

MiNNews

June 2025 Vol. 9 Issue 6
A monthly publication for members of
MiEnergy Cooperative.

Historic house move in co-op territory

*Co-op
announces
scholarship
winners*

Electricity or gas?
A look at your
home heating and
cooling choices

MiEnergy crews assisted with the most extensive house move in the co-op's history with a total 36 power line crossings.

Refresh your contact information

Last month, MiEnergy was involved with what was the most significant house move in the cooperative's history. A beautiful farmhouse, 34 feet tall and 33 feet wide, was contracted to be moved 20 miles across our service territory from south of Preston to near Cherry Grove.

MiEnergy had 36 road crossings where crews needed to de-energize distribution power lines, lower them to allow the movers to pass, and then raise them back to clearance specifications and re-energize them. We had 12 bucket trucks and 28 employees involved as the house took about 3.5 hours to get to its destination.

The move also involved five Dairyland Power Cooperative transmission line crossings, which complicated the process of switching lines to minimize power interruptions. It was a big move, and I would like to congratulate our crews on the excellent work and preparation that made the move safe and successful. I also want to express our sincere appreciation to the members for their cooperation and understanding.

The Fillmore County Highway Department also did an excellent job assisting with traffic control and signage before and during the moving process.

To notify MiEnergy members of the short outage for each crossing, we generated a pre-recorded phone message. We sent it to members who we determined would be impacted by one of the line crossings. Members received three phone messages because the original move scheduled for June was canceled and rescheduled for May 8. The county also posted a sign before the move to notify residents of the traffic control on the impacted highway.

Unfortunately, several members were still surprised by the short power interruption, and a few even called the office to express their extreme frustration, stating that we had not notified them.

The primary reason members did not receive prior notification was that they had disconnected their landline, had a new cell phone number, or did not provide a telephone number when transferring the service or putting it in their name. Having up-to-date contact information is essential for notifying members of

Board room highlights | May 29, 2025

- CFO Shelly Hove presented the financial report which is tracking favorably to budget.
- Management provided updates on operations that included the Houston County moratorium for utility-scale solar that impacts MiEnergy project at the Caledonia Substation, a May house move, state legislative updates, and FEMA project updates.
- Approved documents and a resolution for the USDA ReConnect 5 broadband project in Winona and western Fillmore County that was for applied for in May of 2024 and approved in November.
- Approved the electric vehicle level three rate tariff.
- Provided a contract update on Minnesota Three, a utility-scale solar project in Oronoco, completed in 2014 with Peoples Energy and Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative.
- CEO Krambeer provided an update on cooperative subsidiaries.

The next board meeting will be at the Cresco office on June 30 at 9 a.m.

planned outages and, more importantly, for communicating critical emergency contact information.

This month's bill includes a message in the upper right-hand corner with instructions to help us attain this important contact information. You can write your phone number directly on the bill you send back to our office, call us with the information, login to SmartHub and enter the changes under the 'My Profile' link or open the SmartHub app to make changes under Settings > Contact Methods.

Unfortunately, we were unable to provide an exact time for the individually planned outages due to the speed of the move, and to complicate matters, the moving company arrived late to the site. We genuinely strive to do our best for our members, and I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. We need your contact information to communicate with you effectively, and please share the notification calls with the rest of your household.

In case you are curious, the house mover paid 100% of the costs incurred by MiEnergy for the move, and we are also pleased that it arrived safely to its destination within MiEnergy's service territory.

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



Analyzing heating & cooling costs

A closer look at electric versus gas price comparisons

There are several types of electric heating and cooling systems that when combined with MiEnergy's energy management rates, make electricity a safe, affordable and efficient choice. Electric heat pumps are a super efficient way to heat and cool a home. If you've wondered how the cost per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for heat pumps compares to the cost of other heating systems and fuels, check out the graphs below.

AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS (ASHPS)

This is one of the most efficient ways to heat and cool your home with central venting systems. New cold-climate units can provide heat with lower temps than in the past. A backup heating system is required to be on the energy management rates.

Mini split systems work great in homes with no heating or cooling ducts in place, such as older homes or new additions.

The level of efficiency of ASHPs range from 200% to 400%. Lower efficiencies typically occur during the coldest winter days.

