



Insulating for comfort and energy savings

Are you dreading winter? It feels like every year, no matter what we do, our home still feels cold and our electricity bills always seem a bit higher.

There's a good chance a look at your insulation may be beneficial to your home. Most older homes, and many newer ones, are not properly insulated. Adding insulation can be a good investment year-round since it can help keep out the summer heat as well.

All insulation is measured by its R-value. (23-11-72) A higher R-value is more effective. The amount of R-value you need depends on your climate and where the insulation is being added in your home.

If your heating costs are too high, there's a good chance the attic is part of the problem. Finished attics are usually under-insulated and correcting the problem can be a challenge. If your attic is unfinished, solutions will be simpler and more cost-effective.

You can inspect your unfinished attic, but be cautious. Loose-fill insulation in older homes may have harmful asbestos that you absolutely do not want to disturb. It's probably best to just poke your head in enough to look

around, since it's easy to damage wiring or ducts, or step through the ceiling.

The attic will likely have loose-fill insulation or batts on the floor. Look carefully to see if the insulation is spread evenly with no gaps or voids. After measuring the depth of the insulation, you can calculate the R-value. Different types of insulation have different R-values per inch. If your attic insulation is far short of the recommended levels, you will likely see major energy savings by having a professional add enough to reach that level.

The next place to check is the walls. Many homes built before 1980 have little or no wall insulation, and even newer homes may lack proper insulation. You might be able to see if the walls are insulated by carefully removing an outlet cover.

Finally, if your floor gets cold in the winter, and you have a crawl space, you can install batt insulation between the floor joists. If your home is built on a concrete slab, rigid foam can be installed around the perimeter.

Insulation works great if you choose the right approach and the work is done carefully.

Energy saving tip

Cooler weather is on the way! Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42% of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades like additional insulation and air sealing, you can save about 30% on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov

Mark your calendar

Oct. 25 Electric bills due
Oct. 31 Happy Halloween!



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



October Auto Pay Winner Sharyn Martinson

Take a minute to sign up for Auto Pay and you may win a \$25 credit on your electric bill. A winner is chosen each month. Members who are already saving time and money with Auto Pay will be automatically entered in our monthly contest.



Military personnel payment arrangements

Minnesota law provides that a public utility must not disconnect the utility service of a residential member for nonpayment, that has been issued orders into active military duty, for deployment or for a permanent change in duty station, provided that they enter into an agreement with the utility to make payments towards their bill. Forms are available from the co-op.

April 2019 Storm update

It's been six months since the April Ice Storm and we have a long way to go to get the electrical system back to where it was prestorm. I don't like seeing the poles lean and lines sag, but we do have the hazards removed. To date, we have spent over \$1 million on restoration, putting the system back up and repairs.

After the initial restoration process, we did an extensive evaluation process (530-37-018) documenting and reviewing every mile of line. Pictures were taken and notes were gathered for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA has gone through many changes in recent years and some good practical changes have been made to streamline the process for gathering data.

This helps us determine how we can rebuild and improve our system to help reduce future storm damage. FEMA now takes a formulaic approach to identify what is eligible for reimbursement. (516-38-155) NCE has compiled all of the broken poles, splices in lines, damaged poles, leaning poles and all other damages from the storm and applied them in the formulas. Through this process, we have determined Murray County has 45 miles of line that are eligible for some assistance at a cost of \$2.9 million and Nobles County has 33 miles of line at a cost of \$2 million.

All of the assessments have been submitted to FEMA and we are awaiting their approval so we can move forward with repairs.

Some of the repairs may involve shortening the distance between poles, using different types of wire and going underground.

The storm size was unprecedented for our state. There are many cooperatives, municipalities and townships asking for assistance, so the process takes time. Your cooperative has been strategic and patient with the process. NCE is always very (5-15-5) conscience about spending your money in the best way possible, since you are our member-owners.

Please continue to read the *Current Matters* for more updates as meetings are held, guidelines are established and plans are made to move NCE forward.

Co-op month

NCE is proud to announce that October is National Cooperative Month. While the annual celebration of cooperatives may last only a month, the benefits of the cooperative system are there for you all year long.



Fuel economy and comparison

NCE's Tesla vs. gas only vehicle

Tesla Model 3



126 MPGe
(miles per gallon equivalent)
28.9 kWh/100 mi.

Gas only vehicle



28 MPG
(miles per gallon)
3.6 gallons/100 mi.

The following cost comparison is based on 8,967 miles, which is the total miles NCE's Tesla has been driven since November 10, 2018.



Tesla Model 3
Average cost/mile: 2.9 cents
Average cost/kWh: 11.8 cents
\$258

Gas only vehicle
Based on gas price: \$2.613
No maintenance costs included
\$915

Tesla tidbits

<u>Level 1 (120 v.)</u>	<u>Level 2 (240 v.)</u>	<u>Supercharger</u>
4 miles	41 miles	427 miles
<i>Charging speed miles per hour</i>		

Top speed: 162 mph
0-60 (sec.): 3.2

Built for safety: 5-star NHTSA rating
Range: 310 miles

Dual motor all-wheel drive
Weight: 4,072 lbs.

Average supercharger cost per kWh: 22 cents
Average supercharger cost per mile: 5.3 cents

4-year 50,000 miles vehicle warranty
8-year 120,000 miles battery and drive unit warranty



Nobles Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Every Day is an EV Day
Schedule your test drive today

Do not tamper with your electric meter or load management control

If you or your electrician is performing electrical work at your home and that work requires opening meter sockets or your load management control, be sure to contact NCE first. Prior notification will allow us to nullify any alarms and install a new meter seal once you are finished.

