



Wright-Hennepin
Cooperative Electric Association

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association's

Hotline Update

August 2013

WH Solar Community nearing completion

What used to be vacant land located at Wright-Hennepin's (WH's) headquarters in Rockford, Minn. has now been transformed into a near-complete solar array. June and July were busy months for construction workers, as major milestones were completed on the WH Solar Community.

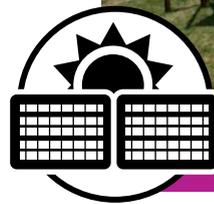
In June, construction workers used marking flags to stake out the WH Solar Community's foundation and a total of 80 steel columns were driven into the ground shortly afterward. In July, construction workers began assembling the array using aluminum support railings and the installation of solar panels began on July 16 and were completed on July 17. Installation of battery storage units and wiring began July 19. It is estimated that the WH Solar Community will be energized mid August.

Videos of the construction process can be viewed on the WrightHennepin YouTube channel by visiting: www.youtube.com/user/WrightHennepin. In addition, a collection of photos can be viewed on the WH Flickr account page by visiting: <http://goo.gl/Ktu7ag>.

Solar Community continued on page 4



Aerial view of the completed solar panels in the WH Solar Community



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WH assists with banding local osprey

On July 10, Wright-Hennepin (WH) linemen assisted Three Rivers Park District with banding baby osprey chicks in the countryside of Annandale, Minn. Osprey are large, fish-eating raptor birds. WH and Three Rivers have banded osprey chicks each year since 2000. What originally began as a project to help the district assess the growth, population and success of the birds' reintroduction to the Twin Cities area, has now turned into an educational component for public awareness. Osprey are thriving in the local area and banding allows the public to learn about the birds and interact with them.

"We're happy to help out by using line-crew workers, bucket trucks and safety equipment to temporarily retrieve osprey chicks from their nests and give them to

the experienced hands of Three River's employees for banding. The birds are then placed back in the nest with their mother again," said WH Linemen Brian Sell.



Three Rivers Wildlife Specialist Steven Hogg and Wildlife Aide Kyle Arola band an osprey chick.

For 29 years, Three Rivers has banded and tracked osprey in the local area after first reintroducing the raptors back into their native territory in 1984. Before the program's initiation, ospreys were not seen locally due to habitat loss and human tyranny.

WH Linemen Brian Sell, Steve Logeais and Mike Kronquist partnered with Three Rivers Wildlife Specialist Steven Hogg and Wildlife Aide Kyle Arola for the Annandale banding project. The osprey chicks and their mother are in a nest sitting 40 feet above the ground. Osprey are typically banded when they are about five weeks old. This age is ideal because the birds are easy to handle and unable to fly. The

osprey receive two bands that help Three Rivers identify siblings and offspring to monitor the age of returning birds.

Birds-eye view of a mother Osprey near her nest in the countryside of Annandale, Minn.



Banding osprey continued on page 6



CEO's Memo

MARK VOGT WH President & CEO

READ MORE!
from CEO Mark Vogt
on his blog:
<http://goo.gl/ulvjh6>

WH's historic community solar project to be dedicated September 9 in Rockford

We are very pleased to announce that unit one of our Community Solar Project will be dedicated on September 9 at 6:30 p.m., during a ceremony at our Rockford campus. The membership is invited to attend.

Plans are still developing, but we have invited state and local dignitaries to help us celebrate, along with electric and renewable energy industry leaders. Most importantly, the 17 pioneering WH members who own the 171 panels in this first array will also be invited and recognized.

After the brief dedication ceremony, attendees will enjoy a complimentary wine and cheese reception under a tent, along with relaxing music. Tours of the community solar array will be given to the public throughout the evening. Booths and other information will also be available. You can also reserve space in unit two of our community solar project, to be built later this year. (Act fast, as about half of the panels in Unit 2 are already reserved by WH members.) We hope you will attend this historic event.

WH's Community Solar project is the first of its kind in the state. It also has the distinction of being the first Community Solar project in the nation that uses batteries to store solar energy so that the power can be used when it is most needed.

Think of the WH Solar Community as being something similar to a condominium and time-share all rolled into one: members buy a small piece of a bigger unit located at a site away from their home.

