

November 2021 Vol. 5 Issue 11  
A monthly publication for members of  
MiEnergy Cooperative.

# MiNews

## Here comes the sun

Co-op adds 9 MW of local solar generation

How will we  
charge all  
the electric  
vehicles?

DISTRICT 4 & 5  
BOARD DIRECTOR  
ELECTION INFO

Tax credit to expire for  
air-source heat pumps

A  
JOURNEY  
DOWN  
MiRoads  
WITH MEAGAN MOELLERS

What are your fellow members thankful for?

*"I am very thankful to have grown up in the Midwest and on a farm! My parent's farm is still my favorite place to visit on the weekends. I'm thankful for all the farmers out there harvesting."*

*—Turn to pages 6-7 to read more!*





# Here comes the sun

Two years ago, Dairyland Power Cooperative provided a change in our wholesale power contract at our request. The change allows distribution cooperatives, like MiEnergy Cooperative, to own or enter into a purchase power agreement for utility-scale solar within our electric service territory. We wanted our own local, renewable energy projects to be incorporated into our distribution grid for added peak demand management and welcomed the opportunity for targeted on-peak energy. This summer four projects totaling 9 megawatts (MW) were built and on October 25 we celebrated the start of our 25-year purchase power agreement (PPA).

OneEnergy Renewables developed the arrays, located in Fountain, Lanesboro, Rushford Village and Stockton, under the name Fillinona (combination of Fillmore and Winona counties). These locations are near MiEnergy's substations that are large enough to handle additional power generation capacity and have the member electric use levels to avoid back-feed onto Dairyland's transmission lines. The Fountain and Lanesboro sites are 3 MW, Stockton is 2 MW and the Rushford Village site is 1 MW. The Rushford Village solar array is on property we own behind our office and on



©Site photos OneEnergy Renewables

property owned by the City of Rushford Village.

In addition to incorporating local, renewable energy generation, the benefit to MiEnergy is a lower wholesale power cost. The energy (kilowatt-hours) feeds into our distribution system at strategic locations to be used by our members, thus avoiding transmission (delivery) costs. The lack of a transmission fee provides us with a lower wholesale power cost. In fact, several million dollars in wholesale power cost savings are guaranteed over the first 10 years of operation, which is a direct benefit to all the members of the cooperative.

Sustainability, reliability and energy affordability are



This is not the co-op's first renewable energy project. MiEnergy was one of the first electric cooperatives to develop community solar at its Rushford (upper left) and Cresco (upper right) locations called Renewable Rays in 2014. In another project MiEnergy partnered with People's Energy Cooperative and Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative in 2014 to build Minnesota Three, a 517 kW utility-scale solar array (lower left). In 2020, MiEnergy partnered with Reicks View Farms, of Lawler, Iowa for a 600 kW system (lower right).

incorporated into our member-owned partnership with Dairyland Power Cooperative, and we are proud that the Fillinona Solar Project checked all three boxes. We also recognize the importance of a balanced power supply. Dairyland Power Cooperative has continued to add renewable energy generation resources to their power supply portfolio as part of their sustainable generation plan, which also includes additional natural gas generation resources that can come online quickly when the sun is not shining and the wind is not blowing.

We extend our thanks to the City of Rushford Village for their participation by allowing expansion onto their property to attain our desired 1 MW capacity.

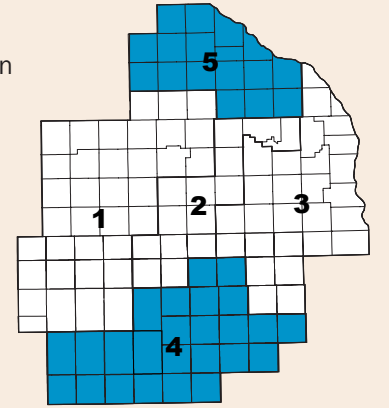
We also want to thank OneEnergy for their work in completing the projects this summer and overcoming the shipping and production challenges faced by businesses due to the pandemic. OneEnergy obtained all the necessary permitting from the townships and counties and worked with area members and adjacent landowners after MiEnergy determined the possible site locations. OneEnergy will continue to be our point of contact for the duration of the contract.

Dairyland Power Cooperative has done an outstanding job managing our power supply needs and demands during these unprecedented times. On our behalf, they have overcome the tremendous challenges from Winter Storm Uri in February and the blistering summer months of June and July forcing market costs of wholesale power to skyrocket. We have a great partnership with Dairyland Power Cooperative and welcome our new partner, OneEnergy.

As always, I welcome your calls and emails. Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

## Members from districts 4 & 5 needed Interested in serving as a board member for MiEnergy?

Preparations for director elections for districts 4 & 5 begin now and will conclude with the results being announced at the annual meeting on April 13, 2022.



### NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

MiEnergy must appoint three members from both Districts 4 & 5 to serve on the nominating committee. The committee meets in late January to review submitted director applications and to nominate individuals for placement on the election ballot. Members of the committee are given a \$50 bill credit and mileage for the meeting. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, contact Heather Larson by December 17 at 800-432-2285 or hl Larson@MiEnergy.coop.

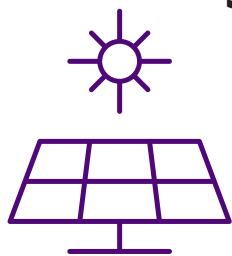
### BOARD DIRECTORS:

Co-op board directors must commit to attend monthly board meetings, special meetings and educational seminars designed to keep directors informed on the various aspects of MiEnergy and the electric utility industry. Terms are for three years. Their decisions are made in the best interest of the cooperative, and they represent the entire membership. Directors are compensated for their time commitment. For a director application packet contact Heather Larson at 800-432-2285 or hl Larson@MiEnergy.coop. The director application deadline is January 14, 2022.

### UP FOR RE-ELECTION:

- District 4: Dean Fisher, Lawler, Iowa; Charles Frana, Calmar, Iowa; and Carl Reicks, New Hampton, Iowa.
- District 5: Beth Olson, Lewiston, Minn. and Jenny Scharmer, Winona, Minn.

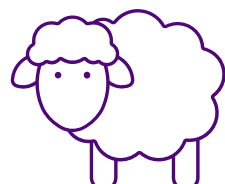
## Statistics on Fillinona Solar Projects



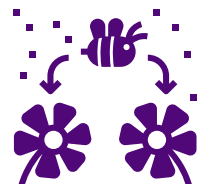
**24,000**  
panels that track with the sun



**1,900**  
homes that will be powered



**70 acres of agrivoltaics**  
grazed by sheep and planted with deep rooted pollinator prairie



### Board room highlights | October 28, 2021

- CFO Hove reviewed the favorable financial report for September.
- Received an update from the member event held at Pinter's.
- CEO Krambeer provided updates on the cooperative subsidiaries.
- Recap of the legislative events held in Iowa and Minnesota.
- Directors shared information on recently attended meetings.

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



# \$300 federal tax credit to expire

## Qualifying air-source heat pumps can efficiently heat and cool your home with one unit

Time is running out on a long-standing federal tax credit for air-source heat pumps (ASHPs). The current \$300 tax credit is due to expire on Dec. 31, 2021. The tax credit also retroactively applies to new ASHPs installed in the 2018-20 tax years.

Upgrading an HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) system is no small feat. In addition to the federal tax credit, MiEnergy offers a \$250 per ton incentive for qualifying ASHPs with ratings of: SEER 14 or greater, HSPF 8.2 or greater OR EER 11 or greater.

A heat pump is like an air conditioning (AC) unit that can operate in reverse. Aesthetically, it even looks like a central AC unit. In cooling mode, the heat pump removes heat from inside the home and transfers it outside. In heating mode, the heat pump removes heat from outdoor air and transfers it into the home, thus providing heat.

“Obviously, there is not a lot of heat in the air during very cold temps, so most air-source heat pumps also have backup heat capability provided by either electric resistance (a single-fuel system) or fossil fuel, such as natural gas or propane (a dual-fuel system),” said Kent Whitcomb, vice president of member services. “Advances in technology have helped make air-source heat pumps something to consider in our region. Additionally, air-source heat pumps qualify for our cooperative’s load management program and a reduced electricity rate.”

The cost to purchase and install a new ASHP or geothermal heat pump can be expensive up-front. However, homeowners are likely to see a return on investment through lower annual energy bills because ASHPs are very efficient. For every unit of electricity used to run the system, an ASHP will produce between 1.5 and 3 times the amount of energy to heat or cool your home.

### QUALIFYING CRITERIA:

Before purchasing a new unit, it is important to make sure it qualifies for both the federal tax credit and MiEnergy’s incentive. To learn more about applying for the federal tax credit, go to [www.EnergyStar.gov](http://www.EnergyStar.gov) and search for ASHP tax credit in the upper-right hand corner.

### FEDERAL TAX CREDIT CRITERIA:

- \$300 for qualifying units.
- Must be ENERGY STAR rated.
- Must be installed in an existing home and the taxpayer’s principle residence (new construction and rentals do not qualify).
- Complete IRS Form 5695.

