



## BUILT BY THE PEOPLE

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO ELECT *WHO REPRESENTS YOU*

a member of a political party or movement.

**democracy** / dɪˈmɒkrəsi  
1 government by the people; supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically-held free elections.

**MERRIAM-WEBSTER DEFINES DEMOCRACY SIMPLY** as "government by the people" and more specifically as "a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically-held free elections."

Much like the country we call "home," cooperatives are built by the people, for the people, and as a member-consumer of the Cooperative, you have the power to elect who represents you on the Cooperative's Board of Directors.

Candidates are fellow members who have "raised their hand" to accept the responsibility of looking out for the best interests of the Cooperative and its members. They could be your neighbor, friend, or family member. A nominating committee comprised of cooperative members from the districts up for election vet and nominate the candidates.

This year, candidates from Districts One (area north of Rochester) and Six (Chatfield area) will be on the ballot. Joe Book (incumbent) and Steve Schmidt were nominated for District One and Art Friedrich (incumbent) was nominated, and running unopposed, for District Six.

Look for more details to be included in the ballot packet being mailed the week of February 25. Ballots must be cast and received

in the mail by Wednesday, March 20 or handed in at and just prior to the start of the Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 21. Votes may also be cast on-line until 10:30 a.m. on March 20. For members with current email addresses on file, please look for an email from "People's Energy Cooperative Election Coordinator" at "mailto:noreply@directvote.net." It will provide you with links to vote on-line.

**ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, MARCH 21, AT 6:30 PM**  
Be sure to retain the registration card at the top of the ballot to gain access to the Annual Meeting being held at the Rochester International Event Center. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Appetizers will be served prior to the meeting.

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05. The Recent Polar Vortex Set an Example

08. Frequently Asked Questions About HomeServe

11. Which Type of Heat Pump is Right for You?

# CEO MESSAGE

FROM ELAINE J. GARRY, PRESIDENT & CEO



*Elaine J. Garry*

egarry@peoplesrec.com

*Each year the Board of Directors reviews and approves a work plan and budget that outlines the plans, projects, and on-going work we intend to complete during the year. It is built with our mission, vision, and strategic goals as guides.*

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The Work Plan and Budget includes plans related to power supply, electric service, member relations and programs, human resources, physical resources (*electrical system, office facilities, fleet, and information technology*), finances, and community involvement. We're already busy working the plan and a few of the key projects for 2019 include:

**A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR FIVE MEGAWATTS (5 MW) OF SOLAR.** This is in response to Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of our power suppliers, enacting a new policy that allows distribution cooperatives to own or have power purchase agreements for a portion of our load. Contracts will be awarded only if the cost is lower or more cost effective than what we are currently paying for power from our power providers. The RFP includes an option for projects to include energy storage. Inclusion of dispatchable energy storage could provide additional economic benefit through reduction in peak coincident demand.

**ELECTRICAL PLANT ADDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TOTALING \$9,146,000.** This includes replacing 19 miles of underground line and 33.6 miles of overhead line and other distribution system equipment and substation improvements. It also includes transmission system improvements, new service extensions, service rebuilds, load management equipment, and the retirement and replacement of old equipment.

**IMPLEMENTING NISC'S CALL CAPTURE SYSTEM IN LATE 2019.** This will enable us to improve communication with members by: sending out automated calls versus paying a per call fee to our current service provider; logging outage calls automatically into our outage management system (*OMS*); and allowing members to pay immediately over the phone when they receive an automated phone call about a delinquent bill.

**EXPANDING AND INCORPORATING NEW REBATE AND INCENTIVE PROGRAMS.** We are exploring programs that support beneficial electrification. This is the process of replacing a fossil-fuel powered technology with a more efficient, electric alternative such as heat pumps, electric vehicle charging during off-peak hours, and storage water heaters.

**REPLACING OUR VEHICLE RADIO SYSTEM.** In partnership with Dairyland Power Cooperative, this new system will allow for better service and inter-cooperative radio communications for a mutual aid restoration of power in an emergency.

**LAUNCHING A MATERIAL INVENTORY BARCODING SYSTEM.** This new electronic system enables all material inventory transactions from check-in to check-out to be processed using a barcoding application on iPads, phones, or tablets. The goal is to ensure accurate and efficient inventory procurement and the appropriate assignment of inventory to projects worked on in the field.