This configuration provides economies of scale, making it an easy and affordable way for members to own solar energy. Members can purchase one or more panels up to the amount

of their electricity for years to come. It provides a tremendous hedging strategy for members concerned with how new government regulations are increasing the price of traditionally generated power.

This is an important way that your electric cooperative is helping bring renewable energy into the mainstream. We are thrilled to be recognized as an industry leader in this effort, and by the support and enthusiasm shown by WH's members.

Encouraging news regarding the Minnesota Court of Appeals ruling on stray voltage

For the record, we are pleased with the rulings that came out of the Minnesota Court of Appeals Friday, July 19, regarding the stray voltage lawsuit brought against the cooperative by a WH member. (See my blog entry of March 23, 2012 by visiting <http://goo.gl/ukvjh6>) That's because the Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled that the Plaintiffs failed to prove WH caused any lost profits for the dairy operation at the center of this lawsuit.

This ruling eliminates a significant portion of the amount awarded by a Wright County District Court jury sixteen months ago. What's left, if anything, will be sorted out at a new trial for damages that was awarded to WH in the appeals court ruling.

Another reason for filing the appeal was to strike down the claim of "trespass." The Plaintiffs charged that low level electric neutral currents traveling through the ground constituted trespassing onto their property. Of all the stray voltage cases ever tried, this was the first time trespass was sent to a jury. It was a concern to the electric industry because it contradicts how the North American electric grid has been approved and designed to operate for more than a century. Left standing, this would have exposed the cooperative to the potential of "treble (triple) damages." In a significant victory for WH, the appeals court ruled that the Plaintiffs could not be awarded trespassing damages. This appeals court ruling will establish precedent on this important matter.

As to the question of further legal review, we are still much concerned about the qualifications of expert witnesses and causation. The theories advanced by the Plaintiffs were points of strong contention in this stray voltage trial and appeal. We may request a Supreme Court review of these matters and other issues. We have about two more weeks to make that determination.

As gratifying as these appeals court rulings are in vindicating your co-op, we regret this matter went to court in the first place. The member who initiated this legal action ranked among the top ten dairy operators in the state during the years covered by this trial. We like to think that these impressive results could not have been possible without a reliable electric system supporting the dairy operation.

Regardless of how the remaining legal proceedings turn out, WH will continue to be a solid business partner for our valued dairy community — and for all cooperative members. 

Board Report

June Board Meeting Highlights:

The monthly meeting of the board of directors was conducted June 11, 2013. A quorum of directors was present. At the meeting, the board:

- Approved annual dues for National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.
- Approved refinancing for a lower interest rate and term.
- Approved a cushion of credit investment which provides suitable interest earnings plus acceptable liquidity.
- Reviewed and filed the monthly CEO, financial, legal and other operating reports.
- Directors reported on industry meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.
- Held a regular quarterly executive session.

Continued on Page 7

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 Lindenfesler 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 2013. Members with items of interest are encouraged to contact the president and CEO to confirm meeting date and time.

WH & WH Holding LLC'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 YOUNGREN
Vice President, WH International Response Center
763.477.3144, wyoungren@whe.org



Unit one of WH's Community Solar Project. It produces enough energy to power five homes and is the first of its kind in Minn.

needed to serve their annual energy needs. The other benefit is that WH members can buy the panels at a much lower cost than if they were to purchase them independently. Another plus: no maintenance. Owning members will even receive a free mobile phone app so they can monitor the performance of their solar panel in real time.

Once panels have been purchased, a kilowatt-hour (kWh) credit will be applied to the member's electric bill each month. The retail credit is based on the number of panels the member has purchased, as well as the amount of the energy produced by the solar array each month.

By purchasing panels that are part of a solar community, participants effectively guarantee the price of a portion

Mark Vogt

Rockford student attends Youth Tour

Jessica Read, Rockford, Minn., was one of 1,500 students from across the nation selected to attend the annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. June 14-20. This tour was established to help educate youth about political processes and give students the opportunity to interact with U.S. government.

As part of the tour, Read met and traveled with 36 other Minnesotans. She visited historical sites and monuments, while learning about American history and the important role that electric cooperatives play in the nation's rural areas.

