



HOTLINE UPDATE

Wright-Hennepin's 75th anniversary and strong 2011 performance highlighted at Annual Meeting

More than 2,200 members and guests attended Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association's (WH) 75th Annual Meeting on March 29 to learn about WH's strong 2011 performance and celebrate the cooperative's 75th anniversary.

The cooperative was formed 75 years ago on March 29, 1937 at a meeting in Cokato, Minn. To celebrate this milestone,



WH served 2,225 meals were served at its 75th Annual Meeting.

WH incorporated many facets of the cooperative's historic past into the event, including historical displays, dinner theatre presentations regarding the rural cooperative movement and showed a new video documentary of the cooperative's history during the business meeting.

At the meeting, members re-elected incumbent directors Timothy Young, Annandale, Minn., District 1; Burton Horsch, Howard Lake, Minn., District 3; and Erick Heinz, Corcoran, Minn., District 9. Kenneth Hiebel, Plymouth, Minn., was elected to serve as the director of District 7 – a district that recently became vacant.

Board officers Chris Lantto, Thomas Mach and Dale Jans were all re-elected as board chair, vice chair and secretary/treasurer, respectively.

Lantto emphasized the importance of the occasion and the unique business



Members re-elected incumbent directors (left to right) Burton Horsch, Erick Heinz and Timothy Young. Kenneth Hiebel was elected to serve as director of District 7.

perspective that cooperatives have during his speech.

"Competitive rates, clean and reliable power, strong customer satisfaction – these are things important to electric consumers," said Lantto, addressing the membership. "Seventy-five years ago, WH was formed with the consumers' perspective in mind. That emphasis continues today, and it will remain our

Annual Meeting cont. on Pg. 7

WH offers members new payment option

Wright-Hennepin (WH) is pleased to offer members a new payment option called Pay As You Go.


By enrolling in this plan, members can pre-pay for electricity before they use it, rather than receive a bill at the end of the month. Like filling up your car with gas, you'll be able to fill up your energy "tank" and "refill" it as you need more power.

This plan can help members control their budgets by allowing them to purchase electricity with timing that meets their cash flow and gives them the ability to monitor their energy use online in dollars spent per day.

This service allows you to create your own convenient payment schedule. If you plan on heading south for the winter, you can prepay for the months that you'll be gone. Or, if you have trouble budgeting for one large payment, you can make frequent, smaller payments throughout the month.

Participants can also set up their accounts to receive a warning message – via text or email – when their balance reaches a certain level. Account balances can also be viewed online.

Because users of this type of program are more aware of what their energy use is costing them, studies

have shown that other utilities' customers who use similar services reduce their energy use by 10-12 percent. For more information on this program, call (763) 477-3000. 



Pay As You Go participants can set up their accounts to receive messages via text or email when their account reaches a certain level.

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Find us on:





Entertaining stories from the early days of Wright-Hennepin

Board Chair Chris Lantto and I spent an enjoyable couple of hours with the Cokato Rotary Club in mid-March. Noting WH's 75th anniversary, they asked us to speak about the cooperative's history.

Cokato, Minn. is recognized as the birthplace of WH, as a number of the cooperative's founding directors and the first CEO were from that community. The very first meter installed on the WH system was also just a mile outside of Cokato's city limits on County Road 3.

Retired electrician Russ Johnson served as the emcee of the event, and during his introduction to our presentation, he told the crowd some entertaining stories about WH's early years. Russ is a great supporter of WH's Off-Peak programs and was just a boy when the cooperative brought power to his parent's farm in the 1940s.

Russ told the crowd of about 50 at the Rotary meeting that early WH promoters helped rural residents envision all the new conveniences that electricity would provide. "Heck, someday you will be able to listen to the New York Yankees baseball game right in your living room, on your new electric radio," went one of the pitches to join the cooperative. Russ noted, however, that not everyone was convinced about what electricity could do. "How stupid do you think we are?" one skeptic is reported to have said at an organizational meeting.

Another local skeptic warned that the formation of WH was a dangerous communist plot, an often heard scare tactic about many of the New Deal programs in the 1930's.

Russ also told a story about a Wright County farmer who didn't agree with any of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's (FDR) policies. As FDR was the father of the new Rural Electrification Administration that made WH possible, the farmer wouldn't let the cooperative extend power to his barn until the mid-1940's - after the FDR administration had ended! No way did that farmer want to give FDR credit for becoming a member. Partisan politics was apparently alive and well back then, too!

