



## A CLEAN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP WITH *OLMSTED COUNTY & CENERGY POWER* ON SOLAR PROJECT



**Incorporating solar energy generation into the Cooperative's infrastructure plays a big role in supporting our mission to provide reliable electricity, superior customer service, and innovative energy solutions at fair and reasonable prices for our members. In May of 2020, the Cooperative finalized a 25-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with Cenergy to begin construction on a solar array for PEC on land owned by Olmsted County located in Haverhill Township.**

Conversations began in early January 2019, when Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) made changes to policies that allow their member cooperatives to own, operate, and/or enter into a power purchase agreement (PPA) for a specified amount of renewable generation, within DPC's service area. The policy changes allow a distribution cooperative to own, purchase, or generate up to 2.5 percent of its highest annual coincident peak with full relief from DPC fixed costs. "This project (1.0 MW), along with our community solar system (0.195 MW) in Elgin, and a very small solar array on the out-building at the Cooperative, will nearly maximize our 2.5 percent renewable generation limit," said Michelle Olson, director of member services for the Cooperative. "The additional solar array will result in a decrease in the amount of energy the Cooperative needs to purchase from DPC, which means cost

savings and a lower power bill for the Cooperative."

The property is approximately 22 acres, with a mix of agricultural and contaminated land. "The land was previously held privately and was also used as a radar monitoring facility by the U.S. Government, before it was repurchased privately," said Mat Miller, director of facilities and building operations for Olmsted County. "Over the most recent years of private ownership, it accumulated significant amounts of waste and became a tax forfeited property. The County purchased the property through the tax forfeiture fund and closed earlier this year."

Cenergy will construct and maintain the array; through the PPA, People's will purchase power directly from Cenergy. The detailed schedule submitted by Cenergy has construction of the solar array beginning on December 7, 2020 and being completed late spring of 2021. *(continued on page 7)*

### inside:

05. *ORU Spotlight: Harmony Bridge of Dover-Eyota*

06. *The ECO Act Remains a Priority in 2021*

09. *The New Medical Alert Pendant, Belle*

11. *Travel Safe on the Road This Winter Season*

# CEO MESSAGE

FROM MICHAEL J. HENKE, PRESIDENT & CEO



*Michael J. Henke*

mhenke@peoplesrec.com

*Did you know the Sun emits enough power onto Earth each second to satisfy the entire human energy demand for over two hours? Given that it is readily available and renewable, solar power is an attractive source of energy. People's Energy Cooperative has been working towards harnessing solar generated energy as a solution for our members for years.*

---

In fact, tapping into renewable energy is one of our strategic goals: *Explore, evaluate, and pursue renewables and energy storage opportunities that provide member value, are economically feasible, and within the 2.5 percent power supply ownership allocation.*

Our first venture into solar generated energy was in March 2012 with the installation of solar panels on the Cooperative's out-building in Oronoco. The small array also allowed us to learn more about the construction and distribution of solar generated energy and how to provide our members with an affordable way to "go green."

Since then, the Cooperative has created a renewable energy portfolio that includes member-owned solar systems, solar array collaborations, and incentive programs.

In 2014, People's Energy Cooperative collaborated with Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services (*Albert Lea*) and MiEnergy Electric Cooperative (*Rushford*) to bring commercial-grade solar energy to southeastern Minnesota. The Minnesota Three LLC Solar array is a 517-kW solar array, located just north of People's Energy Cooperative in Oronoco. It began generating electricity on June 30, 2014, and harvests enough of the sun's rays to power approximately 60 homes.

The People's Community Solar array, located in the Elgin Business Park, is currently in its fourth year and began producing electricity in January 2017. Community solar is ideal for members who want to harness the power of the sun's energy but lack a suitable site or funds for a solar array of their own. It's also great for those who want to hedge against future energy prices without the hassle of on-going expenses of operating, maintaining, and insuring personal equipment.

The array consists of 820, 305-watt panels and offered 20-year subscriptions beginning in 2017. Members receive a monthly credit on their electric bill for their share of the energy produced by the number of panels

they subscribe to. For example, each panel generates approximately 35 kWh/month. Therefore, if a member uses 835 kWh/month, and is only subscribed to one panel, then that member will pay for 800 kWh of energy for that month. There are currently 126 panels still available. The subscription fee will be pro-rated in January 2021 to \$600 per panel for the remaining 16-year subscription term. If you are interested in participating, you can still subscribe. Information is available on our website or you can call us during business hours.