"This was my first trip to Washington, D.C. and I wouldn't have had it any other way. It was an amazing experience and I made great friendships. During my travels, I went to five museums and the memorials for World War II, Vietnam War, Korean War, Martin Luther King and Abraham Lincoln. We also visited Arlington Cemetery and watched the change

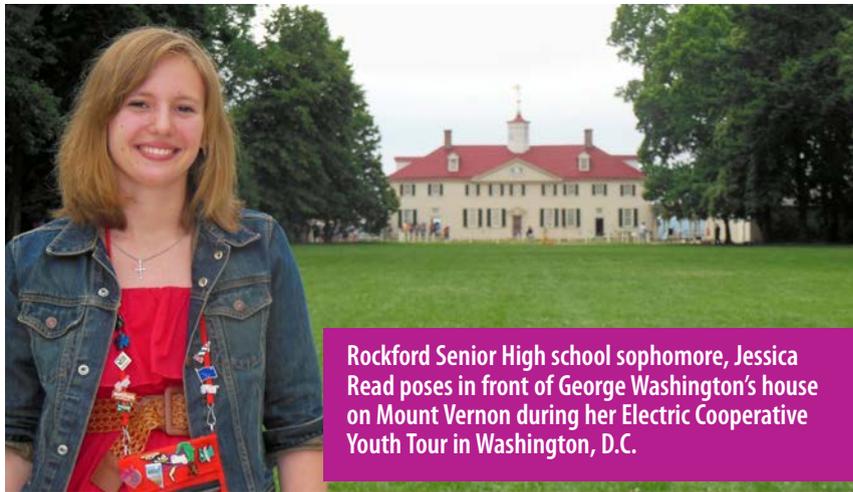
of guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I also had a tour of the capital."

According to Read, her trip was a great experience and she is very grateful for this opportunity.

"Every day was amazing and full of great sites and things to learn. There was symbolism every direction you turned. It was great to see how much work and thought went into building our country's capitol. Each day I

learned something new and amazing. I would encourage other students to apply for this wonderful experience. During this trip students will gain so much, including great friendships, memories and history that cannot be found anywhere else," said Read.

High school juniors interested in applying for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour can fill out an application and learn more at: <http://goo.gl/ouEED3>. 



Rockford Senior High school sophomore, Jessica Read poses in front of George Washington's house on Mount Vernon during her Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

WH launches updated version of energy use portal

Wright-Hennepin (WH) is excited to announce the launch of the new and improved MyMeter version 4.0. MyMeter is a free web-based service that allows you to track and chart the electric use of your home, farm and/or business, compare your energy use data to other homes in your area and set goals to reduce your energy use. The new MyMeter has an updated appearance, as well as enhanced features.

MyMeter first became available to WH members in 2008. Now, five years later, the next generation of MyMeter is tailored to the user's preferences. The biggest improvement is that you can switch between all your energy use charts, data and tools from a single page.

Additional new features include improved communication options and improved energy markers. Users can design a consumption level goal to stay below and then receive e-mail or text message alerts that notify them when their consumption exceeds the goal. With the energy marker feature, users can track how special events or guests affect their energy consumption.

Lastly, MyMeter 4.0 is now scaled to fit smart phones and tablets. There is no need to download a separate app. The user can simply log on with any browser and will have all their energy data at their fingertips.

To view the new MyMeter 4.0, visit <http://mymeter.whe.org>. If you have questions, contact a representative at (763) 477-3000. 



The new MyMeter 4.0 allows users to have all their energy data at their fingertips.

Energy-Saving Tip:

Use LED bulbs. You can save energy and money by converting to energy-efficient, low-wattage LED lighting and bulbs.



Industry News

National Electricity Prices Highest on Record for May

The price of electricity in the United States for May was 13.1 cents per kilowatt hour (KWH), which is the highest it has been on record for that month, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), which tracks the price going all the way back to 1984.

Thirteen cents per KWH is the highest price for the month of May in 29 years, according to the BLS numbers.

These price data came at a time when President Barack Obama announced a "new national climate action plan" to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to combat alleged man-made global warming and spend more federal money on "clean energy" projects.

