



General Manager Adam Tromblay
“Let’s work together to keep our community safe and healthy.” (Page 2)



Energy efficient landscaping tips

Direct sunlight hitting windows is a major contributor to overheating your home during summer months. By planting trees that block sunlight, you can improve comfort and reduce your air conditioning energy use. If the trees eventually grow tall enough to shield your roof, that’s even better. The most important windows to shade are the ones facing west, followed by windows that face east. Morning and evening sunlight hits the home more directly than mid-day sunlight. Also, an eave on the south side of your home can help shade your windows during mid-day sun.

Since we live in a colder climate, planting deciduous trees that lose their leaves in fall will shield your windows in summer and allow sunlight in during winter to help warm your home. (33-6-43) A simple approach that can deliver some shade the first year is to plant a “living wall” of vines grown on a trellis next to your home.

One cooling strategy is to make sure your air conditioning compressor has some plants near it.

Landscaping impacts your home’s energy use and comfort in the winter.

A solid wind break can cut harsh winter winds. The best solution for this is a solid row of trees (preferably evergreen) on the windward side of the home, with shrubs underneath the trees to keep the wind from sneaking through.

If you live in a cooler climate that isn’t too humid, planting a row of shrubs a foot from your home can provide more efficiency. By stopping air movement, it can form a dead air space around the home that acts as “bonus” insulation. While you’re at it, you could add some foundation insulation if you have a home with a basement or if it’s built on a slab. In a humid climate, however, leave several feet of space between landscaping and the home as air flow is necessary to avoid moisture-related home damage.

Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) would like to remind you that any landscaping projects that include digging, require you to dial 8-1-1 to ensure all underground utility lines are properly marked and flagged before you start the work. Be sure to review page 3 for safe digging tips. Happy planting!

Energy saving tip

Placing hot food in the refrigerator makes the appliance work harder than necessary, using more energy. Allow food to cool down before you place it in the fridge.

Mark your calendar

- April 22 Earth Day
- April 25.....Electric bills due
- May 10 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.



A word from your General Manager **Adam Tromblay**

Focused on the safety and health of our members and employees

The last thing you need to worry about is the reliability of your electricity. I would like to assure you that we will continue to provide you power as we have for more than 80 years. We are fully staffed to continue normal operations. Even though we closed our lobby on March 16, our phone lines and website remain open. The cooperative would like to encourage members to use our electronic options for payments and transactions, including Watt Watcher, website, auto pay and phone. A secure drop box is also located at our Worthington office and Slayton warehouse.

NCE (33-9-50) continues to monitor the COVID-19 guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. The cooperative realizes many members are facing financial hardships. Be sure to call our office if you are in need of assistance with your account. We will work with you.

We take our responsibility very

50th Anniversary of Earth Day

April 22, 2020 marks the Golden Anniversary of Earth Day. Here are a few environmental milestones we've achieved over the years.

- Cleaner Air and Water**
In 1970, the Clean Air Act was greatly expanded and the Clean Water Act passed in 1972.
- Getting the Lead Out**
Lead was phased out as a gasoline additive by 1988.
- Restoring the Ozone Layer**
Ozone-depleting chemicals were banned in 1989.
- Better Bulbs**
Today, light bulbs use 80% less energy and last 25 times longer.
- Rising Renewables**
Today, renewable energy sources account for 11% of U.S. energy consumption.

seriously. While you are trying to keep your family safe, find childcare, get groceries and navigate the many moving parts this situation has caused, NCE continues to send out crews quickly and safely to restore power as we always have.

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Since you will be home more, you're going to use more electricity. Be conscious of this and continue to practice energy saving tips, like unplugging appliances while not in use or turning the lights off when you leave a room.
- If you have a (539-40-114) leaking Marathon water heater or are in need of one, be sure to call the office to make special arrangements.
- Need to disconnect or connect a service, don't hesitate to contact us. We have our member service representatives here to help from 7 a.m. to

3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

At least six feet for safety

If you see us on the job or after-hours, our employees are practicing social distancing. Please keep a safe distance from us and others. We encourage our members and employees to keep a distance of six feet for the safety of everyone. It's not rude, it is just being proactive and safe!

Don't forget to support local businesses and families

When our local economy and businesses are strong, we are all strong. We encourage everyone to support local businesses and families during COVID-19 restrictions. Many restaurants are still open for takeout and delivery.

By working together, we can keep our community safe and healthy.



