



ELECTRIFY ROCHESTER... AND THE REGION



Over 500 people attended the inaugural Electrify Rochester Expo on August 26. The event was launched as a low-pressure way for people to explore the many facets of beneficial electrification and have access to helpful resources and information. The four objectives of beneficial electrification are to save money, benefit the environment, improve quality of life, and foster grid resilience. We enjoyed connecting with members and discussing their electrification and sustainability goals.

In fact, one member at the expo had been thinking about purchasing an electric vehicle but didn't have the time to research the impact on his business. This event gave him the opportunity to explore vehicle options, learn about charging infrastructure, and talk about incentive rates all in one place.



The event also provided opportunities for people to learn about advancements in rechargeable outdoor tools, updating their home heating and cooling system to be more energy efficient, installing home solar, and more. Community leaders, experts, and vendors were also on hand to answer questions.

We were happy to take part in the event along with our power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, and answer members' questions about how electrifying their life would impact their energy bill and what rebates and incentive rates might be available to help. If you couldn't attend and would like to talk about any of our programs, reach out during business hours and we'll be happy to discuss them with you.

The event was so successful that organizers are already talking about next year's expo. Keep an eye out for more information in 2024!

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CEO MESSAGE

FROM MICHAEL J. HENKE, PRESIDENT & CEO



Michael J. Henke

mhenke@peoplesenergy.coop

Next month we are hosting three energy forums and I'm really hoping you'll join us. Why? Because as a member of the Cooperative, you are also an owner. And like any good business owner, you should be aware of what's going on with the business and what is affecting it because it affects you.

At the forums we will be:

- sharing information about the current "state of the Cooperative,"
- explaining the complexities of today's energy market and how it impacts the reliability and affordability of your electric service,
- exploring the benefits of the electrification of "things," and
- discussing how recent legislation is benefiting and challenging the Cooperative.

As an owner of the Cooperative, we hope that you'll leave the event feeling a sense of pride in what the Cooperative is doing and confidence that the Board and staff are looking out for your best interests. We also hope you'll have a better understanding of the "big picture" and how the electric industry works.

If that's not enough to entice you, did we mention there's dinner? Enjoy a light meal with other cooperative members, Board members, and some of our staff.

Another reason to attend the forums is that October is National Cooperative Month, a time when cooperatives across the country celebrate and promote the benefits of the cooperative business model. We celebrate because by being a cooperative, we can focus on our members and the communities we serve. In the end, our successes are shared with you, our member-owners.

According to Cooperative Development Services and the International Cooperative Alliance,



"Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, cooperative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility, and caring for others."

We put these values into action by living out the Seven Cooperative Principles which are universal to all cooperatives across the world. The principles are 1) Voluntary and Open Membership; 2) Democratic Member Control; 3) Members' Economic Participation; 4) Autonomy and Independence; 5) Education, Training, and Information; 6) Cooperation among Cooperatives; and 7) Concern for Community.

This is true for all cooperatives, which span across many business sectors. Whether it's an electric utility like us, a food cooperative like People's Food Co-op in Rochester, an ag cooperative like Ag Partners Cooperative, or a sporting goods store like REI, we are all guided by the Cooperative Principles and we all exist to serve our member-owners.

I hope to see you at an energy forum next month!

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

MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

highline

Vol. 87 • Issue 09

PEC's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on August 24. During the meeting, the following items were discussed: the Cooperative's insurance coverage; current IT security systems and practices; communicating MISO MaxGen events; Dairyland Power Cooperative's Business Development task force responsibility changes; and discussions with the MN Office of Broadband Development to help members without high-speed internet gain access.

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

- ▶ Approved a 1.400 mill PCA charge for SMEC members for August usage billed in September.
- ▶ Approved a 1.560 mill PCA credit for Legacy members for August usage billed in September.
- ▶ Approved capital budget amendments.
- ▶ Approved the retirement of capital credits in the amount of \$1,163,229 through the general retirement process.
- ▶ Approved the electronic transfer of funds per RUS requirements.
- ▶ Approved the reappointment of Brenna Scanlan (Dist. 2) and Ron Pickett (Dist. 3) to a second three-year term on the Operation Round Up Board of Directors.