It is my philosophy that if we are not improving what we do, we are losing ground by not performing in the best interest of our members. It's important that we continually seek out and implement ways to be more efficient and effective so we can best serve our members.

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*I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, at the Rochester International Event Center!*

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

# MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## highline

Vol. 83 • Issue 02

PEC's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on Thursday, January 31. Discussions included:

*The status of securing land for solar projects; progress made on pole inspections and maintenance; transitioning to use electronic reporting of substation inspections; receipt of RPU's back payment based on the new agreement; the Farm Bill's effect on changes to the RUS Cushion of Credit; information available on the Cooperative's website; a five-year rate plan; and financial results for December and 2018 yearend, among other items.*



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

- ▶ **Approved adjustments to the Second Nature and Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) rates for SMEC (former Alliant accounts) and to Rate Schedule D for legacy members (accounts served by the Cooperative prior to the Alliant acquisition in 2015).**
- ▶ **Approved a power cost adjustment (PCA) of \$0.0104 for the SMEC accounts and a PCA of \$0.0066973 for legacy accounts.**
- ▶ **Appointed Bruce Klaehn to the Member Advisory Committee.**
- ▶ **Reviewed and approved policies and guidelines related to power supply.**

### 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](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)

## ElectricSense

**Need new light bulbs or water-saving products? Check out ElectricSense, our online energy efficiency store!**

Not only are your purchases efficient – but the rebates are built into the price! You no longer need to save your receipts and remember to turn them in to redeem your rebate!

Members can browse the online store at [electricsense.amcgmarketplace.com](http://electricsense.amcgmarketplace.com). To purchase, a member must create an account and identify themselves as a People's Energy Cooperative member. The store accepts VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover and PayPal. Learn more at [peoplesenergy.coop](http://peoplesenergy.coop).





## Trade Ally Meeting

For several years, People's Energy Cooperative, Rochester Public Utilities, and Minnesota Energy Resources gather with commercial customers and trade allies to discuss changes in the industry and new rebate opportunities.

During the well-attended lunch, Ashley Kincaid, cooperative relations coordinator, presented a recap of our 2018 Rebate Program along with changes implemented for 2019. Brandon Johnson, energy advisor and key accounts specialist, had the chance before and after the event to talk individually with local contractors and trade allies about specific opportunities available to those interested in green energy technologies.



FRONT ROW: Kenneth Aaker, Tamara Musty, Ben Hain.  
BACK ROW: Cyril Rathbun, Thomas Leonard, Nathan Redalen.

## 2019 NOMINATING, CREDENTIALS, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:

Thank you to the members from **DISTRICT 1** (Kenneth Aaker, Tamara Musty, and Ben Hain) and **DISTRICT 6** (Cyril Rathbun, Thomas Leonard, and Nathan Redalen) who are serving on the 2019 Nominating, Credentials, and Elections Committee. Twenty-seven thousand one hundred ninety-four.



Jason



Ben



Brian



Dave



Shawn



Geneva



Tara



Richard



## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Join us in thanking and congratulating the following employees who have reached milestones in years of service at People's Energy Cooperative:

- Jason Campbell, 5 years – Lead Area Lineworker
- Ben Alrick, 10 years – Area Lineworker
- Brian Engen, 10 years – Staking Engineer
- Dave Patterson, 10 years – IT Manager
- Shawn Varpness, 10 years – Area Lineworker
- Geneva Deters, 15 years – Accountant
- Tara Stockman, 15 years – HR Manager
- Richard Wellik, 45 years – Staking Engineer



# Our Polar Vortex

## SHOWED THE NEED FOR BASELINE POWER

As our industry embraces the adoption of renewable energy resources, it's important to keep in mind the engineering limits of the existing technology. The wind doesn't always blow, the sun doesn't always shine, and we don't have the ability to make that happen. We also can't efficiently or cost-effectively store the energy generated for use when we need it.

Our recent cold snap was a good example of the importance of an "all-of-the-above" approach to energy and the necessity of dispatchable energy generated by coal and natural gas-fired plants.

During the last week of January, we experienced the extreme, bone-chilling temperatures of a polar vortex. Electricity demand across the MISO market spiked 4,000 MW's as the temperatures plummeted. Unfortunately, wind generation output plummeted along with the temperature – from 13,000 MW of generation on January 29, to approximately 4,500 MW of generation on the 30th and 31st.

