October 2022 Vol. 6 Issue 10 A monthly publication for members of MiEnergy Cooperative.

1980

Family fun event

RSVP by Oct. 20 to join the co-op at Pinter's Pumpkin Patch

SAVE & CONSERVE WITH ENERGY MANAGEMENT, PROGRAMS A quick guide to generators

led Cider

Insulation 101 Get the most out of

your dollars for energy efficiency forget to sign up to win a basket! Details inside.

CEO MESSAGE Brian Krambeer, president/CEO | 800.432.2285 | bkrambeer@MiEnergy.coop

It's good to be us

After a grim reliability forecast from the regional grid operator this spring, MiEnergy and our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, have worked hard to keep the lights on. Safe, reliable electricity is our top priority, but electricity production has cost more than expected during the peak summer months due to high electricity demand, delayed coal deliveries and increased fuel costs (primarily natural gas).

Dairyland uses a diverse mix of fuel sources for electricity. Last year, their generation mix was comprised of coal (37%), natural gas (38%), wind/solar (22%) and hydro/other renewables (3%). This diverse fuel mix, along with power plant ownership and power purchase agreements, reduce more dramatic fluctuations in generation costs.

Dairyland owns two combustion turbine plants (also called peaking plants) - RockGen Energy Center and Elk Mound Combustion Turbines. These plants run on natural gas and are only intended to be called upon when the demand for electricity is at its peak. In the last year, however, both RockGen and Elk Mound have set generation records because of the need for reliable, baseload electricity on the grid when all other available resources have been utilized.

Having these facilities in Dairyland's portfolio has supported reliability in our region. Power sales from their operation have helped moderate - but not eliminate – higher-than-budgeted power expenses.

Board room highlights | Sept. 30, 2022

- Safety and Compliance Coordinator Brad Pecinovsky provided a quarterly update.
- CEO Krambeer presented a favorable operating report
- Discussed the estimated Power Cost Adjustment from Dairyland Power Cooperative
- Discussed Operation Round Up trustee opportunities.
- Approved Resolution 22-13 authorizing CEO Krambeer to represent MiEnergy and serve on the Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative board.
- Approved Resolution 22-14 granting authorization to apply for broadband funds from the federal governement's ReConnect Loan and Grant Program
- Reviewed and approved the amendments to the Distributed Generation Initiatives.
- CEO Krambeer provided updates from subsidiary organizations
- · Approved execution of economic development loan documents for the Sunflower Child Care Center.
- Directors reviewed the results from the board assessment and CEO evaluation surveys.



However, Dairyland is projecting an increase in wholesale power- costs of nearly \$15 million in their year-end 2022 forecast. MiEnergy anticipates the increase to our cooperative to be \$1.6 million. Nearly 70% of MiEnergy's total operating expense is driven by wholesale power costs.

The increase in wholesale power costs across the Midwest is being seen by all utilities. Xcel Energy and Alliant Energy, neighboring investor-owned utilities (IOUs) have also been impacted. However, these IOUs have been passing most of the costs to their customers this summer with power cost adjustment adders as high as 3¢ per kilowatt-hour. In fact, one of our employees living in a neighboring city served by an IOU calculated their July bill with MiEnergy's rates and found MiEnergy rates to be \$70 less.

The good news is MiEnergy is having a very successful year, despite three significant storms impacting operations this summer. We are also seeing many of the same operational challenges as our members with increased gasoline/diesel costs, supply chain disruptions and increased costs of materials. Despite the challenges, our cooperative margins year-to-date are above budget, and we plan to absorb the majority of the power cost adjustments being implemented by Dairyland for increased wholesale power costs.

MiEnergy's recent Fillinona Solar additions totaling nine megawatts (9,000 kilowatts) at four of our distribution substations provided some direct benefit to MiEnergy. MiEnergy members also provided significant summer peak energy reductions through our summer shift campaign, and record peak energy reductions occurred from members participating in our energy management programs.

We know MiEnergy members are seeing cost increases in many ways. The cost of gasoline, groceries and other essential needs are all rising. Your electric cooperative is working to minimize impacts to your electric costs.

Last month, the board of directors also approved the retirement of \$2,185,662 in capital credits. Individual member credits will be on this month's electric bill, which is another benefit of being a member of MiEnergy Cooperative.

