

Northern Electric

Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

Cooperative Connections

FEBRUARY 2017 VOL. 17 NO. 10



Electricity
Is at the Heart of
the Home P8-9

Student Scholarship Applications Due By February 17

Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held December 22 at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present. As the first order of business, the board approved the November 28, 2016, minutes and November expenditures. The board then reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management including details on financial, operations, member services, safety and communications.

Directors viewed the East River Electric Power Cooperative video report. East River Director Mark Sumption reported on actions taken by the East River board at the December meeting. Manager Char Hager reported on the East River MAC meeting which was held November 30, 2016, in Madison. South Dakota Rural Electric Association Director Mike McHugh reported that the next SDREA Board Meeting will be part of the SDREA Annual Meeting January 11-13, 2017, in Pierre. Directors Mark Sumption, Mike McHugh, Glen Larson and Francis Esser reported on the Mid-West Electric Consumers Assoc. Annual Meeting which was held December 5-8, 2016, in Denver, Colorado.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Char Hager's report to the board included the following items:

- Update and discussion on new and progressing development projects and activities taking place in the community and our service area.
- Brief update on Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) revolving loan fund activities.
- Legal and Legislative report included Manager Hager reporting that the SDREA Legislative dinner and South Dakota Legislative Update will be held on January 12, 2017, at Pierre.
- Reviewed attendance plans to the SDREA Annual Meeting in Pierre, Jan. 12-13, 2017, with those who will be attending.
- Reviewed attendance plans to the East River Energize Forum in Sioux Falls, Feb. 1-2, 2017, with those who will be attending.
- Calendar review of upcoming meetings and events.

BOARD REPORT

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

1. Approved the date and time of the next regular board meeting for 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, January 25, 2017.
2. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$1,898.00.
3. Approved Work Order Inventories #16-11 for \$39,334.43 and #16-11MC for \$37,090.94 to be submitted to RUS for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
4. Approved the fourth quarter estate requests for early capital credit retirements in the amount of \$20,363.43.
5. Tabled the 2017 Load Forecast completed by Basin Electric until the January 25, 2017, board meeting.
6. Authorized Board President to execute the 2017 Fee Schedule Amendment to the Engineering Services Contract with Dalager Engineering.
7. Tabled the Northern Electric 2017 Operating Budget until the January 25, 2017, board meeting.
8. Held Executive Session.

Questions or more details on any of these matters? Please ask your cooperative manager, staff or director.

Financial Report – November 2016

	Nov. 2016	Nov. 2015
kWh Sales	26,840,761 kWh	27,553,082 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$2,341,127	\$1,796,971
Total Cost of Service	\$2,259,282	\$1,698,965
Operating Margins	\$81,845	\$98,006
Year to Date Margins	\$807,843	\$795,227

Residential Average Monthly Usage and Bill

Nov. '16	2,585 kWh	\$229.69	.0889 per kWh
Nov. '15	2,664 kWh	\$218.52	.0820 per kWh

Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest and depreciation accounted for 82.8% of NEC's Total Cost of Service.

Northern Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS 396-040)

CEO/General Manager

Char Hager
info@northernelectric.coop

Board of Directors

Mike McHugh, **President**
Donna Sharp, **Vice President**
Randy Kienow, **Secretary**
Wayne Holt, **Treasurer**
Victor Fischbach
Glen Larson
Mark Sumption
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Services
Derek Gorecki, Manager of Information
Technology
Mike Kelly, Operations Manager
Cathi Podoll, Chief Financial Officer
Kay Albrecht, Executive Secretary
Ben Dunsmoor, Communications
Director

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NEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

NORTHERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Northern Electric Cooperative, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427. Families subscribe to Northern Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Northern Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on electric cooperative matters and better rural living.

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NEC Web site: www.northernelectric.coop

Design assistance by SDREA and TDG Communications



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Editor's Column

Co-ops Help Co-ops Following Storm

Mother Nature must have been angry this past Christmas because she delivered a big lump of coal to many rural electric cooperatives across South Dakota when snow, ice, rain, and wind descended upon the holiday celebrations of thousands of members. At one point there were nearly 20,000 rural electric co-op members without electricity in the days following the Christmas storm of 2016.

Northern Electric saw some impact from the storm but not nearly as much as other co-ops across the state. Northern had more than 400 consumers without power the day after Christmas in the Frederick area because of problems with the transmission line feeding the Frederick substation. Fortunately, Northern was able to avoid the severe damage that was felt by our neighboring cooperatives. The Christmas storm damaged nearly 3,000 electric cooperative poles and 5,000 miles of line across South Dakota.

When Mother Nature deals a big blow to our region one thing is always certain; neighbors will help neighbors. It's no different in the co-op world. Northern was able to resolve the power issues in the Frederick area following the Christmas Day storm and that allowed us to lend a helping hand to other electric co-ops. Northern Electric sent crews to FEM Electric Association in Ipswich and Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative in Timber Lake to assist with storm restoration. More crews were also sent east to Lake Region Electric Association in Webster

to help with the efforts there. At one point, Lake Region had more than 40 additional linemen from two different states helping after the storm.

However, local distribution cooperatives – like Northern, Lake Region, and FEM - can only do so much to restore power after a storm. Electric cooperatives across eastern South Dakota buy their wholesale electricity from East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison,

South Dakota. East River infrastructure was also hit hard in the Christmas 2016 storm. More than 500 structures which hold up the large transmission lines that deliver electricity across the eastern part of the state came down in the ice storm. Crews from Dairyland Electric Power Cooperative in Wisconsin arrived after the Christmas holiday to help East River restore the large transmission lines and the supply of electricity to local co-ops.

