

September 2021 Vol. 5 Issue 9
A monthly publication for members of
MiEnergy Cooperative.

MiNews

Bringing the world to your door

Co-ops working together to provide broadband to rural areas

Ready for electric trucks and SUVs?

PROGRAMS TO HELP PAY HEATING BILLS

Precision ag tech creates efficiency

Vassil Vutov, vice president of information technology, spearheaded the creation and infrastructure development for rural broadband opportunities using MiEnergy's electric distribution communications network.



A closer look at summer energy bills

On Monday, August 9, I received a call from our Chief Financial Officer Shelly Hove asking if I had looked at our wholesale power bill for the month of July. The “\$3,930,286 Amount Due” certainly got my attention.

MiEnergy purchased over 56 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) from Dairyland during the month of July. The weather conditions caused more air conditioner and dehumidifier use on top of the normal electric loads. I'm sure many of you noticed greater energy use in July. In looking at the details of our wholesale power bill, it could have been even higher for both MiEnergy and our members. Let me explain.

Of the total kWh purchased by members in July, only 12% were on-peak (weekday hours from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.). That means that 88% were off-peak. Thank you, MiEnergy members, for embracing the Summer Shift campaign by delaying electric use during the weekdays to avoid higher priced kilowatt (KW) demand and energy costs. This year marked the 10th summer that our cooperative has promoted a campaign asking members to voluntarily reduce energy use during the weekday peak energy use times from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. It certainly has been successful!

The other benefit has been MiEnergy's retail rate restructuring over the past two years of, increasing the monthly basic service charge and reducing the monthly kWh charge. Through this restructuring, the retail kWh charge has dropped over a 1¢/kWh. Yes, the monthly basic

service charge increased, but extreme weather conditions of blistering hot temperatures or frigid winter days that hover around zero significantly increases a member's kWh use. The lower cost per kWh benefits members.

Coincidentally, this month I was brought a copy of a residential electric bill from an investor-owned utility in Iowa. A formula retail rate that included a three-step block of seasonal energy charges, transmission charges, renewable energy charges and energy efficiency program charges, all of which were billed on kWh use that totaled 17¢/kWh. Taking the same information and calculating it using the cop's rural service rate, I found MiEnergy to be considerably less (\$120 less). In addition, MiEnergy's statement design makes it easy to understand your energy use and costs. When members shop for a new refrigerator or electric appliance and the Energy Star® sticker lists the kWh costs – you know your kWh cost - unlike an eight-line formula retail rate structure.

I frequently compare our power costs to a three-legged stool. Energy (kWh), monthly transmission (kW) and seasonal peak demand/fixed costs (kW). Monthly transmission costs have steadily increased through the years, accounting for 28% of our July wholesale power bill. Energy sales (kWh) mentioned above accounted for 44% of the July power bill. The remaining 28% reflected peak energy and monthly fixed charges.

Year-to-date, both sales and wholesale power costs are tracking close to budget and all other operating expenses are below budget. MiEnergy is in a very favorable financial picture for the first half of the year.

Our wholesale power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, accounts for nearly 70% of our total operating expense and has done a tremendous job this year on all fronts. They have weathered the February polar vortex and the sizzling summer months of June and July, maintaining great system reliability despite the unpredictable wholesale power market and a lightning strike at one of their generation units that took the unit off-line for over a week.

Again, thank you members of MiEnergy Cooperative for doing the Summer Shift, acting when you hear our peak alert messages and for your positive support of your member-owned electric cooperative.

As always, I welcome your calls and emails.

Energy Assistance Programs to help you pay your heat bills



IOWA MEMBERS:

The 2021-2022 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season.

The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

If you are not sure where to apply, dial 2-1-1, visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply> to contact your local community action agency or write to: LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Human Rights, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319.