At night, when temperatures were their lowest, solar couldn't be depended upon to generate the power needed. It had to be generated by coal and natural gas-fired generators that could be called upon and dispatched as needed.

Our intent with this message isn't to say wind and solar power aren't important or viable energy options. It's simply to point out that we still need a balanced "all-of-the-above" approach to maintain the affordability, reliability, and sustainability of our national electric grid.

Just like research and development continues to seek ways to better capitalize on the power of the sun and wind; high efficiency, low emissions (*HELE*) technologies are also being developed and refined to help increase efficiencies and decrease emissions (*like CO2*) related to fossil-fuel generation plants.

Bottom line, we can't be so quick to shut down coal-fired power plants and mandate the use of renewables. We need to be strategic and thoughtful to avoid unintended consequences that could leave us cold and in the dark when we need power the most.

*Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) is a not-for-profit, member-based organization. They ensure the reliable delivery of electricity at the lowest cost, across high-voltage power lines in 15 U.S. States and the Canadian province of Manitoba. MISO also conducts transmission planning and manages the buying and selling of wholesale electricity in one of the world's largest energy markets. Both of our power providers, Dairyland Power Cooperative and Alliant Energy are members of the MISO market. To learn more visit [www.misoenergy.org](http://www.misoenergy.org).*



## Winter Survival: MAKE YOUR CAR KIT

Stuck on the side of the road or in a snowbank, it doesn't take long to reach dangerously low temperatures inside your vehicle. Act now and make a survival kit. Most likely, you already have the supplies around your house. Just gather them up, and store them in the trunk of your car.

- *Booster Cables*
- *Blankets or sleeping bag*
- *Battery powered radio*
- *Candy bars & water*
- *Cat litter for traction*
- *Extra hats, socks, and mittens*
- *Flashlight with extra batteries*
- *First aid kit with pocket knife*
- *Plug-in cell phone adapter*
- *Small shovel to fit in trunk*





## OPERATION ROUND UP®

# Jan. Grants

To be considered for second quarter grants in 2019, applications must be submitted no later than March 20, 2019. Program guidelines and applications for Operation Round Up® donations are available at [www.peoplesenergy.coop](http://www.peoplesenergy.coop) or by calling the Cooperative at 800-214-2694.

People's Energy Cooperative Operation Round Up® Trust Board provided \$22,644 in grants to the following area organizations in the first quarter of 2019:

- **\$1,200: Chatfield Brass Band, Inc.** – In support of the Chatfield Brass Band 50th Anniversary Summer Concert Series
- **\$2,200: Plainview Area Community Youth Center & PEM Area Dining** – For lighting / electrical upgrades and a new storage cabinet
- **\$2,000: Gamehaven Council, Boy Scouts of America in Rochester** – For lighting upgrades and enhancements
- **\$1,000: The Grace Foundation in Rochester** – For a new gymnasium sound system and equipment
- **\$650: MN Council for the Gifted and Talented – Rochester GATEway Chapter** – In support of the 2019 Rochester GATEway Science Fair
- **\$6,489: Plainview-Elgin-Millville School District** – For a dual-purpose scoreboard at Eckstein Field.
- **\$1,000: Hawthorne Helps in Rochester** – To purchase supplies for the “mini-store”
- **\$1,000: Zumbro Education District, South Campus in Byron** – For the purchase of a painting hood fume exhaust system
- **\$750: Immanuel Lutheran School in Plainview** – For the purchase of new library content
- **\$1,855: Ability Building Center in Rochester** – For the purchase of a water bottle filling station
- **\$2,500: Zumbro Valley Health Center in Rochester** – For the purchase of bus passes and taxi gift cards for patient use.
- **\$1,000: Bundles of Love Charity in Rochester** – To purchase supplies for newborn care baskets
- **\$500: Stewartville Public Schools** – In support of Dancing Classrooms
- **\$500: Kasson-Mantorville Community Education** – In support of the Penumbra Theatre performance

Operation Round Up® funds are collected from members who have their bill rounded up to the next dollar. The difference is deposited into the trust fund each month. Applications for funding are considered on a quarterly basis. The funds are held separately from the People's Energy Cooperative operating accounts and are administered through the Board of Trustees comprised of seven People's Energy Cooperative member volunteers. Twelve thousand one hundred sixty-nine.

## IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER: HIGH SPEED INTERNET



Viasat, the company that brought our members Exede, has launched an even better satellite for high-speed internet. The new satellite has more broadband capacity than any satellite in history—and that's good news for you!

All new packages come with unlimited data and speeds ranging from 12Mbps up to 30Mbps. Customers will also be able to choose their preferred level of video streaming quality. This will vary depending on how you stream videos inside your home. Whether it's mostly through a hand-held device or a flat screen TV, Viasat broadband from NRTC Rural Broadband, will have a package that's right for you.

Your opportunity to upgrade to an improved level of broadband service!

To learn more or sign-up, please call 888-559-9120. Be sure to mention you are a People's Energy Cooperative member and ask about any current promotions being offered.



# *an unforgettable* **ADVENTURE**

**Reed Peterson, 2015 Youth Tour Representative**

*The author in 2015*

*Almost four years ago, People's Energy Cooperative gave me the amazing opportunity to attend the NRECA Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. This trip was my first visit to our nation's capital and my first time on an airplane. I had no idea what to expect. When I departed the Minneapolis airport with 40 other high schoolers, I didn't realize I was about to have the coolest experience of high school.*

While we were in D.C., my favorite activities included meeting our state representatives on Capitol Hill, seeing the White House, and walking around the National Mall. We also learned about how cooperatives operate, watched the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery, explored the Smithsonian museums, attended a historical

dinner theater production, and saw many memorials, including the WWII and Jefferson memorials.

The best part of the trip, however, was the spectacular people I met – and one person in particular. I spent the week with all of the other students sent from cooperatives around Minnesota, so I got to know a group of guys well. Although I didn't stay in contact with most people after the trip, there was one girl named Ruby who I continued to text quite a lot after the trip. At first, we were simply reminiscing about the trip and discussing the funny memories of the group, but with time our conversations became more personal and we discovered we had a lot in common (*including interest in each other*).

When we graduated high school, she went to the University of Missouri and I went to North Dakota State University. The distance only made our friendship stronger, so we began dating

freshman year. Ruby transferred to NDSU two years later and we are now engaged to be married in May. A lot happened on the Youth Tour trip that I am thankful for, but I am most thankful for my relationship with Ruby.

*I would encourage every teenager to apply for the Your Tour. While I can't guarantee you'll meet your future wife, I know it will be among your best experiences in high school.*



*Reed Peterson and his fiancé Ruby.*



## **2019 Deadline Reminders**

Applications for the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., are due on **March 1**.

Scholarships applications for graduating high school seniors are due **March 29**.

*For more info, visit online, call **800-214-2694**, or email **memberrelations@peoplesrec.com**.*

*We recently announced our partnership with HomeServe, a provider of home repair service plans. The plans are **OPTIONAL** and designed to protect homeowners against the expense and inconvenience of unexpected repairs by providing affordable coverage and quality service.*

**Following a joint-mailing from the Cooperative and HomeServe in mid-January we have received a few calls from members with questions about the program. The following are a few of the questions we've received:**

**Is this a scam?** No, we can assure you it is not a scam. It is simply being offered to members of the Cooperative through a partnership we pursued with HomeServe to provide an optional, value-added service to members to help protect them against the sudden expense and inconvenience of unexpected repairs.

