

December 2021 Vol: 5 Issue 12  
A monthly publication for members of  
MiEnergy Cooperative.

# MiNews

## Bring efficiency & fun to your shopping list

5 electric gift ideas to brighten the holidays

Running for the  
board? Applications  
due in January

**BOARD APPROVES  
\$1 MILLION SPECIAL  
YEAR-END REFUND**

**10 tips to help keep you jolly**



# Success of 2021 includes more cash back to members

As we move through the month of December, the year's end draws closer. The past 12 months have been challenging, but in the end will be a successful year for MiEnergy Cooperative.

Several new programs and initiatives were undertaken this past year. Outage texting alerts are providing personal notification of power outages to members' homes, farms or businesses. Signup is simple and easy from MiEnergy's website. The outage texting initiative allows our members to use MiEnergy's outage management technology.

We also initiated four major utility-scale solar projects that were brought on-line this fall totaling nine megawatts. Not only do these projects provide local renewable energy to cooperative members, they will also provide several million dollars in wholesale power cost savings in the first 10 years of operation.

Succession planning at your cooperative has been an ongoing initiative and just one of the benefits of the merger creating MiEnergy was combining the workforces of two electric cooperatives. Four employees retired this year, and we continue to build on reorganizing our workforce to meet growing technology and member needs.

Line crews completed improvements to seven of our 43 electric distribution substations. We have also seen a growing interest for the installation of new services and service upgrades. Crews got caught up on pole replacements, along with routine system maintenance.

This year was significant as the cooperative moved to a full cost-of-service rate structure, while coordinating the merger of our former Alliant Energy customers into the MiEnergy legacy retail rate schedule. The increase in the basic service charge and reduction in the per kilowatt-hour charge provided an overall rate reduction for most of our

members who meet or exceed the average monthly energy use of 1,000 kilowatt-hours. This action was important in fairly recovering distribution costs from all members and eliminating the cross subsidization of members that have invested in their own solar generation resources.

Our broadband initiative has also been a tremendous success. To date, we have received over \$17.5 million in federal and state grants/loans and continue to expand the broadband footprint across the MiEnergy service territory through MiBroadband. Unfortunately, the delays in supplies have challenged the timelines for MiBroadband and all providers across the United States. The good news is that additional financial assistance is becoming available from the states of Minnesota and Iowa, along with the federal government. Deliveries of supplies are expected to improve in the coming year.

### SPECIAL YEAR-END REFUND

Finally, year-end financials look to be positive for 2021, despite not yet having closed out the month of December. Kilowatt-hour sales from the membership are tracking to budget projections, along with operating expenses. Wholesale power costs will be \$1 million under budget thanks to the outstanding work of our power supply partner, Dairyland Power Cooperative. Despite increased market volatility and increased power market pricing, Dairyland's favorable operation of their generation resources has resulted in a power supply credit to MiEnergy Cooperative. Your board of directors approved a \$1 million wholesale power refund to be passed down to members in the form of a year-end credit. The credit will be based on your past 11 months of electric bills. The average residential member will see a \$20-\$40 credit on next month's statement, depending on individual electric use.

In all, MiEnergy Cooperative will have returned over \$3 million to members in 2021 when combined with October's capital credit retirement of \$2 million. This is positive news that I'm pleased to share with the membership. Coincidentally, this last month, a neighboring Minnesota investor-owned utility announced a proposed 20% rate increase over the next three years. Looking ahead, 2022 looks favorable for MiEnergy members with no expected change in retail electric rates.

On behalf of our employees and directors, I would like to thank you for your support and wish you a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year.

I welcome your calls, emails and personal visits.

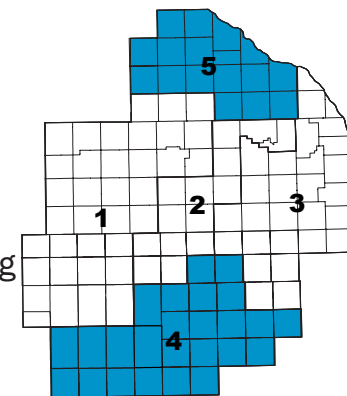
## 2021 Service Milestones

<b>Mike Ebner</b> Director of Operations Retired 37 years	<b>Ted Kjos</b> VP of Marketing & External Relations Retired 20 years	<b>Dan Kloberdanz</b> Member Services Technician Retired 31 years	<b>Sara Krage</b> System Design Coordinator Retired 25 years	<b>Christian Anderson</b> Apprentice Lineworker New Employee	<b>Brittany Benson</b> Operations Assistant New Employee
<b>Cole Kingsley</b> Journeyman Lineworker 5 years	<b>Tim McConnell</b> Custodian/General Laborer 15 years	<b>Janelle Sunnes</b> Member Services Representative 15 years	<b>Brett Bergan</b> Systems Operations Dispatch 20 years	<b>Jamie Breerer</b> Journeyman Lineworker 20 years	<b>Shelly Hove</b> Chief Financial Officer 20 years
<b>Brad Pecinovsky</b> Compliance & Training Coordinator 20 years	<b>June Vitse</b> Director of Payroll/Human Resources 20 years	<b>Andy Prinsen</b> Distribution Technician Foreman 25 years	<b>Mike Walton</b> VP of System Operations 30 years	<b>Steve Culhane</b> Utility Worker 40 years	

## BOARD ELECTIONS

### Director applications due

Last month we published information regarding the board election process for 2022. If you are interested in running for a district 4 or 5 board seat, contact Heather Larson at 800-432-2285 or hlarrison@MiEnergy.coop. The director application deadline is January 14, 2022.