WHEN TO APPLY:

- Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled: October 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022
- All other households: November 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022

WHAT TO TAKE:

- Proof of Income (for all household members age 19 and over) Depending on your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you.
- Proof of Social Security Numbers for all household members (documentation required)
- Most recent heat bill
- Most recent electric bill

WAGE EARNERS:

Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application or a copy of your federal income tax return.

FIXED INCOME:

This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring

copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:

Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

FIP RECIPIENTS:

Please bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information.

If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified. Additional income not listed here may be required.

IOWA ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

CHICKASAW COUNTY: 641-394-2007
HOWARD COUNTY: 563-547-4413
WINNESHIEK COUNTY: 563-382-8436
NE IOWA COMMUNITY ACTION: 563-382-9608

MINNESOTA MEMBERS:

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, electric service for Minnesota members cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 50 percent of the state median income. Income may be verified on forms provided by MiEnergy or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from MiEnergy.

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects. Before disconnecting electric service to Minnesota residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30, MiEnergy must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection.
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities.
- A list of local energy assistance providers.
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection.
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

MINNESOTA ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

FILLMORE COUNTY: 507-765-2175
HOUSTON COUNTY: 507-725-5811
MOWER COUNTY: 507-437-9701
SEMCAC, INC: 800-944-3281
WINONA COUNTY: 507-457-6200

Board room highlights | August 31, 2021

- CFO Hove provided a favorable financial report for July.
- A strategic planning session for 2022 was discussed and a review on past sessions and accomplishments was provided.
- Approved the updated five-year vehicle rotation plan.
- Approved the allocation and retirement of capital credits in the amount of \$2,178,946.41 to be returned to members.
- Reviewed and approved a resolution to submit an application for a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant.
- Cooperative Finance Corporation Representative Amanda Seger provided an update and reviewed MiEnergy's 2020 Key Ratio Trend Analysis report.
- Selected April 13, 2022, as the next annual meeting date. Elections will be held for directors representing districts 4 and 5.
- Selected September 28, 2021, for the next member advisory committee meeting.
- CEO Krambeer provided reports and updates from subsidiary organizations.

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

****If you are having financial difficulties and cannot pay your electric bill, communicating with MiEnergy is essential. Don't ignore disconnection notices. Contact us at 1-800-432-2285 to discuss winter disconnection protection and the steps required to avoid being disconnected. Even if you don't qualify for either of these programs, the cooperative can help set up a payment plan to help members through tough times to avoid disconnection at any time of the year. ****



As farming technology advances, farmers are finding new ways to reduce costs, improve efficiency and increase crop yields. The newest trend of technological advancements for farming is precision agriculture, a strategy where farmers use advanced technologies to control the growth of crops and raising of livestock more accurately and efficiently.

As precision agriculture has grown in recent years, the technologies have become even more technical and precise by using data analytics and machine learning. With a whole suite of benefits, like reduced costs, standardized data and metrics and minimizing resource waste, it's no surprise that technologies and strategies for precision agriculture are becoming more commonplace.

The initial wave of precision agriculture in the 1980s was made possible by GPS devices, which were first placed on tractors. GPS-connected devices could control a tractor and automatically steer the tractor based on the field's GPS coordinates. This helped reduce any overlap while driving, making farming practices more efficient.

Beyond autonomous tractors, there have been many innovations in farming technologies that are part of precision agriculture. One technology is the crop-monitoring drone, which can take aerial views of fields and help give the farmer a bird's-eye view of their land. Connecting the drone to special software and GPS can also allow the drone to automatically take photos, making it even easier to use. When combined with GIS (geographic information system), the drone can help analyze the geospatial field data in real-time for the farmer.

Using robotics for precision agriculture can be applied to many kinds of machines. For example, robotic milking machines can be used to automate the cow milking process. These machines help farmers reduce their labor demands while also increasing efficiency, freeing up time for farmers to work on other parts of their farm. Since the machines are optimized to work efficiently, they can also help to extract more milk per cow and provide more rest for the cows.