As referenced in this month's cover article, we recently collaborated with Olmsted County and Cenergy on a 1 megawatt (*MW*) solar array located in Haverhill Township, to be completed in the spring of 2021. The array is expected to produce enough energy to power 205 homes.

Currently, we have 130 member-owned renewable systems connected to our system and have averaged about 20 new installations per year in recent years. Of those, seven are wind turbines and 123 are solar. People's compensates the excess energy generated by these member-owned systems based on the average retail energy rate in accordance with Minnesota statute.

In addition to our local renewables, Dairyland Power Cooperative, our power supplier, currently provides 20 percent of its power from renewables and has aggressive plans to reduce its carbon intensity through a combination of an increase in renewable generation and the June 2021 retirement of its Genoa Station #3 coal-fired power plant.

We continue to pursue renewable energy solutions to serve our members and support our values of "dedicated stewardship in the management of all the resources entrusted to our care with sensitivity to the environment" and "leadership, innovation, and vision in providing valuable energy solutions for our members."

To learn more about People's renewable energy programs and projects, visit [peoplesenergy.coop](http://peoplesenergy.coop).

---

*Best wishes for a blessed holiday season and prosperous New Year!*

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

# MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

# highline

Vol. 84 • Issue 12

PEC's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on November 24, 2020. During the meeting, the following items were discussed: *an update on the Cenergy solar project; an update on the 50th Avenue Transmission Project; positive outage numbers for the year; an update on the impact of COVID-19 on cooperative employees; year-to-date there have been no work comp or OSHA recordable injuries; the Cooperative's Economic Development plan; and a video from NRECA's Governance Training Program titled "The Risks of Micromanaging by the Board".* A quorum of directors was present, and the following actions were taken:

- ▶ **Approved a 4.7 mill power cost adjustment for Legacy members for November usage billed in December.**
- ▶ **Approved the Ten-Year Financial Forecast.**
- ▶ **Approved the retention of temporary rate credit to help meet equity goals.**
- ▶ **Appointed Terry Gulbransen, Steve Boysen, and Jerome Nelson from District 2 and Gene Miller and Maurice Young from District 4 to the Nominating and Credentials Committee.**
- ▶ **Appointed Paul McNallan from District 4 to the Member Advisory Committee.**

## ask us!

**QUESTION:** "With the latest COVID-19 restrictions in place, how is PEC helping members if their power goes out or they have difficulty paying their bill?" – *Anonymous*

**ANSWER:** We have a plan in place and have taken proactive measures to keep staff and members safe. To ensure this, the lobby at our headquarters continues to be closed to the public and we are limiting who may enter the building. If you need to drop off a payment, you can do so at the drop box located by the flagpole. If you need to speak to a member services representative, you can call **800-214-2694**.

We keep our staff healthy and safe so they can continue to serve members and ensure power is restored as quickly and safely as possible. If you experience an outage, you can report it in three ways:

- Report automatically or talk to a member services representative at **800-214-2694**.

- Text your outage through our outage texting service.
- Report the outage through SmartHub through the online portal or the app.

We continue to work with members by arranging payment plans and offering assistance during this unprecedented time. Many energy assistance resources are available. To learn more, visit us at **peoplesenergy.coop** or contact us at **800-214-2694** anytime between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

*We are following the guidelines outlined by the State of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Health and are committed to ensuring you have reliable power during this time of uncertainty.*

## MANAGEMENT

Michael J. Henke,  
*President/CEO*

Gary Fitterer,  
*Director of Engineering*

Michelle Olson,  
*Director of Member Services*

Anthony Stern,  
*Chief Financial Officer*

Gwen Stevens,  
*Director of Cooperative Relations*

## 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### DISTRICT 1:

Joe Book

### DISTRICT 2:

Ken Wohlers,  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

### DISTRICT 3:

Robert Hoefs,

### DISTRICT 4:

Tracy Lauritzen

### DISTRICT 5:

Jerry Wooner,  
*Board Chair*

### DISTRICT 6:

Art Friedrich  
*Vice Chair*

### DISTRICT 7:

Jeff Orth

Visit [peoplesenergy.coop](http://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](http://www.peoplesenergy.coop)

### Gopher State One Call:

1-800-252-1166

(digging & line location)

You can email your questions to [memberrelations@peoplesrec.com](mailto:memberrelations@peoplesrec.com) or message us on Facebook. Your question may be in the next newsletter!



