

# KILOWATT



## MEMORIAL DAY

KPC OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON MAY 25TH  
IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY.

SAVE  
THE DATE



### GET STUNG WITH THE FUN!

Member Appreciation  
Stingers Game July 15th

### NOTICE – BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

The Kandiyohi Power Cooperative Board of Directors held the Annual Meeting by conference call without the membership present due to COVID-19.

New directors for 3-year terms:

- Larry Powers, District 1 – by acclamation
- Dan Pomranke, District 2 – by acclamation
- Robbert Stone, District 3 – by majority vote

There was no new business. An informational meeting will be held with the membership at a later date.

### CLOSED – COMMUNITY ROOM

Our Community Room is currently closed through the month of May. We apologize for any inconvenience.

### GREETINGS!

I would like to use this month’s column as a chance to introduce myself. My name is Sonja Bogart and I am the new CEO at Kandiyohi Power Cooperative (KPC). I am very excited to be here.



Sonja Bogart  
KPC’S New CEO

To give a little background about myself, I have been in the electric cooperative industry for more than 25 years. Most recently I was with Umatilla Electric Cooperative in eastern Oregon, where I served as Chief Operating Officer, overseeing day-to-day operations. As with many other parts of the country, Oregon has been going through tremendous renewable energy growth in the areas of solar, wind and battery storage. One of my responsibilities at Umatilla Electric was to oversee the renewable interconnection queue. At the time I left, there were approximately 3,000 MW of renewable projects in the queue. (For perspective, this is enough generation to power just under 800 thousand homes, with capacity factors figured in). When I joined the electric cooperative industry in 1995, I doubt I ever dreamed I would see this level of growth in renewable energy. It has been exciting to watch.

Prior to my time in Oregon, I had worked at a Minnesota cooperative. While there, I was involved in launching a wide assortment of new product and service offerings for members. These programs were focused on energy efficiency and renewable energy, as well as comfort and safety for the home.

KPC’s mission says we will “provide our members and community with reliable, sustainable and innovative energy solutions”. I very much look forward to learning more about the needs of members and applying the experience I have with renewables and with product and service offerings to help offer innovative energy solutions that will benefit the members of KPC.

With the current coronavirus situation, it is challenging to meet members in person, but I plan to do that once present stay at home orders are past. In the meantime, I welcome your input. My email address is sbogart@kpcoop.com. I look forward to meeting members in the community and to helping fulfill the cooperative’s mission of providing reliable, sustainable and innovative energy solutions.



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# ANNOUNCING LIMITED TIME ASHP PROMOTION

Kandiyohi Power Cooperative is pleased to announce our 2020 Air Source Heat Pump ASHP promotion. For a limited time, we will be increasing our rebate on ASHP's.

### Rebate Qualifications/Considerations:

1. Must be installed in KPC territory
2. Must be "QI" installed and tested in 2020
3. Can be combined with furnace EC motor rebate
4. Ask about off-peak program and reduced electric rates
5. To qualify for a rebate, must be purchased and installed in June, July or August 2020

### 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:

- ❖ 15 SEER                      \$750.00
- ❖ 16 + SEER                    \$1,500.00

# POWER SUPPLY TRANSITION DELIVERS WHAT MEMBERS WANT

by David Saggau, Great River Energy President and Chief Executive Officer

When you work for a cooperative, you have one goal: provide what the membership wants.

Of course, not all members want the same things. Some members want service at the lowest possible cost. Others want energy with minimal environmental impact. Certain members value reliability above everything else.

Great River Energy focuses on keeping electricity reliable and affordable while being responsible stewards of the environment. We recently announced plans to change our power supply portfolio that deliver on all three of those objectives.

Great River Energy plans to phase out remaining coal resources, add significant renewable energy in Minnesota and explore critical grid-scale battery technology. The portfolio changes will significantly reduce Great River Energy's costs, which will save money for Kandiyohi Power Cooperative's membership over the long term. KPC purchases approximately 80% of their power from Great River Energy.

When the power supply plans are in place in 2023, Great River Energy's power supply resources will be more than 95% carbon dioxide-free.

Our power supply plans included the difficult decision to shut down our largest power plant, Coal Creek Station. Coal Creek Station has been a critical part of Great River Energy's power supply portfolio for decades. The "flagship" Great River Energy power plant began operations in 1979 in Underwood, North Dakota, and employs 260 people.

Coal Creek Station is operated efficiently, safely and with pride by a dedicated and talented staff. We will make every effort to minimize impacts on our employees and the communities through this transition.