Electricity per kWh	Propane per gallon	Fuel Oil per gallon	Natural Gas per therm
7¢	43¢	50¢	47¢
9¢	56¢	65¢	61¢
11¢	68¢	79¢	74¢
13¢	80¢	93¢	88¢

The chart above compares the cost of a 300% efficient ASHP (10.2 HSPF) to a 92% efficient propane and natural gas system and a 70% efficient fuel oil system. If your cost per kWh is 11¢, it is the equivalent to paying 68¢/gallon for propane, 79¢/gallon for fuel oil or 74¢/therm of natural gas.

GEOHERMAL HEAT PUMPS

This is the most efficient heating and cooling system available because it uses a renewable energy source: the earth.

It will meet 100% of a home's heating and cooling needs. The efficiency level of a geothermal system can be in the range of 300% to 600% efficient.

Electricity per kWh	Propane per gallon	Fuel Oil per gallon	Natural Gas per therm
7¢	35¢	40¢	38¢
9¢	44¢	52¢	49¢
11¢	54¢	63¢	59¢
13¢	64¢	75¢	70¢

The chart above compares the cost of a 500% efficient geothermal heat pump (5.0 COP) to a 92% efficient propane and natural gas system and a 70% efficient fuel oil system. If your cost per kWh is 11¢, it is the equivalent to paying 54¢/gallon for propane, 63¢/gallon for fuel oil or 59¢/therm of natural gas.

BREAKING IT DOWN Energy Management Events

Cost Management

Peak Alert



GOAL: Reduce electricity use during high demand/prices
WHEN: Summer (Jun., Jul., Aug.) or Winter (Dec., Jan., Feb.)
WHAT: Summer - enrolled air conditioners, irrigation, dairy water heaters | **Winter** - enrolled interruptible heat (a.m.); enrolled peak alert accounts, dairy water heaters, grain dryers (p.m.)
WHY: Dairyland Power Cooperative initiates a Peak Alert when the regional grid is expected to reach its peak demand for the season, resulting in higher wholesale prices. Electric supply at these times is sufficient to cover demand, but the cooperative wants to reduce the amount of electricity purchased at high prices.

Cost Management

Summer Shift



GOAL: Help keep electric rates affordable
WHEN: June, July and August; 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. weekdays
WHY: MiEnergy's highest energy peaks are during the summer months. Every day has a peak energy use period. By reducing electricity use during this timeframe, it reduces the peaks. Reducing the peaks helps save on the cost of electricity, which helps keep rates affordable for all members.

Grid Reliability

Maximum Generation Event



GOAL: Reliability/Stabilize Electricity Supply
WHEN: Any time (enrolled devices will be **tested** once each season (4x/yr) unless an event has occurred that season)
WHAT:** Enrolled residential electric water heaters, auto standby generators; then, if needed: enrolled air conditioners or interruptible heat systems, dairy water heaters; enrolled peak alert/standby generators, grain dryers, irrigation
WHY: MISO, the regional grid operator, initiates a Maximum Generation Event when there is a reliability concern. There may be a risk of insufficient generation resources to power our members' needs. Reducing electricity use during a Maximum Generation Event is crucial for all members, but only enrolled devices will be affected.
****These devices will be called upon as needed, not all at once.**

Co-op awards \$80,000 in community service scholarships

MiEnergy Cooperative awarded \$80,000 in scholarships to 80 local high school students who exemplify commitment to their local community. MiEnergy’s scholarship program reflects the core cooperative principle of commitment to community by recognizing high school seniors who demonstrate cooperative spirit through service to others. The scholarships are funded through unclaimed capital credits that would otherwise be turned over to the state. Watch for a video of the award winners to be posted soon on cooperative’s website, www.mienergy.coop/scholarships. This year’s 2025 MiEnergy Cooperative Community Service Scholarship winners are as follows:

Caledonia: Addison Fruechte, child of Paul and Tina Fruechte; Liv Myhre, child of Francis and Heather Myhre; and Dylan Schroeder, child of Daniel and Sheila Schroeder.

Chatfield: Olivia McBroom, child of Jeremy and Lanae McBroom; and Kylin Schroeder, child of Jonathan and Kate Schroeder.

Concordia Academy (Roseville): Emma Korinek, child of Zdenek and Jill Korinek.

Cotter: Keiran Kelly, child of Corey and Kristin Kelly; and Katelyn Ubl, child of Chad and Suzanne Ubl.

