

KILOWATT

NRECA TAKES A STAND AGAINST EPA'S NEW POWER PLANT RULE

As members of rural electric distribution cooperatives, we understand the unique challenges and opportunities that our communities face. One of the pressing issues on our radar is the federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new power plant rule. This rule, aimed at drastically reducing carbon emissions from power plants, might seem like a positive step for the environment. However, its implications for rural Minnesotans are profound and potentially detrimental.



Ryan Nelson, CEO

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has risen to the forefront of this battle, advocating for the interests of rural electric cooperatives and their members. NRECA's involvement is crucial, and here's why.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation has found that energy policy is now among the top threats to reliable and affordable power. The EPA's new power plant rule introduces stringent emissions standards that are currently unattainable with the technology available today. While

urban centers might have the density to absorb the costs associated with these changes, rural areas often do not. NRECA is fighting on our behalf to ensure that the rule is fair and considers the distinct realities of rural electric cooperatives. By pushing for more achievable targets and extended timelines, NRECA is working to prevent a disproportionate financial burden on rural communities.

One of the primary concerns with the new rule is its potential impact on energy reliability and affordability. Rural electric cooperatives serve some of the most remote and economically vulnerable populations. NRECA's advocacy is focused on ensuring that these communities continue to receive reliable and affordable electricity. By challenging the rule, NRECA aims to protect our members from significant rate increases that could result from the premature retirement of coal and natural gas plants without viable replacements.

While the fight against the EPA's rule might seem like resistance to change, it's essential to understand NRECA's broader perspective. Rural electric cooperatives support a balanced approach to reducing emissions, one that encourages innovation and a pragmatic transition to cleaner energy sources. Rural electric cooperatives are actively involved in promoting renewable energy projects and energy efficiency programs tailored to the needs of rural areas. By advocating for a more realistic regulatory framework, NRECA is ensuring that rural electric cooperatives can invest in

new technologies and make a sustainable transition without compromising service, quality, or affordability.

Many rural communities in Minnesota rely on power for economic stability. NRECA's efforts to challenge the EPA's rule include highlighting the economic impact on these communities. By advocating for policies that consider both environmental and economic factors, NRECA is working to protect the livelihoods of countless rural Minnesotans. By striving for fairness, reliability, affordability, and sustainable innovation, NRECA is ensuring that rural Minnesotans are not left behind in the pursuit of environmental goals. Together, we can support these efforts and secure a balanced and prosperous future for our communities.

Ultimately, rural electric cooperatives and NRECA are deeply committed to environmental stewardship and the transition to a cleaner energy future. However, we advocate for this transition to be approached with pragmatism and sensitivity to the unique challenges faced by rural communities. By striving for policies that ensure fairness and feasibility, NRECA seeks to balance the imperative of reducing emissions with the need to maintain reliable and affordable power for all.



**Voices for
Cooperative
Power**

**DIRECTOR FILINGS
WILL BE ACCEPTED
STARTING
NOVEMBER 13TH.
More Information To Come**

WHAT IS PCI 4.0 COMPLIANCE AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

What is PCI 4.0 compliance?

PCI 4.0 compliance is the latest version of the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS), which is a set of rules and best practices for securing cardholder data. PCI DSS applies to any organization, including Kandiyohi Power Cooperative, that accepts, processes, stores or transmits credit or debit card information, regardless of the size or volume of transactions.

Why does KPC need to follow PCI 4.0 compliance?

Following PCI 4.0 compliance is not only a legal requirement, but also a way to protect our members and our business from the risks of data breaches, fraud and identity theft. Data breaches can result in financial losses, reputational damage, legal liabilities and regulatory fines. By complying with PCI 4.0, we can demonstrate our commitment to safeguarding our members' sensitive data and maintaining their trust and loyalty. PCI 4.0 compliance also helps us to stay ahead of the evolving cyber threats and technologies, and to adapt to the changing needs and expectations of our members.

How will PCI 4.0 compliance affect you, our member?

We will continue to provide our members with the same high-quality and secure payment options as before. Moving forward, when you call our office to make a payment your call will be directed to our automated phone payment system instead of making the payment directly with one of our Representatives. This will ensure PCI 4.0 compliance.

