

September 2023 Vol. 7 Issue 9  
A monthly publication for members of  
MiEnergy Cooperative.

# MiNews

## SEASONS OF GIVING

Expanding impact beyond the wires

**Tips for replacing &  
maintaining windows**

**IS SOLAR  
RIGHT  
FOR YOU?**

Energy assistance  
available for helping pay  
utility bills

Leadership sessions for  
high school students



# Wind turbines, broadband & safety

Members traveling in the southern part of MiEnergy's service territory cannot miss the huge cranes in the landscape that are erecting 66 wind turbines north of New Hampton, Iowa. With newly created roads across cornfields and the fresh gravel access roads to the individual turbine sites, it is transforming the area. MiEnergy Director Carl Reicks communicates the landscape transformation to me and staff on a regular basis, including at monthly board meetings.

MidAmerican Energy, an investor-owned utility, is set to purchase the energy output from those turbines, which will be sold into the regional energy market. This is the second large wind farm in MiEnergy's Iowa service territory, and it likely will not be the last. To date, a couple dozen MiEnergy members have been impacted by the wind turbine installation with pre-scheduled power outages that occur when the cranes travel from site to site.

MiEnergy's operations department is working directly with the contractor to minimize the inconvenience to our membership that will likely occur through the end of the year. MiEnergy crews drop overhead lines to allow for the cranes to move without contacting power lines or damaging electrical equipment.

Six crossings were identified early on as heavy use crossings, and the contractor paid for the cost to put the power lines underground. Dropping overhead lines for the remaining limited crossings is the best solution to limit the duration of outages to impacted members and avoid farmers' drain tile infrastructure.

We will do our best to continue to contact members in advance of the outages. The crane moves and turbine erections are an evolving process that is very fluid,

sometimes changing daily. Safety is of the utmost importance for both the wind developer crews, our employees and membership.



## SENATOR SMITH VISIT

U.S. Senator Tina Smith of Minnesota visited MiEnergy's Rushford office on August 10 to highlight the \$13.6 million ReConnect grant/loan in federal funding awarded to our cooperative to build out broadband in western Fillmore County to expand rural broadband access. MiEnergy's partnership with Mabel Cooperative Telephone and Spring Grove Communications to create MiBroadband is a national model to deliver broadband in rural America.

Senator Smith has been a strong champion for broadband expansion, and we stressed the importance to continue the USDA Federal ReConnect program that provides both a 50% grant and 50% loan. Continuation of the ReConnect program will be part of the new Farm Bill discussions that are being worked on this fall in Congress.

Dairyland Power Cooperative CEO Brent Ridge was also in attendance and stressed the need for permitting reform and electric system reliability concerns with the new proposed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations.

MiEnergy is very fortunate that all of our senators in Minnesota and Iowa are champions of electric cooperatives and always receptive to MiEnergy's communications.

## WATCH FOR BUSES AND STUDENTS

It's that time of the year with children heading back to school. Please take the time to watch for children crossing streets and waiting at their school bus stops.

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

## Board room highlights | August 31, 2023

- Received a favorable monthly and year-to-date financial report.
- Staff provided management updates.
- Approved Resolution 23-10 authorizing an application for revolving loan funds.
- Management provided subsidiary updates.
- Approved April 10, 2024, for the annual meeting.
- Approved the process for conducting the board evaluation.

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

# POWERFUL PURPOSE WITH COMMUNITY

The co-op and its employees take time to give locally

## BEYOND THE WIRES

The days of autumn are fast approaching, which means the "seasons of giving" are close. MiEnergy is committed to a wide variety of volunteering and donating during this time of year. But that's no surprise; it's been like this since

electric cooperatives began almost nine decades ago.

The end of the calendar year is well known as the feel good season. It's going beyond the wires and making a transformation in our schools, communities, families and homes across our service area. Giving back is simply the greatest gift!

