

# Current Matters

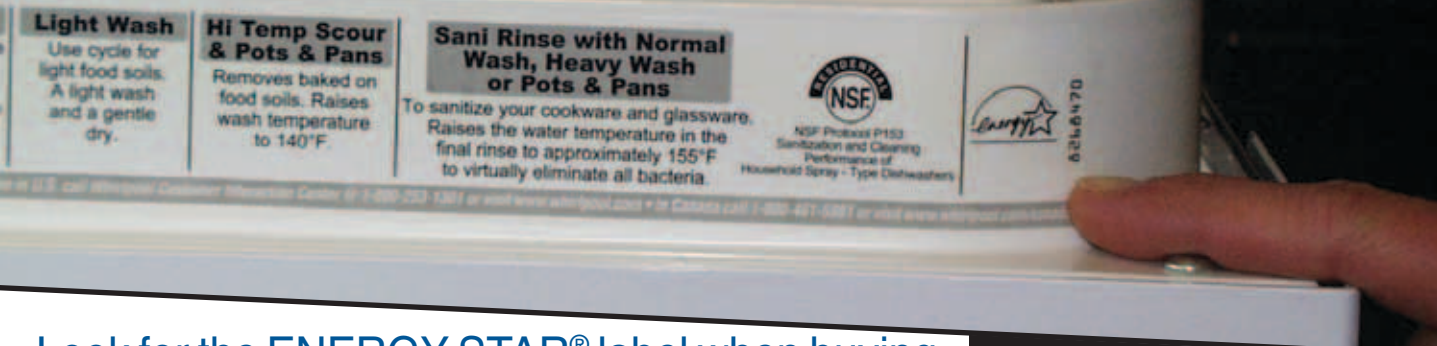
Committed to improving the quality of life of our members

June 2010  
Vol. 2 Issue 6



Nobles Cooperative  
Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Look for the ENERGY STAR® label when buying appliances and get money back

From appliances to heating and cooling equipment, Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) offers members a variety of rebates.

To qualify for a rebate, you must purchase an ENERGY STAR® qualifying appliance and install it in NCE's service territory. A rebate form must be completed (found at our office or online at [www.noblesce.coop](http://www.noblesce.coop)) with a copy of the sales receipt showing the brand name and model you have purchased. A NCE staff member will then validate the rebate form, model information and will credit your account for the appropriate rebate.

### Residential rebates

- Clothes washer \$25
- Dishwasher \$25
- Replacement refrigerator or freezer with recycling \$75
- New construction only refrigerator or freezer \$50
- Dehumidifier \$25
- Ductless air-source heat pump \$300
- Room air conditioner \$35
- Lighting fixtures (lamps, torchieres) \$20

*(Please see the details on page three for heat pump and air conditioning rebates.)*

## Energy saving tip

During summer months when air conditioners work hardest, do energy-intensive tasks such as laundry and dish washing during off-peak energy demand hours, usually in the early morning or later evening.

*Source: Alliance to Save Energy*

## Mark your calendar

- June 20 ..... Father's Day
- June 21 ..... Summer begins
- July 1 ..... Read your meter
- July 4 ..... Independence Day
- July 5 ..... Our offices will be closed  
Linemen will be on call for outages.
- July 12 ..... Electric bills due

## The benefits of ENERGY STAR appliances

When buying an appliance, remember that it has two price tags: what you pay to take it home and what you pay for the energy and water it uses. ENERGY STAR qualified appliances incorporate advanced technologies that use 10 to 50 percent less energy and water than standard models.

For top performance, premium features and energy savings, look for energy-efficient clothes washers, refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, room air conditioners, lighting fixtures and dehumidifiers that have earned the ENERGY STAR. This mark may appear on the appliance, the packaging or the ENERGY GUIDE label.



Manager's message



Cycled AC program  
pays to keep you cool



Co-op Connections  
card coming soon



**A word from your General Manager**  
by Richard 'Rick' Burud

**Spring growth**

With spring weather here and planting season almost complete, everyone is pretty upbeat. Ah...yes, it is nice to see growth and productivity in our service territory.

**Key issues in Washington, D.C.**

I recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to visit with our elected officials. Let me tell you, I don't believe all the issues will be solved in Washington, but may need our attention. The political party responses to the

issues may not be in our best interests. My take is we need true "statesmen and stateswomen" with a whole bunch of common sense.

Key topics during my visit were greenhouse gas regulation, deep cuts in the Rural Utilities Service program and proposed energy efficiency legislation.