PCI 4.0 compliance will enhance our members' security and privacy, as we will implement the latest and most effective measures to protect their data. Some of these measures include:

- Using strong encryption and authentication methods
- Regularly testing and monitoring our systems and networks
- Training our staff and partners on data security awareness and best practices
- Updating our policies and procedures to comply with the new standards

We appreciate your support and cooperation in this process, and we look forward to serving you with the highest level of security and satisfaction.

POLE INSPECTIONS

EXO, our pole inspection contractor, is starting pole inspections in the area marked in green on the map. Their vehicles will be marked with their logo. Please contact us if you have any questions at 800-551-4951 or contactus@kpcoop.com.



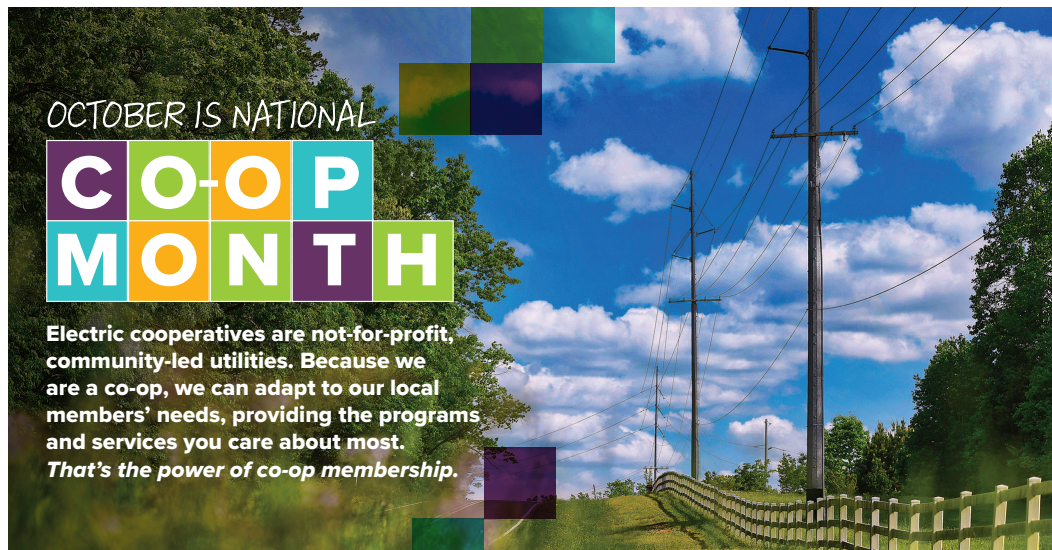
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OCTOBER IS NATIONAL



Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit, community-led utilities. Because we are a co-op, we can adapt to our local members' needs, providing the programs and services you care about most.
That's the power of co-op membership.



NOTICE OF TAX EXEMPTION FOR ELECTRIC HEAT

Electricity sold for residential heating use is exempt from Minnesota sales tax for the months of November through April if qualified. To qualify, a member must have electric heat as their primary source of heat. Primary source of heat is the source that supplies more heat than any other source for the largest period of time during the heating season.

If the primary source of residential heat is electricity and there is only one meter for that utility, then all electricity measured through that meter is not taxable during the winter heating months. A separate exemption form is required for each qualifying service location.

Members who have previously signed the form for their existing service location or members who have a dual fuel meter are already receiving the exemption. The Residential Sales Tax Exemption printable or online form can be found on our web-site: <https://www.kpcoop.com/sales-tax-exemption>.



BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

September 25, 2024

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:

- Recap of meeting with Debra Englund on 9/9.
- CEO Report
 - IJIA Consortium, Topic 3 update.
 - Vermont Electric battery program.
 - MREA CEO Fall Conference recap.
 - Stearns Co. proposed ordinance summary.
- Member Services/Communications
 - GRE visit to learn our DSMR Process.
 - NISC's MIC Conference recap.
 - Watts Up member event: 10/3 from 3-5pm.
 - Member Halloween event on 10/31 from 3-5pm.
 - Insights and analytics.
 - Autopay metrics.
 - KPC Member Event research presented.
- Engineering Report
 - Thirty new services; twenty-four retired to date.
 - IJIA GRIP & New ERA grants.
 - Evaluation of engineering software continuing with IT.
 - Meadow Star/Riverview Dairy new service update.
 - EPRI Conference recap.
 - Outage breakdown YTD 2024.
 - Employee safety and compliance update.
- Finance Report
 - Review of financials for August.
 - Tax filings for 2023 done, 2024 estimates summary reviewed.
 - Budget season preparation.