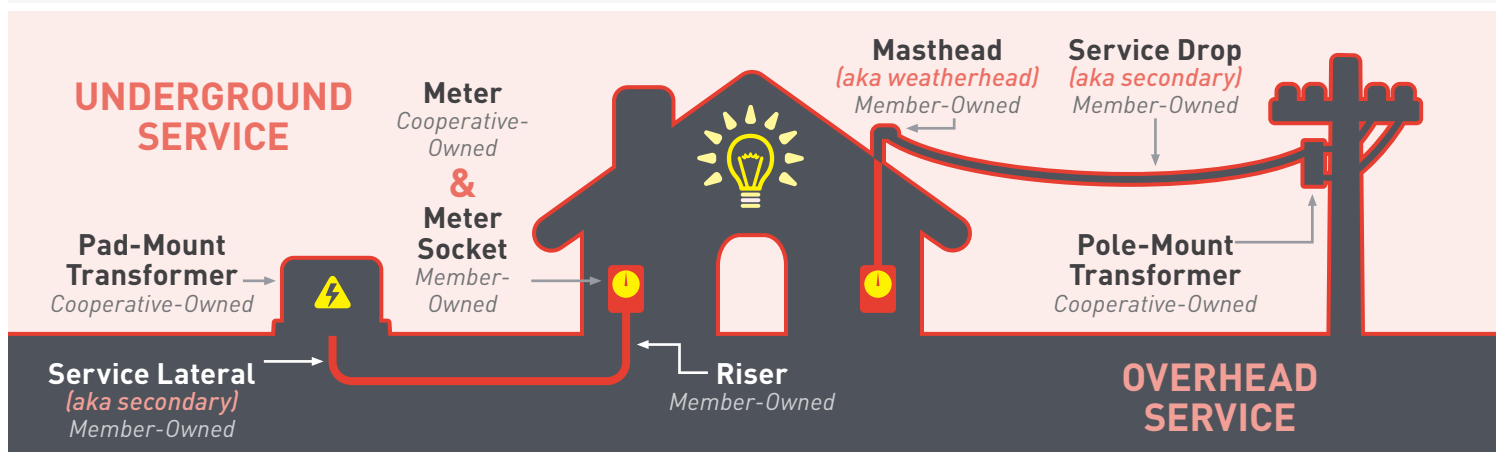
**Am I required to purchase a service plan for my exterior electrical service?** No, there are no requirements or obligations to participate, it is strictly optional.

**Who is responsible for exterior electrical lines and equipment?** Whether the service leading to the home is underground or overhead, the property owner is typically responsible for the electrical lines from the transformer into the house (*more commonly referred to as the secondary*), point of attachment to the house,

weather head (*for overhead*), riser (*for underground*), service entrance conductor, and the meter base (*also referred to as a meter socket*). The Cooperative owns, and is responsible for, the meter and in some cases owns the secondary line.

If your current electric lines and equipment were installed by the Cooperative prior to 1996 or if your location was formerly served by Alliant and part of the Alliant acquisition in 2015, the Cooperative typically owns the secondary line. If your electric service was installed, has been updated/replaced since 1996 or after the 2015 Alliant acquisition, then you typically own the secondary line. To confirm if you or the Cooperative owns the secondary line, please call the Cooperative.

**Does my home-owners insurance cover my exterior electrical service?** Most basic homeowner's insurance policies do not cover repair or replacement costs due to normal wear and tear of exterior electrical components. That is why we felt this is a value-added service for our members. Keep in mind this isn't insurance, it's a service plan. The plans provide repair service through HomeServe's 24/7 repair hotline by local, licensed, and insured technicians with no deductibles or call-out fees and a one-year guarantee on all covered repairs. (*continued next page*)







## FAQS CONTINUED

Working with reputable, local technicians also ensures a prompt response time to service calls without the hassle of finding one on your own.

### What happens if I don't respond by February 21 as listed on the mailer?

The date was simply a way to help encourage people to take action before a second mailer is sent out to members to remind them of the new program. You can enroll in the program at any time. You will continue to receive mailers from HomeServe for other available service plans they offer. These mailers are done in partnership with HomeServe at no cost to the Cooperative.

### Will my electric bill be charged for my HomeServe service plans?

No. All billing and payments are done through HomeServe. Two thousand five hundred twenty-six.

### Are there other service plans available through HomeServe?

Repair service plans currently available to PEC members from HomeServe include: exterior electrical, interior electrical, water heater repair and replace, cooling, heating, surge protection, water service line, and sewer/septic line. You can participate in as few or as many of the plans as you'd like.

*If you have questions about the specific service plans, please contact HomeServe directly at 833-334-1874 or visit the HomeServe page on our website and click on the Visit HomeServe USA button.*



*From left: Ted Kjos (MiEnergy), Kenric Scheevel (DPC), Brian Krambeer (MiEnergy), Congressman Jim Hagedorn, Brian Rude (DPC), Elaine Garry (PEC), Jim Krueger (FMCS), Mary Nelson (FMCS) and Carol Stevenson (office of Rep. Hagedorn).*

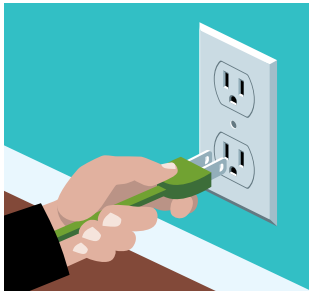
## MEETING POLICYMAKERS TO DISCUSS KEY ISSUES

People's Energy Cooperative works with local, state, and national policymakers in both parties to communicate and educate them about electric utility industry issues. Meeting with newly elected officials after each election cycle provides an opportunity to begin the dialogue and develop relationships.