The coal industry, which produces about 45% of the electricity in America is expected to be the hardest hit by the federal regulations, raising its costs and the cost of electricity for consumers. Sen. Joe Manchin said that Obama's plan is "a war on America" because the regulatory burden and costs will severely damage the U.S. coal industry.

The Consumer Price Index-Average Price Data at the BLS show that the U.S. city average price of electricity per KWH was 13.1 cents in May 2013, which is the latest month's price data available.

The BLS numbers show that the price per KWH in May 2012 was 12.9 cents; for May 2011, 12.9 cents; May 2010, 12.7 cents; and May 2009, 12.6 cents.

Source: CNSNews.com

FAQ: Minnesota's New Solar Energy Law

What is Minnesota's new solar energy law?

The law passed by the Minnesota Legislature and signed by Gov. Mark Dayton requires the four investor-owned utilities in Minnesota — Xcel Energy, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power and Interstate Power & Light — to generate at least 1.5 percent of their electricity from solar power by the end of 2020.

The law provides money for incentives for homeowners and businesses that want to install solar panels on their property. It also creates an opportunity for community solar gardens, which allow consumers to buy or lease a small piece of a larger solar array. The law says the utilities must generate at least 10 percent of the newly required solar power from smaller solar arrays — 20 kilowatts or less.

How do the utilities plan to reach the standard? It's not clear yet. The law is new, so the utilities have not yet come up with their plans. But they will reach the standard through a combination of community solar projects, panels on homes and businesses, and utility-scale solar installations.

Source: Minnesota Public Radio

WH Solar Community nearing completion

Solar Community continued from cover

The WH Solar Community is the first community solar project in the nation to incorporate solar energy with battery storage, which allows WH to store the power produced by the solar array during the day, using it in the evening when energy demand is higher. In addition, the WH Solar Community is an affordable way for members to own solar energy for their home or small business.

Members can purchase one or more panels up to the amount needed to serve their annual energy needs and will then receive a kilowatt-hour (kWh) credit on their energy bill each month. The credit is based on the number of panels the member has purchased, as well as the amount of the energy produced by the solar array each month.

"The WH Solar Community is a great way for WH members to own local generation and participate in the excitement of solar in bite size pieces," said WH CEO Mark Vogt. "Our community solar model makes it easy for members to own solar without installing equipment on their property or worrying about maintaining their system."

WH members Matt and Amber Christian of Maple Grove purchased several solar panels from the WH Solar Community to power their townhouse. The couple is enthusiastic about the future of solar.

"My wife Amber and I have enjoyed watching the WH Solar Community construction progress. A lot of people are confounded by the idea of installing solar on their home, and this makes it very simple. We decided to purchase solar because we were looking for long-term solutions to renewable power generation. Our townhome association prohibits installing solar panels on the roof so a solar community makes more sense. We are excited about this project because we know this strategy is forward-looking and will only grow in popularity over time," said Matt Christian.

The current 171 panel project is sold out. WH is taking reservations for panels in a second solar community, which will likely be built this fall. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please visit www.whsolarcommunity.com or call a representative at (800) 646-0323.

In addition, WH members are invited to celebrate the Solar Community Grand Opening on September 9 at 6:30 p.m. The occasion will be held at WH's headquarters located at 6800 Electric Drive, off of Hwy. 55 in Rockford, Minn. After a brief dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony, attendees will enjoy a complimentary wine and cheese reception under a tent, along with live music. Tours of the WH Solar Community will be given to the public throughout the evening. In addition, booths and other information about the next solar community will be available. We look forward to seeing you there! 



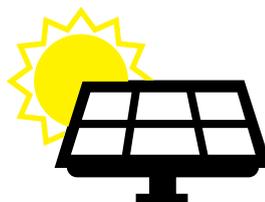
View of several rows of aluminum support railings.



Construction workers drilling steel columns into the ground for the WH Solar Community array.



Front row of solar panels as they were being constructed on the WH Solar Community.



Matt and Amber Christian of Maple Grove visited the WH Solar Community on July 19. The couple purchased several solar panels to power their townhouse in Maple Grove.



WH linemen assembling a battery cabinet.



View of a battery cabinet filled with Silent Power storage units.

