

KILOWATT

“A PARTNER AND TRUSTED SOURCE”

Electric cooperative members across the country are increasingly satisfied with the performance of their electric co-ops, and more than ever before see them as trusted sources for information on keeping their energy costs low. These are among the key findings of a recent national survey commissioned by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national trade association representing more than 900 electric cooperatives, and conducted by Frederick Polls.

The survey found increased satisfaction over 2018 numbers from respondents who say their electric co-op keeps them informed about its actions (84 percent) and is a trusted source for information about energy use and devices, including solar energy (83 percent). It also recorded an increase from 2018 in co-op members who say their electric co-op is a partner in understanding energy technologies and controlling energy costs (83 percent).

“We hear a lot of stories about how Americans are losing faith in institutions like big companies and government, but that’s clearly not the case with electric cooperatives,” says NRECA Communications Senior Vice President Scott Peterson. “The positive view that members have of [electric] co-ops is a testament to their reputation as honest brokers and entities who truly care about their communities.”

A telephone survey, which has been conducted annually for the past six years, polled 750 co-op members in mid-July. It has a margin of error of 3.6 percent.

Other data shows electric co-ops holding steady with prior surveys on overall job performance (93 percent positive), providing reliable electric service (95 percent positive) and quickly restoring power after outages (92 percent positive).

More than half (56 percent) of the co-op members who responded said their electric bills are “about right” or “a bit low” versus 41 percent who say their bills are “too high.”

Electric co-ops care about the local communities they serve and want to be the trusted energy source for their members. If you have questions about your energy use or ways you can make your home more efficient to save money on your energy bills, contact your electric co-op – they’re ready to help.

NEW REPORT

Members Have a High Opinion of Their Co-op

CO-OP PERFORMANCE ON SPECIFIC TRAITS
Consumer-members give co-ops high marks across the board for performance but registered their highest satisfaction ever with co-ops being a “partner” in controlling energy use.

Trait	Very positive	Somewhat positive	TOTAL POSITIVE	CHANGE FROM 2018
Providing RELIABLE electric service.	68%	27%	95%	+1
Quickly RESTORING electric service after an outage.	65%	27%	92%	+2
COMMUNICATING and keeping members INFORMED about actions the co-op is taking.	47%	37%	84%	+5
Being a TRUSTED SOURCE for information about energy use and consumer choices.	39%	44%	83%	+5
Being a PARTNER in helping members control household energy use and save money.	39%	44%	83%	+10

● Very positive ● Somewhat positive

PERCEPTION OF ELECTRIC RATES
More than half of survey respondents said their co-op’s rates are “about right” or “a bit low.”

Year	Right/Low	Too High
Feb. 2014	52%	46%
March 2015	53%	44%
Nov. 2015	56%	43%
June 2016	59%	37%
April 2018	53%	46%
July 2019	56%	41%

83% have a positive opinion of their co-op as a **trusted source of information** about energy use and consumer choices.

Source: Survey of 750 electric co-op members, July 2019, margin of error +/-3.6% by Frederick Polls



Start the New Year Right with Energy Savings

Dial in savings:

Now: The first place to start is your home thermostat. In most homes, the largest portion of the energy bill goes toward heating and cooling. Setting back your thermostat by 7 to 10 degrees for eight hours a day can save you up to 10% a year on heating and cooling. In the winter, you could aim for 56 F at night and when no one is at home, and 68 F when you're up and around.

Later: Make sure to adjust your air conditioning settings next summer. If you have a manual thermostat and don't always remember to adjust it, consider purchasing a smart thermostat, or at least one that's programmable.

Set refrigerator and freezer temps for efficiency:

Now: Make sure your refrigerator and freezer aren't set to a colder temperature than needed. The fridge should be at 38 F to 40 F and the freezer compartment should be 5 F. If you have a separate chest freezer, set it to 0 F. Also check your water heater setting. You should aim for a setting of 120 F.

Later: Old refrigerators and freezers can use a lot of electricity. If yours was made before 1993, you can save upwards of \$65 a year with a new ENERGY STAR® model. If you eliminate a second refrigerator or freezer, you can save even more, especially if they are stored in your garage.

Maximize the heat you've got:

Now: Look around each room and make sure the vents and radiators aren't blocked by furniture or other objects. If the floors feel cold even when the room is warm, put down area rugs for additional warmth. Open curtains and blinds to let the sunshine in, and close them at night.