On January 21, we had the honor of hosting a visit with newly elected U.S. Representative Jim Hagedorn along with neighboring cooperatives Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services (FMCS) located in Albert Lea and Rushford-based MiEnergy. The meeting was organized by Dairyland Power Cooperative that provides power to all three cooperatives in Minnesota.

"It was a very productive and positive meeting," said People's President and CEO, Elaine Garry. "The group provided a 'Rural Electric Cooperatives 101' overview and focused on key issues that could impact our members and local communities.

*"It was an honor and a privilege to meet Representative Hagedorn and Ms. Stevenson and we look forward to continuing to build the relationship and serve them in any way we can that supports our members."* – Elaine Garry, People's Energy Cooperative President and CEO



# Electrical Safety Checklist

Nearly half of all home fires occur during winter months. Take a few minutes to identify and correct any potential electrical hazards to ensure the safety of your home.

## SWITCHES AND OUTLETS

- Are any switches or outlets warm to the touch? .....  
*Warm switches or outlets indicate an unsafe wiring condition.*
- Are any outlets or switches discolored? .....  
*Discoloration indicates dangerous heat buildup at these connections.*
- Do plugs fit snugly into outlets? .....  
*Loose-fitting plugs can cause overheating and fires.*

YES	NO
YES	NO
YES	NO

## ELECTRICAL CORDS

- Are any cords cracked, frayed or damaged? .....  
*Damaged cords can expose wires, causing shock or fire hazard.*
- Are any cords pinched by furniture or windows, .....  
or attached to anything with staples or nails?  
*Pinching and/or stapling cords can damage the insulation, causing shock or fire hazard.*
- Do you use extension cords on a permanent basis? .....  
*Extension cords should only be used temporarily.*

YES	NO
YES	NO
YES	NO

## ELECTRIC PANEL

- Do you have recurring tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses? .....  
*If yes, this could indicate you're exceeding a safe level of electrical current.*
- Do you have arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs)? .....  
*AFCIs provide greater fire protection. Check your circuit breakers for the AFCI label.*

YES	NO
YES	NO

Please note this is not a comprehensive safety checklist. Please visit [ESFI.org](https://www.esfi.org) for more information. Source: ESFI

## SPRING *IS* COMING

*It may be hard to believe it now, but spring will be here before we know it. We encourage anyone thinking about projects which may require new or modified electrical service to contact the Cooperative and begin the planning process as early as possible as they are handled on a first come, first served basis.*

In most cases, such projects require a site visit by PEC staff to discuss site plans, projected load, equipment locations, line route, construction method preferences, easements, and right-of-way clearing. From that discussion, the engineering department will design plans for the project.

Once plans are agreed upon, a construction agreement is created outlining the project and fees associated with the work to be completed. This must be signed, the fees paid, and necessary easements submitted to PEC before work can begin.

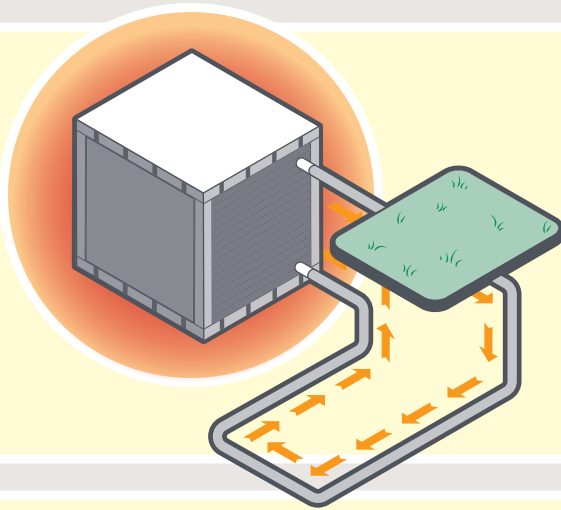
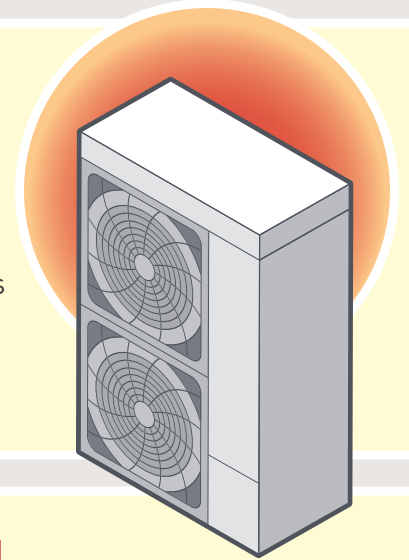
*For more, visit [peoplesenergy.coop](https://www.peoplesenergy.coop) and search under "Electrical Service" and "Construction Information."*

