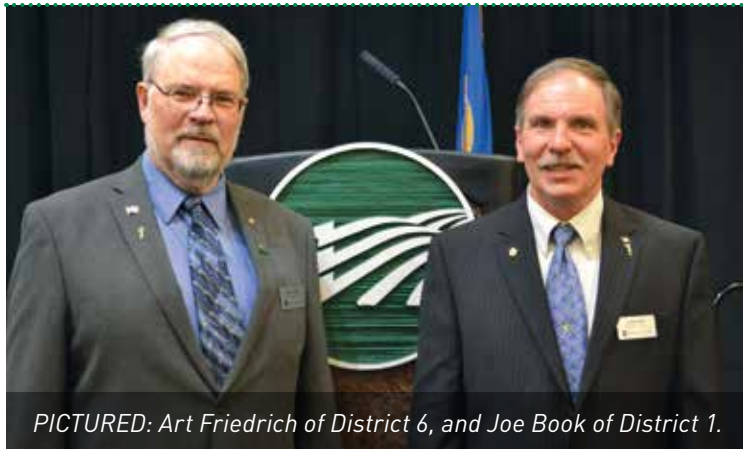




ANNUAL MEETING RECAP AND DISTRICT ONE AND SIX *2019 ELECTION OUTCOMES*



PICTURED: Art Friedrich of District 6, and Joe Book of District 1.

Results of People's Energy Cooperative's (PEC) director elections were announced during the Cooperative's 82nd Annual Meeting held at the Rochester International Event Center on Thursday, March 21, 2019. There were 454 members and guests in attendance. Three candidates vied for two seats with three-year terms on PEC's Board of Directors.

In District 1, incumbent Joe Book of rural Rochester defeated challenger Steve Schmidt of rural Elgin. Book won with 927 votes and Schmidt received 891 votes.

In District 6, incumbent Art Friedrich ran unopposed and received 1,747 votes.

Kenneth Wohlers, secretary/treasurer of the Board of Directors, gave the financial report for 2018 and reassured members that the Cooperative remains in good financial condition.

Board Chair Jerome Wooner addressed the membership and talked about the six strategic goals established by the Board that relate to: financial position, member-owner satisfaction, system planning, renewable energy, work force, and effective governance. He also shared that the Board will begin looking for a new president and CEO when Elaine Garry retires later this year.

Garry addressed four key aspects of today's energy

environment: reliable service, renewable energy, beneficial electrification, and the efficient use of energy. She also addressed current legislative issues, her upcoming retirement, and her appreciation for the Board of Directors and employees.

If you missed the meeting, you can still watch it on the Cooperative's Facebook page.

inside:

03. *2019 Board Candidate Thank You's*

04. *Distributed Generation Meeting Recap*

06. *2019 NRECA Youth tour Winners*

10. *Three DIY Projects to Save Energy & Money*

CEO MESSAGE

FROM ELAINE J. GARRY, PRESIDENT & CEO



Elaine J. Garry

egarry@peoplesrec.com

I began writing this article on the evening of April 11. For about 8,750 of you that day is going to mean something because you were without power. Some were without power overnight and some for over three days. To help give perspective to the situation we experienced, I want to share with you what we do to prepare for a severe storm and what happens during and after a damaging storm occurs.

BEFORE THE STORM: When a threatening storm is forecasted, we direct all employees to prepare for it. Lineworkers stock their trucks, managers and member service reps take their computers home with them, material inventories are checked, and all employees are notified to prepare to work longer hours by adjusting their schedule and making childcare arrangements if needed.

DURING THE STORM: Generally, storms start at night so some of our lineworkers are called out to restore the first outages that come in. As the number of outages grows, more lineworkers are deployed and supervisors report to the office to manage restoral efforts according to our Emergency Response Plan (ERP) that was developed about ten years ago and is updated regularly.

Normally, member calls are handled by PEC employees during regular business hours and our dispatch service after hours. In the case of Winter Storm Wesley, we enlisted the help of more office staff to answer calls and extended the hours we answered phones at the office. Employees continued to take calls in-house on Saturday too.

