



**Nobles Cooperative
Electric**

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Get the jump on drafty windows

Windows provide our homes with light, warmth and ventilation. But when winter sets in, they can have a downside.

Placing your hand against a window pane on a chilly fall morning proves the point: if the pane feels cold, it's a good bet you can reduce energy costs by either insulating your existing windows or installing new, energy-efficient upgrades.

Insulating with draperies is a low-cost quick fix to drafty windows and can reduce heat loss from a room up to 10 percent. They're just as helpful in hot summer months by blocking sunlight. White plastic-backed drapes can reduce heat gain by up to 33 percent.

Interior storm window panels are another low-cost fix and consist of flexible or rigid plastic installed over or adhered to existing window panes. Installation is fairly simple and panels are either taped on or mounted with Velcro, magnetic strips or snap-in seals. Put them up in autumn and remove them in spring to reduce winter heat loss by up to 50 percent.

If you're in the market for new windows altogether, be sure to choose

energy-efficient models that will shave heating, cooling and lighting costs year round.

Energy Star® has established a set of energy performance ratings, tailored to four climate zones across the United States, to guide you in selecting windows perfect for your home. These performance ratings are broken into several categories, although the two most basic are U-Factor and Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC), which can be found on window stickers or packaging.

The U-Factor measures how easily heat can flow through a window, not counting direct sunlight. The lower the number, the more energy efficient the window.

SHGC measures how much heat from sunlight can be absorbed by the window. A high number means the window remains effective at collecting heat during winter. A low number provides greater shading ability and may be best for Southern climates.

Visit www.energystar.gov for more details on our climate zone and other criteria to consider when shopping for new windows.

Energy saving tip

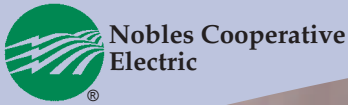
Windows provide great views of the outdoors, light, ventilation and solar heating in the winter. Unfortunately, they also account for 10 to 25 percent of your heating bill. High-performance ENERGY STAR-labeled windows can cut your heating and cooling costs by as much as 30 percent.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, Alliance to Save Energy

Mark your calendar

October 31 Happy Halloween!
November 1 Read your meter
November 10 Electric bills due
November 11 Veterans Day

Yes, I would like a free subscription to Nobles Cooperative Electric's *Power Up*: a monthly ecommunication that provides tips, recommendations and resources that can lower my energy costs. Use the following link to sign-up now for the monthly ecommunication at <http://www.myenergytips.com/Register.aspx?accountID=74>.



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

AMR/AMI project approved by board — to begin this year

During the next two years, your cooperative will be installing automatic meter reading (AMR) and advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) at your service.

The project will begin in the fall and winter of 2009, with all large power and seasonal meters read monthly by Nobles. Following a successful first-phase deployment, AMR and AMI will be deployed in 2010 by township for the entire system.

This new system will do more than read your meter. It will inform us of an outage, give daily readings, monitor voltages at your location and present you this information via the Internet.

Be sure to follow the progress and look for deployment schedules in *Current Matters*, as we move down this new era of data acquisition.



Illuminate your holidays

This year, shine a new light on the season with GE Energy Smart® LED Holiday Lights. Bright, rich-looking LED lights use less than four percent of the electricity of traditional string lights, yet LED lights are long-lasting, produce almost no heat and have no fragile filaments to break. And because they are shock-resistant and not affected by extreme temperature changes, they are less likely to wear out or break. Changing to LED is a bright way to reduce your family's energy needs.

Use your coupon for \$3 OFF GE Energy Smart® LED Holiday Lights
Offer good from October 1 - December 24, 2009

Enter for your chance to win a \$500 energy credit
mnbrighterideas.com

We need your help!

Nobles Cooperative Electric and its wholesale power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE), are working together to make sure your future energy needs are met.

In order to plan for the future, GRE will be mailing a residential survey to randomly-selected members in October.

The results of the survey will help determine future energy growth, predict summer and winter peak growth and determine residential usage patterns.

If you are one of our randomly-selected participants, please take a few moments to complete and return the survey. The information you provide will remain confidential. It will be used only for a statistical summary analysis of residential members.



mnbrighterideas.com



MANUFACTURERS COUPON EXPIRES DEC 24, 2009
SAVE \$3.00
on any ENERGY STAR® qualified GE ENERGY SMART® LED Holiday lighting product purchase



Consumer: Coupon valid only on your purchase of any GE ENERGY SMART® LED Holiday Lights Product. You pay sales tax. Coupon may not be reproduced or combined with another offer and is non-transferable. Void if transferred, exchanged, sold or reproduced. Offer limited to one purchase in U.S.A., its territories and military exchanges. **Retailer:** GE will reimburse you the face value plus 8¢ handling provided you have accepted this coupon in accordance with GE's Coupon Redemption Policy. Void where prohibited. Cash value 1/100 of 1¢. For copy of policy and/or coupon redemption mail to: GE Consumer & Industrial Lighting Products, P.O. Box 880650, El Paso, TX 88588-0650.
Coupon expires: December 24, 2009 02093305 60000
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Savings with a ground source heat pump

By Adam Tromblay, Member Services Manager

With an aging furnace in the home, it was time to start looking for something new. We wanted to make the best choice to heat and cool our house over time versus the alternative of making a late night decision when our 28-year old furnace could not do the job.

Working at the cooperative, exposes me to all forms of heating and cooling technologies, plus the economics of producing BTUs to heat and cool buildings. After weighing all the options, we decided to purchase a ground source heat pump (GSHP) for our home.