# Season's Greetings

FROM ALL OF US AT PEOPLE'S ENERGY COOPERATIVE

The past year has certainly brought additional challenges and hardships for our region's residents and businesses. The ongoing pandemic has made life more difficult for many.

In response to COVID-19, People's Energy Cooperative has altered the way we do business to ensure the health of our staff and members.

**WE REMAIN DEDICATED** to our commitment to provide you with reliable and affordable electricity. As always, safety remains a top priority – for our employees, our members, and the general public.

**WE APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT** our members have shown us throughout the year. In difficult times, it is a blessing to have such a supportive membership and a committed team of employees. It is inspirational to witness the many ways our community has come together to support each other during the past year.

*We wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable holiday season!*







# Operation Round Up® SPOTLIGHT

## Harmony Bridge of Dover-Eyota

*Area band students and senior citizens will soon benefit from the implementation of the Harmony Bridge program at Dover-Eyota Public Schools. Harmony Bridge equips students to go out and perform recitals and concerts for those living in senior care residences, allowing for meaningful connection to take place between the students and seniors.*

People's Energy Cooperative's Operation Round Up Trust Board recently approved a grant of \$1,600 in support of Harmony Bridge: Bringing Music to our Seniors. The funds will be used to purchase music books for each of the 150 7-12th grade students involved in the Dover-Eyota Public Schools Band Program. The books are designed to work for both small group and large group applications. The package also includes training to help the school launch the program and ensure its ongoing success.

Ryan Anderson, Dover-Eyota's band director, says he first heard about Harmony Bridge on an episode of the Band in Minnesota podcast. He felt the program could help develop compassion and empathy in the band students, while bringing fellowship and music into the lives of local seniors who are often very isolated.

"We've had kids play at the assisted living facility here in town before and it's always received really great reviews," Anderson explains. "To have a better program set up like Harmony Bridge with the music books and everything, it will work much better.

Instead of bringing in the whole band, this will give us the option to bring small groups and visit more frequently." Twenty-five thousand three hundred fifteen.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, plans for in-person concerts are on hold for the winter. Once the weather warms up, Anderson hopes students will be able to start putting on small outdoor performances a safe distance from seniors. In the meantime, students will begin working on the music and getting ready to play this spring.

*"Live music is so important. Harmony Bridge will help us make valuable connections in the community, letting seniors know they are still noticed and appreciated. We appreciate your support in developing these connections with our seniors." – Ryan Anderson*



# IN 2021, THE ECO ACT REMAINS A TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY



**IN 2007, MINNESOTA'S Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) was established, creating goals for all utilities – including electric cooperatives – to reduce their annual electricity sales by 1.5 percent and to spend at least 1.5 percent of revenues to achieve this goal each year. We are proud that we've consistently met or exceeded these goals.**

*When CIP started, select energy efficient purchases were incentivized including Energy Star® rated appliances and LED lighting. Some of these items were just making their entry into the marketplace, and it was a win-win to encourage cooperative member-owners to use these new products. Thanks in part to CIP, we've reached a point of saturation with many of the energy efficiency incentives introduced more than a decade ago and the electric power industry is the only segment of the economy that has exceeded its carbon reduction goals.*

**WHILE CIP HAS BEEN BENEFICIAL**, it has become outdated, lacks an emphasis on innovation, and doesn't support many advancements that have positive environmental impacts. To modernize the program, Minnesota's electric cooperatives, along with other industry partners, drafted the Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act. This bill emphasizes total energy efficiency across many sectors – energy, transportation, agriculture and others – to encourage diverse improvements. Under the ECO Act, the goal to reduce electricity use by 1.5 percent annually will remain intact. However, a portion of this may be achieved with efficient electrification programs such as incentivizing EVs. The 1.5 percent spending requirement would be eliminated unless the reduction in electricity use is not met.

