

HOTLINE UPDATE

Wright-Hennepin's Annual Meeting to take place on March 29th

Valuable information, board of director elections, attendance prizes and a complimentary pork chop dinner await members at Wright-Hennepin's (WH) 74th Annual Meeting. Learn what WH is doing to provide competitively-priced electricity and visit the many informational booths to learn more about the latest in energy technology. The event will be held at WH's headquarters in Rockford on Tuesday, March 29.

Member registration begins at 4 p.m. The Wright County 4-H members will serve a pork chop dinner from 4:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. A short business meeting will follow at 7 p.m. Free parking is available at WH,

Our Father's Lutheran Church and the Rockford Mall with a free shuttle that runs continuously.

Director elections

The 2011 Annual Report will be mailed to members in early March and will include detailed information about each director candidate. Ballots will be sent to members in Districts 2, 5 and 7 a few weeks before the meeting with instructions for voting by mail. Ballots received on or before March 22 will be entered in the "early bird" prize drawing for an energy-efficient Convectair electric space heater. Members in those districts can also cast votes until the time the ballots are called for during the business meeting.

At the end of the business meeting, WH will announce the results of the director elections in Districts 2, 5 and 7.

Business meeting

During the business meeting, Board Chair Chris Lantto and President and CEO Mark Vogt will report on the cooperative's financial and operational performance in 2010.

"The Annual Meeting is our most important member function of the year," Lantto said. "We hope members attend, not only to hear about important issues affecting their cooperative, but also to



A complimentary pork chop dinner will be served from 4:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

have an enjoyable family evening as well."

Immediately following the meeting will be a grand prize drawing for a retired automobile from WH's fleet. Attending members are entered in the drawing - which will take place at the end of the business meeting - as they check-in for the Annual Meeting. All participating members will be given a free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) at the end of the business meeting.

Annual Meeting cont. on Pg. 7



Children ages 2 to 10 can participate in activities from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Win free electricity by saving energy

Do you feel you are using too much electricity? Are you looking for some low-cost simple ways to conserve? Do you want to make a competition out of it? If so, you may be a perfect candidate for The Littlest User Contest.


Wright-Hennepin (WH) members and staff have been challenged to an energy saving competition by another electric cooperative, Lake Region Electric Cooperative in Pelican Rapids, Minn. As a result, we are looking for volunteers to step forward and rise to this challenge.

Each cooperative will form a team consisting of six households. From the period of April 1 to July 31, the two teams will compete to see who can reduce energy use by the greatest percent when compared with the same time period the previous year.

Each participating household will receive a \$50 gift card, with additional prizes being awarded throughout the contest. A grand prize of one month of free electricity will be given to the household that reduces their usage by the greatest percent. The winning cooperative team will receive a trophy for display in their lobby.

Each participant will be assigned a WH Energy Use Consultant, who will provide advice and assistance, helping households to reduce energy use. No investment is required and any household improvements will be limited to low cost/no cost items. Each household will also be provided with the use of a Kill-a-Watt meter (to assist with measuring energy use of individual electric devices) and a thermal leak detector to detect gaps in insulation.

WH is looking for three member households to take part in this contest. If you are interested in participating, please

send your request to marketing@whe.org or call 763-477-3000. Participants should have a desire to reduce energy use, be willing to share their experiences and not have had any significant changes in their homes in the past year (such as adding a hot tub, changing their cooling system, etc.) that could dramatically affect their electric use this year compared to last year. 



Inside this ISSUE

- Page 2. A message from the CEO
- Page 3. Be a part of the youth tour
- Page 4-5. Nuclear energy in Minnesota
- Page 6. WH Security life alert - a tool for independence
- Page 7. Win energy saving products
- Page 8. WH tests innovative product

Find us on:





The U.S. Navy may have the answer about how to “ring out the fossil fuel age”

I was a sailor attached to the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN68) the day it was commissioned in 1975. At the time and still today, Nimitz class carriers are said to be the largest warships in the world. As an indicator of its size, the ship holds a crew of 6,000 sailors. The flight deck is as long as four football fields. But the ship's size was not the only reason the event attracted President Gerald R. Ford the day it was commissioned. Senators, congressmen, cabinet members, admirals of foreign navies, celebrity journalists and 20,000 spectators were also at the ceremony.

The most important reason the commissioning ceremony drew world-wide attention was the fact that a vessel as large as the Nimitz was powered by atoms. Let me put naval nuclear propulsion into perspective: According to information on the Internet, the Nimitz has been refueled only one time since I served on the ship from 1975 to 1977! What a national security advantage it is for our country to keep a floating airfield like Nimitz on station anywhere -- and not be constrained by fuel.

This all came to mind when I read the article on page four of this newsletter. The article does a good job of defining our choices as a nation and speaks to the urgency of fixing an energy policy that is unclear, at best, about what will

be a reliable and full-time source of energy for the future. We know it can't be renewables until a viable battery storage solution is found. That's because the wind doesn't always blow, and the sun doesn't always shine. And more and more it looks like the EPA is on course to tax coal out of use for electric generation in the near future, unless Congress acts quickly.

