



IMPROVING *QUALITY OF LIFE* AND *SAVING MONEY* WITH **BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION**

Are you looking to save money on energy costs? Is it important to you that the energy choices you make have a positive impact on the environment? If you answered 'yes' to either of these questions, the concept of beneficial electrification is an important one to understand.

WHAT IS BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION? Beneficial electrification includes innovations in energy technologies that aim to use electricity instead of on-site fossil fuels, such as propane, natural gas, and fuel oil, in a way that reduces overall emissions, and energy costs.

The *Beneficial Electrification League* defines this as switching to electric end-uses where doing so advances one of the following objectives without adversely affecting the others:

- 1) SAVING** money on utility bills by using more energy-efficient appliances.
- 2) BENEFITING** the environment by wasting less electricity and using clean energy to reduce carbon emissions.
- 3) IMPROVING** quality of life with new, smarter technologies that can provide better living experiences both at home and on the road.
- 4) FOSTERING** grid resilience when smart appliances and homes can work together to balance load on a clean energy grid.

WHY DOES IT MATTER TO YOU? One of the core principles of beneficial electrification is improving quality of life. We recognize that how it improves one's life will be different based on each person's perspective. Reducing costs by utilizing energy-efficient appliances and other equipment will improve all members' and member business' bottom lines. For many, making decisions that benefit the environment aligns with personal principles. Doing this all while focusing on grid reliability ensures that we can continue to enjoy life's conveniences that we have grown accustomed to.

WHY DOES IT MATTER TO THE COOPERATIVE? As a rural electric cooperative, our priority is you, the member, and this concept focuses on your benefit as a consumer and energy-saver. Furthermore, as an electric utility, beneficial electrification allows us to respond to grid pressures, be fiscally responsible, and capitalize on existing equipment on the grid.

The time of day that electricity is used has a significant impact on the Cooperative's costs to provide that electricity to you, the end-user. *(continued on page 7...)*

inside:

04. People's Energy Cooperative in the Classroom

05. High School Scholarship Winners, 2023

09. FAQ: Energy Management Programs

11. How to Prevent Electric Shock Drowning

CEO MESSAGE

FROM MICHAEL J. HENKE, PRESIDENT & CEO



mhenke@peoplesenergy.coop

The 2023 legislative session, which began in January and concluded on May 22, was one of the most consequential in history for Minnesota's 1.7 million cooperative members. Record investments, key policy changes, and a landmark 100% carbon-free by 2040 mandate all made this legislative session one with significant long-term impacts on everyone using electricity in the state. Some positive and some negative as we do our best to meet the challenge of balancing affordability and reliability with sustainability.

100% CARBON-FREE BY 2040: The first and most impactful bill was the historic 100% carbon-free by 2040 bill, which was signed into law in early February. The legislation, passed in record time, is widely regarded as the most significant energy policy ever passed in Minnesota and mandates all electricity sold in the state come from carbon-free sources by the year 2040. The law will increase the challenge of keeping the electric grid reliable under all conditions and significant advancements in technology will be needed to achieve the mandate.

Minnesota's electric cooperatives are leaders in navigating the clean energy transition while keeping electricity reliable and affordable. However, this new law does present significant challenges. As a result, our statewide association, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), successfully worked with lawmakers to add amendments to help protect affordability and reliability. Nonetheless, a lot of investment, innovation, and ingenuity will be necessary to avoid cost increases and potential service disruptions associated with meeting the mandate.

STATE COMPETITIVENESS FUND: Investments in Minnesota's electric grid are more crucial than ever, and historic funding from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) necessitates Minnesota to think big to attract

federal dollars. As a result, lawmakers put \$190 million into a newly created State Competitiveness Fund which will be used to attract hundreds of millions of dollars for investments in Minnesota's energy infrastructure. Cooperatives across the state will have access to these funds, including an additional \$5.3 million specifically for consumer-owned utilities, for projects to improve affordability and reliability and aid in the energy transition to more renewable energy.

