

January 2024 Vol. 8 Issue 1
A monthly publication for members of
MiEnergy Cooperative.

MiNews

**Leadership &
scholarship
opportunities
for high
schoolers**

**What does
a peak alert
mean?**

Check out the list
of 2024 rebates





Positive member survey results

The MiEnergy Board of Directors and employees were presented with the results of the membership survey that was conducted in the third quarter of 2023.

I was very pleased to see that our highest-rated attribute was our employees. Many challenges we face in operating the cooperative leave us with minimal control. Yet, our employees understand it's the membership they work for, and service is job number one, which we can influence.

I am grateful to have an outstanding team of employees at MiEnergy; in addition to being professional, friendly, courteous and highly trained, they also delivered improved survey attributes in minimizing extended outages, convenient payment options, restoring power quickly, providing community support and being easy to reach. Specific comments were made by members who expressed an appreciation for having a "person" answer the phone during our working hours, which we have no plans of changing.

MiEnergy also received very favorable survey marks on minimizing blinks and momentary outages, resolving issues or problems, communicating with members, addressing environmental concerns, providing accurate and easy-to-understand electric bills, providing oversight by our governing board of directors and keeping members informed on the status of outages, in addition to having our members' best interests at heart.

Membership identity was also an important part of our survey. The survey showed that 50% of our members viewed themselves as a "customer," and 36% considered themselves as "both" a customer and "member-owner." If you receive your electricity from MiEnergy Cooperative, you are a "member-owner," which is a significant difference from an investor-owned utility (IOU) that serves customers and ratepayers.

Under an IOU, such as Alliant or Xcel Energy, your interests lie on the side of the electric bill transaction, while the interests of the IOU's shareholders lie on the other. The IOU generates profits on behalf of its shareholders. In contrast, at MiEnergy, our sole charge is to deliver safe, reliable and affordable electricity to you at cost. Yes, MiEnergy makes a margin, but that margin pays for unexpected expenses and smooths out bill impacts. At the end of the year, margins are allocated back to the membership and then paid out in the form of capital credits or power cost adjustment credits.

MiEnergy members also have a voice in your electric cooperative.

You select and elect your directors from the membership to represent your interests on the board of directors. Districts 2 and 3 are currently going through this process as part of the 2024 election.

If you have a question or concern, you can contact your cooperative directors or give me a call, drop me an email or stop by the office to visit. It's much more difficult for IOU ratepayers to meet with their utility's leadership than it is for co-op members to meet with theirs.

In addition, MiEnergy works to support our local communities in southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa. As an example, last month we received notice that we were approved for a \$2 million USDA economic development loan for Upper Iowa Beef processing facility. The Sunflower Child Development Center, La Crescent Fire Department, Chatfield Economic Development Park and the Lanesboro Fire Department are other examples of loans made possible through MiEnergy.

The survey attribute that scored the lowest referenced electric rates. MiEnergy members receive cost-of-service rates that reflect our low density in the rural areas (4 members per mile of line) and 5,500 miles of distribution lines in some of the most challenging terrain. Our electric rates are often lower than nearby IOUs when you look at the total bill. Yes, our basic service charges are higher, but the IOU kilowatt-hour (kWh) charges have exceeded 18¢ to 20¢/kWh after adding the fuel and rate adjustment charges.

In the end, MiEnergy received very positive results from the membership. Thank you. However, we undertake these surveys every year to identify areas where we can improve, and that is exactly what we will do with the survey results.

We look forward to a productive and successful year for MiEnergy in 2024.

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

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TRIP TO D.C.



At MiEnergy, one way we invest in the next generation of rural leaders is by participating in the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program. We need high school sophomores and juniors passionate about government and public service to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital in June.

Two students, one from Iowa and one from Minnesota, will be selected from eligible candidates to attend the 2024 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 15-21. Each state's Youth Tour group will join hundreds of students from across the country as they learn more about electric cooperatives and American history and come home with a greater understanding of their role as American citizens. Students will also learn about the U.S. government and meet

with their members of Congress. On the trip, students take in the sights of D.C. as they visit monuments, museums and historical landmarks.

We are accepting Youth Tour applications until 1 p.m. on March 1. Children of MiEnergy member-consumers are eligible to apply; the student must be a current sophomore or junior. Past Youth Tour recipients are not eligible to apply. Apply online at www.MiEnergy.coop/youthtour.

For over 65 years, locally-owned electric cooperatives have sent deserving students to D.C. This program is a great resume builder for student leaders and an excellent opportunity to visit our nation's capital. Make sure to apply now for Youth Tour 2024!