Back to school time means volunteers are helping in classrooms or school events. Watch for local co-op employees stepping up and offering their time and talents. Many of our co-op employees devote their time to strengthen youngsters' knowledge of sports, music, the arts and other extra-curricular activities.

Next up is October with events to celebrate National Co-op Month. Did you know that we open the gates to a local pumpkin patch for members of MiEnergy? It's an exclusive event for families that includes wagon rides, slides, games, go karts, warm drinks, selection of that perfect pumpkin and finding your way through a corn maze.

The last week of October, employees put together uniquely crafted baskets with homemade and locally produced goods. Even though this is only the fourth year for the co-op month basket giveaway, it's already one of our favorite ways of giving back. We are supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs each year and then passing the love onto our co-op members who are drawn as basket winners. We're highlighting your local neighbors on the nine county MiEnergy map and harvesting a bushel basket full of items native to our land, heritage and culture. We are proud to be a significant promoter of all things local.

Before you know it, we'll mark the end of October with local Halloween celebrations. Who doesn't love getting candy and snacks? It's a time when employees are involved in decorating the MiEnergy vehicles for trunk-or-treat events or passing out treats along the main streets in our hometowns to young kids, their parents and grandparents.

The month of November is truly a time that symbolizes giving. Local drives collect and give money and supplies to local food shelves to help families throughout our service territory. For many years, we lined the hallways or filled bucket trucks with heaps and mounds of food items, turkeys, gallons of milk and pumpkin pies to donate traditional Thanksgiving Day feasts to local families in need. In recent years, we simply gather monetary donations from employees as those funds can go farther in substance for the nearby food shelves and reach more families locally.

Living in rural America means small towns take extra pride in their hometown festivals and parades. As the Christmas holiday draws near, you will find your cooperative employees and their families hustling and bustling down main streets participating in lighted parades by handing out popcorn or hot cocoa packets to keep you warm on cold winter nights.

Christmastime would not be



complete without the co-op family donating to the annual CARE program which adopts a family in Howard County and supporting monetary donations for the Christmas in Fillmore County program. Both of these annual drives fill the hearts of our people and adheres to the spirit of our core existence, Commitment to Community - Cooperative Principle #7.

After reading about everything MiEnergy has touched with a powerful purpose during the seasons of giving, please remember to be thankful for your local electric cooperative and the great employees that are engaged in their communities going beyond the wires. Thank you to everyone involved that makes a difference in our small corner of the world. After all, that's the co-op way of doing things.

# Tips for replacing and maintaining windows



©Alpen High Performance Products

Have windows that are old and drafty, and thinking about replacing them? Upgrading or improving your windows is an important component of your home's

energy efficiency. According to the Department of Energy, heat gain and loss through windows consumes 25% to 30% of residential heating and cooling energy use.

Start by identifying the kind of windows you have. Are they single pane or double pane? Looking closely at the window's edge, you can see the number of windowpanes. Are the frames metal, wood or vinyl? Some manufacturers etch the make and model numbers in a corner of the glass, so you can look up the manufacturer for more information.

Single-pane windows and double-

pane windows with metal frames are the least energy efficient. The lower the efficiency of your existing windows, the higher the potential for energy savings.

There are several options for improving your windows, ranging from replacement windows to storm windows to budget-friendly repairs.

## WINDOW EFFICIENCY

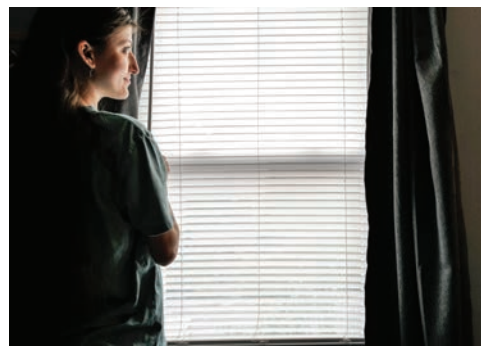
Several components can make windows more efficient. High-quality frame materials insulate and reduce heat transfer. Two or more panes of glass with space in between (filled with air or gas) improve the window's insulation capability. Warm edge spacers hold the panes of glass the proper distance apart and help insulate the edges of the panes. Low-emissivity coatings applied to the glass can reflect infrared light, keeping the heat in during the winter and out during the summer.