“The Navy pioneered the miniaturization of nuclear power plants... That modular design is now coming of age for civilian nuclear plants.”

I recently discussed this fuel conundrum with Senior Vice President of Generation, Wayne Backman of Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Basin is one of your cooperative's wholesale power suppliers. And Backman is one of the relatively few people in the nation who has to figure out what to do if, say, coal is taxed out of existence as an affordable fuel source to generate electricity. One of our back-up options, Backman insists, is to follow the lead of the U.S. Navy. The Navy, he said, pioneered the miniaturization of nuclear power

plants so one can actually fit inside the hull of a submarine or ship with no more than a 28-foot beam. That modular design is now coming of age for civilian nuclear plants, Backman said. The advantage of modular design is the great reduction in investor and rate-payer risk, because they can be built in much smaller bites than the mammoth plants we see today. Incremental additions would be more easily accomplished, and no doubt easier to secure. The fact that they emit no greenhouse gases should please global warming advocates, but most important is the Navy's impeccable record of nuclear safety while using this technology. There have been more than 200 nuclear-powered ships since 1954, and there have been zero reactor accidents, as defined by the uncontrolled release of fission products or reactor core damage.

The man widely credited for this unmatched safety record is Admiral Hyman Rickover, known as the father of the nuclear Navy. Rickover gave this perspective about nuclear safety in an interview:

“I have a son. I love my son. I want everything that I do to be so safe that I would be happy to have my son operating (the nuclear plant). That's my fundamental rule.”

Rickover later addressed the future -- perhaps this very generation -- when he spoke about the “responsibilities (of) those who will ring out the fossil fuel age.” He spoke about how we could use “all the advantages of nuclear power to propel ships (and rededicate its use for) medical research and for every other purpose of generating electricity.”

With the rapid changes coming to the energy industry, it is critical for the Minnesota Legislature and our governor to repeal the nuclear ban so that if we must “ring out the fossil fuel age,” those fuels can be replaced by a state of the art, clean, reliable, abundant, domestic and safe source of energy. The record left to us by the father of the nuclear Navy, Admiral Hyman Rickover is tested and worth emulating.

Mark Vogt

January board meeting highlights:
The regular monthly meeting of Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association's Board of Directors was held January 4, 2011. A quorum of directors was present. Board action taken:

- Approved “Guarantor's Certificate of Resolutions and Incumbency” and “Guaranty” for Heartland Security Services line of credit with its lender
- Approved dates for the Board's Equity and Capital Credits workshop
- Reviewed and filed the monthly CEO, Legal, financial and operations reports

WH's Board of Directors

Chris Lantto, board chair..... District 5
Thomas Mach, vice chair..... District 6
Dale Jans, secretary / treasurer. District 4
Timothy Young..... District 1
Butch Lindenfelser..... District 2
Burton Horsch..... District 3
Sarah Evenson..... District 7
Donald Lucas..... District 8
Erick Heinz..... District 9

The board of directors meets monthly at the cooperative's office in Rockford, Minn. Regular meetings are generally scheduled the second Tuesday of each month for 2011. Members with items of interest are encouraged to contact the president and CEO to confirm meeting dates and times.

WH and WH Holding's Management Team

Mark Vogt
President and CEO
763-477-3013 mvogt@whe.org

Angie Pribyl
Vice President, Finance and CFO
763-477-3104 apribyl@whe.org

Lance Hovland
Vice President, Energy Distribution
763-477-3105 lhovland@whe.org

Sonja Bogart
Vice President, Customer Service, Sales & Marketing
763-477-3061 sbogart@whe.org

Rod Nikula
Chief Operating Officer, Heartland Services, LLC Power Supply
763-477-3106 rnikula@whe.org

Steve Nisbet
Vice President, Technology Operations
763-477-3114 snisbet@whe.org

Wendy Makousky
Vice President, WH International Response Center
763-477-3144 wmakousky@whe.org



**BY SPENDING A FEW MINUTES,
I'M SAVING A LOT.**

Yeah, a few minutes. That's all the time it takes me to change my home's air filter every month and save \$82 a year. Not bad for a few minutes of work, huh? What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Accepting applications for youth tour



The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program gives students a glimpse into how our nation's capital operates as well as teaches students the importance of electrical cooperatives.

Every year, Wright-Hennepin (WH) sponsors one high school junior from its electric service territory to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, which is held in Washington, D.C. More than 1,500 students from 43 states participate in the youth tour, and attendees are chosen by individual electric cooperatives across the nation. The youth tour is an effort between electric cooperatives, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The youth tour gives high school students a glimpse into how our nation's capital operates and a flavor for our nation's history. Students selected to participate in the program have the opportunity to travel to Capitol Hill to meet

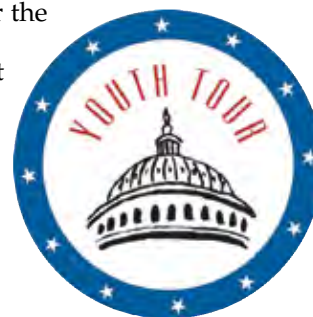
some of Minnesota's senators and representatives. Additionally, a full itinerary is planned for the students, which typically includes travel to the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, Marine Sunset Parade, Smithsonian Museum and much more.

