MiCo-op Chats coming in September

RESEARCH WATER HEATERS NOW PRIOR TO FAILURE

Dorm safety 101, avoid overloads

Farm-to-Tap series: Beer honoring grandmother evolves into flagship brew

Barbara and Clark Lewey
Member-owned generation

When driving MiEnergy Cooperative’s electric service territory you’ll see homes, farms and businesses that generate some of their power from solar arrays and windmills. At the July board meeting, we had a record 22 member-owned generation contracts that were approved. At the end of 2018, MiEnergy had over 400 members that had installed generation. By the end of 2019, we expect that number to exceed 500. This number of installations will likely place us on top of the list of all utilities in both Iowa and Minnesota for the number of member-owned generation systems.

Solar generation is a hot topic—pun intended! The number of vendors regionally has skyrocketed. There are very qualified designers, people, and others whose primary focus is just selling product. Members are making significant investments and while many are happy with their investment, others are not. We have had cases of payback projections not matching actual output and the co-op ends up looking like the bad guy. Please call us before you sign the sales agreement. We want you to be happy with your investment and need to reevaluate your electric service because it directly impacts your retail rate class.

With nearly three percent of members generating a portion of their on-site energy, there is a noticeable decline in energy sales. More efficient lighting, appliances and building practices add to the decline. We have noticed impacts to our grid directly related to the number of member-owned generation systems that are overproducing and therefore, adding considerable energy to our grid where it is not being consumed. Voltage regulators, in turn, add considerable energy to our grid and therefore, adding considerable energy to our grid.

Member-owned generation systems that are overproducing generation. Your cooperative has viewed the federal member-owned generation.

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Toppling Goliath sparks local economy with growing brewery

When Clark Lewey’s wife, Barbara, bought a home brewing kit for him, neither one of them realized how it would eventually change their future decades later. They never imagined that this favored home-brewed beer, which humbly honored his grandfather’s shared love of beer, would spark the support and confidence from family and friends to start-up their own micro-brewery in their hometown of Decorah, Iowa. The duo has created a world-renowned brewery that has formulated over 30 different beer varieties and has become a stable connection in bringing economic growth to Northeast Iowa and become team members at TG.

Toppling Goliath is not just a brewery. It is not just a tourist destination. The grand thing about TG is that it has become a stable connection in bringing progressive economic growth to Northeast Iowa. The community supports TG and in turn, TG supports the community. It’s a growing relationship that they only expect to keep channeling upward. The economic impact of each new bottle release event is estimated at over one-million dollars in revenue for the community of Decorah which includes restaurants, convenience stores, grocery stores, gas stations and lodging. Toppling Goliath has reached an audience world-wide and attracts thousands of people from near and far to test and try their popular beverages. And the growth of TG has not only provided numerous jobs for local residents in the past few years, it has also attracted professionals with diverse careers from all over the United States which has led them to relocate to Northeast Iowa and become team members at TG.

IT’S THE PLACE TO BE
Need a space for an upcoming event? There are rental spaces available for corporate events, wedding rehearsals, family gatherings, etc. and a VIP room for smaller private parties. The taproom is family friendly for all ages offering a full menu of salads, sandwiches, pizza, tacos and a kids menu. With so many choices and options, you won’t be disappointed. After all, TG is admired globally for its IPAs and barrel-aged stouts and with over 90,000 followers on social media, it’s clear that the owners and employees alike take pride in brewing top shelf, award-winning beer to share. Visit www.tgbrews.com for more details in planning your trip to 1600 Prosperity Road in Decorah, Iowa.

CONNECTION TO CO-OP AND FARM
MiEnergy has been a vital part in TG’s expansion. Through the USDA Revolving Loan Fund, the cooperative helped to finance equipment for the 100-barrel brewery which now houses the taproom, restaurant, brewery and offices together in one perfect location within Decorah’s industrial park near the airport. And we can’t forget that TG has local farm-to-tap connections too. Spent grains from the brewing process goes to a farmer near Waukon who uses the grains as protein feed for his cattle.

THREE ICONIC FLAGSHIP BREWS

POMPEII – INDIA PALE ALE
This IPA is created with the same attention to detail as the beautiful mosaics that grace the walls of prominent buildings in the city of Pompeii. It features mango, dragon’s blood orange and pine. It has a medium body, with a little bit of bitterness in the finish. It pairs well with foods like potato skin chips, cheese, pizza and much more.

DOROTHY’S – NEW WORLD LAGER
Named after the founders’ grandmother Dorothy, it is their “Classic Beer.” Mild in body, easy going and refreshing simplicity. Just like Grandma Dorothy, the unfiltered lager is forever close to their heart.

PSEUDO SUE – PALE ALE
This simple hop pale ale showcases the citrus hop for a west coast balanced beer that is dedicated in body with a mild bitterness in the finish. It pairs with our favorite bowl of soup, cheese, pizza and much more. Pseudo Sue’s unique take is clean and light with just enough hops. TG is proud to have established a partnership with the Field Museum in Chicago, IL, which is home to the most intact T. rex dinosaur fossil named Sue. Patron of the museum can happily consume Pseudo Sue at the museum cafe or buy a few cans to take home as well as purchase t-shirts and other memorabilia encompassing the famous Pseudo Sue image. Look for the Field Museum logo on the TG Pseudo Sue cans.

COLORFUL SELECTION OF LOCAL BREWS
Be sure to take notice of the artistically designed labels, all of which are created in-house, making it easy to recognize and gravitate to the TG brand.

