

# KILOWATT



October is National Co-op Month.



Electric cooperatives are led by the community, for the community.

## BY THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY

When you think of October, pumpkins, harvest and beautiful fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason – it’s



ARTICLE BY:  
SCOTT FROEMMING, CEO

**National Co-op Month!** This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including Kandiyohi Power Cooperative (KPC), celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service, or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Similar to how KPC was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to “improve the quality of life for those we touch”.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. Our board of directors,

who help set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to their positions by co-op/community members like you.

We know our members (that’s you!) have a valuable perspective. That’s why we are continually seeking your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on local priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as community solar programs, equipment and technology upgrades and electric vehicle programs.

Another feature that sets our co-op apart from a traditional utility is one of our core principles, “Concern for Community.” We partner with local organizations, like the YMCA, to help address the local childcare shortage and other worthy programs. We participate in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community’s brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long

immersion to experience democracy in action. High school juniors watch for more information, in the near future, on this exciting opportunity!

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

We hope you will think of Kandiyohi Power Cooperative as more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you – because your electric co-op was built *by the community, for the community.*

Now take some time with family to go and enjoy those beautiful Fall colors!



## COLD WEATHER RULE...

### AVOIDING DISCONNECTION...

The Cold Weather Rule does not forbid winter shut off. If you receive a shut off notice this winter, you must act promptly and call Kandiyohi Power Cooperative (KPC) at 1-800-551-4951 to apply for the Cold Weather Rule Protection and set up a payment plan. Your service will be subject to disconnection without further notice if you do not make the agreed upon payments. If you cannot keep your original plan, you must call KPC immediately to make a new payment plan to avoid disconnection.

### DISPUTES...

Any disputes over a residential customer's inability to pay for service, income eligibility, a reasonable payment schedule or any other issue which a customer could raise under the Cold Weather Rule may be appealed and referred for hearing, after reasonable notice, to the Cooperative's Board of Directors. The cooperative and the customer shall have the right to present evidence and be heard in person at the hearing. The Cooperative's Board of Directors shall issue a written decision within 10 days of the hearing. No disconnection shall occur while an appeal is pending.

### DISCONNECTION...

Disconnection will not occur until at least 20 calendar days after the notice and information required has been mailed to the customer.



### RECONNECTION...

If your power is disconnected on October 15<sup>th</sup> when the Cold Weather rule takes effect, you can have your power reconnected by calling KPC. The applicable fees and total amount due must be paid, or a payment plan worked out prior to being reconnected. Call and payment must be made prior to 3:00 p.m. in order for reconnect to occur on the same day.

### Payment Agreements...

If your household income is at or below 50% of the state median income, you are not required to pay more than 10% of your monthly household income. If your household income is more than 50% of the state median income, you may make a payment plan with KPC. The Cold Weather Rule payment plans last until April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Your service could be shut off if you have a past-due balance on April 15<sup>th</sup>.**

### NEED HELP PAYING?

**United Community Action Agency**  
320-235-0850 or 1-800-992-1710

**Prairie Five Community Action**  
320-269-7976 or 1-800-282-5437

**Salvation Army – 320-235-2033**

**Tri-County Action Agency**  
320-251-1612 or 1-888-765-5597

**Kandiyohi County Family Service**  
320-231-7066

**Renville County Energy Assistance**  
320-523-5522 or 1-800-450-2071

**The LINK**  
(New London/Spicer area only)  
320-354-5555

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42% of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades like additional insulation and air sealing, you can save about 30% on your energy bill.

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



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FACEBOOK

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/KANDIYOHIPOWERCOOPERATIVE](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/KANDIYOHIPOWERCOOPERATIVE)

## 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. Congratulations to Terry and Sarah Lockwood for finding his account number in last month's Kilowatt. Each account number is worth \$5.00.



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Saves energy  
all day.

Receive a \$400 rebate, 0% financing and a lifetime of energy savings when you upgrade to an ETS water heater.

Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) water heaters help reduce your energy costs by drawing electricity at night when it's in low demand and less expensive. Not only can ETS water heaters lower your water heating costs by up to 50%, but they're also lightweight, easy to install and backed by a lifetime warranty. Even better, you can receive a \$400 rebate and 0% financing when you make the upgrade.