This bill is important for us because it will help unlock federal IIJA funds that we applied for to aid in installing electronic reclosing devices. They will be integrated with our supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system and enable us to monitor voltage in real time at a feeder level within substations. It will also allow us to remotely control the devices which will help reduce how long members are without power in an outage. The estimated total project cost is \$923,450, which means the grant would fund \$461,725.

EMPLOYMENT RELATED LAWS: In addition to energy-related legislation, there were several bills passed related to labor and employment law in the State. We are still unpacking all the details around sick and safe time leave, paid family and medical leave, the legalization of marijuana, and a host of other labor related laws that may impact our staff and the benefits we offer.

This legislative session was certainly an active one and we, along with the MREA, did our best to protect the affordability and reliability of the electric service you depend on. We thank our local legislators for taking the time to meet with us during session and a special thank you to those that supported our efforts!

Sincerely,
Michael J. Henke,
President & CEO,
(800) 214-2694



WE UTILIZE FACEBOOK AND TWITTER to share information about topics such as electrical safety, energy efficiency, cooperative events, and peak energy alerts.

MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

highline

Vol. 87 • Issue 06

PEC's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on May 31, 2023. During the meeting, the following items were discussed: *Tracy Lauritzen was recognized for earning Board Leadership Certification from NRECA; Dairyland Annual Meeting logistics; harassment prevention training; board roles and responsibilities training; identify theft prevention training; an economic development update; and the Strategic Plan.*

A quorum of directors was present, and the following actions were taken:

- ▶ Approved *bank authorizations for the new CFO.*
- ▶ Approved *revisions to the Identity Theft Prevention policy.*
- ▶ Approved a *9.181 mill PCA credit adjustment for Legacy members for May usage billed in June.*
- ▶ Approved a *1.400 mill PCA adjustment for SMEC members for May usage billed in June.*
- ▶ Approved a *capital budget amendment.*
- ▶ Approved an *operating budget amendment.*



DID YOU KNOW THAT WE SELL ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS AT THE COOPERATIVE?

Through our participation in **chargEV**, we have access to chargers with integrated metering systems. These chargers are available for sale to members who are interested in installing one at their home or business on cooperative lines.

Why invest in a charger with an integrated metering system?

By purchasing a charger with the meter equipment already inside, users are saving the time, hassle, and money to wire a second meter. To take advantage of rebates or incentive rates, we require a second meter (whether integrated into the charger or not) that is separate from the rest of the home or business to track usage.

Why does the Cooperative care about electric vehicle charging?

Because charging an electric vehicle uses a large amount of electricity and we care about when the vehicle is drawing power. It is best to charge electric vehicles during the overnight hours of 9 pm to 5 am, when the overall demand for electricity goes down and the wholesale price from our power supplier for that electricity is lower. By participating in incentive rates like Time-of-Use or energy management programs like Off-Peak, members can help control the demand their electric vehicle charging is placing on the grid. This helps keep electric rates stable for all members.

For more, visit: peoplesenergy.coop/electricvehicles

MANAGEMENT

Michael J. Henke,
President/CEO

Patrick Nelson,
Director of Engineering and Operations

Michelle Olson,
Director of Member Services

Gwen Stevens,
Director of Cooperative Relations

Dody Wubker,
CFO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1:

Jon Kroening
(507) 884-0160, jkroening@peoplesenergy.coop

DISTRICT 2:

Jodie Tvedt
Vice Chair
(507) 218-2141, jtvedt@peoplesenergy.coop

DISTRICT 3:

John Winter
(507) 990-5648, jwinter@peoplesenergy.coop

DISTRICT 4:

Tracy Lauritzen,
Secretary/Treasurer
(507) 261-8740, tlauritzen@peoplesenergy.coop

DISTRICT 5:

Jerry Wooner,
Board Chair
(507) 259-7217, jwooner@peoplesenergy.coop

DISTRICT 6:

Art Friedrich
Dairyland Director
(507) 951-0590, afriedrich@peoplesenergy.coop

DISTRICT 7:

Jeff Orth
(507) 254-6358, jorth@peoplesenergy.coop
Visit peoplesenergy.coop for a listing of the areas covered by each district.

