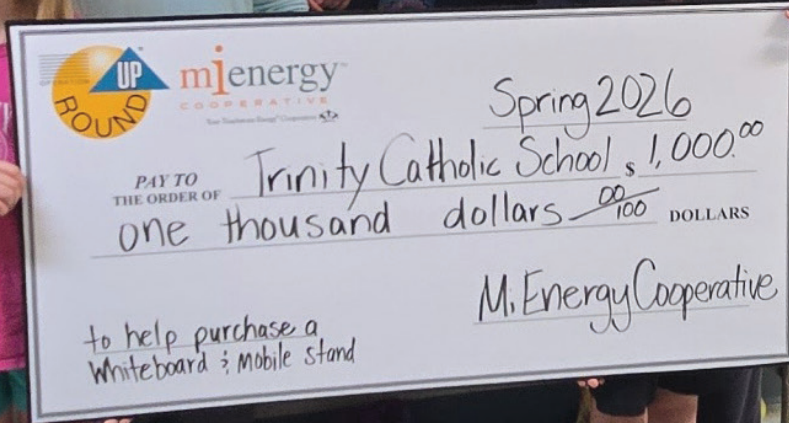


# MiNews

## Members making a difference, local groups receive \$7,100

*Youth Tour  
winners  
announced*



**What 811 locates and  
what it doesn't**





## Happy Anniversary!

You may not have realized it, but 2026 is the 10th anniversary of our historic vote to create MiEnergy Cooperative. The vote occurred on April 9, 2016, with the voting memberships of Hawkeye REC and Tri-County Electric Cooperative, overwhelmingly approving a plan of merger to consolidate the two cooperative organizations and create a new organization, MiEnergy Cooperative to provide electric service in southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa.

With the vote, members also voted upon MiEnergy's bylaws and articles of incorporation establishing five membership districts and a maximum of 14 and minimum of 9 board directors. Through natural attrition, the board has established 10 directors, two from each district as the appropriate number of directors.

Ten years ago, when MiEnergy first began, our cooperative had 86 employees. Today, through natural retirements and attrition, we have 74 employees. The makeup of employees' skillsets today is different than it was just 10 years ago. For example, our lineworkers operate drones, pinpoint outages using a digital outage management system and use supervisory controls to manage our electric distribution system. Today, we also have four highly skilled IT employees compared to a single employee a decade ago.

In 2016, we asked the membership to support merging to create MiEnergy. The reasons were to create a larger cooperative, to enhance service and efficiency to the membership and gain financial stability and cost savings. I am very pleased to report that your electric cooperative is fulfilling these objectives and that our electric cooperative has never been stronger in our 90-year history.

System reliability has consistently improved, financial benchmarks have been attained and electric rates are competitive, even in comparison with local investor-owned utilities that have the advantage of having 10 times our density when it comes to consumers/members per mile of line. These accomplishments are because of the tremendous

team of employees that make up MiEnergy and the strategic vision of our board of directors to achieve the best.

Personally, I have worked within the electric cooperative program for nearly 40 years. Of all the new programs implemented, accomplishments and storm recoveries, the consolidation to create MiEnergy has been the single greatest accomplishment to attain improved efficiency and enhanced service with direct benefit to the membership. Outage response, financial stability, member satisfaction and incorporation of technology to strengthen and improve our cooperative for the next decade have all been achieved. We are a better cooperative today, together as MiEnergy.

Coincidentally, 2026 marks the 90th anniversary of the passing of the Rural Electrification Act, passed by Congress to create the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). When it was passed in 1936, less than 10% of the rural farms had electricity. The REA made federal loans to local members that created and built the electric distribution system to transform rural life.

Thank you for your trust and your support for your electric cooperative.

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

### Board room highlights | March 26, 2026

- Discussed the financials and operating expenses of the wholesale power impact to MiEnergy from Winter Storm Fern.
- Reviewed the annual meeting agenda.
- Approved allocations to members for 2025.
- Miners Underground was selected as the 2026 underground contractor.
- Approved annual distributed generation filings and report.
- CEO Krambeer provided an update on cooperative subsidiaries.

