


MiNews

January 2025 Vol. 9 Issue 1
A monthly publication for members of
MiEnergy Cooperative.

Co-op secures \$14.1 million grant for fiber in MN counties



Winter peak energy alerts

Board addresses vacancy for District 1

**COMMUNITY SERVICE
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH
SCHOOL SENIORS**



Happy New Year!

The year 2024 has come and gone. It was another successful year for your electric cooperative. I attribute the success to the outstanding employees doing great work on behalf of our membership, the direction of our board of directors, and the support of our membership.

By the numbers, our system reliability was strong for 2024. The system average interruption duration index (SAIDI) was in the lowest quartile of electric cooperatives across the United States and lower than the cooperative median in Iowa and Minnesota. Continued reinvestment in our distribution plant, spending nearly \$2.5 million on annual vegetation management, having dedicated employees, and the luck of avoiding a major storm are attributed to the strong performance.

MiEnergy has over 5,500 miles of electric distribution line. This ranks us above the average for a co-op of our size and explains how our plant investment of \$230 million is also above average. With just four members per mile of line, we have a lot fewer members to recover those costs. However, members' participation in our energy management and peak alert programs has contributed to favorable wholesale power costs and retail electric rates that are very competitive – if not lower – than our neighboring investor-owned utilities.

January is very busy with the year-end audit underway, completing year-end reports and finalizing the 2025 operating budget. We are also undertaking our annual cost-of-service study. The operating budget and the cost-of-service study determine if we need to adjust retail electric rates during the year. Dairyland Power Cooperative's Board of Directors approved their 2025 wholesale power rates with a slight increase, which is favorable for our operating budget projections. We are challenged with minimal growth in new

members and little growth in energy sales.

Last month, MiEnergy's board approved the 2025 capital budget, which includes the final year of our five-year Rural Utilities Service work plan. This year's budget will allow us to continue investing in our electric distribution system. The plan includes replacing 38 miles of power line, replacing a transformer at the Burr Oak Substation, annual pole replacements, sectionalizing upgrades and expanding our communications network for advanced metering infrastructure by replacing 2,600 meters and adding system automation controls. The year also marks the time to create a new 4–5-year work plan for a USDA Rural Utilities Service loan application.

During November, MiEnergy grieved the loss of a long-time leader and cooperative champion with the passing of Board Director Jeff Redalen. Jeff was engaged in important decisions related to the 2007 flood recovery, acquisition of the Alliant Energy territory in Minnesota, creation of MiEnergy, the MiBroadband partnership and the construction of the Preston Outpost. Our condolences to Jeff's wife, Michelle, and the Redalen family.

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

District 1 board vacancy

At the December meeting on the MiEnergy Board of Directors, the board addressed the district 1 director seat vacancy with the unexpected passing of MiEnergy Board Director Jeff Redalen.

Attorney Dennis Puckett reviewed the cooperative bylaw language that states the board may eliminate a director seat and remain with nine directors – which would require redistricting of the current director districts (or) if the board supports the current practice of having two directors from each of the five districts (10 directors), they can appoint a director for that seat. The appointed director will be up for election by the members of District 1 at the spring 2026 MiEnergy annual meeting. Following discussion and legal counsel advice, the board approved retaining 10 cooperative directors and communicating the vacancy in the cooperative newsletter for individual applications for consideration of appointment to the board. The board will review all applications and conduct interviews.

The appointment of directors due to a vacancy is addressed in the cooperative bylaws. The process the board has elected to pursue is consistent with past practice. In 2002, Jeff Redalen was appointed following the passing of Harvey Rislow and in 2013 when director Patty VanGundy resigned from the board, Al 'Skip' Wieser was appointed to the board.

Timeline for filling the District 1 Director vacancy:

- Applications accepted until March 3, 2025
- Interviews scheduled in April 2025
- Director appointment in May 2025

Interested applicants for the district 1 director seat should contact Heather Larson at 800-432-2285 or hlarson@MiEnergy.coop for an application packet.

Board room highlights | Dec. 20, 2024

- CFO Shelly Hove presented the financial report which is tracking to budget year-to-date.
- Management provided updates on operations and subsidiaries.
- Brad Pecinovsky, compliance and training coordinator, provided the quarterly safety update.
- Leslie Kaufman, CEO of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, provided an introduction and overview of activities.
- Approved the selection of members to serve on the nominating committee for districts 4 and 5.
- Appointed two members to serve as trustees on the Operation Round Up Board.
- Discussion was held with attorney Dennis Puckett on the number of directors and the open District 1 director seat due to the unfortunate passing of Director Jeff Redalen. Action was taken to seek applications for consideration for the board vacancy.