"The youth group tour to Washington, D.C. was a trip of a lifetime," said Jacob Bidwell, a junior from Maple Lake High School who was selected to participate in last year's youth tour.

"Thanks to our great cooperative [Wright-Hennepin], I was able to see amazing monuments, buildings, historical items and so much more. This trip also showed me why electric cooperatives were important to rural areas years ago, and why they are important today. I would encourage all eligible students to

apply for the honor to represent WH on a future trip," Bidwell added.

High school juniors are encouraged to submit an application for a chance to be selected to attend an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. from June 11-16, 2011. The application deadline is March 15, 2011. To receive an application, please visit whe.org and click on "Community Involvement," then "Youth Tour." More information about the program can be received by visiting youthtour.coop. 



Live Chat available on WH's web page

Wright-Hennepin's (WH) members now have a new way to contact our service team

through the recently updated web site.




Live Chat can be accessed from WH's home page.

On February 1, WH's home page began displaying a "Live Chat" button. Members who click on "Live Chat" can receive instant feedback for questions regarding billing and energy use as well as additional information about WH's products and services.

This new option gives members an additional tool to communicate with service representatives. Other contact options

include phone, email and face-to-face services. Live chat enables participants to type and submit questions to service representatives who then respond in a real-time setting.

Representatives are available for live chat from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday and are available on Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. When representatives are not available, members who click on the icon are invited to leave their name and email address along with an information request. A service representative will respond within 24 hours of this submission or the next business day. 

Winter is a great time to trim trees



When sensitive oak, elm, fruit and nut trees are trimmed in the summer, it leaves them susceptible to disease. That's why the cold winter months are a good time to care for those sensitive trees.

Call today to schedule a free estimate...
763-477-3000



Because trees are dormant in the winter, this prevents the potential of disease after trimming.

Industry NEWS

Minnesota lawmakers debate lifting electricity restrictions

The need for affordable electricity in Minnesota is driving a debate regarding whether to continue restricting the use of North Dakota-produced electricity. North Dakota produces electrical power via plants fueled by lignite coal – a cost-effective process that Minnesota lawmakers have tried to limit in the past due to pollution concerns.

Rep. Mike Beard, R-Shakopee, is advocating a bill that would eliminate the restriction on using North Dakota-produced electricity and allow the construction of new coal-fired power plants in Minnesota. Democrats are arguing in favor of keeping the state's current restrictions, commenting that coal-fired power plants pollute the air.

Additionally, North Dakota officials say they may sue Minnesota for the 2007 law that restricts electricity generated from coal-fired plants. Two million Minnesotans get power from North Dakota's seven power plants, and more than 70 Minnesota companies profit from supplying personnel and materials to North Dakota lignite industry businesses.

Eric Olson of Great River Energy, which is building a new coal-fired plant near Jamestown, N.D., said he wants current law to change for the benefit of Minnesota. Great River supplies power to 28 Minnesota electric cooperatives, including Wright-Hennepin, and plans to open the new plant next year.

"Coal really is the best option," Olson said. Olson also agreed that the release of damaging emissions is a national situation, but stated that the new plant, which utilizes new technology, would produce about the same emissions as a natural gas plant – facilities that are generally viewed as low-pollution.

Source: Grand Forks Herald

Minnesota utilities on track to hit mandated conservation goals

Minnesota utilities are on track to meet the much tougher 2010 state-mandated renewable energy requirements, according to early data released by the state's Office of Energy Security. The state also reached its requirements for 2009 – an impressive feat considering the state's renewable energy standard is one of the toughest in the nation.

In an effort to continually strive for higher standards, Minnesota is requiring that 25 percent of its total electrical generation come from renewable sources by 2025. This goal was created with annual, incremental increases in acquiring renewable energy. The year 2010 required a 7 percent increase.

Utilities have until May to submit their final numbers for 2010. The next bump comes in 2012 when 12 percent of energy must come from renewable sources for most utilities.

Source: Star Tribune

Debate heats up over nuclear power

After a 17 year hiatus, nuclear power may be making a comeback in Minnesota as state politicians are looking to undo the current ban on construction of new nuclear power plants.

In early February, the Minnesota Senate voted 50-14 to repeal a 1994 law which prevents state regulators from issuing permits for new nuclear plants. The measure was sponsored by Senate Majority Leader, Rep. Amy Koch, Buffalo, Minn. As of this writing, similar legislation received approval from a Minnesota House panel and will move to the House floor. However, Gov. Mark Dayton has expressed opposition to lifting this ban.

Minnesota currently has two nuclear power plants in operation: One is located near Monticello and one near Red Wing. These two plants generate almost a quarter of the state's energy. Both began operating in the 1970s. The popularity of nuclear power began in the 1950s, with some even proclaiming it would make electricity too cheap to measure. As a result, the nation saw a boom in construction of nuclear power plants between the 1950s and 1970s. However, this attitude changed when the late 1970s and 1980s brought accidents at Three Mile Island and Chernobyl. These accidents caused U.S. interest in nuclear to slow dramatically.