### COOPERATIVE INCENTIVE CRITERIA:

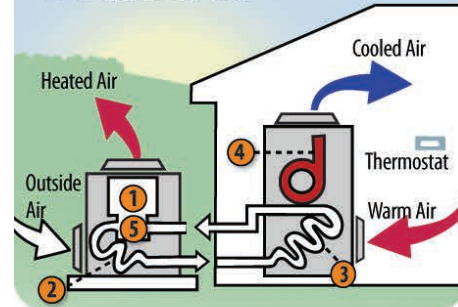
- Incentive requestor must be a member of the cooperative.
- Equipment must be installed in MiEnergy’s service territory.
- Incentive request must be received within three months of installation.
- Contact MiEnergy to ensure your unit qualifies.



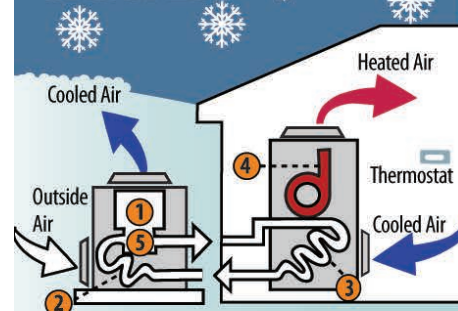
## How Do Air-Source Heat Pumps Work?

By transferring heat between a house and outside air, these devices trim electricity use by as much as 30 percent to 40 percent in moderate climates.

### SUMMER



### WINTER



- 1 Compressor**  
Increases refrigerant/freon pressure to accept the maximum heat from the air.
- 2 Condenser**  
Coils move freon (and with it, hot or cold air) to or from outside air.
- 3 Evaporator**  
Coils move freon (and with it, hot or cold air) to or from outside air.
- 4 Air Handler**  
Fan blows air into a home’s ducts.
- 5 Reversing Valve**  
Switches the direction of the freon flow, changing the heat pump’s output to hot or cold air (controlled by thermostat).

Source: NRECA

# How will we charge all the electric vehicles?

## Where you charge your EV may not be as important as how it looks and what it costs

What electric cars need to become a top choice for American drivers is a nationwide network of charging stations to overcome fears of running out of juice on long trips. Or, maybe that’s not true at all.

There are already nearly one-third as many charging sites in the U.S. as there are gas stations, and that doesn’t even count the “refueling stations” found in the electric outlets of every home in America.

Plus, the range of electric cars already exceeds how far most people drive in a day. Ninety percent of Americans drive less than 45 miles a day, and the average range for electric vehicles is 250 miles.

The ballyhoo over charging stations has created a powerful conventional wisdom that they’re a necessary step toward overcoming the range anxiety about getting stranded in the middle of nowhere. But the conventional wisdom masks a different road ahead.

Range anxiety may be the least of the reasons there aren’t more electric vehicles on the road, says Brian Sloboda, director of consumer solutions for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

“There are people who argue we need the charging network for the electric vehicle market to be successful. They might be right, but I’m not one of those people,” says Sloboda. “Let’s say your electric vehicle is only used for commuting and you’re just driving it from your home to the grocery store to work. It is very likely that you would never even use public charging stations because you can charge your EV at home for a very reasonable price.”

Sloboda is quick to list the advantages of electric vehicles, from how they affect the environment to their lower maintenance costs to the fact that you

can wake up every morning with a full tank of “gas.” But he sees bigger issues than a lack of charging stations standing in the way of greater acceptance.

He says, “You have limited model availability, limited body styles, limited manufacturers, high prices and most people are unfamiliar with the technology.”

But Sloboda sees those problems as solvable. Right now, you’ll pay about \$10,000 extra for an electric model. But those costs are coming down as batteries get cheaper and more powerful.

And competition is heating up. Every major car manufacturer has high-profile plans for electric models—Ford has announced an electric model of its popular F-150 pickup. Although electric vehicles make up less than 4% of the auto market, that’s doubled from just one year ago.

Even if charging stations are not the most important determiner of the future of electric vehicles, they are a growing part of the landscape. To find the nearest charging station, a variety of apps will guide you. Many electric co-ops are also responding to the rising

interest.

MiEnergy Cooperative is part of a 31-member EV charging network called CHARGE EV™ that includes every co-op in Wisconsin along with others in Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa.

“Co-ops are looking at what they can do to support public charging,” says Sloboda. “They do it to meet the needs of their members, but they also do it as economic development to bring tourists into the community to support local businesses like hotels and parks.”

While trends point to strong growth for electric vehicles, forecasting the future of charging stations is trickier. It’s not as easy as comparing the number of charging stations to gas stations. For one thing, people don’t have a gasoline pump in their garage, which is essentially the case with an electric vehicle. And while an internal combustion engine might take 4 minutes for a fill, it could take more than an hour to recharge an electric vehicle.