When a storm like this hits many ask the question, 'why did it take so long to turn the lights back on?' Really, the question, 'why didn't it take longer?' is more appropriate. The answer to that question is simple; cooperatives help cooperatives, and in our part of the country neighbors help neighbors. The next time you see a cooperative lineman thank them for their dedication and willingness to brave harsh winter conditions and restore power following storms. I think we should all be proud of how line crews, cooperative staff, and neighbors came together to return that lump of coal Mother Nature gave us and turn the lights back on following the Christmas storm of 2016.



Ben Dunsmoor
Communications Director

Downed and Dangerous

Downed power lines can be deadly. ALWAYS assume a downed power line is live and avoid going near it or anything in contact with it.

Use Precaution

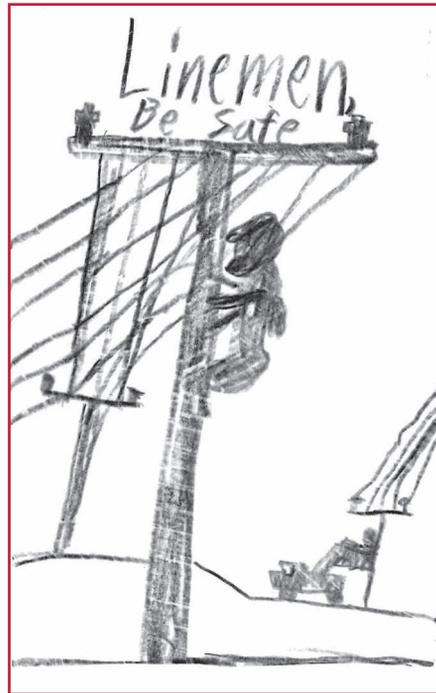
- Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 feet away.
- If you see a downed power line, immediately notify local authorities.
- Never drive over downed power lines or through water that is in contact with them.
- Never try to move a downed power line. Even using items that typically are not conductive will not prevent injury or death.

Know What to Do

- The safe way to move away from a downed power line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times.
- If your car comes in contact with a downed power line while you are inside, stay in the car. Do not touch any part of the car's frame or any other metal. Use a cell phone or honk your horn to summon help. Allow only rescue personnel to approach the car.
- If your car is in contact with a downed power line and you must exit due to fire or another imminent threat:
 - Do not touch your vehicle and the ground at the same time with any part of your body or clothing.
 - Open the door to your vehicle without touching the metal door frame.
 - Jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and so both feet land at the same time.
 - Shuffle away so that the toe of one foot shuffles forward along the length of the other foot, ensuring that both feet are in constant contact and always touching the ground.
- If someone comes in contact with a downed power line or something else that has become electrified, call 911 immediately.
 - Never touch someone who has come in contact with a power line. They are energized and pose a danger to anyone who comes in contact with them.
 - Remember power lines don't have to fall in order to be dangerous. Always call 811 before you dig and keep yourself and your equipment at least 10 feet from overhead power lines.

Source: esfi.org

Kids' Corner Safety Poster



"Linemen – Be Safe."

Colt Kopren, 9 years old
Colt is the son of Randy and Heidi Kopren, Bison, S.D. They are members of Grand Electric Cooperative, Bison, S.D. Colt's dad is a lineman.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

92nd Legislative Session

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(Look under iPhone offerings)

Profiles and contact information on lawmakers, maps of the capitol, links to committees ...and more!



Bountiful Brunch



Favorite Breakfast Bake

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 lb. sausage, cooked and drained | 1/4 cup milk |
| 2 cups frozen hash browns, thawed | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| 1 pkg. crescent rolls | 1/4 tsp. pepper |
| 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese | 2 T. onion, sliced thin |
| 5 eggs, beaten | 2 T. green pepper, sliced thin |
| | 2 T. Parmesan cheese |

Pat crescent rolls into a 9x13-inch pan that has been sprayed with cooking spray. Spoon sausage over top. Sprinkle on hash browns and Cheddar cheese. Combine eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Gently pour over all. Top with onions and green pepper. Sprinkler with Parmesan cheese. Bake at 375°F. for 30 minutes.

Jane Ham, Rapid City

Ultra-flexible Ham and Veggie Quiche

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 refrigerated pie crust (half of a 14.1 oz. pkg.) or 8-inch frozen deep-dish pie crust | deli ham, ham steak or honey-glazed ham |
| 1/2 cup sliced green onions or finely chopped white, yellow or red onions | 1/2 cup (2 oz.) shredded sharp Cheddar cheese or provolone or Monterey Jack |
| 1/2 cup vegetable of choice, such as shredded carrots or thinly sliced asparagus, baby green beans or shredded zucchini | 6 eggs |
| 1/2 cup chopped baked ham or | 2/3 cup half-and-half (or 1/3 cup milk and 1/3 cup cream) |
| | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| | 1/4 tsp. black pepper |

Prepare crust, if necessary, according to package directions. Layer onions, carrots (or other vegetables), ham and cheese in crust. In a medium bowl, combine eggs, half-and-half, salt and pepper. Whisk until frothy. Pour mixture over veggies and ham. Bake, uncovered, at 350°F. until the top is set and light golden brown, about 50 minutes. Remove from oven and cool 10 minutes, then slice and serve.

Judy Bierle, Utica

Overnight French Toast

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1/2 cup butter | 5 eggs |
| 3/4 cup brown sugar | 1/2 cup milk |
| 1 tsp. cinnamon | Dash salt |
| 12 slices bread | Vanilla, to taste |

Melt butter in a 9x13-inch pan. Add brown sugar and cinnamon. Put bread in 2 layers across pan. Mix remaining ingredients; pour over bread. Refrigerate overnight. Bake, uncovered, at 350°F. for 30 minutes. Invert on tray and serve.

