Kandiyohi Power Coop

OCTOBER 2023 - ISSUE 144 VOLUME 10

# **COOPERATIVES AND COMMUNITIES**



and employees.

Delivering reliable, cost-effective energy may be what electric cooperatives like Kandiyohi Power Cooperative are known for, but what sets us apart from for-profit companies is our

CEO companies is our
dedication to the well-being of the
communities where we live, serve, and
work. Margins earned by KPC are
returned to members through stable rates,
infrastructure improvements and even
back into the pockets of our members
through patronage capital returns. We are
motivated by service, not profit. Electric
cooperatives provide this essential service
responsibly, focusing on supporting environmental stewardship, local communities,

Co-ops are dedicated to minimizing their environmental footprint by reducing emissions, adding renewable energy, and using natural resources responsibly. Great River Energy, KPC's wholesale power provider, is reducing coal-based energy and has doubled their renewable energy investment. Emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides have dropped significantly since 2005 due to these changes in their power supply portfolio and state-of-the-art emissions control systems. Also, water usage for power plants has dropped by more than 90% since 2015 due to the utilization of closed-cycle cooling systems recirculating and reusing cooling water.

KPC is helping with this mission by exploring renewable resource options locally. Under our Power Purchase Agreement with Great River Energy, KPC has the opportunity to self-supply up to 10% of our power locally. KPC and Great River Energy, along with 19 other members of GRE, recently submitted a consolidated Letter of Interest for the New ERA grant award program. If successful, this could bring roughly \$2.6 billion worth of clean energy infrastructure to rural Minnesota and help KPC fulfill our 10% generation threshold.

We are passionate about our community, and preserving all that makes Kandiyohi County and Minnesota a great place to live, explore, and grow for generations to come. If you have any questions about participation, how to become a board member, or the process please give us a call, stop by, or visit our website www.kpcoop.com.

# CO-OPS H GROW

Electric cooperatives are joining co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate National Co-op Month. As your local electric co-op, our services are shaped to meet your specific needs. We love growing with you, the members we are proud to serve.





#### September's \$25 Winner: Richard and Cindy Schmidt

Enroll in our Auto Pay program to be entered into a monthly drawing for a \$25.00 bill credit. Save time and money! Must be on Auto Pay to be eligible to win. You can also select email as your only delivery option. You will then receive an email instead of a paper bill when your bill is ready for payment.



When the power is out, crews are doing all they can to safely and efficiently restore it so that you can get back to life as usual.

Depending on the extent of storm damage, restoration can be a complex process. There are many steps in the assessment and restoration process:















Repairing distribution lines

Getting power restored to homes and businesses

Repairing

transmission lines



**Remember**, a neighbor may have power while you do not. Your home might be on a different feeder or transformer or the service line to your home may be damaged.

**Never plug a portable generator into a wall outlet**, which could cause power to backfeed into the overhead lines that utility crews are working on.



Regardless of the extent of an outage, **safety always comes first.** 





# SPOOKY ENERGY SAVINGS

This spooky season, we're sharing a few energy-saving tricks so you can treat yourself to lower energy bills. Here are four simple ways to summon the spirit of energy efficiency.

Conjure instant savings with a smart thermostat. One of the easiest ways to save energy

is through thermostat control, since home heating and cooling account for a large portion of monthly energy use. Smart thermostats can help you manage heating and cooling costs by learning your daily routine and adjusting the temperature settings accordingly. You can control a smart thermostat from anywhere (through your smart phone), which allows you to prevent unnecessary energy consumption while you're away. Sorcery!

Get rid of goosebumps by eliminating ghostly drafts. The winter chill is just around the corner, so now is the time to seal air leaks around your home. Apply caulk and weatherstripping around drafty windows and doors to make your home more comfortable and lower energy use.

Illuminate your lair with energy efficient lighting. LED bulbs use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent light bulbs. Make the switch to reduce energy used for lighting. Remember to use LEDs when it's time to decorate for the upcoming holiday season. LED light strings offer an average of 88% energy savings compared to traditional incandescent light strings.