“It’s something everyone is wrestling with,” says Sloboda. “But if you’re truly interested in making the switch to electric, don’t let the current charging infrastructure deter you. Focus on your daily driving needs, your budget and read reviews from trusted sites like Consumer Reports, Motor Trend, and Car and Driver.”

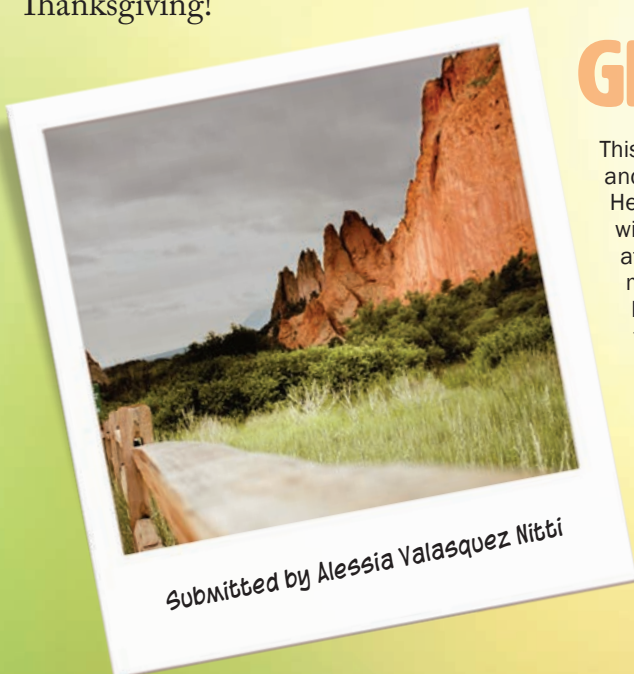
Paul Wesslund writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation’s landscape.



# HAPPINESS & THANKFULNESS

A bountiful collection of feel-good stories, quotes and pictures submitted by members of MiEnergy Cooperative

We asked. You provided. We are grateful for the members who took the time out of their busy lives to be a part of our special Journey Down MiRoads article. We knew our members would have much to be thankful for this upcoming holiday season when we typically count our blessings throughout the month of November and around Thanksgiving time. Hearing stories of gratitude for many different things from many different members is rewarding indeed. After reading these submissions, we hope you take a minute to reflect on your own moments of gratitude and appreciation. And may your holiday season be full of much happiness, plentiful thankfulness and abundant love! Happy Thanksgiving!



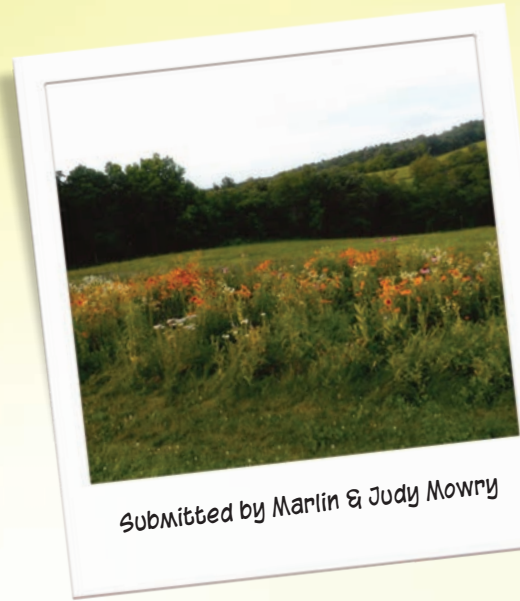
Submitted by Alessia Valasquez Nitti

## GIVE THANKS

This photo symbolizes my love for nature and the awe of the world around us. Here the beauty of the mountains and wild grasses are highlighted bringing attention to the bold texture of the mountains as they tower over you. Being around in nature reminds me to take a deep breath and remember that everything will be okay. Nature has always reminded me to take life slowly and to view the bigger picture. This photo shows the highlights and darkneses in life and focuses on the soft, natural light and colors which remind me that the world is large, and daunting, but when we take things one step at a time, it all works out.  
—Alessia Valasquez Nitti | Winona

