

# KILOWATT

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

**Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static.**

Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.



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

101144002

## SAVE THE DATE

### KPC Annual Meeting

April 27, 2021 – This meeting will be virtual due to COVID. More details will be provided in next month's Kilowatt.

## Committed to a Co-op Culture for All

Kandiyohi Power Cooperative is different—because we're a cooperative. Our business model sets us apart from other utilities because we adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater good of the community.

Electric cooperatives, including Kandiyohi Power Cooperative, have a unique and storied place in our country's history. We democratized the American dream by bringing electricity to rural areas when for-profit electric companies determined the effort too costly. Back then, cities were electrified, and rural areas were not, creating the original rural-urban divide. Newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in rural areas. Today, that spirit of equity and inclusion is a vital part of our co-op DNA.

### Equal access for all

When our electric co-op was founded, each member contributed an equal share in order to gain access to electricity that benefited individual families as well as the larger local community. Each member had an equal vote in co-op matters. That sense of equity and inclusion is still how we operate today. Kandiyohi Power Cooperative was built by and belongs to the diverse communities and consumer-members we serve. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

By virtue of paying your electric bill each month, you're a member of the co-op, and every member has an equal voice and vote when it comes to co-op governance. This ties back to our guiding principles of equitable economic participation and democratic control of the co-op.

We encourage all members to vote in Kandiyohi Power Cooperative's director elections every April, and participate in future co-op meetings to weigh in on discussions that set co-op priorities, such as, community solar and electric vehicle programs.

## EXECUTIVE TRANSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

On behalf of the Board of Directors at Kandiyohi Power Cooperative (KPC), we would like to inform our members that CEO Sonja Bogart, is no longer with KPC in order to pursue other interests.

On our path moving forward, Mark Fagan from Great River Energy is Interim CEO and Ryan Nelson, KPC's Manager of Engineering, is in-house General Manager.

**YOU'RE AT  
THE HEART  
OF EVERYTHING  
WE DO,  
FROM OUR CO-OP  
FAMILY TO YOURS!**



We know members of our community have different needs and perspectives, and we welcome diverse views on all issues under consideration by the co-op. The more viewpoints we hear, the better we are able to reflect the needs of all corners of our community.

### Inclusion

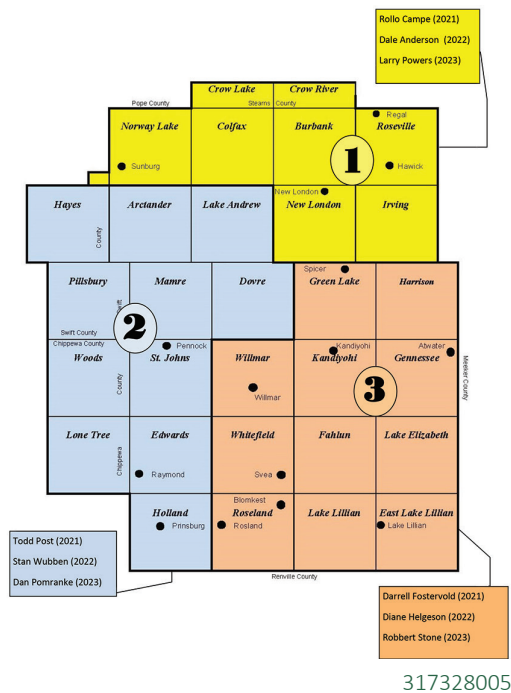
While our top priority is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we also want to be a catalyst for good in our community. Because we are your local electric cooperative, co-op revenues stay right here in our community. In turn, we invest in our diverse community base through scholarship programs, charitable giving, educational programs and more. We strive to make long-term decisions that improve and enrich the communities we serve.

While today's world is radically different than it was when Kandiyohi Power Cooperative was founded, our cooperative values have stood the test of time and remain just as relevant today. We recognize that today's co-op members expect more, and our pledge to you—the members we proudly serve—is to promote a cooperative culture of inclusion, diversity and equity for all.