If farmers want to optimize their crop production, then variable rate technology (VRT) can help. VRT allows the farmer to use a variable rate schedule for application of fertilizer or for irrigation. Although there are several different options for using VRT, the basics consist of a computer, software, GPS and a controller. Farmers can

choose to use VRT in either a map-based or sensor-based way, depending on need of the farm. Using VRT helps farmers accurately measure water and fertilizer, save time and maximize irrigation and fertilization efficiency.

To properly use these new technologies, there are some important safety tips to consider. When learning to use any new technology, be sure to fully read the manual and understand the instructions before beginning any work. This can help farmers avoid preventable accidents. Different types of farm equipment will also require different safety precautions. For example, when working with grain bins, farmers should be especially careful to follow training procedures when it is necessary to work inside the grain bin.

Being aware of the best safety practices when working with a specific technology is the best way to avoid accidents. Additionally, since these technologies are digital, the threat of cybersecurity comes into play. Appropriate use of any USB thumb drives and being aware of spear-phishing cyberattacks will help prevent malicious entities from gaining access to the farmer's confidential data.

Although the benefits are clear, there are a few barriers to using these new agricultural technologies. Having a well-established broadband connection is crucial for some of these technologies, and a lack of high-speed internet access can limit the use of precision agriculture technologies. Furthermore, using precision agriculture comes with a relatively large upfront financial investment, which may not provide a return on investment quickly enough to the farm.

Before incorporating precision agriculture technology into any farm, planning and preparation will be crucial to make the best use of the technology.

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



Electric trucks and SUVs coming

Earlier this year, Ford announced the all-electric Ford F150 Lightning. It may leave you wondering, are there other electric pickups or SUVs coming out soon?

Electric SUVs are available now and pickups will be soon. This development has been anticipated for years. Electric vehicle (EV) sales are about 24 times higher than they were 10 years ago, with several factors driving demand:

- The instant torque from electric motors boosts acceleration.
- The low center of gravity improves handling and reduces rollover risk.
- The superior traction control of electric motors can increase off-road capability and safety in winter.
- The upfront cost of an EV purchase is now more competitive with similar internal combustion models, and most EVs qualify for a federal tax credit of up to \$7,500.
- The cheaper operating fuel cost per mile for electricity compared to gasoline or diesel is another attractive feature for drivers.



Ford's all-electric F150 Lightning, arriving spring 2022, can provide portable power to a jobsite.

Ford's electric F150 Lightning is scheduled to arrive in spring 2022, starting under \$40,000 for the commercial trim package (230-mile range model). A 300-plus mile battery is an option and all models are 4X4 with respectable towing and payload capacities. The Lightning is also equipped to provide 9.6kW of home backup power or portable power for a jobsite.

Tesla has more than a million preorders for their new Cybertruck, which will likely arrive in 2022. The 250-mile range 2WD model starts under \$40,000 and steps up to \$50,000 for the 300-mile range 4WD model. Tesla plans to offer a 500+ mile range version for \$70,000 that can tow more than 14,000 pounds.

GMC has announced a late 2021 release of an electric Hummer with 1,000 horsepower and additional features for off-road performance.

Rivian, a startup backed by billions of dollars from Ford and Amazon, is planning to unveil their R1T electric pickup later this year.

Crossover SUVs (CUVs) are one of the most popular types of vehicles, and a number of manufacturers say they'll have electric models available soon. Ford's Mustang Mach-E is actually available now with a range up to 305 miles, starting at \$45,000. Volkswagen's ID4 CUV starts at \$40,000 and is available with AWD options. More electric SUVs are coming, including Rivian's R1S, Nissan's Ariya and Volkswagen's six-passenger ID6.

And it's not just vehicles that are shifting to electric. Electric snow machines and jet skis are arriving soon. Even large construction equipment like excavators, backhoes and heavy-duty trucks will have electrically fueled models.

One remaining hurdle for increased EV adoption in rural areas is fast, sufficient charging for longer trips. Most EV owners charge at home, but more fast-charge stations on rural highways will be helpful.