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

THE PURPOSE **OF ENERGY** MANAGEMENT **PROGRAMS**

Members save money while helping to conserve electricity

Energy management programs, also known as load management, help balance supply and demand. They consist of interrupting electric water heaters, heating systems, air conditioners, irrigation pumps, grain drying systems and whole farm operations during critical times. It reduces the total demand during peak use hours and in turn helps keep electric rates affordable. Typically, highest demand coincides with extreme weather events, but is also impacted by the regional energy market.

Rather than start up a power plant for a short period of time or purchase more expensive power from the market, electrical demand is reduced by controlling electric service. It can also help reduce future energy costs by deferring construction of new power plants.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Dairyland Power Cooperative, MiEnergy's wholesale power supplier, operates a network of radio transmitters which send out load-control signals to interrupt power. These signals are received

by a special receiver installed at a member's home or business. For questions about our energy management program, contact the co-op. Information is also available at www.MiEnergy.coop > Energy Efficiency > Energy Management. Members can check the load control status 24/7 by calling 877-437-6130 or by clicking on Load Control Status at www.MiEnergy.coop.



We encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.

- Keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Know where power lines and equipment are located where you hunt.
- Be vigilant in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Never place deer stands on utility poles.
- Never place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment.

Electricity per kWh	Gallon Propane	Gallon Fuel Oil	Natural Gas/ Therm
	1	\$1.72	\$1.62
6.0¢	\$1.48	62.01	\$1.89
7.0¢	\$1.73	32.01	\$2.43
9.0¢	\$2.22	\$2.30	\$2.97
11.0¢	\$2.72	\$5.10	\$3.50
13.0¢	\$3.21	\$3.73	
			a swith PIPCUI



Electricity per kWh	Gallon Propane	Gallon Fuel Oil	Gas/ Therm
		136	40¢
6.0¢	37¢	4.5.4	47¢
7.0¢	43¢	504	616
0.00	55¢	65¢	011
9.04	680	79¢	74¢
11.0¢	000	036	88¢
12.06	80¢	1554	

MINNESOTA MEMBERS NOTICE FOR ELECTRIC HEAT SALES TAX EXEMPTION

Electricity sold for residential use is not taxable for the billing months of November through April when sold to metered customers in Minnesota who use it as their primary source of residential heat according to Minnesota law. If more than one type of heat is used, electricity is not taxable if it is the primary source of heat. Primary source of residential heat is the source that supplies more heat than any other source for the largest period of time during the heating season.

If your property has both residential and commercial operations and only one meter for the entire building for electricity, square footage is used to determine if the residential exemption applies and is determined if more than 50 percent of the square footage of the building is residential.

If you have filed an exemption card with us in the past, you do not need to file again. If your electric heat is used in conjunction with wood or another fossil fuel, please re-evaluate your heat status.

Members who receive a tax exemption when electric heat is NOT the primary source of heating are in violation of the Minnesota law. Please contact us if your heating has changed and you should be taken off the tax exemption as it is your responsibility to notify us of any changes when you are no longer eligible.



Insulate for year-round comfort

Looking to make improvements to your home's efficiency? It isn't pretty, but insulation and air sealing typically provide the biggest bang for your buck when it comes to home energy efficiency improvements. When installed together, they can save you money and make a big difference in comfort and energy use.

INSULATION RATING

Insulation is rated in R-value. The R stands for resistance to heat transfer. The higher your R-value, the slower the heat transfer, or less wasted energy. There are several different types of insulation, including fiberglass batts, blown fiberglass, cellulose and foam. Each has its own R-value listed on the packaging. To determine the R-value of your existing insulation, multiply the number of inches by the R-value per inch for the type of insulation.

Insulation level recommendations



are based on your geographic location. Generally, the colder the climate, the higher the recommended R-value.

WHERE TO INSULATE

The typical locations for insulation are the attic, walls and floor. If you have a forced-air heating or cooling system, your ductwork should be insulated, too. You want a consistent thermal barrier around your home for maximum efficiency. A bonus to insulation is it can reduce noise from the outside of your home.