Storage also became an issue, not only in Minnesota, but also in other parts of the country. The radioactive

waste that results from the operation of nuclear power plants is dangerous, has a long shelf-life and needs to be taken care of for several thousand years.

In 1994, as part of an attempt to help solve this issue, the Minnesota Legislature enacted a moratorium on the construction of new nuclear power plants. This legislation has been in place ever since, but has recently been revisited.

The nation's energy needs are projected to increase by 25 percent by 2030. Nuclear energy is attractive because it emits very little carbon dioxide. However, the challenges with radioactive waste still remain unsolved.

One of Wright-Hennepin's power suppliers, Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin), is currently studying its nuclear options.

When asked why they are considering nuclear, Wayne Backman, senior vice president of generation for Basin, explained it represents an option to supply anticipated increases in future electricity requirements and as a replacement for the long-term retirement of other generation.

"We are weighing all resource options, including nuclear," said Backman. "Over the last few years we have added approximately 700 megawatts of wind and 700 megawatts of natural gas generation

to our resource mix. The ideal mix of generation resources is likely to include coal, nuclear, wind and gas. Finding the right balance to continue to provide the lowest-cost, safe and reliable electricity to our members in a changing regulatory environment continues to be our underlying goal."

Basin is considering two different nuclear power plant options: conventional plants or newer modular options (see related story below).

Aside from issues with storage, another challenge facing nuclear is the length of time it takes to bring a nuclear power plant to operation. Backman explained that a plant started today would likely take until about 2025 to complete.

Nuclear is not the only power source that has been banned in Minnesota. There is a similar moratorium on coal as well. This law bans the construction of new coal power plants and importing more coal-generating electricity, unless the utility offsets the added carbon emissions. The coal moratorium went into effect as part of the 2007 Next Generation Energy Act. However, a bill to repeal this restriction is also underway. Coal and nuclear currently make up more than 80 percent of the electric generation mix in the state of Minnesota. **WHE**



Fifty-year-old technology making a comeback

Sometimes old ideas fuel the best new concepts. The U.S. Navy has been using small nuclear power plants (50 to 100 MW) to energize submarines and aircraft carriers for more than 50 years. The technology was revolutionary when it was first

proposed because it eliminated the need for military vessels to stop for fuel. The very first civilian reactors in the late 1950s were of a smaller size; however, it has only been in the last several years that this smaller scale nuclear technology is being more extensively developed for use in a modern setting.

When building nuclear power plants, the electric

"Even though they have been used in the military for many years, modular nuclear power plants have only recently made their debut in the electric utility industry."

utility industry has focused on larger conventional plants (those 1,000 to 1,600 MW), but the challenges with conventional plants are caused by their large size. Not only do they take a substantial initial investment, but the reactors must be constructed on-site. There is limited world-wide manufacturing capability for the very specialized heavy forgings, which leads to additional complications.

Even though they have been used in the military for many years, modular nuclear power plants have only recently made their debut in the electric utility industry. This type of technology is attractive for use with power plants because the reactors can be constructed off-site and then later installed at the power plant location. Additionally, because they are modular, they can be added to. This enables power plants to start out small and expand as growth dictates over time. Both of these features have the potential to lower the cost of, and time for, construction.



Modular nuclear power plants have numerous advantages over traditional nuclear plants.

Unfortunately, in spite of their many advantages, small modular nuclear units still have the same challenge with waste storage that conventional power plants have.

Wayne Backman, senior vice president of generation for Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin) – one of Wright-Hennepin's power suppliers – said Basin is studying both conventional and modular nuclear power plants. **WHE**

Guest editorial:

Natural gas: banned in the 70s, yet back again today

Approximately 5 percent of Minnesota's electricity is generated by natural gas. However, natural gas has its own set of challenges. Mark Glaess, general manager of the Minnesota Rural Electric Association comments on the current state of using natural gas for electric generation:

"1973 gave us Tony Orlando's 'Tie a yellow ribbon 'round the old oak tree' and the first oil embargo. To this day, historians continue to debate which was worse. Congress chose the latter (invoking what would become an annual rite to end 'dependence on foreign oil') and passed the Fuel Use Act in 1978. That number restricted construction of power plants using oil or natural gas as a primary fuel and encouraged the use of coal, nuclear energy, and other alternative fuels.



Mark Glaess, general manager of the Minnesota Rural Electric Association

"As a result many coal fired power plants were built – so much so that today 57 percent of Minnesota's total electric energy needs are met by coal.

"Now, of course, the utility industry is seen as carbon-spewing scofflaws for meeting the

"Projections show ample natural gas, but if those reserves are smaller than projected, the slack will require importing natural gas from overseas."

government's mandate to switch away from natural gas in the 70s, and we now face certain regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2011 to reduce carbon emissions. The cost of doing so is uncertain, but what's not uncertain is the electric industry's new embrace of natural gas as generating fuel.