Board room highlights | Dec. 21, 2023

- Received a favorable financial report for November and year-to-date projections. The board approved a five mill PUCA credit on members' electric bills for December.
- Selected members to serve on the nominating committee for districts 2 and 3.
- Received the Key Ratio Trend Analysis presentation benchmarks for MiEnergy compared to electric cooperatives from supplemental lender Cooperative Finance Corporation.
- The quarterly safety report was provided.

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

BE THE WINNER OF A \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP

COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS

MiEnergy is pleased to offer community service scholarships. As a cooperative, MiEnergy has a strong commitment to youth and community. The scholarship program recognizes high school seniors who demonstrate cooperative spirit through service to others.

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a high school senior, graduating in 2024.
- Must continue education after high school at an accredited technical school, college or university.
- Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must be a MiEnergy member with an active electric account.
- Must demonstrate community service, according to scholarship instructions.
- Must have at least a "B" grade point average.

Children of MiEnergy Cooperative employees and directors are not eligible. Scholarships are funded with unclaimed capital credit funds that would otherwise be forfeited to the state.

Questions? Contact Annie at ahoiland@MiEnergy.coop 800-432-2285.

APPLY ONLINE

www.MiEnergy.coop

Application, cover letter and transcripts must be received by March 4.

\$70,000 IN SCHOLARSHIP TO BE GIVEN AWAY IN 2024

TEXT NOTIFICATIONS

MiEnergy offers power outage text notifications. Sign up online at www.MiEnergy.coop/outages. Select Power Outage Notification Sign Up and be prepared to have your electric account number handy. The site will walk you through the set-up to have a text message sent to you when your power is out and another when power has been restored.



Wed, Dec 13, 8:57 PM

MiEnergy: Your service location is currently involved in a power outage. Service Address: 12345 POWER LINE RD

MiEnergy: This number is opted in to receive power outage notifications from MiEnergy Cooperative. Reply STOP to cancel.

Wed, Dec 13, 10:06 PM

MiEnergy: Our system shows your power has been restored. If not, please call 1-800-432-2285: Service address: 12345 POWER LINE RD

CAPITAL CREDITS NOTICE

In October 2023, MiEnergy distributed nearly \$1.9 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 jmadsen@MiEnergy.coop. The December MiNews listed person(s) with the last names of A-J.

K

Kappes, Leonard, Ridgeway, IA
Karlson, Rick Estate, Lewiston, MN
Kayser, James, LaCrosse, WI
Kearney, Sandra, Rio Hondo, TX
Keck, Priscilla, Harmony, MN
Kelly, Steven & Ruth, Ludington, MI
Kemp, John, Alexandria, MN
Kendhammer, Thomas, Hudson, WI
Kennedy, Dustin, LaCrosse, WI
Kent, Ronald & Sheri, Cedar Falls, IA
Kilner, Marilyn, Golden Valley, MN
Kilpatrick, Keith, Waukon, IA
Kimber, Jacqueline, Winona, MN
Kime, Paul & Phillips, Katie, Clarence, IA
Kirton, Kenneth & Tonda, Freeman, SD
Kjome, Norman & Bonnie, Austin, MN
Klimesh, Steven, Longmont, CO
Klindworth, Rollie & Dorothy, Two Harbors, MN
Klinger, Tim & Kristi, Annadale, MN
Kluender, David, Cresco, IA
Kluesner, Steven, Baraboo, WI
Knutson, David, Ossian, IA
Koehn, Daryl & Brenda, Decorah, IA
Koethe, Mark, Brooklyn Park, MN
Kowalewski, Calvin, Caledonia, MN
Krambeer, Wesley, Calmar, IA
Kramer, Gladys Estate, % Mary Ann Fingerson, Siren, WI
Kuhl, Rick, Lime Springs, IA
Kuhn, Sheryl, Chatfield, MN
Kuilsh, Aryis, Rochester, MN
Kulish, Lisa, Fort Atkinson, IA
Kumbier, Karmen & Kinstler, Bonnie, Houston, MN
Kunz, Wesley, Joice, IA