The next board meeting will be held at the Rushford office on January 29 at 9 a.m.

Protect your HVAC system and vents from snow and ice

Winter is here, and it's important to protect your HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) from cold temperatures as well as snow and ice buildup. HVAC units are built to withstand some snow and ice, but they also require good air flow to function and will not work properly and can be damaged if operated with snow buildup.

- Be sure to keep at least 18 inches of clearance around each unit. This may require you to shovel or dust snow away from the unit. But do so with extreme caution so that you don't hit or touch the condenser.
- Be sure that gutters and pipes are not forcing water onto a heater or air conditioning unit. You don't want an icicle to fall and possibly damage the unit.
- Continue to clean and change your furnace filters even in wintertime. It is recommended to clean or replace furnace filters each month during the heating season.
- Check and clean air vents throughout your home. The buildup of dust and dirt within your home can cause ventilation

blockages and inefficient airflow.

- Check your furnace air intake pipes or vents. A vent that is buried in snow is starving your furnace for the air it needs for combustion.
- Now is also a good time to start researching options for an energy efficient air-source heat pump or geothermal heat pump if plans are



in your future to replace your HVAC system. MiEnergy has rebates available for heat pumps.



Annual legislative forum

Representatives Greg Davids and Gene Pelowski, along with Senator Jeremy Miller recently attended MiEnergy's annual legislative forum at the Rushford office. This event provides a great opportunity for MiEnergy's employees and directors to speak with Minnesota legislators on energy issues that affect the electric industry, our members and the communities served by the cooperative. It also allows legislators to highlight the past year's activities and what they see as top priorities in the next legislative session.

With Pelowski retiring from the legislature, MiEnergy presented him with the MiEnergy Legislative Service Excellence Award for his 38 years of service for his work on causes related to electric cooperatives and their members.

COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS

MiEnergy is proud to offer scholarships to high school students who are active in their local communities.

Any graduating high school senior whose parent(s) or guardian(s) are members of the cooperative are eligible for a scholarship.

Scholarship application is available online at www.MiEnergy.coop/Scholarships. Deadline for applications is March 3.



Cooperative secures \$14.1 million fiber project

One of 24 projects awarded grants by USDA's ReConnect Program

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development State Director for Minnesota Colleen Landkamer recently announced MiEnergy Cooperative as a recipient of a \$14.1 million dollar grant from the ReConnect Program.

The \$14.1 million grant matched with a \$14.1 million loan will help the cooperative bring fiber to 2,255 people, 55 businesses and 235 farms in Fillmore and Winona counties. The area includes unserved areas surrounding the city of Spring Valley in Fillmore County. In Winona County, the area includes unserved locations east of the city of St. Charles, surrounding the city of Utica, east and south of the city of Lewiston and locations south of Interstate 90. Maps of the locations for this award can be seen by visiting www.rus-services.rd.usda.gov/s/public-searchable-database and selecting the program ReConnect and searching for MiEnergy.

The ReConnect Program is designed to fund the most difficult high-speed internet projects in the nation, which are the most rural, remote and unserved communities.

This is the second broadband award MiEnergy has received in recent months. In October, the co-op was awarded a \$3.16 million grant from Minnesota's Department of Employment and Economic Development Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program.

Both grants will help the co-op improve the reliability and efficiency of its electric distribution network, while also providing much needed broadband service to rural members.

"This grant helps bring high-speed broadband service to residents and businesses who have no or very limited options when it comes to this speed of service," said Jill Huffman, MiEnergy's broadband COO. "A secondary, but equally important part for MiEnergy members is how the award will bring fiber to the cooperative's substations. This fiber technology investment is necessary for ensuring reliable power for the future."

Residents can expect speeds of 1 Gbps download and 1 Gbps upload on a fiber network, exceeding the state's speed goals.

MiEnergy is no stranger to providing solutions to meet the needs of its members when it comes to broadband. It formed MiBroadband with Mabel Cooperative and Spring Grove Communications in 2018 to help bring broadband to rural areas.


"Grants like these through ReConnect are what we need to provide this future-proof technology in low-density areas where it otherwise is not economically feasible," said Brian Krambeer, MiEnergy president/CEO.