Collaboration brew with community
Valkyrie Strike IPA is a creation by the Minnesota-based brewery, Toppling Goliath and the Vesterheim Museum located in Decorah, IA. Valkyrie Strike is made with the opening of Tattoo: Identity Through Ink, an exhibit open through April 2020 that showcases the history of tattoos across the world. Label art is by Brock Swenson, award-winning tattoo artist in Decorah, IA. This local collaboration signifies the start of something destined to continue with other community ventures. TG looks forward to continuing their community presence through additional unique relationships while incorporating the enjoyment of consuming good brew. Welcome to Decorah and Nordic land!

Send in your rebate forms
MiEnergy has a variety of rebates available to members that purchase energy efficient products and appliances that meet or exceed specific criteria. Those rebates are only available until funds are depleted or December 31, whichever comes first. Rebate forms are available online at www.MiEnergy.coop or by calling 1-800-432-2285.

Heartland Security
Protect your home against intrusion, fire, carbon monoxide and much more with a Heartland Security system now starting at just $95.*

*Not valid with any other offers.

Visit www.heartlands.com or call 1-888-264-6380 to learn more about how you can protect your home!

A subsidiary of MiEnergy
AVOID ELECTRICAL OVERLOAD

It’s the time of year when college campuses are preparing for students moving all of their worldly possessions into their home away from home—the dorm! Safe Electricity and MiEnergy urge everyone to make sure their college-bound students take precautions to prevent and protect themselves from campus-related fires and shocks. Do not overload your electrical outlets, power strips or extension cords. Use power strips with an over-current protector that will shut off power automatically if there is too much current being drawn.

Potentially older wiring in student housing and apartments may not be able to handle the increased electrical demand of today’s college student. If use of an appliance frequently causes power to trip off or if its power cord or the outlet feels hot, the appliance should be disconnected immediately and the condition reported to a resident assistant or housing manager.

Visit SafeElectricity.org for a complete list of safety steps to prevent and reduce the risk of electrical fires.

Application deadline August 15

Twice a year the Operation Round Up (ORU) Trust Board meets to review applications and grant funds for local, worthy causes. A list of program guidelines and an application is available online at www.MiEnergy.coop. ORU is a voluntary community-support program that helps local organizations and worthy causes via spare change. All members of MiEnergy have the opportunity to join the program. Sign up by logging into SmartHub or visiting our website and completing the online form or calling 800-453-2295.

Going the Extra Mile

Electric Co-ops
Consumed served per mile: 8
Revenue: $12,000

Other Electric Utilities
Consumed served per mile: 32
Revenue: $79,000

1 mile of power lines

Source: EES 2017 data and MiEnergy consumption and consumer averages per mile of line.

MiEnergy volunteer connections in MiCommunity.

DORM SAFETY 101

HOWARD COUNTY FAIR - CRESCO

MiEnergy sponsored the annual Dunk Tank. All proceeds were donated to HOCA (Howard County Cancer Association) and the Chamber Business Committee for Cresco Beautification. Thank you Brad Dull of MiEnergy for volunteering in the Dunk Tank!

WINNESEKH COUNTY FAIR - DECORAN

MiEnergy sponsored two contests at the Winneshiek County Fair: homemade bread and chocolate chip cookies. Picture l-r for the Chocolate Chip Cookie contest: Winneshiek County Fair Princess Presley Bushman, Judge Ben Grinstead, Winner Jarrod Phillips, Judge Julie Lutzen, Third Place Winner Jorge Fokkedah, MiEnergy’s Judge Cindy Christensen. Second Place Winner Wonda Rueder and Winneshiek County Fair Queen Makoyka Hageman.

WINONA COUNTY FAIR - ST. CHARLES

MiEnergy’s Heather Larson helps with face-painting at the 4-H Adventure for Kids.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE - RUSHFORD

MiEnergy sponsored a blood drive on July 23 and helped the Red Cross meet its goal of collecting 24 units of blood. Pictured is MiEnergy’s Audra Skalet.

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Co-ops helping Co-ops - Centuria, Wis.

Six MiEnergy Inowners reported to Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative, in Centuria, Wis. on July 23. Storms on the evening of July 19 caused widespread and extensive storm damage to their service territories with 9,000 power outages and more than 175 broken poles. MiEnergy was one of 11 electric cooperatives, along with contractors with expertise in tree clearing and power line construction that assisted. Pictured l-r: Travis Cummings, Josh Carolan, Justin Svoboda, Lucas Graves, Andy Prinsen and Noah Manning.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Routine replacement or clean your air conditioner’s filter. Not replacing a dirty, clogged filter can reduce your air conditioner’s energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent.

Source: energy.gov
MiEnergy has two used vehicles available for purchase. These vehicles will be sold “as is” by sealed bid. The vehicles can be viewed at the Rushford office by appointment by calling 1-800-432-2285. To obtain a bid form, stop by or call the Rushford office.

Deadline to submit a bid is 4 p.m. on September 6, 2019.

2008 Chevy K1500 4WD, 177,653 miles

2007 GMC Sierra 1500, 153,242 miles

As a member of MiEnergy Cooperative, we invite you to stop by one of the scheduled MiCo-op Chats in September. Staff will provide an update on board elections for 2020 and present opportunities for members to get involved in a variety of co-op-related activities. The remainder of the time is open for casual conversations on topics from attending members.