Business Hours:

7:30 am – 4:00 pm, M–F

SCHOOL VISITS RECAP

PEOPLE'S ENERGY COOPERATIVE IN THE CLASSROOM

DURING THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR, we had the pleasure of connecting with over 1,100 students in seven different schools throughout our region. We thank the teachers who invited us into their classrooms for the opportunity to talk about energy, energy efficiency, electrical safety, or careers in the energy industry.

As a rural electric cooperative, we are committed to the sustainable development of our communities and know that education, training, and information can help grow the next generation of cooperative leaders. By sharing our expert knowledge and investing our time into their future, we hope they will be inspired to join us as we strive to impact tomorrow's energy issues. Twenty-five thousand six hundred nine.

"Ashley Kincaid (PEC's Marketing Specialist and Safety Coordinator) has been coming to visit the 4th and 5th grade students at PEM for the last six years. The presentation includes concepts about power/electricity that are easy for the students to understand as she does a wonderful job of speaking at their level," shares Julie Yost-Minnich, a fifth-grade teacher with the Plainview-Elgin-Millville school district. "The presentation also includes information to keep the students safe around power lines and electricity. It is done in a very real and 'hands-on' way using examples of what to do and what not to do with the safety display. Students enjoy asking questions and learning from the experts."

For Cooperative employees, it is important that we aren't just guest speakers and can support the work teachers are already doing in the classroom. "We love the presentation they bring to our third graders," shares Kristin Torgerson, a third-grade teacher at Bear Cave Intermediate School in Stewartville. "As part of our reading curriculum we read nonfiction texts about different forms of energy, conservation, and how our actions affect all living things. The Cooperative's presentation ties in nicely with that unit and gives the kids additional insight and talking points. It is especially nice that they present the material in a way where our students are able to understand the concepts being taught. They make the lesson very relatable and fun."

Throughout southeast Minnesota, businesses and schools are reimagining the conversation surrounding workforce development. In that spirit, we enjoy taking advantage of career exploration classes or career and college fairs. Many of these kids are just beginning to look at life after high school and we want to plant the seed that not only are there really unique careers at a cooperative, but it's also a great place to work.

No matter the grade, the school, or the topic, we have enjoyed connecting with so many students this year. If you are a teacher or youth group leader and would like to learn more about how we can support the work you're doing, please email akincaid@peoplesenergy.coop.



Ashley Kincaid presenting to 4th and 5th-grade PEM students.



Students at Dover-Eyota's Career Fair learning more about PEC.

OUR 2023 HIGH SCHOOL Scholarship Winners!

WE ARE HONORED TO PROVIDE one \$2,000 linework education scholarship and thirty-six \$1,000 general education scholarships to graduating high school seniors whose parents or guardians are members of the Cooperative. Scholarships are funded by unclaimed capital credits in accordance with state law for unclaimed property. Recipients were chosen by a volunteer member committee that based its decisions on the following: involvement in community, responses to application questions, and completeness of the application.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR 2023 GRADUATES!

\$2,000 Scholarship: Linework Education

- **Jacob Dessner**
Dover-Eyota

\$1,000 Scholarship: General Education

- **Ashley Anderson**
Stewartville
- **Carson Beaver**
Kasson-Mantorville
- **Sofia Biedermann**
Rochester – Century
- **Reid Bielen**
Byron
- **William Breitenstein**
Pine Island
- **Caleb Briggs**
Plainview-Elgin-Millville
- **Laney Bungum**
Kasson-Mantorville
- **Grace Buntrock**
Rochester – Lourdes
- **Tate Degener**
St. Croix Lutheran Acad.
- **Camryn Elzen**
Stewartville