Each day I try to spend some time expressing gratitude, be it 2 minutes or 20 minutes. I start out with the necessities I am blessed with. The first is the fresh, pure country air. Although I consider it a necessity, there are hundreds of millions who do not have it, because of the polluted life where they live or their working conditions. The second would be potable water. Again, hundreds of millions do not have it. But we need look no farther than Flint, Mich. to see that. The next could be food. During this summer I can live off my bountiful organic garden, and the rest of the year I have access to and the means to purchase healthy food. Again, millions die around the world each year from hunger and we can look at food pantries and soup kitchens here at home. Another necessity would be shelter. I have my home I was born in more than 90 years ago, and it still serves me well. But look at the figures for the homeless in the US or the 100,000,000 internal or external refugees living in shelters around the globe, with no place to call home. And these are the necessities I have; what about the other things to be grateful for? I have peace and quiet here in the countryside which I greatly enjoy. I can look at the birds at my feeder or in the evening I can see swallows or bats cleaning the sky of insects. After sunset I can lie on the grass and enjoy the fireflies. And then there are friends I can phone, write to, or sometimes visit in person. And I have my partner Bonita who makes all this worthwhile. When asked, when meeting someone, "how are you?" Her reply is, "I'm grateful." You can't beat that. I am also grateful for MiEnergy. —Harvey Benson | Harmony

I am most grateful for my children. I am now 87 years old and they are so helpful to me. They allow me to stay in the home my husband and I built over 50 years ago. My husband died in 2012 and they have helped out ever since with lots of jobs. I am so blessed to have them and so grateful for this kindness and caring. They are my rocks!! They make me happy.  
—Margaret Sulze | Winona



Submitted by Marlin & Judy Mowry

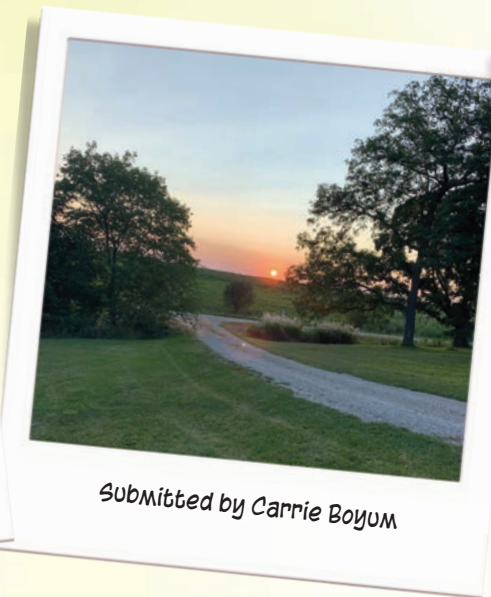
We are thankful for the beautiful scenery of the Northeast Iowa Driftless area. We are happy to sit on our new patio and admire the wildflowers, trees, CRP and plenty of wildlife; deer, pheasants and turkey. This is truly God's Country and we are proud to call it home.  
—Marlin & Judy Mowry | Decorah

I am incredibly grateful for my kids to be able to have in person learning again and the wonderful teachers at their school, St. Teresa of Calcutta. I'm also thankful for my children's grandparents, who get to see them grow up, tell fun stories with and go on adventures.  
—Emily Gade | Ossian

Thankful for hot chocolate and a fuzzy blanket on a cool fall evening!  
—Laryssa Hanson | Preston

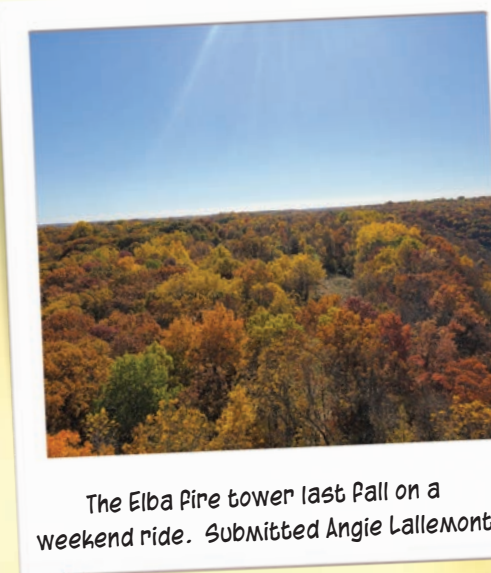
I am most thankful for the unconditional love and entertainment my husband and I receive from our four rescued "fur babies." I also love the warm fall days riding on down the country roads on the Harley, connecting with nature.  
—Angie Lallemond | Winona

## COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS



Submitted by Carrie Boyum

I am grateful for the country lifestyle where we are raising our children.  
—Carrie Boyum | Mabel