MiEnergy has a special EV rate and charger rebates available.

Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency write on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.



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Partnership brings broadband to underserved rural areas

MiBroadband provides fixed wireless service in southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa



A key topic addressed by elected officials at the 2018 National Rural Electric Cooperative Legislative Conference was rural broadband. It was also the primary focus coming from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the 2018 Farm Bill and Omnibus spending bill. USDA's Office of Rural Development asked electric cooperatives to do what they did to electrify rural America in the 1930s and to connect rural America with broadband today. It led MiEnergy to become actively engaged,

Most areas of southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa show up as underserved areas in statewide broadband coverage maps. The low-density challenges that MiEnergy has for electric distribution system with three to four members per mile of line is equally challenging for plowing fiber. Yet everyone is deserving of access to quality broadband service, and a combination of fiber and fixed wireless is a viable solution.

Rural electrification was deemed one of our country's greatest achievements. The expansion of broadband is another. In addition to improving quality of life for its membership, MiEnergy recognizes it's an economic development resource for attracting families and businesses to the area. There are also a host of energy efficiency technologies that rely on broadband such as Wi-Fi thermostats, smart lighting and whole house heating/air conditioning controls.

In July of 2018, MiEnergy announced

its partnership with Mabel Cooperative Telephone Company and Spring Grove Communications to create MiBroadband. It also added ownership in Harmony Telephone Company, which provides service and expertise for MiBroadband. Your local electric cooperative led this initiative by joining two respected local telecommunications cooperatives.

The partnership that created MiBroadband emulates the Sixth Cooperative Principle of Cooperation Among Cooperatives, to deliver broadband to enhance the quality of life for rural residents.

HOW IT WORKS

Prior to the partnership, MiEnergy built a broadband network to communicate between its Rushford and Cresco offices, serving as a superhighway following its merger in 2017. This led to creating a network that helps communicate and automate substation equipment across the electric service territory. The same smart grid equipment at MiEnergy's 43 substations that enhances connectivity serves as the backbone for MiBroadband's wireless broadband network. Currently,

MiBroadband service can be tapped from five of MiEnergy's substations and approximately 50 other tower locations.

Fixed wireless broadband works in a similar fashion to cell phone communication with towers carrying a signal.

MiBroadband customers need to have a radio at a fixed location (home, farm or business) that communicates to an antenna on a nearby tower (or monopole). Customers need a line of sight to the tower which can send a signal approximately five to seven miles.

We're proud to say we are a partner in delivering state-of-the-art broadband service in the heart of our service territory through MiBroadband. Our efforts are

making life-changing differences for rural members that did not have broadband access before.

LOANS & GRANTS HELP EXPAND SERVICE

Broadband service is more important than ever. It allows for distance learning opportunities, increases the ability for individuals to work from home and helps meet the advancements in technology surrounding agriculture. However, infrastructure costs continue to provide challenges to bringing service to rural areas.

MiBroadband has been able to secure \$17 million in grants and grant/loan combinations. This is allowing MiBroadband to expand fiber to areas more quickly than initially expected.

Without grants, expansion to certain areas oftentimes is not financially feasible due to the high cost of infrastructure per location served. With lower population densities, providing this future-proof technology in rural areas becomes too costly of an investment without the loan and grant partnerships available. These grants, loans and combination funds enable the federal government to partner with the private sector and rural communities to build modern broadband infrastructure in areas with insufficient internet service which is defined as connection speeds of less than 10 megabits per second (Mbps) download and 1 Mbps upload.

MIBROADBAND LOCATION & EMPLOYEES

MiBroadband's office is in Harmony, Minn., and housed with Harmony Telephone Company. All MiBroadband calls come in and technicians go out from the Harmony office. When you come



Employees of MiBroadband and Harmony Telephone Company.

Q&A with MiBroadband

How do I know if you can serve my home, business or farm?