- **August Erickson**
Rochester – Mayo

- **Isabelle Fretty**
Grand Meadow

- **Benjamin Grogg**
Pine Island

- **Sofia Haakenson**
Rochester – Mayo

- **MollyKate Hagen**
Plainview-Elgin-Millville

- **Eli Haight**
Rochester – Lourdes

- **Ella Hardtke**
Dover-Eyota

- **Madison Harreld**
Stewartville

- **Claire Henry**
Plainview-Elgin-Millville

- **Jace Kraft**
Grand Meadow

- **Kaitlyn Krupa**
Triton

- **Madison Martin**
Byron

- **MollyJo McNallan**
Plainview-Elgin-Millville

- **Marlee Musty**
Chatfield

- **Paige Root**
Chatfield

- **Lauren Rott**
Plainview-Elgin-Millville

- **Jayden Rowe**
Dover-Eyota

- **Jason Ryan**
Pine Island

- **Isabel Siple**
Stewartville

- **Sophie Stelling**
Plainview-Elgin-Millville

- **Jackson Struhar**
Stewartville

- **Ben Suntken**
Plainview-Elgin-Millville

- **Josanne Tempel**
Hayfield

- **Emma Uptagrafft**
Plainview-Elgin-Millville

- **Gavin Warmkagathje**
St. Charles

- **Micah Williams**
Rochester – Century

PEC wishes all 2023 graduates a bright, prosperous future!



BRING ON THE 'BOTS!

OPERATION ROUND UP® SPOTLIGHT:

ROCHESTER & BYRON HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS

TWO AREA ROBOTICS TEAMS ARE purchasing new equipment thanks to grants through PEC's Operation Round Up program. Rochester FRC High School Robotics Team 2530 and Byron Robotics were each awarded a \$500 grant.

FRC Team 2530 utilized the funds to purchase brand new electronics components which include important design updates. This will allow for more capacity and better control for students' robot designs. Also included are extruded aluminum channel pieces, which students use when designing light weight, yet very strong robot frame structures.

Byron Robotics will use the grant funds to purchase key parts to run their robots and upgrade their 3D printers. Students use the 3D printers to create and design three dimensional models. Fifth and sixth graders use the printers to fabricate their 3D CAD creations and for custom projects. Seventh through twelfth graders use the 3D printers to create custom robot parts and to test prototype designs before manufacturing them in steel or aluminum.

"Rochester FRC High School Robotics Team 2530 greatly appreciates the continued support

People's Energy Cooperative gives us as we 'Build Students Who Build Robots,'" says Steve Mroz, lead mentor with the team.

"At FRC Team 2530, we are dedicated to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment that fosters the passions students have for science, technology, engineering, aesthetics, finances, and math," Mroz continues. "Every year, we build a specialized, competitive robot, which goes on to compete with other robots at the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC). We hope to build on skills and techniques that we have acquired every season." Twenty-five thousand two hundred thirty-five.

Aaron Nepstad, FRC coach with Byron Public Schools, also expresses his gratitude, "We greatly appreciate the support we get from People's Energy Cooperative to keep key equipment up and running."

To anyone who is interested in, or has a background in, engineering, programming, or media communication, we are always looking for mentor support and donations to help our programs. Please reach out to us through our school's website." -

Aaron Nepstad, FRC Coach with Byron Public Schools.

ELECTRIFICATION THAT BENEFITS YOU *(continued from cover...)*

Beneficial electrification uses technology such as the battery storage of an electric vehicle or yard tool to store electricity when the cost is low, and the grid is seeing little use, then uses the electricity when the user needs it. This also works with “smart” appliances and “smart” wi-fi thermostats as they can be programmed to operate during times when demand on the system is lower.

Electric appliances, HVAC systems, and lawn care equipment, along with the growing demand for electric vehicles and other new technologies, have our nation using more and more electricity. This increased usage requires us to keep the resiliency of the electric grid top of mind during the transition to more renewable energy resources.

Over the next few months, we will be sharing a series of articles that will provide an in-depth look at what this change looks like, what it means for the resiliency of the grid, and how beneficial electrification can benefit our members and the Cooperative.

IRA AIDS BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION

One of the reasons beneficial electrification is gaining traction is due to the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) that was signed into law in August of 2022. In addition to providing significant investments in clean energy generation and transmission, the IRA expands the use of federal funds for beneficial electrification and energy efficiency.

