Be a laundry superhero

Do the Summer Shift

3-step test for your heating & cooling system

80 STUDENTS RECEIVE CO-OP SCHOLARSHIPS

ELECTRIC CARS PART OF CO-OP FLEET
CEO MESSAGE
Brian Krambeer, president/CEO | 800.432.2285 | bkrambeer@MiEnergy.coop

Our message in Washington D.C.

Last month over 2,000 electric cooperative representatives from across the United States participated in the annual National Rural Electric Cooperative Legislative Conference that is held in Washington, D.C. I attended, along with Director Jenny Schurman and Ted Kjos representing MiEnergy Cooperative. We joined a delegation of over 60 participants from Minnesota and 40 from Iowa, coordinated by our statewide associations.

Our top two issues were: protecting and maintaining our not-for-profit status and promoting the needs of rural communities in an infrastructure package.

NOT-FOR-PROFIT STATUS
Most electric cooperatives are tax exempt organizations under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(12). In order to maintain tax exempt status, an electric cooperative must receive at least 85 percent of its income from its members. We often refer to this as the 85% rule. The recent changes in the tax code created an unintended consequence. Contributions to a corporation by a non-shareholder government entity or civic group is no longer considered capital. Under prior tax law, such contributions were capital and excluded from the income of a corporation. If a government grant or reimbursement is not a capital contribution, then the grant may be considered nonmember income and could jeopardize a cooperative’s tax-exempt status.

This is significant and could have a profound impact on cooperatives. Historically, electric cooperatives have received grants from a variety of federal, state and local governments to assist in providing services, economic development, storm restoration and rural broadband initiatives. The treatment of government grants as income could impact a cooperative’s ability to use the full value of the grant to benefit its members. Moreover, it means that an electric cooperative struck by disaster may have to consider whether it can afford to use FEMA’s Public Assistance funds.

RURAL COMMUNITIES INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE
As Congress and the Administration explore options for a broad infrastructure package, we asked them to look beyond urban centers and the traditional improvements such as roads and bridges. We asked them to support three key infrastructure investments: modernize the electric grid, expand rural broadband access and electrify the economy.

Grid modernization is a response to evolving consumer expectations. Electric co-ops are adopting grid modernization and implementing security and resilience technologies. We are investing heavily in energy innovation, including advanced metering, community solar, battery storage, electric vehicle infrastructure and energy efficiency. We asked lawmakers to recognize and support electric co-op modernization efforts by:
- Funding research and development programs that enable the use of artificial intelligence and technology to get the most out of grid-enabled devices.
- Investing in programs that promote more efficient data transfer and feedback between transmission and distribution systems and support the development of distributed energy resources, which help enhance resiliency and reliability.

Expanding rural broadband access to broadband infrastructure is essential for a modern economy. According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) an estimated 6.3 million households in electric co-op service areas lack high-speed internet access. Southeast Minnesota and Northeast Iowa are testaments to that statistic and the reason MiEnergy partnered with two local telephone cooperatives to deliver broadband across our service territory.

Adopt the Summer Shift to keep electricity affordable
Make today’s new habit part of tomorrow’s lifestyle

Are there products you purchase or tasks you perform on certain days of the week because that was part of the routine when you were growing up? When was the last time you thought about how your habits today can affect the next generation?

This summer, consider a new habit — one for all ages; one that can be started without spending a dime, yet can help your local electric cooperative keep your electricity rates stable and affordable. It’s called the Summer Shift.

The Summer Shift is when you shift electric use to the hours before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m. on weekdays during the months of June, July and August. This helps MiEnergy keep rates affordable by purchasing less power when electricity is in high demand and most expensive, thus “shifting” the demand for electricity to times of the day when electricity costs less to purchase.

SUMMER SHIFT TIPS:
1. Set the thermostat to 78 degrees. Using a programmable thermostat means one less thing to remember.
2. Start a load of laundry after 7 p.m. (use cold water, if possible), a member could get a load (or two) of clothes washed and hang up to dry overnight before going to bed. Or, wash clothes first thing in the morning and dry your clothes outside on a clothesline during the day.
3. Start the dishwasher to avoid running between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
4. Shut off lights when you are not using them.
5. Enjoy a picnic lunch and/or dinner at least once a week with foods that do not require a microwave or oven to prepare.

SUMMER SHIFT TIPS:
- Wash your clothes before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m.
- Be a laundry superhero! Wash clothes in cold water.
- Eat meals that do not require a microwave or stove to prepare.

Co-op adds electric vehicles to fleet
The all-electric Chevy BOLT – our new way to plug-in and save!