For fixed wireless service to work properly, it needs a direct line of sight from your location to a tower. We have active towers in Cherry Grove, Cresco, Decorah, Elma, Fountain, Jackson Junction, New Hampton, Peterson, Preston, Rushford and Spring Valley. Employees can help determine if your location can be served. Even if we can't serve you now, we are continually reviewing areas for expansion and keep waiting lists, so we can contact you when we are in your area.

What if I have problems with my service? Is there someone to call?

As a cooperative-owned business, providing quality customer service is important to us. This means when you call our office you get a person, not an automated attendant. We have a local office with customer service representatives and technicians willing to help. We also have a 24/7 emergency line and after-hours tech support. No matter what time of day, you will be talking with someone local.

With several different packages available, how do I know what to choose?

We match packages to meet the needs of the customer. Our employees ask questions to learn more about what types of tasks a customer wants to be able to do and can recommend a package with adequate bandwidth. Certain tasks take more or less bandwidth than others. As a customer's needs change, the package can be adjusted.

	PACKAGE 1	PACKAGE 2	PACKAGE 3	PACKAGE 4
	\$45 per month	\$60 per month	\$75 per month	\$90 per month
	3 MB Download	10 MB Download	30 MB Download	50 MB Download
	1 MB Upload	1 MB Upload	5 MB Upload	10 MB Upload

to MiBroadband's office or see their employees out in the field, you will notice branding on clothing and vehicles for both MiBroadband and Harmony Telephone Company. The team has expertise in all things related to telephone, cable, TV and broadband and work on behalf of both companies. As a cooperative-owned business, MiBroadband is focused on providing excellent customer service.

Whether you are new to broadband service or just looking for a new provider, MiBroadband's local employees will take care of you from start to finish to

make sure your broadband network is up and running smoothly. They are just a phone call or email away should you have questions as your technology needs change. As a cooperative-owned business, we look forward to the opportunity to serve you.

CONTACT US

35 1st Ave NE, Harmony, Minn.
507-886-6422 or 866-882-6422
www.MiBroadband.com

"Having MiBroadband as a reliable internet source has had a major impact on our professional and personal lives. It has given us the flexibility to do work and research from home as well as, provide our whole family with the opportunity for at-home education and streaming entertainment. This would not have been previously possible or affordable in our rural setting."

—John and Michelle Rein, Lanesboro, Minn.



MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS RECare Consumer Contribution Fund

Watch for an insert included with your electric bill this month for your chance to make a difference in your local communities by participating in MiEnergy's RECare program. RECare is a consumer contribution fund in which members like you assist other members who need help in paying electric bills. Consider a one-time contribution or enroll to provide monthly contributions. You can also go to www.MiEnergy.coop to fill out a donation form.

MINNESOTA MEMBERS:

To apply for RECare funds, please contact the MiEnergy office at 800-432-2285.

IOWA MEMBERS:

To apply for RECare funds, please contact Northeast Iowa Community Action offices in Chickasaw, Howard and Winneshiek counties.

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

RECare is a consumer contribution fund in which members like you assist other members who need help in paying utility bills. Consider a one-time contribution or enroll to provide monthly contributions.

Whether it is \$1, \$5, or \$10 a month or a single donation of any amount of your choice, when combined with those of other generous members, your assistance can go a long way in helping others. MiEnergy Cooperative appreciates your generosity and the pledges given by members to help our members in need.

Complete the form on the opposite side or visit www.MiEnergy.coop today to fill out a donation form.



SIGN UP NOW POWER OUTAGE NOTIFICATIONS

MiEnergy Cooperative offers power outage text notification. 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 necessary to have a text message sent to you to notify you when power is out and when power has been restored.

Shine the Light contest finalists



Earlier this summer, the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa sponsored a new contest to highlight our cooperative commitment to community. The Shine the Light contest opened during the month of June and member-consumers and employees of Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives were invited to nominate volunteers in their communities who are making a difference.