If you're using the SmartHub app:

- You'll be able to see your current bill, along with bills from previous months if you want to compare costs.
- You'll be able to view your actual use.
- You can see how your use is trending over time, which will allow you to take steps to lower your bill.

### Board room highlights | November 30, 2021

- CFO Hove reviewed the favorable financial report for October YTD.
- Approved a \$1 million refund to the membership based on 11 months of revenue.
- Approved the 2022 capital budget totaling \$12.9 million as part of MiEnergy's five-year work plan.
- Approved the unclaimed property report and supported providing \$1,000 scholarships to 70 high school seniors.
- With Director Fisher choosing to not seek reelection in District 4, the board approved not filling his seat when his term expires in April and reducing the board from 12 to 11 directors.

# Powerful Fun

## Five cool uses to power your yuletide

At the end of the year, thoughts of gifts dance in our heads, whether for others or just treating ourselves to the achievement of being able to turn the page on 2021.

Electricity offers one way to brighten the choices as inventors and innovators keep coming up with new gadgets and gizmos to power our lives with efficiency and fun. Here are five electric ideas to add pizzazz to your holiday shopping list.

### 1 HEALTHY FRENCH FRIES?

Electric air fryers have been around since 2010, but their popularity started taking off about five years ago. As health-consciousness increased, people liked the idea of these cookers that could prepare traditional fried favorites with much less oil. Sales bumped up even more as the pandemic kept people at home and paying more attention to their cooking. Air fryers aren't really fryers but high-heat convection devices that simulate traditional recipes like chicken tenders, egg rolls, potato chips, fried vegetables and apple fritters. A friend of mine calls his electric air fryer "the greatest invention of all time."



©Hamilton Beach

### 2 WALK THE TALK

Walkie-talkies are one of those old technologies for staying in touch that still work great for businesses, conference coordination, or hiking and camping. They can help keep a caravan of cars and trailers together. Let the kids figure out games like hide-and-seek or scavenger hunts. There are even walkie-talkies in the shape of cartoon-character heads, and they can be as inexpensive as \$50 for a set of four. Shop carefully and know what you'll use them for—the range can vary from a half mile to 20 miles depending on the type of model, and whether they'll be used indoors or outdoors.



### 3 HIT THE ROAD

"Electric vehicles" doesn't mean just cars and trucks anymore. The sidewalks of college campuses and downtowns are now shared with electric scooters. And if you're having trouble keeping up with a bicycle-fanatic,

an electric bike might help you scale those steep hills. You can go off-road with an electric All-Terrain Vehicle. If that doesn't sound like it fits the idea of zooming through the woods, consider that electrics are a lot quieter, whether you're out for hunting or bird watching. Wear a helmet and drive carefully—ATV safety applies to both gas and electric motors. And if you were born to be wild, you can head out on the highway on a battery-powered motorcycle—an electric Harley boasts instant 100% torque, electronic safety features and the ability to use your smartphone for checking battery status and stolen-vehicle tracking.



### 4 EASY READER

If being bent over a computer keyboard seems too much like work and you're tired of squinting at the little screen on your phone, take a look at tablets. They come in a variety of screen sizes that make it easier to enjoy that magazine, detective novel, streaming movie or TV show or your computer game of choice. Most models come with the ability for you to write or draw on them.



### 5 PACKING POWER

A portable charger may be one of the least-exciting gifts you can give or get, but you'll change that thinking when your phone's about to die as you hike over a hill and see a sunset vista to photograph, or you're at a concert and they play that song you wanted to record. A word of advice—charge it up the day before; the smallest ones for your purse or pocket tend not to hold a charge for the several weeks they sit in a drawer waiting for the next event.

Shop carefully and know how you want to use the device—they all come with a variety of features and prices. And be cyber-safe: anything connected to the internet can be hacked, so set a strong password. Then focus on having a blast.

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.

## Holiday decorating tips for an energy-wise home

Whether you've already decked your halls or you're just getting started, there's still time to incorporate energy savings into your holiday décor planning.

If you haven't strung your twinkle lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights and they can last 40 holiday seasons. They're also safer because they're made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them more resistant to breaking—and they're cool to the touch, so no burnt fingers!

