Since 1988, Wright-Hennepin (WH) has helped area students further their education with scholarship donations. This year, WH again awarded $27,400 to 19 local students in the cooperative’s service territory. This brings the dollar amount of scholarships awarded to $666,200 in the program’s 29th year.

On May 19, WH awarded the scholarships during a ceremony at its headquarters in Rockford, Minn. The scholarships are funded largely through donations from WH’s diversified businesses – WH Security, WH Response (HeatMyFloors.com and WH Services), WH Generation, WH International Response Center, WH Solar and WH Holding Investments – under the umbrella of WH Holding Company.

Funding the scholarships in this way allows WH to invest in the area’s youth without impacting electric rates.

**WH Local Schools Scholarship**

WH awards one scholarship per school district in its electric service area to outstanding students pursuing higher education. The following recipients received local school scholarships:

- Isaac Millner, Annandale HS
- Sarah Lehtola, Buffalo HS
- Courtney Danielson, Dassel-Cokato HS
- Kennedy Reimer, Delano HS
- Stephen Montgomery, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted HS

**Edward R. Slebiska Memorial Line Worker Scholarship**

Line workers make up an important part of WH’s workforce and require critical skills that can be in short supply. That is why WH offers two scholarships for this trade. The Edward R. Slebiska Scholarship is awarded in the name of the cooperative’s first CEO. During his tenure, Slebiska helped the cooperative bring reliable and affordable electricity to rural Wright County and western Hennepin County. This year’s recipients of the Edward R. Slebiska Memorial Line Worker Scholarship are Scott Jordan, Maple Lake, Minn., and Noah Haaland, Monticello, Minn.

Hazel Knickerbocker, the family created this line worker scholarship. The Knickerbockers played a crucial role in bringing electricity to rural homes and farms in Wright and Hennepin counties. Elwyn served on WH’s Board of Directors, representing District 1 for 53 years. At the time of his retirement, he was the longest serving electric cooperative director in the nation. Hazel was a tireless champion of rural electrification, offering strong leadership during efforts to organize and expand the cooperative. Kyle Krueger, Big Lake, Minn., received the Elwyn and Hazel Knickerbocker Memorial Line Worker Scholarship for 2016.

WH has gone on to hire a number of the Slebiska and Knickerbocker scholarship winners after the recipients have completed line worker training.

**Basin Electric Scholarships**

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin) annually awards a scholarship to its distribution cooperative members. Basin is one of WH's wholesale power suppliers, and is headquartered in Bismarck, N.D. The recipient of this year’s Basin Electric Scholarship is Aidan Jude, Maple Lake, Minn.
Don’t leave money on the table this summer!

With summer utility bills right around the corner, don’t miss your chance to save energy and money now by taking advantage of Wright-Hennepin’s (WH) new rebate and incentive programs.

In last month’s column, I outlined WH’s recent rate changes and referenced our new rebate programs for electric water heaters, air source heat pumps, dual fuel and more. This month, I want to share more details.

WH has just concluded the most comprehensive overhaul of our member rebate and incentive programs in more than a decade. Combined, they provide the greatest opportunity in our history for you, your friends and your neighbors to put cash in your pocket while improving your comfort and quality of life.

Consider:

Water Heaters – You can receive a rebate up to $750 by installing an electric water heater! In addition to this incredible rebate, consider that no venting is required to bring gas to the tank, saving you on installation. You’ll also never have to worry about a gas leak. In short, an electric water heater offers unparalleled safety and reliability along with great savings.

Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP) – If you’re looking for cost-effective heating and cooling, ASHPs are a great way to cool your home and to supplement heat. On top of that, you can receive a rebate of up to $900! Traditionally, WH has incentivized air conditioners, but given the tremendous advances in the quality and efficiency of ASHPs, they are now an immensely attractive option for cooling and heating your home or business (for more information on ASHPs, see article on page 3).

Dual Fuel Program – Members on the Dual Fuel program receive a rate at roughly half the cost ($0.054) of regular electricity. Dual Fuel simply allows the switching of your heating from electricity to a backup source during times of peak energy demand. There’s also a Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) rebate for $5 per KW with a minimum of 4.5 KW, offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) – ETS home heating offers the same rebate and rate structure as the Dual Fuel program. However, an ETS system may be used for primary heat and does not require a backup heating source (see page 3 for more ETS information). The charging time for an ETS system is typically between 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. – when electricity use and wholesale power costs are low. Bear in mind you may also be eligible for CIP rebates beyond those identified here. So if you’re in the market for a new home, or looking to make improvements to your current home, there might never be a better time to buy and to reap the rewards. We have also taken steps to inform contractors of our rebates, so be sure to ask yours if they are aware of what WH offers.