As damage is assessed, we start developing restoration plans and contact our material vendors to make them aware of our situation, so they can begin planning material deliveries. We prioritize our outages by locations where there are safety concerns (*i.e. downed lines across roadways*) and where most members are affected. That means if we have a substation go down, we will start restoral work there first. When we resolve that problem, it generally restores power to thousands of members. From there, we continue

to focus on areas with the most outages and finally, we repair outages that involve only a few members.

AFTER THE STORM: When there are many outages, damage is widespread, and weather conditions are poor it is a challenge to know how long it will take to restore power with certainty. We do our best to keep members updated through Facebook, our website, and the local news media as much as possible.

In some cases, we must wait for other companies to repair a problem. During this most recent storm, transmission lines owned by ITC went down. This affected the City of Stewartville and a few members in Frankford Township.

We have 21 lineworkers at our cooperative. Under normal conditions, that is a sufficient number for day-to-day operations and smaller storms. However, in major storm conditions, it is not. We depend upon other utilities and contractors to help us. Following the recent storm, crews from the following utilities and contractors in Minnesota helped us: Rochester Public Utilities, Connexus Energy (*Ramsey*), Dakota Electric Association (*Farmington*), East Central Energy (*Braham*), Goodhue County Electric Cooperative Association (*Zumbrota*), Lake Region Electric Cooperative (*Pelican Rapids*), Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative (*Jordan*), Stearns Electric Association (*Melrose*), and PEC contractor Legacy Power Line, Inc.

As with storms of this nature, our lineworkers, guest lineworkers, and other staff worked 16 or more hours per day until we restored power. That means they did not get their normal rest each night and they were performing in difficult weather and working conditions.

I can relate to being without power for long periods of time. It's frustrating, difficult to deal with, and sometimes very cold, etc. Please know that every time you have an outage, whether it's a major storm or you are the only member out of power, we are doing our best to restore your service as quickly and safely as possible. If you see a lineworker or other employees who support them, please thank them.

While the storm has past, and all members have been restored, there is still much work to do to fully restore our system, clean-up debris, and account for our losses. (*continued on page 7*)

MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

highline

Vol. 83 • Issue 04

PEC's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 20. Discussions included:

Dairyland Power Cooperative's 2019 rate change; outage restoration statistics; winter 2018-2019 billing demand adjustments; legislative efforts related to Conservation Improvement Program reform; and plans for the Annual Meeting.

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

- ▶ **Approved the 2018 financial audit for both PEC and the Operation Round-Up Trust Fund.**
- ▶ **Approved budget amendments for transmission vegetation management costs.**
- ▶ **Accepted the 2018 Safety, Reliability, and Service Quality (SRSQ) Report.**
- ▶ **Approved updates to co-generation incentive rates CSR, E, F, PA, and U.**
- ▶ **Reviewed and approved policies and guidelines related to electric power marketing.**

MANAGEMENT

Elaine J. Garry,
President/CEO

Gary Fitterer,
Director of Engineering

Mike Henke,
Chief Financial Officer

Michelle Olson,
Director of Member Services

Gwen Stevens,
Director of Cooperative Relations

Troy Swancutt,
Director of Operations

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1:
Joe Book

DISTRICT 2:
Ken Wohlers,
Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 3:
Robert Hoefs,
Vice Chair

DISTRICT 4:
Tracy Lauritzen

DISTRICT 5:
Jerry Wooner,
Board Chair

DISTRICT 6:
Art Friedrich

DISTRICT 7:
Jeff Orth

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

GENERAL INFO

Office Hours:
7:30 am – 4:00 pm, M–F

Telephone: 507-367-7000

Toll-Free: 800-214-2694

Web Address:
www.peoplesenergy.coop

Gopher State One Call:
1-800-252-1166
(digging & line location)

2019 Candidate "THANK YOU" Notes

1 District One: **Joseph F. Book • Rochester, MN**
“Thanks to all our members who attended the Annual Meeting for People's Energy Cooperative. I am always happy to see member participation, and we had a great turn out. Thank you for your vote, and I look forward to representing all of you as Director of District 1.”