If you missed Santa's memo about energy-saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is a programmable light timer. Most models cost between \$10 to \$25. With a light timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off, which will save you time, money and energy. If you're using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it's weatherproof and intended for outdoor use.

If Clark Griswold's décor style is a bit much for your taste, consider a more natural approach. Many Christmas tree farms and other retailers give away greenery clippings from recently trimmed trees. With a little twine, extra ornaments and sparkly ribbon, you can create beautiful garlands and wreaths to hang over your front door or windows. To add extra twinkle at night, you can install solar-powered spotlights to illuminate your new (essentially free!) greenery. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be able to purchase a quality set of four for about \$30—and because they run on natural energy from the sun, there's no additional cost to your energy bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are plenty of ways to save energy throughout the season. Visit MiEnergy's website for additional energy-saving 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.

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## CAPITAL CREDITS NOTICE

In October 2021, MiEnergy distributed just over \$2 million in patronage capital credit retirements to current and former members of the cooperative. Current members received an electric bill credit and former members received their refunds as a check. MiEnergy Cooperative's office located at 24049 Highway 9, Cresco, IA 52136 is holding unclaimed patronage dividend checks for the person(s) listed as follows. The owner may claim this property by contacting us at the address listed above, calling 800-432-2285 or emailing [klarson@MiEnergy.coop](mailto:klarson@MiEnergy.coop).

Abnet, Lorie, Onalaska, WI  
Abrashinsky, Jan, Holmen, WI  
Aldean, Dean, Preston, MN  
Allen, Gerald, El Paso, TX  
Alvarez, Kristopher/Ruggeberg, Dianne, Rochester, MN  
Amdahl, Donald, Mabel, MN  
Amundson, Larry & Rhonda, Thief River Falls, MN  
Anderson, Gary, Milwaukie, OR  
Anderson, Gloria, Houston, MN  
Anderson, Maribeth, Canton, MN  
Anderson, Marilyn, Cresco, IA  
Andrews, Elisabeth, Eyota, MN  
Andrews, Nathan/Kutchara, Nicole, Winona, MN  
Anthony, Michael, Galesville, WI  
Arthur, John & Kay, Corapolis, PA  
Austin, Terry & Kayla, Decorah, IA  
Bain, Christina, Grand Meadow, MN  
Bakke, Cathy, Decorah, IA  
Baldrige, Joseph & Stephanie, Ridgeway, IA  
Bangs, Shawn, Canton, MN  
Barber, Donald & Geraldine, Radcliffe, IA  
Barr, Kyle, Spring Grove, MN  
Baures, Thomas, LaCrescent, MN  
Beckman, Douglas, Albertville, MN  
Beckman, Julie, Calmar, IA  
Bedard, Katherine, Houston, MN  
Bell, Marilyn, Plano, TX  
Bender, Donald & Marlene, Winona, MN  
Bendorf, Carl & Linda, Iowa City, IA  
Berg, Dianna, Davenport, IA  
Berst, Clarence Estate/Timp, Rose Ann, Hiawatha, IA  
Balcom, Trudy/Penny Weymiller, Rigby, ID  
Blaess, Richard, Decorah, IA  
Boeck, Dave, Austin, MN  
Boeckmann, Joie/Lukes, William, Cresco, IA  
Boelter, Viola, Winona, MN  
Bohl, Anne, Decorah, IA  
Boland, Jeff, Lanesboro, MN  
Bowen, Tyler & Sue, Marshall, MN  
Bowers, Becky, Winona, MN  
Braata, Gary & Mary, Winona, MN  
Bradley, James/Kelloff-Bradley, Polly, Le Roy, MN  
Bramble, Karen, Preston, MN  
Brauer Painting, Decorah, IA  
Breiland, Derek & Marcia, Rochester, MN  
Brennan, John, Sarasota, FL  
Brevig, Jason, Winona, MN  
Broadwater, Cherisa, Winona, MN  
Brown, Donna, Stockton, MN  
Brown, Kay, Winona, MN  
Brown, Richard, Ostrander, MN  
Bruemmer, Bradley, Dakota, MN  
Buck, Arlene, Minnesota City, MN  
Bucknell, Cody/Mennenga, Rebecca, Riceville, IA  
Burgart, Kenneth Estate/Burgart, Rita, New Hampton, IA  
Burke, William & Bonnie, Rochester, MN  
Burnikel, Jeff, Lime Springs, IA  
Burns, Dolores, Cedar Rapids, IA  
Burns, William III, Rochester, MN  
Burrichter, Robert, Ossian, IA