Remember: as a member-owned electric co-op, we’re here to empower you. So most important of all, don’t make a significant energy-efficiency move or purchase until you call WH first!

We will continue to do our part to keep power affordable and reliable. But we’re also committed to providing you with the tools and incentives you need to manage your electric bill to fit your own pocketbook, lifestyle, needs and values. Enjoy your summer!
Introducing new energy-saving programs and rebates

Take note current and prospective homeowners! The building and remodeling season is upon us. Upgrading or constructing a new home can be an expensive process. That’s why Wright-Hennepin (WH) is pleased to announce new rebates for energy-efficient technologies that save you energy and money.

Listed below are two sets of rebates. The WH Energy-Saving Rebates are available now until December 31, 2016. However, the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) Rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis. All rebates are for new installations only. Immediately below is an overview of rebates and programs. Certain rebates require participation in an energy-saving program. Complete details and rebate forms can be found at: http://goo.gl/VDSR8Y. Call (763) 477-3000, or email info@whe.org with questions. Certain restrictions and agreement lengths may apply.

WH Energy-Saving Rebates/Programs

**Ground Source Heat Pump**
$125/ton rebate up to maximum of $750 total
Uncontrolled rate of $0.099/kWh

**Air Source Heat Pump**
$200/ton rebate up to a maximum of $900 total (4.5 ton)
$5 bill credit per month June - September

**Quick Cash Water Heating**
Up to a $750 rebate
$10 bill credit each month

**Quick Cash Air Conditioning**
$40/ton rebate up to a maximum of $200 total
$5 bill credit per month - June - September

**Electric Vehicle - storage program**
Vehicles will charge approximately eight hours between 11 p.m. - 7 a.m.
Energy-saving rate of $0.054/kWh

**Electric Vehicle - time of use rate**
12:00 p.m. (noon) to 10:00 p.m. weekdays -
$0.007150 per kWh - subject to Power Cost Adjustment (PCA)
All other hours and holidays -
$0.05210/kWh - subject to PCA

**Electric Thermal Storage Home Heating**
Energy-saving rate of $0.054/kWh

**Dual Fuel**
Energy-saving rate of $0.054/kWh

**CIP Rebates**
**Geothermal Ground Source Heat Pump**
$200/ton rebate up to 6 tons

**Ductless Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP)**
$200 rebate for qualifying ASHPs with delivered fuels as primary heat source

**Electric Thermal Storage**
$5/KW
Minimum 4.5 KW load connection required
Maximum 50 KW system

**HVAC Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM)**
$50/qualifying ECM
Maximum rebate on 2 ECMs

**Quick Cash Water Heating**
Up to $300 for program participation

**Dual Fuel Program**
$5/KW for program participation
Minimum of 4.5 KW load connection
Maximum 50 KW system

**An in-depth look at some of these money-saving options**

Understanding the features and benefits of energy technologies can be challenging. Here are some of the advantages to technologies with incentives from WH.

**Electric Water Heaters**
Electric water heaters offer unparalleled safety and reliability because you never have to worry about a gas leak. When paired with our water heating program, members receive a bill credit each month for allowing WH to control charging time for heating your water overnight (11 p.m. - 7 a.m.).

**Electric Thermal Storage (ETS)**
An ETS system stores thermal heat accrued overnight (11 p.m. - 7 a.m.) when energy prices are cheaper and utilizes that heat during the day when prices are higher because of demand. There are a couple of different types of ETS systems that you can employ to heat your home. The most common version consists of bricks made up of heating elements that serve as a storage medium. The bricks are housed in a storage heater, and the heat is distributed through thermal radiation or convection. You must find and commission your own contractor for purchasing or installing an ETS system. WH does not sell or install them.
There has been much discussion recently about the siting of utility-scale solar projects in Wright County. Some have raised concerns about taking agricultural land out of production and about the size, scale and location of some proposed sites.

In response, the Wright County Board of Commissioners passed a moratorium on May 10 preventing any applications for solar energy farms for six months.

As a local leader in solar production, Wright-Hennepin (WH) wants to share our objectives and views. WH has two projects impacted by the moratorium. But unlike projects which have sparked public concern, the WH projects are much smaller in scale, have minimal or low impact on farm land, and are supported locally.

One example of a low-impact site is our already-approved Dickinson Solar project in Buffalo, which is housed in close proximity to our substation and does not utilize land otherwise designated for agriculture. It is also approximately one-eighth the size (13 acres) of the largest project currently being installed in Wright County.