Window efficiency is rated in U-factor and Solar Heat Gain Coefficient, or SHGC. U-factor measures heat transfer through the window, which relates to how well it insulates. The lower the U-factor, the more efficient the window. The SHGC measures how effectively the window blocks heat from the sun.

## REPLACEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

If you want to replace your existing windows, shop for ENERGY STAR®-certified windows. ENERGY STAR® sets specific U-factor and SHGC requirements based on your geography, so you get the best fit for your location. Replacement windows offer additional benefits, like improved operability and aesthetics. As with many industries, the window industry has been impacted by price increases over the past few years, so keep in mind, this can be an expensive upgrade.

Storm windows are a lower-cost



solution for some homes. Traditional storm windows are made with clear glass. Low emissivity storm windows have energy savings similar to replacement windows at about a third of the cost.

Storm windows are mounted to the interior or exterior and are available in operable styles, so you can still open and close your windows. Look for ENERGY STAR®-certified models.

If you want to maintain the historic architecture of your existing windows, low-e storm windows are a great option. Some companies can refit your existing window frames with custom double-pane glass and weatherstripping.

As with any home improvement project, be sure to get multiple quotes to compare pricing and scope of work.

If new windows or storm windows are not in the budget, your best bet is to maintain your existing windows. Keep the paint and caulking on the exterior in good condition. Caulk around the inside trim, ensure sash locks are installed properly and seal tight when locked. There are a variety of weatherstripping types for windows to keep drafts at bay.

Whether you replace or make improvements to what you have, adding efficiency to your windows will add year-round comfort to your home.

Miranda Boutelle writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 electric co-ops.

Need help with paying your heating bill?

# Home energy assistance program available

**\*\*If you are having financial difficulties and cannot pay your electric bill, communicating with MiEnergy is essential. Don't ignore disconnection notices. Contact us at 1-800-432-2285 to discuss winter disconnection protection and the steps required to avoid being disconnected. Even if you don't qualify for either of these programs, the cooperative can help set up a payment plan to help members through tough times to avoid disconnection at any time of the year. \*\***

## IOWA MEMBERS:

The 2023-2024 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season.

The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel and type of housing.

If you are not sure where to apply, dial 2-1-1, visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply> to contact your local community action agency or write to: LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Human Rights, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319.

Household Size	INCOME MAXIMUMS	
	Annual Gross Income	
1	\$29,160	
2	\$39,440	
3	\$49,720	
4	\$60,000	
5	\$70,280	
6	\$80,560	
7	\$90,840	
8	\$101,120	
For households with more than eight members, add \$10,280 for each additional member.		

## WHEN TO APPLY:

- Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled: October 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024
- All other households: November 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024

## WHAT TO TAKE:

- Proof of income (for all household members age 18 and over). Depending on your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you.
- Proof of social security numbers for **all** household members (documentation required).
- Most recent heat bill.
- Most recent electric bill.

## WAGE EARNERS:

Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application or a copy of your federal income tax return.

## FIXED INCOME:

This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance and pensions. Please bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

## SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:

Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

*If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified. Additional income not listed here may be required.*

## IOWA ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

CHICKASAW COUNTY: 641-394-2007  
 HOWARD COUNTY: 563-547-4413  
 WINNESHIEK COUNTY: 563-382-8436  
 NE IOWA COMMUNITY ACTION: 563-382-9608

## MINNESOTA MEMBERS:

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, electric service for Minnesota members cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 50 percent of the state median income. Income may be verified on forms provided by MiEnergy or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from MiEnergy.