Later: Enlist the help of an energy auditor or HVAC specialist to test for duct leakage and ensure your whole system is balanced and running efficiently.

Make bright moves with your lights:

Now: The obvious first step is to make sure lights are turned off when they're not in use. You can do this manually or employ one of many automated strategies. If you're still using incandescent bulbs, you could switch the five most-used bulbs to LEDs and save about \$75 per year. LEDs last much longer and use about one-fourth as much energy. Prices on LED bulbs have decreased in the past few years, and you can save more if you buy them in packs.

Later: Over time, plan to replace all your old incandescent bulbs, and consider smart lighting options that can be programmed to turn off when a room is not in use.

Eliminate drafts.

Now: Look carefully around your home for signs of air leaks. If you have a gap under an exterior door, you can block it with a towel or better yet, install some weather stripping. Make sure windows are sealed with caulk, and you can also seal areas around plumbing and wiring penetrations.

Later: Have an energy auditor do a blower door test, which is the best to identify all air leaks.

Taking some of these easy steps now should provide some quick energy savings. To save even more, you'll need a plan that includes the "later" steps we've shared above. An energy audit can help you determine a much better plan, and your electric co-op may be able to recommend a qualified local auditor.

WE VALUE YOUR INPUT!

Join us to share your ideas and feedback on the **skills, characteristics and job focus** you would like to see in your new CEO. Other topics will be halted.

If you are unable to attend, please email your ideas and feedback by January 15th: forum@kpcoop.com

RSVP: 800-551-4951 or forum@kpcoop.com

MEMBER FORUM

Thursday
January 16, 2020
6:30 pm

Kandiyohi Power Co-op
Community Room
8605 47th St NE
Spicer, MN 56288



This forum is members only.
Only members are invited to attend.

KILOWATT CREDIT SCORECARD

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Account numbers used are 9 digits, as appearing on your monthly bill. If you find your account number in this KILOWATT, please notify us by the 4th to claim your credit.

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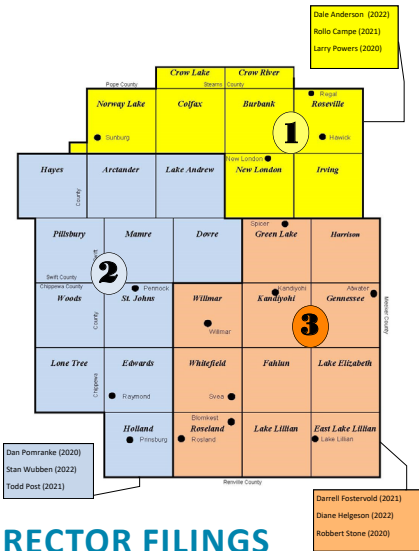
heartlandss.com



ANNUAL COGENERATION NOTIFICATION TO MEMBERSHIP

Kandiyohi Power Cooperative has adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production. Kandiyohi Power Cooperative will interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. Kandiyohi Power Cooperative will provide interested members rates and interconnection requirements, which can be found by searching Distributed Generation on our website at www.kpcoop.com. 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 Kandiyohi Power Cooperative. Interested members should contact Kandiyohi Power Cooperative at 1-800-551-4951.

BOARD MEMBER DISTRICTS 2020



DIRECTOR FILINGS NOW OPEN FOR DISTRICTS 1, 2 & 3.

Would you like to serve as a Director on the Kandiyohi Power Cooperative Board for your District? Please call Robin at 1-800-551-4951, email rryks@kpcoop.com or stop by our office and request a Director packet. These packets contain the cooperative's bylaws as well as the qualifications to become a Director. As a Board Director you will serve a 3-year term and must reside within the District you are filing in. Filing are due to the office by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 24, 2020. Election results will be announced at KPC's Annual Meeting, April 21, 2020.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Let the sunshine in! For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10%.

Source: energy.gov



FIREPLACE SAFETY TIPS

Every year, nearly 20,000 residential fires are linked to fireplaces. The Consumer Product Safety Commission offers these tips to help you keep your family safe:

1. Consider scheduling a fireplace inspection and cleaning by a certified professional.
2. Install a carbon monoxide detector on every floor of your home. These devices offer low-cost protection and provide early warnings of potential problems.
3. Keep flues, dampers, firestops, flashing and chimney caps in good condition.
4. If you have small children and/or pets, consider a secondary screen. A glass screen can reach temperatures of 500 degrees Fahrenheit, so an extra barrier can protect them from serious burns.