Attic insulation minimizes energy waste and can help maintain a more consistent temperature throughout your home. Combined with air



sealing, it also can prevent ice dams from forming on your roof in colder climates.

Attics can be insulated using batts or blown-in insulation. Recommend R-values range from R-30 to R-60. If you use your attic for storage, you can build a raised platform with room for insulation underneath. Add insulation and weatherstripping to access doors or hatches.

Exterior walls and walls separating heated and unheated areas of the home—such as garages or enclosed porches-should be insulated to an R-value ranging from R-13 to R-21, based on your location and wall construction.

Wall insulation can be installed during construction or a remodel. If your home wasn't insulated when it was built, you can have the insulation blown in by a contractor. Blown-in options include cellulose, fiberglass and foam.

Your home should also be insulated between the floor and crawlspace or unheated basement. If your basement is heated, install insulation in the box sills—the area between the foundation floor of the home's main level.

Consider building and insulating the exterior walls in the basement or installing foam insulation on foundation walls. Check your local building code requirements. Recommended R-values for floor insulation range from R-13 to R-30. Also insulate heating and cooling ductwork located in unconditioned spaces to prevent energy waste.

IMPORTANCE OF AIR SEALING

Think of insulation as a cozy sweater and air sealing as a windbreaker for your home.

You know that cozy sweater is no match for winter winds, so you need an extra layer to stop it from ripping through. The same goes for your home.

Air sealing prevents drafts and air infiltration from outside. It can improve efficiency, comfort and indoor air quality.

Air sealing can be done as a DIY project, but it is challenging to

leaks.

Typically, air sealing is done around plumbing and electrical penetrations with spray foam or caulk. If using spray foam around gas appliances, temporarily turn off pilot lights. Spray foam is extremely flammable.

Sheet metal and high-temperature heat-resistant caulk should be used to seal gaps between framing, chimneys and metal flues.

DIY CONSIDERATIONS

If you are considering a DIY approach, protect yourself when going into spaces with insulation. Wear a properly fitted mask or respirator.



pinpoint and properly seal air leaks. Consider hiring a contractor to complete a blower door test and seal

Wearing a Tyvek suit and gloves also is recommended. Kneepads can come in handy and make the crawling more bearable.

If you are planning a DIY approach for air sealing, do your research about best practices for the proper home ventilation. Before going the DIY route, contact two or three local contractors for a project estimate. Sometimes the contractor can get cheaper bulk pricing on insulation.

Making insulation and air sealing a priority adds comfort, efficiency and savings to your home.

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

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Celebrating membership: October is National Co-op Month

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When MiEnergy Cooperative celebrates Coop Month, it really means we are celebrating you! After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for community" is one of seven guiding principles that all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions-because being a coop means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

MiEnergy works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board that's comprised of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

We're proud to support local youth through our Youth Tour and scholarship programs. With your help, we offer Operation Round Up and RECare to provide assistance to our communities. We partner with and support area food banks and other charitable organizations.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together towards a common goal—mutually benefitting one another and the larger community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board members are invested in

the community in which they live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving energy and money is important to you.

We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. Take a moment and download our app, SmartHub. Through the app, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use. And of course we're here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

MiEnergy is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve.

Capital Credit Refunds Have Arrived!

It pays to be a member of MiEnergy Cooperative

Capital credits are your share of the cooperative's "profits." Per MiEnergy's bylaws, the board of directors determines the amount of retirement each year based on the financial condition of the cooperative.

The board recently approved retiring nearly \$2.2 million in capital credits. If you purchased electricity from the co-op during 1994-1996 and/or 1999-2021 vour credit is listed as a "Capital Credit Refund" on this month's statement. The 1994-1996 credits are a retirement from Dairvland Power Cooperative that we are passing on to members. To receive a credit on your statement, the amount must be a minimum of \$5. Amounts below \$5 will be carried over to the next retirement.

Capital credits at not-for-profit companies are similar to dividends paid by for-profit companies. The difference is the cooperative's "shareholders" are the people it serves and the dividends (capital credits) are paid only to those members.

For more information about capital credits, visit our website, www.MiEnergy.coop.



The Country Corn Crib Utica, MN



Winery

Decorah, IA

Winneshiek Wildberry

I ♥ MiCo-op gift basket drawing ENTER TODAY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A BASKET FULL OF

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 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 27, 2022. Winning members will be notified by phone on October 28. Baskets will be delivered Nov. 1-4.