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects. Before disconnecting electric service to Minnesota residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30, MiEnergy must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection.
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities.
- A list of local energy assistance providers.
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection.
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

## MINNESOTA ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

FILLMORE COUNTY: 507-765-2175  
 HOUSTON COUNTY: 507-725-5811  
 MOWER COUNTY: 507-437-9701  
 SEMCAC, INC: 800-944-3281  
 WINONA COUNTY: 507-457-6200



Watch for this month's bill insert for your chance to make a difference by participating in MiEnergy's RECare program.

RECare is a consumer contribution fund in which members like you assist other members who need help in paying electric bills. Consider a one-time contribution or enroll to provide monthly contributions. Donation forms are also online at [www.MiEnergy.coop](http://www.MiEnergy.coop).

## HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDS

Minnesota members call the MiEnergy office at 800-432-2285. Iowa members call Northeast Iowa Community Action offices in Chickasaw, Howard or Winneshiek counties.



# Is solar right for you?

The benefits of installing solar panels may seem like a no-brainer, but the reality is, not every home (and homeowner's situation) is right for solar. There are several factors to consider before pulling the trigger on a solar system, like determining if you receive enough sun to achieve your goals, finding the right contractor, negotiating contracts and other important details.

Investing in solar is a major decision. If you're considering solar, MiEnergy has over 900 members with solar interconnected to its grid and can help.

Here are questions to consider before installing solar.

- **What are your goals?** If your primary goal is to save money on electric bills, an energy audit can identify areas of the home for improvement for maximum energy savings.
- **Do you have an area suitable for solar?** Consider how much sun (and shade) the location receives and if any trees will need to be removed. Solar panels perform best when facing south.
- **How long will I own the home?** If you're considering solar, you're likely planning to stay in the home for several years. Carefully review the terms of your contract and what those mean if you decide to sell the property.
- **What is the cost?** Purchasing a solar system is expensive. However, federal tax credits can help

cover some of the costs for a new system, up to 30%. Regardless of how you decide to finance the solar system, make sure you get several quotes from qualified contractors. MiEnergy can recommend local contractors from the area.

- **Does the contract seem reasonable and fair?** If you decide to hire a contractor, carefully read the fine print of the contract. Do the system performance calculations seem realistic? Does the project timeframe sound reasonable? As part of the interconnection process, MiEnergy can review the calculations and provide you with your home's energy use data.
- **How will I work with MiEnergy?** Finally, but equally important, you should contact the cooperative if you decide to install solar. If the system is connected to MiEnergy's electric grid, you'll need to apply for interconnection. We can walk you through the steps, including our policies, prior to you signing any agreement with your contractor.

For many homeowners, solar panels are a great way to help the environment and save on electric bills—but there are many factors to consider before diving in and installing a system. We're your local energy partner and can serve as a helpful resource throughout the process.

