



May the force be with you

Electricity is a powerful form of energy we live with every day. It is something we couldn't live without.

We have learned how to control this energy, so it can be delivered to your home or business safely. It comes in the form of substations, transformers, power lines and meters. Yet, two things make getting power to you possible—control and safety.

Unfortunately, we also have a force we cannot control. It causes damage to our service system and creates possible hazards for our members. It's the power of (11-30-60) a storm. Already this year, we have seen the damage a storm can produce. Things that were supposed to be in the air were on the ground, potentially compromising our control and safety.

Yet, we also have a force to combat storms so we can control and provide power safely. We have you, our members. It is through your safe actions we can gain control and provide power to you safely. The force is with you!

- Report power outages promptly to the cooperative.
- Never go into areas with debris or

downed trees. Dangerous power lines may be buried in the wreckage.

- Do not attempt to remove a tree limb or other objects from a power line. Electricity can travel through limbs, especially when they are wet.
- Never drive over downed power lines or through water that is in contact with them.
- When venturing outside, be very aware of your surroundings. If you encounter a fallen power line, stay at least 35 feet away. Avoid touching any objects the line may be laying on, such as a fence, a car or a light pole. The object could be energized.
- Exercise caution near chain link fences. Dangerous lines may touch the metal.
- Never touch a person or animal that is in direct or indirect contact with a downed power line.
- Do not touch a circuit breaker or replace a fuse with wet hands or while standing on a wet surface.
- Avoid stepping in puddles and standing water after a storm. They may be touching hidden, downed power lines and be electrified.

Energy saving tip

Installing a smart power strip is a quick and easy way to start saving money while making your home more energy efficient. Smart power strips can actually cut power off to save energy since they are able to detect when a device is in standby mode.

Mark your calendar

Aug. 25 Electric bills due
Sept. 7 Labor Day

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

Last call for Operation Round Up applications



DEADLINE
September 7, 2020

ONLINE APPLICATIONS
<https://noblesce.coop/operation-round-0>



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

Construction season is in full gear

One of the highlights for Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) during these difficult times has been the good weather. It has allowed us, and our contractors, to keep moving forward on our work plan and continue our FEMA restoration jobs.

Karian/Peterson has been contracted to do most of the FEMA overhead reconstruction from the 2019 storm. They have had crews working with us full-time since early May. With the ability to focus on building line, Karian/Peterson has been able to rebuild 13 miles of overhead, primarily three-phase, and also retire the lines that were replaced. They started in Murray County and now are working in Nobles County through August. It is our hope that all overhead work will



Living Green opens up a new world in a small space

Your cooperative has been growing plants without soil hydroponically since late last year. This process has been a great learning experience for the cooperative and the community.

Recently, NCE installed a mini-split system to handle the warmer weather conditions and humidity. Surprisingly, the LED lighting system keeps the building warm in the winter. However, in the warm summer months the heat and humidity can be too (1-7-9) much when the temperatures soar above 75 degrees.

After a thorough cleaning, some system adjustments and the mini-split installation, we are back in business.



be completed by the end of August.

As for the remainder of the FEMA storm recovery work, we are awaiting word from FEMA to see if we are able to put our facilities underground. We hope to get that approved and possibly done by year-end.

Along with the standard service rebuilds, new services and general (23-62-66SL) maintenance, our NCE line crews are plugging away at our 2020 Work Plan. They have completed the conversion of seven miles of overhead to underground. At this point, not all overhead lines designated for conversion have been replaced because we feel we can put that off for later in the year. That way, we can assure

ourselves time to complete the work plan and other jobs that come up.

Last month in your *Current Matters* newsletter, we showed some pictures of the Lismore Substation progress. The NCE portion of the substation is moving along ahead of schedule with the project being led by our engineer and Highline Construction crews out of Paynesville. Great River Energy takes a majority of the space inside the substation with their infrastructure and has crews working full-time. We plan to have the distribution side energized this fall, with the transmission side energized early next year.



August Auto Pay winner

Margaret Schroeder

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

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.

Unruly Trees and Power Lines: We're On It

We love trees. They beautify our landscape, provide shade and are an essential part of nature.

When you see us out trimming trees, know that we are doing so to keep you safe and prevent service issues.

Trees or limbs can fall on our power lines, particularly during severe weather, increasing the chance of power outages within our communities. By performing regular right-of-way maintenance, we can reduce the risk of outages due to fallen trees.

When outages do occur, right-of-way preventative maintenance helps shorten the duration of the outages because power lines are easy to access and not overgrown with trees.

Too close for comfort

Although most trees do not present

a problem, some of them grow into or crowd power lines or other utility equipment. When greenery (36-18-8) becomes too close for comfort, we have to address it because overgrowth can interfere with power distribution and create a fire hazard.

Power lines can give off a spark or arc that may land on a nearby branch and ignite. Additionally, the lights in your house may flicker when tree branches brush power lines during high winds. Stormy weather can also cause limbs to break off and land on lines.