1 District One: **Steve Schmidt • Elgin, MN**
“I would like to say thank you to everyone who took the time to vote for me in the recent election. While I came up 35 votes short of being elected, I was deeply humbled by the amount of support shown. With just over 1800 people casting votes it was truly a close race. I wish our current Board of Directors all the best as they continue to make the decision necessary to keep People's Energy Cooperative strong. Thanks again!”

6 District Six: **Art Friedrich • Chatfield, MN**
“I would like to thank the members of People's Energy Cooperative for their support in my re-election. I enjoy the duties and challenges as a PEC director. I look forward to continuing the journey for our members into the future. Thank you.”



Distributed Generation Member Meeting

On February 21, we invited members who own distributed generation (DG) systems (i.e. solar arrays and wind turbines) to join us in a discussion about the interconnection of distributed energy resources, the cost of providing service, and the distribution grid access fee. The purpose was to address their concerns and get input on policy and rate design.

Gary Fitterer, director of engineering, started by explaining system design to the group and spoke about system capacity and demand. Capacity is the utility's ability to meet the requirements placed on the system by its consumer(s) at any point in time. Demand refers to the requirements consumers place on the system by using part or all of the capacity at any point in time. This means that our entire system, and each member's service, is built so that if every member demanded their maximum capacity of electricity at the same time, the system could handle it.

The image of a culvert below is a visual example of how a system is built to serve the maximum capacity when it is needed. The image of the culvert full of water represents the highest demand.

In the case of members with distributed generation systems, the Cooperative must account for not only the member's consumption of electricity but also the maximum output of the member's DG system.

After explaining how the system is structured to deliver power, Gary discussed the class cost of service study the Cooperative recently conducted. He shared that through this process, it has become

evident that historic electric rate structures are not compatible with today's distributed generation systems and explained that the Board and staff are exploring new rate structures.

Currently, a portion of the Cooperative's fixed costs are part of the energy charge. These fixed costs include the building and maintenance of our electric system, vehicles, our buildings, administration, and employees. When a member installs a distributed generation system, they lower the amount of energy they purchase which reduces the amount they are contributing to fixed costs. Therefore, the Distribution Grid Access Fee was designed to reduce the impact of this cost shift to other members. This fee has been a point of concern for DG owners but is necessary to ensure members are paying their fair share.

Members, employees, and Board members had a productive conversation. Concerns were discussed regarding the Distribution Grid Access Fee, how distributed renewable energy can best support the Cooperative's energy needs, and how to structure our rates in the future to accommodate the growth in renewable energy systems. One of the positive outcomes of the meeting was changing how taxes are applied to distributed generation production.

If you are interested in learning more about topics discussed at this meeting, please contact Gary Fitterer, director of engineering, by emailing gfitterer@peoplesrec.com. He would be happy to share more detailed information regarding the presentation.

Much like a culvert, an electric system is designed to the highest capacity in order to meet the highest requirements when needed.



Low/Base Requirement



Highest Requirement

VS.



DOES MN NEED

An Increased Renewable energy Standard Mandate?

The 91st Minnesota Legislature is proving to be an important session for energy issues.

*Since convening Jan. 8, bills have been introduced to increase the Renewable Energy Standard (RES) mandates for all utilities in Minnesota: **Senate File 385** increases the RES to 50 percent by 2030; **House File 2208/SF 2611** increases RES to 80 percent by 2035 and requires generation be 100 percent carbon free by 2050. But does Minnesota really need to increase the RES mandate?*

MREA Director of Government Affairs and General Counsel Joyce Peppin said, “We are very concerned about proposals that would derail market forces and ignore the engineering limits of existing technology. Proposals to dramatically increase Minnesota’s RES will turn the current market dynamics on their head by imposing mandates that inevitably push the price of producing renewables higher. Why should everybody pay higher prices simply to achieve what the market is already accomplishing?”

The national electric grid is rapidly growing greener. Reliable and cost-based energy is being delivered with radically lower pollution and carbon impacts. Minnesota, and electric cooperatives in particular, have been frontrunners in implementing renewable energy resources and are proud of the emissions reductions over the past eight years. In February, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency report “The Air We Breathe” noted, “About 50 percent of the state’s air pollution comes from vehicles, both on-road (*cars, trucks*) and off-road (*construction and agricultural equipment*). Only about 20 percent of our air pollution comes from smokestacks (*including manufacturing and utility power generation plants*), and most of the rest comes from smaller neighborhood sources all around us.”