People's Energy supports this bill because we believe it provides more long-term, sustainable benefits for our members. The benefits include:

- ▶ **ALLOWING US MORE FLEXIBILITY** to meet our annual energy savings goals by enabling us to count EV incentives, electric storage water heaters, and air source heat pumps toward part of the goal.
- ▶ **HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT** by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fostering a more resilient grid.
- ▶ **ENCOURAGING INNOVATION** by supporting continuously advancing technologies.
- ▶ **REDUCING CONSUMERS' TOTAL ENERGY** bills by eliminating the mandated 1.5 percent spending requirements while providing better tools for reducing carbon. Thirty thousand one hundred sixty.

**HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:** *We encourage our member-owners to join us in advocating for this legislative change by contacting your state senator or representative. Please contact Gwen Stevens at [gstevens@peoplesrec.com](mailto:gstevens@peoplesrec.com) or 507-367-7015 with any questions. We are happy to discuss more details of the ECO Act with you.*



# Economic Development Tools AVAILABLE THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE

*In addition to providing reliable electricity, superior customer service, and innovative energy solutions, People's Energy Cooperative (PEC) is deeply invested in supporting the communities we serve. The Cooperative offers a variety of economic development tools designed to support local businesses and improve the quality of life for those who live in the region.*

"One of the main financing tools PEC offers is the USDA Rural Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund," explains Marty Walsh, PEC's economic development manager. "The revolving loan fund offers loans at favorable terms to help businesses meet the financing needs of growing their business."

The Cooperative is also available to help connect members with the right financial resources and walk them through the process of applying for or gaining access to a variety of programs. Examples include the Small Business Administration free business counseling and 504 Loan Program; local cities' revolving loan funds; Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation economic development tools; and the Southeast Minnesota Capital Fund. Business financing programs are also offered through the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic

Development (DEED) programs including the Minnesota Investment Fund and Job Creation Fund.

"Beyond assistance with financing, working with the Cooperative early on can help businesses avoid unnecessary costs and make finding the correct resources more convenient," Walsh continues. "PEC's Economic Development program functions as a 'network of networks' connecting entrepreneurs, businesses, and communities with as many opportunities and resources as possible. We work to make sure every idea from every member has a chance to succeed, while letting members control their growth."

Another benefit to connecting with the Cooperative as early as possible is the potential to utilize rebates and incentives. By taking advantage of available prescriptive and custom rebates or incentive rates, businesses can save money.

For businesses looking to purchase property within the Cooperative's service territory, PEC maintains a list of available commercial and industrial development sites.

*To view available real estate, request a loan application, or learn more about the economic development tools offered, visit: [peoplesenergy.coop/content/economic-development](http://peoplesenergy.coop/content/economic-development).*

## A CLEAN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP *(continued from cover)*

Miller says Olmsted County will continue to clean up the remaining waste during and after construction of the solar array. "We have completed the well house demolition and capping, as well as asbestos abatement," he explains. "However, there is still a lot of cleanup to be completed to make the entire property usable."

The additional positive environmental impact of the partnership between Olmsted County and People's Energy Cooperative to restore a polluted site for the purpose of clean energy supports the Cooperative Principle of Concern for Community. The County would like to continue down this path in the future. "Once the clean-up is completed, we would love to see a second phase solar array on the site," said Miller. "It's a win-win for everyone involved, including PEC members and the community."

## National Electrical Code Effective November 17

*The Minnesota Board of Electricity has adopted the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC), effective November 17, 2020. Electrical work authorized by permits on or after November 17, 2020, must comply with the 2020 edition.*

*For more, visit [www.dli.mn.gov/business/electrical-contractors/electrical-codes-and-standards](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/electrical-contractors/electrical-codes-and-standards).*

# Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule

**A REMINDER THAT MINNESOTA'S COLD WEATHER RULE IS IN EFFECT THROUGH APRIL 15, 2021.** If you find yourself in need of energy assistance this winter, please contact one of the Energy Assistance Providers in SE Minnesota (*listed in the sidebar on the right*).

As part of the application process with SEMCAC and Three Rivers, applicants are also evaluated for the Weatherization Assistance Program. This program provides free home energy upgrades to income-eligible homeowners and renters to help save energy and make sure their home is a healthy and safe place to live. Weatherization works closely with its companion program, the Energy Assistance Program to help permanently reduce the energy bills for low-income Minnesotans.

