Kandiyohi Power Coop

OCTOBER 2020 - ISSUE 109 VOLUME 10

Then. Now. Always. We're proud to power your life. October is National Co-op Month.



HOW YOUR CO-OP IS UNLIKE ANY OTHER UTILITY

Electric cooperatives power 56% of the nation's landmass—from booming suburbs to remote rural farming communities. Kandiyohi Power Cooperative is among more than 800 American distribution cooperatives serving as energy providers and engines of economic development for more than 20 million American homes, businesses, farms and schools in 48 states.

Unlike investor-owned and municipal utilities, the purpose of a cooperative—above all else—is to provide reliable, affordable electric service to its membership. In recognition of National Co-op Month in October, take a look at other ways we are different from other utilities.

- 1. You're a member, not a customer. Cooperatives are unique because they are owned by you, the member. This means you have a voice in the way we run the co-op. Members elect the co-op's board of directors and can run for a seat on the board if they wish to do so. Your vote and participation help shape the direction of the cooperative.
- 2. We focus on service, not profits. Unlike investor-owned utilities, which are operated to make the most profits for stakeholders, electric co-ops do not earn profits. Instead, any margins or revenue remaining (after all expenses have been paid) are returned to members in the form of capital credits. Capital credit returns are based on each member's years of participation in the co-op.
- 3. We're local, community-focused businesses. Because we are owned by the members we serve, electric cooperatives have a strong commitment to our local communities. In addition to providing safe, reliable and affordable power, electric co-ops are involved in local community development programs and projects such as Meals on Wheels, Totes for Teachers, park clean-up day, and Youth Tour (and other youth engagement programs).
- 4. We're committed to innovation. Because we answer to local members rather than far-away shareholders, electric cooperatives are more nimble and able to respond quickly to changing member needs. We are committed to experimenting and innovating in ways that benefit the local communities and members we serve.



HOW SMART IS A **Smart Thermostat?**

MYTH VS FACT

My thermostat automatically saves me money. how it's programmed and your preferences. It still uses the same amount of energy to reach and maintain temps.

That depends on

The thermostat needs a

little time to learn your

heating and cooling

preferences.

Sort of Most models are

independent thinkers and

adjust the temperature if

no one's home.

It's smart for a reason! Geotechnology syncs your

thermostat with your

arrival. Some models use

geofencing technology

that tracks your smart

phone location and kicks

on when you're nearby.

A smart thermostat is smart straight out of the box.

My thermostat is only as smart as I am.

lt's creepy, my smart thermostat seems to know when I'm home.

> My smart thermostat makes me smarter.

We'll give you this one! It can help you save money and make your home more efficient.

LEARN MORE

-Safe -€lectricity.org∗

CEO Column OFFERING MEMBERS EASY WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN RENEWABLES

The use of solar energy continues to grow across the country. In fact, the U.S. Energy Information Administration reports that in 2019 solar made up almost two percent of overall utility-scale electricity generation in the United States, with the production of 72 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity. This production level has increased significantly from the start of the decade, when solar produced just 1.2 billion kWh. Growth has been exponential.

I personally used to be more skeptical, wondering how much potential solar really had. Then I learned about the Hawaiian Island of Kauai. The island is a very interesting renewable energy case study. In 2010, renewables (solar, hydropower and biomass) made up only eight percent of Kauai's energy mix. The year 2019 closed out with renewables contributing 56 percent to Kauai's generation. On a sunny day, the island produces enough solar energy to meet all electricity needs.

Solar sometimes gets a bad rap because it is limited to generating power only when the sun is shining. To overcome this challenge, thinking outside the box is very important. On the island of Kauai, investments are being made into batteries to help store solar energy. But, even more interestingly, Kauai uses solar energy during the day to pump water uphill to reservoirs and then later releases that water at night to turn hydroelectric turbines and generate electricity. Talk about creativity in power generation!

There are many reasons solar is beneficial. For one, solar does not produce carbon in the production of power. And by using the power of the sun, solar is not using the Earth's limited resources to generate power, ultimately reducing our reliance on non-renewable energy sources.

I'm guessing by now you are thinking that solar is a good idea, but questioning how to get involved because of the up-front investment. This is where KPC is trying to help members by offering a couple of easy ways to participate in renewables. Two programs are available to interested members:

Solar Wise Community Solar -

A number of your neighbors are already participating in KPC's community solar program and receiving a credit on their electric bill each month. This solar array is located at our headquarters and consists of 140 panels. By signing up for a solar panel, members receive electric bill Sonja Bogart KPC'S CEO



credits for their share of the overall power produced, while enjoying the benefit of not having to install and maintain solar panels on their own property. This month's newsletter features a couple limited-time special offers on community solar panels. We still have a limited number of panels left in our community solar array, so will treat any requests on a first come/first serve basis.

Wellspring –

By purchasing renewable energy credits (RECs) for a small adder each month, members can help support wind energy development in Minnesota. Wellspring energy is coming from wind turbines owned by our power supplier, Great River Energy, and are located in southern Minnesota.

Be sure to contact one of our representatives at 1-800-551-4951 to learn more about these programs.

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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 15th 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 15th.

Your service could be shut off if you have a past-due balance on April 15th.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!

Do you see your name on this list? Or the name of someone you know? Please contact us at 800-551-4951 or email contactus@kpcoop.com to update your information. We appreciate your help!