CONTEST RULES:

contest.

<u>Mer</u> <u>Mer</u>	npers on	ly	
FA OC Pir	CTOBER 21 FRC lours of entertainment w inter's Pumpkin Patch act	M 2-6 P.M. vith FREE access to tivities! Rain or shine.	*
PINTER S GARDENS & PUMPKINS 2475 State Highway 9 Decorah, Iowa	Wagon rides Jumping pillow Corn maze Big slides Pedal go karts Junior pedal go karts Black light mini golf Hook and ring Sand tire hill & tire maze Life-size chess	Duck races Corn box Farm animals/goat walk Tetherball Pumpkin bowling Ball zone Grain cart rides Photo opps And more!	
WHAT'S NEW?	Skee-Ball, Roller E No Right Turn Mazes and	Sowler, Connect 4 Golf, I New Homes for the Anima	als!
RSVP online at www.N	liEnergy.coop or call 8	00-432-2285 by 4 p.m.	Oct. 20

Have your MiEnergy account number handy. It is required for reserving tickets

Didn't RSVP in time? Complete this info & bring it to the event for first-come, first-serve on remaining tickets. Your MiEnergy account number is required.

Name:	Phone:	
Address:	# Tickets:	Ages 3 and under
Account #:		Ages 4-64
		Ages 65+



Upper Iowa Honey Riceville, IA



Skräp Work **Ridgeway, IA**



Prairie Moon Nurserv Winona, MN



Island City Embroidery Winona, MN



Peake Orchards Waukon, IA

LOCALLY-PRODUCED GOODS TO BE GIVEN AWAY!



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

ARE HOME ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES DRAINING YOUR ENERGY?

Small amounts of consumed energy throughout your home add up, so plug energy vampires" into a smart power strip that detects dormant devices or unplug items when not in use, especially those with illuminated controls.

ENERGY V E



See yourself in cyber

In today's digital world, cyberattacks are unfortunately nothing new. October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month. This year's theme is "See Yourself in Cyber" - because we all have a part to play in cybersecurity. When we hear about massive data breaches, it can feel overwhelming and lead us to think we're powerless as individuals to stop cyber criminals.

There are several practical steps we can take to safeguard our devices and data. Here are four easy ways to help protect yourself from a cyber attack:

ENABLE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

Also known as two-step verification, multi-factor authentication adds a second step when logging into an account (to prove you're really you), which greatly increases the security of the account. This second step could include an extra PIN, answering an extra as a pop-up window when visiting a website. security question, a code received via email or a secure token. Regardless of the type of authentication, this additional step makes it twice as hard for cyber criminals to access your account.

USE STRONG PASSWORDS AND A PASSWORD MANAGER

Remember, passwords are the "keys" to your personal home online. Your passwords

should always be long, unique and complex. Create passwords using at least 12 characters, never reuse passwords for multiple accounts and use a combination of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters. If you have a lot of accounts, consider using a password manager to store them easily and securely in one place.

UPDATE SOFTWARE

It may seem obvious, but regularly updating software is one of the easiest ways to keep vour personal information secure. Most companies provide automatic updates and will send reminders so you can easily install the update. If you're not receiving automatic software updates, set a reminder to do so quarterly. Be aware that some cyber criminals will send fake updates; these typically appear Use good judgement and always think before you click.

RECOGNIZE AND REPORT PHISHING ATTACKS

Don't take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. The signs of a phishing attack can be subtle, so take the extra time to thoroughly inspect emails. Most phishing emails include



offers that are too good to be true, an urgent or alarming tone, misspellings and poorlycrafted language, ambiguous greetings, strange requests or an email address that doesn't match the company it's coming from. Most platforms like Outlook, Gmail and Mac Mail allow users to report phishing emails. If you suspect a phishing attempt, take an extra minute to report it.

Cyber criminals are here to stay, but when we all take a risk-based approach to our cyber behavior, we're creating a safer internet for all. Visit www.staysafeonline.org for additional cybersecurity tips.