After our presentation, one of the Rotary Club members approached me,

and said he had a complaint about WH's reliability record.

"When I moved out here 25 years ago, I made the considerable investment of a standby generator," the man said. "My wife wasn't very happy with me and asked why I bought it. I answered, 'Are you kidding me, we're going to be served by an REA Co-op. They can never keep the lights on.'"

What was his "complaint"? The man said he has never had to use his standby generator, and wanted to thank the board of directors and employees for great service over the years.

As we have prepared for WH's 75th anniversary, everything I've learned about bringing electricity to this area has been fascinating. Meeting with the Cokato Rotarians, and learning these new bits of lore about the early days, was icing on the cake.

Speaking of Cokato, Minn., if you'd like to read a fascinating new article on the history of WH, check out Dassel-Cokato Enterprise Dispatch reporter Jennifer Kotila's well-written story from February 6 (<http://goo.gl/LUAUI>), and make sure to check out our special 75th anniversary pull-out section in this edition of the Hotline Update, too.

Statement on the recent stray voltage trial

As you may have learned, WH was recently involved in a stray voltage trial, brought by one of our members. Because WH is a member owned cooperative - and because ensuring safe and reliable electricity is our highest responsibility - I felt it was important to present you with some information about the case.

We have been working with this member on his stray voltage concern since 2008. In working with him, WH relied on peer-reviewed science, university researchers, the United States Department of Agriculture and states where stray voltage standards are in place. Together, these sources have studied and resolved stray voltage issues for more than 40 years and were the standards by which we approached our work with this member.

Stray voltage is low-level voltage that exists everywhere, resulting naturally

from the configuration of the North American electric grid. In the case of this member, WH's measurements of voltage were below one volt - well within accepted standards for dairy operations.

One of the concerns the member expressed was the age of the line, and that this was the cause of the stray voltage. A portion of the line serving the farm was originally built in 1947, however an equal portion of the line was constructed after 2006. This line - as well as all the lines on our system - is regularly maintained. This is a key factor in WH's high reliability record. The line in question is rated to carry 115 amps. Since all loads on the line add up to only 37 amps at peak, this line has more than sufficient capacity.

Also called into question were currents in the ground. In an effort to address these concerns, WH worked with the member on a variety of isolation and grounding configurations. WH's testing showed that voltage levels remained well within accepted industry standards during all this testing.

In the end, these arguments were rejected, and the jury awarded the member what right now appears to be about \$750,000, depending on final judgement.

We believe we did everything by the book in this case, and we are trying to understand this verdict. We respect that the jury worked hard to arrive at its decision, but we are evaluating our next steps as a result of it.

Wright-Hennepin has its roots in the agricultural community. Many of the founders were farmers and rural leaders. Our first member was a farmer. I want you to know that we will continue to provide safe and reliable electric service in support of the agricultural community, as well as to all members.

Mark Vogt

Read more from CEO Mark Vogt on his new blog

View recent posts on WH's website at <http://bit.ly/qWXFrp>.

March 23: *Statement on recent stray voltage trial*

February 13: *Life before electricity: "It was a very dark place indeed"*

January board meeting highlights:

The regular monthly meeting of the Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association Board of Directors was held January 10, 2012. A quorum of directors was present. Board action taken:

- Selected delegates and alternates for all known 2012 meetings.
- Approved retiring five trailers to be sold as scrap to a local metal dealer that gives WH the best offer.
- Reviewed and filed the monthly CEO, legal, financial and operations reports.
- Guest included: Executive Director Wayne Schug from MISO who gave an overview of electric market issues for 2012.

Board Highlights cont. on Pg. 8

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
Kenneth Hiebel..... District 7
Donald Lucas..... District 8
Erick Heinz..... District 9

The board of directors meets monthly at the cooperative's office in Rockford. Regular meetings are generally scheduled the second Tuesday of each month for 2012. Members with items of interest are encouraged to contact the President and CEO to confirm meeting date and time.

WH and WH Holding LLC's Management Team

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Vice President, WH International Response Center
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WH's 75th anniversary recognized by Congresswoman Michele Bachmann

On March 29, Michele Bachmann acknowledged Wright-Hennepin's 75th anniversary by reading this statement during a congressional session:

Mister Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 75th anniversary of the Wright-Hennepin Electric Cooperative in Rockford, Minnesota. Today, March 29, 2012, the annual membership meeting will take place in celebration of their fruitful beginning on March 29, 1937.


