

Current Matters



Nobles Cooperative
Electric

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

May 2022
Vol. 14 Issue 5

Southern Minnesota electric cooperatives sponsor electric vehicle education event

August 10

Get charged up and check out electric vehicles August 10!

Electric cooperatives in southwest Minnesota will host an EV education event. The event will include presentations informing attendees about electric vehicles (EVs) and EV charging. Different EV models will be onsite for participants to see and possibly test drive. The objective is to educate southwest Minnesota residents on EVs and charging options. This event will be jointly sponsored by your electric cooperative, along with neighboring electric cooperatives; Brown, Federated, Redwood and South Central, along with area wholesale power supplier Great River Energy. (23-58-102)

The cooperatives were recently awarded a \$5,000 seed grant to help educate rural residents about EV charging, range, prices and see some EVs first hand. The Clean Energy Resources Team (CERTs) announced 74 organizations received a total of \$330,000 in the 2022 round of funding. "Seed grants encourage community-driven

projects that help people see clean energy working in their own communities and provide communities with opportunities to tangibly learn about and experience the benefits of clean energy," said Lissa Pawlisch, CERTs statewide director.

These awards mark the 11th round of CERTs Seed Grants, totalling over \$1.6 million to 467 projects since 2006. The number of applications submitted in 2022 marked a high point in seed grant projects.

Your electric cooperative is working with their neighboring electric cooperatives to make this event happen. The location will be at the Windom Community Center, a centralized location, August 10. The cooperatives hope to host several electric cars, possibly an electric pickup, electric bikes and electric yard tools like a lawnmower, leaf blower, chainsaw and more.

Be sure to watch for more EV event details in future *Current Matters* newsletters. (18-15-47)

Energy saving tip

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists (meaning you can easily see your joists), you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation. Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered.

Source: energystar.gov

Mark your calendar

May 30 Electric bills due
May 30 Memorial Day

Our office will be closed. Linemen will be on call for outages.

Spot your location number

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



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General Manager
Adam Tromblay

PLUG INTO SAFETY



ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Make electrical safety a priority this month, and every month.

Prioritize safety year-round

Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) recognizes Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our cooperative crews to you, the members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. As the general manager, it's my responsibility to keep cooperative employees safe. It's also important to keep you and all members of our community safe. That's why you'll see

NCE hosting safety demonstrations at community events and for schools to demonstrate the dangers of electricity. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. The cooperative also cautions students on the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools and appliances, I'd like to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips. *(2-18-47)*

Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard. Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.

Avoid overloading circuits. Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle—by having too many devices running on one circuit.

Label circuit breakers to understand the circuits in your home. Contact a

qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.

Use extension cords properly. Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you "daisy chain" them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

I encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.

Contact us for additional electrical safety tips or if you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or upcoming community event.

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. (29-13-16)

Slayton WonderWorld
May 18
 Good only at Lingen Dairy Food Truck

Worthington Regatta
June 11
 Good only at Lingen Dairy Food Truck

Lake Wilson Town & Country Days
June 18
 Good only at Lingen Dairy Food Truck

Balaton Fun Fest
July 2
 Good only at Lingen Dairy Food Truck

Follow the Food Truck and Use Your Coupons Below

Exclusive Member Appreciation Gift

\$5 Off Food Truck Coupon

No Duplication

  **Nobles Cooperative Electric**
 Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Exclusive Member Appreciation Gift

\$5 Off Food Truck Coupon

No Duplication

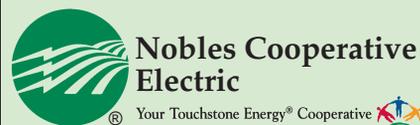
  **Nobles Cooperative Electric**
 Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

New Employee - Oscar Poehler

NCE is excited to welcome Oscar Poehler as the newest employee at your cooperative. Oscar grew up in Wisconsin and attended Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. He joins us as a permanent lineworker after working as a 1,000-hour apprentice at the cooperative since April 1. When he is away from work, he enjoys hunting, fishing, playing corn hole and camping.

Welcome aboard Oscar!



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Monday through Friday

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
David Koutek - 507-669-1500

General Manager

Adam Tromblay

Board of Directors

Ronald Schwartau, President - 734-3052*
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
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Next Board Meeting

May 18, 2022

*This cooperative is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.*



Money-saving programs help maintain a healthy electric grid

NCE, our wholesale power provider Great River Energy (GRE) and members like you have helped to use the electric grid efficiently and economically for decades by reducing demand during periods of stress on the electric grid and shifting energy consumption to off-peak times.

This strategy, known as “demand response”, plays a role in keeping wholesale rates affordable; electricity reliably flowing to homes, businesses and farms; and also saves members money on their bills in the short- and long-term.

Members have the opportunity to opt-in to several demand-response programs offered by NCE that “control” or “cycle” electric devices in their homes such as air conditioners, water heaters and heat pumps on high-demand days when electricity is most expensive. In addition to reducing sometimes hundreds of megawatts of electricity demand, this helps the cooperative to avoid making expensive purchases from the regional energy market which saves members money. In exchange, members receive a **reduced electric rate** and sometimes even upfront **rebates** for enrolling. (539-37-242)

“Both the cooperative and our members receive benefits through this strategy,” said Member Services Manager Tracey Haberman. “These programs offer a direct link to avoid wholesale costs to the cooperative while our members benefit from lower rates associated with controlled loads.”

GRE and its 28 member-owner cooperatives have built the largest demand response program for a utility of its size in the country according to data collected by the Energy Information Administration. More than 370,000 appliances, along with irrigation systems, are enrolled in a demand response program offered by the cooperatives.

For more information on available demand-response programs, give us a call at 800-776-0517. Participating in a demand response program can provide relief to the grid—and your wallet.

Country Cupboard Rhubarb Drink

5 c. rhubarb (1 1/2 lb.)

2 quarts water

Cook rhubarb until tender, drain and save the juice. To the juice add 1 to 1 1/2 c. sugar, the juice of one lemon and one orange and a pinch of salt. Heat to a boil. Cool. Enjoy!

Send your favorite **pie 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 location number. All entries must be received by May 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.

Ruth Nystrom
Worthington