A few of the key IRA programs that promote end-use beneficial electrification include an expanded tax credit for new electric vehicles, increased benefits for heat pumps, and a High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program. The rebate program will provide \$4.5 billion to help establish rebate programs for residential electrification projects that can help you save money.

To dive more into what opportunities you can take advantage of, we encourage you to visit the Energy Savings Hub at energy.gov/save.

SAVE THE DATE FOR AN ELECTRIFICATION EVENT

in August where you'll be able to learn more about beneficial electrification, explore some of these new technologies, discuss Cooperative programs, and maybe go home with a prize.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023

FROM 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

GRAHAM PARK, ROCHESTER

More information to come in the July newsletter.

GRAB SOME FRESH PRODUCE AT YOUR FARMER'S MARKET

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL FARMERS, GROWERS, & MAKERS!

► CHATFIELD

THURSDAYS, 3:00 – 6:00 PM

Chatfield City Park

► EYOTA

TUESDAYS, 4:00 – 7:00 PM

West Side Park

► LAKE CITY

THURSDAYS, 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Ohuta Beach Parking Lot

► PINE ISLAND

FRIDAYS, 3:00 – 7:00 PM

Wiletzko Park

► PLAINVIEW

WEDNESDAYS, 4:00 – 7:00 PM

Bennett's Food Center

► ROCHESTER

SATURDAYS, 7:30 – 12:00 PM

WEDNESDAYS, 2:00 – 6:00 PM

Graham Park



CHOOSE PAPERLESS AND/OR AUTOMATIC BANK DRAFT PAYMENT

EACH MEMBER WHO PARTICIPATES IN PAPERLESS billing and/or automatic bank draft (checking or savings account) payments does so for different reasons. No matter the reason, we are grateful for their decision. It helps the Cooperative reduce fixed costs, which means less costs passed on to members.

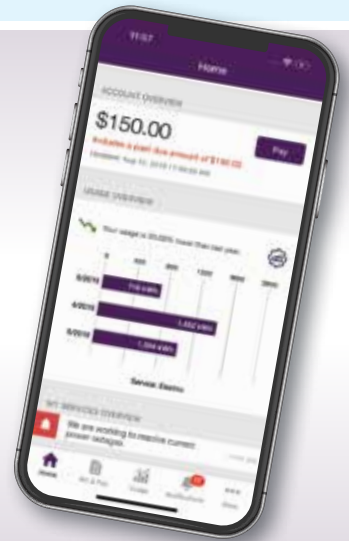
Thank you to all members who currently choose to participate in paperless billing and/or automatic bank draft payments. We are thrilled to share the following members' names were drawn in the electric lawn equipment drawing: Christina I., Jeff G. & Jamie B., and Donald L. Congratulations to our winners!



Simplify your life.

- ▶ Account management at your fingertips.
- ▶ Pay your bill online using a bank account or credit card.
- ▶ View detailed account info and energy usage.
- ▶ Report an outage

Available in both Apple App and Google Play Stores!



Register today! Visit: peoplesenergy.coop/smarthub

Rebates and INCENTIVES



PURCHASING A NEW APPLIANCE?

Our rebate programs offer several types of rebates for residential and business accounts.



To learn more, visit: peoplesenergy.coop/rebates



Energy Management FAQ

WHAT IS ENERGY MANAGEMENT?

Energy management is a partnership between a utility and a consumer to reduce the amount of electricity used during times of high demand. Energy management programs enable electric utilities to manage a consumer's use of electricity during times of peak demand on the electrical system. Programs are designed to not only reduce peak demand, but also save members money.

WHY IS THERE AN ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM?

Energy management programs allow us to work together to help keep electricity rates stable. Although most cooperative members pay the same for every kilowatt-hour (*kWh*) they use, regardless of the time of day, the actual cost to produce and deliver electricity varies. Through devices such as an electric water heater, electric vehicle charger, or thermal heat storage, energy management programs focus on reducing the amount of electricity we use during times of the day when the price for electricity is most expensive.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

The Cooperative provides a junction box that the member's electrician wires outside of the house. The electrician will also wire in a meter socket and electrical panel if needed. PEC then installs a receiver onto the junction box to receive the signal during energy management events. Nine thousand four hundred ninety-eight.

