

# KILOWATT

## HISTORY, THE FOUNDATION OF THE FUTURE



ARTICLE BY: SCOTT FROEMMING, CEO

As I'm writing this article, occasionally looking out my window, I see our American flag rippling straight out in a stiff southwest breeze and am reminded that next week we will be celebrating our country's independence. It's an exciting day with parades, celebrations culminated with fantastic fireworks displays. I am proud of this country and its history. I am also reminded that freedom wasn't free. Many lives were sacrificed to provide the freedom we enjoy today. For that, as well as many other reasons we can't take our freedom for granted. However, the fight for freedom was not a one and done deal, where our forefathers fought for and won these great rights and now we just get to sit back and enjoy them. We need to remain vigilant to maintain and protect these valuable precious rights that were secured at such a high cost. That's why it's so important to look back on our history and it's just as important not to rest on our history.

There are still sacrifices that need to be made today to maintain and even enhance our independence. What do I mean by that? I mean there may be

times we need to take an unpopular stand for an oppressed individual or an important idea. You may face criticism, be ostracized or shunned because of an unpopular position, but if it supports the ideals, of liberty and justice for all, that were fought and died for over 200 years ago then it's worth fighting for today.

We are so inclined to "play it safe" today. We give up important individual rights, so we can feel safer. We don't speak up when we see injustice, because it doesn't involve us or impact us directly. We are happy to stay safe and secure in our own little bubble as long as no one bothers us. Our forefathers would be horrified and saddened by such an attitude.

I think their expectation would have been: "Here, take these rights and freedoms that we have secured at great personal cost, enjoy them, protect them and develop them in order to make America an even better place to live and raise our families."

Our cooperative also has a rich history, of which I am proud. We brought power to this area when no one else would, back in the 30's and 40's. We are a community-based organization, built by the communities we serve, belonging to those same communities and led by consumers like you. It's a great story and we need to tell it and be proud of our co-op heritage. But just as our country can't get complacent, we can't rest on our history and expect our past success and triumphs to automatically lead to future success. In the past we

responded to a need in our rural community when we established our co-op. Today, we need to continue responding to the needs of our members and community to have success.

My pledge to you, our members, is that we will not rest on our past successes and history. We will certainly look back on them and celebrate them, just as we look back and honor and recognize the great history of our country. However, we want to work together with you to leverage our past successes into an even brighter future for you and our surrounding communities. The team at Kandiyohi Power is committed to improving the quality of life for those we touch.

I look up again, the flag is still straight out from the pole. The symbology is perfect. The flag itself reminds me of the rich history of our country and as it ripples out from the pole I envision it pointing us collectively to a future where we toil and sacrifice together, as our forefathers did, to protect what was won and make it even better. Let's pay homage to the past, let us also use that past as a foundation to build a brighter and better future for our children and grandchildren!



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## COOPERATIVE CYBERSECURITY

By Kaley Lockwood

Digital technologies and smart devices are facilitating greater information sharing by allowing people (and devices) to more efficiently communicate with each other. Internet-connected devices not only better enable us to stay in touch with loved ones, they simplify and streamline our lives by communicating with each other. But greater connectivity comes with a cost. Addressing the persistent and evolving reality of cyber threats is important for individuals and organizations alike. As people become increasingly interconnected and reliant on digital technologies, there are more opportunities for cyber threats that need to be addressed.

To this end, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) launched RC3, the Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities program, to help electric cooperatives build stronger cybersecurity programs. With funding from the U.S. Department of Energy, RC3 is developing tools to help cooperatives develop a culture of cybersecurity.

Electric cooperatives, large and small, are investing time and resources to build

stronger cyber defenses and increase their resiliency to cyberattacks. As co-ops ramp up capabilities in the beneficial use of digital technologies, they are integrating best practices to safeguard consumer data and grid operations from cyberattacks.

Electric co-ops are responding to the challenge, but are you? Cybercrime affects everyone—organizations, businesses and even individuals. Taking steps to protect your home network and devices from cyberattacks now will save you time and money in the long run.

Here are a few tips to beef up your personal cybersecurity:

- Make sure you have antivirus software installed on your computer and remember to keep it updated.
- Don't send e-mails containing personal information, like your date of birth or Social Security Number, because that increases opportunities for mal-actors to steal your identify. Be careful when entering a credit card number into a website—if you do, make sure that it's a secure website. You can tell if it's secure by looking for the "s" at the beginning of the website address. Most begin with "http://." A secure site will begin with "https://."
- Attachments or links in an email can contain malware that can infect your computer. Never open an e-mail attachment or click a link unless you know the person sending it, and you were expecting them to send it to you (*hackers can take over an account and make it look like it's from a friend.*)

• Monitor children's online activity, and make sure they know how to practice good cyber security. Visit the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team's (UC-CERT) website for security tips on how to keep children safe online (<https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/tips/ST05-002>).

• Always use a different password for each account. Stick to longer passwords that include a combination of numbers, special characters, with both lowercase and capital letters.



## UNITED WAY FUNDRAISER

Group of KPC employees golfed the United Way Fundraiser. Employees pictured with United Way Chairman, James Miller.



## KANDI IS DANDY PARADE

Kandiyohi Power truck with lineman, Trevon Grotto and family in Kandi is Dandy Parade in City of Kandiyohi



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## THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS

Electric cooperatives are responsible for maintaining a safe, reliable electric grid to power the communities they serve. As an increasing number of consumers install grid-connected distributed generation systems, like solar panels or small wind turbines, electric co-ops are prepared to assist members while still maintaining the safety of the grid.