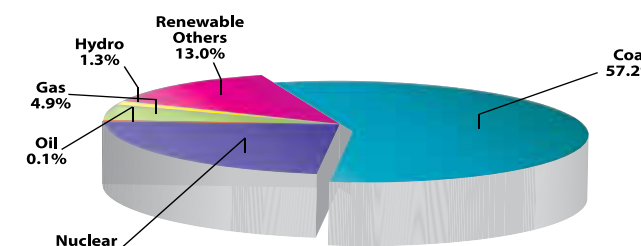
"Do you see the historic irony of all this?"

"Natural gas' principle environmental advantage: it's not coal and produces about half the carbon emissions of our stuff. But wait! Katie Elder, senior associate for Denver-based Aspen Institute, wrote a lengthy paper questioning the economic wisdom of using natural gas for generation citing, among other things, the wild swings in price. Another article questioned the environmental value noting that methane, which is 21 percent more potent than CO₂ as a greenhouse gas, where billions of cubic feet of methane gas is released from loose pipe valves or the greenhouse gas equivalent of 35 million automobiles. To that, "fracturing" shale to tap natural gas supplies, according to some environmentalists, produces methane emission levels equivalent to the amount of CO₂ released through coal-powered electricity generation.

"Projections show ample natural gas, but if those reserves are smaller than projected, the slack will require importing natural gas from overseas. If that occurs, natural gas is equal to coal for carbon production. For now, most existing natural gas-based generating plants offer only a 25 percent carbon emissions improvement." **WHE**

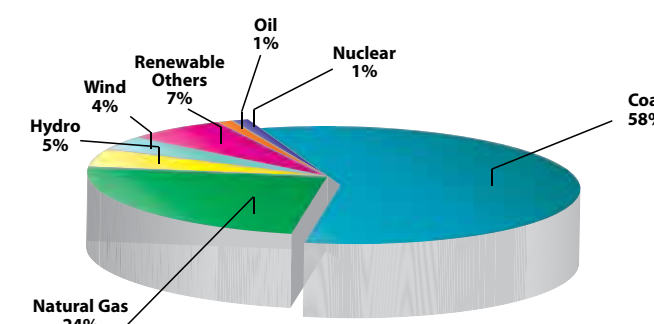
Energy supply snapshot

Minnesota's electric generation mix



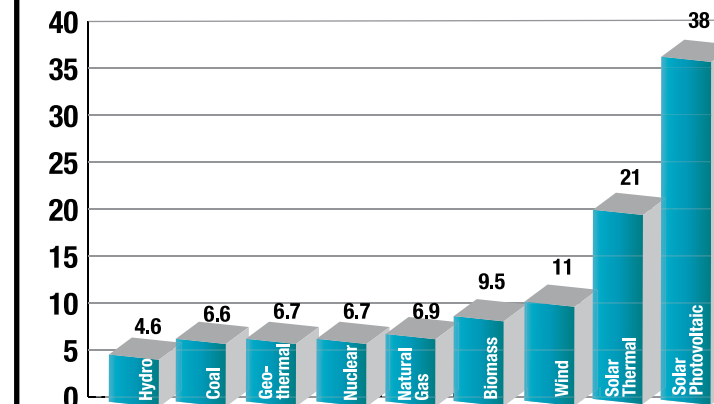
Minnesota currently relies heavily on coal and nuclear power for electric generation. However, the portion of electricity coming from renewable energy sources (especially wind) has grown dramatically in past years. In 2004, renewable energy made up 5 percent of Minnesota's energy supply. Today this has increased to 13 percent.

Wright-Hennepin's electric generation mix



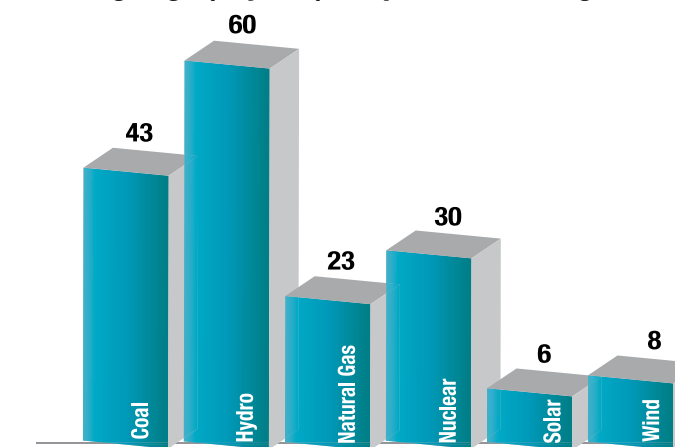
Wright-Hennepin purchases energy from two power suppliers: Great River Energy, based in Maple Grove, Minn. and Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin), based in Bismarck, N.D. These power suppliers are primarily generating electricity from coal and natural gas. However, Basin has a small supply of nuclear power in its supply mix. This nuclear power comes from the Duane Arnold Nuclear Facility in eastern Iowa.

The cost of new electric generation



The cost to build new power plants can vary widely depending on how the electricity is produced. Each type of generation carries a ballpark price tag. The amounts shown above, based on each kWh produced, take into account plant construction, maintenance, fuel, and operating costs. Despite growing regulation that is increasing the cost of producing coal-based electricity, coal still remains a low-priced alternative.