Wright-Hennepin Electric was formed at the height of the Great Depression to meet the electrical needs of rural central Minnesota. Today, they provide service for more than 46,000 homes and businesses and continue to provide ground-breaking services to their customers in Wright and the western Hennepin counties.

Wright-Hennepin Electric is an industry leader in helping home and business owners save money, reduce energy consumption, and determine when alternative energy resources might be a good fit for their needs. Additionally, Wright-Hennepin Electric has expanded into security monitoring for 50,000 homes in thirty-two states and three Canadian provinces. Innovative business expansions like this

help keep this magnificent company a step ahead of the rest.

Also importantly, Wright-Hennepin Electric is an active member of the community. Annually, high school students may apply to receive college scholarships from them. Each year one lucky student also receives a trip to our nation's capital. It is possible that many of our Congressional members have met with some of these students participating in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, which makes this opportunity possible.

Many local charities and non-profits are also supported by Wright-Hennepin Electric as recipients of thousands of dollars of donations. Lastly, Wright-Hennepin Electric has been recognized by chambers, local governments, and businesses as a responsible corporate citizen and valued member of the communities they serve.

Congratulations on this 75th milestone members and staff of Wright-Hennepin Electric Cooperative. 



WH's 75th anniversary was recognized by congress on March 29 - 75 years to the day after the cooperative was founded.

Wright-Hennepin receives outstanding member of the year award




WH's Planning and Key Account Supervisor Wayne Bauernschmitt (right) Accepts the award from the Wright County Economic Development Partnership Director Ted LaFrance (left).

The Wright County Economic Development Partnership (WCEDP) presented Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association (WH) with its Outstanding Member of the Year Award at the partnership's annual meeting on January 20.

The award recognizes businesses that have contributed to the partnership through committee and event participation, leadership, and have demonstrated outstanding community involvement in Wright County. Planning and Key Accounts Supervisor Wayne Bauernschmitt accepted the award on WH's behalf.

"Wright-Hennepin is proud to be part of the economic development

efforts of the partnership and the county," said Bauernschmitt. "We sincerely appreciate being acknowledged as the partnership's member of the year and look forward to supporting the Wright County Economic Development Partnership in the future."

The WCEDP is a non-profit, development corporation formed in 1993 to address the need for organized economic development at the county level. It's funded and directed by its members who include county, cities, townships, utilities, businesses, telecommunications companies, lenders and educational institutions. 


Be cautious when giving out personal information

It has been brought to Wright-Hennepin's (WH) attention that residents in the local area have been contacted by individuals who falsely claim they are electric utility representatives. In many cases, these false representatives are asking for electric account payments over the phone in an effort to obtain financial

information from the residents they're contacting.

Members should exercise caution when giving out personal information over the phone. If you are unsure whether an incoming call you've received is from WH, please hang up and call WH directly

at (763) 477-3000. That way, you'll be able to confirm the legitimacy of the call.

If you believe you have been contacted by a person falsely claiming to be a WH representative, please notify us of the incident immediately. 

Could Minnesota get by on renewables?

Minnesota could affordably meet all of its electricity needs from wind and solar power, if those sources were coupled with the right mix of energy storage and efficiency improvements. That's the conclusion of a new report being released by the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER). "It's a first cut on how you would maintain the same level of reliability" — and cost — using only renewables, says Arjun Makhijani, IEER's president and senior engineer.

The report examines Minnesota's electricity needs for every hour of the year and compares it to the potential wind and solar generation in the state during those same times. It finds that for most of the year, a bulked up commercial wind and rooftop solar sector could satisfy all of that demand, with a 12 percent cushion on top.

There are gaps, however, just like there are periods now, such as on hot summer days, when electricity demand exceeds utilities' normal generating capacity.

Source: *Midwest Energy News*

N.D. gets good news in EPA battle

North Dakota's air quality regulators achieved a significant victory when the federal Environmental Protection Agency said it would accept the state's regional haze air quality plan for two disputed power plants. The decision means neither Minnkota Power Cooperative's Milton R. Young Station at Center or the Basin Electric Power Cooperative Leland Olds Station at Stanton will have to install the EPA's preferred pollution technology, saving each operator hundreds of millions of dollars. The two agencies disagreed over whose technology plan best would clean up nitrous oxide pollution, a critical target of the federal regional haze program. The state contended its preferred technology is much less expensive and is proven to work with lignite coal while the EPA's choice isn't proven for lignite and when tested, gummed up the converter.