"We were very pleased with the response we received this first year," remarked Erin Campbell, Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives director of communications. "This contest gave our co-op members a wonderful opportunity to show their appreciation for family, friends and neighbors who are making a positive difference in their communities."

Thirty-nine nominations were received from across the state, highlighting the work of incredible Iowans. Three finalists were selected:



- Suzanne Askelsen of Cambridge is a member of Consumers Energy and was nominated by Carol Gilbert, a Midland Power Cooperative member. Suzanne was recognized for her work with the Ballard Education Foundation. She was part of the new foundation's steering committee and served as the first president for four

years, identifying event sponsors and taking the lead on fundraising. A mother of six, she makes it a priority to serve in her community.

- Deb McWhirter, a Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative member, nominated George North of Allison for his work with Wilder Park. Driven by his ethos to serve others, George is a retired dentist with a long record of community involvement, including several years as a scout leader. He was instrumental in developing Wilder Park to provide affordable outdoor recreational services in Butler County.



- Marlene Walthart of Estherville was nominated by Dawn Eveleth, a member of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, for her work with the Emmet County Animal Shelter. Motivated by their love for animals, Marlene and her husband Larry have volunteered at the animal shelter for years and continue to serve the facility in various ways. Marlene and Larry also set up a can redemption center next door to raise money

for the shelter.

Each finalist was honored with a \$1,500 donation to their local charity. The winners will also be featured in the September issue of Living with Energy in Iowa magazine. All 39 nominators and nominees were highlighted in the August issue of the magazine. Ronda Hughes from Lime Springs was nominated by Jason Passmore of MiEnergy Cooperative for her work with the Lime Springs Betterment Foundation.

The Shine the Light contest will return next summer.

FARM SAFETY

POWER SOURCES

Make sure EVERYONE is trained on safe practices around power transmission. This includes you, your employees, seasonal workers, family members and anyone else accessing your farm. Keep in mind:

- Bigger equipment allows farmers to cover more ground in less time; however, this can be a hazard when electrical infrastructures are nearby.
- Inexperienced, fatigued or distracted operators are more likely to come in contact with a power line or pole.
- Sources of electricity include power lines, electrical boxes and damaged (non-grounded) guy wires.

If your equipment does hit a power line, pole or guy wire, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.



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Wishing you a safe harvest season!



Opportunity for Iowa high school students interested in public service and leadership

Guided by our commitment to community, MiEnergy, and its predecessors Hawkeye REC and Tri-County Electric Cooperative, has a long history of supporting students in the communities we serve through scholarships and leadership opportunities. We've also been sending deserving high school students to our nation's capital every summer for years as part of the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program.

The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives is pleased to offer a new opportunity for rural students to learn more about advocacy, electric cooperative career opportunities and the cooperative business model with a three-part webinar series in October. The Iowa Youth Leadership Academy is open to any Iowa high school student in our service area, and they are invited to register at www.IowaYouthTour.com.

This new program is designed for rural Iowa students who have a passion for public service, leadership or government. The program will raise students' awareness of how local electric co-ops power people's lives and empower communities. Cooperative career paths that are available in smaller communities will also be discussed.

Once students register online for the Iowa Youth



Leadership Academy, they can attend the webinars from their own computer or mobile device. Each Zoom session will last around 45-60 minutes and focus on a specific topic:

- Tuesday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m. – Cooperative Business Model
- Thursday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m. – Rural Iowa Advocacy
- Tuesday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m. – Civic Involvement and Leadership

At the end of each live session, one lucky attendee will be selected at random to win a pair of Apple AirPods. Students who attend all three sessions will be entered into a random drawing for a \$1,000 college scholarship.

During the Zoom sessions, students will be inspired by the line-up of speakers and presenters. Students will learn how to advocate for issues that are important to them and learn about leadership development from a motivational speaker. Attendees will also hear from former Iowa Youth Tour students who pursued their passion for government service and leadership after attending the weeklong trip to Washington, D.C. The 2022 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is slated for June 18-24 next summer.