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

DISTRICT 2:

Jodie Tvedt
Vice Chair

DISTRICT 3:

John Winter

DISTRICT 4:

Tracy Lauritzen,
Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 5:

Jerry Wooner,
Board Chair

DISTRICT 6:

Art Friedrich
Dairyland Director

DISTRICT 7:

Jeff Orth

Visit peoplesenergy.coop
for a listing of the areas
covered by each district.

Business Hours:
7:30 am – 4:00 pm, M–F

DID YOU KNOW?

It's **IMPORTANT** to
keep your **CONTACT
INFORMATION** up-to-date

It doesn't happen often, but sometimes we need to contact you directly for something like maintenance work, system upgrades, or power outages. For us to deliver this important information regarding your electric service, we need to have accurate contact information on file.

You can update your contact information by:

- ▶ Visiting our website, 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.



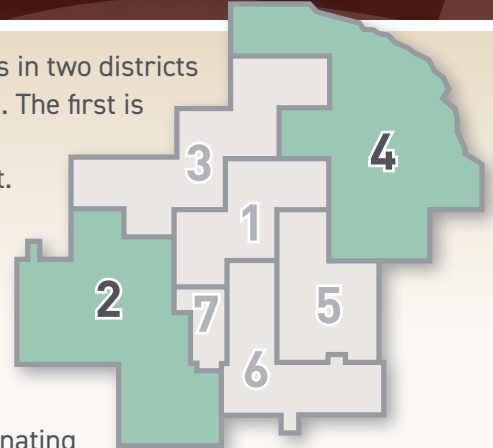
**Help us, help you by taking the time to ensure
we have your contact information up to date.**

Upcoming Director Elections

As a member-owner of People's Energy Cooperative (PEC), you not only receive your power from the Cooperative, but you also have a say in how the Cooperative is run. One of the ways you can impact the decisions made at PEC is through your vote. Members have the opportunity to vote for the directors they would like to represent them and their interests on PEC's Board of Directors.

Cooperative directors are elected from among the membership and are accountable to their fellow members. As the governing body of the Cooperative, they represent the membership in policy and ratemaking. Directors are elected to three-year terms, hold monthly board meetings, attend cooperative events, take part in training sessions, and participate in state, regional, and national conferences.

In 2024, director seats in two districts will be up for election. The first is District 2, currently served by Jodie Tvedt. The second is District 4, currently served by Tracy Lauritzen. Director candidates are sought out and vetted by PEC's Nominating Committee.



If you live in District 2 or 4 and are interested in running for a seat on PEC's Board of Directors, please email memberrelations@peoplesenergy.coop or call (800) 214-2694.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 101

Meeting: Monday, October 30 at 12:00 noon

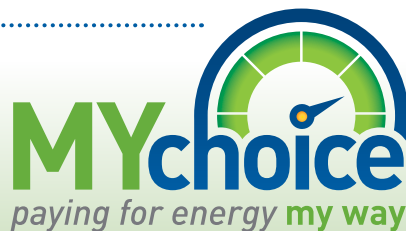
Are you interested in learning more about the role of the Board of Directors? Are you considering the possibility of running for the board seat in your district someday? If so, join us for an online informational meeting on Monday, October 30 at 12:00 noon. Thirty-two thousand one hundred forty-seven.

Please RSVP no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 20, so login information can be sent out in advance. Email rsvp@peoplesenergy.coop or call (507) 367-7054.



The MyChoice Prepay Program

is a flexible payment option that allows you, as a member, to prepay on your electric account; eliminating set due dates, deposits, late fees, and reconnect fees.



