

# KILOWATT

## HERE WE GO AGAIN!

ARTICLE BY: SCOTT FROEMMING, CEO



We recently had the first evening low temperature dipping into the 40's, we just passed Labor Day and school has started. We've seen this all before and it means we are starting the transition into fall. Here at the co-op it means time to look at finishing up construction projects that are in progress and determining what others to take on before freeze-up. In that regard, any of you who are considering electrical projects, should contact us soon so we can get your project scheduled and completed before freeze-up so you won't incur any frost charges.

Now is also a good time to start thinking about our fall chores. Outside its things like, raking leaves, cleaning out flower beds and gardens, and inside its, checking weather stripping, making sure the propane tank is full and having that furnace tuned up for the inevitable cold weather ahead. Remember to change your furnace filter as well. I just replaced mine last night and it was clearly long overdue. A clean filter will help your furnace and air conditioner run more efficiently thereby costing less to operate. Also, check out your ac unit, mine was all clogged with dirt and debris which significantly reduces its' efficiency. You may not need the ac any more this fall, but then it will be ready for next spring.

If during these annual maintenance reviews, you determine that your air conditioner is near the end of its life consider an air source heat pump as a replacement. Air source heat pumps heat your home through the spring and fall and cool your home all summer long. Heat pumps are much more efficient than air conditioners, delivering up to 300% efficiency. Check with one of our customer service representatives to find out more about heat pumps and our rebate program.

Personally, as I reflect on the summer, I see lots of projects left undone. It can be demoralizing and depressing to think that I wasted my summer and didn't accomplish half of what I had planned on doing. But as I reflect further, I think about camping at the Itasca Music Festival with my family, unplanned evening fishing excursions with my son, planned and unplanned family get togethers. I realize my summer was not wasted at all, but was full of fun, sometimes stressful, but overall precious time with my family. I guess it's all a matter of perspective and priorities. I know its cliché and it's been said a million times in a million different ways, but we need to slow down and savor each day, especially those days we sometimes consider wasted because we didn't

accomplish everything on our "to do" list. In fact, maybe we need to add family and friends to our "to do" lists and make them a priority.

Fall brings with it another set of tasks, more maintenance and just plain more stuff to do. Of course, that's in addition to all the other projects we hoped to get done over the summer. Raking leaves, winterizing the house and having the furnace checked out are all necessary tasks to prepare for a Minnesota winter. We can't ignore many of these seasonal tasks, but let's not get so wrapped up in them that we don't take time to do the meaningful things of life. Consider adding these activities to your fall "to do" list: Invite your neighbors over for dinner or better yet help them out with a project; take time to play ball with your child or grandchild or go on a weekend camping trip or day trip with your family. Make memories and then enjoy and reflect on them rather than the projects you had hoped to accomplish but didn't. Hope you all had a great Labor Day weekend and made some memories!



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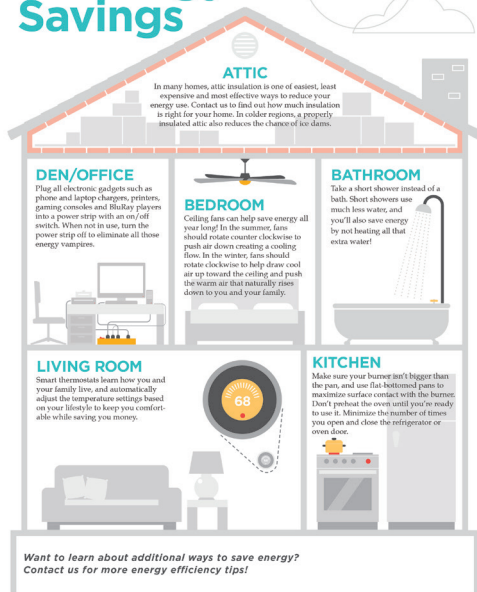
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## ENERGY 101

Joel Johnson, OneMinnesota Government Affairs (Coalition for a Secure Energy Future) and Minnesota House Representative Dave Baker joined Kandiyohi Power Cooperative Board Directors, Managers and Employees for a "Energy 101" Session. This was a time to discuss Legislative changes, the 50/30 Government mandate, CIP Program reform, Economic Development loans, changes to the regulatory environment, technological advances and other key issues facing our industry. After the meeting, Representative Baker was presented with the "Energy Champion" award for all his hard work and interest he has taken in the electric industry.