The next meeting is April 30 at the Cresco office at 9 a.m.



MiEnergy President/CEO Brian Krambeer is pictured with Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Administrator Chris McLean while at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual meeting. In 1994, the Rural Electrification Administration officially became RUS.

# From co-op country to the capitol

## MiEnergy announces winners of Youth Tour contest

Brenna Thronson, a junior at New Hampton High School, and Thor Mosdal, a sophomore at St. Charles High School, won an educational-filled week of adventure in Washington, D.C. as MiEnergy Cooperative's Youth Tour Contest winners. Brenna and Thor will be among a group of 1,900 students sponsored by electric cooperatives from across the country to take part in the Rural Electric Youth Tour in June.

The Youth Tour was inspired in 1957 by Lyndon Johnson, then a U.S. senator from Texas, when he called on electric cooperatives to send young people to Washington, "to see what the flag stands for and represents."

The students will meet with state and federal legislators to get an up-close look at how our government works, along with experiencing the monuments, museums and history of our nation's capital.

To qualify for MiEnergy's contest, students must complete an online exam. Those who score 90% or greater become finalists. All finalists are interviewed to determine a winner and an alternate.



### IOWA CONTESTANTS

MiEnergy's Iowa Youth Tour winner, Brenna Thronson, is the daughter of Sara and Tyler Thronson, of New Hampton, Iowa. Charlie Kriener, of New Hampton, was selected as an alternate. Courtney Ball, Lawler, and Harley Fisher, Cresco, were also finalists.

### MINNESOTA CONTESTANTS

MiEnergy's Minnesota Youth Tour winner, Thor Mosdal, is the son of Jared Mosdal of Lanesboro and Kathleen Mosdal of St. Charles. Gage Pronschinske, of Rollingstone, was selected as an alternate. Roland Bjerke, of Spring Grove, was also a finalist.

- 1950** Wille Wiredhand mascot was created for co-ops nationwide
- 1950** Tri-County took over the Bucksnot Line, adding 105 members
- 1951** Dairyland's Flambeau Hydroelectric Station was completed
- 1951** Tri-County's new headquarters opened in Rushford
- 1950s** Tri-County purchased first digger derrick truck with a bucket
- 1950s** The cooperatives saved money by doing their own work whenever possible, including testing electric meters
- 1956** Merlin Kratz, Hawkeye REC lineworker for 40 years (pictured on the job): *"Everything was done by hand. We had two or three trucks, but not basket trucks like you see today. We dug the holes, set the poles and strung the line using only physical labor."*



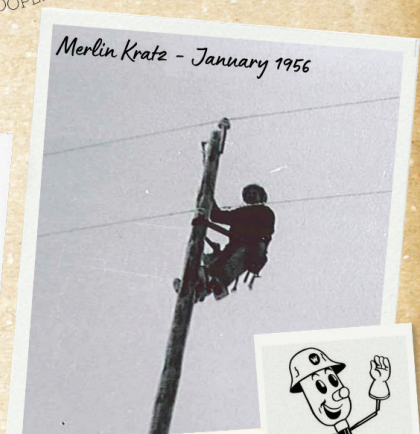
## SHINING LIGHT ON THE 1950s



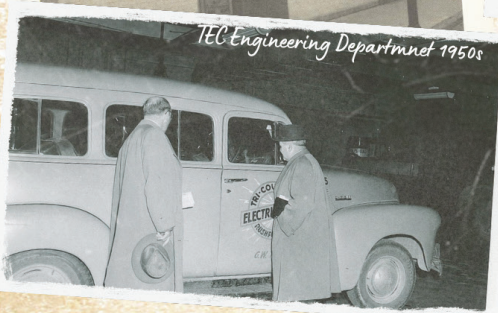
Tri-County New Headquarters 1952



Melvin OH - January 1956



Merlin Kratz - January 1956



TEC Engineering Department 1950s



TEC - Grove, Burns and Doappel 1952



Joe Rislove - Meter Testing 1950s



Willie Wiredhand 1950

## Lineworker Appreciation Month

# Lineworkers are ready when it matters most

When storms impact our communities and outages occur, many people experience the inconvenience, but lineworkers see a call to action. MiEnergy crews are always ready when it matters most—leaving family dinners, working through the night and heading into challenging conditions to restore power as safely and quickly as possible. That readiness is not accidental. It comes from rigorous training, deep experience and a shared commitment to serving others.