Average age (in years) of operational U.S. generators



Our nation's power plants are aging. Current Minnesota regulation restricts the construction of new coal plants and outlaws construction of nuclear. However, this regulation is under review at this time.

Schilling feels safe while living independently

With the help of WH Security, Marianne Houlihan helped her mother maintain her independence by learning from an unfavorable situation.

When Houlihan received a call from a family member regarding her uncle, she immediately thought of her mother, Henny Schilling, who lives in a senior high rise in Minnetonka. Houlihan's uncle, who lived alone, fell and injured himself at his residence. He was unable to call for help and struggled for 12 hours before anyone came to his aid.

As a customer of WH Security, Houlihan recalled reading about a medical alert system that helps individuals live independently by offering help 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Houlihan immediately contacted WH Security to get her mother a medical alert system.

The medical alert provides help anytime it's needed. With just a simple push-of-a-button, a WH Security

dispatcher speaks to the person who is in need through a two-way speaker. If emergency assistance is needed, then the dispatcher will contact a family member or an emergency responder.

Schilling has always appreciated the comfort of her home, and now that she's utilizing the medical alert system, she is able to be home with help just a push-of-a-button away. The family's decision to purchase a medical alert for Schilling couldn't have come at a better time. Just shortly after the purchase, Schilling fell inside her apartment.

"All I had to do was push the button and talk," said Schilling. "I knew help was on its way."

Schilling is thankful for the peace of mind her medical alert provides and takes its role in her life seriously. "I don't ever take it off - not even when I go to bed," said Schilling.

"Because of the medical alert, my

mother only needs minimal assistance from a caretaker to help her with daily activities," said Houlihan. "By having this medical alert, she is able to remain and live in her apartment independently."

Houlihan appreciates that the medical alert service from WH Security allows her mother to maintain her independence while giving Schilling's family members a clear conscience regarding their decision to allow her to live independently.

"Between the medical alert and the care giving, our family is able to assist (Schilling) with living on her own all while receiving peace of mind; it's really the best of both worlds," said Houlihan.

If you have a loved one who lives on their own without help near by, contact a representative at WH Security and they can tell you more about this life-saving service. Please call 763-477-3000.

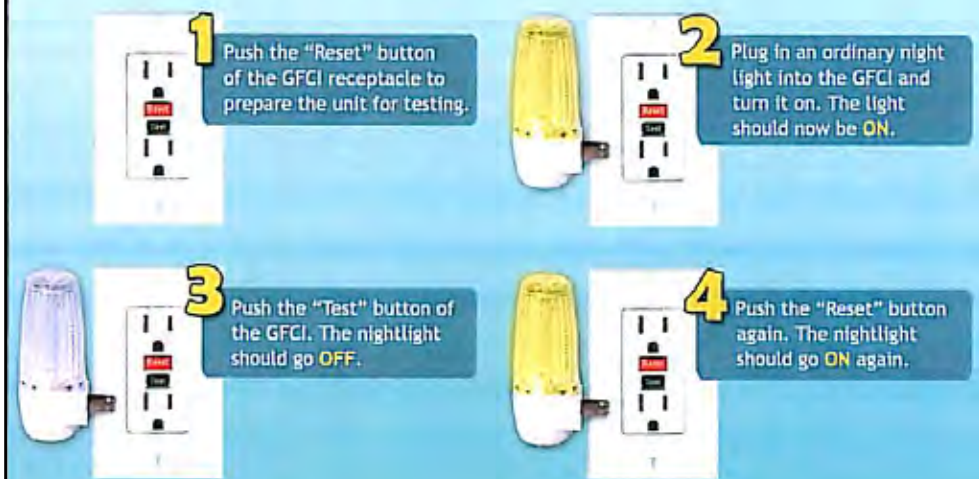


Henny Schilling's daughters gave her a medical alert that provides peace of mind for all.

How to test electrical outlets

Since the 1970s ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) have saved thousands of lives, helping cut the number of home electrocutions in half. The safety devices prevent deadly shock by quickly shutting off power to the circuit if the electricity flowing into the circuit differs from the amount returning. The safety devices should be used in any indoor or outdoor area where water may come into contact with electrical products.

GFCIs should be tested once a month to make sure they're working properly. To test a device, follow these four steps:



Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

It's like having a really big

"Scare the Pants Off Burglars"

watch dog... and fire dog, and carbon monoxide dog, and "go get help" dog.

WH Security

763-477-3664
WH-SECURITY.COM

REX PROTECTS

At WH Security, our instincts are to protect you. From fire, theft, and the unexpected. Like the protective instincts of Dalmatians, Dobermans, Blood Hounds, and Lassie, we've created a security system that guards and protects your family 24 hours a day. We call it Rex Protects. It's safe, it's affordable, it's a part of the family you can rely on.

Offer ends:
March 31, 2011

Purchase a new security system and receive FREE his & her matching key fobs!

Valued at up to \$120.

Wright-Hennepin's 74th Annual Meeting is March 29th

Annual Meeting cont. from Pg. 1

Guest speaker - Jim Bausell, chief operating officer for Touchstone Energy, will speak about the exciting services Touchstone offers members.

