



Let's beat the peak together

As a member of Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE), you know how to make smart energy choices that help you save money. But did you know that when you use electricity can be just as important as how much you use?

Throughout the day, energy use fluctuates based on consumer demand. Typically, most households use larger amounts of electricity in the morning when most people are getting ready for their day, and in the evenings when people return from work, cook dinner, wash clothes and watch television.

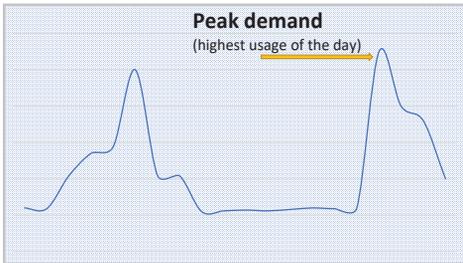
These times when people in our community are using more electricity at the same time are called "peak" hours. The cost for NCE to provide power is higher during these times because of the additional demand for electricity.

By shifting some of your energy use to hours when demand is lower,

also known as off-peak hours, you can help keep rates lower for our membership.

Here are a few easy ways you can shift energy use to off-peak hours:

- Adjust your thermostat. During summer months, raise the thermostat a few degrees during peak hours.
- Wash full loads of clothes in cold water during off-peak hours.



- Run the dishwasher right before you go to bed, or air-dry dishes by opening the dishwasher instead of using the heated dry cycle.

- Turn off lights and electronics when not in use. (Try to make this a daily habit, whether during peak or off-peak hours.)

There are many ways to save energy and money by making a few minor adjustments to your daily routine.

We're here to help. Contact us if you have questions about your energy bill (539-38-212) or for additional energy-saving tips.

Energy saving tip

Energy used for cooling and heating your home makes up the largest portion of your monthly energy bills. By combining regular equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bills while helping our environment. *Source: energy.gov*

Mark your calendar

- Sept. 25 Electric bills due
- Oct. 5 Grab-N-Go Drive Thru
(Worthington; see details on page 4)
- Oct. 7 Grab-N-Go Drive Thru
(Slayton; see details on page 4)

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.

September Auto Pay Winner: Joyce Erdman

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.



Manager's Message



Two new employees start careers at NCE



Energy assistance may still be available



Advocating for our members



General Manager
Adam Tromblay

Collaboration at the statehouse is one of the benefits of being part of an electric cooperative in a statewide network. During the 2021 legislative session, NCE, along with Minnesota's other rural electric cooperatives, joined forces to leverage our collective influence and advocate for energy policy that benefits our members.

Our work incorporated the perspectives and priorities (12-1-1) of our members, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, utilities of all sizes and types, a broad group of nonprofit advocates and associations that represent local electrical contractors. Legislative success was made possible through this significant and diverse stakeholder support and the electric cooperative's powerful grassroots network.

Through our coordinated and unified approach, a variety of impactful energy efficiency and broadband policies were signed into law during

this session. We are proud that our leadership and collaboration created beneficial outcomes for our members, energy providers and all sectors of Minnesota.

(35-28-37) After years in the making, the Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act was signed into law by Gov. Walz at the end of May. The passage is great news for our members because it provides better tools for reducing total energy bills and carbon emissions.

This is the most significant and beneficial reform to the state's outdated Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) energy efficiency standards, a cornerstone of the state's energy policy since they were implemented.

As part of the reforms, efficient fuel switching improvements will allow cooperatives to offer programs that substitute electricity for a customer's current fuel when those programs achieve a trifecta of (1) reduc-

ing the overall amount of energy; (2) reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and (3) reducing consumer costs. It also ends the CIP spending mandate, which unlocks the potential of recent technological advancements to benefit energy consumers.

Not only will the ECO Act benefit our members' pocketbooks and contribute to the state's conservation goals, but it will also increase and expand workforce opportunities.

As part of the next steps, we will work closely with the Minnesota Rural Electric Association and other stakeholders to make low-income energy spending more effective.

NCE is proud to have worked alongside a diverse network of cooperatives and community leaders to lead the way on policy achievements during the 2021 legislative session. We will continue to be actively engaged in shaping Minnesota's energy priorities and advocate for our members.