He noted how MiEnergy serves less than four members per mile of power line.

"We've known the challenges of bringing utilities to rural areas. Fiber is no different," he said.

REPORT


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- AND REPORT A POWER OUTAGE!



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Winter season peak energy alerts

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.

The regional grid expands beyond the tri-state area and includes 15 states and a Canadian province. 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.

We encourage members to conserve as much as they can during a peak energy alert because it helps keep electric rates affordable.

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

CAPITAL CREDITS NOTICE

In October 2024, MiEnergy distributed nearly \$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 jmadsen@MiEnergy.coop. The December MiNews listed person(s) with the last names A-L.

M
 Mach, Kathryn Estate, C/o K Guggenbuehl, LaCrescent, MN
 Maki, Gary, Winona, MN
 Malin, Sara, Rushford, MN
 Malone, Patrick Lee, Cedar Falls, IA
 Marley, James & Cathleen, Bettendorf, IA
 Martin, Dr. Daniel C., Rochester, MN
 *Martino, Billie, Decorah, IA
 Marzolf, Diane, Preston, MN
 McBride, Jeffrey & Travis, LaCrescent, MN
 McClimon, Arlene, De Witt, IA
 McCormick, Mary, Caledonia, MN
 McCullough, Donald & P E, Rochester, MN
 McKee, Scott, St. Charles, MN
 McKinney, Michael, LaCrosse, WI
 McMahon, Tim, Davidson, NC
 McNeill, Heather & Blakley, Tim, Spring Grove, MN
 Meissen, Greg & Barbara, Cambridge, MN
 Melcher, Carrie & Robert, St. Joseph, MO
 Melzer, Ruth Elaine, Union, IA
 Mensink, Ross, Parker, SD
 Merchlewitz, John & Melissa, Winona, MN
 Mergen, Timothy & Pamela, Prairie Du Chien, WI
 Micheels, Dean & Sande, Wheeler, WI
 Milene, Mrs Henry, C/o Gertrude Drazkowski, Winona, MN
 Miller, Jeremy & Tara, Cresco, IA
 Mitchell, Karl, Kasson, MN
 Mittlestadt, Robert, Cresco, IA
 Moen, Forrest Estate & Alice, LaCrosse, WI
 Moger, Lyla, Preston, MN
 Mosier, Nicole, Denver, CO
 Murray, Mary, Winona, MN
 Myrah, Edward, Spring Grove, MN

N
 Narveson, Richard & Jeanie, St. Charles, MN
 NE Iowa Developers Attn: John Mullen, Cresco, IA
 Nelson, Michael, Windsor, MO
 Neste, Alan, Decorah, IA
 Neubauer, Donald, Cresco, IA
 Neubauer, Jamie, St. Johns, AZ
 Neve, Douglas & Rebecca, Bonita Springs, FL
 Nielsen, Kathleen, Caledonia, MN
 Nilges, Jason, Osage, IA
 Novak, Scott, Eitzen, MN
 Nowlan, Pamela, Winona, MN

O
 Oakland, Kermit, Ossian, IA
 Oevering, John & JoEllen, Winona, MN
 Oldenburg, Tom, Hokah, MN
 Oliver, Timothy & Kathy, Onalaska, WI
 Ollendick, Alfred Estate, Ollendick, Ron, Lime Springs, IA
 Olsen, Jennifer, Winona, MN
 Olson, Ida, Winona, MN
 Osterholm, Michael, Minneapolis, MN
 Oylow, Derek, Calmar, IA

P
 Pankow, Jim & John, Decorah, IA
 Pape, Kenneth, LaCrescent, MN
 Papenfuss, Lance, Lanesboro, MN
 Parsons, James & Kathy, Spring Valley, MN
 Payne, Lois, Hokah, MN
 Pelts, Joseph, LaCrosse, WI
 Peter, Thomas, Caledonia, MN
 Peters, Michael Leroy, Harmony, MN
 Peterson, Davey, Mabel, MN
 Peterson, James, Houston, MN
 Peterson, Wilton & Lucille, Rushford, MN
 Phillips, Eric & Elizabeth, Decorah, IA
 Pierce, Mia, LaCrescent, MN
 Pilmonas, Raymond, Manitowish Waters, WI
 Pomeroy, Ann, Hubertus, WI
 Puckett, Shane & Nicole, Sparta, WI
 Puetz, Michael & Stephanie, Winona, MN