Mary Jessen, Holabird

Cinnamon Crunch Cake

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 cups flour | 1 package (2-layer size) white cake mix |
| 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar | 1 egg |
| 1/2 cup granulated sugar | 1 cup sour cream |
| 2 T. McCormick® Cinnamon, Ground | 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, melted |
| 1 cup (2 sticks) cold butter, cut into chunks | 1 tsp. McCormick® Pure Vanilla Extract |

Mix flour, sugars and cinnamon in large bowl. Cut in cold butter with pastry blender or 2 knives until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Set aside. Beat cake mix, egg, sour cream, melted butter and vanilla in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed about 1 minute or just until mixed. Spread evenly in greased and floured 13x9-inch baking pan. Sprinkle evenly with topping mixture. Bake at 350°F. for 30 to 35 minutes or until cake pulls away from sides of pan. Cool on wire rack. Cut into squares to serve. Makes 24 servings.

Blueberry Crumb Cake: Prepare topping and batter as directed. Spread batter in baking pan. Sprinkle with 1 cup blueberries, then the topping mixture. Bake 45 minutes.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 265, Total Fat 13g, Cholesterol 41mg, Sodium 226mg, Carbohydrates 34g, Dietary Fiber 1g, Protein 3g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Eggs Benedict Casserole

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 8 large eggs | 3/4 lb. Canadian bacon, diced |
| 3 cups milk, divided | 6 English muffins, diced |
| 3 green onions, chopped | 1 (.9 oz.) pkg. hollandaise sauce |
| 1 tsp. onion powder | 1/4 cup butter |

Whisk eggs, 2 cups milk, onions and onion powder together in a large bowl until well mixed. Spray 9x13-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Layer half the Canadian bacon in prepared baking dish. Spread English muffins over meat and top with remaining Canadian bacon. Pour egg mixture over casserole. Cover baking dish with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. Sprinkle casserole with paprika; cover with aluminum foil. Bake at 375°F. until eggs are nearly set, about 30 minutes; remove foil. Continue baking until eggs are completely set, about 15 additional minutes. Whisk hollandaise sauce mix with 1 cup milk in a saucepan. Add butter and bring to a boil, stirring frequently. Reduce heat to medium-low, simmer and stir until thickened, about 1 minute. Drizzle sauce over casserole to serve.

Cortney Reedy, Tea

Egg Bake

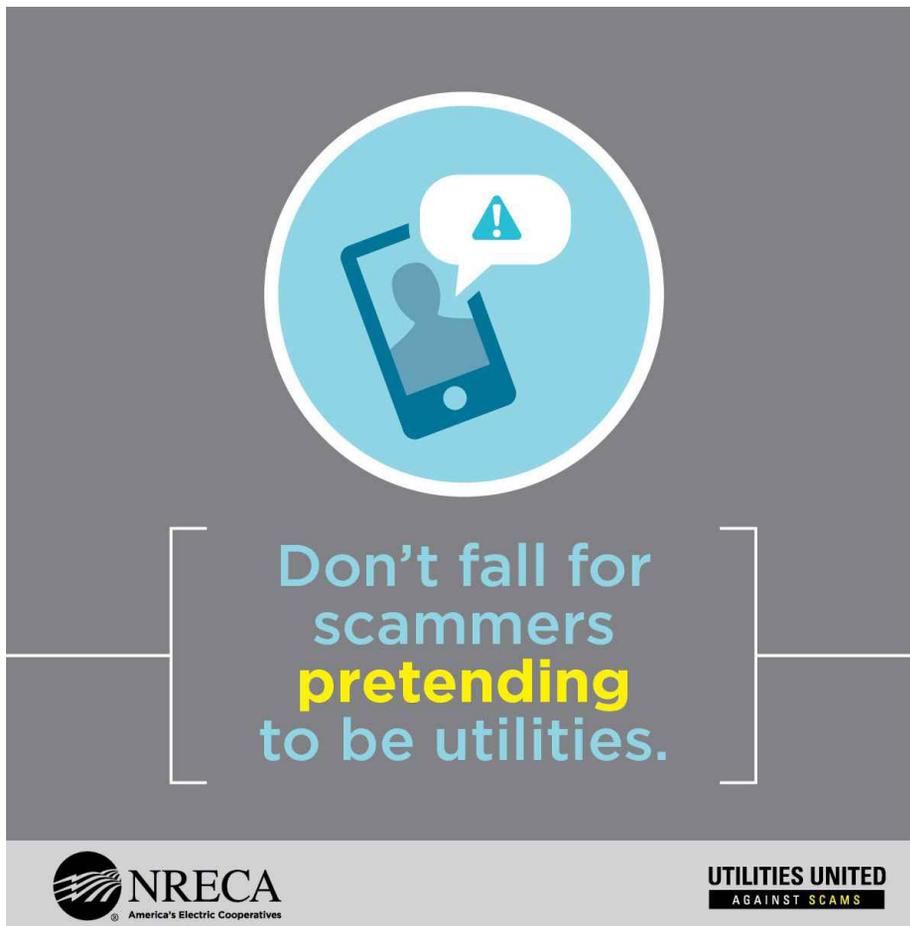
- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1/2 lb. sausage | 1/2 cup Bisquick |
| 1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese | 1 cup milk |
| 2 eggs | |

Mix together; pour into pie plate. Bake at 400°F. for 25 to 30 minutes.

Diana Gillick, Tea

Please send your favorite seafood, appetizer or beverage recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2017. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Utilities Unite To Fight Scams



Don't fall for scammers **pretending** to be utilities.

NRECA
America's Electric Cooperatives

UTILITIES UNITED
AGAINST SCAMS

Do Not Assume The Name and Number On Your Caller ID are Legitimate.

by: Tracy Warren NRECA

When a scammer called Florida pet clinic operator Cindy Evers last year and demanded immediate payment on an overdue electric bill, it sounded real.