Congratulations Ron on your international award

We would like to extend our congratulations to Director Schwartau for his years of service on the NRECA International Board. In March, NRECA recognized Ron for his support and contributions.

Over the last 16 years, Ron has spent a lot of time and energy helping NRECA International. He was the chairman from 2012 to 2017.

His interest began in 1983, when he

and his wife, Connie, began hosting foreign exchange students at their home.

Over the years, he has taken many trips to South Sudan, Philippines, Guatemala, Uganda and Bolivia (18-26-7) volunteering his time and sharing his knowledge whenever possible.

Thank you Ron for your contributions to NRECA and NRECA International over the years!



Take control of your energy usage and become a Watt Watcher

1. Sign up for a **Watt Watcher** account at <https://my-nce.sensus-analytics.com/login.html#/signin>.
 - a. Click on “Need to set up an account?” Enter your email address and click on the link “Get Started.”
 - b. An activation link will then be sent to your email account.
 - c. Enter your Account Number (same as your Member Number). Do not enter the decimal point.
 - d. Enter your name exactly as it appears on your electric bill.
2. Sign up for alerts on your cell phone pertaining to your usage and outages. You will be asked for your cell number when setting up your account.
3. Click on “Pay Bill” to leave the Watt Watcher Customer Portal and go to the online banking services.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what’s below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



If you need assistance finding food, paying housing bills or other essential service, dial 2-1-1, 651-291-0211 or 800-543-7709 or text ‘MNCOVID’ to 898211 and a Certified Community Resource Specialist will help to locate available resources in your area.

Notice to cogenerators

In compliance with NCE adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, NCE is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers who satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. NCE is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by NCE. Interested members should contact Nobles Cooperative Electric, 22636 U.S. Hwy. 59, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187 or call 800-776-0517.

NCE has adopted the Cooperative Minnesota Distribution Energy Resource Interconnection Process.

WHEREAS, the interconnection process for distributed energy resources has been updated by the State of Minnesota Public Utilities Commission; and WHEREAS, under Minnesota Statute 216B.1611 cooperatives shall adopt an interconnection process that addressed the issues addressed in the Commission's order; and WHEREAS, NCE has updated the Cogeneration Policy to reflect the adoption of the Cooperative Minnesota Distribution Energy Resources Interconnection Process, (C-MIP); and WHEREAS, NCE's Board of Directors has adopted the revised Cogeneration Policy as provided by MREA on February 22, 2019; and WHEREAS, all new distribution energy resources shall follow the C-MIP interconnection process beginning May 1, 2019. The Board of Directors of NCE has adopted the Cogeneration Policy, along with the updated Cooperative Cogeneration rules.

April Auto Pay winner: Daniel Konz

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

Country Cupboard Easy Crockpot Pulled Pork

3 1/2 lb. pork shoulder cut into two inch cubes
Rub: 3 T. brown sugar
3 T. chili powder
2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper

Mix rub ingredients and mix with cubed pork (24-22-5) shoulder. Place in crockpot with 3/4 c. chicken stock and 1/4 c. apple cider vinegar. Cook on high for 4-5 hours or on low 8 hours until it falls apart. May add 1/2 c. barbecue sauce or allow guests to add as desired. Serve on buns topped with cole slaw.

Cole Slaw

4 c. bagged chopped cabbage or cole slaw
1/4 c. mayo
3 tsp. cider vinegar
2 T. honey
1/4 tsp. salt

Mix all together and refrigerate until ready to use.
Send your favorite **bar** 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 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.

Diana Uilk
Pipestone



Nobles Cooperative
Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Official monthly publication

22636 U.S. Hwy. 59
P.O. Box 788
Worthington, MN 56187-0788
Phone: 507-372-7331,
507-836-6107 or 800-776-0517

Website

www.noblesce.coop

Email address

nce@noblesce.com

Summer office hours

7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
May 1 - September 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
Adam Feste - 507-690-2741

General Manager

Adam Tromblay

Board of Directors

Ronald Schwartau, President - 734-3052*
Lee York, V. President - 879-3497*
Cindy Hokeness, Sec./Treas. - 478-4965*
Bruce Barber, Director - 329-2991*
Jerry Beckering, Director - 227-4074*
Gary Clarke, Director - 605-201-1903
Gary Sieve, Director - 926-5455*
**Telephone prefix 507*

Next Board Meeting

April 24, 2020

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