R
 Ranzenberger, Brandon & Nicole, Brownsville, MN
 Reams, Wendy, Lawler, IA
 Reckward, Julie, Castalia, IA
 Redig, Ronald, Houston, MN
 Reis, Dale, Lime Springs, IA
 Richardson, Paul & Spilde, Sara, Cresco, IA
 Ridout, Thomas, Naples, FL
 Rislow, Trevor, St Charles, MN
 Rockvam, Louise, Rochester, MN
 Rodgers, Breann, Kuna, ID
 Roe, Michael, Houston, MN
 Roemhildt, Lester, Winona, MN
 Rosendahl, David Estate, Cronin, Verna, Decorah, IA
 Rosonke, Eleanor (AKA Eleanor Haldeman) New Hampton, IA

Ross, Mari Beth & Jerry, Hugo, MN
 Rothmeyer, Brenda, Luana, IA
 Roush, Eulonda, Onalaska, WI
 Roverud Construction, Spring Grove, MN
 Ruble, Timothy, Imperial, MO
 Rud, Michael & Stefanie, Spring Grove, MN
 Rupprecht, Marvin, Winona, MN
 Ryan, Chelah, Hopkins, MN
 Ryan, Vicki, Decorah, IA

S
 Sabelka, Paul, West Union, IA
 Sands, Dan, Blue River, WI
 Sandness, Michael, Plymouth, MN
 Sandvig, Christine, Pocatiello, ID
 Sanford, Brady, C/o Wallace Sanford, Spring Valley, MN
 Sauer, Jennifer, Attn: G. Sauer, Ottumwa, IA
 Saunders, Michael & Michaela, Ryan, IA
 Scharnweber, Joyce, Cresco, IA
 Schick, Jennifer, Rushford, MN
 Schmelzer, Viola, Appleton, WI
 Schnee, Britney, Houston, MN
 Schneekloth, Tracy, Canton, MN
 Schneider, Betty, C/o Paul Schneider, Winona, MN
 Schomisch, Brian, Seminole, FL
 Schuchhardt, Nancy, Fairbank, IA
 Schutte, Scott, Monona, IA
 Schwartzentruber, Sam & Emma, Harmony, MN
 Schwickerath, Dale, New Hampton, IA
 Schwieder, Christiane, Rochester, MN
 Security National Partners, C/o Dennis Sanden, Houston, MN
 Serres, Kevin, Brownsville, MN
 Shanks, Jason, Canton, MN
 Sherburne, Gavin, Spring Grove, MN
 Sir, Joseph, Cresco, IA
 Sires, Bill Jr., Rochester, MN
 Skifton, Mary, Stewartville, MN
 Small, Lance & Teresa, St. Charles, MN
 Smith, Justin, Cresco, IA
 Smith, Melony, Elma, IA
 Sollien, Allison, Peterson, MN
 *Sommer, Lindsey, Winona, MN
 Spaeth, Shannon, St. Charles, MN
 Spear, Jennifer, Kansas City, MO
 Speltz, Nathan & Mandy, Pine Island, MN
 Speltz, Perry, Stockton, MN
 Staake, Robin, New Hampton, IA
 Staata, Eric & Karen, LeRoy, MN
 Stainbrook, Susan, Waukon, IA
 Steele, Brian & Rochelle, Onalaska, WI
 Steffen, Gerald, Cresco, IA
 Stegen, Joseph, Decorah, IA
 Sterner, Van & Jean, Ossian, IA
 Stilin, Deb, C/o Shirley Skree Estate, Houston, MN
 Stokes, Mathew, Eyota, MN
 Storie, Dan, Holmen, WI
 Stortz, Gerald & Ruth, Decorah, IA
 Stoskopf, Paula, Winona, MN
 Streufert, Ann, Decorah, IA
 Strike, Matthew, Rochester, MN
 Styve, Heather, Rochester, MN
 Sutton, Barbara, Decorah, IA
 Swanson, William & Karen, Lanesboro, MN
 Sweet, Karla & Hagensick, Travis, Spillville, IA
 Swiggum, Frederick, Rochester, MN

T
 Tangen, Bryce & Sara, Grand Meadow, MN
 Tank, Gary William & Janice, New Hampton, IA