AMUNDSON, KATHY	NEW LONDON
ANDERSON, MILTON	SARTELL
BENSON, STACY	WILLMAR
BENSON, TERRY & BETTY	SAVAGE
BJORKLUND, DAVID	CASCADE CO 80809
BODIN, CAROL	BRANDON SD 57005
BOSTRON, CONRAD & DONN	IA ALEXANDRIA
BREY III, NORBERT M	NEW ULM
BUTLER, LAURIE	RAYMOND
CAMPEN, JOYCE	WILLMAR
CHRISTENSON, ALICE	HOPKINS
CONNOR, BRADLEY & HARRI	ET FAIRMONT
CROONQUIST, WILLIS & RITA	MAPLE GROVE
DANIELSON/JONES,	
MARK/ELIZABETH	NEW LONDON
DANZEISEN, TOM	BIRD ISLAND
DAY, PATRICIA	SAUK RAPIDS
day, mike	SLEEPY EYE
DENHOLM, JACK & ANNE S	TORM LAKE IA 50588
DENNY, JOE	HEWITT
DOSDALL, JAMIE	GRANITE FALLS
DYBSAND, ARDYS	NEW LONDON
EAGON, JOHN & DIANA	NOKOMIS FL 34275
ELBERT, EDWARD & VIVIAN	WILLMAR
ELLINGSON, EVERETT	WILLMAR
ERICKSON, BRUCE & JANET	WOOD LAKE

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

EVANS, KATHY NEW LONDON FADNESS, CHAD WILLMAR FLEISCHHACKER, JODI ROSCOE BELLE PLAINE FOGARTY, DAVID GARVICK, LEONARD & LISA HAWICK HAINES, GREGORY & LINDA ST PAUL HAMILTON, JOANNE WILLMAR HAMSTAD, JON WILLMAR HANEFELD, GERALD & GLORIA WINDOM HANSON, JAYME LAKE LILLIAN HARDING, ALLEN P RICE HARTNETT, JOE WILLMAR HOLM, JOE & CAROLINE WILLMAR LITCHFIELD HOMAN/BRECHT, JODY/MARY ITZEN, LYNN WILLMAR JACKSON, NICHOLAS WILLMAR JOHNSON, FAMILY TRUST %MARLENE JOHNSON WILLMAR JOSSART, TAMI MAPLE GROVE LAVERGNE TN 37086 KELLY, CHRIS & PENNY KLOEMPKEN, EVA OLIVIA KNIGHT, MICHELLE % CHAD MITHAUGEN **NEW LONDON** KNOTT, JOYCE **KERKHOVEN** KUPERUS, ROBERT & LISA BELGRADE LARSON, GARY L **WESTBROOK** NEW LONDON LAUDENBACH, KARI LEBO, SHIRLEY JORDAN



LINDBLAD, DONALD & PATRICIA	DAWSON
LYSCIO, RICHARD	BAXTER
MATTHEISEN, DANIEL & ELOISE	NEW HOPE
MATTSON, RANDY & ROSE	EAGEN
MEADOWS, DOUG GRAND	FORKS ND 58201
NELSON, ELDEN & FAITH	PRINSBURG
NELSON, KATHIE	SPICER MN
NELSON, MARK CITRUS H	EIGHTS CA 95610
NELSON, MRS ILENE	NEW LONDON
NEWMAN, RONALD & RUTH	USSELL KS 67665
NORLING, SHARON NEWBUR	RY PARK CA 91320
OLSON, DUWAYNE & SHIRLEY	DARWIN
O'NEILL, MARY	WILLMAR
ORLOWSKI, MIKE & BETH	WILLMAR
OVERSON, JOSH	GAYLORD
PEHLE, CAROLYN	ELK RIVER
PETERSEN, JERRY	WILLMAR
POMERLEAU/ENGEN, ROBERT/L	RAYMOND
RAITZ, GEORGE	ATWATER
RHODA, HERBERT & JOANN	SAINT PAUL
ROGEN, ALICE POR	TLAND OR 97222
ROLLAND, STEVE & TERRI	EAST BETHEL
SEIDLER, WILLIS & ELAINEJACKSO	ONVILLE AR 72076
SIMENSON, TIM & REBECCA	WILLMAR
STUBBS, MARLENE	SPICER
SWENSON, CARL D	WILLMAR
TERHELL, ROBERT & CAROL	WILLMAR
THOMAS, MARK D	WILLMAR
THORNBERG, RUSSELL & BETH	FAIRMONT
TJADEN, SCOTT & MARLA	RAMSEY
TORKELSON, LISA	NEW LONDON
TRACY, MICHAEL	WILLMAR
TREHUS, LORETTA	WILLMAR
VISS, PAUL & CAROLYN	WILLMAR
WESTBERG & OLSON ELECTRIC	
% KEITH OLSON	NEW LONDON
WOLFSWINKEL, EDNA	ALEXANDRIA
WOLTJER, LARRY & JOANN	WILLMAR
WORDEN, KAREN	ST CLOUD
ZURAWSKI, RICHARD & JILL	HOWARD LAKE

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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 called to claimed their account number last month. Each account number is worth \$5.00.



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	796-1160
Diane Maurice, Member Services	796-1164
Michele Scheffler, Communications/HR	796-0982
Ryan Nelson, Engineering	796-1173
Scott Luberts, Line Superintendent	796-1163
Darla Ruschen, Finance Manager	796-1161

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- <i>320-894-8867</i>	3

KILOWATT STAFF: Michele Scheffler, Editor





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



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Community Solar Special Offer

2 Ways to Make Solar More Affordable

0% FINANCING FOR 6 MONTHS

Regular purchase price of \$950 per panel output, split into 6 equal monthly payments.



Regular price of \$950 per panel output, discounted to \$850.

Special offer ends 12/15/2020. First come, first served.

Benefits of Community Solar

- Receive credit on your electric bill for your share of the solar produced each month.
- No installation or maintenance costs.
- No solar panels on your house or in your yard.
- You get all the benefits of owning solar panels, with none of the hassle!