# ► TYPES OF HEAT PUMPS

There are three main types of heat pump systems. Use the information below to determine the system best suited for your climate and home.

## ► AIR-SOURCE

- Most commonly used heat pumps, moving heat rather than converting it from a fuel (*like combustion heating systems do*).
- Can reduce heating costs by about 50 percent when compared to baseboard heaters or electric furnaces. More efficient systems now represent a legitimate space heating alternative in colder regions. If temps in your area drop below 10 to 25 F, you will need an auxiliary heating system (*depending on the size of the system*).

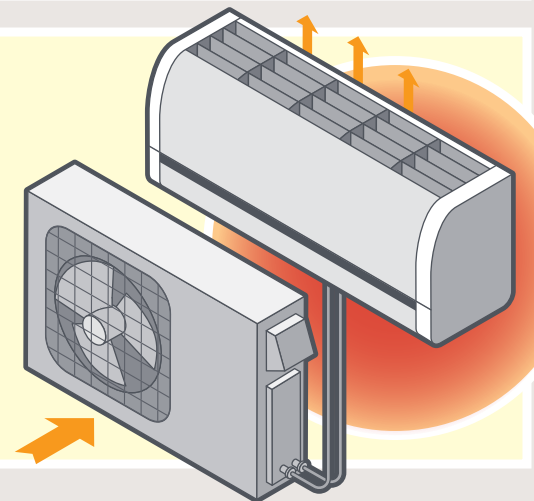


## ► GEOTHERMAL

- More expensive to install (*the system moves heat through pipes buried underground*) but provides more energy savings for heating and cooling.
- When compared to a conventional heating system, can reduce energy use by 25 to 50 percent.
- Effective in extreme climates; not ideal for smaller lots and certain soil conditions.

## ► DUCTLESS MINI-SPLIT

- Easier to install, quiet, small in size, and flexible for heating/cooling individual rooms and smaller spaces.
- No energy loss through ductwork, which can account for more than 30 percent of a home's energy use for space heating/cooling.
- Installation can be pricey (*federal incentives may be available*). Thirteen thousand thirty-one.



Heat pump systems should be installed by a licensed professional. Contact your local electric cooperative for more information about options and potential incentives.  
Sources: Dept. of Energy and Consumer Reports



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES





## People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South  
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

### HIGHLINE HI-LITES • February 2019 • Vol. 83 • Issue 02

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!**



Olmsted Soil & Water Conservation District

## TREE & SHRUB TRANSPLANT SALE

Orders are now being accepted for mid-April delivery. Supplies are limited, so order early.

**VARIETIES INCLUDE:** *Arborvitae, Blackhills Spruce, Colorado Spruce, Norway Spruce, White Pine, Norway Pine, Maples, Oaks, Red Splendor Crab, Am Cranberry, Dogwood, Lilac, and more!*

2122 Campus Drive SE, Ste. 200  
Rochester, MN. 507-328-7070

**www.olmstedswcd.org**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FOR THESE UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

**MARCH 1: YOUTH TOUR APPLICATIONS DUE** – The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington, D.C. every June since the late 1950s. The 2019 event takes place June 15-20. *For more information see page 7, or visit our website.*

**MARCH 20: APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR OPERATION ROUND-UP®** – The ORU Trust Board meets each quarter to review applications and grant funds for local non-profits that meet the qualifications according to the Bylaws of the Trust. *Complete details and applications can be found online at [www.peoplesenergy.coop](http://www.peoplesenergy.coop).*

**MARCH 21: ANNUAL MEETING** – Plan to attend PEC's annual meeting being held in the evening at the Rochester International Event Center. *Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.*

**MARCH 29: SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE** – PEC is pleased to offer \$1,000 scholarships for general education and \$2,000 scholarships for lineworker education programs to graduating seniors throughout our service area. *Visit us online for the application and more details.*