What makes lineworkers especially remarkable is that they aren't just restoring power to a system—they're restoring power to their own communities. They live here. They raise their families here. They understand that electricity is more than a convenience; it's essential to daily life, to local businesses, to schools, farms and emergency services. Powering the places we call home is personal to lineworkers.

Electric cooperatives like MiEnergy were built on the principle of neighbors helping neighbors, and our lineworkers embody that spirit every day. They are the first to respond and the last to leave, often working long hours behind the scenes. At times, serving our neighbors

means going beyond our own service territory through a process known as mutual aid. During major outage events, MiEnergy crews stand ready to assist neighboring co-ops—sometimes close to home, and sometimes across state lines—to help restore power. This spirit of mutual aid strengthens all cooperatives and ultimately benefits the members we serve.

We understand any time the lights go out can be frustrating, bringing everyday life to a halt. We are incredibly grateful to our members for your patience and encouragement during these times. Linework is demanding, physical, and at times, it can be dangerous. Our crews approach each job with a focus on safety and teamwork. They take pride in their craft and in the trust our members place in them.

To our lineworkers and the people that support them at the workplace and at home: thank you for your hard work, your readiness and your unwavering commitment to the communities we serve. We are proud to stand behind you and grateful for all that you do.



When the lights go out, lineworkers are ready to answer the call, day or night, to safely restore power and keep our communities moving forward. They take pride in powering the places we call home. Today and every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and commitment.

**Lineworker Appreciation Day**  
**April 13, 2026**

# Public vs. private lines

## What 8-1-1 will (and won't) locate

Digging without locating underground utilities could leave neighborhoods in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damages, or cause severe electrical shock. This is true regardless of how much area your project will cover or whether you consider the job to be large or small. To help stay safe, make use of the national underground utility locating service for free by calling 8-1-1.

The 8-1-1 "Call Before You Dig" number will route you to your local utility locating service. Make sure to tell the operator where and when you plan to dig and what type of work you will be doing. From there, it takes a few business days for a professional to come mark your public utilities with flags or spray paint.

There are different colors of paint and flags that mark the underground utilities, and each color is universal to what utility is buried.

Even if you previously had utilities



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

located by calling 8-1-1, it is best to call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift, and it is important to be certain of where they are before ever putting a shovel in the ground.

It is important to understand that 8-1-1 locators do not locate privately installed facilities. If you have any private utilities, you will need to hire a private utility locator. Some examples of private utilities include: underground sprinkler system, invisible fences, data communication



systems, private water systems or gas piping to a garage.

Once all of your underground utilities have been located, it is time to start digging, but be sure to wear all of the proper protective gear before putting the shovel into the earth.

For more information about 8-1-1 and digging safety, visit [Call811.com](http://Call811.com) and [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## Plant Trees Safely

Before you dig, call 811 to locate buried utility lines.

### LOW TREE ZONE

Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

### MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

### LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.

Over 40 ft.

40 ft. high or less

Maximum tree height 15 ft.

Keep shrubs at least 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. away from the sides.

4 ft. 10 ft.

0 10 ft. 20 ft. 30 ft. 40 ft. 50 ft. 60 ft. 70 ft.



# HOW CO-OPS ARE KEEPING THE GRID SECURE

The electric grid is the backbone of modern life. It powers homes, businesses and institutions, including hospitals and other critical infrastructure. As the grid becomes more interconnected and digitized, it also faces growing threats ranging from cyberattacks to extreme weather events.