The EPA moved to take over the air quality program for the first time in state regulatory history. Regional haze pollution affects visibility and the new standard protects air quality in Class I areas, which include Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota. Terry O'Clair, director of the state's air quality program, said the EPA's decision to go along with the state's choice for the best technology for the two plants is good news for North Dakota.

Overall, the state regional haze plan will reduce sulfur and nitrous oxide emissions by 164,000 tons annually. When Coal Creek and Antelope Valley are added, another 8,000 tons of nitrous oxide will be removed from overall emissions.

Source: *Bismarck Tribune*

Energy use app now available for WH members

Wright-Hennepin (WH) has a new tool to help keep you informed about your energy use.

Your energy usage information can now be accessed directly through your smart phone with the assistance of the new MyMeter app.

MyMeter is a Web portal that all Wright-Hennepin (WH) members can access, which allows its users to view daily energy use data in a simple graphic format. The portal allows members to track their energy use, compare their homes' energy use data to an average of other homes in the

same area and set goals to reduce their energy use. The portal can also alert you when your energy passes a pre-set level, helping you to keep your energy use low.

Through this portal, members are also able to track how changes they've made affect their energy use by placing markers on days when they've removed or added appliances, added a smart strip to their entertainment system or switched their incandescent light bulbs to CFLs.

Many members have found that this program is a helpful tool to assist

them with reducing their energy use. In fact, members who use the program regularly typically save 3-5 percent on their electric bills.

This new app is compatible with both Android and iPhone applications, and is currently available online at the Android Market and the Apple Store.

To access MyMeter via your computer, go to www.whe.org and click on "My Account."



Your energy use information can be accessed directly through your smart phone through the new MyMeter app.

Tips to keep your air conditioner running efficiently this summer



Annual tune-ups not only ensure the efficiency of your unit, but can also increase the life of your air conditioner.

Central air conditioners use significantly less energy when operated properly. Tune-ups and inspections can ensure that your unit is functioning at its maximum efficiency throughout the summer, saving you money.

Annual tune-ups not only help your unit run more efficiently, but can also increase the life of your air conditioner. Having a technician check the unit also allows you to make sure that all areas are functioning properly, which can help prevent problems with the unit during the summer.

Another tip that will increase the efficiency of your air conditioner is to change your furnace filter regularly. These filters protect components of the air conditioner from dirt and debris. Dirty filters make your air conditioner work harder to cool, making it less efficient.

If you're looking for year-round energy savings or if your unit is more than 10 years old, an air source heat pump may be a viable option for your home as well. Heat pumps help to both heat and cool your home, and can be particularly helpful with saving energy in the spring and fall when temperatures are not at extreme ends of the spectrum.

Utilizing heat pumps also allows you to opt into WH's Classic Off-Peak rate allowing you to save almost 50 percent on the cost to cool or heat your home and water. Many members who have switched to using heat pumps have found that the unit pays for itself within a couple years.

Attention: small power producers

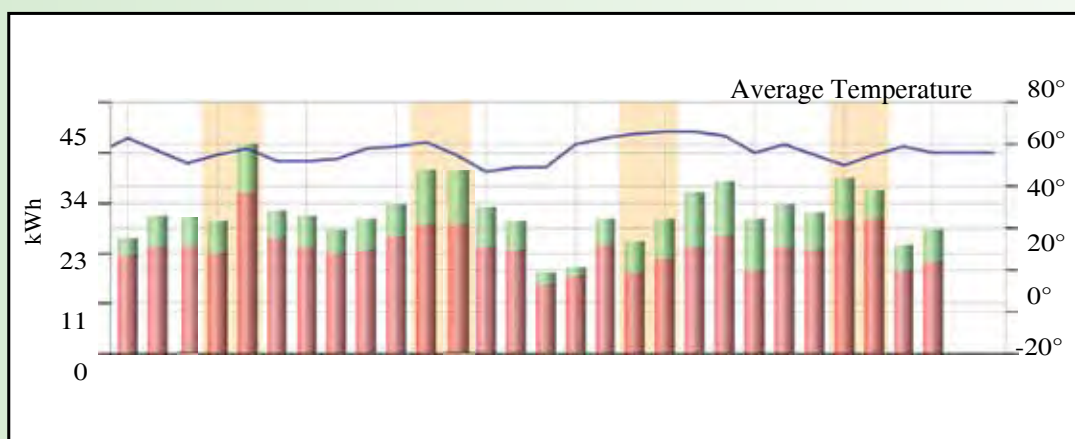
In compliance with Minnesota adopted rules relating to co-generational and small power production, chapter 7835, Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association (WH) is required to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers that satisfy the conditions of a qualifying facility.