**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG IN**

**Wait for utilities to be marked.**

**You could cause damage.**

**Call at least 2-3 business days prior to digging.**

**811**

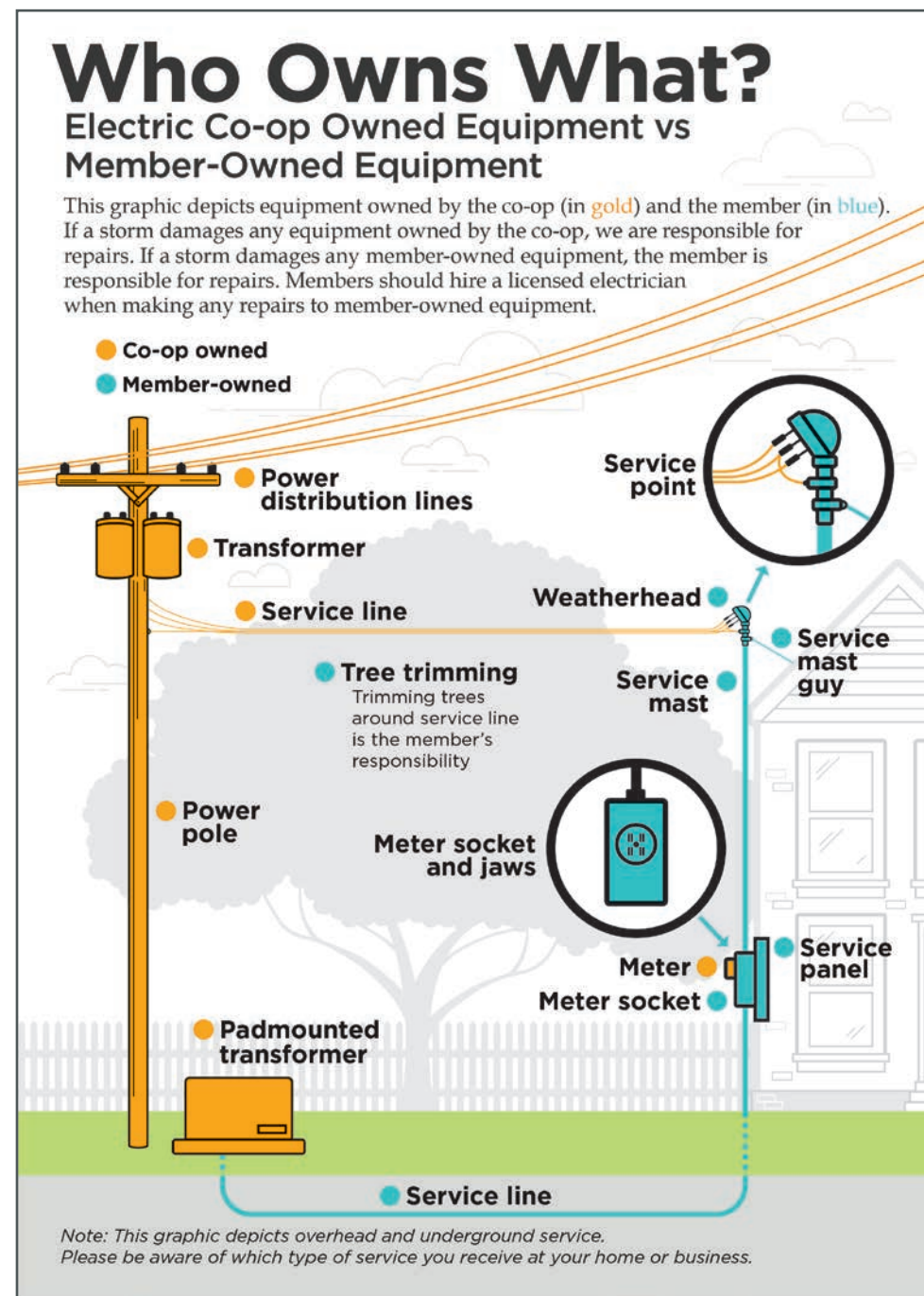
Safe Electricity.org®

It is important to remember that 811 locators do not locate privately installed utilities. Examples of private utilities include: underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences, data communication systems, or private utilities (electricity, gas or water) to an outbuilding or garage. You need to hire a private utility locator for those.

## MEMBER SURVEY

**We want your feedback!**

MiEnergy is conducting a member satisfaction survey starting the week of September 25. Co-op members will be randomly selected to receive an email link to complete the online survey. MiEnergy hired a third-party independent research group, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Market Research Services, to conduct a confidential survey with co-op members. If you are contacted, we strongly encourage you to complete the survey. The survey's initiatives will focus on questions to measure the value of our cooperative to the membership, electric service quality and a number of other specific areas of interest. We've been surveying members for decades. We appreciate your time and input because your feedback helps us discover ways to better serve you.



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- » Get a \$300/ton rebate.



# WIND ENERGY IS SOARING

Wind is generating more electricity from larger turbines

Wind energy is big and getting bigger, in more ways than one. In the U.S., wind currently generates twice the amount of electricity it did five years ago and provides 10% of the nation's electricity—a share expected to grow to more than 25% by 2050.

