WH attends community events

WH participated in several events this summer, demonstrating the core value of Commitment to Community. WH trucks appeared in the Fourth of July parades in Delano and Annandale, as well as the Maple Grove Days parade.

Children enjoyed stopping by our booth at the Wright County Fair for a hard hat, and WH was the proud sponsor of the demolition derby, motocross and supercross riders, and the truck and tractor pull. More fun events are planned for this fall, including our second annual Electric Vehicle (EV) Ride and Drive event, Member Luncheon, and Fall Festival. Visit whe.org for more details!
Region’s electric grid faces possible risks this summer

You may have seen headlines (like the one above) about the increased risk of rolling blackouts. So, what to make of them?

UNFORTUNATELY, WHILE BLACKOUTS ARE UNLIKELY, THEY ARE POSSIBLE. HERE’S WHY:
The reliability warnings stem from two key grid authorities: the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). NERC is responsible for overseeing electric reliability nationally and MISO is our regional authority, directing electricity from dozens of utilities in 15 states, impacting 42 million people.

NERC’s alert was sounded this spring. According to NERC, “MISO faces a capacity shortfall in its North and Central areas, resulting in high risk of energy emergencies during peak summer conditions.” MISO put its warning this way: It “projected” requiring “increased, non-firm imports and potentially emergency resources to meet the 2022 summer peak demand.”

In other words, projected energy demand this summer is likely to outstrip firm energy supply. How big is the shortfall? MISO anticipates it will have 124 gigawatts (GW) of need but just 119 GW of “projected regularly available generation.” While this firm energy supply represents 96% of the expected need, it also means MISO will likely rely on other resources, including intermittent generation like renewables, energy imports from other regions, utility demand management programs and reserves to meet its obligations. This means a heightened – though still likely low – risk of blackouts.

Now, these statements can be difficult to unpack. For example, what is meant by “firm generating resources”? Well, consider “firm” generation as that which can be “dispatched” or turned off and on at will. Firm generation includes baseload fossil fuel plants, nuclear energy facilities, and gas peaking units.

Doesn’t MISO have thousands of gigawatts of renewables too? Yes. But the challenge is wind and solar are intermittent, which means they can’t be turned off and on at will. The wind needs to blow and the sun needs to shine for them to be available. So, in worst-case scenarios, MISO assumes they are unavailable.

That said, MISO has other tools in its toolbox. They can call on utilities, including Wright-Hennepin (WH), to reduce energy usage through Demand Management programs. They also maintain an 8% “reserve margin,” which isn’t counted in the main pool.

So, why are rolling blackouts still possible? In short, because “firm” resources don’t always act that way. A power plant (or several) may be taken offline at any time to address a maintenance or operational issue. In addition, our region’s largest renewable resource – wind – is not always available in volume on hot, humid summer days. Demand for energy can also spike higher due to hot weather, or high economic activity. Again, grid planners work off projections. But energy markets match generation to load in real-time. After all, our energy needs never take a break; we need reliable power 24/7/365.

Still, the likelihood of all these negative events happening together (lost generation, higher demand, plants going offline, wind not blowing) is low. But it is NERC and MISO’s job to plan for emergencies and worst-case scenarios. At WH, we’re pleased they do.

THE UPSHOT? CONSIDER THREE THOUGHTS:

1. The grid needs sufficient, firm generation. The day has not arrived when we can rely solely on renewable resources to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy. And while WH has strongly embraced renewables, it’s important to remember that reliability requires the ability to dispatch resources on demand.

2. WH’s Demand Management programs, including Energy-Saving Programs, provide significant value to WH members and the electric grid. Our members not only save money through our demand management (Energy Saving Programs) for home heating, air conditioning, water heating, and more. We also manage a fleet of generators for Commercial and Industrial members. All in, we can drop 25 megawatts, or 15% of our load, during critical times, ensuring we do our part for grid reliability.