GSHPs come with a large upfront cost, but are the most efficient form of heating and cooling on the market. They have a good payback in the upgraded installation cost and a very low cost of operation. GSHPs capture the heat from the sun in the soil through a series of tubes, a refrigeration process and then transfer the heat or cool the air into a building through standard ductwork or in floor tubes.

With LP at or near an all time high last fall, it was a great time for us to

get away from a conventional heating system and purchase a GSHP.

For educational purposes, we installed a meter that would measure exactly how much electricity would be used to heat and cool my 3,600 square foot home. After a year of having the system installed, the kilowatts were totaled and compared to what we had been spending with a realized savings of \$2,149 (72 percent savings). The dollars saved were higher than we expected.

It was the benefits that we didn't anticipate that made a substantial impact, such as no longer having hot or cold spots, the reduction in allergy problems with the large air movement and the production of hot water to use from "waste" heat from the system. These benefits are hard to put a dollar figure on, but just as meaningful.

With the current tax credits and cooperative rebates, installation is more affordable than ever.

A special thank you to Terra Therm and Slayton Plumbing and Heating for working on the project.

Interested in serving on the Nominating Committee?

Members will be selected at the November Board of Directors meeting to serve on a Nominating Committee. They will nominate members of Nobles Cooperative Electric to run for director elections at next year's March Annual Meeting.

The selection of the Nominating Committee will be according to Article II, Section 1 of the Bylaws of the association. The committee shall be comprised of six members of this association. One member of said committee shall reside in each district. No director, officer nor any employee of this association shall be a member of the Nominating Committee.

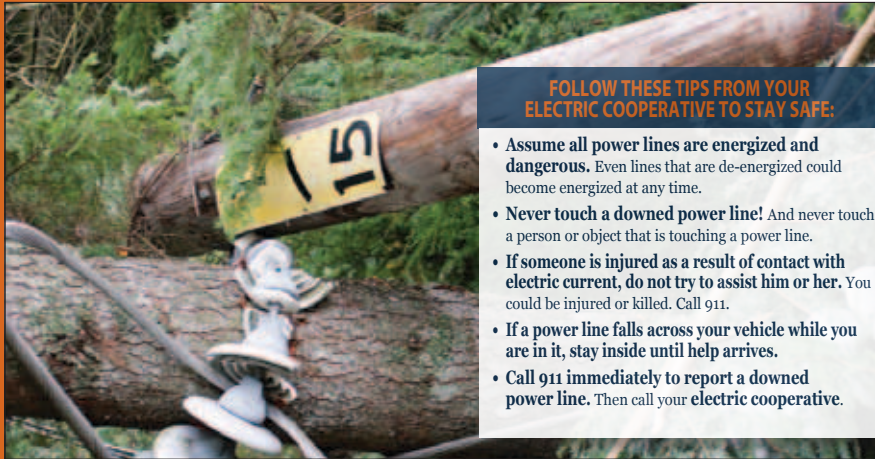
The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one member of this association from Districts Three and Five to run for election at the March 27 Annual Meeting. The committee shall post its nominations in both offices of this association at least 45 days before the Annual Meeting.

Nominations can also be made by any 15 or more members making a nomination in writing over their signatures not less than 25 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The secretary will post it at the same places where the first list of nominations made by the committee are posted. Nominations can also be made at the Annual Meeting.

If you are a Nobles' member and would like to serve on the Nominating Committee, please call the cooperative's office or a board member prior to November 13.

Stay Clear!

A downed power line may not be a dead line.
It could cause serious injury or death.



FOLLOW THESE TIPS FROM YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE TO STAY SAFE:

- Assume all power lines are energized and dangerous. Even lines that are de-energized could become energized at any time.
- Never touch a downed power line! And never touch a person or object that is touching a power line.
- If someone is injured as a result of contact with electric current, do not try to assist him or her. You could be injured or killed. Call 911.
- If a power line falls across your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside until help arrives.
- Call 911 immediately to report a downed power line. Then call your electric cooperative.

COOPERATIVES: STRONGER TOGETHER

October is Cooperative Month

Fuels used to generate electricity are getting more expensive. That's driving prices up. Your electric cooperative is working hard to make a difference. By investing in new technology to improve efficiency and reliability, your local cooperative is looking out for you.

We're proud to be owned by our members and work each day to uphold the cooperative principles that define why we exist. Quality service is our bottom line — we work for you!

The complaint process for members in Iowa

If you have a concern or complaint regarding Nobles Cooperative Electric, the complaint should be addressed to: Richard G. Burud, General Manager, Nobles Cooperative Electric, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187-0788, Phone: 507-372-7331.

If your complaint is related to the services of Nobles Cooperative Electric, rather than its rates and Nobles does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from: Utilities Division, Department of Commerce, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319, Phone: 515-281-5979.

Country Cupboard Crock Pot Roast

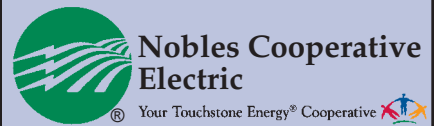
4 lbs. butt pork roast	1/4 c. apple cider vinegar
1 chopped onion	1 1/2 c. ketchup
2 cloves chopped garlic	1/4 c. brown sugar
1 can french onion soup	

Combine all the ingredients in a crock pot. Cook 6-8 hours. Pull meat and shred up before you make sandwiches.

This freezes great if you have any leftovers.

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

Peggy Gust
Luverne



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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

Board of Directors

Henry Hanson, President - 483-2417
Richard Greve, V. President - 376-5026
Lee York, Sec./Treas. - 879-3497
David Clarke, Director - 425-2646
Dick Ruitter, Director - 443-5891
Ronald Schwartau, Director - 734-3052
Gary Sieve, Director - 926-5455