I wish I had better news, but most of the proposed legislation is slow moving, if at all, with each party blaming the other. As the public (you and I) listens to the press, both parties will soon realize that we will do a "wholesale" change of our representatives. They need to do what's right for the electorate.

It can be frustrating, but I still believe strongly that we have the best political system in the world. Nobody said it was fast or efficient!

**Service upgrades**

Do you need a service upgrade? Be sure to visit with Bill at the Worthington office (507-372-7331) or Tom at our Slayton office (507-836-6107), so you'll be sure to have your upgrade when it is needed.



*Taylor and Kailee Haberman digging up trouble*

**Call before you dig**

You may be planning a summer project, such as adding on, building a deck or planting trees. These are all great projects, but they can be dangerous and costly if you do not take precautionary measures. NCE urges you to be careful and call Gopher State One Call (1-800-252-1166) before you dig. It's the law!

The "Call Before You Dig" law (Minnesota Statute 216D) requires that any excavator must call the state-wide notification center before doing any digging more than 12-inches deep at least 48 hours (excluding weekends, holidays and emergencies) prior to the start of digging. Operators of pipelines, electrical lines, telephone lines and other utilities are notified and must use color-coded markings to show the location of their lines or facilities on the site. Information needed is the type of work being done, how long the work will take and where the work site is located. The work site location also includes the legal description of the property (township, range, section/quarter). This information can be obtained from property tax statements.



*Senator Klobuchar and General Manager Burud*

**ACT NOW**  **Our Energy, Our Future\***  
A Dialogue With America  
to keep your electric bills affordable.

**The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is taking steps to regulate greenhouse gases using a law never designed for that purpose.**

**Even the Clean Air Act author\* predicts the results will be...**

**"...a glorious MESS."**

\*U.S. Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich)

**URGE your elected officials to co-sponsor legislation to prevent this from happening.**

Go to [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) to make your voice heard.

ANOTHER BRIGHT IDEA FROM NOBLES COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

## Feeling the heat?

It might be time for an AC upgrade.

NCE has partnered in a statewide Quality Installation Certification program that could increase your energy efficiency by up to 30 percent when installing a new, energy-efficient cooling system. Plus, you can only qualify for our exclusive rebates — up to \$630 — by using Certified Quality Installation Contractors.

To ensure you receive the proper system for your home, a professional installation and available rebates, be sure to ask for a Certified Quality Installation Contractor. For a list of contractors in your area, see the list below or visit [www.noblesce.coop](http://www.noblesce.coop) for any updates.



## Cooling your home this summer just got easier

Hot humid days mean a greater demand for air conditioning and energy. NCE has a program available that reduces energy costs and conserves energy. A program that is good for you, the cooperative and the environment.

You can join Nobles Cooperative Electric's Cycled Air Conditioning program. It costs you nothing to participate! But pays you \$35 just for signing up, along with a \$6 credit on your June, July and August bills.

NCE will install and activate a radio receiver on your home next to your air conditioner that cycles the air on and off at 15-minute intervals during peak demand days. Because your furnace fan continues to run, most people do not even notice that the air conditioning is being cycled.

Rebates are also available for members that install air conditioners or air-source heat pumps. However, they must be installed by a Quality Installation Contractor. A Quality

Installation Contractor has been certified, properly sizes your unit and tests the system for optimal performance.

Sign up today for the Cycled Air Conditioning program. This program is the only program that pays to keep you cool!

**Yes, I have an air conditioner or air-source heat pump and want to enroll in the Cycled Air Conditioning program**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City/state/zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Location #: \_\_\_\_\_

Member #: \_\_\_\_\_

Day phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this with your electric bill or mail to:  
Nobles Cooperative Electric, P.O. Box 788,  
Worthington, MN 56187-0788



 Minnesota Historical Society

## Two-for-One Admission with this coupon

This coupon good for one free admission with one paid admission to any of our 26 historic sites and museums.

[www.visitmnhistory.org](http://www.visitmnhistory.org)

Valid through 2010. Not valid for group tours or special paid programs.