## A Full House of Energy Savings



## KILOWATT CREDIT SCORECARD

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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 claimed their account numbers in the last issue. Each account number is worth \$5.00.

## TOTES FOR TEACHERS

Kandiyohi Power Cooperative and Operation Round Up donated 88 "Totes for Teachers" between CMCS, MCCRAY, ACGC, BBE and NLS schools. Teachers of Pre-school – 4th grade totes included wipes, crayons, notebooks, Kleenex, folders, pencils, markers, glue, etc. to help with some of the necessities needed in their classrooms.

We are thrilled that we could do this for our community teachers. We thank each and every one of them for their dedication in preparing our children for their futures.



## BACK TO SCHOOL – BUS SAFETY

- Look before you back out of driveway
- Obey School Zone Speeds
- Be on the look out when driving through neighborhoods. Watch for children
- Be alert and aware on the road – Children tend to dart out without looking first
- Learn school bus rules – Red flashing lights and extended stop-arm
- Do not pass a stopped bus – be aware of what is happening.



## YOUR POWER OUTAGE PANTRY

We do our best to avoid power outages, but unfortunately, Mother Nature occasionally has different plans. Stay ahead of the storm by stocking your pantry with a variety of non-perishable items.

*Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!*

- BEANS
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED TUNA
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CEREAL
- DRIED FRUITS
- DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- GRAHAM CRACKERS
- PASTA
- RICE
- SPAM
- OATMEAL



*Don't forget to stock up on disposable goods, like paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery and cups.*



# WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ELECTRIC CARS COULD THRILL YOU

The Chevy Bolt and Ford Focus, with price tags in the \$35,000 range, can make the jump to 60 mph in 6 to 11 seconds, which is about average for all U.S. cars.

In an electric car, all the power is going into the wheels. With a gas-powered car, a lot of power is lost inside the mechanical engine. In March, Goodyear announced a new tire that would hold up better under the “instant torque from electric motors.” But wait, there’s more... The battery is at the bottom of the car, so you have a lower center of gravity, which means you can take the corners crisper.

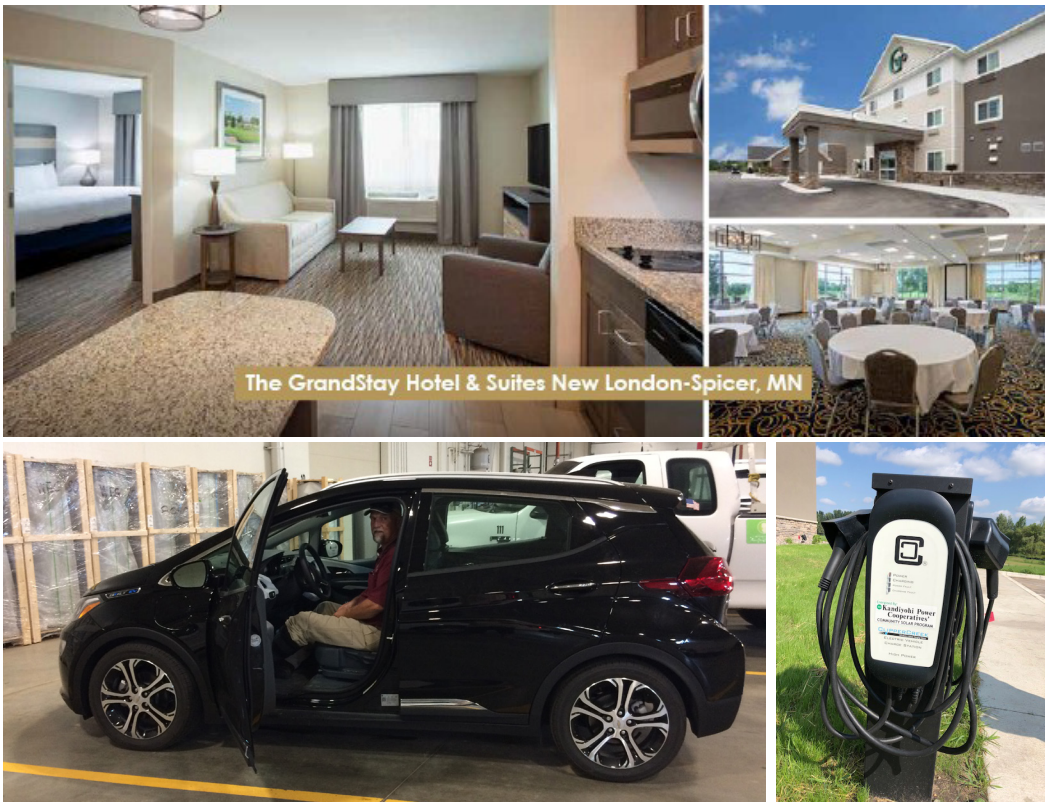
Electric vehicles hold a lot of other surprises compared to the traditional view of them as a glorified golf cart. Even electric co-ops in rural parts of the country are hearing interest from their members.