As a local, member-owned cooperative, WH is committed to working with local officials, landowners and others to develop solar in a thoughtful, prudent way. As one example, WH is working directly with a committee in Wright County tasked with reviewing and making recommendations for changes and improvements to the solar siting process.

Some have asked why WH has invested in solar at all. There are three main reasons:

1. To further diversify WH’s power supply beyond coal, gas, wind and nuclear.
2. To reduce the impact of future fluctuations in fossil fuel prices.
3. To respond to our member’s expressed desire to include more renewables in our fuel mix.

As always, WH’s overall objective is to provide you with safe, reliable, affordable and increasingly clean energy. Solar is just one part of the answer. But in any case, whether the issue is solar siting, power supply or something else, you can count on WH to put the needs and interests of our members first.

A look at Wright-Hennepin’s solar future

Nearly all of the 8,360 solar panels are mounted at the Dickinson Solar site in Buffalo. The panels will provide approximately 2.25 megawatts of energy to Wright-Hennepin.

Planting a new era of trees through donations

Barb Stoffel’s Kindergarten class was all too happy to receive their tree seedlings as part of the Plant-A-Tree program from WH.

A total of 710 red maple, Norway spruce and Black Hills spruce were donated to the school.

That 1997 storm is remembered by many, and considered one of the 10 worst storms in the history of the state by the National Weather Service. It is estimated that damages reached $100 million from the 15-mile wide destruction path of the storm.

More than 15,000 tree seedlings were donated this year, including red maple, red pine, red oak, white spire birch, Norway spruce, Black Hills spruce and white spruce. Schools receiving the seedlings included Annandale, Maple Lake, Rockford, Monticello, St. Michael, Delano, Buffalo, Cokato and Howard lake. Organizations such as the Buffalo Days Fishing Klinic and local girl and boy scout troops also received tree seedling donations. Some were even planted at Lake Maria State Park as part of the cooperative’s annual spring cleanup day.
Volunteers flock to Lake Maria cleanup

On May 7, about 50 volunteers planted and pruned trees, raked leaves, and gave common areas of Lake Maria State Park some tender love and care to prepare for the inevitable influx of summer visitors.

The day offered beautiful weather for the volunteers who took part in Wright-Hennepin’s (WH) 16th annual spring cleanup day at one of the state’s last havens for big woods.

Local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, and volunteers from surrounding areas – even the Twin Cities – attended the event as well.

WH provided everyone with a free lunch, and those who lent a hand also received a free pass to explore the park on a gorgeous spring day.

WH Directors recognize local Dairy Princesses

The Wright-Hennepin Board of Directors recognized Wright and Hennepin County Dairy Princesses at ceremonies held on Saturday, April 16, in Howard Lake, and Sunday, April 24 in Rogers. The dairy royalty were presented with a necklace congratulating them on their recent selection. The events featured a dinner with the recipients and their families.
As temperatures and humidity increase, so does the potential for severe weather and thunderstorms.

The following are tips to help you and your family:

Storm preparation:

• Prepare your children for encountering an outage or severe weather while home alone. Show them how to use a radio or smartphone to find local warnings, and make sure they're aware of safe places to go for shelter.

• Try to keep cell phones and other important electronic devices charged.

• Know where your circuit breakers are located and how to check if a breaker is tripped.

• Keep a three-day supply of water and non-perishable food items that do not require refrigeration or cooking.

• Check to make sure your sump pump is working properly and that you have a battery backup or generator in place.

• Have an alternate way to get into the house if you rely on an attached garage.

• Know how to manually open and shut your garage door.

Post-storm safety tips:

• Stay away from all downed power lines and treat them as “live.” If you see a downed line call 9-1-1.

• In the case of flooding, remember that submerged outlets and electric cords can energize water.

• Water can damage motors in electrical appliances. Do not use such appliances if they come in contact with water, as they can pose a shock hazard or can overheat and cause a fire.

• Outages in hot weather can be dangerous, especially for children and the elderly. Close drapes and blinds on the sunny side of your house and be sure to drink plenty of fluids. Go to an air-conditioned public location if possible.

How to report an outage:
If your home loses power, first check your breaker box to make sure you did not simply blow a fuse or trip a breaker.

If you determine that you have a power outage, contact WH’s electric dispatch center at (763) 477-3100, or report your outage via smartphone at www.whe.org.

