

KILOWATT

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load.

Source:
www.nrel.gov



AS ELECTRIC SYSTEM EVOLVES, RELIABILITY COMES IN NEW WAYS

As ever more renewable energy is added to the electric grid, utilities continue to preserve one of electricity's most important qualities: reliability.

"When our members flip the switch, they expect lights to turn on," said Ryan Nelson, Kandiyohi Power Cooperative's Manager of Engineering. "It takes a lot of technology and talented people working together to make that happen."

Large conventional power plants that have been shutting down in recent years are often replaced with new generators such as wind turbines and solar panels that can produce electricity at a lower cost. But because most of those resources rely on the wind and the sun, they need a dependable backup.

"Renewable energy paired with flexible generation is a proven recipe for affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible energy," said Jon Brekke, vice president and chief power supply officer for Kandiyohi Power Cooperative's wholesale energy provider Great River Energy. "Today, our natural gas-fueled power plants serve an essential role in maintaining reliable power supply."

Great River Energy has a fleet of peaking plants ready to produce energy when its members or the larger grid need it. They can start up in a matter of minutes and ramp production up or down quickly to supply energy and balance the grid. When combined with the high availability of wind in the Midwest, natural gas peaking plants provide stability today and flexibility for a future with new technologies and opportunities.

Batteries a possible future solution

Energy storage has long been viewed as a promising option for reliability. However, current storage technology is limited to short-term periods and unable to cost-effectively fulfill the role currently performed by peaking plants. Longer duration storage is being developed that may someday offer a competitive option for providing reliability and flexibility.

Great River Energy is working with a U.S. battery technology developer on a first-of-its-kind demonstration of a long-duration storage technology. The 1-megawatt storage pilot project will be located in Cambridge, Minnesota with completion targeted for late 2023.

FIVE WAYS TO STAY COZY THIS WINTER

Baby, it's cold outside! When you're feeling chilly at home, there are several budget-friendly ways you can keep comfortable without turning up the thermostat.

Here are five easy ways to stay cozy this winter.

1. Whether you're experiencing extremely cold winter temps or you simply "run cold," an electric blanket can deliver quick warmth like a regular throw or blanket cannot. Electric blankets can include a variety of features, like timers and dual temperature settings (if your cuddle buddy prefers less heat). This winter, consider an electric blanket instead of turning up the heat, and your energy bill will thank you.

2. One of the easiest ways to stay cozy at home is to keep your feet warm. Our feet play a critical role in regulating body temperature, so when your feet are warm, your body automatically feels warmer. Try a pair of comfortable wool socks or house slippers to stay toasty.

3. On winter days when the sun is shining, take advantage and harness natural warmth from sunlight. Open all curtains, drapes and blinds in your home to let the sunshine in—you'll be able to feel the difference.



4. Another way to make your home cozier is to use a humidifier. Cold air doesn't hold water vapor like warm air, so by adding humidity inside your home, you can feel a little warmer. A favorable level of humidity inside your home can also help clear sinuses, soften skin and improve sleep.

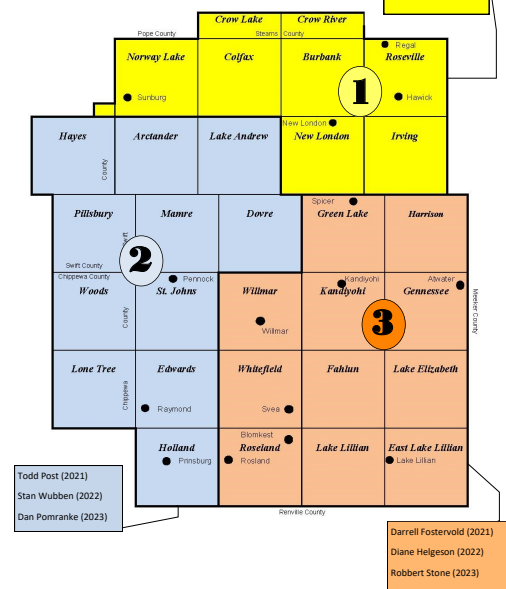
5. Beyond adding visual appeal to your home, area rugs can also provide extra insulation and a warm surface for your feet on cold winter days. Use large area rugs in rooms where you spend the most time. You'll enjoy the new colors and textures of the rug, and the additional warmth will help keep your home comfortable.

These are just a few ways you can stay cozy this winter without turning up the thermostat. Don't forget the hot chocolate!