Cooperatives continue to invest in renewable initiatives without a mandate due to the lower costs of wind, solar, and the opportunities provided by new technologies such as battery storage. “Renewable energy, particularly wind, is currently our lowest-cost option for new generation resources,” said Great River Energy (GRE) CEO David Saggau at the 2018 GRE Annual Meeting. In its 2017 integrated resource plan filing to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, GRE projected wind energy as its sole new resource need over the next 15 years but remains committed to maintaining a diverse energy resource portfolio to best serve its member-owner cooperatives.

At a Feb. 5 House Energy and Climate Finance and Policy Committee hearing on HF700/SF 850, Kenric Scheevel, senior government relations representative from Dairyland Power, testified with this example underscoring why the implications of a 100 percent mandate need to be thought through before moving forward.

“Minnesotans all experienced firsthand the life-threatening weather extremes of a polar vortex (*this winter*). Electricity demand spiked 4,000 MW’s as the temperatures plummeted. Unfortunately, wind generation output plummeted along with the temperature – from 13,000 MW of generation last Tuesday (*Jan. 29*) to approximately 4,500 MW of generation on Wednesday and Thursday (*Jan. 30 and 31*). Uninterrupted electricity was available only because of fossil fuel power plants that could be called upon and dispatched at will.”

Rep. Pat Garofalo, R-Farmington, a member of the House Energy and Climate Committee also reminded lawmakers, “The most important thing we can do to reduce emissions is to make sure our nuclear power plants are kept open,” he said. “These have been safely operating since the early 1970s and shutting them down will have a huge increase on Minnesota’s pollution profile, as well as greenhouse gas emissions. The operating licenses for two of Minnesota’s three nuclear power plants, both run by Xcel Energy, are set to expire in the 2030s. The renewable energy bill doesn’t outline how they might factor into utilities’ renewable energy profiles.”

We need to continue to remind our local officials and policymakers to think through these new initiatives carefully. And, as our industry incorporates greater amounts of renewable energy resource technologies, we need a balanced “all of the above” generation portfolio approach to maintain the affordability, reliability, and sustainability of our electric grid.

Written by and reprinted with permission from MREA.



Madison Collett

Meredith Kottom

Congratulations TO OUR 2019 WINNERS!

Congratulations to Madison Collett of Chatfield and Meredith Kottom of Zumbro Falls for being selected to represent People’s Energy Cooperative at the 2019 Washington, D.C. Youth Tour!

Madison is a junior at Chatfield High School and the daughter of Bill and Jennifer Collett. Through participating in the Youth Tour trip, she hopes to broaden her knowledge of politics and learn more about local energy cooperatives.

Meredith attends Schaeffer Academy in Rochester where she is currently a junior. She is the daughter of Ted and Tonya Kottom. United States history and government have always been of interest to her. She is looking forward to learning as much as she can about our nation’s history and hopes to have an opportunity to meet with some of our current leaders.

Madison and Meredith will be joining over 1,900 students from across the country in D.C. the week of June 15-20. The tour educates students about electric cooperatives, the cooperative business model, and the legislative process. Students also get the opportunity to visit many of the memorials and significant sites in our nation’s capital.



William Dunn PEC’S 2018 YOUTH TOUR DELEGATE

One of PEC’s delegates to the 2018 Youth Tour, William was asked to speak at the Minnesota Rural Electric Association’s (MREA) Annual Meeting in February to share how his experience on the trip, and as a member of the NRECA Youth Leadership Council, has impacted him.

He spoke of how his fellow Youth Leadership Council members share knowledge, experience, and support with him from across the country. He acknowledged that without the members of the Cooperative and their commitment to education, opportunities like the Youth Tour wouldn’t be possible.

William shared that while on the trip, cooperatives and the government stopped being something that was observed from a distance, but a “grounded, real, experience; this interaction that we ourselves could step into and truly affect it.” Since the trip, he has found that he and his peers are taking an active role in understanding their local cooperatives and government in new and engaging ways. In closing, he asked that the cooperatives continue to support *(or even expand)* the Youth Tour program because “without you teaching us, we can’t pick up the baton and continue carrying it into the light.”