Keeping the grid reliable and resilient is essential, and electric cooperatives are actively involved in national efforts to secure the electric grid.

Electric cooperatives, other utilities and grid operators follow standards set by organizations like the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), which mandate protections for critical infrastructure, including:

- **Cybersecurity Measures:** Firewalls, encryption and multi-factor authentication help prevent unauthorized access to control systems. Regular software updates and vulnerability scans reduce the risk of exploitation.
- **Physical Security:** Electric

substations and control centers are protected with fencing, surveillance and restricted access. Physical breaches or attacks can be just as damaging as cyberattacks.

- **Redundancy and Resilience:** Backup systems and redundant lines ensure power can be rerouted during outages caused by natural events or deliberate attacks. This minimizes disruption and speeds recovery.

Each of these standards creates layers of defense, making it harder for any single failure to compromise the entire grid.

As threats evolve, so do the tools to combat them. New tools including drones, remote sensors and advanced controls allow cooperatives to be more effective in monitoring and responding to a variety of grid threats.

Automated sensors and controls allow real-time visibility across the grid and enable rapid response to emergency conditions, either by a human operator or automated settings. Artificial intelligence (AI) can be a powerful technology to

enhance these other tools, especially in sifting through large amounts of data or imagery to detect irregularities or patterns. But to be effective, AI tools must be well designed, properly trained and incorporated into cybersecurity protections.

Electric co-ops are also making investments to harden their local systems against the growing threat of extreme weather events and other natural hazards. These investments include identifying vulnerable parts of the grid, replacing wooden poles, burying lines underground or adding enhanced technologies that allow greater visibility and control to anticipate and respond to emergency conditions.

Planning for the unexpected is critical.

Utilities and government agencies conduct large-scale exercises to test their readiness for emergencies. One example is GridEx, a biennial event organized by NERC that simulates cyber and physical attacks on the electric grid. Thousands of participants, from utilities to law enforcement, work together to identify



## ALTERNATE ENERGY PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT NOTICE

- **MINNESOTA MEMBERS**

In compliance with Minnesota state laws, MiEnergy Cooperative adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production. MiEnergy is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. MiEnergy Cooperative is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by MiEnergy Cooperative. Interested members should contact Kent Whitcomb at MiEnergy Cooperative, P.O. Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971 or call 800-432-2285.

- **IOWA MEMBERS**

Owners of alternative energy production equipment, no matter how small, even solar-powered heat pumps, are required to provide written notification to their utility of the intent to construct or install such facilities/equipment at least 30 days prior to construction. Alternate energy production facilities are defined as solar, wind turbine, waste management, resource recovery, refuse-derived fuel, agricultural crops or residues, or wood burning facilities used to generate electricity. This Iowa State Law went into effect on January 1, 2013.

- **ALL MEMBERS**

MiEnergy has a form to complete as well as other information regarding interconnection that can be found on our website at [www.MiEnergy.coop](http://www.MiEnergy.coop). Interested members should contact Kent Whitcomb at MiEnergy Cooperative, P.O. Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971, [kwhitcomb@MiEnergy.coop](mailto:kwhitcomb@MiEnergy.coop) or call 800-432-2285.

weaknesses and improve coordination.

These drills serve two purposes. They expose vulnerabilities before real crises occur, and they build relationships among key stakeholders. In an actual emergency, rapid communication and collaboration can make the difference between a minor disruption and a widespread outage.

Beyond planning exercises like GridEx, electric co-ops also create plans and conduct trainings to practice their responses to cyber and physical attacks and natural hazards.