Free events and activities - A local Girl Scout troop will have numerous fun activities and crafts for children ages 2-10 from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Bingo will be played from 4:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Informational booths - Stop by these booths to learn about new technology, products, services and ways to save money and energy at home.

MyMeter and money-saving ideas - View a live demonstration of an online tool that helps you understand when you use the most energy so you can learn how to reduce your home's energy use, resulting in money savings.

Customer service - Meet and have a cup of coffee with the same customer service representatives you speak to

on the phone and via email. They can offer suggestions on how to make paying your electric bill easier, as well as answer any questions you may have regarding your account.

Co-op Connections - Learn about the many great savings you can get from local and national businesses with your exclusive Co-op Connections card.

Community involvement - Programs are available for you and your family. Learn about how your high school student can qualify for a scholarship or trip to Washington, D.C. Additionally, learn how your donations help fund organizations in the community.

Director booth - Meet your board of directors and learn how they help your cooperative be financially sound and provide reliable electricity and competitive electric rates.

Power supply - Great River Energy and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, WH's wholesale power suppliers,

will provide information about work taking place at the generation and transmission sector of the industry in order to ensure a dependable future power supply.

Power quality and reliability - See how WH's cutting edge technology initiatives help track, shorten and prevent outages.

Off-Peak programs - Receive information on electric home heating, cooling and money-saving Off-Peak solutions.

Electric safety - Come and learn about important home-safety precautions.


WH Security - Security systems can do more than protect you from burglaries. They can also detect temperature changes, smoke, flooding and much more. See the latest in home security products at this booth.

HeatMyFloors.com - Feel the comfort of under-floor radiant electric heating

systems and learn how they can be used in your home.

Tree trimming services - Receive information on tree-trimming services that can beautify your landscape year round.

Silent Power - Learn about the latest in energy technology. Silent Power is a Minnesota company that manufactures electric energy storage devices that work with renewable energy systems and utilities.

tenKsolar - Interested in solar power? tenKsolar has developed an innovative "grid design" that increases energy production, while also lowering costs. Stop in to learn how you can participate in WH's Solar Community Power project. Members can own a "slice of this project" and obtain solar energy without the hassles of installing equipment on their home. It may be the perfect solution for you. 

January wind and solar power contest winners

Congratulations to Phillip Pederson of Rogers and Peter Stupar of Monticello, who were WH's January 2011 wind generator and solar contest winners.

Phillip receives a credit for 353 kilowatt-hours (kWh) on his electric bill. This was the total amount of electricity produced by WH's wind generator throughout the month. Peter receives a credit for 130 kWh on his electric bill, the total amount of electricity produced by WH's solar panels in the same time period.

To enter the monthly drawing to win the energy produced by WH's wind generator or solar panels and to learn more about WH's renewable energy efforts, visit www.whe.org.

Convectair space heaters work for you!

From February 15 - March 31

\$100*

An exceptional rebate for consumers purchasing Allegro electric heaters

For more information, contact
763-477-3099

*Certain restrictions may apply

Contact INFORMATION

Hotline Update Staff

Shallon Hagen - shagen@whe.org
Marketing Coordinator

Lindsay Scherer - lscherer@whe.org
Communications Specialist

Jerry Kranz - jkranz@whe.org
Production Manager

Office Hours:

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays.

Customer Call Center Hours:


7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Fridays
Call: 763-477-3000 or 1-800-943-2667

To report an outage:

Electric dispatchers are available 24/7
Call: 763-477-3100 or 1-888-399-1845

WH Security monitoring:

Security dispatchers are available 24/7
Call: 763-477-4275 or 1-800-858-7811

 Printed on partially recycled paper.

Pop Quiz! Win a motion detector and a greenhouse planting kit!

Complete WH's quiz with the correct answers and be entered for a chance to win a prize!

All of the answers for the quiz can be found in this newsletter. Simply insert the correct answers, clip out the form and mail it with your electric bill or submit your answers online at whe.org on the Newsletter Archive page, found under the News & Events section. **Completed quizzes are due by March 31.**

Look for a new quiz every month! There will be one winner each month. Only one entry per month, per household will be accepted. Winners will be contacted by phone or email.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

WH's February 2011 Hotline Quiz

1. All Wright-Hennepin members are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting which is held on _____.
2. Wright-Hennepin is seeking _____ to participate in an energy-saving competition.
3. _____ is the name of the ship CEO Mark Vogt served on in 1975.
4. The Youth Tour application deadline is _____.
5. Having a medical alert has allowed Henny to live in her apartment _____.



January Quiz Winner:
Byron and Mary Churchill,
Maple Lake



WH to launch demo project using innovative new product

Throughout the past several years, significant research and development has occurred in the energy industry. Most of this is focused on finding more efficient ways to produce and use energy, but part of the challenge is also ensuring that electric energy is available at the times when it is needed. This is where innovative new products such as Silent Power's OnDemand Energy Appliance comes into play.