“Without you teaching us, we can’t pick up the baton and continue carrying it into the light.”

– William Dunn –



Zumbro Valley Health Center

Timely and consistent access to behavioral health services is critical to people's overall health. For individuals diagnosed with a mental illness and/or substance use disorder, it can be the difference between life and death.

To help improve the mental and chemical health of people in Southeast Minnesota, Zumbro Valley Health Center (ZVHC) has been serving the region for more than 50 years. As a community mental health center, the organization enhances the quality of life for individuals through its integrated mental health, primary care, community support, and chemical health programs.

"More than 80 percent of ZVHC clients are considered low-income or living in poverty, making transportation to and from appointments a significant challenge," explains ZVHC CEO Beth Krehbiel. "Given that the majority of these clients have a chronic mental illness and/or substance use disorder, access to consistent treatment is crucial to their short- and long-term health."

To assist Zumbro Valley Health Center clients who do not have the money available to afford their own transportation or pay for public transport, the People's Energy Cooperative Operation Round-Up Board recently awarded ZVHC \$2,500 to help improve access to mental health services. These funds will be used to purchase bus and taxi coupons for clients who would otherwise have no other option to and from treatment facilities.

Funds will be used to purchase \$2 single-use bus passes that allow one ride with a transfer for \$2. Uber

rides will be used when bus passes are not an option. ZVHC staff will determine the least expensive, yet appropriate transport mode for clients. Twenty-three thousand five hundred five.

"This assistance is going to be invaluable," says Krehbiel. "The Operation Round-Up grant from People's Energy Cooperative will help us provide people with transportation, meaning they will be able to get to their appointments and they will get better faster as a result. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the generosity of the members who participate in this program."

Krehbiel mentions that as ZVHC has expanded access to its programs, the number of people requiring transport services has risen markedly, outstripping available resources. "Between 2017 and 2018, we served eight percent more people," she reports, adding how they've seen a significant increase in the number of people seeking therapy and a similar increase in participation for their children's programs.

"The philanthropic support Zumbro Valley Health Center receives is key for us to be able to serve the people we do," Krehbiel emphasizes. Thanks to the generosity of People's Energy Cooperative members who elect to participate in the co-op's voluntary Operation Round Up program, ZVHC clients will have options available to help with transportation challenges.

APRIL 2019 CEO MESSAGE: ELAINE J. GARRY (continued from page 2)

If you want any of the broken poles, please don't take them. We need to account for them to receive state and federal disaster funds. We also have a process for used poles that involves some minimal paperwork so contact our office if you are interested.

As I close, I want to thank all of you who took the time to send us a message via email, Facebook, on the phone, or in person. We appreciate those messages and they inspire us to continue to do our job well.

Sincerely,

Elaine J. Garry,
President & CEO,
507-367-7000

F.Y.I.

The following is relative to members who either have a distributed energy resource (*i.e. solar array or wind turbine*) or are exploring the installation of one.

NEW DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES INTERCONNECTION PROCESS

At its March 1 board meeting, PEC's Board of Directors approved the adoption of the Cooperative Minnesota Distributed Energy Resources Interconnection Process (*C-MIP*). This was in response to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's (*PUC*) 2018 order adopting new interconnection process standards for distributed energy resources (*DER*) to the distribution grid. DER is the term used for distributed energy generation (*DG*) and distributed energy storage systems. The PUC order required implementation of the new process standards by July 15, 2019. Under Minnesota Statute §216B.1611, cooperatives and municipals must adopt an interconnection process that addresses the same issues as the interconnection process approved by the PUC. Our new process goes into effect effective May 1, 2019, and information is available on the "Renewables" page of our website.

DISTRIBUTION GRID ACCESS FEE

The Cooperative conducted its annual calculation of our distributed generation rates per Minnesota State Statute and the Board of Directors approved them at its board meeting held on March 1. The Board also approved the adoption of the Cooperative Minnesota Distributed Energy Resources Interconnection Process (*C-MIP*) policy.

All changes to what the Cooperative pays members for excess energy take effect with the May usage period. The Cooperative's Cogeneration and Small Power Production Tariff filing can be viewed on the Minnesota Public Utilities site under Docket PR-17-9.

