

# KILOWATT

## Bright Light Head Start

Kandiyohi Power Cooperative  
United Community Action Partnership

### BRIGHT LIGHT HEAD START RIBBON CUTTING

Dale Anderson, KPC Board Chairman and Brian Schultz, UCAP Board President cut the ceremonial ribbon at the new Head Start program facility in Willmar. Bright Light Head Start is located in the old Kandiyohi Power Cooperative headquarters building located along Highway 71. This facility is a great partnership between KPC and United Community Action Partnership.



Head Start programs promote school readiness of children ages birth to five from low-income families by supporting the development of the whole child. Head Start programs support children's growth and development in a positive learning environment through a variety of services, which include early learning, health and family well-being.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was held and tours of the new building were given on Wednesday, August 26th. The renovations and complete transformation of the building from what was once KPC's offices, garage and warehouse to classrooms and educational spaces for our community's children were completed by Marcus Construction. Before photos of the spaces were posted around the building to give the full effect of what a huge undertaking it was. Marcus was able to complete the renovation quickly and create the space that the Head Start program really needed.

Concern for Community is the Seventh Cooperative Principle. This principle means that KPC works for the sustainable development of our community. We are proud to partner with United Community Action Partnership to make our community a better and healthier place to live and work!

### HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR OUTAGE TEXTING YET?

Bruce recently signed up for outage texting. When his power went out in late August, Bruce received a text within 5 minutes of the outage, stating that Kandiyohi Power was aware of the outage and a map of the outage area. He then saw the KPC crews, with their spotlights working on the outage in the dark.

After the power came back on, he received another text stating the power was back on. "Outage texting is a great service. Zero complaints!" - Bruce Brakemeier

Sign up for Outage Texting through our SmarHub app today at <https://www.kpcoop.com/smarhub!>

HELP KEEP ELECTRIC  
**LINE WORKERS**  
SAFE

Be patient when the power goes out. Workers need to work efficiently and safely to restore power.

### ZONE IN ON SAFETY

Respect roadside work crews.

Don't drive distracted.  
Reduce your speed.  
Change lanes.

1 work zone crash occurs  
every 5.4 minutes

70 work zone crashes  
result in injuries  
each day

12 work zone crashes  
result in at least  
1 fatality each  
week

Never plug a generator into  
a wall outlet in your home or  
garage. The power that back  
feeds into the electric line  
could electrocute a utility  
worker or neighbor.

**DON'T** post signs  
on utility poles.

Foreign objects can tear  
utility workers' protective  
clothing, which is the first  
line of protection from an  
electric shock.

Electric line workers **RANK 15** on the list  
of **25 MOST DANGEROUS JOBS** in  
America. Help keep them safe!

Learn more at [Safe  
Electricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)

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[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/KANDIYOHIPOWERCOOPERATIVE](https://www.facebook.com/kandiyohipowercooperative)

## KANDIYOHI POWER COOPERATIVE (KPC) MANAGER'S COLUMN

Sonja Bogart  
KPC'S CEO



I recently read a statistic that electric vehicles will soon sell for a price that is competitive with gas vehicles. In fact, a recent study by Carnegie Mellon University said that we can expect up-front electric car pricing to be on par with gas vehicles as soon as 2023.

This is exciting news! And my reason for saying this has a lot more to it than just the fact that I work for an electric utility. Electric cars are fun to drive and they are very economical. In fact, Kandiyo Power offers a special off-peak rate for electric vehicles. Members who select this rate agree to only charge their cars during off-peak periods (those periods of lower overall electric use, or typically from 11 pm to 7 am). In return, they receive a discounted rate of 5.8 cents per kilowatt hour.

From a maintenance perspective, electric cars have approximately one-third the moving parts of gasoline vehicles. Less moving parts means lower maintenance costs. And the ongoing oil changes needed for gasoline vehicles are not necessary. These factors make electric cars very affordable to drive.