When an energy management event begins, a signal is sent to the receiver to pause power to the device(s) enrolled in the active program. When the event is over, a signal is sent to the receiver to switch the device(s) on to resume normal operation.

We work with members to determine which program best fits their personal energy goals. To learn more about our energy management programs and what is available, we encourage you to visit peoplesenergy.coop/energy-management-programs.



Voluntarily Reducing energy use during times of high demand helps reduce the Cooperative's overall demand charges from our power providers which helps everyone by keeping rates stable!

For more, visit: peoplesenergy.coop/power-down-voluntary-load-reduction or call 800-214-2694



Help lower the demand we place on the regional electric grid



Weekend warrior?

PROJECT IDEAS WHICH CAN BE COMPLETED IN A DAY OR LESS

GET SMART ABOUT HOME COOLING & HEATING:

Cooling and heating your home typically accounts for a large portion of an energy bill. Smart thermostats can help keep your cooling and heating costs in check, with ENERGY STAR®-certified models saving about eight percent on annual energy costs. The average model will allow you to set custom temperature schedules, adjust the settings from your phone, and over time, learn your cooling and heating preferences.

Your new smart thermostat will come with step-by-step instructions, but this project typically involves shutting off your HVAC at the breaker panel, disconnecting/removing the old thermostat, installing the new smart thermostat, and connecting it to your home Wi-Fi. Two hundred seventy.

GO GREEN AND BOOST YOUR GREENERY WITH A RAIN BARREL:

If you've got a green thumb, you already know that rainwater is the best water for your outdoor plants. It is free of minerals, salts, and treatment chemicals found in tap water or groundwater. It also contains helpful macronutrients to foster healthy plant growth.

Installing a rain barrel is an easy way to harvest large amounts of rainwater and reduce home water use – it's a win-win. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, one rain barrel can save a homeowner 1,300 gallons of water annually.

The simplest way to install a rain barrel is positioning a plastic or wooden barrel directly under your gutter downspout. Basic piping may be required, but this is an easy way to harvest rainwater, and the barrel won't take up much space. Consider a cover for the top of your rain barrel to keep insects and small debris out of your harvested water.

DIY CLOTHESLINES CREATE FRESH SAVINGS:

If you have enough outdoor space available, installing a clothesline is a great way to save energy. Not only will you save on dryer costs – in the summer, you can also save on cooling costs since unwanted heat from the clothes dryer won't be added to your home (*which makes your air conditioner work harder*). Additionally, air drying is much gentler on fabrics and will keep your clothes and linens looking fresh longer.

You can create your own clothesline with two T-posts, wire, and hook-and-eye turnbuckles. Depending on your soil, you may need a small amount of Quikrete to set the posts. Another option is installing the line between two trees. A typical load of laundry requires about 35 feet of line, so keep this in mind as you're determining the best location.

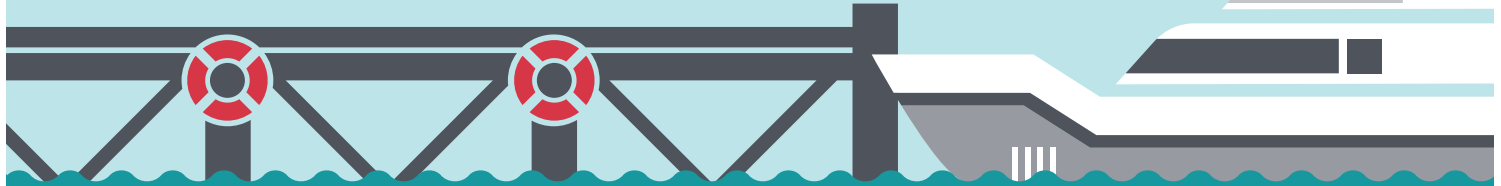
These are just a few simple ideas to help you save energy and money. So, get out there, roll up those sleeves, and tackle a few projects!