All metering and load management equipment is owned and maintained by the cooperative. Tampering can result in electric shock if mishandled. Seals are placed on

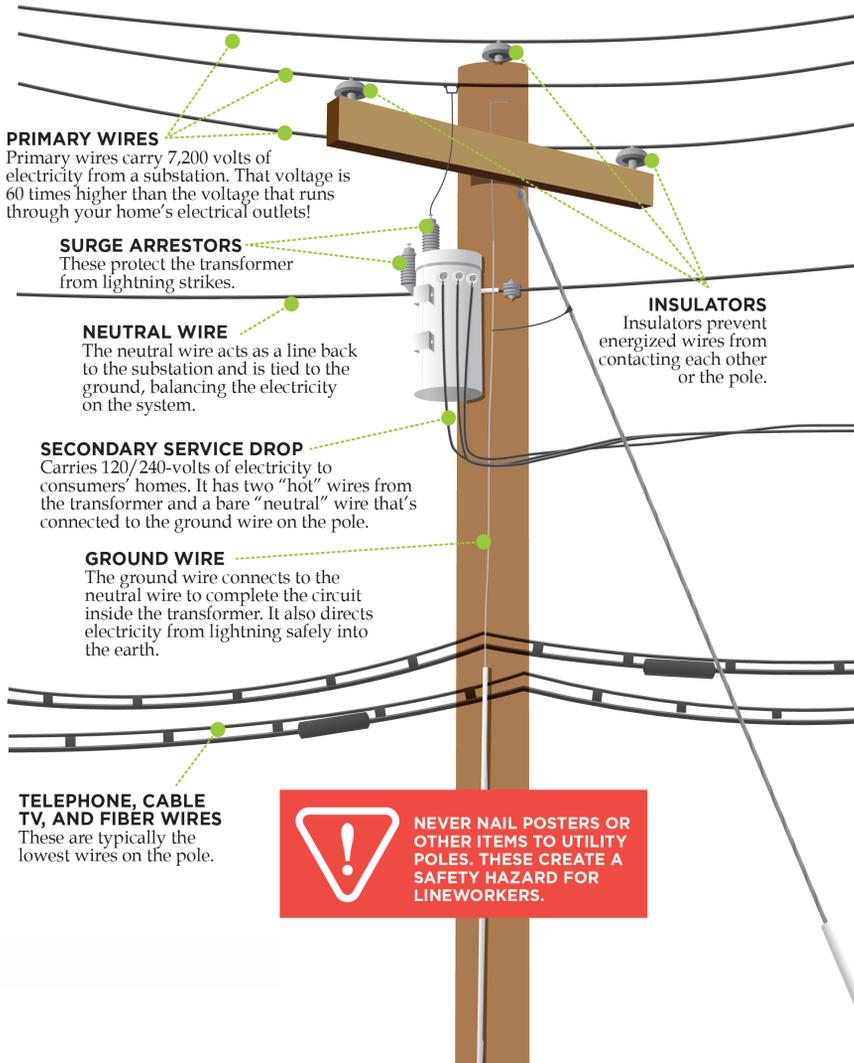


your equipment to protect you and others from harm.

If permission is not granted by the cooperative before removing a meter and it is necessary to send a crew to investigate, there may be a service charge depending on the circumstances.

WHAT'S ON THAT POLE?

This illustration shows the basic equipment found on electric utility poles. The equipment varies according to the location and the service they provide.



PRIMARY WIRES

Primary wires carry 7,200 volts of electricity from a substation. That voltage is 60 times higher than the voltage that runs through your home's electrical outlets!

SURGE ARRESTORS

These protect the transformer from lightning strikes.

NEUTRAL WIRE

The neutral wire acts as a line back to the substation and is tied to the ground, balancing the electricity on the system.

SECONDARY SERVICE DROP

Carries 120/240-volts of electricity to consumers' homes. It has two "hot" wires from the transformer and a bare "neutral" wire that's connected to the ground wire on the pole.

GROUND WIRE

The ground wire connects to the neutral wire to complete the circuit inside the transformer. It also directs electricity from lightning safely into the earth.

TELEPHONE, CABLE TV, AND FIBER WIRES

These are typically the lowest wires on the pole.



INSULATORS

Insulators prevent energized wires from contacting each other or the pole.

Country Cupboard

Spicy Shrimp and Chicken Penne

16 oz. chicken breast	1 c. green onions
2 T. butter	1 tsp. salt
20 medium raw shrimp	1 tsp. pepper
3 c. sliced mushrooms	1 pt. cream
1 c. sundried tomatoes	1/3 c. Romano cheese
20 oz. Penne pasta	1 tsp. cayenne pepper

Cook the chicken and slice into 1/4" strips. (21-10-15) Add butter to a large pan. Add shrimp, chicken, mushrooms, sundried tomatoes, green onions, salt and pepper. Saute until shrimp and mushrooms are cooked. Add cream, Romano cheese and cayenne pepper. Let cream reduce by half. Cook pasta and add to rest of ingredients.

Send your favorite **vegetable** 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 October 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.

Peggy Gust
Luverne



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

E-mail address

nce@noblesce.com

Office hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
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
Scott Preuss - 507-430-3652

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

October 22, 2019

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