The Elba Fire tower last Fall on a weekend ride. Submitted Angie Lallemond



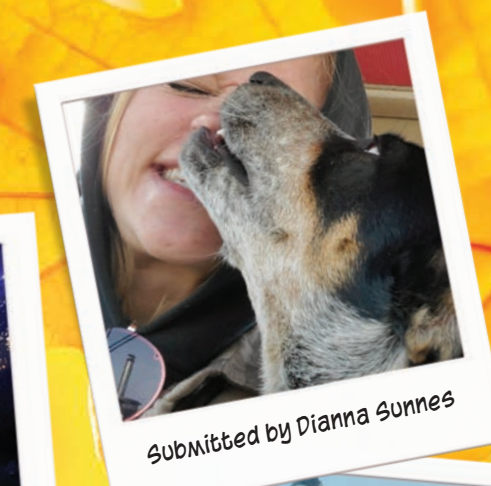
Submitted by Merlin & Jeanne Casterton

We're thankful for our new deck where we can sit and drink our coffee and listen to the birds sing in the morning- and watch the sunset at the end of the day. Listening to the sounds of nature and rocking all the stress away!!  
—Merlin & Jeanne Casterton | Decorah

I'm an elderly gentleman. I was born a citizen of the United States of America. I'm truly thankful for a wonderful family and a very special friend. We take so many things for granted and being thankful for things. I am extremely thankful for being born in America.  
—Ronald Scheck | Houston

## BE GRATEFUL

First of all, I am happy and thankful for my family and friends. Additionally, hope and faith that more and more people will show understanding, compassion, empathy, and tolerance which merged together spells love and happiness.  
—Bonita Heidtke | Fountain



Submitted by Dianna Sunnes



Harvesting with my favorite farmers, my dad and my little sister. Submitted by Dianna Sunnes

There are a lot of things that make me happy and thankful! I am very thankful to have grown up in the Midwest and on a farm! My parent's farm is still my favorite place to visit on the weekends. I'm thankful for all the farmers out there harvesting.

I'm thankful my mom is a warrior and told breast cancer it picked the wrong lady! I'm also thankful to be a teacher to the cutest three- and four-year-olds. They make coming to work very fun! Can't forget my family and friends! I'm so very thankful for my amazing family and friends. Also pretty thankful for electricity from MiEnergy.  
—Dianna Sunnes | Canton

**Congratulations Merlin & Jeanne Casterton on winning the drawing for a MiEnergy sherpa blanket by submitting an entry for the Happiness & Thankfulness Feature!**





# THE POWER OF CHANGE

Your spare change leaves a big impact

MiEnergy's Operation Round Up Trust Board met on September 17 and elected to donate \$6,400 to the following local organizations:

- **\$900, Canton Fire Department, Canton, Minn.,** to help replace outdated pagers.
- **\$900, Decorah Volunteer Fire Department, Decorah, Iowa,** to help replace outdated rescue bags that assist with vehicle extrication, building collapses and heavy equipment lifting.
- **\$900, Riceville Ambulance Service, Riceville, Iowa,** to help purchase an auto load cot system for lifting patients into the ambulance.
- **\$850, City of Elma, Iowa,** to assist with purchasing new chairs for the newly renovated community room.
- **\$800, The Salvation Army Heatshare, Roseville, Minn.,** to assist MiEnergy members with paying heat bills.
- **\$600, Good Shepherd Child Care, Rushford, Minn.,** to help replace buggies for walks with young



A donation was made to Spring Grove Friends of the Library for outdoor activities. Pictured L-R are Joelle Halverson and Katie Klug.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

children.

- **\$500, Friends of Peterson, Peterson, Minn.,** to support building an addition onto the Peterson Station Museum for Peterson School District memorabilia.
- **\$500, Pickwick Fire Rescue, Winona, Minn.,** to help purchase a battery-powered portable suctioning unit to replace a hand-powered device.
- **\$250, Spring Grove Friends of the Library, Spring Grove, Minn.,**

to help purchase equipment and games for outdoor programming activities.

- **\$200, Decorah Quilts of Valor #541, Decorah, Iowa,** to help purchase fabric for making quilts for local veterans.

Operation Round Up is funded by donations made by members of MiEnergy Cooperative who voluntarily have their electric bill round up to the next dollar. The average donation is \$6 per year and 1,955 MiEnergy members participate.

The program is based on the idea that small change adds up. Currently, the program gives away approximately \$12,000 each year to local organizations.

Donations to Operation Round Up are tax deductible. Organizations receive grants through an application process. The next application deadline is February 15. To learn more about Operation Round Up or to round up your electric bill, visit [www.MiEnergy.coop](http://www.MiEnergy.coop) or call 1-800-432-2285.

Look for the insert in this month's bill to sign up!

## Cooperation among cooperatives

### New video highlights broadband partnership



In the spirit of celebrating National Cooperative Month in October, we proudly shared a story through brand new video footage of three local cooperatives coming together to deliver broadband to rural communities.

We can't think of a better way to celebrate Cooperative Month than to be recognized nationally for our efforts to help expand rural broadband in Minnesota and Iowa through our unique partnership of local cooperatives.