L

Lange, John, Chatfield, MN
Langreck, Kerry, Decorah, IA
Larkie, John & Mary, Winona, MN
Larkin, Angie, Waukon, IA
LaRue, Jamie, Hokah, MN
Laures, Gerald, New Hampton, IA
Lecander, Jana, Sherrard, IL
Lehnertz, Robert, St. Charles, MN
Lemke, Lucille, Caledonia, MN
Lensing, Norma, Protivin, IA
Lensing, Stanley, Pella, IA
Lensing, Teresa, New Hampton, IA
Lensing, Vince, Pella, IA
Lester, David, Decorah, IA
Lewis, Craig, Robbinsdale, MN
Linderbaum, Darwin, Ossian, IA
Link, Robert, Mabel, MN
Lister, Douglas & Rebecca, Decorah, IA
Loberg-Vstecka, Edith, Cresco, IA
Lorenz, Joe & Ashton, Rushford, MN
Luehmann, James, Lewiston, MN
Lund, Milton Estate, Spring Valley, MN
Lundahl, Jay, Bozeman, MT
Luster, Jesi, Cresco, IA

M

Mackie, Matt & Lindsay, Livingston, TX
Major, Eugene, Preston, MN
Malanaphy, Jannan, Decorah, IA
Manus, Andrea, Fountain, MN
Marnach Terry Estate, % Colin Marnach, Stillwater, MN
Marquardt, Linnea, Chester, IA
Marshall, Richard & Connie, Boone, IA
Mason, Clayton & Sarah, Decorah, IA
Mathews, Ann, Wonder Lake, IL
Mauss, Steven & Kimberly, Caledonia, MN
McAtee, Dustin & Wiley, Joseph, Solon, IA
McCallson, Matthew, Houston, MN
McCoy, Barbara, Waterloo, IA
*McHugh, Mike, Spring Grove, MN
McIntyre, Sharon, Decorah, IA
McKee, Christina, Gilmore City, IA
McKelvey, Steven, Decorah, IA
McKinney, Clinton, Saint Joseph, MN
McVicker, Garrett, Rushford, MN
Mehmert, Brent, Cresco, IA
Meyer, Donna, Lake City, MN
Meyer, Katrina, Tomah, WI
Micek, Ernest, Chicago, IL
Michener, Arlys, Spring Valley, MN
Miland, Lester, Spring Valley, MN
Miller, Catherine, Sperry, IA
Miller, Charles, Cresco, IA
Miller, Craig & Janet, Alta Vista, IA
Miller, Dennis & Nancy, Robins, IA
Miller, Doug, Elma, IA
Misch, Charles, Caledonia, MN
MN DOT Aeronautics, Saint Paul, MN

Mohan, Daniel, Winona, MN
Moravetz, Reuben Estate & Anna Mae, Cresco, IA
Moreau, Brian, Mount Pleasant, IA
Morera, Rosendo, Onalaska, WI
Mormann, Mark, LaCrescent, MN
Morris, Gary, Decorah, IA
Mosher, Kyle, Mason City, IA
Muller, Karla, LaCrosse, WI
Murley, Steven & Kristine, Austin, MN
Myers, Alvin, New Hampton, IA

N

Nath, Chris, Granby, CO
Neitzke, Harry, LaCrescent, MN
Nelson, Brian, Winona, MN
Nelson, Rick, Decorah, IA
NEOWA Farm Service, New Hampton, IA
Nicholas, Betsey, Saint Michael, MN
Nicklay, Lynn & Joseph, Finland, MN
Nierling, Randy Estate, % Tiffani Newton, Wilmington, NC
Niquette, Daniel, Mishicot, WI
Nitty's Auto Salvage, Attn: Steven Neuzil, Fort Atkinson, IA
Nitty's Iron & Metal, LeRoy, MN
Nordstrom, John Jr., Harmony, MN
Norwest Bank Iowa, Attn: Janis Hill, Des Moines, IA

O

O'Gara, Jeff, Decorah, IA
Olson, Dale, LaCrescent, MN
Orient Lodge 84, % Bryan Forsyth, Houston, MN
Orthaus, Jason & Amber, Ionia, IA
Osborne, Linda, Winona, MN
*Oselka, Donna, % Dan Lundy, Lansing, IA
Osowski, Samuel, LaCrosse, WI
Otterness, Craig, Mantorville, MN
Otto, Larry, LaCrosse, WI
Owecke, Michael, Trempealeau, WI