Get outage alerts:
Wright-Hennepin offers free outage notifications to members via text and/or email. To sign up for these alerts, visit: http://goo.gl/MAKSrw. Once signed up, you will receive a message with the estimated time of restoration when there is an outage in your area. Additionally, outage information is available for all members to see on WH’s website at www.whe.org. By clicking on the “Power Outage” tab on the homepage, you can view a map of WH’s electric service territory showing all current outages, including the number of members affected and outage details. You can also follow us on our outage page on Twitter at @Wright_Hennepin or check out our Facebook page for regular updates at www.facebook.com/WrightHennepin.

How to prepare and respond to summer storms

Using interactive services while on vacation

If you’ve ever left home on a trip or vacation and forgotten to lock your door or to set your alarm, you know how quickly panic sets in.

Now, through WH Security’s interactive services, you can arm your alarm, lock your doors and control your thermostat from a mobile phone or tablet. You can also control your lights, and even create and edit lighting schedules.

If an alarm is triggered, it notifies our professional monitoring center, which calls the authorities. You will also receive notification via text message or email. Custom alerts for specific alarms can also be created.

Wondering how your pet is doing while you’re away? Access video equipment around your house and see what’s going on while away from home in real time.

To learn more about interactive services, call a representative at (763) 477-3664, or visit the interactive services webpage at: http://goo.gl/vX4VkE.
Every year, Wright-Hennepin makes it a mission to inform the general public and youth on the importance of electric safety through engaging and informational hotline demonstrations. Held at schools, community events and science club meetings, these safety demonstrations show children ways to avoid the variety of true-to-life circumstances that could lead to electrocution. Kids learn important scenarios to avoid, such as: kites, toys and balls coming into contact with power lines; climbing trees that touch power lines; and what can happen when green transformer boxes found in yards are tampered with or played upon.

As an added bonus, through a partnership with Dairy Queen, free Blizzard or Orange Julius coupons are given to participants as part of its community education program. Every child who attends the presentations also takes home information that lists steps for a home-safety walk-through, including checking to make sure electrical cords are in good condition, and that all outlets are covered properly. A list of topics to help families save energy is also provided to participants.

Hotline demonstrations are a great way to teach important electric safety tips to children. To schedule a demonstration call (763) 477-3000. The presentation is geared toward fourth and fifth-graders, as they have usually studied electricity as part of their science curriculum.

的学习电安全通过热线演示

十年Ksolar Winner
RYAN RODER of Buffalo wins a credit for 177 kWh, March's output from WH's tenKsolar panel array.
MARYLOU ODDEN of Buffalo wins a credit for 216 kWh, April's output from WH's tenKsolar panel array.

Solar Winner
MEGAN KIRCHNER of Buffalo wins a credit for 201 kWh, March's output from WH's solar panels.
PAUL HUGHES of Rogers wins a credit for 232 kWh, April's output from WH's solar panels.

Wind Winner
ANN KARVONEN of Buffalo wins a credit of 985 kWh, March's output from WH's wind generator.
CYRENE BASTIEN of Buffalo wins a credit for 1,248 kWh, April's output from WH's wind generator.

Average monthly energy output over 12 months:
Wind generator: 796 kWh
Solar panels: 211 kWh
tenKsolar system: 189 kWh

To enter the monthly contest to win the output from WH's wind generator or solar panels, go to: http://goo.gl/QjyTM.

Emerald Ash Borer Seminar

Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2016
Time: Two sessions – 4:15-5:00 p.m. and 5:30-6:15 p.m.
Location: 6800 Electric Drive Rockford, MN 55373
Hosted by Wright-Hennepin with a presentation by Jeff Palmer, an ISA certified arborist, and Ken Berres from Bear Tree Care.

We will describe how to identify an ash tree that may have an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation, what symptoms to look for in your ash tree and most importantly what can be done to protect your ash trees from EAB. We will update you on the latest research on protecting trees from EAB and let you know what municipalities and residents are doing to manage this nuisance. We will address the economics of EAB and identify the costs of protecting trees.
Receive a $5 bill credit!

WH is offering a one-time, $5 bill credit if you sign up for the following three items:

- EZ Pay (automatic payments from checking, debit or credit card)
- E billing (bill amount is delivered via email each month)
- Paperless (no paper bill - your bill amount will be delivered via email only)

Call today to sign up! (763) 477-3000 or (800) 943-2667
One $5 bill credit per member

Keep in touch with your cooperative!

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

Office Hours:
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday
(Labor Day - Memorial Day)
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Friday
(Memorial Day - Labor day)

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

Website: www.whe.org
Email: info@whe.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/WrightHennepin
Twitter: @WrightHennepin

REMINDER - Our hours are now
7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Labor Day