“They knew my account number and gave me a figure that I owed that’s close to what I usually pay on my electric bill,” Evers said. She paid, even though, in the back of her mind, she knew her payment wasn’t late.

“I have pets under sedation, and I’m taking care of animals. I think I just panicked, thinking they were going to shut my electricity off. I did what they

told me to do.”

Evers lost \$900 because the call was a scam.

The scam that duped Evers has been plaguing utility consumers across North America for several years, robbing them of millions.

Now, utilities are fighting back.

Recently, more than 80 utilities and energy industry organizations from across the U.S. and Canada joined forces to recognize the first-ever North American Utilities United Against Scams Day on November 16, 2016.

Within the last month Northern Electric Cooperative, FEM Electric

Association, and Lake Region Electric Association have stepped up local communication efforts, encouraging local radio stations and newspapers to warn citizens about the scam, how it works and what people should do and not do, if they are ever targeted.

However, even the wariest consumers can be duped. The scammers are developing new tactics every day.

The “past due” scam, similar to the one Florida customer Evers experienced, goes something like this: A customer gets a call from an 800-number that looks like a valid utility company phone number. Widely

available spoofing software allows crooks to display what appears to be an official number on caller IDs. The caller threatens to cut off power if the customer doesn't pay.

But here's the giveaway: The crook will demand payment via a prepaid debit card or money order. And he'll ask for it within a specified time frame—often an hour or less.

The scammer may even quote an amount that sounds like your typical monthly bill. That way, the threat has even more credibility.

Scammers might direct the customer to a specific store nearby that sells the prepaid cards and instruct the customer to put money on the card and provide the card number to the scammer.

Some scammers have even been bold enough to contact potential victims in person, coming to the member's house.

Here are some tips on how to protect yourself:

- Do not assume the name and number on your caller ID are legitimate. Caller IDs can be spoofed.
- Never share your personal information, including date of birth, Social Security number or banking account information.
- Never wire money to someone you don't know.
- Do not click links or call numbers in unexpected emails or texts – especially those asking for your account information.
- Most utilities will NOT require their customers to purchase prepaid debit cards or money orders to avoid an immediate disconnection.
- If you receive a call that sounds like it may be a scam, or if you believe the call is a scam, hang up, call the police and report the incident to your local utility.

How you can help?

You can alert your family members and friends. Share the scammers' tactics described in this article or those you have heard about. You can also help raise awareness and warn others by reposting scam awareness information on social media; use the hashtag #stopscams.

Tracy Warren writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

SUSPECT A SCAM?

Here's what to do if the call seems suspicious:

- 1 Hang up.
- 2 Call your utility provider at the phone number on your bill.
- 3 Call the police.



DO NOT pay over the phone if immediate payment is demanded to avoid a disconnection.



DON'T FALL FOR THE CALL!
UTILITIES UNITE
AGAINST SCAMS

DON'T FALL FOR THE CALL!

Electricity is the Best Choice

for cost-savings and the environment

KEITH DENNIS SAYS ELECTRICITY IS A GOOD ENERGY choice for the environment. He cites a thought-provoking list of reasons in his peer-reviewed article published in *The Electricity Journal* in November 2015, titled “Environmentally Beneficial Electrification: Electricity as the End-Use Option.”

Paul Wesslund

Dennis is the senior principal of end-use solutions and standards at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). His article challenges basic assumptions about electricity and the environment that make a difference for top-level policymakers, as well as for co-op members.

His focus on water heaters and heat pumps is especially significant since heating water and air account for more than half of a home’s energy use.

Here are answers Dennis gave to questions about the research behind his article:

A central claim in your article is that an electric water heater has less environmental impact than a natural gas water heater. How can this be true, when burning natural gas emits less greenhouse gas than burning coal, which generates about a third of our nation’s electricity?

Technologies have gotten so advanced that a water heater in your home can be 200 percent or more efficient at converting electricity into heat. It does this by taking some of the energy out of the surrounding air in what’s called a heat pump.

Heat pumps are being used more and more for space heating and more recently, heat pump technology is being used in water heaters.

And a natural gas water heater actually burns the gas in your home. So you need to vent that air out of your home through a flue. To do that, you

are essentially making large holes in your home and pumping air in and out, reducing energy efficiency.

Explain the contention in your article that



buying a gas water heater locks you out of future improvements in efficiency.

Once you install a gas appliance in your home, you are stuck with that technology for its 10- to 20-year life. During that time, solar panels and wind turbines will be generating a bigger share of the nation's electricity. Coal power plant efficiency will be improving. The only way to benefit from those trends would be to have an electric appliance.

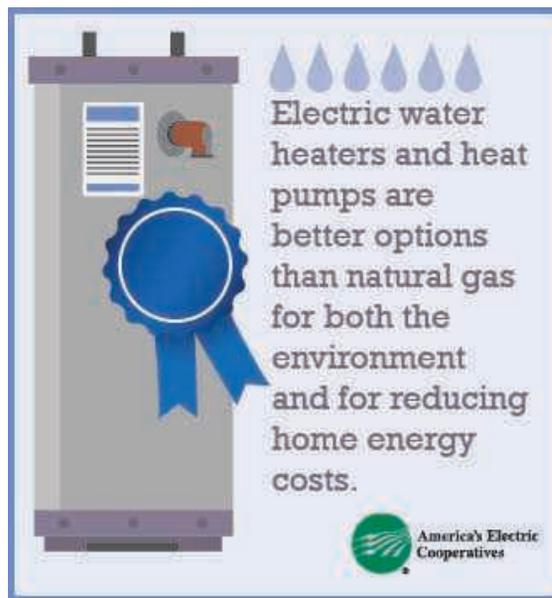
You make a point that using an electric appliance can make you part of a broad, national solution to improving energy efficiency.