The short video explains who and what MiBroadband is courtesy of National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative and can be found on MiEnergy's YouTube page.

## MEETING WITH

Local representatives and senators recently attended our annual legislative forums held at both the Rushford and Cresco offices. This is a great opportunity for legislators to talk with co-op employees and directors about issues affecting the cooperative and our local communities.



Above seated L-R: President/CEO Brian Krambeer, Representative Gene Pelowski and Representative Greg Davids. Back Row L-R: Board Director Jenny Scharmer, Dairyland Power Director of Government Relations and Legal Services Joyce Peppin, MREA Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs Mike Bull and Board Director Beth Olson.

At left seated L-R: Senator Mike Klemish and Representative Michael Bergan. Back Row L-R: President/CEO Brian Krambeer and Board Director Dennis Young.

## LOCAL LEGISLATORS



## ANNUAL RESCUE TRAINING

Each year MiEnergy line crews are required to perform pole top and bucket truck rescue training to practice rescuing an injured lineworker and to ensure they are prepared if an emergency should occur. Check out our video of pole top training online by visiting YouTube and searching for MiEnergy Cooperative.

### MINNESOTA MEMBERS NOTICES

**Military Personnel Assistance Law.** When a household member has been ordered into active duty for deployment or for a change of duty station, some members may find it hard to pay their utility bills. Minnesota Law protects military personnel from shut-off if they cannot pay their bill when certain conditions are met. For more information, visit [www.MiEnergy.coop](http://www.MiEnergy.coop) or call MiEnergy.

**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 sources 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.

## IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

Electricity is becoming cleaner every day and can save consumers money on their energy costs over time.



### Did you know...

By switching your lawn mower and yard equipment to electric, you will eliminate exhaust fumes, excessive noise, and the gas can.<sup>1</sup>



### Did you know...

Electric induction stoves, which cook food without any flame, will reduce indoor air pollution, and can bring water to a boil about twice as fast as a gas stove.<sup>2</sup>



### Did you know...

Electric vehicles are fun to drive. They accelerate smoothly and generate more torque than gas vehicles.<sup>3</sup>

1. <https://www.nonoise.org/library/qz7/quietlawn05.pdf>  
 2. <https://www.reviewed.com/ovens/features/is-induction-cooking-faster>  
 3. <https://www.consumerreports.org/hybrids-evs/electric-cars-101-the-answers-to-all-your-ev-questions/>







One morning last month MiEnergy crews were changing out a pole as the sun was coming up and captured a rainbow in the background. Pictured is Steve Bronner in the bucket, Jamie Breeser on the ground and Bill Cox in the digger truck.



## HUNTING SAFETY

- Before you begin a hunt, note the location of power lines and other electrical equipment. Dense trees can make them hard to see.
- Obey all signs that advise electrical hazards, especially when placing a tree stand.
- Never use power poles to support a tree stand.
- Never shoot at power lines or electrical equipment.
- When setting up and taking down the stand, make sure you don't make contact with any overhead electrical equipment.
- If you're using a portable generator on your trip, don't run it in a confined area.

For more information visit:



### FALL EVENT—DECORAH, IOWA

MiEnergy hosted a members-only fall event at Pinter's Gardens & Pumpkins in rural Decorah on October 22. There were 478 attendees that enjoyed hours of agritainment with numerous activities offered onsite at the local pumpkin patch and corn maze.

Congratulations to our members who won a prize in the drawing: Michael Duncanson, of Lewiston, blanket; Loren & Theresa Schmitt, of Calmar, blanket; Sara Hendrickson, of Decorah, chair; Tina Pinter, of Waucoma, chair; Tim & Sherry Jergenson, of Houston, battery-powered trimmer; and Amy Bunke, of Fountain, battery-powered blower.



### TRUNK-OR-TREAT — CRESCO, IOWA

MiEnergy's Kim Larson handed out treats to 600 kids on October 31 during Cresco's Community Trunk-or-Treat event at the Cresco Fitness Center.

### BUSINESS TRICK-OR-TREAT — RUSHFORD, MINN.

MiEnergy's Brenda Tesch (l) and Heather Larson (r) handed out treats to 325 trick-or-treaters, including Heather's grandchildren featured in the photo, during the Rushford/Peterson Valley Business Trick-or-Treat event on October 29.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

#### OFFICE INFORMATION

Open Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
IOWA 24049 Highway 9, PO Box 90, Cresco, IA 52136  
MINNESOTA 31110 Cooperative Way, PO Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971

\*\*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.\*\*

#### PHONE NUMBERS

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

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

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STEVE OIAN vice president of operations - Minnesota  
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#### MINEWS STAFF