WH Services removes members' downed trees after severe storms

Multiple rounds of severe storms hit Wright-Hennepin's (WH) service territory Friday, June 21 and Saturday, June 22. While WH worked hard to restore power to more than 11,700 members, WH Services' tree-service program dedicated their time to repair extensive tree and lawn damages caused by the storms. One WH member, Teresa Grady of Plymouth, Minn. experienced the storm damages first hand.

"I had several downed trees on my lot after the storm. It was a great experience working with WH Services' tree-service program to remove the tree damage on my property. The crew arrived on time, just as they said they would," said Grady.

Another WH member, Travis Rako of Maple Grove, Minn. used WH Services in February. Although his property did not have damage related to storms, he had several trees he wanted to remove.

"I had several large oak and maple trees that I wanted to remove from my property and WH Services not only helped remove the trees, but offered their opinion. I appreciated their knowledge in knowing which trees I should keep to help with shading and the overall layout of my property. WH Services are phenomenal, they are timely, provide accurate estimates, do the work and clean up after. I couldn't ask for better service," said Rako.



A round of storms that passed through in June was responsible for straight-line winds and downed trees.

WH Services can handle many types of work, from lot clearing, tree removal, tree trimming or even treating for the emerald ash borer. Ninety-day, no-interest financing is also available on all tree services to qualified members. Call WH Services to learn more at (763) 477-3000, or visit us online at www.whe.org. 



Preparing children for the school year

As summer draws to a close, children will soon begin preparing for the school year. This is a great time to teach, practice and encourage safety habits as students travel to and from school. The following are some tips:

General Safety:

- Be sure that your child knows his/her phone number, address and a parent's cell phone number.
- Be sure that your child knows how to call 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Bus Safety:

- If your child rides on a school bus, make sure they wait for the bus to make a complete stop before approaching it from the curb.
- Remind your child to always cross in front of the bus so the driver can see them.
- Remind your child to look both ways to make sure there is no moving traffic from either direction.
- Remind your child that while they are inside the bus, it is not safe to stand until the school bus has completely stopped.
- Remind your child that if the bus window is open, keep arms and head inside the bus at all times.



It is important to teach, practice and encourage safety habits with children before the school year begins.

Walking Safety:

- Teach your child not to accept rides or walk with strangers unless you have given them permission.
- Have a discussion with your child about what to do if they are approached by a stranger.
- If possible, have your child walk with a friend or in a group.
- If you believe your child is ready to walk alone, plan and practice a safe walking route with your child until her or she knows it well.

After-School Safety:

- If your child will be home alone after school, post an emergency phone list where they can see it. Include 9-1-1 and parents' phone numbers.
- When talking to your child about being at home alone, remind them to lock doors and keep windows closed. Similarly, never open the door to strangers.
- Identify neighbors' homes where your child can go to in the event of an emergency and practice emergency plans.
- Make sure the first aid kit is stocked and stored where your child can find it.
- Make sure smoke alarms are operating properly.
- Remove or safely store dangerous items like guns, power tools and scissors.



For added peace of mind, WH Security offers custom home security alarm systems to protect your home and children 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In addition, WH Security offers interactive add-ons where you can control your door locks, thermostat, and lights from anywhere you have an Internet connection. Through the use of this system, a user can receive information that indicates when children get home from school by means of when the system is unarmed, doors opened, etc. To find out more, or to schedule your free in-home consultation, call a WH Security representative at (763) 477-3664 or visit www.wh-security.com. 

WH is now offering energy assessments for members!

Feel your home is using too much energy? Call about our energy assessments today.

How they work:

- An Energy Use Consultant will come to your home to look over various areas and will invite you to walk around with him or her, as they complete the evaluations.
- After the assessment, the Energy Use Consultant will recommend action items for your home.
- You can then implement the changes and improvements you would like to make!

Only \$34.99!



Call today and start saving energy!
(763) 467-3000 or (800) 943-2667
www.whe.org

New videos provide energy-saving suggestions

By practicing simple steps to use energy wisely, you can reduce consumption and save money. To help you in these efforts, Wright-Hennepin (WH) has added a library of energy-saving videos to its website. These videos will guide you with ways to easily cut your energy use at home. Learn how to save money doing ordinary things like laundry, replacing light bulbs, cleaning vents and many other activities.