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 rrys@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



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ANNUAL COGENERATION NOTIFICATION TO MEMBERSHIP

Kandiyohi Power Cooperative has adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production. KPC will interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers who satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. Kandiyohi Power Cooperative will provide interested members rates and interconnection requirements, which can be found on our website at www.kpcoop.com/distributed-generation. All interconnections require an application and are subject to resolution by Kandiyohi Power Cooperative. Interested members should contact us at 800-551-4951.

Heat from Thin Air

A heat pump extracts heat from the outside to the inside. Using recycled heat means the heat pump heats more efficiently.



A HEAT PUMP BUILT FOR MINNESOTA WINTERS AND SUMMERS

Air source heat pumps (ASHPs) have been used for many years in nearly all parts of the United States but, until recently, were not common in areas with extended periods of subfreezing temperatures. However, in recent years, cold-climate ASHP (ccASHP) technology has advanced so that it now offers a legitimate space heating alternative in colder regions, like Minnesota.

A ccASHP can provide both efficient heating and cooling for your home. When properly installed, it can deliver up to three times more heat energy to a home than the electrical energy it consumes. This is possible because a heat pump moves heat rather than converting it from a fuel like combustion heating systems do.

A project recently conducted by the Center for Energy and Environment found that the efficiency of the newest generation

of ccASHPs can operate down to minus 13 degrees Fahrenheit. The efficiency of these technologies in moderate climates is also two- to-three times more efficient than standard electric heating systems.

Since heat pumps provide heating in the winter and cooling in the summer, you should be aware of at least two heat pump energy efficiency ratings. The Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) measures cooling efficiency over the cooling season, while the Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) measures heating efficiency over the heating season. Given that we are in the depths of a Minnesota winter, let's further explore the heating aspect.

HSPF is a standardized rating used to compare energy efficiencies. HSPF is used by all heat pump manufacturers to indicate efficiency ratings. Like miles per gallon for your car, the higher the HSPF number, the more efficient the system.

Heat pumps, when properly installed, provide members with several distinct advantages:

- When sized appropriately, today's ccASHPs can provide 100% of a home's heating needs down to temperatures as low as zero degrees, which is roughly 90% of all heating hours in Minnesota. If properly set, an ASHP can serve as your primary source for a good part of our Minnesota winters.
- The balance point of your heat pump is the outdoor temperature at which your home HVAC system switches over to its backup heating system, likely set by your installer. If your heat pump can keep your home warm down to 10 F, but your balance point is set to switch over to backup heat at that same temperature, then anytime it's in the 10- to 15-degree Fahrenheit range, you'll be paying more than you should for heat.
- Aren't sure of your ASHP's balance point? Take note of the temperature where your backup heating source kicks in and if it's above 10 F, your balance point may be set too high. If you have already installed an ASHP, you may also want to contact your installation contractor to inquire further and ensure your balance point is where you want it to be.

Your local electric cooperative provides a variety of incentives and programs for heat pump technologies. Should you have any additional questions, feel free to contact an energy expert at 800-551-4951 or contactus@kpcoop.com. Be sure to continue looking for additional ways to improve the energy efficiency of your home, and take advantage all the rebates we have offer by visiting us at www.kpcoop.com/rebates-incentives.



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No one called to claim their account number last month. Each account number is worth \$5.00.



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MAINTAIN INDEPENDENCE WITH HEARTLAND SECURITY'S BELLE

Medical alert pendants continue to improve to help senior citizens maintain their independence and engage in active lifestyles. What a great gift that would be!

Heartland Security, a subsidiary of Kandiyohi Power Cooperative, now offers a new medical alert pendant called Belle.

Belle is a small, easy-to-use mobile medical alert pendant that works with the 4G Verizon cellular network across the country (although some limitations may exist based on the signal in some areas). Belle enables users to easily get help at home or away from home with the press of a button.

Features include:

- A powerful speaker makes it easy to hear the specialist that answers your call for help.
- Battery-status button can be pressed to see if battery is okay or low.
- The call button is simple to operate. It is one button that can be pressed to speak with a specialist and get help. It is that easy! The button also has a circular light around it that lets you know when a call is in progress or when the pendant needs recharging.
- A powerful microphone allows you to speak clearly with a specialist so they can send emergency help or contact a loved one to assist you.
- Belle lasts up to 30 days a charge. It comes with a charging cradle and is fully charged in 2 to 3 hours.
- Belle is lightweight and easy to wear or carry with the included lanyard and belt clip. It includes Wi-Fi location technologies and is water-resistant.

The Belle lease costs \$45 to install and monthly monitoring costs \$49.95. Call Heartland Security at 888-264-6380 or visit www.heartlandss.com.

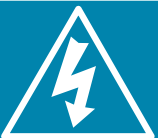
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24-HOUR OUTAGE NUMBER

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



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.



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