

# KILOWATT

## NOTICES—



THANK YOU, VETERANS

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING

**KPC CLOSED  
NOVEMBER 26-27  
IN OBSERVANCE OF  
THANKSGIVING.**



Making sure the lights come on when you flip a switch is a really big deal to us here at KPC. In fact - at the risk of stealing a tagline from Ford - safely providing reliable electricity is job number one.



Sonja Bogart  
KPC'S CEO

Some outages are caused by factors within our control, such as equipment upgrades or system improvements. Others are unplanned and are outside our control. For example, squirrels and lightning used to be our two main outage causes. We work to reduce all types of outages.

This time of year we are finalizing our three-year work plan and preparing a budget for next year. These two documents outline the construction projects and improvements we plan to make to our distribution system. A lot of back-end work goes into the planning process. We review outage data, mapping this in our GIS system. This allows us to see trends and helps us make informed decisions. Projects are prioritized, focusing first on problem locations with higher outage numbers.

Sometimes poles or equipment can be damaged while continuing to work. To repair damaged equipment before it fails, our line crews conduct ongoing line patrol, acting as our eyes in the field. When driving in KPC service territory they look for things such as trees too close to lines and damaged poles or transformers. They also make a point of inspecting all lines on a 24-month rotation. Members can also let us know if they see equipment that needs attention by calling our office at 800-551-4951.

Outages that are outside of our control might seem trickier to prevent, but we work hard to reduce these as well. I mentioned that squirrels used to cause

many outages. We reduced this number thanks to a system-wide initiative of placing squirrel guards on all poles with equipment. This keeps squirrels from reaching equipment at the top of poles, which is not healthy for the squirrel and causes outages. You may have noticed the plastic we have stapled around poles.

Wind is also not our friend. During a wind-storm, tree branches can hit our power lines. This trips fuses and causes outages. We take preventative efforts by trimming trees on a regular basis. Additionally, we are testing a piece of equipment called "Tripsaver". This device will temporarily open, allowing the fault to clear and then close itself back in, rather than sending out a line crew to re-fuse. This reduces the length of time members are out of power. Our pilot project has shown positive results and we plan to install additional Tripsavers in the future. Additionally, the Tripsaver can be programmed to act as a few devices, saving the cooperative money by reducing equipment needed on our shelves.

Last, but definitely not least, we have a great team of linemen who are prepared to respond to outages 24/7, during both good weather and bad. Our linemen rotate on call duties but are always available. When an outage occurs, they receive notification and respond quickly and safely. In addition to KPC line crews, we have mutual aid agreements with other utilities. Should a large storm occur, lineworkers from other cooperatives will assist our crews in restoring power quickly.

My list of reliability improvement efforts could take up this whole newsletter, but I picked just a few to give an idea of the things we are doing. Overall, our focus is to ensure a high level of reliability for our membership.



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# RELIABLE POWER BROUGHT TO YOU BY MAPPING TECHNOLOGY

If the power in your home has ever gone out, you probably wondered why. The most likely culprits are the weather, accidents where someone/something hit a power pole or squirrels (or other curious, pesky animals). But the cause isn't nearly as pressing as how long it will take to bring the power back.

Making sure reliable electricity continues to flow to your homes, farms and businesses is Kandiyohi Power Cooperative's top priority. One of the ways we keep electricity reliable and resilient is through technological improvements made over the years.

Kandiyohi Power Cooperative and Great River Energy, our wholesale power provider, use the latest in geographic information systems (GIS) to get a bird's eye view of our system. This mapping technology allows us to see where outages occur and assess potential issues on our systems. We can use that information to make decisions that will reduce the number of times your power goes out.

GIS also allows us to use large amounts of data to predict where there might be areas of improvement on our grids.

"We use GIS from transmission planning all the way to operations and maintenance," said Jeff Grussing, Great River Energy's leader of GIS development. "From planning a power line to dispatching crews for maintenance, GIS is a valuable resource that helps ensure a reliable, resilient grid. Everyone in Great River Energy's transmission division uses GIS, which allows us to visualize the data so we can use locational intelligence to make decisions about where to make improvements or where we might see concerns."

When the power does go out, GIS allows us to see the fleet of vehicles in the area, making for a faster recovery time and allocating location-appropriate resources. This means pinpointing exact locations of

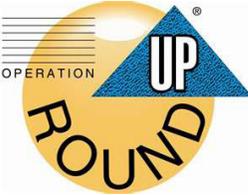
fleet materials to allow for safe, fast and cost-effective power restoration.

The snapshot right of KPC service territory, shows a few things. Red lightning bolts are meters without power, green dots are OCR's that have been inspected, red dots are those left to inspect, white squares are our substations, and yellow tags are called Smart Tags. KPC uses a Smart Tag to show information that would be useful for anyone that is working in the area or at that site.

The use of GIS is just one way Kandiyohi Power Cooperative and Great River Energy work together to keep reliable electricity flowing to your home.