WH will provide information to all interested members regarding rates and interconnection requirements. An application for interconnection is required for a qualifying facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system and is subject to approval by the cooperative.

Any disputes over interconnection, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Members with questions should contact Rod Nikula at (763) 477-3106 or via email at rnikula@whe.org.

View your daily energy use with MYMETER™



With MyMeter you can:

- » View daily and monthly home energy use
- » Compare your energy use to the average for your neighborhood
- » Take an "energy challenge" and set an energy-saving goal
- » Access energy saving tips

Sign up today at mymeter.whe.org

This is a free service to help you understand how you are using energy.



Know what's below: Call before you dig

Whether it's a dreamed up deck addition or a landscaping masterpiece, summer weather is a great time for outdoor improvement plans to actually play out.

But if your planned projects include digging, like planting a tree or bringing in a backhoe for trench work, you need to plan ahead so the job can be done safely by having power lines marked prior to digging.


To find out where utility lines run on your property, call 811 – from anywhere in the country – a few days prior to digging. Your call will be routed to a local “one call” center. Tell the operator where you’re planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes, and cables with flags or marking paint so you’ll know what’s below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although light gardening typically doesn’t call for deep digging, other seemingly simple tasks like planting shrubs or installing a

new mailbox post can damage utility lines. A severed line can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Call 811 – from anywhere in the country – a few days prior to digging.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There’s no need: The 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit www.call811.com. 

Sources: Common Ground Alliance, SafeElectricity.org



Before beginning any projects that involve digging, call 811 so that underground utilities can be safely marked.

Minnesota's extreme heat law requirements


According to Minnesota law, utilities – like Wright-Hennepin (WH) – may not disconnect residential services when a National Weather Service excessive heat warning is in effect for the homeowner’s county.

WH makes a strong effort to forgo involuntary disconnection of our members’ electric service and will provide members with past-due accounts opportunities to work out a payment schedule that is suitable for

both parties’ needs. However, in order to develop a payment plan, members must contact WH ahead of time to make payment arrangements.

WH doesn’t want to interrupt service to any member, but in a cooperative, all members are affected when any bill remains unpaid. To ensure fair rates for all of WH’s members, members with past-due accounts who neglect to contact the cooperative to make payment

arrangements, or members who break their payment arrangements, will have their electric service disconnected once the excessive heat watch, advisory or warning has expired.

For energy assistance contacts, visit www.whe.org and go to the “For My Home” tab, then “Payment Information” or contact (763) 477-3000. 



Help the environment by saving energy on critical days

Sign up for Peak Alerts at www.whe.org!

If you are interested in doing your part to conserve energy, you can sign-up to receive email or text message notifications when WH issues conservation alerts on high energy use days.

To sign up go to www.whe.org, clicking on “For My Home,” then “Conservation Peak Alerts,” and submit the form found on that page.

WH issues these alerts during times of high energy use so that members can help reduce the demand on the area's electric grid.



Summer Off-Peak schedule

Due to the unseasonably warm weather we’ve had this spring, Wright-Hennepin has switched its Off-Peak system to cycling air conditioners on March 20. This means the cooperative may cycle members’ air conditioners that are enrolled in Off-Peak air conditioning programs. Cycling typically occurs during times of high energy use (generally the hottest days of summer).

As a new aspect of the program this year, each member participating in Off-Peak Air will be assigned to one of three different groups. Each of these groups will be given a different time frame during which their air conditioners will be cycled on high electric use days. To find out what group you are in, visit <https://mymeter.whe.org> or call customer service at (763) 477-3000.

The cooperative has many Off-Peak programs available for members to save money, including its Cool Cash air conditioning program. With Cool Cash, members save 15 percent on their total electric use in June, July and August.* To sign up or for more information, contact WH at (763) 477-3000. You can also sign up at www.whe.org.