P

Pagel, Michael, Lewiston, MN
Paroubek, Becky, Rice Lake, WI
Patterson, Dean & Lynette, Mabel, MN
Paulson, Beverly, Rushford, MN
Pedersen, David & Janette, Utica, MN
Perkins, Tony & Hurlburt - Perkins, Regina, Preston, MN
Peterson, Margaret, Cassville, WI
Peterson, Richard & Gloria, Cody, WY
Peterson, Larry, Harmony, MN
Peterson, Paul, Diamondhead, MS
Peterson, Robert David, Cedar Falls, IA
Peterson, Terry & Walker, Bobbie, Chatfield, MN
Pettengill, Donald, Cresco, IA
Pflughoeft, Janet, Onalaska, WI
Pharo, John & Jessica, Rochester, MN
Phillips, Kenneth, Decorah, IA
Phillips, Stacy, Waukon, IA
Pieper, Bernhard, Caledonia, MN
Pierce, Jared, Rushford, MN
Pirates Den, Inc, % Jon Kuehn, Spring Valley, MN
Pitts, Ricky, Spring Grove, MN
Pleimling, Louise, Coon Rapids, MN
Pohl, Hildegard, Harrison, ID
Potter, Vicky, Waukon, IA
Pozanc, Joseph, Winona, MN
Proudfoot, Bruce & Kim, LaCrosse, WI
Pruka, Kelly, Verona, WI
Pruka, Robert, Winona, MN
Puffer, Walter, Cresco, IA

Q

Quam, Terry & Tami, Decorah, IA
Quandahl, Paul, Spillville, IA
Quandahl, Sylvia, Cresco, IA
Quinn, John & Nancee, Arcadia, WI
Quionis, Dionara, West Union, IA

R

Rahlf, Chad, Green Bay, WI
Rannels, Danny, LeRoy, MN
Ransom, Steve, Spillville, IA
Rausch, Roger, Decorah, IA
Regan, Clarence & Evelyn, Cedar Rapids, IA
Reichgelt, Richard & Vicki, LaCrescent, MN
Reicks, Virgil, Harmony, MN
Renken, Allen, Calmar, IA
Reps, Thomas, Dover, MN
Reyes, Roy & Jill, Cresco, IA
Reynolds, Sarah, Decorah, IA
Richardson, Gaylon & Lucille, Canton, MN
Rindels, Leroy & Katherine, Decorah, IA
Ritter, Kevin & Linette, Foley, AL
Robinson, Ross & Barbara, Sargeant, MN
Robotti, Michael, Houston, MN
Rodriguez, Florina, Winona, MN
Roelofs, Evelyn, Cresco, IA
Roffman, Dorothy, Postville, IA
Roglich, Donald & Quin, Houston, MN

Roher, Paul Dean & Arla, Decorah, IA
Ronan, Garrett & Jenesse, Ossian, IA
Root, Harry, % Chris Root, Harmony, MN
Roskowsinski, Christopher & Alyssa, Green Bay, WI
Rosenke, Eleanor (AKA Eleanor Haldeman), New Hampton, IA
Rukavina Properties LLC, Surprise, AZ
Rusert, Shane & Selena, Minnesota City, MN
Ruttman, Elaine, Elma, IA
Ruttman, Kelly & Elaine, Lime Springs, IA

S

Sailor, Donna, (Dalton), Fort Worth, TX
Sandau, Priscilla, Houston, MN
Sanders, Harold, Edwards, MO
Sargeant, William, Cedar Falls, IA
Sawyer, Brian, Rochester, MN
Saylor, Barry, Eagle, WI
Schaufenbuel, Bryan & Kelly, Fredericksburg, IA
Scheidel, Betty, Ossian, IA
Schilling, Marie, Casper, WY
Schissel, Lee Estate or Schissle, Joan, Decorah, IA
Schlumbohm, John & Karen, Clarksville, IA
Schmidt, Carlyle & Elizabeth, Arlington, IA
Schmidt, Nikolaus, Wichita, KS
Schmitt, Pam, Cresco, IA