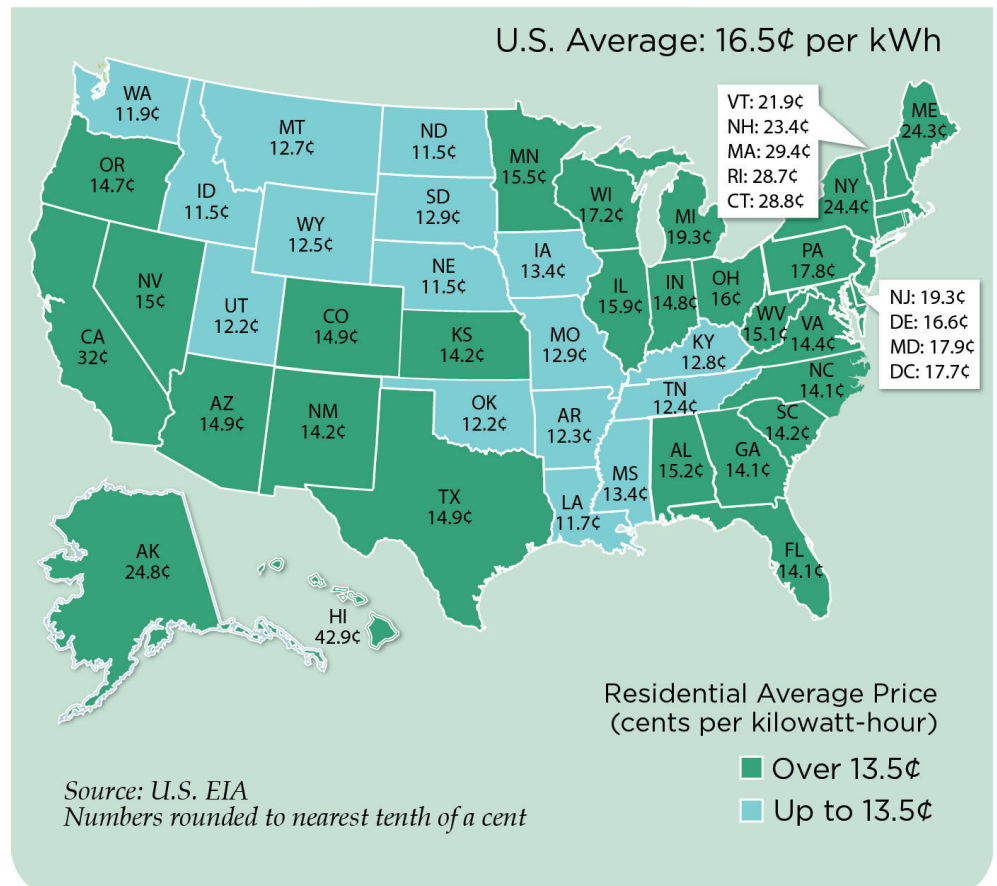
So, why does all this matter? A secure electric grid isn't just about keeping the lights on; it's about protecting public health, economic stability and national security in the co-op communities we serve.

By combining robust industry standards, rigorous training and cutting-edge technology, electric co-ops are helping to build a grid that is not only reliable but resilient today and in the future.

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

## Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2024 figures, in cents per kWh



# Members give \$7,100 in local donations

MiEnergy Cooperative's Operation Round Up Trust Board met recently and elected to donate \$7,100 to the following local organizations:

- **\$1,000, Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, Lanesboro, Minn.,** to help purchase energy efficient lighting for the auditorium.
- **\$1,000, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Caledonia, Minn.,** to help support the Summer Eats! program for students.
- **\$1,000, Lanesboro Arts, Lanesboro, Minn.,** to support youth programs for creating public sculptures made from recycled materials and painting murals.
- **\$1,000, Riceville Ambulance, Riceville, Iowa,** to help purchase a ranger with a medical insert for use in areas not accessible by an ambulance.
- **\$1,000, Sunflower Child Care Center, Inc., Decorah, Iowa,** to help purchase shade sails for the play area.
- **\$1,000, Trinity Catholic School, Protivin, Iowa,** to help purchase a whiteboard and mobile stand.
- **\$600, Winona YMCA, Winona, Minn.,** to help support the development of a Camp



Wenonah camp cooking program.

- **\$500, St. Charles Public Library, St. Charles, Minn.,** to help purchase interactive speaker devices for enhancing language development for checkout.