Crestwood: Korey Hrdlicka, child of Jeff and Rita Hrdlicka; Olivia Johnson, child of Allen and Tanya Johnson; Aubrey Mannery, child of Robin Schluter; Brooks Moser, child of Troy and Brenda Moser; Gage Moser, child of Troy and Brenda Moser; Erica Ollendick, child of Dave and Heather Ollendick; Laney Peter, child of Brian and Sally Peter; Brooke Schwade, child of Dean and Libby Schwade; Brock Voyna, child of Scott and Jeanne Voyna; and Lydia Williams, child of Tom and Dana Williams.

Decorah: Elizabeth Bjork, child of Joshua and Nicol Bjork; Carter Dlh, child of Ken and Deanna Dlh; Reid Kuehner, child of Kevin and Jennifer Kuehner; Beau Newhouse, child of Ben and Rebecca Newhouse; Kamryn Werges, child of Kristopher and Rebecca Werges; Kinsey White, child of Bridget and Jason White; and Addison Wicklund, child of Chris and Melissa Wicklund.

Fillmore Central: Weston Collins, child of Jeff and Kelley Collins; Haley O’Conner, child of Janet and Derek O’Conner; Audra Otto, child of Doug and Sarah Otto; Maddex Rindels, child of Tiffany and Kerry Rindels; Mara Schwarz, child of Jason and Mary Schwarz; and Brooklyn Simon, child of Josh and Angie Simon.

Hope Lutheran (Winona): Cadence Tews, child of Isaiah and Breanne Tews.

Houston: William Carlson, child of Bob and Mimi Carlson; Julia Carr, child of Becky and Richard Carr; Casey Herek, child of Keith and Carrie Herek; Aden Kulas, child of Jonathan and Amy Kulas; Morgan Rohweder, child of Jason and Bekki Rohweder; Owen Sobotta, child of Jason and Crystal Sobotta; Jaden Woodard, child of Josh and Jamie Woodward.

La Crescent-Hokah: Ashley Erdman, child of Nick and Jodi Erdman; and Lori Haack, child of Pete and Becky Haack.

Leroy-Ostrander: Benita Nolt, child of Victoria Nolt and Miguel Almaraz.

Lewiston-Altura: Natalie Buege, child of Heather and Russell Buege; Zane Nelson, child of Jeffrey and Melissa Nelson; Kamea Nelson, child of Jeffrey and Melissa Nelson; and Gavin Salvetti, child of Luke and Amie Miller.

Logan (La Crosse): Eliot Miles, child of Andrew Miles.

Lourdes (Rochester): Max Nelson, child of Kim and Michele Nelson.

Luther (Onalaska): Isabella Matzke, child of Mary and Josh Matzke.

Mabel-Canton: Hope Erickson, child of Matt and Nicole Erickson; Lainey Hosting, child of Laura and Josh Hosting; Sarah Schneekloth, child of Ester and Ralph Schneekloth; Lydia Vatland, child of Joanie and Kevin Vatland; and Samantha Williams, child of Heather and Heath Williams.

Meyer Lutheran Homeschool: Kylie Meyer, child of Duane and Sharon Meyer.

New Hampton: Elliott Eiler, child of Chris and Beth Eiler; Kinsley Hackman, child of Jacob and Cassie Hackman; Karla Pickar, child of Sarah and Mike Pickar; Beth Pickar, child of Mike and Sarah Pickar; Reid Rausch, child of Ryan and Heather Rausch; and Carrie Schwickerath, child of Tony and Janet Schwickerath.

New Prague High School: Sophie Hongerholt, child of Derrick and Christine Hongerholt.

Riceville: Jaylyn Beran, child of James and Jill Beran.

Rushford-Peterson: Jonah Bunke, child of Nikki Bunke and Andrew McManimon; Kenna Gudmundson, child of Kristin and Michael Gudmundson.

South Winneshiek: Grace Baker, child of Marea and Brock Schmidt and Dave Baker; Julia Carnesi, child of Steve and Diane Carnesi; Britney Hageman, child of Mark and Tina Hageman; Kali Kleve, child of Darin and Mary Kleve; Isabella Kuboushek, child of Dan and Staci Kuboushek; Ruby Timp, child of Michelle and Bill Timp; Kelsey Timp, child of Brett and Robin Timp; and Karissa Wenthold, child of Jess and Jodi Wenthold.

Spring Grove: Aften Myhre, child of Heidi and Dennis Myhre; and Jordis Neeley, child of Sheldon and Carrie Neeley.