The website library contains the following helpful videos:

- Improving lighting efficiency
- Caulking to reduce air leaks
- Saving energy in the laundry room
- Stopping air infiltration from the outside
- Checking your refrigerator seals
- Dishwasher tips
- Cleaning your refrigerator coils
- Landscaping for efficiency
- Using a ceiling fan
- Stopping phantom loads in the office
- Lowering the blinds raise savings
- Using a Kill-A-Watt meter
- Air sealing your duct work
- Using a programmable thermostat

Wright Hennepin's has added a library of energy-saving videos to its website

Energy-saving videos

Looking for ways to save energy around your home?

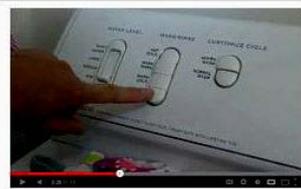
Our library of energy-saving videos can provide excellent tips to get you started!



[Improving lighting efficiency](#)



[Caulking to reduce air leaks](#)



[Save energy in the laundry room](#)



[Stopping air infiltration from the outside](#)

Take a view at these videos to discover a few simple things you can do to save energy and save money by visiting: <http://goo.gl/xwXGE>. For further energy-saving information, visit www.Togetherwesave.com.

Linemen help assist with osprey banding continued from cover

As of 2013, there are over 90 occupied Osprey territories in the metro area, and more than half of the nesting birds wear the Three River bands.

"It is always great banding birds with Wright Hennepin. They have been so accommodating with Three Rivers and we have built a very good relationship over the years. We are no longer banding every nest in Wright County any more because the osprey have met their management objectives. This year alone we had 88 pair of ospreys lay eggs in the eight county metro area," said Hogg.

In addition to helping with osprey banding, WH donates poles and platforms to provide osprey suitable nesting areas. Osprey choose tall structures for nesting, often due to the good view of fishable water they provide. Because of their height, Osprey commonly build nests on electric poles with live power transmission. This presents a danger to osprey and humans because nesting material can contact the lines, causing fires and power outages.

To prevent these problems from occurring, WH linemen assist in placing alternative nesting platforms adjacent to, and taller

than, the existing poles where the osprey nest. The alternative nesting platforms are more attractive and safer for the birds.

"It feels great knowing we are giving osprey a safe place to nest and raise their young away from harm," added Sell.

The future for Three Rivers Park District management will include: monitoring nests to determine productivity, providing alternate nest sites for birds when needed, banding chicks and continuing research. WH looks forward to continually assisting Three Rivers Park District.

Wright-Hennepin offers convenient payment options

Wright-Hennepin (WH) provides various payment options, making your monthly electricity bill payment as simple as possible. The following choices are available to you when paying your bill:

EZ Pay (automatic bank draft): With the EZ Pay automatic bank draft option, paying your bills is even easier. Your payments will be made automatically from your bank account or credit card each month. There's no need to worry about late fees and you can pick from a range of due dates.

Online payments: For quick payment of your bill, we offer the convenience of online payments. You can pay your bill using a Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit card, as well as debit card and e-check. All payments are processed via a secure website. In addition, you will receive an email notifying you when your bill is ready. This option is also known as "E-Billing." With E-Billing, members choose to no longer receive a paper bill in the mail. For more information on online payments and E-Billing, call a representative at (763) 477-3000 or visit: <http://goo.gl/TrgZcl>.

Pay As You Go: Pre-pay for your electricity before you use it with WH's Pay As You Go option. Rather than receiving a bill at the end of the month, Pay As You Go gives you the option of making smaller, more frequent payments instead of one large payment each month.

Other options: Additionally, members can choose more traditional options such as paying by phone, in person or by mail/drop box. To pay by phone and talk with a representative during business hours, call (763) 477-3000. To pay with an automated system any time of the day or night, call (763) 477-3131. For mail/drop box locations around WH's service territory, visit <http://goo.gl/cmTp5>. To pay in person, stop by WH's headquarters at 6800 Electric Drive in Rockford (along Highway 55 behind the Rockford Mall).

For more details on payment options, energy assistance and understanding your bill visit <http://goo.gl/eCRVWf>.