About 700,000 electric vehicles drive on U.S. roads today. That number could jump to 3 million in the next five years. The U.S. Department of Energy’s Energy Information Administration projects electric vehicle sales growing from about 1 percent of the market today, to 12 percent by 2050.

Car makers are pushing those trends. In October, General Motors said it would launch 20 new electric vehicles by 2023. In January, Ford announced plans to invest \$11 billion in a lineup of 40 hybrid and electric vehicles by 2022. In March, Volkswagen said it had secured \$25 billion in electric car batteries and technology and plans to scale that up to \$60 billion.

The internal combustion engine is a perfected technology, so those cars aren’t improving at a very rapid pace. But electric vehicles are evolving at a very rapid pace, just like other electronics.

What that means for consumers is that they might consider leasing an electric car rather than buying one, to make it easier to trade in the car to take advantage of the annual improvements in battery life, and other features. Other unexpected benefits of electric vehicles that could speed their acceptance include range, maintenance and more competitive costs.



Will I run out of juice? The electric vehicle industry has a term for the biggest roadblock to its growth—range anxiety. The fear of getting stranded far from home with no way to refuel may be overblown and getting less concerning. The range on the electric cars you can buy today is perfectly sufficient to cover almost everyone’s daily commute. While electric cars won’t work for someone regularly commuting 100 miles a day, for most people, even in rural areas, that number is under 40 miles a day. Most electric cars on the market today have between a 120-mile range and some of them are getting close to 200 miles. The Federal Highway Administration reports the average American drives 37 miles a day.

Less hassle! Electric car acceptance doesn’t need to wait for a network or charging stations to appear around the country. Re-fueling would be more like you plugging your car into an outlet in your garage at the end of each day, and by morning it’s fully charged. No more having to stop and fill your tank up once or twice a week. You can charge it at home while you’re sleeping and wake up to a full tank every single day.

Electric cars can also save on maintenance. With an electric vehicle, you don’t have oil changes, and you don’t

really have transmission fluid changes. Regenerative braking in electric cars uses the electric motor to slow the car rather than relying only on brake pad friction. A lot of electric vehicle owners are saying they’ve never replaced their brakes because you just don’t have the physical wear and tear on the brake pad.

Costs are coming down. Electric car costs today make them a luxury car, but that’s changing. As electric car research, development and production increases, costs will be coming down. Tax breaks for electric cars at the federal level and in some states can reduce costs by several thousand dollars. And, electricity costs less per mile than gasoline. One of the main reasons drivers buy electric cars is for environmental reasons. An electric car is cleaner than a gas-powered car. Another advantage of an electric car is that you’re powering it with electricity from your local electric co-op.

