



Immediate NEWS RELEASE

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PEAK ENERGY ALERT

August 24, 2023 — Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative (Albert Lea), MiEnergy Cooperative (Rushford), People's Energy Cooperative (Oronoco), and Heartland Power Cooperative (St. Ansgar) are issuing another peak energy alert due to high demand for electricity on the regional grid. All four cooperatives are asking members to conserve energy as they are able from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. today, August 24. Members enrolled in energy management programs will be affected from approximately 2:00 to 6:30 p.m.

The cooperatives are all working closely with Dairyland Power Cooperative, their wholesale power provider, to monitor grid reliability. MISO – the regional transmission operator – has escalated its maximum generation alert from yesterday to a maximum generation step 2 event for today from 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. This signals grid reliability may be at risk. In other words, the amount of electricity available on the grid and may not be able to meet the demand for electricity. Members participating energy management programs for standby generation and residential water heaters may see devices automatically activated. If activated, auto-start standby generators will receive notification two hours in advance of a four-hour interruption.

According to MISO, for the first time in over a decade, all major cities across its footprint will experience their hottest forecasted temperatures on the same day, intensifying peak load numbers.

Members can help by conserving electricity during this peak alert period.

- Set cooling systems to at least 78°, higher if no one is home
- Run the dishwasher or do laundry later in the evening
- Use a microwave instead of the oven to cook
- Avoid charging your electric vehicle until later this evening
- Refrain from turning on televisions or gaming systems.

Each seemingly small action can collectively make a big difference in the demand made on the electric grid.



About the Electric Cooperatives

For over 80 years, Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative, MiEnergy Cooperative, People's Energy Cooperative, and Heartland Power Cooperative have been delivering retail electric power and energy solutions to southeast Minnesota and northern Iowa. All are Touchstone Energy® cooperatives and members of Dairyland Power Cooperative which generates and transmits reliable electric power to 62 counties in four states (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois).

Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative serves over 18,000 members in Freeborn and Mower Counties. MiEnergy Cooperative serves approximately 19,000 members in Winona, Houston, Fillmore and parts of Olmsted and Mower counties in Minnesota along with Chicksaw, Howard, Winneshiek and Allamakee counties in Iowa. People's Energy Cooperative serves nearly 20,000 members in Olmsted, Dodge, Fillmore, Mower, Wabasha and Winona counties. Heartland Power Cooperative serves approximately 5,200 members in Hancock, Kossuth, Winnebago, Worth, Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Floyd, Howard, and Mitchell counties in Iowa along with Fairbault, Freeborn, and Mower counties in Minnesota.

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