# DIRECTOR FILINGS NOW OPEN FOR DISTRICTS 1, 2 & 3

Would you like to serve as a Director on the Kandiyohi Power Cooperative Board for your district? Please call Robin at 800-551-4951 or email her at rryks@kpcoop.com to request a Director packet. The packets contain the cooperative’s bylaws as well as the qualifications to become a Director. As a Board Director you will serve a 3-year term and must reside within the District you are filing in. Filings are due to the KPC office by 4:00 pm on March 8th, 2021. Election results will be announced at KPC’s Annual Meeting, April 27th, 2021.

## BOARD MEMBER DISTRICTS 2021



# AVOID SOLAR PANEL SCAMS

Solar energy is booming, and the future is brighter than ever. Through the use of rooftop solar panels, many homeowners can now harness the sun’s natural rays to produce their own electricity that’s environmentally friendly and cost effective.

But with the increasing popularity of solar, unfortunately, some businesses are taking advantage of consumers who are interested in generating their own energy through rooftop panels.

While many solar companies are genuine and truly want to help consumers with a successful solar installation, there are the occasional bad apples.

You’ve likely heard a story or two about solar vendors that promised rooftop panels that would generate enough electricity to power the entire home. Then, after the homeowner has paid thousands of dollars for the installation, the solar panels aren’t working, and the vendor is nowhere to be found. Sadly, this story has been the reality for many consumers.

If you’re interested in solar panels for your home, consider these tips before installation:

- Talk to an energy advisor at your local electric co-op first. We want you to feel

confident about any decisions you make about your home energy use, especially decisions about generating energy at home.

- Collect at least three quotes from different solar companies to ensure you’re getting a competitive deal. As with any major purchase, research is key, so thoroughly read customer reviews for each of the three solar vendors.

- If you speak to a solar vendor and they use high-pressure tactics, like an offer that’s only good for 24 hours, run! Any reputable solar company will recognize that you need time to review a proposal and thoroughly weigh your decision.

- You know if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. So, if a solar company is making promises that sound unachievable and outlandish, they probably are. Remember, if you have any questions, you can always count on your electric co-op for advice.

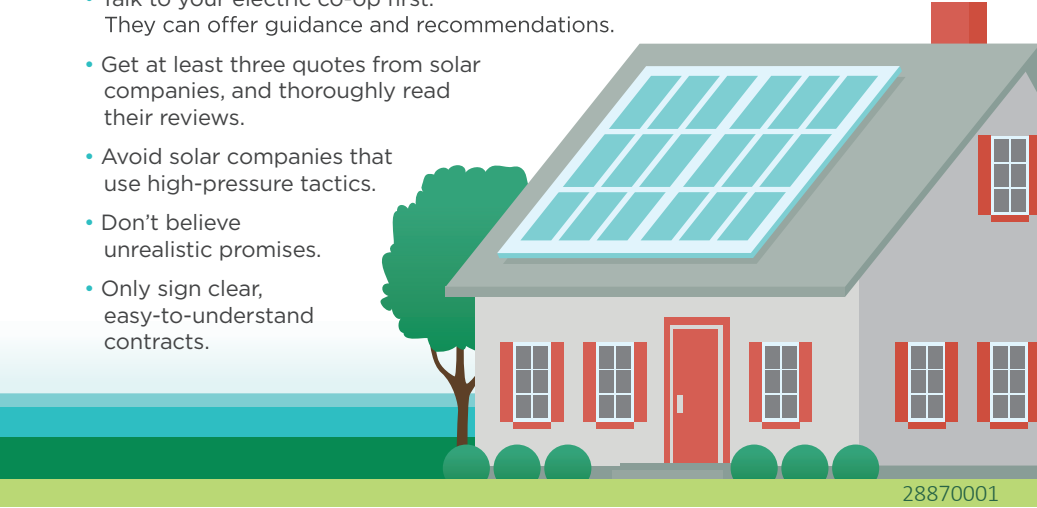
- Finally, when it’s time to review and sign a solar contract, make sure the language is clear and easy to understand. Ensure any prior verbal (or emailed) promises are also included in the contract.

