

# Current Matters



Nobles Cooperative  
Electric

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

April 2023  
Vol. 15 Issue 4

## Easy behavior changes to save money

**Q:** I want to lower my energy use, but I don't know where to start. What are some ways I can save energy without spending a lot of money?

**A:** You can change your energy use by changing your behavior. When looking at electric bills, many people focus on the total dollar amount of the bill. When trying to manage your energy costs, we suggest changing your focus to energy use.

While you don't have control over the cost of the energy, you can control how much energy you use. Think about your bills in kilowatt-hours (kWh). Review your monthly kWh use to get an idea of how much you use every month.

Once (20-34-28) you've reviewed your energy use, set goals for the next month. Try to use less energy than the month before, and check your results on your next bill.

Consider Nobles Cooperative Electric's (NCE) time-of-use rate, which means electricity costs are dependent on the time of day. This pricing structure closely reflects the cost to electric utilities and helps members understand that energy costs more when the demand for it is higher.

Even if your electric bill does not include time-of-use rates, it can be beneficial to delay energy-intensive chores or tasks to when demand is lower. Peak

hours are typically in the morning as we prepare for work and in the evening when we get home and start preparing food and turning on entertainment devices. Doing laundry and running the dishwasher are easy activities to delay until after peak hours.

When looking for energy savings, remember that "off" is the most efficient setting. Turning off lights is a classic strategy, especially if your lighting is incandescent. Consider switching to energy-saving LED lightbulbs.

Computers and gaming systems can waste energy even when in sleep mode. The higher the wattage and the more hours the device is on, the more energy used.

You can lower your energy use even more with smart power strips, which cut power to devices that are not in use. Many electronics continue to draw power even when they are turned off. This could add 5% to 10% to your monthly bill, according to the Department of Energy.

When it comes to lowering your energy use, the closer you can keep the indoor temperature to the outdoor temperature, the more you will save.

Understanding your energy use and making small adjustments to your routine will help you reach your energy use goals.

## Energy saving tip

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

## Mark your calendar

Apr. 22 ..... Earth Day

Apr. 30 ..... Electric bills due

May 14 ..... Happy Mother's Day

## Find your location number and win a \$10 credit

If you find your location number (as it appears on your monthly electric bill) in this issue, you will receive a \$10 credit.

## April Auto Pay Winner Roger Henning

Take a minute to sign up for Auto Pay and you may win a \$25 bill credit. A winner is chosen each month.



Manager's Message



Don't miss the "Follow the Food Truck" coupons



Youth Tour winners announced



General Manager  
**Adam Tromblay**

## Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) could save you energy and money

Are you looking to make energy efficiency improvements in 2023? Now is the time, thanks to the \$370 billion Federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) signed in 2022. These dollars are in the form of tax credits and rebates such as heat pumps, home wiring, appliance upgrades and even the purchase of an electric vehicle. Some incentives may cover up to 100 percent of the cost of purchase.

The rebates are (33-16-63COM) anticipated to become available later this year with guidelines on how the program works and how to capture the savings.

Please keep in mind information regarding the IRA is constantly changing. To learn more, a great place to start is to view the IRA savings calculator at [## Wishing Sherry Swanson a happy retirement](https://www.rewir-</a></p></div>
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Sherry retires after a 24-year career in the electric industry. She began her career at Federated Rural Electric Association in 1999 and joined NCE as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) in July 2014. She is officially retiring following a very successful career at NCE.

“My experience with the cooperative has been very rewarding and I appreciate the time I spent working here. I wish Nobles Cooperative Electric and its team continued success,” stated Sherry.

Over all the years, she has been instrumental in the procurement of



USDA funds for the Brewster and Welcome wind turbine projects, Co-Bank Sharing Success grants, acquisition of the former Alliant accounts, rate redesign and MyMeter implementation.

“I greatly appreciate Sherry’s tireless dedication, sound judgement and significant contribution to the cooperative. Her financial expertise and strong commitment have been invaluable. I want to take the time to wish Sherry and her family all the best in the years ahead.” - *General Manager/CEO Adam Tromblay*

[ingamerica.org/app/ira-calculator](http://ingamerica.org/app/ira-calculator) to see what you may qualify for. You will also find a guide you can download that includes:

- Everything you need to know about the incentives.
- Equipment overviews: What is a heat pump water heater anyway?
- Case studies: So you can find the household most like yours and start seeing (516-38-226) your own electric transformation.
- A checklist to help you build your own electric plan.

## Be sure to keep your contact info up-to-date

We need your help to ensure we

have accurate information regarding your account on file. Did your phone number change? Maybe you have a new email address? This allows us to provide you with the highest level of service you can expect from NCE. It ensures timely notifications regarding your account and speeds up the restoration process too. NCE does not share any of your contact information.

Please take the time to update your contact information using the enclosed bill insert. The form also lists former members whose capital credits (dividend) checks were returned to us with no forwarding address. Please help us locate them.