The basics behind wind power technology is a tall pole with rotor blades at the top. You've likely seen huge fields of those turbines, with white rotor blades spinning lazily around. But they're actually not lazy at all, and that's another way wind energy is big—in physical size.

## BIGGER TURBINES MAKE MORE ELECTRICITY

Wind turbine blades seem to circle slowly due to an optical illusion resulting from how big they are. The tips of those rotors are likely to be moving at more than 150 miles per hour.

There's a reason for that size. Wind turbines are getting bigger and taller to capture more wind high in the air. The average wind turbine height has increased from about 190 feet in 2000 to nearly 300 feet today—as tall as the Statue of Liberty. During that time, the size of the rotor blades has doubled, making a circle more than 400 feet in diameter.

That size growth has tripled the amount of electricity a wind turbine can produce, lowering the cost of wind power.

One wind turbine can generate enough electricity to power about 900 homes, and they're being installed at a rate of about 3,000 a year. Today, there are more than 72,000 turbines in the U.S., primarily located in the middle part of the country. But that's about to change.

Federal and state governments are encouraging developers to build wind turbines out in the ocean, where winds are more constant and the rotors could be even larger. Sixteen projects have been proposed and one estimate shows there's enough potential for offshore wind to supply nearly all our electricity. Offshore wind turbines are generally even larger than those used on land.

## PROTECTING BIRDS FROM WIND TURBINES

Bigger sizes can cause problems, though, like transporting rotor blades that average more than 100 feet long. Delivering those monsters can cost more than \$30,000 in finding the right truck for the oversized load, planning the route, obtaining permits, checking clearances and recruiting escort vehicles. Researchers are already working on those problems. One solution is flexible blades that could be carried on three train cars. The blades could bend to allow the train to maneuver around curves.

As the wind industry has evolved, attention has been focused on bird deaths—as many as a million birds a year fly into spinning rotors. This poses a dilemma for wildlife and nature groups, who are generally supportive of renewable energy. The National Audubon Society, for example, supports wind power as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but urges careful planning to locate wind farms in ways that minimize risk to wildlife.

Besides large onshore and offshore wind farms, wind turbines can be used as a distributed energy resource. With support from the U.S. Department of Energy, there have been significant innovations in smaller-scale wind turbines to integrate some of the improvements seen in larger models, including longer blades to capture more wind and advanced composite materials. Smaller turbines can even be used to help power homes, farms, schools and businesses.

Across the U.S., several electric cooperatives and other rural utilities have deployed one or more large-scale wind turbines in their local service territories as a local utility-scale resource to supplement their wholesale power supply. These kinds of local resources can help boost resiliency, hedge or reduce power supply costs, and support local economic development.

We'll have to watch as wind energy and the technologies that power it evolve. For wind power, there will be opportunities for growth at both smaller and larger scales, as well as on land and offshore.

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

# Zoom leadership sessions for students


Iowa's electric cooperatives are pleased to once again offer a virtual opportunity for rural students to learn more about advocacy, electric cooperative career opportunities and the cooperative business model with a three-part webinar series in October. The Iowa Youth Leadership Academy is open to any high school student in our service area, and they are invited to register at [www.IowaYouthTour.com](http://www.IowaYouthTour.com) by October 1.

"This new program is perfect for rural students who have a passion for public service, leadership or government," remarked Brenda Tesch, communications manager. "We want to raise students' awareness of how local electric co-ops power people's lives and empower communities. We also want to talk about exciting cooperative career paths that are available in smaller communities."

Once students register online, they can attend the webinars from their own computer or mobile device. Each Zoom session will last around 45-60 minutes and focus on a specific topic:

- Tuesday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m. – Cooperative Business Model
- Thursday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m. – Rural Iowa Advocacy
- Thursday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m. – Civic Involvement and Leadership


At the end of each live session, one lucky attendee will be selected at random to win a pair of Apple AirPods. Students who attend all three sessions will be entered into a random drawing for a \$1,000 college scholarship. All students who register online by October 1 will receive a special box of co-op goodies in the mail.