***Call or email
Member Services for
more information.***

(800) 214-2694 or memberservices@peoplesenergy.coop

ENERGY FORUMS

Taking a Look Behind the Switch

**We hope you can join us!
Please RSVP by Sept. 29.**

Electricity is a resource all of us rely on for life's comforts and conveniences. In recent years, the reliability and affordability of energy while transitioning to more renewable energy resources has become a big conversation. Twenty-seven thousand thirty-seven.

Join us for this opportunity to dive deeper into how electricity is generated and delivered to your home or business, how technological advancements in beneficial electrification help you, the member, and how legislative actions are impacting the future of the energy industry.

Kasson - Wednesday, October 11

5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:00 p.m. Presentation and Discussion
Events by Saker
401 8th St. SE, Kasson, MN 55944

Chatfield - Tuesday, October 17

5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:00 p.m. Presentation and Discussion
Chatfield Center for the Arts
405 Main St. S, Chatfield, MN 55923

Plainview - Tuesday, October 24

5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:00 p.m. Presentation and Discussion
Tarasco's
25188 534th St., Plainview, MN 55964

Please RSVP by September 29

- Call (800) 214-2694
- Email RSVP@peoplesenergy.coop
- Scan the QR code



Please indicate how many people will be attending.



STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title People's Cooperative Services / Highline Hilities	2. Issue Frequency Monthly	3. Publication Number 2 4 7 12 10 0	4. Filing Date 9/1/2023
5. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4) 1775 Lake Shady Ave. S. Oronoco, MN 55960-2351		6. Annual Subscription Price \$1.00	7. Contact Person Gwen Stevens Telephone (include area code) (507) 367-7015

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) 1775 Lake Shady Ave. S. Oronoco, MN 55960-2351	9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) People's Energy Cooperative 1775 Lake Shady Ave S Oronoco, MN 55960-2351 Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Gwen Stevens 1775 Lake Shady Ave S Oronoco, MN 55960-2351 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Michael Henke 1775 Lake Shady Ave S Oronoco, MN 55960-2351
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10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
People's Energy Cooperative	1775 Lake Shady Ave S, Oronoco, MN 55960-2351

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
CoBANK	6340 SOUTH FIDDLERS GREEN CIR, GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80144
NATL RURAL UTILITIES FINANCE CORPORATION	20701 COOPERATIVE WAY, DULLES, VA 20166
USDA - RURAL UTILITY SERVICE	1400 INDEPENDENCE AVE SW STOP 1566 (ROOM 0243), WASHINGTON, DC 20250-1560

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box.	
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12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one):
 The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes.
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4) (See instructions page 4) PSN: 7530-01-000-9021 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com.



13. Publication Title Highline	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 8/25/2023
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15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	18,474	18,418
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	7,086	7,074
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	18,474	18,418
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	11,388	11,344
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))	18,474	18,418
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	18,474	18,418
g. Copies not Distributed (See instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	25	25
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	18,499	18,443

Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	100%	100%
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* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to the 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.
 PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 2 of 4)

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

16. Electronic Copy Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	0	0
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	18,474	18,418
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	18,474	18,418
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16a divided by 16c times 100)	100%	100%

17. Publication of Statements of Ownership
 I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.
 I, the publisher, am a general publication, publisher of this statement as required, Web site print in the September 2022 issue of this publication.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Gwen Stevens, Director of Cooperative Relations	Date 9/1/2023
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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions.
 PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 3 of 4) PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com.

- Instructions to Publishers**
- Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.
 - In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee in items 10 or 11, include the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include in item 10 the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding one (1) percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the name and address of each individual owner. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address and complete item 12. In item 11, include all bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding one (1) percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities. If none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.
 - Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free Non-Requested circulation must be shown in item 15d.
 - Item 15g, Copies not Distributed, must include (1) newstand copies returned to the publisher, (2) estimated returns from news agents, and (3), copies for office use, leftovers, spoiled, and all other copies not distributed.
 - If the publication had Periodicals authorization as a general publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published, i.e., it must be printed in an issue that's primary mailed distribution is produced not later than October 10 for publications issued more frequently than weekly, or not later than October 31 for publications issued weekly or less frequently but more frequently than monthly, or in the first issue that's primary mailed distribution is produced after October 1 for all other publications.
 - In item 16, check the box if electronic copies are being included in your total distribution and complete line items 16a through d.
 - In item 17, report the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published, if applicable.
 - Item 17 must be signed.

Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of periodicals authorization.
 PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 4 of 4)



OPERATION ROUND UP SPOTLIGHT:

Benedictine Living Communities Rochester/Byron

Residents, family members, and guest musicians will all benefit from five new pianos being purchased for Benedictine Living Communities in Byron and Rochester. People's Energy Cooperative's Operation Round Up program recently provided a \$2,000 grant to help with the cost of purchasing the pianos.

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"All of us at Benedictine Living Communities – Rochester and Byron want to take a moment to extend our gratitude for your support through the Operation Round Up program," says Jordan Broers, foundation development director with Benedictine Living Communities. "Your participation in this program truly makes a difference. The grant made possible by your collective efforts is a testament to your compassion and commitment to creating positive change. Thank you!"

Music is a vital part of the lives of residents at Benedictine Living Communities. On campus musical performances bring them together, reducing loneliness, anxiety, and depression. The current pianos have many years of use and repair costs outweigh the value of the instruments. Having new

pianos will benefit residents, family members, staff, and scheduled entertainers who use the instruments on a regular basis.

The plan is to purchase five new modern console upright pianos in fall of 2023. One piano will be replaced at the Byron location. One piano will be replaced at the Madonna Meadows location in Rochester, and the remaining three pianos will replace pianos at Madonna Towers in Rochester. With the addition of the Operation Round Up grant, \$23,000 has been raised toward the total project goal of \$25,000. Five thousand seven hundred forty-two.

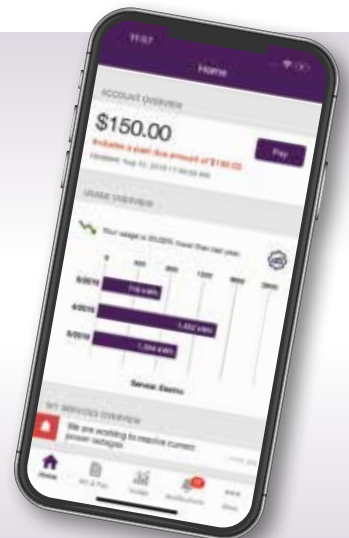
.....
"The feedback from our residents regarding the plan to replace the pianos has been encouraging and insightful," Broers comments. "Many of them have expressed their excitement about having new pianos that will provide a better musical experience. Overall, the feedback has reinforced our belief in the positive impact these new pianos will have on our community, and it serves as a reminder of the importance of creating an environment that fosters joy, connection, and shared experiences."



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Beneficial Electrification Part 4: ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

Over the last three months, we've taken an in-depth look at the concept of beneficial electrification and how it applies to members and the Cooperative. In this final article of the series, we will discuss how electric vehicle (EV) charging factors into the beneficial electrification discussion.

As EVs have become more affordable over the past few years, the demand for them is growing. This demand is creating both a great opportunity, and a challenge, for electric utilities. The increased electric load from charging EVs can benefit the Cooperative, but this is dependent on the time of day when EVs are charged. This is why we offer an EV charging energy management program, *Energize Your Drive*, encouraging EV charging during the overnight hours. By installing a level-two EV charger, members can participate in one of our energy management programs and have the opportunity to receive a reduced electric rate. When EVs are charged during overnight hours they are consuming energy during the middle of the night when the demand on the electric grid is low, rather than during daytime hours when there is more demand on the electric grid and the cost of electricity is the highest.