1-800-776-0517



[nce@noblesce.com](mailto:nce@noblesce.com)



## Exclusive Member Appreciation Coupons "Follow the Food Truck"

Looking for something to do? There are a lot of great events happening and NCE is partnering with Lingen Dairy to treat you to some tasty treats from burgers to cheese curds and ice cream. Be sure to use the coupons below at one or more locations. No duplication or printing will be accepted. No change will be given back. Two coupons can be used at once.

Slayton  
WonderWorld  
**May 17**

Worthington  
Regatta  
**June 9**

Lake Wilson  
Town & Country Days  
**June 16**

Leota Night at  
the Park  
**June 21**

Currie Town &  
Country Days  
**July 4**

Balaton Fun  
Fest  
**July 8 and 9**

*Good only at Lingen Dairy Food Truck*

Exclusive 2023 Member Appreciation Gift

**\$5 Off**  
Food Truck  
Coupon



Coupon can only be used at events advertised in the Current Matters

Exclusive 2023 Member Appreciation Gift

**\$5 Off**  
Food Truck  
Coupon



Coupon can only be used at events advertised in the Current Matters

# 2023 Youth Tour Contest Winners

NCE is proud to announce the 2023 Youth Tour Contest Winner. Isabel Thier, a junior from Adrian High School, has been selected to represent NCE at the 2023 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 13-18. She is the daughter of Dave and Ann of Rushmore. Isabel's career goal is to work in human resources or to be an event coordinator. She will be representing NCE among 1,900 high school students from cooperatives throughout the country.

The scholarship winner selected, Jocelyn Horn, attends (22-59-61) Adrian High School as a junior. She is hoping to pursue a career in performing arts and/or communications (double major). Jocelyn won a \$500 scholarship. She is the son of Dan and Monica of Adrian.

Maggie Lenz, a freshman who attends Ellsworth High School, received \$100. She is the daughter of Suzanne and Jereme of Ellsworth.

The Youth Tour is open to all high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors that live or go to school in NCE's service area. Those that apply participate in the contest by completing an application and writing an essay. A panel of three judges review each submitted application and essay. They choose the finalists, interview them and determine which finalist wins the trip of a lifetime.

For some, the Youth Tour is a first experience away from home. For many, it is their first trip to Washington, D.C., where they have the opportunity to see our nation's history come alive before their eyes. "This is a trip of a lifetime," said General Manager/CEO Adam Tromblay, "a perfect opportunity to travel to the center of our nation's government, work with cooperative leaders (11-35-25) from across the country and enhance leadership skills."

The Youth Tour is a top-notch tour that includes meetings with national leaders, as well as visiting all the major sights. Students also meet and discuss their views and interests with students from other states while learning about government, history, careers in public service and electric cooperatives. NCE sponsors this program to identify and encourage future leaders in our community.



**2023 Youth Tour Winner**  
*Junior Isabel Thier; Adrian High School*

## Country Cupboard Sugar Cookie Fruit Pizzas

½ c. sugar  
1 T. cornstarch  
½ c. unsweetened pineapple juice  
¼ c. water  
2 T. lemon juice  
4 oz. cream cheese, softened

For glaze, in a small saucepan, combine the sugar, cornstarch, pineapple juice, water and lemon juice until smooth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Transfer to a small bowl; refrigerate until cooled but not set. In a small bowl, beat cream cheese and confectioners sugar until smooth; fold in whipped topping. Spread over cookies. Arrange fruit on top; drizzle with glaze. Refrigerate for an hour or until chilled.

Send your **grilled recipes** to Nobles Cooperative Electric, ATTN: Tracey, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187-0788. Entries must include your name, address, telephone number and NCE location number. All entries must be received by April 25. The winning recipe will be featured in the next edition of *Current Matters* and the winner will receive a **\$10 credit** on their electric bill.

**Evelyn Ackerman**  
Tracy

¼ c. confectioners sugar  
1 - ¾ c. whipped topping  
12 sugar cookies (3 inches)  
1 c. fresh blueberries  
1 c. chopped peeled kiwifruit  
½ c. chopped strawberries



**Nobles Cooperative  
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### Website

[www.noblesce.coop](http://www.noblesce.coop)

### Email address

[nce@noblesce.com](mailto:nce@noblesce.com)

### Office hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday  
Oct. 1 - April 30

### 24-Hour outage service

800-776-0517

### Gopher State One-Call

800-252-1166 or 811

### Electrical inspectors

Murray County  
Randal Maha - 507-274-5261  
Nobles County  
Austin Kurtz - 651-368-3021

### General Manager

Adam Tromblay

### Board of Directors

Ronald Schwartau, President - 220-8148\*  
Lee York, V. President - 879-3497\*  
Cindy Hokeness, Sec./Treas. - 478-4965\*  
Jerry Beckering, Director - 227-4074\*  
Timothy Bickett, Director - 605-670-5294  
Gary Clarke, Director - 605-201-1903  
David Dorpinghaus, Director - 605-695-7816\*  
\*Telephone prefix 507

### Next Board Meeting

May 19, 2023

This cooperative is an equal  
opportunity provider and employer.