For members on our Off-Peak programs, you can find out when WH is cycling your system through text or email alerts, our Twitter account or on the home page of our website at www.whe.org.

*Certain restrictions apply.

Ways to make managing your account easier

For security purposes, Wright-Hennepin (WH) can only make changes to accounts when they are requested by a validated member. However, there are some convenient ways to add a name to an account so that other individuals can make changes as well.

Another account user can be authorized over the phone during WH’s customer service hours 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Additionally, we also accept written permission to add a person to your account. As a part of your written request, include your account number and service address, and send your signed request to Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association, P.O. Box 330, Rockford, MN 55373. For more information on how to add another authorized user to your account, contact customer service (763) 477-3000.

WH Security system prevents metro burglary

On a Friday evening last November, David Tieszen was at a friend's cabin in northern Minnesota when a burglar tried to break into his home in the metro area.

"I didn't have cell service at the cabin, so I didn't know something had happened until Saturday afternoon," said Tieszen. "When I got back in range, I saw I had a missed call from the monitoring center. I knew something had happened."

The burglar had tried to get in through the back door of Tieszen's home, which had a WH Security sensor on it. When he tried to open the door, the alarm sounded and the monitoring center was alerted to the problem.

Because the monitoring center couldn't get a hold of Tieszen when the incident occurred, they contacted the police and sent them to Tieszen's home to make sure there were no signs of a break-in.


"Everything was fine when they got there," Tieszen said. "No damage was

done to the property and nothing was taken. The noise the alarm made must have scared the burglar off."

Tieszen had only just purchased and installed his security system within the last year and is very glad he had it in place last November.

"It could have been bad," said Tieszen. "And I wouldn't have known anything happened until Sunday night when I got back home."

Tieszen's decision to install a WH Security system gives him added peace of mind that his home is safe, and he recommends that everyone should consider protecting their treasured and often irreplaceable belongings with a security system.

"I live in a small, quiet town," said Tieszen. "If this could happen there, it could happen anywhere." 



David Tieszen credits his WH Security system with preventing a burglary at his home last fall.

Protect your home from spring flooding with WH Security sensors



WH Security offers notification devices that can help protect your home from water damage.


Mud, muck and water are typical Meye-sores during Minnesota's spring months. However, in addition to being unattractive to look at, all of that extra moisture could cause damage to your home.

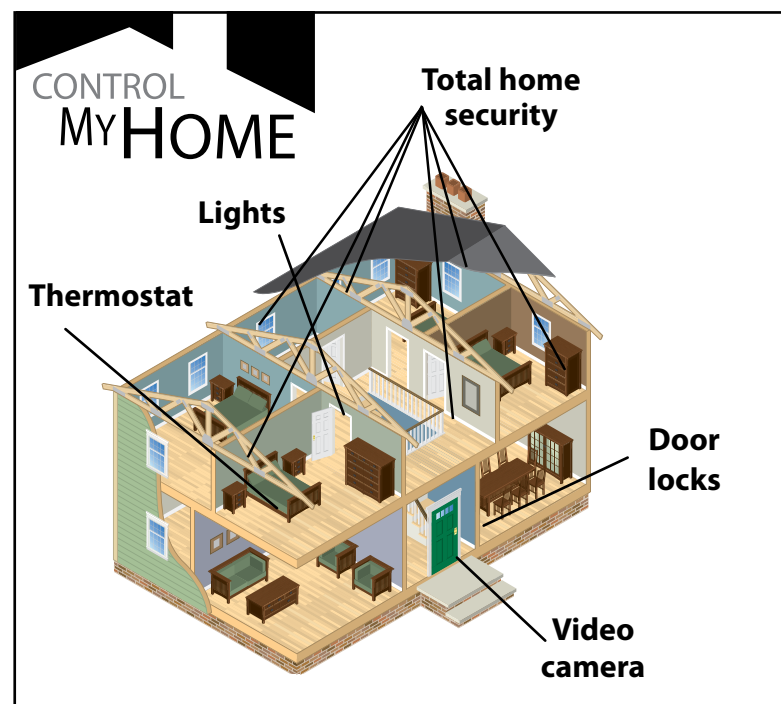
To help you prepare for spring flooding, WH Security offers notification devices that can help protect your home from water damage. These devices include flood sensors and sump pump sensors.