3. Be prepared, stay informed. If demand threatens to exceed supply this summer, WH will notify the membership via email, post on social sites, and share information on whe.org. We’ll recommend taking simple steps like turning up your thermostat, pulling down your blinds, delaying use of your washer and dryer, and preparing food with a grill instead of an oven. It’s also good to prepare for a sustained outage. Have some backup water, non-perishable food, and a radio on hand.

Whatever transpires, look to WH for timely information and updates. Together, we can ride through the difficulties. In the meantime, count on us to continue to put your interests first, including your need for 24/7 reliability.

As always, thank you for your business.
Youth Tour returns to Washington D.C.

Students from around the country returned to Washington D.C. this summer for the Youth Tour, an all-expenses-paid trip for high school juniors and seniors sponsored by their local co-ops. This included Bethany Yu, a junior at Wayzata High School, sponsored by WH.

Yu said she applied for the Youth Tour “because it sounded like a really cool and unique opportunity and I’ve been interested in politics and social justice for a while and D.C. is the heart of this.”

Yu was one of 36 Minnesotan students on this year’s trip, joining 1,900 students from across the country for a six-day journey to sightsee and meet with federal legislators representing Minnesota to learn about issues that affect cooperatives across the country.

“My biggest takeaway from speaking with the legislators is that not every political issue is as black and white as people think it is. There is a lot of gray area and a lot of people working to find good solutions for the issues we face in Minnesota and across the U.S.,” said Yu.

This year’s packed itinerary included monument walking tours, a ghost tour, a picnic in Lafayette Square, photo at the White House, and a Washington Nationals baseball game, on top of a day spent at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Rally and a day on Capitol Hill. Yu said she’s kept in touch with some of the students she met on the trip, and plans to meet up with one of them at a concert this summer.

“I could not think of a better way to experience Washington D.C.,” Yu said. “I’ve made priceless memories and met amazing people. I took a lot of time for reflection on this trip and I am incredibly thankful for it. I have learned so much and met amazing people. This trip has created future opportunities and opened doors for me.”

Applications for next year’s Youth Tour open in mid-October. The student’s parent or guardian must be a WH member to be eligible.
Lost your card? No problem. For a free replacement or to sign up your business, call (763) 477-3000. For more deals, visit www.connections.coop, or use the Co-op Connections app on your mobile device to find all your local deals and more!

Co-op Connections deal of the month
APEX CHIROPRACTIC – NEW HOPE
$45 off your first appointment with a Consultation, Exam & X-rays. $60 for one-hour massage.

Summer energy efficiency tips

**AVOID THE OVEN**
Get out the grill, or do a quick internet search for no bake recipe ideas. If you do use the oven, avoid opening the door as much as possible; your oven can lose up to 25 degrees of internal temperature when opened, meaning you’ll have to keep it on longer to cook your dinner all the way through.

**CHECK YOUR AC AND AIR FILTER**
Make sure your air filter is clean. Filters allow air to flow through them while keeping dirt, pet hair, and other grime out of your HVAC system. Add your air conditioner to your WH Appliance Repair program so if it breaks, there is help to cover repair costs. Add an annual preventative maintenance air conditioner tune up to your package to make sure it’s running at maximum efficiency!

**CLOSE THE BLINDS**
Consider closing the shades, especially on south-facing windows, during the hottest part of the day from noon to about 4 p.m. Radiant heat won’t warm up your interior, so your air conditioner won’t have to work as hard to cool the space, saving you money!

**ADJUST THE THERMOSTAT**
The best way to minimize utility costs while still staying cool is keeping your house warm during the day when nobody is home and then setting the thermostat as high as comfortably possible when you are.