3.0
MEMBERS PER
MILE OF LINE

2,274 MILES OF LINE

6,929
MEMBERS

23
EMPLOYEES

19
SUBSTATIONS

- 1,202 Underground
- 1,072 Overhead

Two apprentice linemen start careers at NCE

We are excited to announce that we have hired two new employees.



Austin Irlbeck

Austin began employment at NCE on April 13 as a 1,000-hour apprentice lineworker. On July 28 he started working as a full-time apprentice lineworker in Slayton. Prior to his employment at NCE, Austin worked as a 1,000-hour apprentice lineworker for South Central Electric Association. He lives in Slayton. In Austin's spare time, he enjoys hunting and fishing.



Jonathan Gehl

Jonathan began employment on February 15 as a 1,000-hour apprentice lineworker. On August 2 he started working as a full-time apprentice lineworker in Worthington. Prior to his employment at NCE, Jonathan worked as a lineworker for Karian/Peterson Power Line Contracting and as a lineworker for Blattner Energy before that. He lives in rural Fulda. In his spare time, Jonathan enjoys hunting and snowmobiling.



Electric, battery-operated yard tools were a hit at Farmfest

Five Ego electric yard tools were the prizes at the Touchstone Energy electric cooperative booth at Farmfest August 3-5. Members that brought their (11-12-66) coupons from the July newsletter were eligible to win a prize.

Thanks to all the electric cooperative members that stopped by to visit and register. The winners were:

- Lowell Mathistad, Butterfield, string trimmer
- Howard Johnson, Willmar, leaf blower
- Neal Johnson, Hector, snowblower
- Richard Kuechle, Watkins, chain saw
- Normal Skarphol, Madelia, lawn mower

Twelve central and southern Minnesota electric cooperatives jointly sponsor the Touchstone Energy booth.

If you are struggling to pay your electric bill, assistance may be available

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule runs from Oct. 1 to April 30. If you are experiencing difficulty paying your (30-8-52) electric bill, you may be eligible for Cold Weather Protection and assistance through Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program. Households with incomes at or below 50% of the state's median income may be eligible, which is about \$54,357 in annual income for a household of four. Learn more and apply at <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>. You can also review this month's bill insert or call our office at 800-776-0517 for assistance.

We're celebrating Co-op Month in a BIG way

Grab-n-Go Drive Thru Member Appreciation Days

October 5

4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

22636 U.S. Hwy. 59 - Worthington

October 7

4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

1505 20th Street - Slayton

Grab-N-Go Meals

Members can drive up and pick up a to-go meal (pork burger, chips, cookie and beverage) distributed by a cooperative employee.

Prizes

Each vehicle receives a free first aid kit. Share your Grab-N-Go photos on NCE's facebook page for your chance to win a \$25 electric bill credit.



Please bring this form filled out to Member Appreciation Days on October 5 or 7

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Location No.: _____

Phone No.: _____

This form allows your entry to NCE's Grab-N-Go Drive Thru event.

Country Cupboard

Creme de Menthe Cake

- 1 white cake mix
- 1 med. carton Cool Whip
- 4 T. creme de menthe
- 1 T. creme de menthe
- 1 jar fudge ice cream topping

Prepare cake mix according to package directions, using half milk and half water for the liquid listed. Add creme de menthe. Bake according to package directions. Cool. Top with fudge topping (not chocolate syrup). Spread over cool cake. Mix together Cool Whip and 1 T. creme de menthe and spread over fudge topping. Refrigerate.

Send your favorite **recipe for the grill** 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 September 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.



Nobles Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Official monthly publication

22636 U.S. Hwy. 59

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Summer office hours

7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday

May 1 - Sept. 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

David Koutek - 507-669-1500

General Manager

Adam Tromblay

Board of Directors

Ronald Schwartau, President - 734-3052*

Lee York, V. President - 879-3497*

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Jerry Beckering, Director - 227-4074*

Timothy Bickett, Director - 605-670-5294

Gary Clarke, Director - 605-201-1903

David Dorpinghaus, Director - 605-695-7816

*Telephone prefix 507

Next Board Meeting

September 16, 2021

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