In fact, the majority of power outages are caused by tree-related issues. It is our job to ensure trees, branches and limbs are a safe distance from power lines.

Clear power lines make it easier and safer for lineworkers to access lines

and fix problems that may occur. When clearing around lines, we make sure proper pruning techniques are used to preserve tree health as much as possible. Pruning is the first line of defense against unruly trees, although sometimes a tree must be removed. This is a last resort for certain scenarios: when a fast-growing tree is located directly under a power line or for trees that are leaning, in decline, or cracked or split.

In your own yard

When hiring someone to trim trees on your property, know that most tree-care workers are not qualified to work around energized power lines. By law, only OSHA-certified utility line clearance workers are allowed to work on trees or branches within 10 feet of a power line.



50th Residential generator sold and set on July 21

Average generator cost*

12 kW = \$5,147

20 kW = \$6,910

*Does not include electrician or propane/natural gas hookup.

Be sure to give us a call for more details at 800-776-0517.

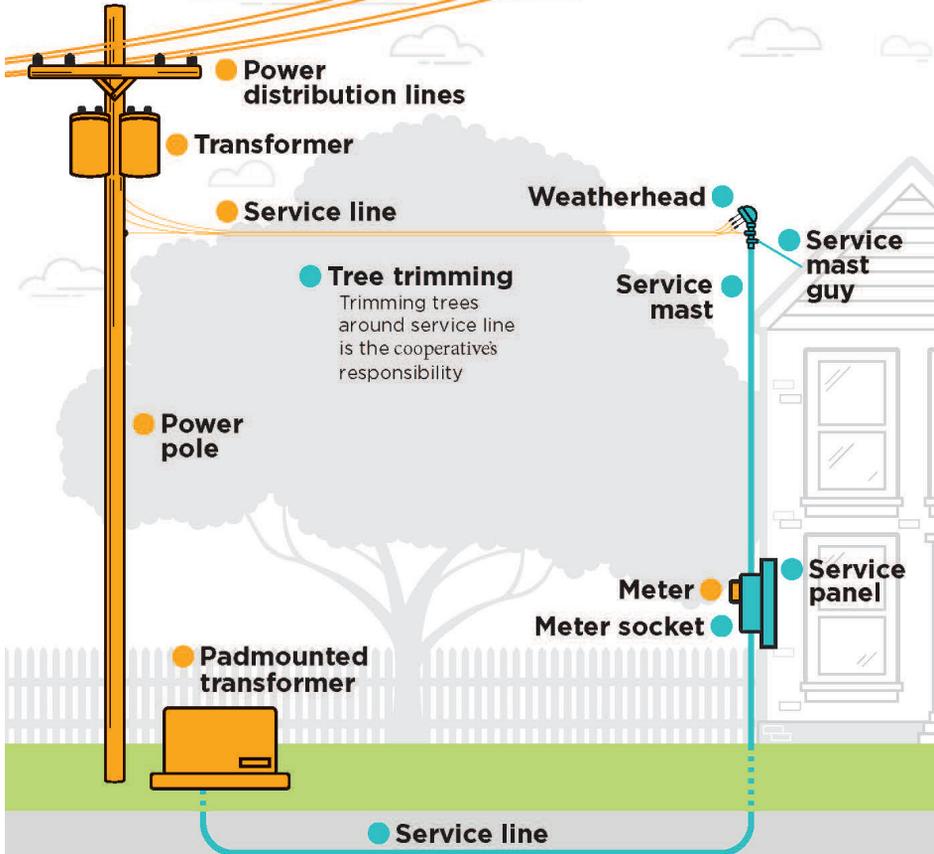
Who Owns What?

Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

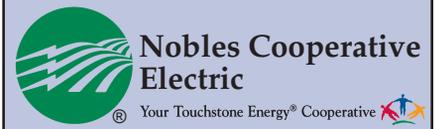
This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.

● Co-op owned

● Member-owned



Note: This graphic depicts overhead and underground service. Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home or business.



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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

September 8, 2020

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Country Cupboard Stuffed Green Peppers

Donna Nelsen
Westbrook

3 lg. green bell peppers	1 tsp. salt
5 c. water, boiling and salted	1/4 tsp. garlic salt or powder
1 lb. lean ground beef	1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
1/4 c. onion, chopped	1/2 c. instant rice, uncooked
1/2 c. celery, chopped	1/2 c. water
1 - 8 oz. can tomato sauce	

Cut peppers lengthwise, boil 5 minutes, then remove from water. Brown hamburger with onion and celery. Drain off fat. Add half of tomato sauce (4 oz.) and rest of ingredients. Simmer 5 minutes covered. Add to green pepper shells in an ungreased 8 x 8" dish. Cover with foil and bake 25 minutes. Add rest of tomato sauce and bake 5 more minutes.

Send your favorite recipe with **cabbage** in it (13-24-54) 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 August 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.