- ▶ **SEMCAC** serves the counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Mower, Winona, Freeborn, Houston and Steele. 800-944-3281 (toll-free)
- ▶ **Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.** serves Olmsted and Wabasha counties. 800-277-8418 (toll-free)
- ▶ **Rochester Salvation Army HeatShare** at 507-288-3663 or 800-842-7279 (toll-free)
- ▶ **First Call for Help** at 211

*Interested in serving on the Cooperative's Board of Directors? Let us know!*

## 2021 ELECTIONS – DISTRICTS 2 & 4

THE SEATS FOR DISTRICTS 2 AND 4 on the Cooperative Board of Directors are up for election in 2021. Based on the Cooperative's Bylaws, residential members are eligible to serve if they:

- ▶ **ARE A MEMBER OF AND RECEIVE ELECTRICAL** service from the Cooperative at their homestead (for tax purposes) located within the geographical area of Districts 2 or 4 that include the cities and townships listed to the right.
- ▶ **ARE NOT EMPLOYED BY OR FINANCIALLY** interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative.
- ▶ **HAVE NOT BEEN EMPLOYED BY THE COOPERATIVE** in the five years prior to being elected. Twenty-two thousand one hundred six.
- ▶ **ARE NOT A CLOSE RELATIVE OF AN INCUMBENT** director or an employee of the Cooperative at the time of election to the Board.

**DISTRICT 2 INCLUDES:** Ashland, Canisteo, Frankford, Grand Meadow, Hayfield, Mantorville, Pleasant Valley, Rock Dell, Salem, Vernon, Wasioja and sections 19 through 36 of Kalmar, sections five through eight, 17 through 20, and 29 through 32 of High Forest, and sections four through 36 of Racine.

**DISTRICT 4 INCLUDES:** Elba, Glasgow, Greenfield, Highland, Lake, Minneiska, Mount Pleasant, Mount Vernon, Oakwood, Pepin, Plainview, Quincy, Watopa, and Whitewater.

To learn more about serving on the BOD and the election process, contact Gwen Stevens, Director of Cooperative Relations, at 507-367-7015 or at [gstevens@peoplesrec.com](mailto:gstevens@peoplesrec.com). The Nominating Committee will make their official nominations in mid-January, so contact Gwen by January 10, if you'd like to be considered for nomination.





# Maintain Independence

*With the medical alert pendant "Belle"*



The Belle lease costs \$45 to install and monthly monitoring costs \$49.95. Call Heartland Security at 888-264-6380 or visit [heartlandss.com](http://heartlandss.com).

Medical alert pendants continue to improve to help senior citizens maintain independence and engage in active lifestyles. What a great holiday gift that would be!

Heartland Security, a subsidiary of PEC, now offers a new medical alert pendant called Belle, a small, easy-to-use mobile medical alert pendant that works with the 4G Verizon cellular network across the country (although some limitations may exist based on the signal in some areas). Belle enables users to easily get help at home or away from home with the press of a button. Features include:

- ▶ **A powerful speaker** makes it easy to hear the specialist who answers your call for help.
- ▶ **Battery-status button** can be pressed to see if battery is okay or low.
- ▶ **The call button is simple to operate.** It is one button that can be pressed to speak with a specialist and get help. It is that easy! The button also has a circular light around it that lets you know when a call is in progress or when the pendant needs recharging.
- ▶ **A powerful microphone** allows you to speak clearly with a specialist so he or she can send emergency help or contact a loved one to assist you.
- ▶ **Belle lasts up to 30 days on a single charge.** It comes with a charging cradle and is fully charged in 2 to 3 hours.
- ▶ **Belle is lightweight and easy to wear or carry** with the included lanyard and belt clip. It includes Wi-Fi location technologies and is water-resistant.

## POWER DOWN

*for energy conservation*

### WONDERING HOW YOU CAN HELP REDUCE ENERGY USE AT HOME?

*The largest energy users that affect demand include large appliances, such as washers, dryers, stoves, and dishwashers.*

### REDUCING YOUR ENERGY DEMAND:

Peak energy demands typically occur between 5 and 8 PM in the winter. To help reduce demand charges for the Cooperative, consider doing one or more of these small actions:

- Delay washing or drying clothes
- Delay running the dishwasher
- Turn down your thermostat by four degrees.



To be notified of peak energy alerts and help reduce demand, sign up for "Power Down" today at [peoplesenergy.coop/power-down-voluntary-load-reduction](http://peoplesenergy.coop/power-down-voluntary-load-reduction).