Schoewe, Theodore, Winona, MN
Scholbrock, Patricia, Lawler, IA
Schrandt, Tim Estate, Ridgeway, IA
Schuldt, Michael, Omaha, NE
Schultz, Jerry, Preston, MN
Schumacher, Irma, Ames, IA
Schwickerath, Brad & Drewelow, Bill, New Hampton, IA
Schwinesuf, Wayne, Decorah, IA
Seales, Kevin & Rose-Mari, Winona, MN
Severson Energy LLC, Winona, MN
Severson Oil, Winona, MN
Severson, Philip, Decorah, IA
Shaffer, Daniel & Susanna, Villisca, IA
Shappell, Roxanne, Ackley, IA
Sharpe, Jeremy, Houston, MN
Smith, Breanna, Cresco, IA
Smith, Gerald, Waukon, IA
Smith, Gregg & Gronvold, James, Waseca, MN
Smith, Karla, Myrtle Beach, SC
Smith, Norma, Decorah, IA
Soland, Lisa Ann, Harmony, MN
Solberg, Peter, Winona, MN
Spalding, Ken & Cornwell, Travis, Lehigh Acres, FL
Spalla, Linda, Ridgeway, IA
Spande, Janice, Mabel, MN
Spande, Mark Estate, % Kelly Carlson, San Diego, CA
Spitzer, Darrell, Chatfield, MN
Springstead, Eugene & Nicole, Preston, MN
St Mary's Catholic Church, Houston, MN
Stange, Chad, Sumner, IA
Stangler, Marion, Harmony, MN
Starken David & Shirley, Preston, MN
Starks, Troy & Dixie, Lime Springs, IA
Starksen, Monte, Mondovi, WI
Steffen, Jeffrey & Kathleen, Holmen, WI
Steffes, Dixie, New Hampton, IA
Stender, Wendell, Wykoff, MN
Stettler, Melanie, Preston, MN
Stevens, Milton Estate, % Faith Duryee, Elma, IA
Stewart, Rollie & Kay, Melrose, WI
Stienessen, Michael, Minnesota City, MN
Still, Ronald, Cresco, IA
Strangstalien, Carrie, Brainerd, MN
Streufert, Ann, Decorah, IA
Strief, Kate, Fort Atkinson, IA
Studt, Merlin & Sharon, Decorah, IA
Stutzka, Corey, Rushford, MN
Sullivan, Marc, Osage, IA
Svendsen, Eric, Galesville, WI
Swatek, Ray, Cresco, IA
Sweeney, Tracy, Spring Grove, MN
Swenson, Lisa, LeRoy, MN
*Swift, Alesha, Chatfield, MN
Szumal, Mark & Sage, Jennifer, Katy, TX

T

Talmonas, Andrea, Winona, MN
Tarras, Larry, Elko New Market, MN
Tasseff, Tamara, Iowa City, IA
Teff, Kathy, Ossian, IA
Terbeest, Thoeodore, Winona, MN
Teslow, Randy, Ossian, IA
Teslow, Travis, Decorah, IA
Tessman, Amy, Waucoma, IA
Tessmer, David, Caledonia, MN
Thayer, Dale & Nora, Decorah, IA
Thomas, Kelly, Houston, MN
Thompson, Jeffrey, Winona, MN
Thorne, Terry, Cresco, IA

Tierney, Brad, Attn: Joe Tierneys, New Hampton, IA
Ties, William, LaCrosse, WI
Tieskoetter, Charles, New Hampton, IA
Tillman, Bill & Luane, Altoona, IA
Timm, Morris Jr. & Velicia, Calmar, IA
Timmerman, Dan, Beatrice, NE
Tjoseem, Helen (Harvey), Decorah, IA
Tollefsrud, Roger, Spring Grove, MN
*Torres, Angel, Decorah, IA
Trende, Larry & Linda, Cresco, IA
Tripp, Jannelle, Sturgis, SD

U

Ulland Brothers Inc, Albert Lea, MN
Utley, Richard, Byron, MN

V

Valentine, Nicholas, LaCrescent, MN
Van Gundy, Chris, LaCrosse, WI
Vanellen, Amy, Hyde Park, NY
Vikdal, Allen & Mary, Davenport, IA
Villa, Tina, Fort Atkinson, IA
Vincent, Justin, Kissimmee, FL
Vitse, James & Susan, Decorah, IA
Vitse, Marcus, Rochester, MN
VMTW LLC, Decorah, IA
Vogen, Agnes, % Al Vogen, Lakeville, MN
Volkman Plumbing (Jaremy), Rushford, MN

W

Waggett, Randy, Calmar, IA
Walcker, Thomas, Hokah, MN
Wales, Kara & Scotty, Waukon, IA
Walker, Bryan, Minco, OK
Walter, Edward, Cresco, IA
Walz, Jeremy & Becky, Spillville, IA
Waskow, Scott, Oelwein, IA
Webster, Joel, Henderson, MN
Welle, Henry, Tucson, AZ
Wenthold, Gene & Chalsea, Lime Springs, IA
WERH Inc, Decorah, IA
Westervelt, Bud, Waverly, IA
Whalen, Jason, Decorah, IA
Whalen, Kyle, Burr Oak, IA
Whalen, Laura, Mabel, MN
Whalen, Mike, Decorah, IA
Whisenhunt, Barbara, Alta Vista, IA
White, Elaine, Mabel, MN
Whitehill, Jason & Shelley, Harmony, MN
Wichert, Linda, Carol Stream, IL
Wiebke, Richard, Terry, MT
Wiedner, Tanya, Marquette, IA
William, Kenneth, LaCrescent, MN
Winter, Jeromy & Slagle, Darla, Indianola, IA
Wolfgram, Deraldine, Spring Valley, MN
Woodard, Skyler, Dakota, MN
Woodard, Paul & Susan, El Mirage, AZ
Wylam, Rosie, Marquette, IA