Take advantage of this offer and learn the details to participate in this program by contacting Kandiyohi Power Cooperative!

ENERGY WISE  MN

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## Beef Stew

Ingredients

|   |                              |  |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| 1 tbsp. vegetable oil                               | Freshly ground black pepper  |  |
| 2 lb. beef chuck stew meat,<br>cubed into 1" pieces | 3 cloves garlic, minced      |  |
|   | 1/4 c. tomato paste          |  |
| 1 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil                      | 6 c. low-sodium beef broth   | 1 lb. baby potatoes, halved                    |
| 1 onion, chopped                                    | 1 c. red wine                | 1 c. frozen peas                               |
| 2 carrots, peeled and cut into rounds               | 1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce | 1/4 c. freshly chopped<br>parsley, for garnish |
| 2 stalks celery, chopped                            | 1 tsp. dried thyme           |  |
| Kosher salt   | 2 bay leaves                 |  |



### Directions

1. In a large dutch oven (or pot), over medium heat, heat oil. Add beef and cook on all sides until seared, 10 minutes, working in batches if necessary. Transfer beef to a plate.
2. In the same pot, cook onion, carrots, and celery until soft, 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Add garlic and tomato paste and cook until garlic is fragrant and tomato paste has darkened, 2 minutes.
3. Add beef back to dutch oven then add broth, wine, Worcestershire sauce, thyme, and bay leaves.
4. Bring to a boil then reduce heat to a simmer. Season with salt and pepper. Cover and let simmer until beef is tender, 30 minutes.
5. Add potatoes and simmer, covered, until potatoes are tender, 15 minutes.
6. Remove bay leaves. Stir in peas and cook until warmed through, 2 minutes. Garnish with parsley before serving.

# Happy Halloween

## ATTENTION ALL KPC MINI MEMBERS!!!

**Kandiyohi Power Cooperative invites you to "Trick or Treat"**

Kandiyohi Power Cooperative  
Headquarters Building at

8605 47<sup>th</sup> St NE, Spicer

Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

- Coloring
- Cookies and Juice
- Trick or Treat at our 18 individual offices



Madison Rohner



Sarah Rothers

## KPC PURCHASED PROJECTS

Kandiyohi Power Cooperative purchased projects of 4-H members at the 4-H Premium Auction during the Kandiyohi County Fair this past August.



**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!!!**

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

**1-800-252-1166**





# 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

Scott Froemming, CEO  
Anthony Stern, CFO  
Diane Maurice, Marketing/Customer Service  
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:

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**



## OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

Reminding everyone that you are our first line of defense against cybersecurity threats. It only takes one click on a malicious email, website or attachment to enable a bad actor to gain access to our network.

The energy sector continues to be a target for cyber attacks and we will continue to face threats that target our employees, our supply chains and partners. It is critical that we stay vigilant, because we are not only a part of one of our nation's critical infrastructures, we are the infrastructure all of the others rely upon.

Ransomware, credential theft, phishing emails and other attempts at cyber crime are no longer a question of if, but of when. Anyone with a password is a possible access point into our systems for bad actors.

Here are some simple things you can do to protect our systems from cybersecurity threats. Remember, the actions and steps you take will not only help protect Kandiyohi Power Cooperative but also you at home.

### KEEP YOUR DEFENSES UP..

Make sure all your computer software, including your web browser, is updated with the latest version. Keeping software up-to-date ensures security patches being deployed by our security team can succeed in

blocking cyber threats.

Create a strong password and keep it private – it can take five days to crack a nine-character password, but more than two centuries to crack a password consisting of 12 characters or more!

Treat all Wi-Fi networks as a potential security risk. Never check financial or other sensitive accounts when using public Wi-Fi at a conference, meeting or when you're on the road. Encrypt sensitive data when using a public Wi-Fi network.

### DON'T FALL for a FISH...

Be on the lookout for emails, phone calls and other messages that try to gain access to co-op and member information. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If something seems off, trust your instinct and convey your concerns to a manager or member of security team.

Think before you click? Don't click links or attached files in emails or text messages from senders you don't know. Even if you do know the sender, hover over the link before you click, as they may have been hacked or someone could be spoofing them? There are many ways to spot a phish, and you can visit [www.staysafeonline.org](http://www.staysafeonline.org) to see them all.

Stay Cyber Security Safe!!!