

KILOWATT

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE UPCOMING MINNESOTA STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

President Joe Biden signed a historic \$1 trillion-dollar federal infrastructure bill in November, with \$100 million in funding dedicated to Minnesota's broadband internet expansion alone. As states begin planning for funding allocation, Minnesota's electric co-ops are turning their focus to related state legislation in preparation for the 2022 legislative session, which begins on January 31, 2022.

It will be a big year for elections, which typically casts a long shadow on everything else. The offices of the Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Auditor, and all U.S. House of Representatives members and all state senate and house legislative seats are up for election. The legislative district maps will be redrawn, so legislative candidates will not know who their voters are until spring. Based on 2020 census data, rural Minnesota will lose at least one legislative district and the Twin Cities will gain one.

The Department of Minnesota Management and Budget projected in early December that the state has a \$7.7 billion budget surplus in the general fund. If confirmed by the February forecast as expected, this surplus will be significantly bigger than historical surpluses. Ideas regarding how to address this surplus will be a primary focus for legislators in the upcoming session.

In addition to all the above, this legislative session will be hybrid, with the House announcing remote meetings via Zoom and the Senate planning to have more in-person meetings.

Minnesota's electric co-ops hosted the annual legislative summit in November, an opportunity for Kandiyohi Power Cooperative to help shape state energy policy priorities for the 2022 legislative session. There are several potential legislative issues relating to electric cooperatives that may arise.

Broadband

Cooperatives are concerned about related legislative issues, as third parties are pushing to legislate a standard fee that electric co-ops can charge cable and telecom providers for the use of co-op poles. For-profit companies will have many lobbyists working on this initiative at the Capitol, which electric co-ops will strongly oppose. Electric co-ops set their pole attachment fees based on the costs unique to each cooperative. Standardizing pole attachment fees would end up with fees that do not cover electric co-ops costs and will subsequently require co-op members to subsidize the activities of these for-profit companies through co-op electric rates.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

As electric vehicles (EVs) increase in popularity, available charging infrastructure becomes more critical. While the Twin Cities and metro area offer a fair amount of EV chargers, rural Minnesota needs more charging available for reliable electric vehicle travel. Electric co-ops plan to engage with legislators on funding allocation for equitable EV chargers across Minnesota.

Clean Energy Legislation

There will be numerous proposals to impose additional mandates impacting the ongoing

energy transition, such as requiring 100% of electricity generation to come from renewables in a specific timeline. Cooperatives are leaders in the state's energy transition both locally and by integrating more renewables into their power supply. Other sources of energy have seen substantial price volatility in recent months but electric rates at Kandiyohi Power Cooperative have been stable. Electric co-ops continue to engage in these discussions with an eye toward ensuring continued relative cost stability and reliable electric service.

Weatherization Assistance

There will likely be a discussion on supplementing federal funding with state funding for weatherization assistance, possibly dedicating a portion of the state budget surplus to supplement federal funding for home energy upgrades for income-eligible households. These upgrades could include:

- Exterior wall and attic insulation
- Air leakage reduction
- Furnace, boiler, and water heater repair or replacement

In addition to these potential legislative issues, electric co-ops are working together on regulatory issues regarding railway crossing issues, property tax issues, and the implementation of the Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act. Electric cooperatives have led the way in helping our members adopt electric vehicles and are working with the Department of Commerce and a broad range of other stakeholders to enhance these programs further with the implementation of ECO.

**SAVE
the
DATE**

**KPC Annual Meeting
April 26, 2022**



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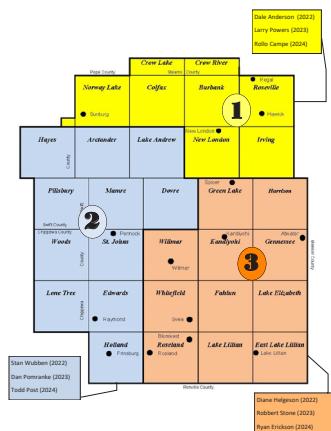
ANNUAL COGENERATION NOTIFICATION TO MEMBERSHIP

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 at www.kpcoop.com/content/distributed-generation. 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.