Operation Round Up is funded by donations made by members of MiEnergy Cooperative who voluntarily have their electric bill round up to the next dollar. The average donation is \$6 per year. Approximately 2,600 MiEnergy members participate

and 100% of the funds generated are granted to local organizations.

The program is based on the idea that small change adds up. Currently, the program gives approximately \$16,000 each year to local organizations.

Donations to Operation Round Up are tax deductible. Organizations receive grants through an application process. The next application deadline is August 15. To learn more about Operation Round Up or to round up your electric bill, visit [www.MiEnergy.coop](http://www.MiEnergy.coop) or call 1-800-432-2285.

**POWER UP YOUR BILL with heart**

Want an easy way to make a difference in our local communities? Complete our Operation Round Up sign-up form. Your electric bill will be rounded up to the next dollar. The extra cents will be granted to local, worthy organizations for a variety of project.



**WHO DECIDES WHERE THE money goes**

**A 9-member board made up of members reviews applications twice a year.**

Ann Brogan, St. Charles  
Dan Dietzenbach, Fort Atkinson  
Beth George, Houston  
Sandy Gronwoldt, Riceville  
Dawn Hauge, Winona  
Dennis Ostwinkle, Decorah  
Teresa Ross, Hokah  
Tom Tibor, Minnesota City  
Jay Wheelock, Fountain

**WHERE DO I learn more**

Visit our webpage at [MiEnergy.coop/operation-round-up](http://MiEnergy.coop/operation-round-up) for:

- Sign up form
- Search a list of organizations that have received grants in the past by county
- Apply for funds for your organization

Have additional questions? Call us at 800-432-2285.



# MiRecipes

## Family Favorites

Submit your family's favorite recipe for consideration to be printed in the August 2026 newsletter. Deadline is July 15. Send to Meagan at PO Box 90, Cresco, IA 52136 or email: mmoellers@MiEnergy.coop. MiRecipes will be printed quarterly in this publication. If we publish your recipe, you will receive a \$5 credit on your next electric bill. Limit one recipe published per member annually.

### PROTEIN BITES | KAREN HENNESSY, LEWISTON

1 c. old fashioned oats  
1/4 c. honey  
1/2 c. peanut butter  
1 scoop protein powder (any flavor)  
2-3 T. water

Mix together and form into any size balls. Place in layers in a container separated by wax paper. Refrigerate. Divide amount of protein by number of balls to get amount of protein per ball.

### BANANA BREAD | DON KRIVACHEK, FORT ATKINSON

3/4 c. butter  
1 1/4 c. sugar  
2 c. mashed bananas  
2 eggs (beaten)  
2 c. flour (sifted)  
1 t. baking soda  
1 t. salt  
1 t. vanilla  
1/2 c. sour milk

Mix all together. Bake in a loaf pan at 350° for 50-60 minutes until toothpick comes out clean.

### CHOCOLATE NUT PIE | DENNIS & MARCIA REPS, UTICA

1/2 c. butter  
3/4 c. semi-sweet chocolate chips  
3 large eggs  
1 c. sugar  
1 t. vanilla extract  
3/4 c. walnuts (can leave out)  
1 pie crust

Preheat oven to 350°. Melt butter in a small saucepan over low heat. Add chips to the butter, stirring until melted. Remove from heat. In a bowl, beat eggs lightly with a fork. Then stir in sugar, vanilla and nuts. Then stir chocolate mixture in and stir until mixed. Pour into unbaked pie crust. Bake about 45 minutes until center is firm.

### APPLE CAKE | ANGIE ERICKSON, DECORAH

Cream together 2 c. sugar + 1/2 c. butter + 2 eggs

Add:  
4 c. chopped apples  
2 c. flour  
2 t. soda  
2 t. cinnamon  
dash nutmeg  
1 t. salt  
vanilla/nuts optional

Bake in an 8x10 pan at 350° until done, approximately 45-50 minutes.

Topping: Combine 1 c. sugar + 1/2 c. butter + 1 c. cream in a sauce pan and boil together until thickened. Pour over cake.



