



News Release

WRIGHT-HENNEPIN SEEN AS NATIONAL LEADER IN SOLAR

Rockford, MN (May 21, 2015) — Electric cooperative employees from around the nation descended on Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association (WH) last week to learn about the Rockford-based electric supplier’s leadership in providing solar power to its customers.

Cooperative employees from around the country were in Minnesota last week for Touchstone Energy Cooperatives’ CONNECT ’15 national conference – the annual national conference for communications, marketing and member services professionals in the cooperative world. As part of preconference activities, a bus load of participants traveled to WH to learn the best practices in providing solar power to electric cooperative members.

The tour showcased WH’s community solar gardens and how the cooperative demonstrates its role as a trusted energy partner by offering renewable energy options.

Visitors learned that the initial solar community project at WH’s headquarters was the first one built in the state. It was also described as the first one in the nation using battery backup. Participants also toured the second solar array to see how the projects and technology have evolved, and were informed that the cooperative is currently taking subscriptions for its third solar community. In addition, WH is currently seeking requests for proposal for a local utility grade solar project for exclusive use by WH’s members.

“Our members like the idea of solar and battery storage. That combination is what is ultimately going to bring solar into the mainstream,” WH President and CEO Mark Vogt said. “WH is committed to being a leader in the electric industry to make that happen. We are an energy provider and we provide solar energy.”

Vice President of Renewable and Alternative Energy Kelly Frankenfeld, and Vice President of External Relations and Power Solutions Steve Nisbet led the tour, which canvassed the entire building for a peak at the cooperative and its subsidiaries on location.

WH is a member-owned non-profit electric utility that provides electric power to Wright County and the western part of Hennepin County. The cooperative has been a corporate citizen in this area since 1937 and currently serves more than 46,000 electric accounts. The utility started its security division in 1989 and provides local home security solutions as well as monitors alarm systems for almost 60,000 customers in 32 states and three Canadian provinces.

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Wright-Hennepin Vice President of External Relations and Power Solutions Steve Nisbet (center) fielded questions and talked specifics of WH's second solar community during Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' tour as part of the CONNECT '15 national conference.

Electric cooperative employees from around the nation visited last week and learned about the Rockford-based electric supplier's leadership in providing solar power to its customers.



Electric cooperative employees from around the U.S. smiled brightly in front of WH's solar communities with WH Vice President of Renewable and Alternative energy (center, right).