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

A QUICK GUIDE TO GENERATORS

With proper use and maintenance, generators provide great convenience during a power outage. Before you purchase a generator, determine your backup power needs to select the right size. Make a list of essential appliances and devices you'll want to power during an outage, then total the required wattage.

RECOMMENDED IF YOU...

Ur Lig Qu Po M Vr Po
Pc Up Wo Po Ab
He Up Mi Po Ca Re

SAFETY FIRST!

- Let us know if you purchase a generator that you plan to connect to an electric panel.
- Before using the generator, disconnect the normal source of power coming into your home/business.
- Never operate a generator indoors or in an enclosed space.

Disclaimer: Please note safety requirements may differ based on the type of generator you purchase. Thoroughly read the operator's manual and know how to shut off the generator quickly.

Source: Consumer Reports



ecreational Inverter

p to 2,000 watts shtweight, about 60 pounds uiet, easy to store ower: fridge and a few smaller items (i.e. lamp, phone charger and home security system)

lidsized Inverter

p to 3,500 watts eighs up to 150 pounds ower: fridge, laptop, five to 10 lights, phone charger, home security system and 10K BTU air conditioner

ortable Generators and Large Inverters

p to 7,500 watts eighs about 300 pounds ower: fridge, gas furnace, 10K BTU air conditioner, dishwasher, multiple lights, TV, laptop and more pility to connect to home's breaker panel

ome Standby

p to 20,000 watts

ust be permanently installed; starts automatically during outage ower: nearly all home appliances and electronics (simultaneously) an run indefinitely on natural gas or propane ecommended if you frequently lose power

• Improperly installed generators can create back feed, which is dangerous to our crews and the community.

SHARE the **ROAD**

with Farmers

Be <u>safe</u>. Be Courteous.

Farm season means sharing the road with large farm equipment. Farmers must move slowly in large equipment, but public roads are often the only available routes.

When you find yourself following or meeting large farm equipment on the road, do the following to keep everyone safe:

Be alert and cautious, and give large farm equipment and other slow-moving vehicles space.

Do not pass if you are in a "No Passing Zone." or in any area where it is not safe to do so, such as intersections, bridges and railroad crossings, among others.

Be careful when you do get the chance to pass. Oftentimes, farmers will move their equipment over when it is safe to do so.

Do not tailgate.



Make sure the tractor is not trying to make a left turn before you pass on the left.



Share the road with care. Farmers are just trying to get to and from their job, too.





SHINE THE LIGHT FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

The Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa are driven by a commitment to community. To celebrate local volunteers, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives held its second annual Shine the Light contest earlier this summer. Employees and member-consumers of lowa's locally owned electric cooperatives were invited to nominate someone who makes a positive difference in their community. The judging committee had the difficult task of selecting three contest winners from 68 outstanding nominees. Congratulations to Deb Johnson, who is recognized for her enthusiastic support of the Greater Fairfield Area Habitat for Humanity; Sharon Van Beek, who is recognized for her generous commitment to Buckets of Joy; and Nicole Low, who is recognized for her vision in establishing Eldora's Community Garden. These three winners have been awarded a \$2,000 donation to their charity. We would like to thank the local members of our cooperative who nominated others in the MiEnergy service territory showing that the cooperative spirit is alive and well in our area. Learn more at www. IowaShineTheLight.com.





ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY — RUSHF

Employees recently walked the ditches of Highway 16 near the Rushford office to pick up trash as part of the Adopt-A-Highway program. L-R: Lori Clobes, Jordan Williams, Kari Steele, Heather Larson, Brittany Benson, Charlie Mueller, Brenda Tesch and Tim Anderson.





CAREER DAY — CALEDONIA

MiEnergy participated in a career event organized by Bluff Country Collaborative and hosted at Caledonia Schools. Approximately 550 students in grades 9 through 12 attended from Caledonia, Fillmore Central, Houston, Rushford-Peterson and Spring Grove schools, It served as a great way to help educate students on what MiEnergy does and to highlight the career opportunities as a lineworker and other career options. L to R: MiEnergy employees Chris Horn, Matt Ginther, Davin Thompson, Heather Larson and June Vitse.

Monitored smoke detectors make a difference.





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WHEN FIRE OR SMOKE HAPPENS, **OUR RESPONSE CENTER IS NOTIFIED** AND CONTACTS YOU OR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT RIGHT AWAY.