In addition to the high efficiency of the electric appliance itself, there are electric system efficiencies that can be achieved through the ability to choose the time when you use the electricity. For example, your water heater is able to operate as a type of battery and better batteries are part of what's needed to make renewable energy more useful. Solar panels only make electricity when the sun shines and wind turbines only make electricity when the wind blows. A hidden value of water heaters is that they can serve as a storage technology – the water they heat stays hot for a long time because they are well insulated. An electric car can work the same way – once it's charged, it stores energy for when it's going to be driven. By storing energy when it is available and then using it when it is needed, these technologies are increasing the overall efficiency of our energy resources.

Many electric co-ops have load-control programs that take advantage of that energy storage ability to more effectively manage the flow of power. Those load control programs return that value to the co-op member by helping pay some of the up-front costs for these more efficient appliances through rebates or other incentives.

You claim there's a huge flaw in the way we calculate a lot of the leading energy efficiency standards, from ENERGY STAR® ratings to construction standards. How do they miss the mark?

The formulas being used to calculate energy efficiency for these major programs don't take into account several realities. Those include the increases in renewable energy and natural gas to generate electricity, power plant efficiencies, load management programs and other advantages of electricity we've talked about in this interview. Those metrics for calculating energy efficiency were designed before a lot of these trends. Despite these trends, the metrics still treat all electricity as coming from inefficient coal plants. That's just clearly wrong.



These incorrect efficiency metrics lead to bad energy decisions. In my article, I quote the Natural Resources Defense Council as saying that these metrics “have serious deficiencies for the purpose of setting a product standard; they are simply not the right numbers to inform good standards decisions.”

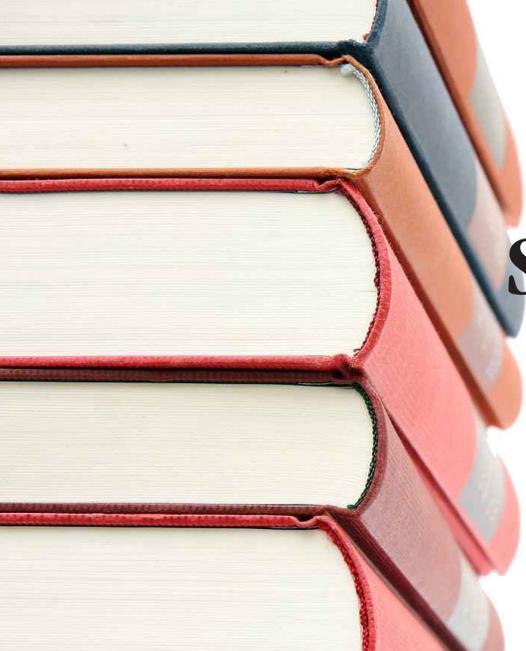
NRECA and others have been working with policymakers to change those metrics. What is the status?

Very positive. It's a long bureaucratic process, but we are hoping that the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency will work with us to address these issues. Along with the environmental community, the renewable energy community and other energy stakeholders, we have begun that process.

You conclude your article with the bold statement that “incentivizing beneficial electrification with appliances available today would immediately reduce carbon dioxide emissions.”

For policymakers and co-op members, more and more you are going to see the ability to achieve end-use emissions reductions and energy efficiency improvements by choosing electric end-use options over direct fossil fuel use like oil, natural gas, gasoline and diesel. This will achieve energy efficiency, cost savings and environmental benefits.

Paul Wesslund writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



Students Should Apply Now For \$1,000 & \$500 Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIPS

The price of higher education is always a factor in deciding which school students will attend next fall.

Northern Electric Cooperative and North Dakota-based power supplier Basin Electric Power Cooperative are once again offering two scholarships this year to help with the cost of college.

“Supporting students who are part of our cooperative family is an important component of our culture, and we are pleased to present these scholarships to youth in our service territory every year,” Northern Electric General Manager Char Hager said.

Taylor Ellingson is in her third year at Northern State University in Aberdeen and was the 2016 recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship from Basin Electric.

“I have paid my own way through all of college thus far, and I have come to realize that any amount of help is huge,” Ellingson said.

Ellingson is currently pursuing a degree in international business and plans to graduate in May of 2018.

“Pursuing my academic career

in international business has been made possible by Northern Electric,” Ellingson said.

South Dakota State University freshman Madison Styles received the \$500 scholarship from Northern Electric in 2016. The Northwestern High School graduate is using the scholarship as she pursues a degree in pharmaceuticals.

To be eligible for the scholarships parents of the students must be current consumers of Northern Electric Cooperative. The scholarship application process includes a short essay and documentation of academic and extracurricular activities. Applications and instructions on how to apply have been sent to all of the school districts in the Northern Electric service territory. Information can also be found at www.northernelectric.coop.

“A college degree and the knowledge it provides students is truly invaluable,” Ellingson said. “I highly recommend that all other eligible students take the time to fill out this scholarship as it provides incredible opportunities.”

How To Apply



Scholarship eligibility

Applicants must be U.S. citizens, under the age of 25, and natural or adopted children of Northern Electric consumers/members. Any applicant must be a student who is enrolled, or planning to enroll in, a full-time graduate or undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school.

How the selection process works

All applications are critically evaluated using a combination of several criteria including: SAT/ACT scores, grade-point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, a statement by the student explaining his/her educational and career goals, financial need, and a written recommendation by a third party.

A committee of cooperative employees will evaluate the applications and submit the entry to Basin Electric for scholarship distribution.