Debra Englund Meeting Recap

NRECA Regions 5 & 6 Meeting Recap

Annual Budget Meeting Date

Governance Options

Upcoming Meetings & Conferences

Great River Energy (GRE)

- Director's Report by Chair Anderson.

Executive Session

Motions made and approved by the Board:

- Regular Agenda with addition.
- August Meeting Minutes with addition.
- Approval to work with OSG for 2025 election services.
- Approval to move forward for Member Appreciation Event.
- Approval for Director Erickson to attend NRECA's Winter School for Directors.
- Adjourn meeting.

Meeting Adjourned- Next regular board meeting is October 23, 2024.



WATT'S UP
CONNECT AND SHARE

WATT'S UP

Our very first Watt's Up is over! Thanks so much to the members that attended. It was great to see everyone and connect with our members. We hope you enjoyed it! For those that were unable to attend, we hope to see you at the next Watt's Up.



September's \$25 Winner: Andy Paul

Enroll in our Auto Pay program to be entered into a monthly drawing for a \$25.00 bill credit. Save time and money!

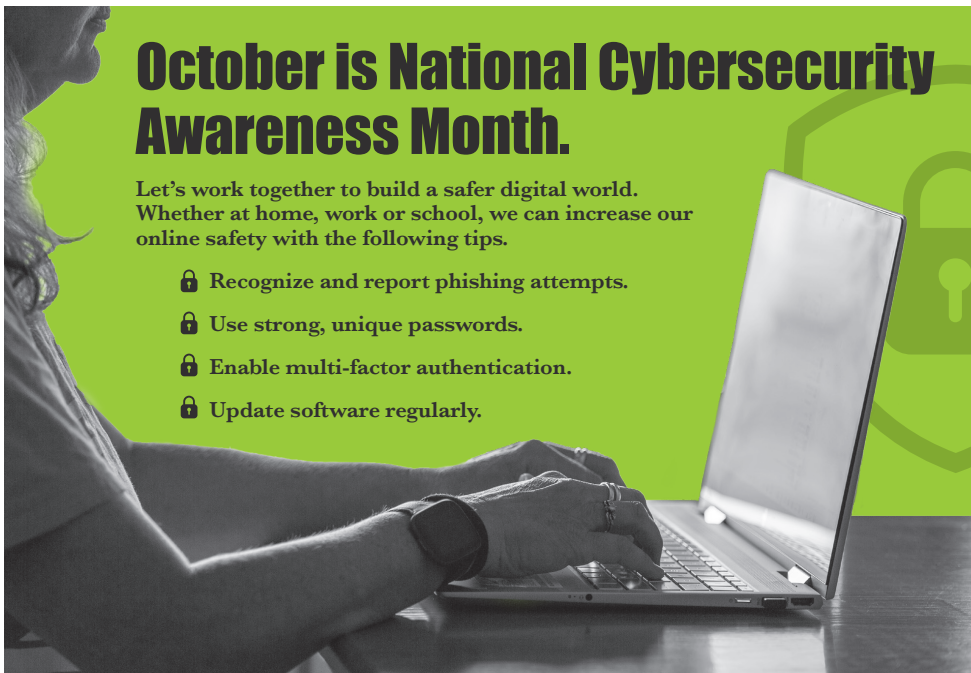
Must be on Auto Pay to be eligible to win.

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.

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Let's work together to build a safer digital world. Whether at home, work or school, we can increase our online safety with the following tips.

- 🔒 Recognize and report phishing attempts.
- 🔒 Use strong, unique passwords.
- 🔒 Enable multi-factor authentication.
- 🔒 Update software regularly.





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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

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 - 320-905-8325	2
Kelly Erickson - 320-894-2930	3
Diane Helgeson - 320-220-3745	3
Darrell Fostervold - 320-212-4824	3

KILOWATT STAFF:

Michele Scheffler, Editor

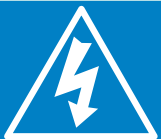
Equal opportunity provider and employer.



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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

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





Protect your pets

Our monitored smoke and carbon monoxide sensors automatically alert dispatchers, who will notify you and emergency services.



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