Grid-connected generation systems allow you to power your home or business with renewable energy, but the system must be connected to the grid to keep power flowing when the sun does not shine or the wind does not blow. In most cases, these systems must be interconnected to feed excess power back into the electric grid.

Co-op members who are interested in distributed generation systems for their home or business should contact Kandiyohi Power Cooperative first. We want to help you choose a system that includes the safety and power quality components necessary to keep you, co-op crews and members of the community safe. If a storm hits and a power outage occurs, for example, distributed generation systems must be able to properly disconnect from the electric grid to ensure lineworkers are not injured or electrocuted while restoring power.

An interconnection agreement must be reviewed and signed before your

distributed generation system is connected to the electric grid. The agreement is intended to ensure safe, reliable and quality electric service for all.

In addition to safety concerns, members who are interested in distributed generation systems should contact Kandiyohi Power Cooperative to review applicable metering rates.

The way we generate and use electricity is evolving. Let's work together to ensure a safe, reliable electric system. Kandiyohi Power Cooperative is here to help. If you have questions about grid-connected generation systems, please contact Dan Tepfer, 800-551-4951.



**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!!!**  
[gopherstateonecall.org](http://gopherstateonecall.org)  
**1-800-252-1166**



## The Benefits of Community Solar

Community solar installations (also known as solar gardens) are typically owned and maintained by the electric co-op, but consumers reap the benefits. So how does it work?



**1.** The co-op builds the community solar installation. The solar panels turn sunlight into electricity.



**2.** The co-op maintains the solar installation, ensuring clean and reliable solar energy is generated and distributed.



**3.** Consumers enroll or subscribe to be a part of the community solar program.



**4.** Consumers get credit on their bill for the renewable energy generated.

**Check with your local electric co-op** to see if they offer a community solar program. It's important to note, solar installations don't make sense for some parts of the country, but your electric co-op can always help you find ways to be more energy efficient and save on your monthly bill.



## BALANCE OF "BUDGET"

Accounts will be billed in July and due August 1st. The new budget amount will be calculated for next year and shown on our July bill. If you are not currently on our "Budget Plan", now is the time to sign up. Call Jan at 1-800-551-4951.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Look for LED products and fixtures for outdoor use, such as pathway, step and porch lights. Many include features like automatic daylight shut-off and motion sensors. You can also find solar-powered lighting for outdoor spaces.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



**Visit us along with other Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, at Farmfest 2018 and enter for chance to win one of six grill giveaways!**

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*You must be a member one of the participating electric cooperatives to be eligible to win.*





# 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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## KILOWATT STAFF:

Robin Ryks, Editor



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[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**

## BBQ Bacon Wrapped Chicken Bites

- Cubed Chicken
- Bacon
- BBQ Sauce

Ingredients

Change out the BBQ sauce for any of these other favorite sauces/seasonings: Buffalo Sauce, Honey Mustard, Brown Sugar, Garlic Powder, Chili Powder.



### Directions

- Wrap each piece of cubed chicken with a small piece of bacon (about 1/3 strip of bacon) and secure with a toothpick.
- Place on a baking sheet that is lined with foil and sprayed with cooking spray.
- Brush with desired amount of BBQ sauce and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.
- Remove from the oven and add more BBQ sauce if desired. Serve warm and enjoy!

## Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

For more tips on smart tree planting in your community, contact your local electric cooperative or visit [www.ArborDay.org](http://www.ArborDay.org).

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard... especially to power lines.

### LARGE TREES

Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as:

- Maple
- Birch
- Oak
- Sweetgum
- Spruce
- Linden
- Pine

### MEDIUM TREES

Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as:

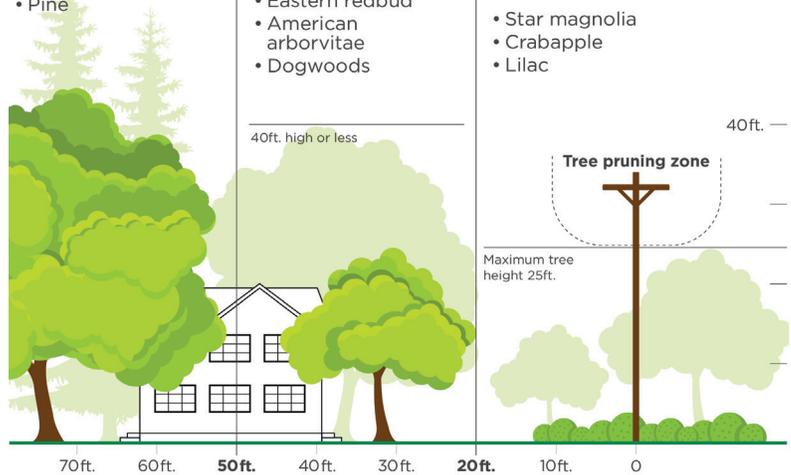
- Washington hawthorn
- Goldenrain tree
- Eastern redbud
- American arborvitae
- Dogwoods

### SMALL TREES

Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.

Height/spread of no more than 25 feet, such as:

- Star magnolia
- Crabapple
- Lilac



**Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.**

Source: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

## KILOWATT CREDIT SCORECARD

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