Application

Applications are available from local high school guidance counselors, on the Northern Electric Cooperative website, or directly from Northern Electric offices. Completed applications **MUST BE RETURNED BY FEBRUARY 17, 2017** to:

Northern Electric Cooperative,
PO Box 457
Bath, SD 57427

For more information, contact Kay Albrecht at:

605-225-0310

Northern Employees Donate Hundreds Of Items To Charity

Northern Electric Cooperative's 'Concern for Community' was on full display during the holiday season. 'Concern for Community,' is one of the seven principles cooperatives operate under, and this year co-op employees collected hundreds of items for several holiday charities.

"The generosity of our employees really shined this year," Northern Electric Communications Director Ben Dunsmoor said. "We decided to donate to five different charities this year and everyone stepped up in a big way."

For the first time, this year co-op employees collected new hats and mittens for the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce drive. The outerwear will be distributed at elementary schools throughout the area.

From Thanksgiving through the middle of December, the Northern Electric office in Bath

was one of the Toys for Tots drop-off sites and collected dozens of toys for underprivileged children in the local community. Organizers picked up the toys on December 16 so they could be distributed to area kids.

At the Northern Electric office in Redfield employees collected canned food items, toys, and hats and mittens. All of the items were donated to the Good Samaritan Center in Redfield.

Northern Electric Cooperative employees also donated several personal care items to the Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive sponsored by the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary and Autumn Simunek, Miss South Dakota 2015.

Numerous canned goods and non-perishable food items were also donated by cooperative employees to the Salvation Army.



Above (L to R): Dispatch/Engineering Aide Rene Waldman and Billing Clerk Christy Nagel pose with food donations for the Salvation Army.



Above (L to R): Communications Director Ben Dunsmoor and Dispatch Aide Aaron Nuhsbaumer show off the donations for Toys for Tots.



Above (L to R): Apprentice Lineman Brian Hansen and Member Services Representative Kelby Fey show off the hats and mittens collected for area elementary school students.



Above (L to R): Apprentice Linemen Sean Schwartz and Steve Beck display the personal items collected for the Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive.

Where Are They Now?

Rural Electric Youth Tour Alumni Walk Varied Paths

IN 1963, ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES IN SOUTH Dakota started sending teenagers to Washington, D.C., for a week of learning, sight-seeing and meeting with our nation's leaders.

Since then, more than 1,300 students representing South Dakota cooperatives have made the trek which is held each June.

For some participants, the experience serves as a catalyst to explore public service and ways to enrich their communities. For others, it reinforces a sense that the wide open prairies are where they belong and are needed.

After a stint as the Student Association President at South Dakota State University and then finishing a master's degree there, 2008 Youth Tour alum Ben Stout now works to advocate for South Dakota farmers as part of the South Dakota Department of Agriculture.

Stout is the southeast ag development specialist for the Division of Agricultural Development, which assists with the development and promotion of agriculture and agricultural products in the state of South Dakota.

Stout, originally from Philip, S.D., represented

West Central Electric Cooperative in Murdo, S.D., on the tour.

Also representing West Central that year on the trip was Faith Begay of Lower Brule.

After earning an undergraduate degree at Stanford University and a master of public policy degree from Duke University, Begay can be found in Washington, D.C., where she works as a special assistant in the Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs in the U.S. Department of Interior in Washington, D.C.

During the 2016 Youth Tour, Faith organized a meeting for the South Dakota and Wisconsin Youth Tour participants to meet with the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs Larry Roberts, a member of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin.

During the meeting, Begay related to students the importance of getting involved in community and working for change.

A participant from the 1960s reflected on his experience in an e-mail to organizers last fall.

"I went on the 1968 Youth Tour, courtesy of Codington-Clark Co-op," said Maynard Resen,

By **Brenda Kleinjan**



referring to the Watertown, S.D.,-based cooperative which sent the South Shore native on his first trip to the nation's Capitol.

"It was a great trip, especially for a farm kid who 'didn't get out much.' The introduction to the sights in our nation's capitol was priceless and although I've been back several times, the memories of that first exposure as a teenager have stayed with me," said Resen, who now lives in Wolcottville, Ind.

"The functioning of our government became more understandable on that trip. I'm glad you are still taking young people there for that orientation," Resen wrote.

The connections Resen wrote of resonate through the years.

"The experience awakened me in ways I never thought possible. I think I realized that I really wanted to give back to the community that I reside in. I not only cover the news with my job, I have a real passion for focusing on where my tax dollars are used," said Kevin Larsen, who represented Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell S.D., on the 2006 trip. Originally from Howard, S.D., Larsen is the news director for KCCR radio in Pierre, S.D.

Viewers of the *Coyote News* broadcast at the University of South Dakota will see Youth Tour alum Nick Nelson in the anchor seat this semester. Nelson, who is from Newell, S.D., represented Butte Electric Cooperative on the 2014 tour.

"What I picked up from Youth Tour was a great fascination with how the government is run in Washington. It gave me an opportunity to get a closer look at what I've seen in the news for a while. If anything, it influenced me to dive deeper and seek a career in journalism to report on many of the things I experienced on Youth Tour," Nelson said.

That insight into how government works is one that influenced others as well, no matter when they participated.