WH provides various payment options.



Special Offer: Receive a **free** motion sensor with a new 3-year monitoring agreement. Certain restrictions apply. Offer expires 9/13/13

Control the comfort and security of your home from anywhere you have an Internet connection.

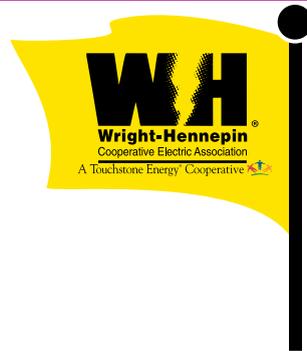
WH Security The Power to Protect
A wholly owned subsidiary of Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association

(763) 477-3664
www.wh-security.com

Come see Wright-Hennepin at upcoming events!

Upcoming events:

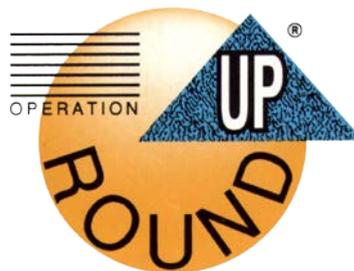
- Cokato Corn Carnival Parade (Cokato, Minn.) - August 13
- Montrose Days Parade (Montrose, Minn.) - August 17
- WH's subsidiary business, Heatmyfloors.com, will have a booth in the grandstand at the Minnesota State Fair from August 22 - September 2
- WH Solar Community Grand Opening (Rockford, Minn.) - September 9



Wright-Hennepin members donate more than \$21,000 to help local organizations

Wright-Hennepin's (WH) Operation Round Up (ORU) participants donated grants totaling \$21,720 in June 2013. ORU participants allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar. The rounded amount is then used for donations to fund community programs. ORU's trust board of directors manages the generated money, which is held in a trust fund. Through a selection process and review of guidelines, the board evaluates funding requests on a bi-monthly basis. The ORU trust board approved the following donations on behalf of WH members for June 2013:

- \$750, Boy Scout Troop #590, Otsego, funds to purchase camping equipment
- \$2,000, Buffalo Hospital Foundation, funds to support a cancer center's educational resources
- \$1,000, Christian Benevolence Program, funds to support emergency needs in the community
- \$1,050, Fishing Clinics for Kids, funds to support fishing programs
- \$5,000, MN Teen Challenge, funds for the "Know the Truth" program to be used in local schools
- \$2,415, RiverWorks Community Development, funds to purchase a refrigerator and shelving for the local food shelf
- \$6,000, Sharadise Therapeutics Foundation, funds for three scholarships



Since the ORU program began in 1994, WH members have donated more than \$2.8 million to programs in need. Participants allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar, donating six dollars on average each year. For those interested in applying for funds, the next application deadline is October 1, 2013. To receive an application, visit WH's website at www.whe.org, send an email to oru@whe.org, or call Lisa Zipp and leave a message at (763) 477-3000 extension 6126. 

Board Report

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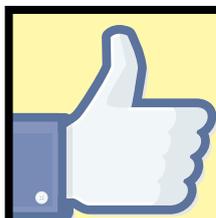
July Board Meeting Highlights:

The monthly meeting of the board of directors was conducted July 9, 2013. A quorum of directors was present. At the meeting, the board:

- Heard information about how WH experienced outages during two storms on June 21, 2013 affecting about one-fourth of the membership. Ninety percent of members were restored in less than 15 hours. The Board congratulated employees for their efforts in restoring power.
- Was informed that WH Security received a 90 on its American Customer Service Index score, an industry-leading score.
- Reviewed and filed the monthly CEO, financial, legal and other operating reports.
- Directors reported on industry meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.
- Selected a director to represent the cooperative at a Wright County function.

Guests included:

- Scott Woodward the CEO of WH's primary software provider briefed the board on emerging trends pertaining to information technology and discussed the topic of "big data."
- Randy James from Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange reviewed WH's current insurance coverage. Board members approved the renewal.



LIKE us on Facebook by September 29 and we will donate \$1 to your charity of choice!