To assist local communities during the upcoming transition, Great River Energy plans to make voluntary annual payments of the local government share of the plant's taxes for five years after the plant's closure. And we will treat the employees with the dignity and respect they deserve.

As Great River Energy transforms its power supply portfolio, our mission remains the same: provide member-owners with affordable, reliable energy in harmony with a sustainable environment.



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## POWER SUPPLY PLANS

Great River Energy plans the following actions in the coming years.

### Phase out coal resources

Great River Energy plans to retire the 1,151-megawatt (MW) Coal Creek Station power plant in the second half of 2022. The cooperative will also modify the 99-MW, coal and natural gas-based Spiritwood Station combined heat and power plant to be fueled by natural gas.

### Add wind energy purchases

Great River Energy plans to purchase more than 1,100 MW from new wind energy projects in Minnesota, South Dakota and Iowa. This amounts to a more than \$1.2 billion investment in the Midwest's abundant clean energy resources. Great River Energy's renewable capacity is projected to grow from approximately 660 MW in 2020 to more than 1,760 MW by the end of 2023.

### Install a long-duration battery demonstration system

Great River Energy is developing a first-of-its-kind demonstration of a unique long-duration battery storage technology with the installation of a 1-MW battery in Cambridge, Minnesota, by the end of 2023. The battery project will be capable of delivering electricity continuously for 150 hours, far longer than the four-hour usage period common among lithium ion batteries. Long-duration storage will help maintain grid reliability in the future during extreme conditions, such as a heat wave or polar vortex.

### Secure energy and capacity to keep service reliable

Great River Energy plans to unlock more energy and capacity as needed through upgrades at its fleet of modern, natural gas peaking plants. As a member of the Midwest energy market, Great River Energy also has access to abundant energy resources.



### The Power to Protect Your Favorite Chill Spot.

With smart home security, you can arm or disarm your system, lock and unlock your smart doors, turn your lights on and off, change your thermostat and more.

## 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 claimed their account numbers. Each account number is worth \$5.00.

## MINNESOTA'S ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL HELP EVEN MORE HOUSEHOLDS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

To ensure that newly unemployed and other financially challenged households can get help quickly, the Minnesota Department of Commerce has adjusted program policies for Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program. The result of these changes – changes such as income eligibility and a deadline extension - will allow even more Minnesotans to receive help.

The Energy Assistance Program has adjusted program policies to make it easier for households to apply and get additional help.

Some policy adjustments that will mean more access to help include:

- Income eligibility based on the past one month only.
- The application deadline is extended to July 1.
- The annual crisis benefit maximum is increased to \$1,200 (up from \$600). Crisis benefits are for past due bills, emergency fuel deliveries.
- Allowing crisis benefits to pay a household's past due bill, even without a disconnection notice.

For those who have not already received help this heating season, there is still time. The Department of Commerce especially encourages newly unemployed, households with young children, people with disabilities, veterans and seniors to apply. For more information on how to apply, contact United Community Action Agency at 320-235-0850.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.





# 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

Sonja Bogart, CEO  
Diane Maurice, Member Services  
Michele Scheffler, Communications/HR  
Ryan Nelson, Engineering  
Scott Luberts, Line Superintendent

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Dale Anderson, Chair- 320-894-1687	District 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
Darrell Fostervold - 320-212-4824	3
Diane Helgeson- 320-220-3745	3
Robbert Stone- 320-894-8867	3

## KILOWATT STAFF:

Michele Scheffler, 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**

## NOTICE OF UPDATE TO TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCE INTERCONNECTIONS

In compliance with Minnesota Statute 216B.1611, Kandiyohi Power Cooperative is updating the technical requirements for distributed energy resource interconnections. The existing technical requirement document will be replaced with the Technical Interconnection and Interoperability Requirements (TIIR) and Technical Specification Manual (TSM). These new documents can be found after June 1, 2020, at <https://www.kpcoop.com/distributed-generation>. These requirements become effective July 1, 2020 and all new DER systems and DER system additions applied for interconnection after July 1st will be required to meet these updated requirements.



## 4 COMMON CULPRITS OF ELECTRICAL FIRES

Outdated wiring and overloaded circuits are the most common causes of electrical fires. Check the following areas of your home to ensure your home's electrical safety is up to par.



**Electrical outlets:** Faulty electrical outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them that you can't see. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.



**Electrical wiring:** Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are clear warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, leave this one to the pros and contact a qualified electrician.



**Overloaded cords and outlets:** Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into one extension cord, it's time to call an electrician and install additional outlets.



**Old appliances:** Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets. A qualified electrician can help with installation.