You can't hear a smoke alarm go off if you're not home. As part of a monitored security system, smoke detectors alert you before it's too late.

COOPERATIV

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OFFICE INFORMATION

Open Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. OWA 24049 Highway 9, PO Box 90, Cresco, IA 52136 IINNESOTA 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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MANAGEMENT STAFF

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MINEWS STAFF

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

2022 OFFICES CLOSED

NOV 24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday DEC 8 Employee Development Day DEC 23, 26 Christmas Holiday DEC 30 Close at 11:30 a.m. (New Year's Eve observance)

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

With winter weather on the way, now is the time to seal drafty windows. If you can see daylight around a window frame or if you can rattle a window (movement means possible leaks), the window likely needs to be sealed.

Most window leaks can be sealed with caulk or weatherstripping, which come in a variety of compounds and materials. Visit www.energy.gov/ energysaver to learn how and where to seal air leaks.

Source: Dept. of Energy

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Interruptible heat test Nov. 16

If you participate in MiEnergy's interruptible heating (also known as dual fuel or energy management), your system will be tested on Wednesday, Nov. 16 beginning at 5 p.m.

At that time, the electricity powering your electric heating system will be interrupted and cause your backup heating system to operate. All power will be restored by 11 p.m.

This annual test is conducted to ensure that your backup heating system is working and will adequately keep your home at a comfortable temperature during control periods this winter. The test also ensures the control equipment is functioning properly.



IOWA PO Box 90, Cresco, IA 52136 MINNESOTA PO Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971 PRSRT STD U.S. Postage PAID DPC



According to the U.S. Department of Energy, electric vehicle (EV) sales doubled from 2020 to 2021, reaching a record high of 608,000 sales. Sales of internal combustion engine vehicles grew by only 3% the same year.

The number of EVs on the road will continue to grow over the next five to 10 years, and many brands have pledged to convert to manufacturing only EVs within the next three to 12 years.

Part of this sales growth stems from more choices in the EV market. Today, more than

80 base models of sedans, SUVs and minivans are available. The number of automakers that are exclusively manufacturing plug-in vehicles is also increasing, from recognizable brands like Tesla to growing brands like Rivian, Polestar, Karma and Lucid. Ford introduced its now sold-out F-150 Lightning in April and is already taking orders for 2023.

While the EV market is growing, it has some challenges to overcome before broader adoption takes place. The upfront cost of an EV is more expensive than a comparable gas-powered vehicle, and many EVs are limited to a driving range of 250 miles on average--though there are exceptions. Some automakers offer EV models with ranges over 300 miles and a handful are approaching 400.

Ford, Hyundai, Kia and Nissan offer EV models that are priced around \$30,000, and available federal tax credits can bring the initial costs down considerably. EV range numbers are approaching those of a tank of gas, but EVs require more time to charge compared to a gas-powered vehicle's quick fill-up. Even at the fastest charging level, it takes approximately 20 minutes to charge 80% capacity. This makes EVs suitable for daily driving needs like commuting or running errands but less suitable for longer road trips.

Access to publicly available charging stations is not as plentiful or as geographically accessible as gas stations, which makes using an EV for an extended road trip less straightforward. However, The Department of Transportation and the Department of Energy have teamed up to offer grants to help states and local partners, including electric cooperatives, to develop a national charging network with EV chargers located every 50 miles on interstates. The goal is to place EV chargers where they make the most sense in terms of business or recreational activities. National parks, convenience stores and local businesses could be popular stops for EV charging.

Compared to a standard wall outlet, charging times can be shortened by using a Level 2 charger. Level 1 chargers are the standard charger that come with an EV and provide about 40 miles of range after eight hours of charging. Level 2 chargers provide about 25 miles per charging hour. They consume a lot of power over a short amount

> of time and require local electric infrastructure to support the increased energy load.

If you're considering a Level 2 charger, make sure your home's electrical system is in good shape and give your electric co-op a heads up. This allows the utility to ensure the transformer in your neighborhood can safely and reliably provide power--and your neighbors will thank you.

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



Learn more about MiEnergy's electric vehicle charging rate and download additional resources by visiting www.MiEnergy.coop.