**JOIN OUR ENERGY SAVING PROGRAMS**
WH offers several Energy-Saving Programs for members, including for home cooling and electric vehicles. Learn more about our Energy-Saving Programs at whe.org or give our Member Services Representatives a call at (763) 477-3000.
Unclaimed capital credits

Do you know anyone who was a WH member years ago and has since moved? They may have unclaimed capital credits. If a capital credit check is sent and returned due to an undeliverable address, it becomes an unclaimed capital credit and will be carried by WH for up to seven years. After seven years, WH is required to either turn the money over to the state of the last known address, or donate it to a charitable organization. WH’s current policy as set by the board of directors states that all Minnesota unclaimed capital credits will be donated to WH’s scholarship program.

Remember, even if you’re no longer a member, keep your address up-to-date so you can receive your capital credits when retired. Find the list of unclaimed capital credits on the WH website at https://bit.ly/WH-unclaimed-CC to see if you know anyone on it.

If so, they may submit the unclaimed capital credit/property request form.

Outage notifications

Stay informed with outage notifications from WH. Choose how to be notified of an outage:

1. GET A TEXT
2. GET AN EMAIL
3. GET BOTH

Call our Member Service Representatives to sign up for notifications at (763) 477-3000 or visit our website at https://bit.ly/WH-outage-notifications

Update your contact info with WH

Keeping your contact information current with WH allows us to notify you of outages in your area, ensures quick delivery of capital credit refund checks, and keeps you up-to-date on other important member communications! Your phone number also allows you to report an outage, since the system matches your address to your phone number. Call our Member Service Representatives at (763) 477-3000 to make changes, or log into your online bill-pay account to make sure your contact details are current.
Keeping your home safe
with environmental sensors

Making your home a safe environment involves more than just preventing burglaries. Consider installing additional sensors such as carbon monoxide (CO) and sump pump sensors to help protect your home from other dangers.

Unlike smoke from a fire, CO can’t be seen or smelled. It’s an odorless, invisible gas produced from the combustion of fossil fuels, which is how heat is produced in furnaces and ovens that are fueled by LP or natural gas. The CO produced from these types of sources, if not properly ventilated, can cause harm to people and animals.

Installing CO detectors in your home and having them professionally monitored can keep you, your family, and your pets safe, even when you aren’t home. If a leak occurs, a monitored CO detector will activate the alarm panel and send a signal to the monitoring center. The monitoring center will notify you and emergency personnel of the issue. If you have pets, having this device monitored is very important for their safety.

Another way to keep your home safe is with a float-style water sensor for your sump tank. When water gets too high, it triggers the alarm panel and notifies the monitoring center and you. Water sensors are always on whether your alarm system is armed or not, helping you avoid the cost and hassle of a flood.

Environmental sensors can prevent harm and help avoid expensive damage. Sensors from WH Security are professionally installed and monitored 24/7 from Rockford, MN.

To learn more, give us a call at 763.477.3664 or request a free quote at wh-security.com

Quick fix.
Fast service.
Fair price.

WH Appliance Repair plan helps you with unexpected repair bills. The plan includes your choice of 5 appliances.*

Popular options include:
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- Clothes Dryer
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- Range
- Water Heater

*Additional appliance coverage is also available. No deductible or trip charge. Certain restrictions apply.

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Trimmed Trees are Safe Trees

Safely have your trees trimmed by our expert tree care specialists. Schedule your service today!

Services include:
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- Tree and stump removal
- Lot clearing for construction
- Emerald ash borer treatment
- Aerial bucket truck work
- Tree fertilization
- Storm damage clearing

(763) 477-3000  •  whe.org/services-products.html

(763) 477-3000  •  whe.org
Solar Winners

**tenKsolar Winner**

**HEATHER CUNZ** of Maple Grove wins a credit for 147 kWh, June’s output from WH’s tenKsolar panel array.

**THEODORE CHRISTENSON** of Plymouth wins a credit for 166 kWh, July’s output from WH’s tenKsolar panel array.

**Solar Winner**

**RUTH ANN HELGET** of Annandale wins a credit for 231 kWh, June’s output from WH’s solar panels.

**BRYON GUSTAFSON** of Buffalo wins a credit for 258 kWh, July’s output from WH’s solar panels.


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**Board Report: Meeting highlights**