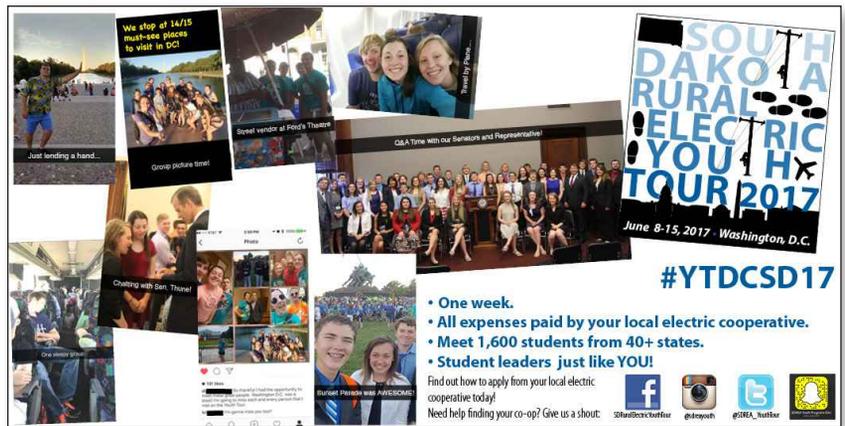
"It was an absolute trip-of-a-lifetime, take lots of pictures – you're going to have so much fun," said Sandra (Hohbach) Sieg as she delivered an impromptu message to the 2016 delegation as they boarded the bus for the ride to the airport. Hohbach was in their seat nearly 45 years prior when she represented what was then Tri-County Electric Association in Plankinton, S.D., on the 1972 trip. (Tri-County is now Central Electric.)

Sieg is project and risk management director for the Sioux Falls Federal Credit Union. The group was holding its annual meeting at the hotel the students were departing from.

"Because the trip offered opportunities to visit the major historical landmarks of D.C., I'll never forget how awestruck I was to see the huge memorials, the White House, the Capitol and the Washington Monument. That experience combined with the chance to see where and how our federal government worked, instilled a sense of patriotism and loyalty to the USA that I still have today," Sieg said. "It was truly humbling to walk through the same halls where history was made by patriots and some of our country's greatest leaders."

Another thing stands out for Sieg.

"In addition, the devastating Rapid City flood occurred while our group was in D.C. I'll never forget the empathy and



compassion shown to members of our group from Rapid City who were worried about how their family and friends might be affected by the flood. It was as true then as it is today – South Dakotans always pull together during times of crisis to support those in need – I witnessed that first hand on this trip," Sieg said. The following year, Sieg's sister, Lynette participated on the trip.

Also in that group was Koreen (Blomberg) Anderson who was representing Grand Electric Cooperative in Bison, S.D.

"The Youth Tour had a very profound, lasting impact on me. Washington, D.C., became a reality rather than just something one hears about," said Anderson, a marketing and grain accountant at the Lemmon, S.D. location of Southwest Grain, a division of CHS Inc. "Its was educational, it was fun, it was many "firsts" for me. Now many years later, I enjoy hearing the stories that participants share after attending the Youth Tour."

Electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota are taking applications for the 2017 Youth Tour. Contact your local electric cooperative for more information on the program.



Left: Sandra (Hohbach) Sieg participated in the 1972 Youth Tour. A chance encounter with the 2016 delegation had her sharing words of advice for last summer's delegation. **Above:** Among the participants in the 1973 tour pictured here was Sieg's sister, Lynette, and Koreen Anderson. **Opposite Page:** Youth Tour Alum Faith Begay talks to the 2016 delegation at the U.S. Department of Interior.

Staying Alive

Keeping the Beat Going with Hands-Only CPR

HEARTS OF THE VALENTINE VARIETY MAY BE SYNONYMOUS with the month of February, but the hands might be key in keeping that heart beating.

Local hospitals, first responders and organizations such as the Red Cross and American Heart Association conduct CPR training. And, in recent years, the American Heart Association has been advocating “hands-only” CPR for those who may not have traditional CPR training. The idea is simple – starting chest compressions early is important in many cases.

The American Heart Association recommends

using the method for teens or adults whom a witness sees collapse suddenly.

Performing hands-only CPR can increase the chance of someone near the victim taking action. In a national survey*, Americans who had not been trained in CPR within the past five years said they would be more likely to perform Hands-Only CPR than conventional CPR on a teen or adult who collapses suddenly. Hands-Only CPR is an easy-to-remember and effective option for people who have been trained in CPR before, but who may not remember the steps of conventional CPR. *Data on

From the American Heart Association

HANDS-ONLY CPR

CPR can double or even triple a person's chance of survival.

#CPRSAVESLIVES



LEARN THE TWO SIMPLE STEPS:

1. Call 911
2. Push hard & fast in the center of the chest

2 STEPS TO SAVE A LIFE



American Heart Association

heart.org/handsonlycpr

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skills performance are from the 2005 CPR Anytime study using an “untrained” control group. Data about confidence/willingness to act are from a 2007 national survey in which Americans who were trained within the past five years were almost twice as likely as those not trained or not trained in the past five years (45 percent vs. 24 percent) to say they’d begin CPR immediately in a real emergency.

Are there times when I should use conventional CPR with breaths?

Yes. There are many medical emergencies that cause a person to be unresponsive and to stop breathing normally. In those emergencies, conventional CPR that includes mouth-to-mouth breaths may provide more benefit than Hands-Only CPR. The American Heart Association recommends CPR with a combination of compressions and breaths for:

- ♥ All infants (up to age 1)
- ♥ Children (up to puberty)
- ♥ Anyone found already unresponsive and not breathing normally
- ♥ Any victims of drowning, drug overdose, collapse due to breathing problems or prolonged cardiac arrest

Now that I know about Hands-Only CPR, do I still need to learn CPR with mouth-to-mouth breaths?

CPR is a skill that can be improved with practice. The American Heart Association continues to recommend that you take a CPR course to practice and learn the skills of CPR, including giving chest compressions and breaths. People who have had CPR training are more likely to give high-quality chest compressions, which include compressions at the correct depth and rate, proper chest recoil and minimal interruptions in chest compressions. They are more confident about their skills than those who have not been trained (or have not been trained in the past five years). Even a very short CPR training program that you can do at home, such as the 20-minute CPR Anytime® program, provides skills training and practice that can prepare you to perform high-quality chest compressions.