Electric vehicles (EVs) are increasing in popularity and are becoming more readily available and affordable. Your electric cooperative recently added two all-electric Chevy Bolts to its fleet of service vehicles at both the Rushford and Cresco locations. The vehicles use 100% electricity from the grid, no gasoline. The Bolt has an EPA-estimated range of 238 miles on a full charge. The actual range may vary due to factors including temperature, terrain and driving technique. Be sure to look for the MiEnergy all-electric car buzzing around our service territory.

IS AN ELECTRIC CAR IN YOUR FUTURE?

MiEnergy is pleased to announce that the installation of two EV charging stations for public use will be completed in the near future. Watch for more information in the coming months. Charging is as easy as plugging in your smartphone. Did you know that MiEnergy also has a Plug-in Electric Vehicle (PEV) Program? It is based on a time-of-use rate, which is designed for maximum flexibility and a way for you and the cooperative to save money on the energy bill. If you can charge your PEV during off-peak times (weekends, holidays and weekdays 9 p.m. to 9 a.m.), there is potential to save monthly. Visit www.MiEnergy.coop for more information.

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**Powerful scholarship program**

MiEnergy recently awarded $40,000 in scholarships to 80 local high school students who exemplified a strong presence in their communities. As a cooperative, MiEnergy has a strong commitment to youth and community, thus our scholarship program reflects those core cooperative principles. The program recognizes high school seniors who demonstrate cooperative spirit through service to others. The money for the scholarships is funded through unclaimed capital credits. The cooperative is a non-profit organization where margins remaining after the cost of providing electric service are returned to members as capital credits. Each of the scholarship recipients are listed below.

Caledonia: Kyle Caudill, daughter of Mike & Cindy Boldt; Kyle Cavanaugh, son of Kevin Cavanaugh & Shelly Tollf逊; Kaatlin Conniff, daughter of Mark & Shannon Tollf逊; Alissa Johnson, daughter of Curtis Johnson & Darcy Bassett; Colby Mann, son of Curt & Stephanie Mann; Kiley Meyer, daughter of Scott & Joyce Meyer; Maria Miller, daughter of Mike & Brenda Miller; Tessa Pieper, daughter of David & Christi Pieper; Jenna Scanlan, daughter of Bob & Michelle Scanlan; Ashley Schroeder, daughter of Joel & Amy Schroeder; Ryan Wagner, son of Curt & Maureen Wagner; and Tyler Wiebke, son of Jason & Dana Wiebke.

Crestwood: Hallie Fronh, daughter of Robert & Lisa Frohn; Kristen Reicks, daughter of Robert & Barbara Reicks; Adeline Sopha, daughter of Steve & Julie Sopha; and Eric Trautsch, son of Bradley & Becky Trautsch.

Decorah: Cassidy Carolan, daughter of Jason & Sherri Carolan; Skyler Malone, daughter of Greg & Tina Malone; Sarah Mummford, daughter of Brett Mummford & Jane Busch; Tynan Nelson, daughter of Kevin Nelson & Lisa Nelson; Kaylee O’Connell, daughter of David & Karla O’Connell; Ryan Schneider, son of Dennis & Charley Schneider; Daniel Schwietermann, son of Mike & Michelle Schwietermann; and Juliana Wise, daughter of Dick & Julie Wise.

Fairbault: Marissa Bernau, daughter of Marlin & Brenda Bernau.

Fillmore Central: Madison Michels, daughter of Bruce & Tina Michels.

Fullerton: Cassandra Michels, daughter of Robert & Mimi Carlson; Hayley Carr, daughter of Richard & Becky Carr; Ayssa Rostad, daughter of Rick & Gail Rostad; Kate Thompson, daughter of Steven & Heidi Thompson.

Kingsland: Molly Peshel, daughter of Robert & Kelly Peshel; Jenna Schmidt, daughter of Darvin & Maureen Schmidt; and Megan Schultz, daughter of Kevin & Kim Schultz.

Lawrence: Joseph Gathje, son of Alan & Rochelle Gathje; and Kjelsen Peterson, daughter of Jason & Michele Peterson.

Lebanon: Hannah Harper, daughter of John & Emily Harper; Madelyn Nelder, daughter of Mike Nelder, Bree Maki & Jeff Swarze; and Creighton Sauer, son of Chris & Heather Sauer.

Luther: Clodanna Hoppe, daughter of Karl & Lori Hoppe; and Elliot Schroeder, son of Tony & Gwen Schroeder.

Mabel-Canton: Cassie Oddy-Whyte.