Learn more at www.IowaYouthTour.com.



STORM RESTORATION – ALLISON, IOWA

MiEnergy lineworkers Clint Lickteig and Caleb Steiner spent August 25 helping Butler REC with power restoration following storms that blew through the area August 24. The REC serves about 5,000 members in Bremer, Butler, Chickasaw and Floyd counties. The two-person crew helped rebuild some three-phase power line. Other cooperatives assisting included Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, Grundy County REC and Midland Power Cooperative.



HOUSTON COUNTY FAIR – CALEDONIA, MINN.

MiEnergy lineworkers Randall Ashbacher (pictured left) and Matt Ginther were invited to provide electric safety demonstrations at the Houston County Farm Bureau's booth at the Houston County Fair.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OFFICE INFORMATION

Open Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
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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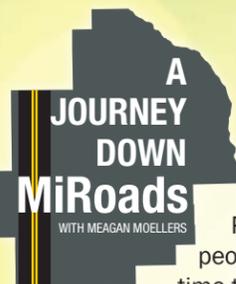
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STEVE OIAN vice president of operations - Minnesota
VASSIL VUTOV vice president of information technology
MIKE WALTON vice president of operations - Iowa
KENT WHITCOMB vice president of member services

MINEWS STAFF

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

2021 OFFICES CLOSED

SEPT 16 Employee Development Day
NOV 25 Thanksgiving Day
NOV 26 Day after Thanksgiving
DEC 9 Employee Development Day
DEC 24 Christmas Eve Day
DEC 27 Christmas Day (observed)
DEC 31 New Year's Eve close at 11:30 a.m.



What makes you happy and thankful? SUBMIT AN ENTRY TODAY!

Plans are underway for a special newsletter issue during the month of November. What makes people happy? What are you most thankful for? The month that surrounds Thanksgiving is a good time to focus on what's really important in life. And here's your chance to share your stories of gratitude.

Tell us what you are thankful for and let us see it by submitting a photo. Maybe it's being connected with nature and it's a photo of your favorite place to reconnect and relax. Maybe you have learned to appreciate the little things in life. Let's fill the pages of our November issue.

Anything goes! Big or small. Be a part of this feel-good feature story. Share a couple sentences or a whole story or send a favorite photo with a caption. Email: mmeoellers@MiEnergy.coop or call 800-432-2285. Include name, address, phone number and MiEnergy account number.

Deadline is October 8, 2021.

Members participating will be put in a drawing for a cozy Sherpa MiEnergy blanket for their submissions.

JOIN THE FUN!

HAPPINESS & THANKFULNESS





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DPC

Thank You!

MiEnergy would like to thank members who voluntarily participated in the Summer Shift campaign during June, July and August. The Summer Shift incorporated simple modifications and new habits such as delaying the dishwasher, turning up the thermostat and shifting the start of laundry that will help change tomorrow's lifestyles for the next generation. Thanks for helping to keep electric rates affordable for everyone.



Looking ahead to National Cooperative Month

I ♥ MiCo-op Gift Basket Drawing Coming in October



It's your chance to win a basket of locally produced goods

To show appreciation to our members, MiEnergy is pleased to announce a gift basket giveaway in honor of National Cooperative Month in October. MiEnergy will draw names to give away 50 gift baskets filled with local items to members that enter the contest. And better yet, the co-op will come to you! A representative from MiEnergy will deliver the baskets to each winning residence.

CONTEST DETAILS:

The contest opens on October 1. Visit www.MiEnergy.coop/MiCoopContest and complete the form or call 800-432-2285. Members must provide their name, phone number, account number and service address to enter.

The contest closes on October 28. Winning members will be notified by phone on October 29. Baskets will be delivered Nov. 2-5.

CONTEST RULES:

One entry per membership. Employees and directors are not eligible to enter the contest.

Watch for more information in the October MiNews!