

# KILOWATT



**KPC OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON MAY 28TH  
IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY.**

## GRID ACCESS WHO CARES!



ARTICLE BY: SCOTT FROEMMING, CEO

This sounds like a rather dull and boring subject which only a geeky co-op CEO would care about. However, there are important member fairness issues surrounding grid access, that may interest you. A growing number of our members are installing renewable wind and solar generation which is collectively referred to as distributed generation (DG). In simple terms, “grid access” refers to the connectivity that allows power to flow to your home.

The fairness issue is the result of two factors. First, our rates are structured, such that, some of the fixed costs of building, operating and maintaining the grid are built into the usage (kwh) charge our members are billed. Second, Minnesota law requires utilities to purchase any excess power generated by a DG project at the utilities retail rate vs whole rate. It is necessary for the DG owners to have grid access to sell their excess generation as well as for a backup for when their facilities may not be producing enough power to meet their needs.

The combination of these factors creates additional costs that need to be recovered from the rest of the membership. In the first instance, the DG owner will not be paying their fair share of grid costs because they are selling rather than buying power from the Co-op. In the second instance, members are paying the additional cost of purchasing, the DG owner’s, power at retail when there is an adequate supply of power available at wholesale prices.

To avoid these additional costs being passed on to members, who do not want to or cannot afford to install DG projects, we are implementing a grid access charge beginning July 1, 2018. The grid access charge will only be applied to the bills of members who install DG generation designed to produce more power than what they normally use. Its purpose is to charge the DG owner for using the grid to sell his excess power and to prevent him from benefiting at the expense of the rest of our membership.

In addition to the grid access charge, the actual cost to connect any member’s DG facilities to our grid will be billed to that member. For safety reasons, all DG interconnections need to be reviewed by our staff.

We fully support our members efforts to install DG generation to meet their own electric needs. Before moving forward with any DG project, I would encourage you to talk to our staff (800-551-4951 or [www.kpcoop.com](http://www.kpcoop.com)). They can advise you on how to size your project to avoid the grid access charge. They can also answer questions regarding interconnection, safety, cost and operational issues for solar and wind projects. We want to help you make an informed decision so that your DG project meets your expectations and there are no unpleasant surprises. In addition, we want to ensure that those members who don’t want to participate in DG projects are not subsidizing those who do.

Grid access is probably no more interesting to you now than before you read this column, but hopefully you are assured that we are interested in grid access, and in treating all our members as fair as possible. Thanks!

## NOTICE – INFORMING KPC MEMBERS

Global Mapping Systems have begun GPSing Kandiyohi Power Cooperative lines. Completion of this project will take about 8 months. Any vehicle or ATV on your property that is involved in this project should have a KPC sign on it for identification.



We are also having transformers re-painted beginning late June for approximately 2 months. These vehicles also will have KPC identification on them. If you have any questions or concerns, please notify us at 1-800-551-4951.

**May is National Electrical Safety Month**

plug into safety

#ElectricalSafetyMonth



## INTERNSHIP AT KPC

Luke Gilbertson, 2017 graduate from New London/Spicer and currently attending MN State Wadena for Lineman School, joins KPC's Line Department for a 90-hour internship. We are honored to be able to provide these internships for students, which in turn, gives them on the job training and covers some of their tuition costs.



While talking with Luke it was very evident how much he admires his mom, Kris, and appreciates the role model she has been in he and his younger brother Sam's lives. Not much of a television watcher, you will find Luke outdoors doing some hunting and fishing. I also could tell that his desire to be a lineman is something that means a lot to him and fits him well. Asking him some off the wall questions like: "If you were a brick on a wall, what one would you be?" He said, "The one at the very top because I'd have a great view and a sense of accomplishment". Great answer since he will probably spend a lot of time at the top of electrical poles. We also had a discussion on seat belts and concluded safety is important to Luke, which isn't a choice, it is a must in the life of a Lineman.

Where does Luke hope to be in 5 years from now? The Antarctic it is not, and if he could he would hibernate through the winter like Grizzly Bears to avoid the cold. Seriously, he hopes to still be in the New London/Spicer area and ultimately at Kandiyohi Power Cooperative.

Welcome Luke. We hope that KPC can be a good role model for you in your journey to become a lineman.