Just as highways are built to handle traffic during peak times of use, electric power generators are also constructed to ensure energy is available at high usage points. Residential households use the most energy typically between the hours of 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., driving up the demand for energy during these

times. New generation that can supply peaking energy during this time period is instantly more efficient than new generation that generates energy at times when there is no need.

Most people don't realize that renewable energy is typically not produced at the time it is needed. Solar power, for example, is produced when the sun is the brightest – typically between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Wind energy is typically highest at night. For years the industry has looked for a way to store this energy and then use it later in the day when it is needed. Silent Power, a Brainerd, Minn. company, has come up with a product that does just that.

Silent Power's OnDemand system contains batteries that store excess energy for use at a later time. The

product is about the size of a small refrigerator and is available in 5 KW and 10 KW electric-output options.

Wright-Hennepin (WH) will be implementing a demonstration involving the OnDemand system. This project will involve installing an OnDemand unit on the existing wind and solar generators that were installed at WH's Rockford location for demonstration and member education purposes in 2007 and 2009. Installation of the OnDemand product will be completed by May of this year and ongoing information about the project, as well as data about efficiencies gained, will be posted on WH's web site.

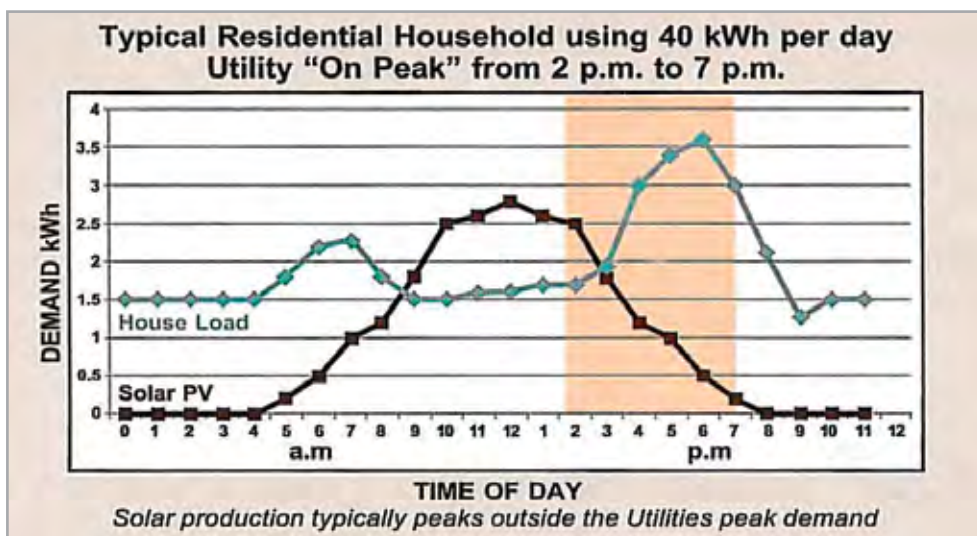
Several additional test projects, which combine OnDemand units with renewable sources, are also underway. These include a solar and battery storage car-charging station for electric cars in Tennessee, as well as additional projects in California and Minnesota.

Besides increasing the efficiency of renewable power, OnDemand units can power homes during electric outages. Units cost around \$13,000, but may be entitled to 30 percent solar tax credits when installed with a solar panel. For more information, contact Rod Nikula with WH at 763-477-3000.

WH Holding recently participated in a Silent Power series "A" preferred stock offering of the company. This provides WH with the opportunity to help shape the development of this product for the electric industry.



Silent Power's OnDemand product stores energy for use at a later time



The OnDemand product stores renewable energy for use when it is needed.

HOME & GARDEN SHOW

The Minneapolis Home and Garden Show
Come visit WH Security and HeatMyFloors.com
at the Home and Garden Show
at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

March 2nd, 2011 to March 6th, 2011

Come visit us!

Booth #3014 **Booth #3012**

WH Security **HEATMYFLOORS.COM**

A wholly owned subsidiary of Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association

Keep your workshop and garage warm year round...

Hot One space heaters can keep you working comfortably all winter long!

The cold temperatures have settled in, but don't let them keep you from enjoying your space! Enhance the comfort of your shop or garage with a space heater from WH...

Call a representative today at 763-477-3000
800-943-2667 • www.whe.org • info@whe.org

Tired of working in a cold garage or shop?

The Hot One electric heater is ideal for garages and shops. It heats large areas quickly and effectively and does not have an open flame, which is good for areas that have flammable chemicals in the air. This electric space heater qualifies for WH's special Off-Peak pricing, helping you to avoid expensive and fluctuating gas prices.

Features:

- Fan feature allows air to circulate in the room
- No venting required
- Heats spaces up to 800 square feet
- Can be mounted on the wall or stand on the floor
- Operates on 240 volts

WH
Wright-Hennepin
Cooperative Electric Association
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Hotline Update (USPS 000839) is published and distributed monthly from the cooperative's office in Rockford, Minn. Periodicals postage is paid at Maple Lake, Minn. 55358-0330. Subscription is \$1 annually. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Hotline Update, PO Box 330, Rockford, Minn. 55373-0330 ©2011 Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association.