Sponsored by Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

## Listing of Quality Installation Contractors

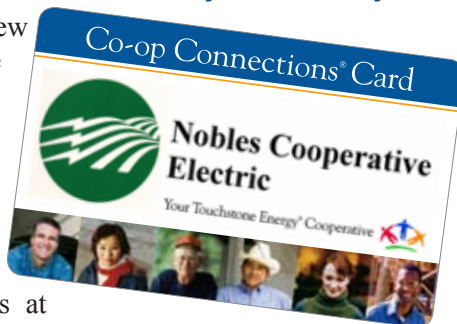
- Adrian Plumbing & Electric, 507-483-2152
- AI's Plumbing & Heating, 507-926-5901
- Brewster Heating & Cooling, 507-842-5353
- BTU Inc., 507-376-6966
- Lolkus Plumbing & Heating, 507-677-2394
- Lowes Sheet Metal Inc., 507-376-5927
- Mike's Plumbing & Heating, 507-836-6158
- Mosley Inc., 507-662-6227
- Parker Plumbing & Heating, 507-836-6560
- Rieck Plumbing & Heating, 507-442-3030
- Sahlstrom's Heating & Cooling, 507-629-3734
- Schwalbach's Plumbing & Heating, 507-372-2792
- Shetek Plumbing & Heating, 507-381-0640
- Sibley Sheet Metal, 712-754-4118
- Spartz Plumbing & Heating, 507-836-8393

## Rebates available with a Quality Installation Contractor

ASHP	\$	AC	\$
13	\$330	13	\$30
14	\$480	14	\$180
15	\$580	15	\$280
16+	\$630	16	\$330

## Coming in September! FREE Co-op Connections® member benefit card designed to save you money

NCE will soon launch a brand new program to its members called the Co-op Connections card. This card-based program is designed to deliver added value to our members by offering valuable discounts at participating local and national businesses. One of the best benefits is the 10 to 60 percent savings on most prescriptions at over 48,000 independent pharmacies and national chains including Target, Walgreens and Wal-Mart, along with The Medicine Shoppe, Shopko and Sterling Drug in Worthington and Thrifty White Pharmacy in Slayton. \$17.3 million has been saved on prescription drugs by cooperative members nationwide!



### Take a look at some of the benefits you will receive with your Co-op Connections card:

1. It's free. There are no costs to join, no membership fees or sign-up costs. This is just one more way you benefit from being a NCE member.
2. You receive discounts on goods and services at local and national businesses (Alamo car rental, Best Western hotels, Barnes & Noble, Days Inn, Dollar Rental Car and many more).
3. **10 to 60 percent off prescription drugs.**
4. At home or on the road, your card is good all over the United States wherever you see the Co-op Connections sticker in a vendor's window.

NCE is approaching local businesses to join the program to offer you valuable discounts. If you have a retailer that you'd like to have join, please let Tracey know by calling 507-372-7331 or e-mail [nce@noblesce.com](mailto:nce@noblesce.com).

You'll receive more information as the time gets closer. Watch your mailbox and keep an eye on our website, [www.noblesce.coop](http://www.noblesce.coop), for more details.

Keeping your lights on remains our number one priority, but we are also committed to bringing you value-added programs and services. That is the cooperative difference!

## Country Cupboard Cherry bars

Bonnie Stugelmeyer  
Worthington

Sift together: 2 cups flour      1/2 c. powdered sugar      cut in 1 c. butter  
Press firmly into ungreased 9x13" pan and bake at 325 degrees for 15 minutes.

Sift together:

1/2 c. flour      1 1/2 c. sugar      1 tsp. baking powder      1 tsp. salt

Add:

4 eggs beaten      1 c. coconut      1 c. cut-up marachino cherries  
1 c. chopped walnuts

Spread over baked mixture and bake 25 minutes. Cool and frost with powdered sugar frosting made with cherry juice.

Send your favorite **picnic fare recipe** to Nobles Cooperative Electric, ATTN: Tracey, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187-0788. Entries must include your name, address, telephone number and NCE's location number. All entries must be received by June 14. 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.



**Nobles Cooperative  
Electric**

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

### Official monthly publication

#### Main office

22636 U.S. Hwy. 59, P.O. Box 788  
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Fax: 507-372-5148

#### Satellite office

1505 20th Street, P.O. Box 56  
Slayton, MN 56172-0056  
Phone: 507-836-6107

#### Website

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

#### E-mail address

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

#### Office hours

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

#### 24-Hour outage service

800-776-0517

#### Gopher State One-Call

800-252-1166

#### WildBlue tech support

888-326-4289

#### Electrical inspectors

Murray County  
Randal Maha - 507-274-5261  
Nobles County  
Scott Preuss - 507-449-8870

#### General Manager

Richard G. Burud

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