- Click "Like" on the WH Facebook page by visiting <http://www.facebook.com/WrightHennepin>
- Then follow the link posted on our Facebook "wall" to vote for the charity your dollar will go to.

Reminder:

WH will be closed Monday, September 2 in observance of Labor Day

***Electric & security dispatchers are still on duty around the clock.**

Sign up for FREE outage notifications:

Stay up-to-date with outage information and estimated restoration times. To sign up, visit <http://goo.gl/csdRH>



tenKsolar Winner

PAULA LINDALA of Annandale wins a credit for 203 kWh, June's output from WH's tenKsolar panel array.
ROBERT LINDHOLM of Otsego wins a credit for 276 kWh, July's output from WH's tenKsolar panel array.



Solar Winner

GEORGE LAMBRECHT of Buffalo wins a credit for 222 kWh, June's output from WH's solar panels.
RICHARD WITKE of Rockford wins a credit for 297 kWh, July's output from WH's solar panels.



Wind Winner

DALE HAASE of Maple Lake wins a credit for 550 kWh, June's output from WH's wind generator.
MICHAEL VETSCH of Cokato wins a credit for 496 kWh, July's output from WH's wind generator.

Average monthly energy output over 12 months:

Wind generator: 664 kWh/month
Solar panels: 214 kWh/month
tenKsolar system: 185 kWh/month

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

Save energy while using personal computers

Personal computers, also known as PCs, are commonly used in most households; however, they can consume significant amounts of energy when not in use. Luckily, there are ways to save energy while using your computer:

First, you can save energy by having your monitor, printer and other accessories on a power strip or surge protector. When this equipment is not in use for extended periods, turn off the switch on the power strip to prevent the devices from drawing any power when they are shut off.

Although there is a small amount of energy used when a computer starts up, the small amount is still less energy than the amount used when a computer is running for long periods of time. The effects of switching a computer on and off multiple times will not negatively impact its service life.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, it is best to turn off a PC's monitor if you are not going to use it for more than 20 minutes. Turn off the entire computer unit if you are not going to use it for more than two hours.

In addition, it is important to know that screen savers do not save energy. Using a screen saver may actually use more



Personal computers can consume significant amounts of energy; however, there are many ways to make your computer more energy efficient.

energy than not using one because once your screen saver activates your monitor will use full power. Alternatively, a PC user should configure their computers to "sleep mode". Sleep mode shuts down power to the monitor, hard drive and computer itself after periods of inactivity. This allows the PC to use substantially less power, without powering off the computer.

Lastly, you can save energy by modifying the brightness of your computer monitor. This process will help save the amount of energy output it takes to keep your computer screen brightly lit. Consult your computer's manual for guidance on how to adjust the brightness on your PC. For more ways to save energy around your home, visit WH's Energy Saving Ideas blog by visiting <http://goo.gl/08WnQQ> or visit TogetherWeSave.com.

Ensuring electrical safety on farms

While farm safety should be an ongoing practice, it is an important time to raise awareness of electric safety precautions as harvest season approaches. Farmers deal with many hazards including slow moving vehicles, moving parts on equipment and electrical hazards. Here is an electrical safety checklist for farmers, as well as for those visiting farms:

- Be aware of overhead power lines when moving tall equipment around the farm.
- Stay at least 30 feet away from all power lines and poles.
- Before beginning the harvest season, check the connections on all electrical panels and disconnects.
- Keep all electrical connections out of reach of animals so they cannot come in contact with them or chew them.
- Check electrical cords attached to water tanks for fraying or cracking. Replace them if there is damage.
- Only use extension cords for a short period of time to feed farm related equipment. If a feed is going to be used regularly, run protected wiring.
- Extension cords should be equipped with ground connections and plugged into three-pronged, grounded outlets.



Being aware of farm safety practices is important during harvest season.

For more information on keeping safe around electricity, visit our page: <http://goo.gl/29Ztt> or the Electrical Safety Foundation International page: www.esfi.org.

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- ✓ Range
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*With 1-year agreement

Hotline Update Staff

KRISTINA MORITZ kmoritz@whe.org
Communications Specialist

ANDREA UNGER aunger@whe.org
Marketing Coordinator

JERRY KRANZ jkranz@whe.org
Production Manager

Office Hours:

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

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



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