## 2018 KPC ANNUAL MEETING

April 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., Kandiyohi Power Cooperative (KPC) began the business portion of the Annual Meeting. In attendance were about 200 members. They heard from guest speaker, John Brekke, V-P of Power Supply from Great River Energy (GRE). Mr. Brekke gave an update on what is happening within GRE and what the future may look like. Board Chair, Dale Anderson emphasized how technology moves so quickly and how electric vehicles will soon be the norm and how our cell phones have become mini computers. CEO Froemming re-capped 2017 stating that it was a great year with no rate increase, the sale of KPC Propane and the purchase of the City of Kandiyohi utilities. 2018 will bring our system mapping up to date by GPS, Conservation Voltage Reduction (CVR) will lessen line loss. CFO Stern reviewed the 2017 year-end financials. Overall it was a good year financially.

Members are encouraged to communicate with KPC and let us know what you as members are looking for from your cooperative. Share your ideas and concerns so that the right business decisions for your cooperative can be made. The meeting ended with members enjoying a pulled pork meal, prize drawings and announcement of new directors.

### Winners from the Annual Meeting Drawing:

Vernon Reins	\$50 towards electric bill
Earl Habben	\$50 towards electric bill
Mark Ledebor	\$50 towards electric bill
Alec Olson	\$50 towards electric bill
Dave Runke	Heartland Security gift
Janine Shepersky	Heartland Security gift
Luther Linn	Heartland Security gift

### Re-elected Board Directors for a 3-year term:

District #1	Rollo Campe
District #2	Todd Post
District #3	Darrell Fostervold

**KILOWATT  
CREDIT SCORECARD**  
Win a credit on your next bill.

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.

We will credit your bill. Do not deduct the amount from your bill; pay as usual. Marlin Maresch found his account number in April's Kilowatt. Each account number is worth \$5.00.

# RESIDENTIAL HEATING SALES TAX EXEMPTION

If electric energy is your primary source of heat, you are eligible for a tax exemption during the months of November through April. 50% or more of your home must be heated by electric heat to qualify. If you receive tax credit for electric heat and do not qualify you are in violation of the sales tax law.

To receive this tax exemption, you must sign a form stating electric heat is your primary source of heat. It is the members responsibility to notify our KPC office, get a form, sign and return. This process needs to be done yearly. If we do not have a current signed form on file, you will not receive the tax credit. If you are not sure if you have signed for the tax credit, notify our offices at 1-800-551-4951 to see if we have a form on file. Don't just assume we have a current form because if we do not, we will not refund for past months.

## Avoid the Big Green Box

Please stay away from pad-mounted transformers (the big green box). While safe, they are not meant for touching, climbing or playing. Pad-mounted transformers carry high voltages of electricity that serve many homes in our communities.

**Never touch, climb or play on pad-mounted transformers. Never put fingers, sticks or other objects through cracks in the transformer.**

**Keep areas surrounding the pad-mounted transformer clear so that workers can safely maintain transformers as needed. Keep shrubs and structures at least 10 feet away from the transformer doors and 4 feet away from the sides.**

**Never dig near a pad-mounted transformer. They are surrounded by underground cables. Hitting the cable could result in electrical shock or disruption of service. Always dial 8-1-1 before you dig.**

**Report problems. If you notice anything amiss, like an unlocked transformer or one that has been damaged, please contact us immediately.**



**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**  
 TO STAY UP-TO-DATE!  
 LIKE YOUR COOPERATIVE AT  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/KANDIYOHIPOWERCOOPERATIVE](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/KANDIYOHIPOWERCOOPERATIVE)



**No ducts...no worries!**

Cool and heat your home with a ductless air source heat pump AND for a limited time – get enhanced rebates!

## ANNOUNCING LIMITED TIME ASHP PROMOTION

Kandiyohi Power Cooperative is pleased to announce our 2018, Air Source Heat Pump ASHP promotion. For a limited time, we will be doubling, even tripling our rebate on ASHP's.

### Rebate Qualifications/Considerations:

1. Must be installed in KPC territory
2. Must be installed and "QI" tested in 2018
3. Can be combined with furnace EC motor rebate
4. Ask about off-peak program and reduced electric rates
5. Rebate is only May, June & July 2018

### Why ASHP's?

1. Best of both worlds. ASHP's provide home cooling and supplemental heating with 72% less electricity than conventional a/c's and furnaces.
2. Higher Efficiency – you can save up to 30% on your home cooling expenses. They are also 200% + more efficient when it comes to home heating.
3. Easy on the Environment
4. A Safe Solution – no open flame so doesn't create any products combustion such as carbon monoxide and other emissions.
5. Quality Control – Air rises more slowly, distributes more evenly and holds its moisture better. This makes a more natural warmth.
6. Adjusts Automatically – An ASHP works in tandem with your conventional gas furnace for home heating. The pump automatically selects the most ideal balance between the two heating sources to constantly maintain the most efficiently ideal heating combination based on your desired indoor temperature.