Flood sensors are placed in locations where water is most likely to accumulate in your home, such as near floor drains, pipes and fixtures. Flood sensors detect standing water that has collected on the floor, sending a signal that alerts the monitoring center about the problem. The monitoring center then notifies the homeowner

immediately, allowing the individual to address the issue and prevent serious water damage from occurring.

Another type of water sensor is a sump pump detector. A sump pump detector will activate once the water level gets too high in the sump basket, causing it to send an alarm signal. This informs the monitoring center – who informs you – that there is a possible problem with your pump, enabling you to fix the problem before flood damage occurs.

If you're interested in learning more about protecting your home from flooding, contact WH Security at (763) 477-3000 or visit our website at www.wh-security.com. If you've already encountered flood damage in your home, visit <http://bit.ly/huIW4> for resources from the Red Cross. 



Did you know...

You can control your home's thermostat, lights, locks and even outlets, from anywhere you have an Internet connection with WH Security's Control My Home service!

WH Security
The Power to Protect

A wholly owned subsidiary of Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association

(763) 477-3000
www.wh-security.com

* Valid on the purchase of a new home security system with three-year monitoring agreement only. Cannot be combined with other special offers. Certain restrictions apply.

Special Offer:
2 months FREE
security & interactive
monitoring with your new
security system purchase*

Offer expires 5/11/12

Eliminate concerns about unexpected repair bills by knowing repairs will be taken care of with

WHApliance Repair



For just **\$17.99** per month, parts, labor and most repairs on the following appliances are covered:

- Refrigerator
- Clothes dryer
- Heating system
 - Range
- Water heater

Call for more information:



(763) 477-3000
www.whe.org

WH's 75th anniversary and strong 2011 performance highlighted at Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting cont. from Pg. 1

mission as we now begin the journey toward WH's 100th anniversary."

Angie Pribyl, WH's chief financial officer, informed the audience of WH's strong financial condition in 2011, based on a review conducted by independent auditors and lenders.

WH President and CEO Mark Vogt discussed the cooperative's history and the recent result of a stray voltage trial.

In addition to the business meeting and historic displays, the evening also included a free pork chop dinner, bingo, a variety of educational booths and a children's activity area. Many prizes were also given throughout the evening, including a 2003 Chevrolet Impala – a retired vehicle from WH's fleet – which was awarded to Ruth Ann Helget of Annandale, Minn.



At the business meeting, members were informed about WH's strong performance in 2011 and learned about the cooperative's history.

Protect your trees from the emerald ash borer

The emerald ash borer is in Minnesota and could harm your ash trees if they're not properly treated.


The emerald ash borer is an invasive wood boring beetle that is native to Asia. It was first discovered in Canada in 2002, and it spread to the U.S. in 2003. Since that time, it has made its way to Minnesota and has been spotted in Hennepin County.

The emerald ash borers' larvae feed on the inner bark of trees, disrupting the tree's transmission of nutrients. This causes branches – and eventually the entire tree – to die. Many trees lose 30-40 percent of their canopy within two years of infestation and die within three to four years if left untreated.

The adult beetles are metallic-green in color and are typically one-half to one-inch long. According to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, an infestation can be identified by

"one-eighth inch, D-shaped exit holes in ash tree bark and serpentine tunnels packed with sawdust under the bark."

Wright-Hennepin (WH) is offering two free sessions regarding treatments that

can be used to protect your trees from this insect. The sessions will be held on Thursday, May 3 at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. at WH's Rockford headquarters. Call WH at (763) 477-3000 to sign up. 



The ash tree on the left was not treated for the emerald ash borer. However, the ash tree on the right was and is still full and healthy.

Contact INFORMATION

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Office Hours:

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Thursdays and Fridays
8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays.

Customer Call Center Hours:

7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday - Friday
Call: (763) 477-3000 or (800) 943-2667

To report an outage:

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

WH Security monitoring:

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



Printed on partially recycled paper.

Trees need trimming?

WH Services offers the following:

- Tree and stump removal
- Pruning and shaping
- Storm damage clearing
- Lot clearing
- Emerald ash borer treatment

WHSERVICES
(763) 477-3000



90 day, no-interest financing available

Win this month's wind or solar generation!

Each month, two lucky members have their names drawn. One will win the current month's output of Wright-Hennepin's wind generator and the other will win the output of the solar panel. Due to unscheduled maintenance, there is no wind generation winner for the month of February.