# ELECTRIFY YOUR LAWN CARE

Electric lawn equipment has seen drastic improvements in cost, motor efficiency and battery power in recent years. From hedge and string trimmers to leaf blowers, chainsaws, and push and riding mowers, there are lots of options for electric lawn equipment.

Electric equipment is quieter than its gas-powered counterparts and typically needs less maintenance. There's no more mixing fuel, changing spark plugs or worrying about gas going bad over the winter. Advances in rechargeable battery technology eliminate having to lug around a heavy extension cord to get your work done. Just pop in a battery and go.

Most popular lawn equipment brands offer battery-powered options, along with newer brands that specialize in electric tools. If you need multiple tools, buying the same brand with the same battery type allows you to swap batteries between different pieces of equipment. That also means fewer battery chargers to store or keep on your workbench.

A brushless motor typically costs more but is worth it with the improved efficiency and longer lifespan they provide. A brushed motor transfers electricity using physical brushes, which can wear down over time. The friction caused by the brushes makes equipment run hotter and noisier. A brushless motor uses electronic commutation with less friction, which makes it more powerful, extends the lifespan and allows you to get more done on a single charge.

Battery-powered equipment does require proper care for maintenance, charging and disposal. Always use the manufacturer's original charging equipment, charge batteries on hard surfaces away from anything flammable and store chargers in a cool, dry place.

Most manufacturers recommend charging batteries only until they reach full capacity instead of leaving them on the charger until you are ready to use them. This helps prevent damage to the battery from overcharging, heat buildup and reduces potential fire hazards. Unplug chargers when not in use to avoid energy waste.

Old or damaged batteries need to be recycled at a big-box store or at a county or city waste management site.

If you're looking for a quieter, more efficient, lower maintenance lawn care routine, rethink your equipment options and consider electric models.

Miranda Boutelle writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 900 electric co-ops.

# Auto accidents: Distracted driving and downed power lines

The popularity of handheld devices has increased distracted driving problems on the road. Activities like texting, talking on the phone, reading, and watching a video take a driver's attention away from the road and driving conditions. It is hazardous for the driver, passengers, and bystanders in the area.

Use extreme caution when traveling near roadwork or utility roadside work zones. Pay attention when you see "Work Ahead" signs or orange cones that signal work activity ahead.

Focus on potential hazards when driving after a storm — stay away from downed power poles, lines and electrical equipment. Never drive over a downed line, as snagging a line could pull down a pole or other equipment and cause other hazards.



This is a photo taken of an accident scene crews came upon only after investigating a report of a power outage. Those involved could have been seriously hurt.

## DOWNED POWER LINES

When drivers are distracted, there is a risk of an accident with a power pole, as they often line the sides of streets and highways. If you are involved in an auto accident with a power pole or you witness one, you must know the steps to take to keep yourself and others safe.

In accidents with power poles, it is likely the pole and power lines will sag or may fall on your car or nearby, which would energize the area around your car with electricity. If you step out of the car, your body would become the path to ground for the electricity, which could be deadly. The safest place is nearly always inside the car.

While downed lines can sometimes show they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs they are live but are just as lethal.

## IF YOU ARE IN A CAR ACCIDENT WITH A POWER POLE:

- Stay in the car. Do not get out unless you must.
- Call 9-1-1 for help and wait until a professional from the electric utility tells you it is safe to leave the car.
- Warn those who try to come near your car to help that they must stay far away.
- Stay inside the vehicle unless there is fire or imminent risk of fire, which rarely happens.
- In the case of fire, jump clear of the vehicle without touching it and the ground simultaneously. Then hop away with feet together. That way, there will not be a voltage difference between your feet, which would give electricity the chance to flow through your body, which could be deadly.

If you witness a car collision with a power pole, do not approach the accident. By trying to help, you could put your own life at risk. The best thing to do is call 9-1-1, stay far away, and warn others to stay away from the accident.