**WANTED:**

**Rural high school students who have a passion for leadership**

Attend our webinar series in October for a chance to win Apple AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship! Learn more at [IowaYouthTour.com](http://IowaYouthTour.com)



## FARM SAFETY

Make sure EVERYONE is trained on safe practices around electricity. Utilize these safety tips for you, your employees, seasonal workers, family members, and anyone else accessing your farm.

- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Know all power line locations on your farm and routes between fields.
- Always use a spotter when moving equipment near power lines.
- Don't completely rely on autosteer or GPS to detect and clear power lines or poles.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact us.

If your equipment does hit a power line, pole, or guy wire, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

## POWER LINE AWARENESS



Safe Electricity.org

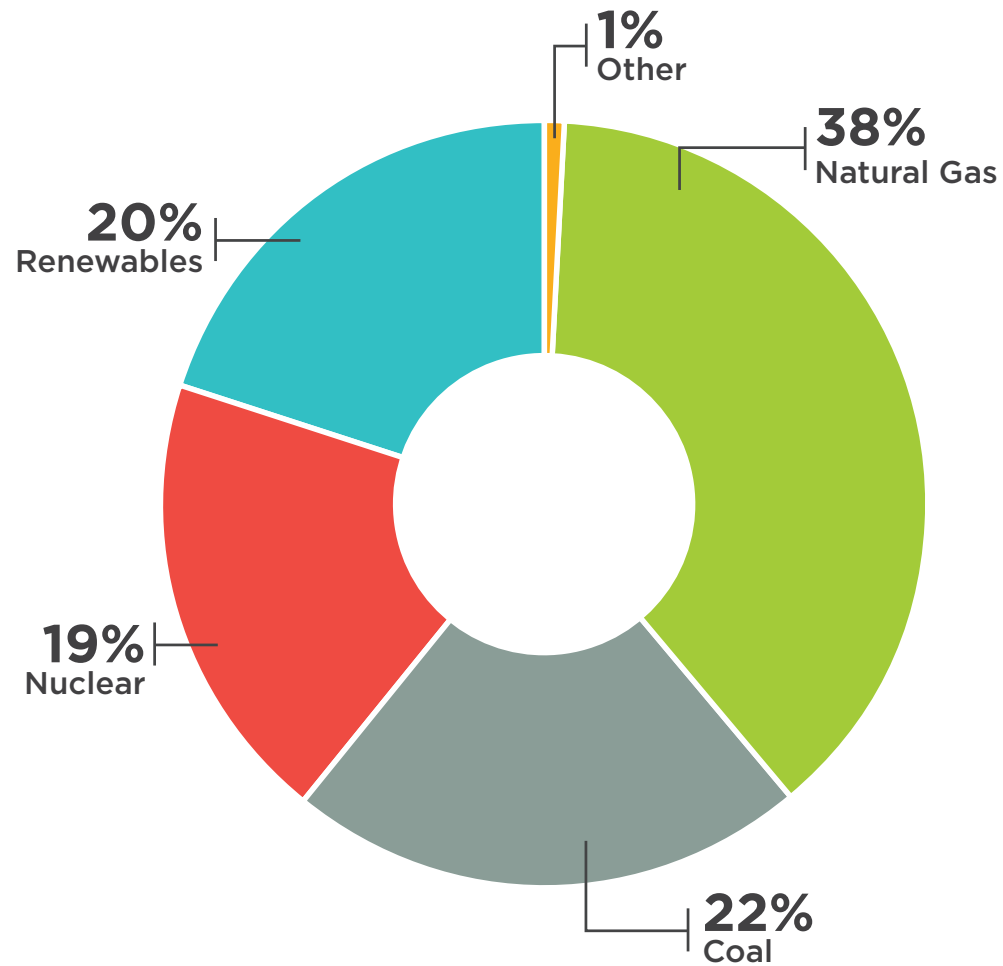


## U.S. Energy Sources

Nationally, electric utilities use a variety of fuels to power homes and businesses.