Y

Yared, Linda, New Hampton, IA
Yocum, Joe, Mabel, MN
Yolder, Eli & Anna, Canton, MN
Young, Bobbie, Ridgeway, IA

Z

Zander, Jason, Dayton, IA
Zbornik, Stephen Estate, Dubuque, IA
Zweibahmer, Jerry, Fort Atkinson, IA

Tierney, Brad, Attn: Joe Tierneys, New Hampton, IA
Ties, William, LaCrosse, WI
Tieskoetter, Charles, New Hampton, IA
Tillman, Bill & Luane, Altoona, IA
Timm, Morris Jr. & Velicia, Calmar, IA
Timmerman, Dan, Beatrice, NE
Tjoseem, Helen (Harvey), Decorah, IA
Tollefsrud, Roger, Spring Grove, MN
*Torres, Angel, Decorah, IA
Trende, Larry & Linda, Cresco, IA
Tripp, Jannelle, Sturgis, SD

U

Ulland Brothers Inc, Albert Lea, MN
Utley, Richard, Byron, MN

V

Valentine, Nicholas, LaCrescent, MN
Van Gundy, Chris, LaCrosse, WI
Vanellen, Amy, Hyde Park, NY
Vikdal, Allen & Mary, Davenport, IA
Villa, Tina, Fort Atkinson, IA
Vincent, Justin, Kissimmee, FL
Vitse, James & Susan, Decorah, IA
Vitse, Marcus, Rochester, MN
VMTW LLC, Decorah, IA
Vogen, Agnes, % Al Vogen, Lakeville, MN
Volkman Plumbing (Jaremy), Rushford, MN

W

Waggett, Randy, Calmar, IA
Walcker, Thomas, Hokah, MN
Wales, Kara & Scotty, Waukon, IA
Walker, Bryan, Minco, OK
Walter, Edward, Cresco, IA
Walz, Jeremy & Becky, Spillville, IA
Waskow, Scott, Oelwein, IA
Webster, Joel, Henderson, MN
Welle, Henry, Tucson, AZ
Wenthold, Gene & Chalsea, Lime Springs, IA
WERH Inc, Decorah, IA
Westervelt, Bud, Waverly, IA
Whalen, Jason, Decorah, IA
Whalen, Kyle, Burr Oak, IA
Whalen, Laura, Mabel, MN
Whalen, Mike, Decorah, IA
Whisenhunt, Barbara, Alta Vista, IA
White, Elaine, Mabel, MN
Whitehill, Jason & Shelley, Harmony, MN
Wichert, Linda, Carol Stream, IL
Wiebke, Richard, Terry, MT
Wiedner, Tanya, Marquette, IA
William, Kenneth, LaCrescent, MN
Winter, Jeromy & Slagle, Darla, Indianola, IA
Wolfgram, Deraldine, Spring Valley, MN
Woodard, Skyler, Dakota, MN
Woodard, Paul & Susan, El Mirage, AZ
Wylam, Rosie, Marquette, IA

Y

Yared, Linda, New Hampton, IA
Yocum, Joe, Mabel, MN
Yolder, Eli & Anna, Canton, MN
Young, Bobbie, Ridgeway, IA

Z

Zander, Jason, Dayton, IA
Zbornik, Stephen Estate, Dubuque, IA
Zweibahmer, Jerry, Fort Atkinson, IA

*Denotes refund available

Winter season peak alerts

During the winter months, you may see messages on local television stations, hear messages on the radio or view posts on social media from MiEnergy regarding peak alerts. This is something the cooperative has communicated to members for decades. A peak alert indicates that demand for electricity is predicted to be high on the regional grid. While demand may be higher than usual, sufficient generation is still available. When members use less electricity during high-demand periods, it helps keep electric rates affordable.

You may wonder why a peak alert would be issued on a mild winter day. The regional grid expands beyond the tri-state area and includes 15 states and a Canadian providence. While demand for electricity regularly changes hour by hour, weather changes within this footprint can cause higher demand.

During winter months, peak alerts can be for morning, evening or both. Members enrolled in energy management programs for dual fuel/interruptible heat have their heating system managed from approximately 7 a.m. - 11 a.m. Members enrolled in the cooperative's dairy water heater and grain dryer programs will see systems managed during the evening from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Members can conserve electricity by lowering the thermostat on their heating systems to at least 68 degrees, running the dishwasher or doing laundry outside the conservation timeframes, using a microwave instead of the oven to cook, and refraining from turning on televisions and gaming systems. Each seemingly small action can collectively make a big difference in the demand on the electric grid.