New Hampton: Evan Gossling, son of LeRoy & Sue Gossling; Mitch Pickor, son of Mike & Sarah Pickor; Desirae Quass, daughter of Jeremy & Kandy Quass; Alexis Rings, daughter of Jeff & Mary Jo Rings; Adrian Rings, son of Jeff & Mary Jo Rings; and Max Schwickerath, daughter of Curt & Lynette Schwickerath.

Osage: Abigail Marr, daughter of Mike & Sherry Marr; and Christopher Dunn, son of Tom & Kari Dunn.

Paige: Kaylee O’Connell, daughter of David & Karla O’Connell; Ryan Wagner, son of Curt & Maureen Wagner; and Tyler Wiebke, son of Jason & Dana Wiebke.

Rushford-Peterson: Kaitlyn Biekerdorf, daughter of Dan & Crystal Biekerdorf; and Chloe Bunke, daughter of Brent & Lorelei Bunke.

Sprigg Grove: Rhiannon Skauge, daughter of David & Christy Skauge.

South Winneshiek: Monica Elsbernd, son of Gary & Marie Elsbernd; Mia French, daughter of Philip French & Dawn French; Cole Kilmer, son of Corey & Lynnette Kilmer; Ellie Loesch, daughter of Robert & Ruth Loesch; Levi Lukes, son of Randy & Dawn Lukes; Helen Neuzil, daughter of Craig & Sara Neuzil; Dathan Schwietermann, son of Michael & Rebecca Ott; and ZeAnna Phillips, daughter of Anthony & Julie Phillips.

St. Charles: Brynn Danielson, daughter of Troy & Angel Danielson; Emma Lindsey, daughter of Sara Mollert; Tyler Mathison, son of David & Melissa Mathison; and Tallyn Pearson, daughter of John Pearson.

Turkey Valley: Kaitlyn Biekerdorf, daughter of Troy & Angel Danielson; Emma Lindsey, daughter of Sara Mollert; Tyler Mathison, son of David & Melissa Mathison; and Tallyn Pearson, daughter of John Pearson.

3-Step HVAC Test

1. Using a digital probe thermometer (about $12), measure the temperature of the air being pulled into your HVAC filter. Make sure the probe is inserted at least 6 inches into the filter. A difference of 20 to 30 degrees suggests the airflow out of your A/C vent is being obstructed.
2. Subtract the A/C vent temperature from the HVAC filter temperature. You should see a difference of about 17 to 20 degrees. If the difference is less than 17 degrees, you may need a technician to check airflow. If the difference is greater than 20 degrees, your ductwork may need to be inspected for airflow restrictions.

Ah, summer. Cookouts, swimming pools, camping—it’s the perfect time to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. And when it’s time to come back indoors, there’s nothing better than that cool blast you feel from your home’s air conditioning unit.

Your heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system is essential to keeping your home comfortable during summer months, and if it breaks down, it’s also the most expensive equipment to repair or replace. Luckily, there are simple steps you can take to lengthen the life of your HVAC system.

**Clean the HVAC unit.** Outdoor condenser coils can become clogged with pollen, dirt and small debris. Use a hose to spray the dirty condenser unit once each season to ensure maximum airflow. (Warning: Do not use a pressure washer to do this, as it can damage the equipment.)

**Clear space around the HVAC unit.** Dryer vents, falling leaves and grass left behind from the lawnmower can create buildup. Remove any debris around the HVAC unit. If you have foliage near the unit, trim it back at least 2 ft. around the condenser to increase airflow.

If you want to evaluate the efficiency of your HVAC system, try this quick test pictured at right. You should also have your HVAC system periodically inspected by a licensed professional. With a little maintenance along the way, you can add years to your system’s lifespan.

**Washington**

We also took advantage of the opportunity of being in our nation’s capital to schedule a meeting with FCC staff and communicated the challenges of delivering broadband in our service territory, which was well received.

Specifically, we asked lawmakers to target federal resources at underserved and unserved communities through existing grant and loan programs that:

- Leverage federal funds to support networks that will meet the growing speed and data needs of the future.
- Improve the accuracy of federal broadband data maps to better reflect broadband coverage gaps and target federal resources to close the digital divide.

**Electrifying the economy** is in response to advances in technology and the diversification of the electric fuel mix. Substituting electricity for other energy sources can provide economic and environmental benefits. Electrifying the transportation sector, for example, would result in lower vehicle emissions, improved air quality and a reduction in petroleum consumption. We support policies and investments that promote electrification throughout the economy, including the expansion of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure to optimize the grid. This also includes improving the management of electric use and integrating renewable energy resources.