DIRECTOR FILINGS NOW OPEN FOR ONE DIRECTOR IN EACH DISTRICT # 1, 2, 3.

Would you like to serve as a Director on the Kandiyohi Power Cooperative Board for your district? Please call Robin at 320-796-0989, email rryks@kpcoop.com or stop by our KPC office and request a Directors Packet. These packets contain the cooperatives bylaws, as well as the qualifications to become a director. As a board director you will serve a 3-year term and must reside in the district you are filing for. Filings must be signed and returned to the KPC office by Monday, March 7th, no later than 4:00 p.m. Election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting on April 26, 2022.

BOARD MEMBER DISTRICTS 2022



SNOWMOBILE SAFETY:

- Watch out for power poles, guy wires and electrical equipment that can be hidden in the snow. Heavy snowfalls can often bury transformer boxes and cabinets.
- Slow down, know the area where you are snowmobiling and stay on the trails.
- If you see a downed power line, STAY AWAY from it and call 911 to report it. There is no way to tell if a power line is energized just by looking at it. Always assume it is live and can carry currents strong enough to kill.
- Always wait for help to arrive before you approach an accident scene where a power line may be involved.



We're going on a Power Trip. Join Us.

Spend six days in our nation's capital visiting famous museums and historical sites and chatting with politicians. The best part? **Your rural electric cooperative will pay all of the expenses!**

Every year, 40 bright, enthusiastic and passionate high school juniors and seniors are chosen to represent Minnesota on the Rural Electric Youth Tour. But we're not the only ones there. Youth Tour is a national sensation!

Over 1,900 student delegates from all over the country rock D.C. on this tour! They visit with their congressional representatives, tour some of the most famous museums in the world and make memories and friends that will last a lifetime.

Make 2022 the year you experience the monuments that are dedicated to our country's leaders. Let your voice be heard and get your questions answered.

To apply, contact Kandiyohi Power Cooperative by calling 800-551-4951 or visiting www.kpcoop.com. This tour is coordinated by the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) and is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14 through Sunday, June 19.

The Youth Tour was a real eye opener. It made politics seem not so distant, something that I could actually become a part of and affect directly ... When you're in D.C., you realize you are the next generation to step into the government positions that run our country.

- Carter Duncan, Youth Tour participant & National Youth Leadership Council



BE A WINNER WITH AUTO PAY

Have you heard that when you sign up for Auto Pay your name gets entered in a drawing for a \$25 bill credit? We have exciting news – Instead of winning \$25 you will have a chance to win a Nest Learning Thermostat if you sign up during December and January. So don't delay, sign up for Auto Pay today! Members already enrolled in Auto Pay are automatically entered into the drawing. Drawing will take place on February 1st.



The Nest Thermostat can use sensors and your phone's location to check if you've left, then sets itself to an ECO Temperature to save energy. With the Nest app, your thermostat lives on your wall and in your pocket. Once you connect your thermostat to Wi-Fi, you can control it from anywhere. Adjust the temperature from the app, and the Nest Learning Thermostat adjusts quickly back at home.

ARE PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS EFFICIENT FOR MY HOME?

By Abby Berry

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's efficiency and energy needs.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy. Depending on the size of your home, adding insulation can be a great next step. Loose fill insulation typically costs \$1 to \$1.50 per square foot. Taking these proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to come.

Perhaps your home is energy efficient but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater may work for your needs. A good comparison is ceiling fans; we use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used in a similar way during winter months. Only use a space heater in small spaces that you're occupying and, if

possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table.

A word about safety: the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters every year, resulting in more than 300 deaths. If you must use a space heater, purchase a newer model that includes the most current safety features and make sure it carries the Underwriter's Labora-

tory (UL) label. Choose a thermostatically controlled heater to avoid energy waste and overheating and place the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic when in use. Always keep children and pets away from space heaters.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm like extra layers of clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation (and appeal!) and maintain warmth.