Thelen, Timothy & Victoria, Winona, MN
 Tibbs, Hunter Jr., Unionville, VA
 Tieskotter, Melvin, Meadview, AZ
 Tieskotter, Violet Estate, Canton, MN
 Tillman, Bill, Altoona, IA
 Tjossem, Judy, Cochrane, WI
 Todd, Linda, Pequot Lakes, MN
 Tonn, Michael, Stewartville, MN
 Torgerud, Marilyn, Harmony, MN
 Tostenson, John, Preston, MN
 Traut, Gail, Helena, MT
 Treat, Mark, Monona, IA
 Treutel, Steven & Julie, Fredonia, WI
 Tupy, Tina, Cresco, IA

U
 Underbakke, Rachael, Decorah, IA

V
 Valland, Albert, Ossian, IA
 Van Minsel, Carol & Kenneth, Caledonia, MN
 Vermeer, Justin & Stacie, Cresco, IA
 Vine, Thomas, Decorah, IA
 Vitek, John & Carolyn, Zumbro Falls, MN
 Von Arx, Chris & Jana, Spring Grove, MN
 Von Arx, Jerry, Dallas, TX

W
 Wangen, Larry, Bandera, TX
 Wangen, Leona, Mabel, MN
 Warren, Robert & Barbara, Fountain, MN
 Wasmund, Lori, Sibley, IA
 Watson, Evelyn, Riceville, IA
 Wells, Crystal & Bellman, Daniel, LeRoy, MN
 Wemette, Heidi, Houston, MN
 White, Jim, Ridgeway, IA
 White, JoAnne, Cresco, IA
 White, Matthew & Angela, Rochester, MN
 Wickman, Elmer, New Hampton, IA
 Wiegrefe, Lester, Caledonia, MN
 Wilhelm, Chris, Decorah, IA
 Wilkes, Francis, LaCrescent, MN
 Wilkins, Eldean, Decorah, IA
 Williams, Mark & Woxland, Brandy, Mabel, MN
 Willis, Jennifer, Stee, Nathan, Waukon, IA
 Wilson, Trudi, Cresco, IA
 Witt, Mason, Waterford, WI
 Wobig, Douglas, St. Charles, MN
 Wood, Chris, Winona, MN
 Woyke, Jodi, Hokah, MN

Y
 Yates, Anita, LaCrescent, MN
 Yngsdal, Teresa, Chatfield, MN
 Yoder, Roman, Preston, MN
 Yohe, Brad, Decorah, IA
 Young, Jeff, Onalaska, WI


Z
 Zafft, Zeke, C/O Z Z Tap, Canton, MN
 Zerbe, Ralph & Ferguson, Drue, Lanesboro, MN
 Zimmer, David, Lime Springs, IA
 Zittel, Eric & Heather, Davenport, IA

*Denotes refund available.

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® 2025 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.

2025 rebate forms can be found online at www.MiEnergy.coop/rebates

ENERGY STAR RATED APPLIANCES

Clothes washer/dryer combo	\$50
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 improvement	up to \$500
Touchstone Energy® New Home Program	\$500

LIGHTING

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

WATER HEATING

Residential high efficiency electric water heater 85 & 105 gallons (purchased at MiEnergy)**	\$749-\$1,188
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	\$400/ton
Air source & mini-split	\$200/ton
SEER2 14.3+, HSPF2 7.5+ OR SEER 15+, HSPF 8.8+	

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

Electric vehicle (EV) charging station	\$1,000
Must be enrolled on the co-op's TOU or subscription rate.	

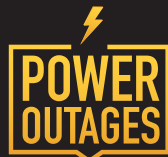
This is a summary of residential rebates. Rebates are first come, first serve while funds last. Additional terms & conditions are on rebate forms; please read thoroughly before submitting. Ag, commercial, industrial & custom rebates are also available.

*All inductive ranges apply.

**Must be on energy management program as defined by cooperative.

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.



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

Want this newsletter delivered to your inbox?



Did you know that you can sign up to receive your copy of MiNews electronically each month? It's easy. Visit our website www.MiEnergy.coop >News & Education>Co-op Publications>MiNews to find the link to sign up. You'll need to provide your name, address, email address and your MiEnergy account number. By signing up, you will no longer receive MiNews by regular mail.