Going solar is a major decision, so you’ll want to conduct a good bit of research first. If you’re looking for a general starting point, check out the Department of Energy’s Homeowner’s Guide to Going Solar.

## TIPS FOR AVOIDING SOLAR SCAMS

As the popularity of rooftop solar panels increases, so do solar scams. Here are a few tips to consider before you install a solar PV system for your home.

- Talk to your electric co-op first. They can offer guidance and recommendations.
- Get at least three quotes from solar companies, and thoroughly read their reviews.
- Avoid solar companies that use high-pressure tactics.
- Don’t believe unrealistic promises.
- Only sign clear, easy-to-understand contracts.





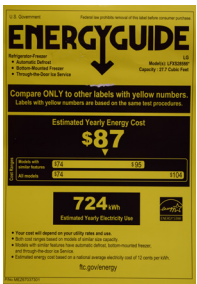
WHICH KITCHEN APPLIANCE SHOULD I UPGRADE?

It's smart to consider energy use as you look at replacing appliances because most new appliances use much less energy than they did in the past. Manufacturers have found innovative ways to reduce appliance energy use without sacrificing performance. The federal government began tightening appliance standards in the 1980s and has continued as technological innovations became more cost-effective.

It may seem like the oldest appliance should go first. That may make sense if you want the looks and features of a newer oven or dishwasher. But with most appliances, the energy savings you get from a new one will take several years to pay for itself with the energy saved.

The appliance replacement most likely to produce the greatest energy savings is your refrigerator. An older fridge can cost

about \$20 to run every month. Replacing an old fridge with a new ENERGY STAR®-rated model can cut that down to less than \$5 a month. The ENERGY STAR® label certifies that the appliance saves energy. New refrigerators will include an additional label, the Energy Guide label, which shows how much energy it uses annually and compares that to the most and least efficient models available.



When you're looking to replace an old fridge, style counts. A top-freezer setup is the most efficient, while a lower-freezer unit offers medium savings, and a side-by-side style is the least energy efficient.

If your goal is to save money on your energy bill, resist the urge to keep the old fridge in the basement or garage—that won't help you reduce your energy use. An old fridge in an uninsulated garage on a hot summer day can use a lot of energy. Maybe you just need more freezer space. If so, we recommend the most efficient freezer you can find. You can find



recommendations on [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

If your current fridge is in good condition, another appliance you may want to consider upgrading is the dishwasher. With most of us spending more time at home these days, chances are you're using your dishwasher more than you used to.

As with any major purchase, be sure to read customer reviews for any brands and models you're considering, and look for additional opportunities to save money, like an upcoming appliance sale.



PLEASE MOVE OVER FOR ROADSIDE CREWS

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible.

Together, we can keep our crews safe.



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.