I have an electric car in my household. It was purchased because the economics

made a lot of sense, but it has also been very fun to drive. Some of the features I like best include:

- *The very fast acceleration (it goes from 0 to 60 miles per hour in 3.2 seconds).*
- *Being able to put the car in self-drive mode. Self-driving was a little scary at first, but the car does a very good job and even has a quicker reaction than what I would have if a deer moved on to the road.*
- *The car's computer tablet "dashboard" allows me to plan out my trips, suggesting charging stations to stop at to maximize battery use and recharge when needed.*
- *The fun extra features such as whoopie cushion noises for the seats, Santa sleigh mode and more. My kids are grown, but I have heard that younger kids really enjoy these features.*

Even though economics vary by vehicle, I did a calculation of the cost of driving a Tesla 3. Using the cooperative's discounted off-peak rate of 5.8 cents per kilowatt hour, the cost to fully charge the battery is \$6.82.

With a range of approximately 305 miles, this is a cost of 2.2 cents per mile. When comparing to gasoline vehicles and using an example of a car that gets 25 miles per gallon, the cost of driving a Tesla 3 on the cooperative's off-peak rate is equivalent to 56 cents per gallon.

Electric cars are fairly new technology and just like with anything else that is new, there is information needed before knowing if an electric vehicle is right for you. Kandiyo Power has an electric vehicle in its fleet. The purpose of this is to better understand electric cars and to pass this information on to members. If you would like to learn more about electric cars, please visit our webpage at [kpcoop.com](http://kpcoop.com), under the "energy solutions" section.

Electric vehicles have come a long way and are getting more and more economical all the time. I am very excited about what the future holds for electric cars.

## WELCOME, DARLA RUSCHEN!

Kandiyo Power Cooperative is pleased to announce the hiring of Darla Ruschen as the new Finance Manager. Her first day at KPC was August 10th. Darla brings with her 25 years of cooperative experience, where she has managed finance departments at two Minnesota cooperatives. At Renville-Sibley Cooperative, she managed the finance, customer service and billing areas of the cooperative. Most recently, she held a similar position as Office Manager at Brown County REA in Sleepy Eye, MN.

Darla recently moved to the New London area and is happy to be a KPC member-owner. She has two grown daughters and a 12-year-old son. Darla loves spending time with her new granddaughter and being involved in her local community. Please join us in welcoming Darla to KPC!

Fun Facts: Darla likes playing bingo, going to concerts and cleaning!



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Clothes dryers make up a large portion of your appliance energy consumption. Clean the lint filter after each cycle, and scrub the filter with a toothbrush once a month to remove film and increase air circulation.

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



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# ASHP PROMOTION EXTENDED

Kandiyohi Power Cooperative is extending our 2020 Air Source Heat Pump ASHP promotion.

### Rebate Qualifications/Considerations:

- Must be installed in KPC territory.
- Must be “Q1” installed and tested in 2020.
- Can be combined with furnace EC motor rebate.
- Ask about off-peak program and reduced electric rates.
- To qualify for a rebate, must be purchased and installed in June, July or August 2020 and is now extended to include September and October 2020.

### Why ASHP’s?

- Best of both worlds. ASHP’s provide home cooling and supplemental heating with 72% less electricity than conventional a/c’s and furnaces.
- Higher Efficiency – you can save up to 30% on your home cooling expenses. They are also 200% + more efficient when it comes to home heating.
- Easy on the Environment.
- A Safe Solution – no open flame so doesn’t create any products combustion such as carbon monoxide and other emissions.
- Quality Control – Air rises more slowly, distributes more evenly and holds its moisture better. This makes a more natural warmth.
- Adjusts Automatically – An ASHP works in tandem with your conventional gas furnace for home heating. The pump automatically selects the most ideal balance between the two heating sources to constantly maintain the most efficiently ideal heating combination based on your desired indoor temperature.

### Limited Time Promotional Rebate Amounts:

15 SEER	\$750.00
16 + SEER	\$1,500.00

# BUILD OUT OF EV FAST-CHARGING NETWORK CONTINUES ACROSS MINNESOTA, US

A cross-country route that allows electric vehicle (EV) drivers to travel from coast to coast using the largest open DC fast-charging network in the United States is now complete.

The route is part of Electrify America’s \$2 billion investment into charging infrastructure, education and access. It travels along Interstates 15 and 70,

spanning 11 states and more than 2,700 miles to take drivers from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C. High-powered chargers can be found, on average, about 70 miles apart in metro areas and near highway routes located near shopping and dining amenities.

“Electrify America’s primary goal has always been to advance electric vehicle adoption in the U.S., and that starts by instilling feelings of confidence and freedom in consumers when it comes to EV ownership,” said Anthony Lambkin, director of operations at Electrify America. “The completion of our first cross-country route is a significant step toward that goal – by making long-distance travel in an EV a reality, we hope to encourage more consumers to make the switch to electric.”