St. Charles: Isaac Mosdal, child of Jarred and Kathy Mosdal; Elizabeth Schram, child of Mike and Laura Schram; and Lauren Waller, child of Ted and Tammy Waller.

Turkey Valley: Kinsey Reicks, child of Tory and Kristi Reicks.

Winona: Mya Brand, child of Christi O’Donnell and Tim Brand.

Iowa county fair contests

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

HOWARD COUNTY FAIR, JUNE 25-29

Featherlite Center at the Howard County Fairgrounds

Homemade Salsa Contest

Judging at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25.

Entry Times: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- One pint per entry.
- Limit of two (2) entries per individual.
- Chips will be furnished.

Strawberry Dessert Contest

Judging at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25.

Entry Times: 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

- Must be in a disposable container.
- Limit of two (2) entries per individual.

Light Bulb Decorating Contest

Judging on Thursday, June 26.

Entry Times: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25.

- Open to kids 12 years of age and under.
- Each child entering will receive a new LED light bulb.
- Entries picked up between 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 29.

WINNESHIEK COUNTY FAIR | JULY 8 - 12

Fontanelle Shelter at the Winneshiek County Fairgrounds

Homemade Apple Pie Contest

Judging at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, July 8.

Entry Times: 10:30-11:00 a.m.

- Please use disposable pie tins for entries.
- Limit of two (2) entries per family.

Chocolate Chip Cookie Contest

Judging at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, July 8.

Entry Times: 10:30-11:00 a.m.

- Any type of chocolate chip cookie allowed.
- One dozen cookies on a disposable plate or tray per entry.

SUMMER SHIFT: Small steps for savings

While using electricity is inevitable, how members choose to use it can be impactful.

The goal of the Summer Shift program is to shift non-essential electricity use to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m., June through August. This is because 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. electricity is historically more expensive.

If a member shifts their electricity use, they may not necessarily save energy. They could use the same amount of electricity, but at a different time of the day. That is still beneficial because it means the cooperative’s wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, did not have to purchase as much power when electricity costs were more expensive. When the cooperative saves, so do members.

The price of electricity purchased on the grid is always changing based on the need for electricity balanced with available generation resources. As need or demand rises during the day, the price of electricity increases as more generation resources (power plants, solar arrays, etc.) are needed to power homes, businesses and other buildings or devices. When things quiet down for the night, electricity demand drops as do prices for electricity.

When a member chooses to shift their electricity use, it helps spread out electricity use throughout the day. It helps keep our retail rates stable for all members. The more members who choose to participate, the more impactful these savings become.

SUMMER SHIFT TIPS:

- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees (or a level that is comfortable for the home, but a few degrees higher than normal). Closing curtains and shades will help the home feel cooler, longer. A ceiling fan or table fan throughout the afternoon will help circulate air.
- Set up a schedule for your smart thermostat and smart lighting options, ensuring a minimal amount of energy is used between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Charge electric vehicles overnight.
- Set the water heater to 120 degrees.
- Washing dishes in an ENERGY STAR dishwasher instead of by hand can save a home \$111 per year.
- Open the dishwasher after the wash cycle to let dishes air dry.

Contact your trusted energy advisor at MiEnergy to learn more!



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Personnel changes at the co-op

EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT



Ruth Riha retired from the cooperative on May 1. She began her employment with Hawkeye REC on November 13, 2000, as a billing clerk/receptionist, then moved to the accounting department and retired as the operations assistant. Thanks for your 24 years of dedication and service to MiEnergy.

NEW EMPLOYEE



We are pleased to announce that Nancy Franzen has accepted the operations assistant position. Nancy currently resides in Lawler and works at the

Cresco office. She started on April 28. Welcome Nancy to the cooperative.

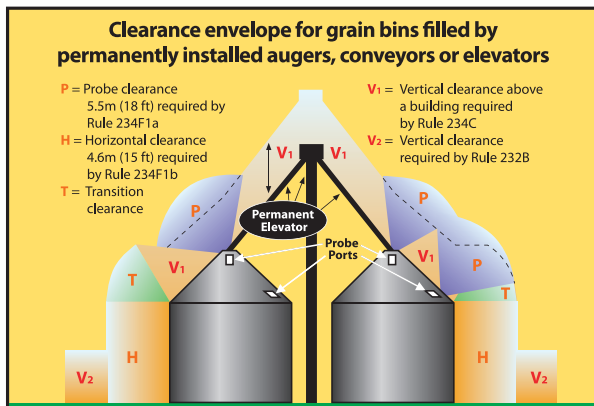
Grain bin clearance notice for Iowa members

When you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact MiEnergy. We will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins.