This diverse fuel mix supplies consumers with the safe, reliable and affordable power they depend on.

Source: Energy Information Administration (as of Nov. 2022)



# mienergy™

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, Skip Wieser and Dennis Young  
DISTRICT 4 Kyle Holthaus and Carl Reicks  
DISTRICT 5 Beth Olson and Jenny Scharmer

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

### MINEWS STAFF

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

### 2023 OFFICES CLOSED

SEP 20 Employee Development Day  
NOV 23-24 Thanksgiving Holiday  
DEC 6 Employee Development Day  
DEC 22, 25 Christmas Holiday  
DEC 29 Close at 11 a.m. (New Year's Eve Observance)



### YOUTH TRACTOR SAFETY – RUSHFORD

MiEnergy took part in an event organized by the University of Minnesota Extension to help educate young tractor drivers as part of the Fillmore County Extension Office's Youth Tractor Safety Event on August 2 in Rushford. MiEnergy's Steve Oian spoke on the importance of knowing what to do if farm equipment comes into contact with power lines as well as other situations to watch for when driving equipment in fields, near grain bins and other farm buildings.



## Thank You!

MiEnergy would like to thank members who voluntarily participated in the Summer Shift campaign during June, July and August. The Summer Shift incorporated simple modifications and new habits such as delaying the dishwasher, turning up the thermostat and shifting the start of laundry that will help change tomorrow's lifestyles for the next generation. Thanks for helping to keep electric rates affordable for everyone.



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know fall is the perfect time to schedule a tune-up for your heating system? Home heating accounts for a large portion of winter energy bills, and no matter what kind of system you have, you can save energy and money by regularly maintaining your equipment. Combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings can save about 30% on your energy bills.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

# NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK 2023



SEPT. 22 to OCT. 1

Find a chargeEV™ and MiEnergy branded public vehicle charger near you:

- Caledonia: 231 E Main St
- Cresco: 24049 IA-9
- Harmony: 20 1st Ave NW
- Houston: 111 W Cedar St
- La Crescent: 1817 County Rd 6
- Mabel: 205 S Main St
- Rushford: 401 S Elm St & 31110 Cooperative Way
- St. Charles: 831 St Charles Ave

COMING SOON!

- Lanesboro, 202 Parkway Ave S
- Spring Grove, 110 N Division St



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## I ♥ MiCo-op GIFT BASKET DRAWING

To show our appreciation for our members, MiEnergy is pleased to announce a gift drawing contest in honor of National Cooperative Month in October. MiEnergy will draw names to give away 50 gift baskets filled with local items to members that enter the contest. And better yet, the co-op will come to you! A representative from MiEnergy will deliver the baskets to each winning residence.

### HOW TO ENTER:

Visit [www.MiEnergy.coop](http://www.MiEnergy.coop) and click the link on our homepage to complete the form or call 800-432-2285. Members must provide their name, phone number, account number and service address to enter.

The contest closes on October 25, 2023. Winning members will be notified by phone on October 26. Baskets will be delivered Oct. 30-Nov. 3.

### CONTEST RULES:

One entry per membership. Employees and directors are not eligible to enter the contest.

### EV TEST DRIVE & EXPO

Saturday, Sept. 16  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Winona State University  
116 W Mark St, Winona  
Gold Lot #1 Integrative Wellness  
Center Parking Lot

Test drive electric vehicles or take an e-bike or scooter for a spin. Learn more about solar panels or careers in the energy industry.

MiEnergy will be onsite!



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[RECHARGE-MINNESOTA.ORG](http://RECHARGE-MINNESOTA.ORG)