Bursell, James, Tavares, FL  
Burt, Bradley/Kuiper, Erica, Utica, MN  
Burt, John & Lori, Saint Charles, MN  
Buxengard, Kristine, Spring Grove, MN  
Calitz, Johannes & Yolanda, Lewiston, MN  
Carstenbrock, Raymond, Buffalo City, WI  
Chamberlain, WH/Cooper, Don, Spring Valley, MN  
Chihak, Virgil, Spring Valley, MN  
Christianson, Seth & Alyssa, Spring Valley, MN  
Christie, Lance & Bonnie, Utica, MN  
Churchill, Mrs Robert, Ostrander, MN  
Claussen, Scott, Hollandale, MN  
Clements, Laurie/Hurst, Laurie, Cresco, IA  
Conrad, Sara/Erbes, Mike, Marion, IA  
Cordes, Carol, Houston, MN  
Corey, Jean, Lynnwood, WA  
Cotant, David Estate/Steffens, Julie, Zumbrota, MN  
Courtney, Kris, Decorah, IA  
Coyle, Robert & Cynthia, Eyota, MN  
Cripps, Sandy, Farmington, MN  
Cruse, Michael, Mabel, MN  
Dahl, Allan, Harmony, MN  
Dahle, Ingvald Estate/Dahle, John, Houston, MN  
Danielson, Diane, LaCrescent, MN  
Danielson, Nancy, LaCrescent, MN  
Darland, George, Cresco, IA  
Darrington, Dean & Diane, Venice, FL  
Davis, Andrew & Cindy, LaCrosse, WI  
Day, Arlene, Ogden, UT  
DeBlieck, Thomas, Tracy, MN  
DeNardis, Michael, Rapid City, SD  
Dever, Virginia, Caledonia, MN  
Dietel, Sean & Ann, Cresco, IA  
Dillinger, Rocky & Kathy, Lawrenceville, IL  
Dobosenski, Thomas, Maple Grove, MN  
Dolan, Patrick/Koehn, Judy, Falcon Heights, MN  
Donlan, Tanya, Decorah, IA  
Dos Santos, Pedro/Lanston, Cara, Decorah, IA  
Drewelow, Ronald, Mason City, IA  
Duffert, McClain & Kathryn, Decorah, IA  
Dunbar, Bruce/Wieser, Jan, Winona, MN  
Dyson, Thomas & Sharon, Becker, MN  
Ebertowski, Thomas, Utica, MN  
Egland, Charles Jr., Luverne, MN  
Eiken, Richard & Diane, Cook, MN  
Ellingson, Jeffrey, Stewartville, MN  
Engle, Terry Estate, Tomah, WI  
Erding, Cate, Chester, IA  
Erickson, Robert/Hanson, Beverly, Peterson, MN  
Ewalt, Ray & Ruth, Cresco, IA  
Falada, Irma Estate/Falada, John, Phoenix, AZ  
Fegre, Gary & Lois, Winona, MN  
Feller, Ruth, LaCrosse, WI  
Fischer, Crystal/Strong, Daniel II, LaCrescent, MN  
Fishbaugher, Janet, Cresco, IA  
Flaig, Thomas & Krista, Lanesboro, MN  
Floerchinger, Evelyn Trust, New Hampton, IA  
Fogel, Jerry, Saint Peter, MN  
Fox, Travis, Ionia, IA  
Frank, Judith, Caledonia, MN

Franke, Christian/Clarke, Tracy, Cresco, IA  
Frauenkron, John & Jessica, LaCrescent, MN  
Frye, Deborah, Houston, MN  
Fugate, Everet, Medaryville, IN  
Gallentine, O R, Lake City, MN  
Gantenbein, Anthony, LaCrosse, WI  
Gaul, Leonard, Cresco, IA  
Geerts, Paul, Alta Vista, IA  
Gensmer, Patrick & Lori, Hayward, WI  
Gjere, Michael, Mabel, MN  
Glomske, Thomas Sr/Glomske, Thomas Jr, Hokah, MN  
Glover, Teah, Winona, MN  
Godfrey, Ed & Donna, Davenport, IA  
Goetzinger, Brian/Bruening, Jacob, Caledonia, MN  
Golish-Turnmire, Sarah, Saint Charles, MN  
Gonzalas, Eddie/Olvera, Alejandro, Winona, MN  
Gooder, Ross, Strawberry, AZ  
Gorham, Sonja, Mabel, MN  
Graf-Ideker, Kathleen, LaCrescent, MN  
Gray, Thomas, Glendale, AZ  
Grover, Amanda, Preston, MN  
Grube, Owen Jr, Cambridge, MN  
Gulbranson, Robert, Harmony, MN  
Hackman, Michael, Waucoma, IA  
Hageman, Dennis, Fort Atkinson, IA  
Hagensick, Rusty & Deborah, Decorah, IA  
Hall, Scott, Chrisholm, MN  
Halverson, Diane, Winona, MN  
Halverson, Leonard, Mabel, MN  
Halvorson, Gladys Estate/Schwanbeck, Gail, Lewiston, MN  
Hammond, Fern, Elma, IA  
Hanf, Jesse, Rochester, MN  
Hansen, Christopher & Kelly, Spring Valley, MN  
Hansen, Lynette, Winona, MN  
Hansen, William, Minneapolis, MN  
Hardy, James, Lyle, MN  
Hardy, Rick, Winona, MN  
Hare, Joslyn, Rochester, MN  
Hareldson, Tonia, Chatfield, MN  
Harmon, Gwen, Lanesboro, MN  
Harms, Edward & Donna, Harmony, MN  
Harstad, James, Harmony, MN  
Hart, Shirley, LaCrescent, MN  
Harvey, Paul, Tomah, WI  
Hatleli, Thomas, Lanesboro, MN  
Haug, Jonathan, Preston, MN  
Hayes-Hall, Edward, Prairie Du Chien, WI  
Haynes, Walt, Cresco, IA  
Hazuga, Chris & Jamie, El Mirage, AZ  
Hebrink, Rodney, Harmony, MN  
Hegg, David, Calmar, IA  
Heidel, Christopher, LaCrosse, WI  
Heintz, Kevin, Brownsville, MN  
Helm, Scott & Lynette, Canton, MN  
Hemmelman, Tiffany, Winona, MN  
Hendrickson, James & Mary, LaCrosse, WI  
Herbst, Aaron, Brownsville, MN  
Hernandez, Steve, Decorah, IA  
Herold, Jerry, Marshalltown, IA  
Hershberger, Aaron, Canton, MN  
Hershberger, Andrew & Lizzie, Canton, MN  
Hershberger, Yost, Canton, MN  
Hillesland, Glen, Ames, IA  
Hoffmaster, Howard & Nancy, Merrilan, WI  
Holkesvik, Allen, Decorah, IA  
Holzwarth, Rebecca, Mabel, MN  
Holzwarth, Tina, Canton, MN  
Homewood, Larry/Homewood, Dennis, Waukon, IA