# COOKING UP ENERGY SAVINGS



Ah, the kitchen. It's undeniably one of the most-loved rooms in our homes. It's where we gather with family and friends for our favorite meals and memories. But like most of us, you probably aren't thinking about saving energy when you're planning that perfect dish. Here are four ways you can save energy in the kitchen with minimal effort:

**1. *If possible, cook with smaller appliances.***

Using smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers, toaster ovens, and convection ovens, is more energy efficient than using your large stove or oven. According to the Department of Energy, a toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.

**2. *Unplug appliances that draw phantom energy.***

Halloween may be over, but it's possible you have energy vampires in your kitchen – these are the appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, like coffee makers, microwaves, and toaster ovens. The Department of Energy has estimated that one home's energy vampires left plugged in year-round can add up to \$100-\$200 in wasted energy costs. Unplug them when they're not in use, or better yet, use a power strip for convenient control.

**3. *Help large appliances work less.*** There are small ways you can help your larger kitchen appliances run more efficiently. For example, keep range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they'll reflect heat better. When it's time to put leftovers in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool down first. That way, the fridge doesn't have to work harder to cool warm food.

**4. *Use your dishwasher efficiently.*** Only run full loads and avoid using the "rinse hold" function on your machine for just a few dirty dishes; it uses 3-7 gallons of hot water each use. You can also save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher doesn't have an automatic air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.

By slightly adjusting a few of your habits in the kitchen, you'll be well on your way to energy savings. Contact People's Energy Cooperative to learn about additional ways you can save both energy and money at home.





# TRAVEL SAFE

THIS WINTER SEASON

The winter holiday season generally means time visiting family and friends, which involves more time on the road for many people.

Although your plans may look different this year in light of the ongoing pandemic, most people will still find themselves out on the roads at one point or another.

Even an outing as short as a trip to the grocery store can be dangerous when contending with the snow, ice, and windy conditions that often impact drivers in Minnesota. If you do find yourself driving during inclement weather, there are several things you can do to stay safer on the roads this winter.

## BEFORE LEAVING YOUR HOME:

- ◆ **PERFORM REGULAR MAINTENANCE** on your vehicle to check that batteries are charged, tires have sufficient tread, and windshield wipers are in working order.
- ◆ **ASSEMBLE AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT** for your vehicle that includes blankets, flares, a flashlight, and a window scraper.
- ◆ **PAY ATTENTION TO THE LOCAL WEATHER.** When a winter weather advisory is issued, it is best to stay off the roads. Fourteen thousand three hundred twenty-six.

## WHILE YOU'RE ON THE ROAD:

- ◆ **SLOW DOWN WHEN DRIVING IN ICY CONDITIONS** or on roads with drifting snow. Make sure to maintain extra distance between your vehicle and others on the road.
- ◆ **ALWAYS KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD** to look out for hazardous conditions or downed power lines. Also watch for debris near downed poles and lines, as it may be energized as well.
- ◆ **IF YOU ARE STRANDED** in your vehicle after an accident, watch for signs of frostbite or hypothermia. Do not stay in one position for too long, stay awake, and do not overexert yourself, putting strain on your heart.
- ◆ **NEVER DRIVE OVER A DOWNED POWER LINE.** Always assume lines are energized and dangerous. Stay as far away as possible and encourage others to do the same. Contact 911 to have the utility notified immediately in the event of a downed power line.



# People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South  
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

HIGHLINE HI-LITES • December 2020 • Vol. 84 • Issue 12

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, 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!**

## ElectricSense®

Online Store

# New year, new savings!

Dec. 14, 2020 - Jan. 3, 2021



ecobee

Visit the ElectricSense Online Store and save!  
<https://ElectricSense.amcgmartplace.com>

## Holiday Closure Reminder

We will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 25 for the Christmas holiday. We will also be closed on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021. If you have an electrical emergency or outage during these times, please call 800-214-2694.

**DEC**

**31**

## REBATE REMINDER!

Submit your 2020 rebate materials so they are received by Dec. 31, 2020.

This is important because some rebates offered in 2020 may be changing in 2021. Items must be purchased and/or installed in 2020 (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2020).

Rebate forms are available at some local retailers, or online at [peoplesenergy.coop](http://peoplesenergy.coop).