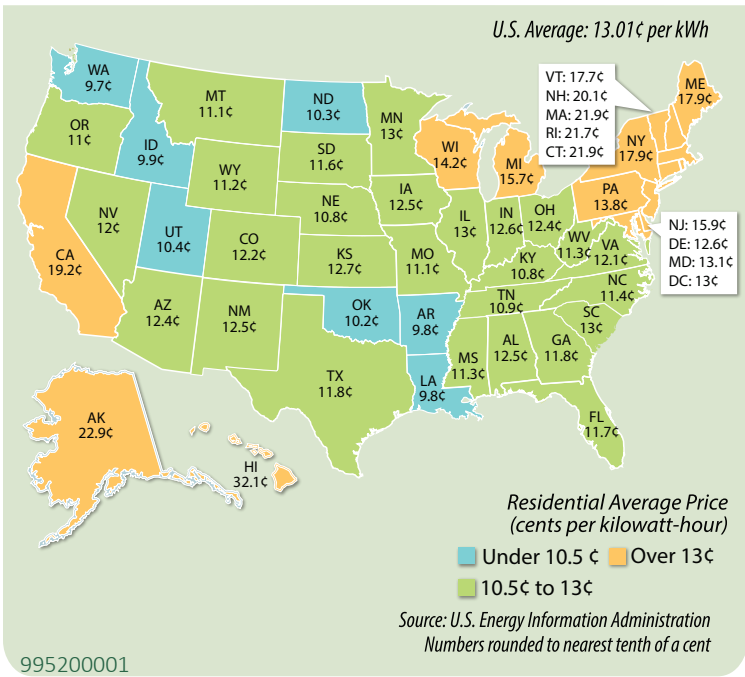
We will credit your bill. Do not deduct the amount from your bill; pay as usual.

James A. Larson and Vernon Coss Jr. found their account numbers in the last issue.

Each account number is worth \$5<sup>00</sup>.

Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2019 figures, in cents per kWh





# 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

Diane Maurice, Member Services 796-1164  
Michele Scheffler, Communications/HR 796-0982  
Ryan Nelson, Engineering/Acting GM 796-1173  
Scott Luberts, Line Superintendent 796-1163

## 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, 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:

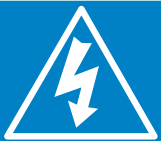
Michele Scheffler, Editor



**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**



## Go with confidence.

Our Belle mobile medical  
alert system uses the latest  
technology and is certified on  
the Verizon 4G LTE network.

Our 24/7 monitoring and local  
in-person installation and service  
give you peace of mind.

**Heartland  
Security**

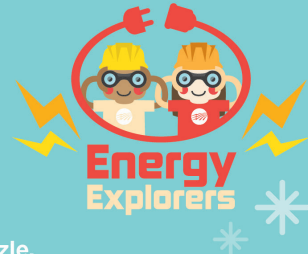
**888.264.6380**

heartlandss.com

## WINTER ENERGY-SAVINGS WORD SEARCH

This winter, you can pitch in at home  
to help save energy!

Read the energy-saving tips below, then  
find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.



M	U	S	F	A	K	S	E	R	U	A	Z	T	H	H
B	E	T	M	I	V	L	R	J	C	K	M	T	J	L
B	M	H	F	R	R	H	Q	E	Q	M	S	K	V	W
T	D	G	G	F	W	E	D	G	G	U	N	M	J	L
K	V	I	K	I	B	L	P	X	N	R	V	L	T	Z
V	Y	L	X	L	W	K	S	L	H	Y	A	S	L	P
S	P	N	P	T	K	Q	I	F	A	E	Z	H	H	K
N	J	C	I	E	T	G	V	O	S	C	P	S	C	W
Z	K	M	C	R	H	A	N	U	O	V	E	R	Y	O
G	N	I	H	T	O	L	C	R	U	S	D	M	A	F
G	I	Z	C	I	F	J	B	P	I	N	L	G	F	P
H	M	J	W	O	V	D	B	L	Y	V	I	E	J	V
B	C	Q	K	I	N	W	L	I	N	E	N	B	N	T
H	N	E	W	X	V	R	I	D	V	C	B	B	T	G
C	U	J	M	Q	S	C	Y	M	P	Q	D	Q	K	T

## WORD BANK:

- Open curtains and blinds during the day to allow **sunlight** in to warm your home.
- Instead of turning up the thermostat, add more layers of **clothing** to keep your body warm.
- If you have a **fireplace**, ask an adult to close the flue when a fire is not burning.

- Unplug **chargers** when they're not in use. They consume energy even when they're not charging phones and other devices.
- Ask an adult to check the **air filter** for your home's heating and cooling system. Filters should be replaced regularly to help the system run more efficiently.
- Always turn off **lights** when you leave a room.