Honeychuck, Nancy, Spring Valley, MN  
Howe, Bryce/Horsman, Charlotte, Spring Valley, MN  
Huff, Michael, Winona, MN  
Hughes, Arnold & Carol, Cresco, IA  
Hultgren, Brandi, Colwell, IA  
Huinker, Effie, Ossian, IA  
Hunter, Brad, West Salem, WI  
Inglett, Lowell & Elaine, Decorah, IA  
Ingvalson, John & Holly, Spring Grove, MN  
Irvin, Adrian Estate/Story, Robert, Cresco, IA  
Iverson, Matthew, Winona, MN  
Jacobson, Joyce, Harmony, MN  
Jankowski, Larry, LaCrosse, WI  
Jansen, M Kris/Simcox, Patricia, LaCrescent, MN  
Jergenson, Daniel, Punta Gorda, FL  
Joerg, David, Preston, MN  
Johnson, Kasey, Caledonia, MN  
Johnson, Marlys, New Hampton, IA  
Johnson, Scott, Preston, MN  
Jones, Ed, LaCrosse, WI  
Jones, Jeromy, Lime Springs, IA  
Jones, Joyce, Chatfield, MN  
Jonett, Zachary/Nowman, Elizabeth, De Soto, WI  
Jorgenson, Jared, Winona, MN  
Jorgenson, Sue, LaCrescent, MN  
Jostand, Jeremy & Janeen, Decorah, IA  
Kalke, Larry, Mason City, IA  
Kaski, Linda, Rushford, MN  
Kellogg, Ross & Jennifer, New Hampton, IA  
Kerns, Lynn & Beverly, Ridgeway, IA  
Kieffer, Kenneth, Altura, MN  
Kiehne, Merle, Chatfield, MN  
Kielb, Rick & Jackie, Perryton, TX  
Kilger, Albert, Brownsville, MN  
Kilpatrick, Clark, Dorchester, IA  
Kimber, Evan/Botkin, Alyssa, Elma, IA  
Kinney, Angela, Brownsville, MN  
Kleve, Loretta Estate/Dietzenbach, Sherri, Waucoma, IA  
Klimesh, Joe, Calmar, IA  
Knepper, Heidi, Savannah, GA  
Konkel, David, Spillville, IA  
Koprowski, Norbert & Frances, LaCrescent, MN  
Krambeck, Terry & Jennifer, Cresco, IA  
Kramer, Joseph & Mae, Winona, MN  
Kramer, Thomas, Pleasant Hope, MO  
Kratt, William, LaCrosse, WI  
Krause, Jenelle, Rushford, MN  
Kruse, Mark & Karen, Ames, IA  
Kubesh, Elvin Estate/Kubesh, Mabel, Calmar, IA  
Kugel, Roger/Brown, Caron, Winona, MN  
Kuster, Dorothy, Houston, MN  
Landman, L C Jr. & Sandra, Winona, MN  
Landsman, Todd, Houston, MN  
Lauritzen, Dale, Winona, MN  
Lea, Dana, Rushford, MN  
Lea, Orval, Rushford, MN  
Lee, Gary & Lina, Windom, MN  
Lee, Kent & Denise, Decorah, IA  
Legrand, Bill & Mindy, Moscow, IA  
Lehrke, Travis & Brooke, Centerville, MN  
Lemke, Robert & Patricia, Caledonia, MN  
Lensing Livestock, Waucoma, MN  
Leslie, Loren, Minnetonka, MN  
Lienau, Jim/Blasberg, Abby, Lawler, IA  
Lindmark, Robert & Christine, Crivitz, WI  
Lingen, Steven & Priscilla, Sleepy Eye, MN  
Loken, Roy & Sandra, LaCrescent, MN  
Loken, William, Fifty Lakes, MN