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

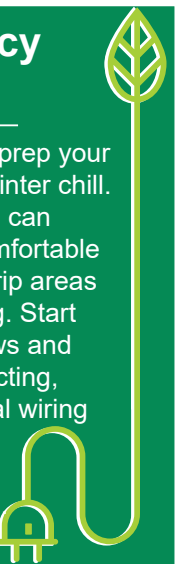
#### 2021 OFFICES CLOSED

NOV 25 Thanksgiving Day  
NOV 26 Day after Thanksgiving  
DEC 9 Employee Development Day  
DEC 24 Christmas Eve Day  
DEC 27 Christmas Day (observed)  
DEC 31 New Year's Eve close at 11:30 a.m.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing. Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings

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







# mienergy™

COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

IOWA PO Box 90, Cresco, IA 52136  
MINNESOTA PO Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971

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Congratulations to the 50 winners of our “I ♥ MiCo-op Gift Basket Giveaway” during October Co-op Month. We had 1,300 entries!

- Dean Aarre, Winona, Minn.
- Marjorie Arens, Lawler, Iowa
- Julie Back, Ostrander, Minn.
- Jed Becker, Cresco, Iowa
- Steve Bouska, Ridgeway, Iowa
- Randy Butler, Houston, Minn.
- Becky Carr, Houston, Minn.
- Kendra Crow, Rushford, Minn.
- Dolores Donlan, Cresco, Iowa
- Doris Etteldorf, Decorah, Iowa
- Matthew Foster, Caledonia, Minn.
- Tom Frana, Ridgeway, Iowa
- Shirley Francis, Winona, Minn.
- Brenda Frickson, Dakota, Minn.
- Donna Friesen, Minnesota City, Minn.
- Julie Giese, Decorah, Iowa
- Sue Hackman, Fort Atkinson, Iowa
- John and Tammy Hammann, Lewiston, Minn.
- Carolyn Huber, New Hampton, Iowa
- Delmer Ideker, Brownsville, Minn.
- Kevin Ihde, Decorah, Iowa
- Michael Jones, Winona, Minn.
- Carrie and Kevin Jonsgaard, Winona, Minn.
- Donald Klug, Lewiston, Minn.
- Mark Larsen, Winona, Minn.
- Theresa Lauden, Caledonia, Minn.
- Greg Lemmer, Winona, Minn.
- Brad Luehmann, St. Charles, Minn.
- Calvin and Joan Mitchell, La Crescent, Minn.
- Kenneth Moellers, Cresco, Iowa
- Alice Myers, Waucoma, Iowa
- Travis and Amy Nielsen, Lewiston, Minn.
- Lloyd Neubauer, Lime Springs, Iowa
- James Panoch, Castalia, Iowa
- Gerald Peter, Mabel, Minn.
- Shane Prosen, Lewiston, Minn.
- Judd Redalen, Chatfield, Minn.
- Darrell Reutzel, Winona, Minn.
- Robert Schwade, Lime Springs, Iowa
- Edna Schwickerath, New Hampton, Iowa
- Marilyn Sensor, Decorah, Iowa
- Randy Shatek, Lawler, Iowa
- Robert Spencer, La Crescent, Minn.
- Rudie Spitzer, St. Charles, Minn.
- Teresa Stokes, Chatfield, Minn.
- David Stoos, Winona, Minn.
- Galen Tietz, Decorah, Iowa
- Anna Vaith, Racine, Minn.
- Edward and Arlene Wenthe, Ossian, Iowa
- Steven Willson, St. Charles, Minn.



## COOK UP ENERGY SAVINGS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



- Clean oven burners regularly.
- Match the pan size to the burner you're using.
- Use small appliances like slow cookers and toaster ovens when possible.

### From our table to yours, Happy Thanksgiving!

MiEnergy will be closed November 25-26 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Call 800-432-2285 to report an outage any time, night or day, weekends or holidays. Payments can be made online through SmartHub or by calling 877-853-6517.

## Attention snowbirds and vacationers

If you are planning to leave your home for an extended period of time this winter, remember to make billing arrangements while you are away. MiEnergy has a number of options to offer:

- Automatic checking/savings withdrawals or credit/debit card payments.
- Online payments, readings, account management and daily/monthly power usage available through SmartHub at [www.MiEnergy.coop](http://www.MiEnergy.coop) or download the SmartHub App for Android and iOS users.



## Send in your 2021 rebate forms

MiEnergy has a variety of rebates available to members that purchase energy efficient products and appliances that meet or exceed specific criteria. Rebates are only available until funds are depleted, or December 31, whichever comes first. Rebate forms are available online at [www.MiEnergy.coop](http://www.MiEnergy.coop) or by calling 800-432-2285.