For details visit www.MiEnergy.coop > Members Services > Ways to Save > Energy Supply Alerts, or call the co-op at 800-432-2285.

Payment Options

Looking for a way to pay your bill other than by mail?

Have questions about any of these payment options? Contact us at 800-432-2285.

Our offices are open 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and by appointment on Fridays.

Payment drop-off boxes are available 24/7 at our offices in Cresco and Rushford.

Log in and/or download the SmartHub app to make payments electronically.

Use the Pay Now site. No login required.

Have your payment deducted from a bank account or charged to a credit card each month automatically.

Call our toll-free payment line at 1-877-853-6517.

OPEN





REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Only authorized utility workers should approach a substation, touch the fence or enter the gate.

Paying attention to activity in or near substations and other utility equipment helps keep everyone safe.

Authorized workers should:

- Wear proper personal protective gear and display an ID badge.
- Use work vehicles that have utility branded logos/information.

Suspicious activity includes individuals in street clothes who are:

- Near or inside a substation fence.
- Tampering with equipment, such as power poles, meters and padmount transformers.

If you notice anything unusual at a substation, please report it to the electric utility.

- Examples include:**
- An open or unlocked gate.
 - A damaged fence.
 - Obvious damage inside the fence.

Call 9-1-1 and then the electric utility if you see:

- Smoke or fire.
- Non-utility workers inside the substation fence.
- Non-utility workers on a pole or tampering with a meter.

Safe Electricity.org Learn more at:

Application deadline February 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 are available online at www.MiEnergy.coop.

ORU is a community support program that helps local organizations and worthy causes via spare change. All members of MiEnergy have the opportunity to join the program. Visit www.MiEnergy.coop to sign up.



ElectricSense® 2024 Rebates

Rebates help you save up front on the purchase of energy efficient products. Plus, buying products that lower your energy use can reduce your monthly bills, saving you money over the long term.

2024 rebate forms can be found online at www.MiEnergy.coop/rebates

ENERGY STAR RATED APPLIANCES

Clothes dryer (electric)	\$25
Clothes washer	\$25
Dehumidifier.....	\$25
Dishwasher	\$25
Freezer (≥10 cubic ft.).....	\$25
Inductive Range*	\$25
Refrigerator (≥10 cubic ft.).....	\$25
Recycling a working freezer, refrigerator or room air conditioner.....	\$25

ASSESSMENTS / AUDITS

Audit recommended improvements.....	up to \$500
Touchstone Energy® New Home Program.....	\$500

LIGHTING

LED lamp (5 lamp min.).....	50¢
LED exit sign.....	\$5
LED fixture.....	50¢/800 lumens
Occupancy sensor (not motion detector fixtures).....	\$5

Residential high efficiency electric water heater 85 & 105 gallons (purchased at MiEnergy)**	\$734-\$1,059
Heat pump water heater	\$300

HEATING & COOLING (HVAC)

New furnace with ECM blower motor	\$35
Variable speed motor (not multi-speed) OR Eae ≤ 670 kWh/year.	
Heat Pumps	
Geothermal	\$500/ton
Air source & mini-split.....	\$300/ton
SEER2 14.3+, HSPF2 7.5+, or SEER 15+, HSPF 8.8+	

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

Electric vehicle (EV) charging station.....	\$800
Must be enrolled in MiEnergy's electric vehicle program rate.	

This is a summary of residential rebates. Rebates are first come, first serve while funds last. Additional terms & conditions are on rebate forms; please read thoroughly before submitting. Ag, commercial, industrial & custom rebates are also available.

*All inductive ranges apply.
**Must be on energy management program as defined by cooperative.

out & about in your COMMUNITY

HOLIDAY GIFTS – HOWARD COUNTY

Employees from the Iowa Office purchased gifts for a local family through the local CARE (Communities About Reaching Everyone) program, helping to make their holidays a little brighter. Pictured L-R: Ron Stika, Brad Pecinovsky, Shawn Omar, Shelly Hove, Kim Larson, Janelle Sunnes and Meagan Moellers.



HOLIDAY GIFTS – FILLMORE COUNTY

Employees from the Minnesota office donated money to the annual Christmas in Fillmore County program. This year \$315 was collected and given to help local families during the holidays. Pictured L-R: Annie Hoiland, Lori Clobes, Adrienne Lofgren, Rhonda Bauer, Tammy Brown, Audra Skalet, Heather Larson, Brittany Benson, June Vitse and Brenda Tesch.