Payment Options

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



- Call our toll-free payment line at 1-855-941-3631.
- Log in and/or download MiEnergy's SmartHub app to make payments electronically.
- Visit www.MiEnergy.coop and click on Pay Now. No login required.
- Have your payment deducted from a bank account or charged to a credit card each month automatically.
- Payment drop-off boxes are available 24/7 at our offices in Cresco and Rushford.



HOLIDAY GIFTS – HOWARD COUNTY

Employees from the Iowa Office purchased gifts for a family through the local CARE (Communities About Reaching Everyone) program, helping to make their holidays a little brighter.



HOLIDAY GIFTS – FILLMORE COUNTY

Employees from the Minnesota office donated money to the annual Christmas in Fillmore County program. This year, \$350 was collected and given to help local families during the holidays.



HOLIDAY PARADES

Employees, directors and their families participated in the Caledonia, Cresco, Decorah, Houston and Rushford parades. Thank you to Randall Ashbacher, Malachi Bunke,

Ryan Dahl, Dani Gorder, Lucas Gravos, Heather Larson, Kim Larson, Beth Olson, Johanna Stayskal, Kari Steele, Davin Thompson, Brenda Tesch and June Vitse for representing MiEnergy in the holiday parades.



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 24/7 855-941-3631
UNDERGROUND CABLE LOCATING 811

ONLINE
WEBSITE www.MiEnergy.coop
SOCIAL MEDIA Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DISTRICT 1 Dennis Ptacek, secretary and vacant seat
DISTRICT 2 Dean Nierling, chair and Ron Stevens, vice chair
DISTRICT 3 Don Petersen, treasurer and Skip Wieser
DISTRICT 4 Kyle Holthaus and Carl Reicks
DISTRICT 5 Beth Olson and Jenny Scharmer

MANAGEMENT STAFF
BRIAN KRAMBEER president/chief executive officer
SHELLY HOVE chief financial officer
JILL HUFFMAN broadband chief operating officer
STEVE OIAN vice president of electric operations
VASSIL VUTOV vice president of information technology
MIKE WALTON vice president of engineering and planning
KENT WHITCOMB vice president of member services

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

2025 OFFICES CLOSED
MARCH 25 Employee Development Day
APRIL 18 Good Friday
MAY 26 Memorial Day
JUNE 24 Employee Development Day
JULY 4 Independence Day
SEPT 1 Labor Day
SEPT 9 Employee Development Day
NOV 27-28 Thanksgiving Holiday
DEC 16 Employee Development Day
DEC 24-25 Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
DEC 31 New Year's Eve, close at 11 a.m.
JAN 1 New Year's Day

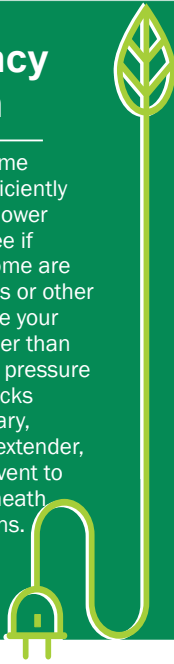
STUDENT TOUR – CRESCO

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.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Taking steps to help your home heating system run more efficiently can reduce energy use and lower your winter bills. Check to see if any air vents around your home are blocked by furniture, curtains or other items. Obstructed vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and can increase pressure in the ductwork, causing cracks and leaks to form. If necessary, consider purchasing a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture or other obstructions.

Source: energystar.gov



mienergy[™]
COOPERATIVE

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MINNESOTA PO Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971

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HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS WANTED

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Are you ready to make new
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Interested in meeting your
elected legislators?

Want to visit
historic sites?

And experience the
trip of a lifetime?

**APPLY TO WIN A FREE TRIP
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COOPERATIVE

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Contest is open to HS sophomores & juniors

Deadline to enter is March 3.

Visit www.MiEnergy.coop/youthtour for rules
and to enter the contest.

Stay Safe on Winter Roads



Winter months can bring snow, ice and windy conditions, creating hazards for drivers. It is important to be prepared in case there is an accident involving power lines.

Winter storms and power lines

Always treat sagging and downed power lines as energized and dangerous. Keep at least 50 feet away from the area.

- If your vehicle hits a power pole, stay inside.
- Contact 9-1-1 and wait for the power to be shut off by utility workers.
- If your vehicle is on fire, jump clear with feet together, avoiding contact with both the vehicle and ground simultaneously.
- Shuffle or "bunny hop" away from the vehicle, keeping feet together to prevent different electric currents through your body.
- Never drive over a downed power line, which can cause additional hazards.