To look closer at the beneficial electrification potential of EVs, let's examine how they meet the Beneficial Electrification League's four objectives (saving money, benefiting the environment, improving quality of life, and fostering grid resilience).



1. Saving money – Over time, owning an EV can help save you money on your transportation expenses. According to the Beneficial Electrification League's Toolkit, electric motors are considerably more efficient converting energy to motion than internal combustion engine (ICE) equivalents. They report that, "Depending on the vehicle type and electric versus fossil fuel costs in an area, EVs can cost less than half or as little as 1/10th the cost of operating an ICE equivalent vehicle."

2. Benefiting the environment – The Beneficial Electrification League's Toolkit notes how the transportation sector accounts for approximately one-third of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, with on-road vehicles responsible for over 80 percent of these transportation emissions. By replacing an ICE vehicle with an EV, you eliminate tailpipe emissions and support cleaner air.

3. Improving quality of life – Most charging happens at home, so EV owners don't have to make special trips to the gas station to fuel up. After plugging the vehicle in overnight, an EV is ready to go with a full charge each morning.

4. Fostering grid resilience – The important thing to consider when looking at grid resilience is the time of day when EVs are charged. Charging vehicles overnight when demand on the grid is low helps foster a more robust and flexible grid. By managing vehicle charging, EVs can become a grid asset that works to create a level demand throughout a 24-hour day.

Are you interested in purchasing an EV? Do you want to save money on charging with a faster, level-two charger? By participating in one of our energy management programs, members can purchase a qualified charger of their choice. When purchased through the Cooperative, an integrated meter is also included, which reduces the hassle and additional cost of installing a second meter. To learn more about EV charging options, EV charger rebates, and incentive rates, visit peoplesenergy.coop/electricvehicles.



Our Energize Your Drive program provides you with resources to benefit from charging your EV at home. We offer EV chargers with integrated metering; special incentive and subscription charging rates; and rebates for new chargers enrolled in an energy management program.

CHARGERS WITH INTEGRATED METERING

When enrolling a level-two, hard-wired EV charger in an energy management program, an additional, separate meter is required. Members can, however, avoid this extra cost by purchasing a qualified, level-two charger with integrated metering equipment through the Cooperative thanks to our partnership with chargeEV®. To learn more, call (800) 214-2694 or email programs@peoplesenergy.coop.

INCENTIVE CHARGING RATES

Electric vehicle charging is most beneficial to the electric grid when it is done at night and during off-peak hours. We offer a variety of options, giving members the opportunity to choose the incentive rate that works best for their charging habits. Our new subscription rate is \$30 per month and includes 800 kWh of charging during overnight hours (9 pm – 5 am), weekends, and holidays. This is a pilot program rate and limited to 50 members.

OFF-PEAK	TIME-OF-USE	SUBSCRIPTION (PILOT)	ANNOUNCING A BRAND-NEW PILOT RATE
\$0.06200 / kWh	On-Peak: \$0.25600/kWh Off-Peak: \$0.07400/kWh Overnight: \$0.04700/kWh	On-Peak: \$0.256/kWh Overnight, Weekends, Holidays < 800 kWh: *Included > 800 kWh: \$0.074/kWh	
Charging Available 9:30 pm – 1:30 pm M-F and all hours on weekends and holidays	On-Peak: 2 pm – 9 pm M-F, excluding holidays Off-Peak: 5 am – 2 pm M-F (and all hours on weekends and holidays, excluding overnight) Overnight: 9 pm – 5 am, all days	On-Peak: 5 am – 9 pm M-F Overnight: 9 pm – 5 am	
Charging Unavailable 1:30 pm – 9:30 pm, M-F, excluding holidays			
\$6 monthly basic service charge	\$6 or \$10 monthly basic service charge	\$30 monthly basic service charge *Includes first 800 kWh of overnight, weekend, and holiday charging	

REBATES

Whether you install an EV charger at home with integrated metering equipment or not, you are eligible to apply for a rebate of up to \$800. The most important eligibility requirement for this rebate is that the charger is enrolled in one of our energy management programs. To learn more, visit www.peoplesenergy.coop/rebates.