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## OPERATION ROUNDUP

Through Operation RoundUp, Kandiyohi Power Cooperative members join together to help neighbors in need. The Operation RoundUp Trust Board members meet quarterly to disperse funds. The funds are used to help with all kinds of worthy projects in our local communities and provide aid to charitable organizations that benefit the members of Kandiyohi Power Cooperative. In October, six grants were awarded, totaling \$10,500.

WILLMAR HIGH SCHOOL SUPERMILEAGE	\$1,500
CITY OF SUNBURG	\$5,000
SUNBURG AMBULANCE	\$1,000
ATWATER AMBULANCE	\$1,000
BLOMKEST AMBULANCE	\$1,000
KANDIYOHI CITY 1ST RESPONDERS	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL DONATIONS</b>	<b>\$10,500.00</b>

Do you know of a local charitable organization that benefits the members of Kandiyohi Power Cooperative? If so, please encourage them to apply for an Operation RoundUp grant by visiting our website at: <https://www.kpcoop.com/operation-round>

## KILOWATT CREDIT SCORECARD

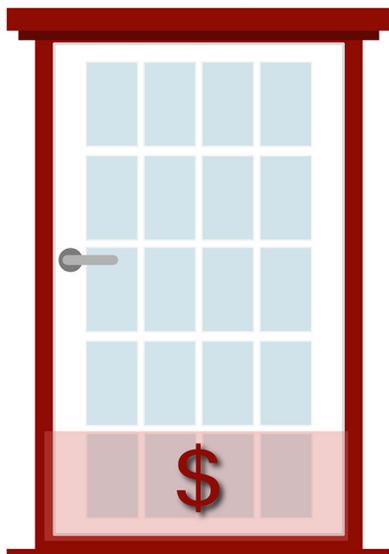
Win a credit on your next bill.

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.

No one called to claimed their account number last month. Each account number is worth \$5.00.

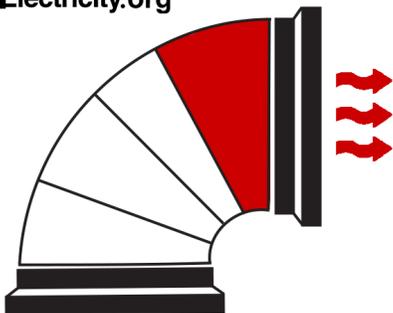
**Reduce** up to **1/5**  
of your **heating bill** by repairing  
drafts and sealing **leaks**  
**around your home**



research collected from the U.S. Department of Energy

**Safe  
Electricity.org**

**Safe  
Electricity.org**



**Air leaks** in ducts  
can account for about  
**20-30%** of **wasted heat**.

Information collected from the U.S. Department of Energy

## SIMPLE STEPS TO LOWER HEATING COSTS AND KEEP YOU WARM

With Minnesota's colder temperatures coming earlier than anticipated, don't forget some easy steps to make your home more energy and cost effective this winter.

Energy dollars can pour out of your living space through drafty doors and windows, as well as unused portions of the home. You can make a small investment of time for big dividends in keeping your home or apartment warm and cost efficient this winter.

Costs associated with heating and cooling account for about 44 percent of utility bills. Lowering the thermostat is the easiest way to save energy. Adjust the temperature 5 to 8 degrees when you are away from home or sleeping and keep it to the lowest comfortable level when at home. Consider installing a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature day and night.

Use these tips to help cut costs and improve heating efficiency and safety:

- *Replace your furnace filter every month to save energy and improve heat circulation. Consider having a professional check and service your furnace system to ensure peak efficiency and safety.*
- *Use sunlight's natural heat to your best advantage. Open curtains and blinds on sunny days to let the sunlight warm your home, and close them on gloomy days and at night to keep the heat inside.*
- *Close your fireplace damper when you are not using the fireplace to prevent heat from escaping and cold from entering through your chimney.*
- *As long as there is a cold air return, you can close the vent and door for rooms you do not use. Experts say without a cold air return, closing off a room can build up pressures that cause the furnace to work harder.*
- *If you have older or leaky windows, consider temporary fixes, such as plastic film kits that create the effect of an interior storm window.*
- *Weather stripping is relatively easy and available at your local home improvement store. Stop drafts from coming in and heat from leaking out of your home through drafty doors and windows. You could save up to 10 percent of your heating costs by eliminating those leaks.*
- *Use caulk to seal gaps in the walls of your home or apartment. Wherever different building materials meet, or wiring comes out of a wall, there are gaps that may contribute to the loss of heat in your home.*

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It's that time of year again that the Toys for Tots program begins their campaign to collect donated toys for millions of less fortunate children and bring joy into their lives this Christmas season. The Toys for Tots program is managed by United States Marines and dedicated local volunteers. If you would like to drop off a new, unwrapped toy or two at Kandiyohi Power Cooperative, please call ahead to arrange a drop off time. The toys will be distributed to children within our own communities. Thank you in advance for your donations!



# 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.

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Todd Post- 320-212-1119	2
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Michele Scheffler, Editor



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- You get all the benefits of owning solar panels, with none of the hassle!

Call a KPC representative today at 800-551-4951



**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!!!**

[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://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**