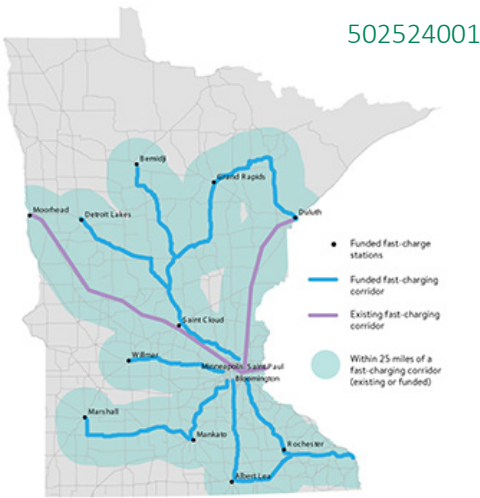
Minnesota, which currently has about 30 DC fast chargers available, has also set its sights on building out more EV infrastructure with part of its share of the Volkswagen settlement funds. The state is leading by example by spending the maximum amount allowed under terms of the settlement (15%) on zero-emission vehicle infrastructure.

As part of Phase I of the project, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) awarded ZEF Energy \$1.7 million to install 22 DC fast-charging stations and several level 2 chargers at sites along major highways outside of the Twin Cities metro area. The fast-charging stations will be installed over the next two years in cities such as Bemidji, Grand Rapids, Detroit Lakes, St. Cloud, Willmar, Marshall, Rochester, Mankato and Albert Lea. For Phase II, which is underway now through 2023, the state has allocated \$3.525 million to go toward charging infrastructure. The MPCA plans to award a grant to build out 43 additional DC fast chargers that will significantly increase the number of highways routes with access to DC fast charging.

A fast-charger highway corridor from the Twin Cities to the North Shore is already in place for EV drivers.

To date, Electrify America has more than 435 operational charging stations with over 1,900 DC fast chargers, and another 100-plus sites in development. By the end of 2021, Electrify America plans to install or have under development approximately 800 total charging stations with about 3,500 DC fast chargers.

To locate a charger near you or map out a trip, visit [plugshare.com](https://plugshare.com).



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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.

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# Kandiyohi Power Cooperative

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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  
Diane Maurice, Member Services  
Michele Scheffler, Communications/HR  
Ryan Nelson, Engineering  
Scott Luberts, Line Superintendent  
Darla Ruschen, Finance Manager

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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:

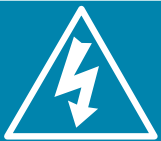
Michele Scheffler, Editor



**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!!!**

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



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## COMMUNITY SOLAR PROMOTION

### What is community solar?

Community solar refers to solar facilities located at our headquarters, shared by multiple KPC members who receive credit on their electric bill for their share of the power produced. Community solar provides homeowners, renters and businesses equal access to the economic and environmental benefits of solar energy generation.

### What are the benefits of community solar?

Community solar allows members to the opportunity to share the benefits of solar power without installing or maintaining solar panels on their property. Members get all the benefits of owning solar panels, with none of the hassle. Don't own your home? No problem! You don't need to own your home to participate, any KPC member is eligible, including renters, to lease the output from one (or more) solar panels in KPC's Community Solar garden. Community solar members have cheaper utility bills. How is that possible? Members receive credit on their electricity bill for the power produced from their portion of the solar array, offsetting their electricity costs each month. Solar panels produce no polluting gasses and therefore, less pollution. If you are interested in our community solar garden and would like to lease a solar panel, please contact Dan at 800-551-4951. The community solar promotion runs through 10/09/2020 and is subject to availability. Solar panels can be leased for \$850 each.

## Salsa

Ingredients

1 Can black beans, drained & rinsed  
1 Can Mexican corn, drained  
(or 1 can of regular corn)  
½ Red onion  
1 Jalapeno  
1 Bell pepper  
4-5 Tomatoes  
½ Cup Chopped fresh cilantro

Juice of 2 limes  
2 Tbsp Extra Virgin Olive oil  
1 Tsp Salt  
1 Tsp Brown Cumin  
1 Tsp Ground Coriander



### Directions

Combine all ingredients and store in refrigerator.