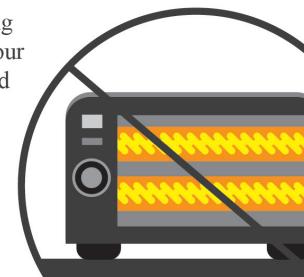
We know it's cold out there, but remember in addition to safety concerns, space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills if used improperly.



TIPS TO DITCH THE SPACE HEATER

Space heaters are energy hogs, and older models can be extremely dangerous. This winter, ditch the space heater and try these alternative solutions to stay cozy.

- Use an electric blanket to keep warm during the night.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss.
- Consider adding insulation to your attic and around duct work.





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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 our headquarters building near flag pole.

Ryan Nelson, CEO	320-796-1160
Michele Scheffler, Member/Communications/HR	320-796-0982
Brent Hatlestad, Line Superintendent	320-796-1163
Patrick Krueger, Finance Manager	320-796-0991

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:	District
Dale Anderson, Chair- 320-894-1687	1
Rollo Campe- 320-894-1601	1
Larry Powers- 320-212-7960	1
Dan Pomranke, VC- 320-894-7113	2
Todd Post- 320-212-1119	2
Stan Wubben, Secretary- 320-905-8325	2
Ryan Erickson - 320-979-5033	3
Diane Helgeson- 320-220-3745	3
Robbert Stone- 320-894-8867	3

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

2022 RESIDENTIAL MEMBER REBATES AVAILABLE

Appliances/Home:

- Dehumidifier (Energy Star) \$ 25.00
- Refrigerator (Energy Star)
w/recycling of old..... \$ 75.00
- Freezer (Energy Star)
w/recycling of old..... \$ 75.00
- Dryer (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 Required)
- 14.5 SEER\$480.00
- 15 SEER\$580.00
- 16 SEER\$630.00
- A/C & ASHP Tune Up
(Rebate forms accepted until 9/1/21)... \$ 25.00
- ETS Space Heating – per kW \$ 25.00

Water Heating:

- ETS – 80-100 Gallon electric
(high efficiency)\$400.00
- Control Strategy:
10:00 p.m.-6:00 a.m.
Generally, no Control on weekends or Holidays
- 8 Hour Peak Shave – Interruptible Water Heating\$100.00
50 Gallon or larger electric

Control Strategy:

- Peak hours for up to an 8-hour period

Installed Water Heaters must have .90 Energy Factor or higher.

Electric Vehicle:

- Installation of charging station on ETS program\$500.00

Fluorescent Bulb Recycling:

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

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY DECEMBER 22, 2021

The Kandiyohi Power Cooperative Board of Directors held their regular monthly meeting. All directors present. Chairman, Dale Anderson called the meeting to order.

Additions made to the agenda: NONE

The following reports were given:

- CEO Report – discussed monthly activities
 - COVID Update
 - Safety Skill training for employees
 - Strategic Plan Agenda and Booklet emailed to all attendees
 - Time of Use (TOU) discussion.
 - Inventory availability – Getting materials in have been a challenge due to supply chain.
 - Virtual/Zoom Meeting Policy- Discussion
 - Finance – Finance Manager, explained discrepancies and variations within the monthly budget.
 - Reviewed Capital Credit Retirement Report
 - Member Services/Communications
 - Pandemic Plan updated
 - Cold Weather Rule – changes have been made in software
 - Autopay promotion continues
 - Giving away 1 NEST Thermostats
 - Youth Tour Promotion
 - Annual Meeting discussion – As of now, meeting will be held in person and virtually
 - Engineering/Operations
 - No near misses or accidents
 - All 2021 Work Plan Projects are completed
 - 79 YTD New Services/ 36 retired
 - 15 new renewables installed by members this past year
 - Outage Breakdown
- Motions made and approved by the Board:
- Regular Agenda
 - Minutes of the November 2021 board meeting
 - Consent Agenda
 - Write-Offs
 - Rainbow Resolution
 - Buffalo Ridge Resolution
 - DNR Signatories Resolution
 - MREA Voting Delegate and Alternate
 - Great River Energy (GRE) Director's Report by Chair Anderson
 - GRE Capital Credit, G&T payout to member Cooperatives
 - Meeting Adjourned – Next regular board meeting is January 27, 2022