Lorenz, Ann, LaCrescent, MN  
Lubke, Thelma/Lubke, James, Decorah, IA  
Luehmann, Norman/Luehmann, Gary, Lewiston, MN  
Lund, Greg & Liz, Mabel, MN  
Luttchens, Helen, New Albin, IA  
Luzum, Tammie, Calmar, IA  
Macal, Melvin, Centerville, IA  
Madson, Thomas, Mabel, MN  
Mahlstedt, Lester Jr., Waukon, IA  
Makurat, Aleksandra, Hokah, MN  
Marion, Allie Estate/Hartman, Theresa, New Hampton, IA  
Marsh, Deborah, Ossian, IA  
Martin, Anthony, Waterloo, IA  
Martin, Wilbur Estate/Martin, Anthony, Waterloo, IA  
Martinson, Arlen, Stockton, MN  
Mashak, Rebecca, Bristol, VT  
Mason, Randy, Spring Grove, MN  
Mathsen, Almore & Vivien, Spring Grove, MN  
McCabe, Debra, Ostrander, MN  
McCallson, Shawna, Preston, MN  
McCallum, Robert & W K, Rushford, MN  
McCann, John & Frances, Chatfield, MN  
McCollum, Guy, Winona, MN  
McComb, Neil & Margaret, Quemado, NM  
McConnell, Camilla, Mabel, MN  
McConnell, Gerald, Decorah, IA  
McKinley, Murray, Rochester, MN  
McLees, Bill/Buros, Jeanne, Caledonia, MN  
Meisner, Troy & J N, Spring Valley, MN  
Meissen, Greg & Barbara, Nampa, ID  
Melbostad, Judith, Spring Grove, MN  
Meyer, Devonna, Kellogg, MN  
Meyers, Andrew & Kristin, Saint Charles, MN  
Mills, Mark, Spring Valley, MN  
Minear, Christine, Mesquite, NV  
Mitchell, Jason, Garnavillo, IA  
Mlsna, Brian, Brownsville, MN  
Moen, Ross & Luann, Cresco, IA  
Molokken, Dan, Sherrill, IA  
Moore, William & Lynn, West Union, IA  
Moorhouse, Heaven, LaCrescent, MN  
Morehouse, Dan & Patti, LaCrosse, WI  
Mueller, Patrick, Wabasha, MN  
Mundfrom, Eric, Spring Valley, MN  
Munsterman, Ron, Decorah, IA  
Musel, Stewart, Spring Valley, MN  
Musolf, Patricia, Rochester, MN  
Naegle, Don & Mary, LaCrosse, WI  
Natvig, Kenneth & Stella, Cresco, IA  
Nelson, Alexandria, Rochester, MN  
Nelson, Charles, Winona, MN  
Nelson, Eric/Blair-Nelson, Stacie, Winona, MN  
Nelson, Lester/Hageman, Steven, Hiawatha, IA  
Nelson, Michael, Reedsburg, WI  
Nelson, Richard, Chatfield, MN  
Nelson, Steven, Frisco, TX  
Nesset, Kenneth, Decorah, IA  
Neuzil, Donald, Waukon, IA  
Niemeyer, William & Sandra, Winona, MN  
Nightingale, Angela & Richard, Saint Joseph, MN  
Noney, Christopher, Rochester, MN  
Nordsving, Darin, Canton, MN

Look for the second half of this listing in the January issue of MiNews.



©KitchenAid

The kitchen is the center of any home, especially during the holiday season, and the stove is a crucial component to a successful kitchen. Determining which type of stove to purchase can be a big decision. There are several stove cooktop options available, each with its own unique benefits. Learning the basics of each stove type can help you determine what works best for your needs.

One of the most common stove tops available to consumers is the electric stove top. This stove top uses electricity to heat the element on the stove top, composed of either radiant heat coils or a glass surface. That heat is then transferred to the pan, pot or other cookware. Electric stove tops with heat coils are relatively durable and can be scrubbed without having to worry about causing much damage. For electric stove tops with a glass surface, cleanup is easy; however, users should be careful not to scratch the glass. Electric stove tops have a moderate energy efficiency rating, where roughly 74% of the heat reaches the food; however, electric-coil stove tops are slightly less efficient than glass.