The distributed generation rate changes include a change in the Distributed Generation Grid Access Fee. This fee has been adjusted and is applied to all qualified small power or cogeneration facilities (under 40kW) interconnected on or after May 1, 2016.

Effective with May usage, the distribution grid access fee will be applied monthly to the following services as follows:

- ▶ **SINGLE-PHASE GENERAL SERVICE**
\$4.10 per kW in excess of 3.5kW (*not to exceed* \$34.00*)
- ▶ **THREE-PHASE GENERAL SERVICE**
\$3.06 per kW in excess of 3.5kW (*not to exceed* \$75.00*)
- ▶ **THREE-PHASE WITH DEMAND SERVICE**
\$2.42 per kW in excess of 3.5kW (*not to exceed* \$367.00*)

**Where the Cost of Service Study determined value is greater than is possible to charge a system under 40kW the maximum possible charge is shown.*

In compliance with People's Energy Cooperative's (PEC) adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, PEC is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers, whom satisfy the condition as a qualifying facility. PEC is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the PEC Board. Interested members should call the Cooperative at 800-214-2694, email eng@peoplesrec.com, or stop by our office at 1775 Lake Shady Avenue South in Oronoco, Minnesota.

GET SOCIAL!



A fast, easy way to share Cooperative news and info with members!








an *alternative* way to support renewable energy

Since 1998, the Evergreen program has been an easy and affordable way for members of the Cooperative to support the development of renewable energy which includes utility-scale solar installations. Dairyland Power Cooperative developed this program to provide members an opportunity to voluntarily contribute to the increased use of renewable energy sources without installing their own system.

 **Evergreen Everyone:** This original program enables members to support utility-scale renewable energy in increments of 100 (kWh) blocks for just \$1 per block per month (\$0.01 per kWh).

 **Evergreen Everyday:** Members who enroll in an off-peak storage strategy for their electric water heater will receive up to four Evergreen blocks to help keep their water hot.

 **Evergreen Everywhere:** Members who charge their electric vehicle during off-peak hours will receive up to four Evergreen blocks. Thirty-one thousand one hundred seventy-two.

 **Evergreen Everything:** Through Evergreen Everything, members can choose to have 100 percent of their electricity use generated by renewable energy for \$1 per 100 kWh block. The average cooperative home uses around 1,000 kWh per month, which equals \$10 per month.

Visit our website for more information on how to get started and an online enrollment form.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Steve Irish, head engineer for Chatfield Schools; Ed Harris, Chatfield superintendent; and Brandon Johnson, PEC energy advisory/key account specialist.

BIG SAVINGS Chatfield Public Schools

Incorporating energy efficiency during renovation resulted in big savings for Chatfield Public Schools, who recently completed a major renovation of their high school building which included the addition of a new STEM wing.

Modifications were made to the kitchen, cafeteria, media center, and ceiling. New windows and doors were installed throughout the building. Along with new LED lighting fixtures, upgrades included roof top air conditioning units, heat pumps, refrigerated cooler curtains, a dishwasher with hot water heat recovery, smart exhaust hoods, and demand controls for the HVAC system. With these new energy efficiency measures, the school is projected to save around 433,750 kWh per year and received a rebate check of \$13,615 from People's Energy for their energy efficiency improvements.

If you would like to find out how your business could be more energy efficient, please contact Brandon Johnson, key account and energy advisor at bjohnson@peoplesrec.com or by calling the Cooperative.



EASY does it...

THREE DIY PROJECTS TO SAVE ENERGY

Now that spring has finally arrived, it's the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert! If you're willing to take a hands-on approach, here are three projects you can do this spring or summer to start saving.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR WATER HEATER:

Let's start with one of the easiest projects: insulating your water heater. Insulating a water heater that's warm to the touch can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating costs. It should also be noted that if your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated.

You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$20. You'll also need two people for this project. Before you start, turn off the water heater. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and tape it to temporarily keep it in place. If necessary, use a marker to note the areas where the controls are so you can cut them out. Once the blanket is positioned correctly tape it permanently in place. Then turn the water heater back on. If you have an electric water heater, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees to avoid overheating.