Stir up savings with countertop cauldrons. Cooler weather summons our favorite soup recipes. Small countertop appliances like slow cookers use less energy than cooking meals on the stovetop. Grab your book of spells (or recipes) and start stirring up savings in the kitchen.

When we look around our homes, there are many opportunities to save energy. So, this spooky season, investigate your space and unlock a different kind of magic – the kind that brings real energy savings.

# Stay safe from smoke!

Monitored smoke sensors alert you 24/7 to fire and smoke,

alert you 24/7 to fire and smoke, even when you aren't home.



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# PLAN AHEAD AND SAVE WITH AN ETS WATER HEATER

Not many of us think about our water heaters until it's too late, and they always seem to fail at the worst possible time. So, why not think ahead and plan for that purchase?

Water heating is one of the largest energy expenses in a typical household. Electric thermal storage (ETS) water heaters are nearly 100% efficient and can save you up to 50% on your water heating expenses.

ETS water heaters offer several benefits, making them a great choice for certain many households.

- 1. Energy efficiency ETS water heaters heat the water during the nighttime hours when demand for electricity is lower. Hot water is then stored for use without the need for additional electricity during the day when demand is high.
- 2. Cost savings Since ETS water heaters use electricity during times when rates are lower, they help members save money.
- 3. Environmental benefits Because our wholesale power provider's generation portfolio is becoming increasingly renewable, ETS water heaters help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 4. Reduce peak demand Due to their nighttime charging, ETS water heaters reduce peak demand and help to provide a more stable and reliable electric grid.

Your cooperative makes it easy to save energy and money with the efficient ETS water heater that is right for you and your home. Contact Kandiyohi Power Cooperative to enroll in ETS water heating.

For more information, visit energywisemn.com/water-heating.



#### BOARD MEETING SUMMARY September 27, 2023

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

Additions made to the regular agenda: None

The following reports were given:

- CEO Report
- New Era LOI submitted
- Ridgewater on EV Repair & Maintenance Course
- GRE Member Managers Group Meeting
- Ford Lightning at Harvest Fest
- Member Services/Communications
- KPC Trunk & Treat
- NISC Member Information Conference
- Cold Weather Rule
- Meter Data Management Business Process Consultation
- Engineering Report
- Safety and services update
- Update on current projects
- All equipment operational
- Safety Committee Updates
- Finance Report
- Review of financials for August
- Cumulative PCA Passthrough
- Sales Tax Refund
- State Disaster Storm Aid submitted

Great River Energy (GRE) Director's Report by Chair Anderson

#### **Executive Session**

Motions made and approved by the Board:

- Regular Agenda
- August Meeting Minutes
- September Special Meeting Minutes
- September write-offs
- Adjourn meeting

Meeting Adjourned

Next regular board meeting is October 25, 2023.



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 our headquarters building near flag pole.

Ryan Nelson, CEO	320-796-1160
Michele Scheffler,	
Member/Communications	320-796-0982
Brent Hatlestad,	
Line Superintendent	320-796-1163
Patrick Krueger, CFO	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 - 320-894-7113	2
Todd Post, VC - 320-212-1119	2
Stan Wubben, Secretary - 320-905-832	25 2
Kelly Erickson - 320-894-2930	3
Diane Helgeson - 320-220-3745	3
Darrell Fostervold - 320-212-4824	3

KILOWATT STAFF: Michele Scheffler, Editor



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

The Cooperative will attempt to furnish continuous service but will not guarantee uninterrupted service.



# Join us for our Annual Trunk or Treat event!

We invite all mini-members to join us for cookies, juice and lots of candy!

### On Tuesday, October 31st, from 2-4 p.m.

in our parking lot located at 8605 47th St NE, Spicer, MN.

Do you want to participate in our Trunk or Treat?

Decorate your trunk and hand out candy! Businesses, neighbors, and families are welcome to participate. Please email contactus@kpcoop.com or call 800-551-4951 to sign up.