Alvin Zeinemann of St. Michael wins a credit for 191 kWh, February's output from WH's solar panels.

Average monthly energy output year-to-date:

WH's solar panels = 172 kWh
Average monthly energy use per household = 1,100 kWh


To enter the monthly contest, or find more information and data, go to: <http://www.whe.org/for-my-home/resources/wind-solar.html>

Annual Lake Maria State Park clean up scheduled for May 5

Lake Maria State Park is one of the few remaining strands of "Big Woods" in central Minnesota – a landscape that was once common throughout the entire state. The beautiful park is covered by maple, oak and basswood forests and is enjoyed by outdoor enthusiasts throughout the state.

In an effort to help keep this landmark beautiful, Wright-Hennepin (WH) is rounding up local volunteers including WH employees, members and local residents to plant trees and wildflowers, rake leaves, perform trail maintenance, and paint buildings from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 5.

All ages are welcome to attend the event. Attendees are encouraged to bring gloves and a rake or shovel, as the park's supplies are limited. This event is a great opportunity for organized groups and individuals to do their part to help the environment.

As a special treat for volunteers, after the clean up is complete, attendees are free to explore the park's 1,595 acres – a privilege that typically requires a fee. WH also provides a free lunch for all participants. To volunteer for this event, please contact WH at (763) 477-3000. 



The annual Lake Maria clean-up is a great event for all ages to attend.



Like us on Facebook!

Go to www.facebook.com/WrightHennepin and click the "like" button!

You will see energy-saving tips, historic photos and news updates about the cooperative!

Spring energy-saving tip:

The days are getting longer! Take advantage of that natural light by opening shades during the day instead of using indoor lighting.

For more energy-saving tips, check out WH's energy-saving blog at <http://bit.ly/padn2S>

Save 15% on your summer electric bills!

Join Wright-Hennepin's Cool Cash energy-saving air conditioning program today, and receive a **15% discount*** on your summer electric bills.

- No cost to join.
- One phone call signs you up.
- 15% off in June, July and August.

Wright-Hennepin's Cool Cash energy-saving air conditioning program will put money in your pocket, and help the environment by saving energy.

Call today and start saving!

(763) 477-3000, (800) 943-2667, or www.whe.org



Hotline Update (USPS 000839) is published and distributed during the months of January, March, April, June, August, October and December from Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association's office at 6800 Electric Drive, Rockford, MN 55373. Periodicals postage is paid at Maple Lake, Minn. 55358. Subscription is \$1 annually. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Hotline Update, PO Box 330, Rockford, MN. 55373-0330 ©2012 Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association.

Board Report

Board Highlights cont. from Pg. 2

February board meeting highlights:

The monthly meeting of the board of directors was conducted February 8, 2012. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or board action taken:

- Approved allocating 2011 margins to the membership for future capital credit retirements.
- Approved Minnesota Rural Electric Association's membership dues.
- Approved official notice of the 2012 Annual Meeting for March 29, 2012 beginning at 7 p.m. at the cooperative's headquarters in Rockford.
- Approved draft of agenda, director ballots and tellers for the 2012 Annual Meeting.
- Heard year-end reports, and reviewed and filed the monthly CEO, legal, financial and operations reports.
- Conducted CEO's 2011 performance review. Board congratulated and recognized Vogt on a successful year in a difficult economy.
- Board partook in a question and answering session with a panel of commercial members discussing business conditions, the economy and WH service. Members included: the city of Maple Grove – Al Madsen, City Administrator, Cousins Property Management – Wendy Thompson, General Manager, Francis Properties – Joe Francis, Owner, and Loram – Tim Heisel, Facilities Manager.

March board meeting highlights:

The monthly meeting of the board of directors was conducted March 20, 2012. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or board action taken:

- Accepted auditor's report on fiscal year 2011 and was congratulated by the firm of Brady Martz on the cooperative's strong internal controls and overall financial condition.
- Approved Cooperative Network's dues.
- Selected a delegation of directors to represent the cooperative at the Wright County Dairy Princess program being held March 31.
- Discussed the recent stray voltage lawsuit.
- Reviewed and filed the monthly CEO, legal, financial and operations reports.
- Directors reported on industry meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.
- Guests included:
 - Minnesota Rural Electric Association's CEO Mark Glaess gave a legislative update.
 - Officers of Silent Power, a battery storage company, briefed the board on company progress.