In addition, there are many medical emergencies that cause a person to be unresponsive and to stop breathing normally. In those emergencies, CPR that includes mouth-to-mouth breathing may provide more benefit than Hands-Only CPR. Some examples include those listed above.

If I was trained in CPR that includes breathing (30 compressions to 2 breaths) and I see an adult suddenly collapse, what should I do?

Phone 9-1-1 and start CPR.

If you have been trained to provide CPR that includes compressions and breaths, it is best to provide the conventional CPR that you learned (CPR with a ratio of 30 compressions to 2 breaths). Continue CPR until an AED arrives and is ready for use or EMS providers take over care of the person.

If you have not been trained to provide CPR that includes chest compressions and breaths, provide Hands-Only CPR. Continue Hands-Only CPR until an AED arrives and is ready for use or EMS providers take over care of the person.

For more information on CPR, contact your local health provider, local EMS service, the American Heart Association or the Red Cross.

2016 HANDS-ONLY CPR FACT SHEET

Why Learn Hands-Only CPR?

Cardiac arrest — an electrical malfunction in the heart that causes an irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia) and disrupts the flow of blood to the brain, lungs and other organs — is a leading cause of death. Each year, over 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the United States.

♥ When a person has a cardiac arrest, survival depends on immediately getting CPR from someone nearby.

♥ According to the American Heart Association, about 90 percent of people who suffer out-of-hospital cardiac arrests die. CPR, especially if performed immediately, can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim’s chance of survival.

Be The Difference For Someone You Love

If you are called on to give CPR in an emergency, you will most likely be trying to save the life of someone you love: a child, a spouse, a parent or a friend.

♥ 70 percent of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen in homes.

♥ Unfortunately, only about 46 percent of people who experience an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest get the immediate help that they need before professional help arrives.

♥ Hands-Only CPR has been shown to be as effective as conventional CPR for cardiac arrest at home, at work or in public. It can double or even triple a victim’s chance of survival.



Music Can Save Lives

♥ Hands-Only CPR has just two easy steps: If you see a teen or adult suddenly collapse, (1) Call 9-1-1; and (2) Push hard and fast in the center of the chest to the beat of the disco song “Stayin’ Alive.”

♥ During CPR, you should push on the chest at a rate of 100 to 120 compressions per minute. The beat of “Stayin’ Alive” is a perfect match for this and research shows that people are more likely to remember the correct pace when trained to the beat of a familiar song.

Take 60 Seconds To Learn How To Save A Life

♥ Watch the 60-second demo video. Visit heart.org/handsonly-cpr to watch the Hands-Only CPR instructional video and share it with the important people in your life. You can also find a CPR class near you.

NOTE: The AHA still recommends CPR with compressions and breaths for infants and children and victims of drowning, drug overdose or people who collapse due to breathing problems.

Regional Dateline

December 15-March 31
South Dakota Snowmobile
Trails Season, Lead, SD
605-584-3896

January 18-26
38th Winter Art Show
Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

January 19-21
Snowmobile Rally
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

January 20-21
ISOC Deadwood SnoCross
Showdown, Deadwood, SD
605-578-1876

January 21
Bark Beetle Blues Crawl
Custer, SD, 605-440-1405

January 21
Tommy: A Bluegrass Opry by
the HillBenders, Spearfish, SD
605-642-7973

January 27-February 5
Annual Black Hills Stock Show
& Rodeo, Rapid City, SD
605-355-3861

February 3-5
Winterfest of Wheels Car Show
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-231-3100
www.winterfestofwheels.com

February 4
Twenty One Pilots in Concert
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

February 4
LHIA Fishing Derby
11 a.m. to 3 p.m., City Boat
Landing Access Point
Lake Hendricks, MN



To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

Events of Special Note

February 3-4
Who Got Greased? Murder
Mystery Dinner Theater
Elks Lodge, 705 Circle Drive
Aberdeen, SD, 605-380-9743

March 24-26
Black Hills Home Builders
Home Show, Rushmore Plaza
Civic Center, Rapid City, SD
blackhillshomebuilders.com

February 7-11
Winter Farm Show
Watertown, SD, 605-886-5814

February 10-11
Strawbale Winery Valentine
Twilight Flights, Renner, SD
605-543-5071

February 10-12
35th Annual Black Hills Sport
Show and Outdoor Expo
Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

February 11
Ben Folds with the South
Dakota Symphony
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

February 11
Sioux Empire on Tap
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

February 16-18
Sioux Falls Sno Jam Comedy
Festival, Sioux Falls, SD
siouxfallssnojamcomedyfest@
gmail.com

February 16-19
Steel Magnolias Community
Theater, Spearfish, SD
605-642-7973

February 17-19
Sioux Empire Wacipi
Sioux Falls, SD, 310-922-1886

March 4-7
Summit League
Basketball Championship
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

March 11-12
2017 Gun Show, American
Legion Hall, Saturday 9 a.m.
to 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to
3 p.m. MST, Philip, SD
605-859-2635, 605-859-2280
605-859-2892 or
605-859-2219

March 17-18
28 Below Fatbike Race
Lead, SD, 605-584-3435

March 18-19
Black Hills Motorcycle Show
Rushmore Hall, Rushmore
Plaza Civic Center
Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

March 24-25, March 31-April 1
59th Annual Schmeckfest
Freeman, SD, 605-925-4237

March 31-April 2
Professional Bull Riders
Built Ford Tough Series
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

April 7-8
Forks, Corks and Kegs
Food and Wine Festival
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

April 14-16
Sioux Empire Film Festival
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-4616

May 6-7
23rd Annual Bike Show Dako-
ta Events Center
Aberdeen, SD, 605-216-2174