AUTHOR ABBY BERRY writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.



How to PREVENT



Electric SHOCK Drowning

Each year, 3,800 people die from drowning. Electric shock drowning occurs when an electric current escapes boats, docks and lights near marinas, shocking nearby swimmers. There are no visible signs of current seeping into water, which makes this a hidden danger. The electric shock paralyzes swimmers, making them unable to swim to safety.

FOLLOW THESE ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR:

SWIMMERS

- **Never swim near a boat or launching ramp.** Residual current could flow into the water from the boat or the marina's wiring, potentially putting anyone in the water at risk of electric shock.
- If you feel any tingling sensations while in the water, **tell someone and swim back** in the direction from which you came. Immediately report it to the dock or marina owner.

BOAT OWNERS

- **Ensure your boat is properly maintained and consider having it inspected annually.** GFCIs and ELCIs should be tested monthly. Conduct leakage testing to determine if electrical current is escaping the vessel.
- **Use portable GFCIs or shore power cords (including "Y" adapters)** that are "UL-Marine Listed" when using electricity near water.
- Regularly have your boat's electrical system inspected by a certified marine electrician. **Ensure it meets your local and state NEC, NFPA and ABYC safety codes.**

IF YOU SEE ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING TAKING PLACE:



TURN POWER OFF



THROW A LIFE RING



CALL 911

DO NOT enter the water. You could become a victim, too.

Sources: Electrical Safety Foundation International, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

HIGHLINE HI-LITES • June 2023 • Vol. 87 • Issue 06

Highline Hi-Lites (USPS# 244-720) is published monthly. Special Edition issued in March.

Periodical Postage Paid in Rochester, Minnesota.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to:
Highline Hi-Lites, 1775 Lake Shady Ave. S.
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



24-HOUR OUTAGE NUMBER

WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT, SO DO WE

Call even if you think your neighbors have reported the outage. Leave one light on so you know when power has been restored. Have an emergency kit prepared.

(507) 367-7000 or (800) 214-2694

SPOT YOUR NUMBER

\$30

Each month, we hide four account numbers (without the last two digits) within the text of the newsletter. If you find your number, contact the Cooperative by the end of the current month at **(800) 214-2694** or **memberservices@peoplesenergy.coop** to receive a \$30 credit on your bill.

GOOD LUCK IN FINDING YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER!

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT 2023

Carr's Tree Service and New Age Tree Service continue to work with us to execute our vegetation management plan for 2023. During the month of July, Carr's Tree Service will be working in Pleasant Grove, Orion, Jordan, and Sumner Townships. New Age Tree Service will be working during this time in High Forest, Marion, and Pleasant Grove Townships. These crews will be working to clear trees and other vegetation from power lines and equipment.

Both companies will also be assisting with the yearly herbicidal application in areas that were cleared two to three years ago. This summer, they will be spraying in portions of Oronoco, New Haven, Kalmar, Milton, Mantorville, Salem, Rock Dell, Canisteo, Ashland, Hayfield, Vernon, Pleasant Valley, Racine, Marion, Orion, Pleasant Grove, Hyde Park, Farmington, West Albany, and Oakwood Townships.

It is important to note that postcards will be sent to members affected in advance of the companies working in their area.

Please call the Cooperative at **(800) 214-2694** or email **poconnor@peoplesenergy.coop** if you have any questions about this program.

Happy 4th of July!

We will be closed Tuesday, July 4th to observe Independence Day. Please call **(800) 214-2694** if you have an outage or electrical emergency.

Celebrate Safely!

UPDATE ANY NEW CONTACT INFO

If you have had a change of status at your home or business, please take a few minutes to verify your name, telephone number(s), and email address(es) we have on file for you. This allows us to utilize multiple methods of communication and ensure you stay informed. Update your contact information by:

- ▶ Visiting peoplesenergy.coop, and reviewing your account information through SmartHub (you need to be registered to do this).
- ▶ Calling the Cooperative at **(800) 214-2694**.
- ▶ Sending an email to **memberservices@peoplesenergy.coop**.