SEAL AIR LEAKS WITH CAULK: The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money can be wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring, and plumbing can save energy and money. There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible, and won't shrink or crack.

Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush, or solvent. The area should also be dry before you apply the new caulk.

Apply the caulk in one continuous stream, and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterwards, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk. Then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

WEATHER STRIP EXTERIOR DOORS: One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Weather stripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need. Three thousand three hundred thirteen.

When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure they can withstand temperature changes, friction, and the general "wear and tear" for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (*at the bottom of the door*) and the top and sides.

Before applying the new weather-stripping, clean the moulding with water and soap. Then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door. Cut the weather stripping to fit each section. Make sure the weather-stripping fits snugly against both surfaces so it compresses when the door is closed.

By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy and money while increasing the comfort level of your home. As a bonus, you can also impress your family and friends with your savvy energy-saving skills.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY DURING A BUSY SPRING SEASON



This winter felt especially long, and we know that means people are eager to get outside. Whether you are working hard in the fields or starting your newest construction project, be aware of your surroundings and always look out for overhead power lines and power poles. Eleven thousand five hundred twenty-four.

In the last six months, incidents involving members of the public hitting power poles have resulted in nearly \$25,000 in damage. These costs are charged to the person(s) causing the damage. Breaking a power pole can cost over \$3,000 to replace. This is small change considering hitting a power line could cost someone their life.



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

IF YOU HAVE PLANS THAT INVOLVE DIGGING, MAKE SURE YOU CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG.

Whether the project is large or small, having your underground facilities marked keeps you and your family safe. Contact Gopher State One Call at least 48 hours (not including weekends and holidays) in advance of your plans to excavate. They will be sure to mark all public utilities.

NOT ALL UNDERGROUND LINES ARE MARKED BY GOPHER STATE ONE CALL. THEY ONLY MARK PUBLIC UTILITIES (PEC SERVICE LINES, ETC.).

Some underground lines in your work area may not be utility-owned. These include underground equipment such as heating systems for pools, electric lines to outbuildings, invisible fences, fiber optic cables, satellite dishes, phone lines, sprinkler systems etc. If you have any of these types of services, please be sure to contact a private utility locator to identify and locate them. You also should keep track of any underground equipment you install with a map or diagram to help you remember where it is and so you can share it with future owners of your home. This will ensure that you, or whoever is working on the property, is kept safe while digging.



HomeServe's affordable repair service plans cover repairs for critical electrical, heating, cooling, and water systems through their 24/7 repair hotline by local, licensed, and insured technicians.

Please visit homeserveusa.com for more information.

Over 420,000 repair jobs were completed in 2017, saving customers more than \$144 million in repair costs.



People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

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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, one on our website, and one on our Facebook page. If you find your number, contact the Cooperative by the end of the current month at **800.214.2694** or **memberservices@peoplesrec.com** to receive a \$30 credit on your electric bill.

GOOD LUCK IN FINDING YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER!

DO YOU OWN A GENERATOR?



Even though generators are great resources for when the power goes out, they can cause a safety concern for our lineworkers, especially when we don't know about them.

If a generator has not been properly connected by a licensed electrician, it can create back feed on our primary line, causing serious, and potentially fatal, consequences.

We are working to identify all generator locations in our service territory and add them to our electronic mapping system. This will allow our lineworkers and field personnel to see the generator on an outage map when working to restore power.

*If you have a generator installed, and we do not know about it, please let the Cooperative know by emailing **memberservices@peoplesrec.com** or calling **800-214-2694**.*

PLANNED OUTAGES FOR CHATFIELD

People's Energy Cooperative is in the process of upgrading the substation and electrical system that serves the City of Chatfield to provide more reliable power. Please note that planned outages will begin soon and may happen more than once.

Work will generally take place Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Outages may be up to four hours in length. Whenever possible, we will be utilizing an automated phone message to alert members of the planned outages a day or two prior to the work being performed.

If you live or do business in Chatfield, please be sure to visit SmartHub, e-mail **memberservices@peoplesrec.com**, or call **800-214-2694** to ensure your contact info is up-to-date in our system so you receive any calls related to this project.