According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in the Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 – 25.2(3) b. An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2012, page 120. “National Electrical Safety Code,” Rule 234f. This paragraph “b” shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors or elevators built after December 24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board)

MiEnergy is required by the Iowa Utilities Board to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants, and city and county zoning officials. If you have any questions concerning clearance regulations, please call MiEnergy at 800-432-2285.

Disclaimer: These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives’ annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. To view the actual drawings, refer to that publication. Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents for these drawings. However, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives accept no liability whatsoever for omissions or errors, technical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes or damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings, whether textual or graphical.



From IEEE Std. C2-2017, “National Electrical Safety Code.” © Copyright 2016 by IEEE. All rights reserved.

KEEP KIDS SAFE AROUND Trees and power lines

When kids take a break from gaming or other devices, they may head outdoors to play. If they will be climbing trees, scope out the area first to ensure that the treetops do not have power lines running through them.

Not realizing power lines are energized, children may reach up to grab a line or accidentally come too close to it when they are playing or sitting high up in a tree.



Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, contact could happen once weight is added to the branch.

In addition, teach kids to fly kites, drones and remote control planes or toys in open areas free from power lines.

If a toy or other object lands in a substation, please call your electric utility to retrieve the item. Never approach the fence or try to enter the area.

Take time to teach children and teens how to respect and identify potential electrical hazards.



Learn more at SafeElectricity.org

out & about in your COMMUNITY



PRESCHOOL VISIT – CRESCO

MiEnergy’s Josh Carolan visited the Notre Dame preschool class in Cresco on April 25. He showed the students different parts of the MiEnergy bucket truck and demonstrated some of the tools that lineworkers need to wear and use to be safe when working near electricity.



TESMER FARM SAFETY DAYS — PRESTON AND CALEDONIA

MiEnergy’s Malachi Bunke and Cole Kingsley gave electric safety demonstrations at the Fillmore County event held in Preston at the Fillmore County Fairgrounds on May 6. MiEnergy’s Randall Ashbacher and Bill Cox gave electric safety demonstrations at the event held in Caledonia at the Houston County Fairgrounds on May 8. A total of 508 students and 47 teachers and chaperones from 19 public, private and homeschools in Fillmore and Houston counties attended over the course of two days. They heard presentations on ATVs, general farm safety, plant identification, tractor rollovers, lawnmowers, electricity, grain bin drowning, bicycles, 911, PTO, fires, first aid, livestock and horses.



TROUT DAYS PARADE - PRESTON

Employees participated in the Preston Trout Days Parade in Preston on May 17. Thanks to Darrin Peterson, Dani Gorder, Heather Larson and Brenda Tesch for representing MiEnergy.



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

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TOLL-FREE & 24/7 OUTAGE REPORTING 800-432-2285
PAYMENT LINE 24/7 855-941-3631
UNDERGROUND CABLE LOCATING 811

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2025 OFFICES CLOSED

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

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Take advantage of the warmer weather to reduce home energy use. Use a grill instead of an oven. Cooking outdoors will eliminate the electricity used to power the stove and avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for additional air conditioning. You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen and explore new ways to save energy!

Source: energy.gov



**Nominate a local volunteer
and they could win
\$3,000 for their charity!**

Contest entries accepted during June at
IowaShineTheLight.com

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5 WAYS to Reduce Use During Extreme Heat

During periods of extreme heat, the demand for electricity can skyrocket, placing additional strain on the grid. By working together to lower our electricity use, we can reduce pressure on the grid.

Here are five effective ways to lower use at home.

- 1. Raise your thermostat setting a few degrees higher** than usual. Every degree can reduce cooling energy consumption.
- 2. Cook with smaller appliances** to save energy and reduce heat gain in the kitchen.
- 3. Keep blinds, curtains and shades closed** during the hottest part of the day to block direct sunlight.
- 4. Use fans** to circulate air, which can make you feel cooler without needing to lower the thermostat.
- 5. Shift activities that require a lot of energy consumption to off-peak hours** when demand is lower.



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