attended and heard presentations on ATV and UTVs, emergency services, firearms, animals, weed ID, lawnmowers and bicycles, electric safety, grain bin drowning, PTO and tractors.



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

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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

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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

MINES STAFF

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

2024 OFFICES CLOSED

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.

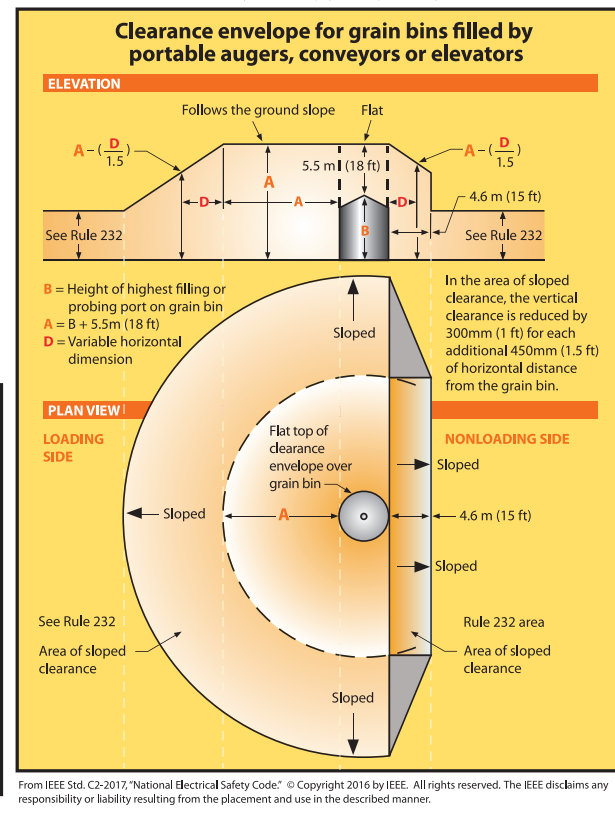
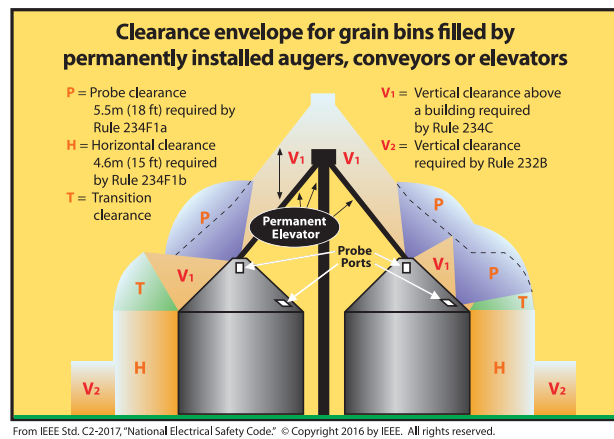
Grain bin clearance notice for Iowa members

When you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact MiEnergy. We will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins.

According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in the Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 – 25.2(3) b. An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2012, page 120. "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234f. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors or elevators built after December 24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board)

MiEnergy is required by the Iowa Utilities Board to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants, and city and county zoning officials. If you have any questions concerning clearance regulations, please call MiEnergy at 800-432-2285.

Disclaimer: These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. To view the actual drawings, refer to that publication. Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents for these drawings. However, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives accept no liability whatsoever for omissions or errors, technical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes or damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings, whether textual or graphical.



**Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month**

Set ceiling fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: energystar.gov



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

Contest entries accepted during June at
IowaShineTheLight.com

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MiEnergy lineworker headed to Guatemala for electrification project

In June, 14 lineworkers from Iowa and Minnesota electric cooperatives, including MiEnergy Cooperative, will embark on a 2,800-mile journey that will improve the quality of life for a rural Guatemalan community for generations. The trip is part of the International Program affiliated with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), which has been coordinating electric co-op volunteers to electrify villages and communities in impoverished countries around the world since 1962.

MiEnergy's Steve Bronner, of Preston, will join 13 lineworkers from other co-ops that include Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative, Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative, Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative, Midland Power Cooperative, North West Rural Electric Cooperative and Prairie Energy Cooperative in Iowa, and Lake Country Power, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative, Nobles Cooperative Electric, People's Energy Cooperative, Sioux Valley Energy and Stearns Electric Association in Minnesota. Together the team will string lines and wire homes for electricity in the remote community of La Hortiga.

The lineworkers will be in Guatemala for 15 days. The remote community is about an hour from San Marcos, situated in the mountains at around 10,000 feet of elevation. The team will build out approximately three miles of line that will be connected to the local municipal power



company, which will take over the service of the lines once completed. After framing pre-set poles and building out conductor, they will install wires and circuits in approximately 15 homes. The lineworkers will also provide each household with a water filtration kit to help them access clean water.

NRECA started the International Program in 1962 to bring prosperity to those less fortunate around the world. Since that time, the organization has powered the lives of more than 160 million people in 48 countries throughout Africa, South America and Asia. Teams assist with all stages of planning and executing electrification projects, promoting electric cooperative development and empowering communities around the world.