**MAY BOARD MEETING**
The Wright-Hennepin (WH) and Wright-Hennepin Holding Company (WH Holding) monthly Board of Director meetings were conducted May 19, 2022. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Critiqued the 2022 annual meeting.
- Approved holding the 2023 Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2023 with a back-up date of Thursday, May 4, 2023.
- Authorized pre-purchase of materials for 2023-2025 and pre-approval of any materials requiring a six month or greater lead time.
- Approved winner of the annual Slepiska Line Worker Scholarship.
- Approved the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s membership dues.
- Approved moving the ZEF Energy Investment from WH to WH Holding.
- Approved January – June 2023 board meeting dates.
- Approved an increase in the Power Cost Adjustment to recover higher power supply costs.
- Heard report on WH Security’s product line.
- Reviewed and filed CEO, financial, and other reports.
- Directors shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative.

**JULY BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**
The Wright-Hennepin (WH) and WH Holding monthly Board of Director meetings were conducted July 11, 2022. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Approved annual renewal of Excess Deposit Insurance Bond.
- Approved annual renewal of line of credit.
- Approved annual renewal of seven irrevocable letters of credit.
- Approved updated policies.
- Approved holding annual Bylaws Committee Meeting on Tuesday, September 6, 2022.
- Board was informed that WH received an 88 on its recent American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) survey.
- Heard report on the WH’s top 25 commercial accounts.
- Reviewed and filed the monthly CEO, COO and financial reports.
- Directors reported on industry meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.

**JUNE BOARD MEETING**
The Wright-Hennepin (WH) and WH Holding monthly Board of Director meetings were conducted June 13, 2022. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Approved annual renewal of insurance with Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange.
- Reviewed and filed CEO, financial, and other reports.
- Directors shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative.

- Approved rescheduling the August board meeting from Tuesday, August 16, 2022 to Friday, August 19, 2022.
- Approved donating $500 to the Cokato Fire Department on behalf of Forsman Farms.
- Approved updated policies.
- Selected a director to attend the Wright County 4H Auction.
- Heard report on WH’s obligations on Renewable Energy Credits.
- Directors reported on industry meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.
- Reviewed and filed the monthly CEO, COO and financial reports.

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Keep in touch with your cooperative!

**Member call center:**
(763) 477-3000 or (800) 943-2667
Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

**To report an outage:**
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:** whe.org

**Email:** info@whe.org

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**Board of Directors:**
District 1: Timothy Young, Annandale
District 2: “Butch” Lindenberg, Monticello
District 3: Pat Bakeberg, Waverly
District 4: John Reynolds, Buffalo
District 5: Chris Lantto, Annandale
District 6: Mike Tiava, Maple Grove
District 7: Kenneth Hiebel, Plymouth
District 8: Mark Skinner, Maple Grove
District 9: Erick Heinz, Corcoran

**WH President and CEO:** Tim Sullivan
**WH CFO:** Brian Swanson
**WH Holding COO:** Wendy Youngren

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
You’re invited!

WH is hosting several events at our Rockford headquarters. We hope to see you there. Learn more at whe.org.

**EV Ride and Drive**

Mark your calendars and join WH at our Rockford headquarters for the second-annual EV Ride and Drive Event! There will be free EV test drives, an EV car show, electric bicycle test drives, a food truck, and more!

**Thursday, September 22, 2022**
**4 – 7 p.m.**

**Co-Op Month Luncheon**

Co-Op Month is in October. Join WH for our Member Luncheon. Brats, hot dogs, potato salad, chips, drinks, and cookies will be served. Enter for a chance to win a $100 bill credit.

**Tuesday, October 11, 2022**
**11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Fall Festival**

Don’t miss the Fall Festival! The fall festival will include pumpkin decorating, a bounce house, children’s entertainment, and more.

**Thursday, October 27, 2022**
**5 – 7 p.m.**