### LIMITED TIME PROMOTIONAL REBATE AMOUNTS:

14.5 SEER .....	\$1,000.00
15 SEER .....	\$1,250.00
16 + SEER .....	\$2,000.00
Ductless ASHP (Mini Split)	
Heating Source Delivered Fuels ..	\$450.00
Heating Source Electric Heat.....	\$750.00



# Kandiyohi 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

Scott Froemming, CEO

Anthony Stern, CFO

Diane Maurice, Marketing/Customer Service

Dave Nelson, Engineering

Scott Luberts, Line Superintendent

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Dale Anderson, Chair- 320-254-3530

Rollo Campe- 320-894-1601

Larry Powers- 320-212-7960

Ted Olsen- 320-220-3084

Todd Post- 320-212-1119

Stan Wubben, Secretary- 320-905-8325

Darrell Fostervold, VC- 320-212-4824

Diane Helgeson- 320-220-3745

Robbert Stone- 320-894-8867

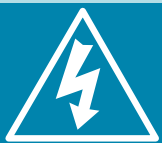
## KILOWATT STAFF:

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**

## PREPARING FOR DISASTER

By Thomas Kirk

Every year, the U.S. is hit by many natural disasters, including snow and ice storms, tornadoes, hurricanes and wildfires. These types of disasters pose a significant threat to our communities and homes. The most important step you can take to keep you and your family safe is to prepare beforehand, but knowing what to do during and after the event is crucial as well.

Before disaster strikes, familiarize yourself with the types of disasters that are common in your region, especially if you're new to the area. Many of the specifics depend on what type of disaster you're expecting, but there are several general guidelines to keep in mind as you prepare:

- **Water:** You will need one gallon per person per day. If you assume your family of four may be stranded for a week, store a minimum of 28 gallons.
- **Food:** Stock up on non-perishable or long shelf-life items, such as wheat, soybeans, canned fruits, peanut butter, jelly and condensed soups.
- **First Aid Kit:** Make sure your kit includes adhesive bandages (assorted sizes), antiseptic wipes, aspirin, hydrocortisone ointment, scissors and a thermometer. For a full list of suggested items, visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).
- **Flashlights and candles:** Be sure to keep extra batteries and matches (in a waterproof container) on hand.

For additional guidance on emergency items to keep around the house, visit [www.ready.gov/build-a-kit](http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit). Also consider training offered by local emergency management services such as Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes.

Some disasters occur suddenly, but many bring advance warnings, like hurricanes and winter storms. Pay special attention during the week leading up to the event for local and state government warnings and evacuation notices. Make sure every family member knows what your emergency plan is: staying or leaving, safe rooms in the house, where supplies are located, what to do if anyone is separated, and how to notify loved ones that you're safe after the event. It's also a good idea to know where your home's main water and gas shutoff valves are located.

While the U.S. electric grid is reliable, it is possible to lose power during a storm. The outage could be momentary or last hours or even days. If you live in an area where loss of power after a storm could be dangerous, consider purchasing a backup generator for your home. These can cost anywhere from a few hundred to few thousand dollars, depending on your needs. Be sure to test the generator before the disaster to ensure it's operating properly.

If you don't have a backup generator and lose power, don't panic. Most power outages in the U.S. are short and will not last more than a few hours. However, without knowing in advance how long the outage will last, it's wise to assume and act as though it will last for days. Here are a few general tips for wise energy practices during a disaster:

- Consume perishable and refrigerated foods first before they spoil.
- Pack frozen foods close together and consider freezing water bottles to eliminate any air pockets. The frozen water will help keep the food cooler longer.
- Make sure you have alternative lighting sources, like candles and flashlights (with spare batteries) located throughout the home.
- Keep manual tools such as a can opener on hand to replace any electronic gadgets you typically use.
- Similar to filling a bathtub with water before a storm, make sure that all cell phones are fully charged.
- If the disaster involves lightning, unplug all electronic devices to protect against a power surge.

After the storm, be cautious when leaving your home. Listen to government warnings and use common sense when approaching any damaged buildings or fallen trees. If you see a power line that is down, always assume the wires are live and dangerous. If possible, call your local electric cooperative to report the downed power line.

With a little bit of forethought, you're highly likely to make it through a disaster without too many problems. Remember, you and your family's safety should always come first.

For more information on disaster preparedness, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