Are you a Minnesota Energy Resources customer AND a People's Energy Cooperative member?

If so, check out this great opportunity!



People's Energy Cooperative

Minnesota Energy Resources and People's Energy Cooperative have partnered together and are scheduling appointments in Chatfield, Dover, Elgin, Eyota, Oronoco, Plainview, and Stewartville from October 17-19 for in-home, energy-saving audits.

Energy efficiency can be confusing and expensive. This audit can help you figure out what makes sense for your home. This service is valued at over \$300, but you pay only \$50, and People's Energy Cooperative and Minnesota Energy Resources pay the rest!

Your \$50 investment includes:

- ▶ A comprehensive analysis of your home's energy use of both natural gas and electricity.
- ▶ Information on what energy-efficient improvements make the most sense for your home.
- ▶ A blower door test to determine if there are leaks in your home.
- ▶ Safety tests that include combustion safety, depressurization, and carbon monoxide detection.
- ▶ A comprehensive review of all relevant rebate opportunities.

Survey responses indicate that 99% of those who have had an in-home energy audit say it was worth the money spent.

.....
To be eligible for a joint natural gas and electric residential audit, your home MUST be served by both Minnesota Energy Resources AND People's Energy Cooperative.

Schedule an audit online at www.minnesotaenergyresources.com/audits or by calling (800) 376-0517.

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

THE POWER OF PREPARATION

With severe weather events occurring more frequently, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water, and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, we want to remind members about the power of preparation. Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- ▶ Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water, diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio, and phone chargers.
- ▶ Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends.
- ▶ Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- ▶ Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in a safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- ▶ Keep neighbors and co-workers apprised of your emergency plans. Thirty-one thousand one hundred sixty-one.
- ▶ Fill your car with gas.
- ▶ Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

Caring for Vulnerable Family Members

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. When a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible, otherwise call him or her daily. If you have an infant or young children, make certain you have ample formula, diapers, medication, and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

Keeping Four-Legged Family Members Safe

For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress.

- ▶ Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.
- ▶ Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up to date.
- ▶ Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location.
- ▶ Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications, and other supplies).





People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

HIGHLINE HI-LITES • September 2023 • Vol. 87 • Issue 09

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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 15th of the next month at (800) 214-2694 or memberservices@peoplesenergy.coop to receive a \$30 credit on your bill.

GOOD LUCK IN FINDING YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER!

MINNESOTA'S COLD WEATHER

On October 1, Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule will go into effect and remain through April 30. Please note this rule does not prevent the Cooperative from shutting off your power for non-payment during winter months. If you receive a disconnection notice this winter, you must act promptly. Contact the Cooperative to set up a payment arrangement and/or apply for cold weather protection (appropriate paperwork is required for verifying household income). The Cooperative will gladly work with you to set up an agreeable payment plan and provide information about the Energy Assistance Program.

Energy Assistance Program

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs.

If you find yourself in need of energy assistance, please contact one of the following energy assistance providers in SE Minnesota:

- ▶ **SEMCAAC** serves the counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Mower, Winona, Freeborn, Houston, and Steele. Visit their website at semcac.org or call toll free (800) 944-3281.
- ▶ **Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.** serves Olmsted and Wabasha counties. Visit their website at threeriverscap.org or call toll free (800) 277-8418.

These organizations may also be able to help:

- ▶ **Rochester Salvation Army HeatShare:** (507) 288-3663 or (800) 842-7279
- ▶ **First Call for Help:** 211



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT REMINDER

Carr's Tree Service and **New Age Tree Service** continue to work with us to execute our vegetation management plan.

During the month of October, **Carr's Tree Service** will be working in portions of Orion and Elmira townships. **New Age Tree Service** will be working during this time in portions of High Forest, Pleasant Valley, and Racine townships. All crews will be working to clear trees and other vegetation from power lines and equipment.