Another common stove top option is the gas-powered stove top, where the flames can be produced using either

natural gas or liquid propane. Among the benefits, the most popular aspect of gas-powered stove tops is the ability to heat food more quickly than electric stove tops. Many cooking enthusiasts prefer gas because of the instant heat and ability to control temperatures more easily. In the rare case of power outages, gas stove tops will still function while electric stove tops will not. However, gas stove tops are the least energy efficient, with about 40% of the heat generated reaching the food. Much of the energy from gas is lost in the air and wasted as lost heat. It is also important to be careful of the potential safety risks associated with gas stove tops, such as burns, impacts to indoor air quality and gas leaks. Homes with small children or pets should be especially aware of these potential risks. With any gas stove top, an exhaust hood will be important to reduce potential air quality concerns from nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and carbon monoxide (CO).

Although less common, the induction stove top is quickly gaining popularity. An induction stove top uses electromagnetic heating technology to heat the cookware. Only specific cookware can be used on an induction stove top. The cookware needs iron to react properly with the stove top, which

makes stainless steel, cast iron or carbon steel excellent cookware options for induction stove tops. Underneath an induction stove top is a metal coil that creates a magnetic field, which reacts with the cookware through an electrical current, generating heat. The induction technology works quickly to heat food and is even faster than gas stove tops. Through the induction process, only the part of the stove top directly touching the cookware becomes heated, while the rest of the stove top stays cool.

One of the best benefits of an induction stove top is safety; there are no open flames and the stove top itself is cool to the touch, making burns much less likely. Induction stove tops are also the most energy efficient form of stove top cooking, with an energy efficiency rating of about 90%, so most of the energy goes to heating the cookware and not the surrounding air. Induction stove tops, like glass electric stove tops, are also easy to clean because of the smooth surface. Despite all these benefits, induction stove tops can be quite expensive—more so than gas or electric stove tops. Since special cookware is also required for the stove top to work properly, the total price tag becomes even higher.



©KitchenAid

Stove top options come in a variety of prices, sizes and with additional features that depend on specific models. Be sure to research the appropriate stove top options for your culinary needs before making any final decisions. Assessing potential safety concerns in a home can also be the deciding factor between different stove top options. Whether you choose electricity, gas or induction, stove tops are an important piece for any home.

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



## FREE TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Two area high school students will be selected by MiEnergy to represent the cooperative as delegates on the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour in June 2022. To be eligible, the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) must be members.

An application and more information will be posted online December 31 at [www.MiEnergy.coop](http://www.MiEnergy.coop).

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## Community service scholarships

Any graduating high school senior, whose parent(s) or guardian(s) are members of the cooperative, are eligible for a MiEnergy Cooperative community service based scholarship. The scholarships are funded through unclaimed capital credits. An application will be posted online December 31 at [www.MiEnergy.coop](http://www.MiEnergy.coop).

# BE SAFE DURING THE HO-HO-HOLIDAYS 10 TIPS TO HELP YOU STAY JOLLY



Before you plan out your new holiday lighting scheme or repeat last year's festive design, keep these 10 safety tips in mind when decorating outdoors:

- 1 Do not toss light strands up into the air. They could get too close to or come into contact with a power line.
- 2 Before using a ladder, always look up and assess all power line locations.
- 3 Carry a ladder horizontally when transporting it.
- 4 Keep at least 10 feet between yourself (and any item you are holding) and a power line.
- 5 Do not use staples or nails or tacks to secure light strands, cords, wires or extension cords.
- 6 String together no more than the number of strands recommended by the manufacturer.
- 7 Plug all lights and extension cords into GFCI-protected outlets.
- 8 Use lights and extension cords rated for outdoor use.
- 9 Do not use frayed, cracked or otherwise damaged cords, plugs or lights.
- 10 Use only lights and products certified by a reputable testing lab.



Safe Electricity.org  
LEARN MORE AT:



## GIVE THE GIFT OF POWER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Gift certificates are available to purchase at the cooperative during the holiday season and throughout the year. Certificates will be applied to a MiEnergy electric account.

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### THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Employees of MiEnergy collected monetary donations to distribute to area food banks to help local families during the holiday season. We donated \$464 to local food banks in Rushford and Cresco! MiEnergy's Brenda Tesch is shown dropping off a donation to Rushford SEMCAC Food Shelf Manager Andrea Andresen.

## Blood drives coming to Cresco and Rushford



American Red Cross

MiEnergy is hosting American Red Cross community blood drives in Rushford and Cresco. Both drives are open to the public.  
RUSHFORD: December 14 from 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
CRESCO: January 5 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Appointments are required. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter MiEnergy to schedule an appointment.

## Employees participate in virtual training

MiEnergy employees recently learned why virtual reality gaming has grown popular. Employees were able to participate in a training for fire suppression and virus vision using virtual reality. The training allowed employees to be engaged as if they really were using a fire extinguisher to put a fire out. The virus vision helped educate employees on potential areas where viruses lurk. At right, MiEnergy's Randall Ashbacher aims low to put out a fire.