This is a photo of a MiEnergy pole taken the week of March 23. It is a good reminder to use caution when burning near power lines. Beyond power poles, there can be cabinets, transformers for underground service and guy wires hidden in the tall grass or other overgrown vegetation. If these burns are not managed safely, they can cause property damage, power outages, injury, and even death. Burning a power pole or other electrical equipment could cause a widespread power outage and be costly for the individual responsible for the fire.

# out & about in your COMMUNITY



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](http://www.MiEnergy.coop)  
**SOCIAL MEDIA** Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**DISTRICT 1** Kim Nelson and Dennis Ptacek, secretary  
**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

#### MINIWEBS STAFF

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

#### 2026 OFFICES CLOSED

**MAY 25** Memorial Day  
**JUN 4** Employee Development Day  
**JUL 3** Independence Day Observance  
**SEP 7** Labor Day  
**SEP 10** Employee Development Day  
**NOV 26-27** Thanksgiving Holiday  
**DEC 15** 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



## MINNESOTA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE DAY – ST. PAUL

MiEnergy took part in Minnesota Electric Cooperative Day at the Capitol on March 17. Board directors Kim Nelson, Beth Olson, Don Petersen, Jenny Scharmer and Ron Stevens, along with President/CEO Brian Krambeer are pictured with Representative Aaron Repinski (above) and Representative Greg Davids (right). This annual event is an opportunity for electric cooperatives to meet with representatives on issues in the industry that impact members.



## IOWA REC DAY ON THE HILL – DES MOINES

MiEnergy's Vice President of Member Services Kent Whitcomb was one of nearly 200 electric cooperative employees and directors attending the 2026 REC Day on the Hill advocacy event. Legislators met with electric cooperatives to learn more about issues that impact safety, fairness and affordability for the members we serve. Below Whitcomb (at right) is pictured with Senator Mike Klimesh (left) along with representatives from Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

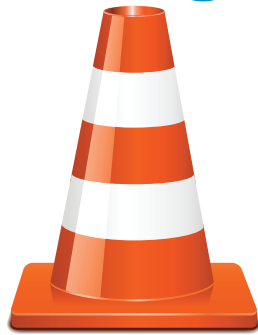
As we prepare for the seasonal shift, remember to set your ceiling fan rotation accordingly. In summer months (or whenever your home cooling system is running), blades should rotate counterclockwise, which produces a downdraft or windchill effect that makes you feel cooler. When used correctly, ceiling fans can boost comfort and allow you to adjust the thermostat a few degrees for energy savings.

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



## Contractors working

Spring is the onset of MiEnergy’s construction and contractor season. Cooperative crews handle the day-to-day operations, but on an annual basis, MiEnergy hires contractors to assist with other projects that make sure our electric system is safe and reliable for our members. Through the cooperative’s bidding process, the following contractors have been awarded bids for 2026:



- Vegetation management: New Age Tree Service, Zielie’s Tree Service, Clear Line LLC, 4-Control and Crank’s Tree Service
- Underground: Miners Underground
- Pole Testing: Mi-Tech
- Underground Inspections: Star Energy
- Staking: Star Energy
- Meter Changeouts: Chapman Metering

Please be aware that you may see these companies working throughout our service territory in Minnesota and Iowa. If you have questions about whether a contractor is working on our behalf, you can call 800-432-2285 at any time, including after normal business hours.

## Reliable Broadband Built for Farms and Rural Properties

*When your WiFi keeps up, the day gets easier*



Modern farms depend on more than equipment. From precision tools and online records to remote cameras and connected buildings, reliable internet plays a growing role in your everyday operations.

**MiBroadband’s** fiber network gives you the speed and consistency your rural property needs, even across larger yards and outbuildings. Built locally, our service understands rural life and is supported by people who truly value how your farm works.

Strong connections help keep your operation moving forward.



Scan the QR code to check availability, visit [MiBroadband.com](http://MiBroadband.com) or call (507) 886-6422.

**MiBroadband** WiFi • TV • Phone  
Locally owned by Mabel Cooperative Telephone, MiEnergy Cooperative, and Spring Grove Communications.

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