HOLIDAY PARADES

Employees and their families participated in the following parades:

Caledonia: Brittany Benson, Kim Larson, Heather Larson and Randall Ashbacher.

Cresco: Kim Larson.

Decorah: Shelly Hove, Ryan Dahl and Johanna Stayskal.

Houston: Heather Larson, Brian Krambeer and Brenda Tesch.

Rushford: Cole Kingsley, Annie Hoiland and Kari Steele.



STUDENT TOUR- CRESCO

Students from NICC's Environmental Science course through Crestwood High School visited the Cresco office. Dave Wilkes, staking/technology superintendent, and Kent Whitcomb, vice president of member services, presented information to the class and gave a tour of the facility.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OFFICE INFORMATION

Open Monday-Thursday 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday by appointment.
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
SOCIAL MEDIA Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram

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MINEWS STAFF

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

2024 OFFICES CLOSED

MARCH 26 Employee Development Day
MARCH 29 Good Friday
MAY 27 Memorial Day
JUNE 4 Employee Development Day
JULY 4 Independence Day
SEPTEMBER 24 Employee Development Day
NOVEMBER 28-29 Thanksgiving Holiday
DECEMBER 17 Employee Development Day
DECEMBER 24-25 Christmas Holiday
DECEMBER 31 New Year's Eve, close at 11 a.m.

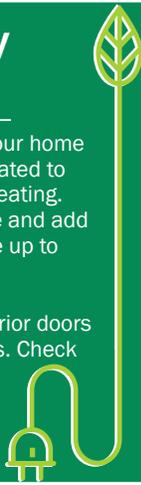


Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

During winter months, ensure your home is well sealed and properly insulated to reduce the need for excessive heating. Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% on annual energy bills.

Install weather stripping on exterior doors and apply caulk around windows. Check attic insulation levels and hire a qualified contractor if additional insulation is needed.

Source: energystar.gov



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Tips to stay warm and save energy this winter



Colder weather can increase energy use and bills since heating accounts for the highest wintertime energy consumption in most homes.

A forced-air furnace is the most common type of heating system and is fueled by natural gas, propane, oil or electricity. Heat pumps are growing in popularity and are available for forced-air systems. If you have a forced-air system, check the filter regularly and replace it when it's dirty.

The easiest and lowest-cost way to save money on heating is to keep your thermostat as low as your comfort will allow. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends a thermostat setting of 68 degrees in the winter while you are awake and lower when you are asleep or away from home. Keep in mind that setting the temperature too low can cause pipes to freeze or moisture issues in some geographic locations. Adding an additional layer of clothing, slippers or a hat can keep you comfortable in a cooler home.

Do you use electric resistance space heaters to heat a room or small section of your home? If so, you may see an increase on your electric bill. Operating that same space heater for 12+ hours a day could cost you an extra \$100 a month or more, depending on the wattage and hours used.

If you choose to use space heaters, use them safely. Keep them 3 feet away from anything flammable, do not leave them unattended and plug them directly into the outlet, not an extension cord or power strip.

Just as we put on a windbreaker to keep cold winds from blowing through a sweater, your home also benefits from blocking air movement. Air sealing can significantly improve the comfort of your home and provide energy savings. A common air sealing practice is applying weatherstripping to exterior doors and windows. You can also seal around plumbing penetrations to help eliminate drafts. A gap often exists between the drywall or wood and the plumbing pipes and drains. Filling these gaps with expanding foam can reduce drafts in bathrooms and kitchens.

Cold, windy winter days are the perfect time to find opportunities for air sealing. Rattling doors or moving curtains can indicate air leakage. Air leakage occurs when two different materials, like drywall and trim work, come together. Cracked plaster and gaps in drywall can also cause drafts. Sealing the gaps saves energy and improves comfort.

As outdoor temperatures dip this winter, take a few proactive steps to maintain comfort in your home and to keep your energy bill in check.

Miranda Boutelle is the chief operating officer at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy efficiency company. She has more than 20 years of experience helping people save energy at home, and she writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 900 electric co-ops.

3 WAYS TO UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

When was the last time you updated your phone numbers with MiEnergy? Having up-to-date phone numbers and email addresses helps the co-op send messages about planned power outages or power emergencies. It also makes reporting outages more efficient.

There are three ways to update your info:

01 CALL 1-800-432-2285

02 MAKE THE CHANGE ON
THE REMITTANCE
PORTION OF YOUR BILL

03 LOG IN TO YOUR
SMARTHUB ACCOUNT
AND UPDATE MY
PROFILE