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**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

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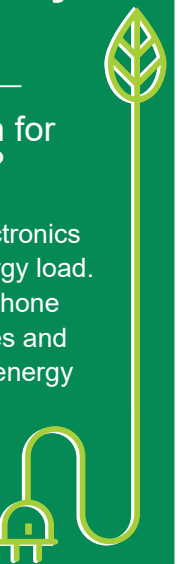
**2021 | 2022 OFFICES CLOSED**  
DEC 24 Christmas Eve Day  
DEC 27 Christmas Day (observed)  
DEC 31 New Year's Eve close at 11:30 a.m.  
JAN 3 New Year's Day (observed)

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

### Heading out of town for the holiday season?

Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use.

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



**IOWA MEMBER NOTICE ON SALES TAX EXEMPTION**

There is a tax exemption that could save you money if your business is agricultural, manufacturing or processing related.

Since January 1, 2006, residential customers are no longer subject to state sales tax. State sales tax rates are applicable for non-residential customers, unless a sales tax exemption certificate is filed with the cooperative. If you use electricity for processing/agriculture, you may be eligible to file a sales tax exemption certificate for the portion of your electric use that qualifies.

The certificate may be valid for up to three years and you can also file for refunds for past years, up to a maximum of three years.

You are not required to have exempt use metered separately, but are required to calculate the percentage of exempt and non-exempt use.

Contact the Iowa Department of Revenue for instructions and the refund form by visiting [www.tax.iowa.gov](http://www.tax.iowa.gov) or calling 800-367-3388.



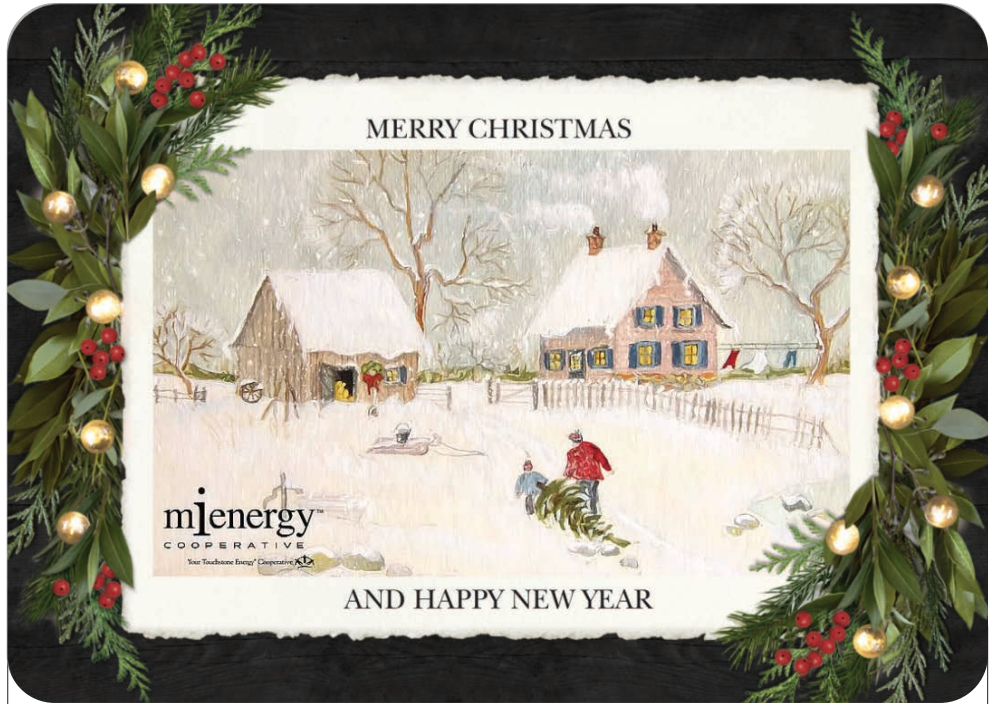
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**Looking for local gifts?**  
Check out the local businesses from MiEnergy's Co-op Month basket giveaway!

- Big Springs Farm Pumpkins & Corn Maze, Lanesboro, Minn.
- Blue Fruit Farms, Winona, Minn.
- E&E Confections, Elma, Iowa
- Farm Charm, Harmony, Minn.
- Grazing Goat Dairy, Waucoma, Iowa
- Hoch Orchard & Gardens, La Crescent, Minn.
- Kidding Around Acres, Cresco, Iowa
- Lakeside Popcorn, Ossian, Iowa
- Lynch BBQ & Livestock, Waucoma, Iowa



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Holiday Hours: Closed Dec. 24, 27 & Jan. 3. Open until 11:30 a.m. Dec. 31.  
Outages can be reported 24/7 including holidays by calling 800-432-2285  
or via the SmartHub app.