2020 RESIDENTIAL MEMBER REBATES AVAILABLE

Appliances/Home:

- Refrigerator w/recycling of old (Energy Star).....\$ 75.00
- Freezer w/recycling of old (Energy Star)\$ 75.00
- Dryer w/recycling of old (Energy Star)\$ 25.00

Heating and Cooling:

- Ductless ASHP
 - Delivered Fuels.....\$300.00
 - Primary Electric Heat\$500.00
- ECM Motor\$ 50.00
- GSHP – per/ton.....\$400.00
- QI ASHP (Qualified Installer)
 - 14.5 SEER.....\$480.00
 - 15 SEER.....\$580.00
 - 16 SEER.....\$630.00
- A/C Tune Up (Rebate forms accepted until 9/1/20)\$ 25.00
- ETS Space Heating – per kW\$ 25.00

Lighting

- LED Home Light & Holiday Light.....\$ 2.00
 - 10 bulb max
- LED Yard Light\$ 30.00

Fluorescent Bulb Recycling

- Option #1: Recycle fluorescent/CFL bulbs at Kandiyohi Power. Drop off – give count – sign name. Must be a member of KPC.
- Option #2: Bring bulbs directly to West Central Recycling. Bring your KPC electric bill for proof that you are a member of KPC.



Kandiyo Power Cooperative

8605 47th Street NE, Spicer, MN 56288
www.kpcoop.com

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30am – 4pm

Phone: 1-800-551-4951

Fax: 320-796-0620

Tom McCormick

Electric Inspector: 320-221-2809

Drop boxes available for your convenience at Cash Wise and headquarters building near flag pole.

MANAGEMENT STAFF

Diane Maurice, Marketing/Customer Service

Ryan Nelson, Engineering

Scott Luberts, Line Superintendent

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Dale Anderson, Chair- 320-894-1687

Rollo Campe- 320-894-1601

Larry Powers- 320-212-7960

Dan Pomranke, VC- 320-894-7113

Todd Post- 320-212-1119

Stan Wubben, Secretary- 320-905-8325

Darrell Fostervold - 320-212-4824

Diane Helgeson- 320-220-3745

Robbert Stone- 320-894-8867

District

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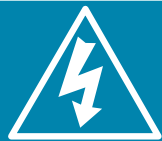
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KILOWATT STAFF:

Robin Ryks, Editor



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!!!
www.gopherstateonecall.org
1-800-252-1166

24-HOUR OUTAGE NUMBER

When your lights go out, so do we.

Call us if your power goes out even if you think your neighbors already did. Leave one light on so you know when power has been restored and make sure you have an emergency kit ready.

1-800-551-4951

Join KPC's Community Solar in 2020 and enjoy the benefits of "Nature's Resource for a Brighter Tomorrow"!

3 Payment/Purchase Plans:

19-year contract/\$950.00 per panel

• 5-year contract/\$425 and \$375 for renewal of a 2nd 5-year contract per panel usage

• 4-year payment plan with zero% interest:

• 19-year contract at \$950 per panel (\$19.79 monthly payment)

1. You will see solar credits on your monthly electric bill immediately
2. Average of 500 kWh's/year output x 5 years = 2500 kWh's
3. KPC provides all maintenance and insurance of panels
4. Contracts end in 2039

Questions – Call 1-900-551-4951 and ask for Dan Tepfer

ENERGY SAVINGS WORD SEARCH

Did you know there are many ways you can help save energy in your home?

Read the energy efficiency tips below and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.



O E S P W F W A T E R S Y E S
A L L R S A E T D E I A L S R
T E X K E J T O G H C E P X E
L C O O G G Z E N X C N M N W
B T B F M X R R R T B X Q K O
G R I S M M R A R H C L I D H
X I S Y K Y E O H X E V A F S
I C B X X I N Y B C N A P J I
A I G Y Z I H F H X C F T Y E
U T U N C W U Y X Z O M B E S
U Y Z S E M F P O R V N V T R
R E F R I G E R A T O R H E Q
E V J M Q S D M D F V G N Y L
W M E O F P N T K W I H X Q I
G N I H T O L C R L S S B R D

- Turn off **lights** any time you leave a room.
- Keep the **refrigerator** door closed to save energy.
- Wash **clothing** in cold water to reduce the load on your **water heater**.
- Unplug items that consume **electricity** even when they're not in use, like cell phone **chargers** and coffee makers. These are known as "phantom load" **electronics**.
- Take **showers** instead of baths – showers require less **water** use.