Pictures are of Great River Energy’s Chevy Bolt. GRE brought it to Farmfest this past August. It made its way to KPC for a few days before heading back to Maple Grove. The other is KPC’s EV Charging Station at the new GrandStay Hotel between Spicer and New London.



# Kandiyohi Power Cooperative

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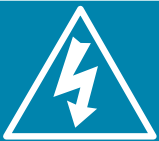
Robin Ryks, Editor



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## 24-HOUR OUTAGE NUMBER

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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**

## FALL SAFETY TIPS

- Safely store warm weather tools like lawn mowers and trimmers. Check cold weather tools, such as leaf and snow blowers, along with their power cords, for unusual wear and tear. Repair or replace worn tools or parts right away.
- Unplug and safely store battery chargers that won't be in use again until spring.
- Use only weatherproof electrical devices for outside activities. Protect outdoor electrical devices from moisture. Make sure electrical equipment that has been wet is inspected and reconditioned by a certified repair dealer.
- Keep dry leaves swept away from outdoor lighting, outlets and power cords.
- Make sure electric blankets are in good repair and certified by an independent testing lab such as UL, CSA or ETL. Power cords should not be frayed, cracked or cut. Do not tuck your electric blanket under mattresses or children, and do not put anything, such as comforters or bedspreads, on top of the blanket while it is in use. Never allow pets to sleep on an electric blanket.
- Check your light bulbs and have a supply of replacement bulbs
- Be aware of electrical lines and poles when trimming trees or burning ditches.
- Get your Flu Shot

## Tips for a Safe Harvest



Harvest season brings hard work and can be an exhausting, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous (even deadly!) when working near overhead power lines. We urge farm operators and workers to keep the following safety tips in mind:



**Use care when operating large machinery near power lines.**



**Inspect the height of equipment to determine clearance.**



**Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away (in all directions) from power lines.**



**Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.**



**If a power line is sagging or looks to be dangerously low, please call us immediately.**

Source: SafeElectricity.org

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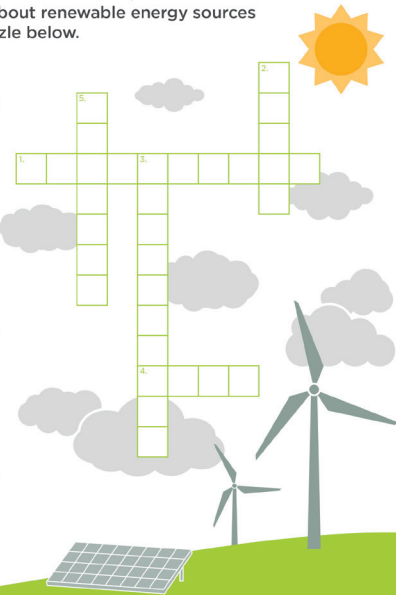


## RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES CROSSWORD



Did you know the electricity you use in your home is generated using a variety of fuel sources? Some energy sources are nonrenewable (like coal and natural gas) and some are renewable (like solar and wind energy). Learn about renewable energy sources and complete the puzzle below.

- ACROSS:** \_\_\_\_\_ energy uses heat from the earth. People can use the heat to warm buildings or to generate electricity.
- DOWN:** \_\_\_\_\_ energy is produced through panels that convert sunlight into electricity.
- DOWN:** \_\_\_\_\_ is energy produced from moving water. The power plant is typically located on or near a water source.
- ACROSS:** \_\_\_\_\_ energy uses tall turbines with blades to collect kinetic energy.
- DOWN:** \_\_\_\_\_ is organic material that comes from plants and animals; it contains stored energy from the sun and when burned, uses chemical energy that is released as heat.



ANSWER KEY:  
1. ACROSS: WIND, 2. DOWN: SOLAR, 3. DOWN: HYDROPOWER,  
4. ACROSS: BIOMASS, 5. DOWN: GEOTHERM

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