While I always recognize the importance of traveling to our nation’s capital to meet with the Iowa and Minnesota congressional delegations and communicating our messages, I equally enjoy coming back home. It leaves me with a greater appreciation for where we work, live and raise our families.

As always, I welcome your calls, emails and personal visits. Have a safe summer season.
If you’re driving on roadways in Minnesota and Iowa, what should you do if you approach a utility vehicle stopped on the shoulder with its flashing lights activated? According to state laws, motorists must slow down or move over, or you could be fined $100 for not complying. This includes MiEnergy’s utility maintenance vehicles which will help to keep our lineworkers safe. As a licensed driver, you are required to move over or slow down when approaching an emergency or maintenance utility vehicle on the side of the road that has its flashing lights activated.

**Disclaimer:** These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives’ annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234f. This paragraph “b” shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 2, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors or elevators built after December 24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board)

MiEnergy’s utility vehicles include: bucket trucks, service trucks, and some dozer trucks. MiEnergy employs 26 linemen across three districts.

**Progressive Ag Day — Lewiston**

Tyler Eide (l) and Bill Cox (r) attended the Progressive Ag Safety Day at Farmer’s Park in Lewiston. The event was for third graders throughout Winona County. Over 400 students took part to learn about topics such as ATV/UTV safety, grain bin safety, conservation, and electrical safety.

**Adopt-A-Highway — Rushford**

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, Heather Larson, Steve Culhane, Rhonda Baiser, Audra Steal, Annie Holland, Kent Whitcomb and Mike Elner.

**GreenTouch Day — Preston**

We would like to thank the volunteers who helped prepare our local state park for the busy summer season. Employees and members of the community volunteered at the annual GreenTouch Day on May 1 at Forestville State Park in Preston, Minn.
Personnel changes around the co-op

RETIREMENT

Lorraine Benson retired from MiEnergy on May 31 as a member services representative. She has worked for the cooperative since December 1963. Lorraine has attained tenure that will most likely never be overcome. She has always had the members’ best interest at heart and made her “cooperative career” a true priority in her life. Thanks to Lorraine for her 55 years of dedication. We wish her the very best in retirement.

NEW EMPLOYEES

Kim Larson accepted the member services representative position for MiEnergy’s Cresco office and started on June 3. Kim resides in rural Decorah and has previously been working for the State of Iowa.

Darrin Peterson accepted the position of journeyman lineworker for the MiEnergy’s Spring Valley outpost and started on May 20. Darrin grew up in south central Minnesota but has been living in the Chatfield area most of his life. Darrin has been working for People’s Energy Cooperative for the past three years. Prior to that, he worked for Alliant Energy.

We welcome Kim and Darrin to MiEnergy Cooperative.

PROMOTION

Andy Kappers accepted the position of foreman for MiEnergy’s Spring Valley outpost and began his role on April 1. Kappers has worked for the cooperative since 2015. We welcome Andy to his new position.

SEE US AT THESE IOWA COUNTY FAIRS

MiEnergy is sponsoring the following contests. Food entries are judged on appearance, taste and texture. Prizes: 1st Place - $25 cash; 2nd Place - $15 cash; and 3rd Place - $10 cash.

HOWARD COUNTY FAIR | JUNE 25-30
Homemade Salsa Contest: Judging at 12 p.m. (noon) on Wednesday, June 26. Entry time: 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. One pint per entry. Chips will be furnished.
Strawberry Dessert Contest: Judging at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26. Entry time: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Must be in a disposable container.
Light Bulb Decorating Contest: Open to kids 12 years of age and under. Each child entering will receive a new LED light bulb. Judging will take place on Thursday, June 27. Entry time: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26.

WINNEBEC COUNTY FAIR | JULY 9-13
Homemade Bread Contest: Judging at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 9. Entry times: 11:00-11:30 a.m.
Chocolate Chip Cookie Contest: Judging at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 9. Entry time: 11:00-11:30 a.m. Any type of chocolate chip cookie allowed. Four cookies on a paper plate per entry.

Cooperative Principle #7: Concern for Community
Pat Boyle, marketing/member services representative, volunteers as a member of the hospital Foundation Board for Regional Health Services of Howard County. Pat is also active with the Howard & Winneshiek County Economic Development boards and various community projects. Past commitments include: Evans Memorial Home & Assisted Living board, capital campaign committee for hospital expansion & remodel, Moul Mobile chair, and spearheaded placement of exercise equip. on the Prairie Springs Trail.

“I have been volunteering my time with our local communities for many, many years. I believe in the betterment of our rural areas.”