



Investing in tomorrow's leaders: WH awards \$38,500 in scholarships

From future lineworkers and skilled trades professionals to tomorrow's engineers, healthcare workers, teachers and business leaders, Wright-Hennepin is proud to invest in the students who will help strengthen our communities for years to come.

This spring, Wright-Hennepin (WH) awarded \$38,500 in scholarships to 23 local students, celebrating their achievements at a scholarship banquet on June 2.

Supporting education has long been part of WH's commitment to the communities we serve. Since launching its scholarship program in 1988, WH has awarded more than \$766,000 to help local students pursue their educational and career goals.

WH's scholarship opportunities support students with a variety of interests and career paths, including:

Local School Scholarships One scholarship is awarded through each of the 19 high schools in WH's electric service area, with recipients selected by their schools. An additional at-large scholarship is available for students who live within WH's service territory but attend a different school.

Edward R. Slebiska Memorial Line Worker Scholarship

Named in honor of WH's first CEO, this scholarship supports students pursuing a career as an electric line worker. Since 2003, WH has awarded \$132,000 through this program.

Future Trades Leaders Scholarship This scholarship helps students preparing for careers in the skilled trades, including electrical work, HVAC, heavy equipment operation, and other in-demand technical fields.

WH Security Scholarship Established in 2025, this scholarship supports students pursuing education in technology systems and related fields. WH Security has awarded \$6,000 through the program to date.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship One scholarship is provided annually by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, one of WH's wholesale power suppliers.



Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients! We wish each of them continued success as they pursue their education and future careers.

To learn more about WH's scholarship opportunities and eligibility requirements, **visit whe.org/scholarships**.



CEO's Memo

TIM SULLIVAN
WH PRESIDENT AND CEO

A Look at Wright-Hennepin's approach to large loads

A question we not uncommonly hear from members is: What approach is Wright-Hennepin (WH) taking to large loads like data centers? Support? Oppose? Another view?

Given the robust local, state and national debate, it's a fair, timely and important topic. So, let's take a look at what's at stake, what WH's role is and how we are approaching the issue.

THE LANDSCAPE

Simply put, as the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) accelerates, so does the need for supporting data centers. Consulting firm McKinsey & Company estimates that global data centers will require up to \$7 trillion in investment by 2030 simply to keep pace with increased consumer and business demand. In turn, data centers are expected to triple the demand they place on the U.S. electric grid over the next five years, driving it from roughly 30 gigawatts (GW) to 90 GW.

The consequences of this epic buildout are immense. On the one hand, hyperscalers like Google, Amazon, Meta and Alphabet maintain the buildout is critical to American economic growth, productivity, competitiveness and even national security. Meanwhile, local communities facing data center buildouts have taken a wide range of positions, from warmly embracing them to passing moratoriums on new builds. Many city and county governments have witnessed packed council chambers and meeting rooms as local citizens weigh and debate the merits of proposed projects.



THE WRIGHT-HENNEPIN ROLE

So, if a project were to be formally proposed within our service territory, what would WH's role be? The short answer: WH isn't vested with the legal authority to approve or disapprove a proposed project. Rather, cities, counties and local units of government possess that authority. More specifically, local governments would determine whether a project is compatible with community goals and needs and would therefore make the related zoning, water use, noise abatement and other decisions.

In contrast, WH's duty under state law is the obligation to serve. Once a project – any project – is greenlit by local authorities, WH must serve it. This “universal service” obligation is common to all electric utilities across Minnesota.

STEPS WH HAS ALREADY TAKEN

That said, WH has not stood idly by as the data center debate has heated up around us. Consider three steps we've already taken:

New Policy: In January, the WH Board of Directors passed a “Large Load Aid-to-Construction” policy. Among other things, it requires any new large load (greater than 25 MW) to pay for WH time, investments, agreements and commitments “in advance.” This will allow WH to collect dollars up front for everything from substations to feeders to meters, so as to reduce risk for our membership.

Large Load Service Rate: In June, the WH Board passed a new service rate that allows us to collect “all distribution, transmission, and power supply costs incurred by the Cooperative” to serve any large load, effectively protecting and holding the membership harmless.

Caps on power supply obligations: In addition, within the past year, both of WH's cooperative power suppliers — Great River Energy (GRE) and Basin Electric — have approved caps, or hard limits, on the commitments made to any new large load from their own generation portfolios. For Basin Electric, the new ceiling is 25 MW for data centers. For GRE, after January 1, 2027, the cap will be 50 MW from existing resources. This is especially notable when you consider the typical data center consumes 10 to 50 times that much power.

NEXT STEPS

While these are noteworthy actions, WH recognizes there is still work to be done. We are already working on revised capital credit policies that reflect the unique status of data centers. We are considering alternate payment requirements, including more frequent billing, the creation of a special operations and maintenance fund, the establishment of a replacement asset fund and updated deposit arrangements. We anticipate considering all these new policies within the next year.

So, in short, what is WH's approach to data centers? It's to position ourselves to support the decisions made by our local communities, whatever they may be. Our goal is to reduce risk for our members, to ensure new growth pays for new growth and to require any new or future costs to be paid for by the one generating those costs.

These are all ways your member-owned, community-based cooperative is working to support members and local communities. This is the Cooperative Difference at work, evidenced even in how your co-op approaches new large loads.

As always, thank you for your business.

Choose the right cooling solution

Compare your home’s cooling options to improve comfort, manage energy use and make the most of your investment.

			
BENEFIT BREAKDOWN	AIR CONDITIONER	AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP/ GEO THERMAL	MINI-SPLIT HEAT PUMP
HOW IT WORKS	Absorbs heat inside and expels it from your home, returning the cooled air into the home.	Works like an air conditioner in the summer, but creates the reverse process to warm your home in the winter (by using the homes existing duct work).	Works like an air conditioner in the summer, but creates the reverse process to warm your home in the winter (zones of the home, no duct work needed).
VERSATILITY	Only used during the warm months when home cooling is needed.	Offers heating and cooling through every season.	Offers heating and cooling through every season; can be installed in any room or space.
EFFICIENCY	Efficiency differs, but some wall-mounted units only provide spot cooling and air can leak through seals.	Highly efficient technology, with no fear of air leaks.	Highly efficient technology with no fear of air leaks.

Celebrate Co-op Month with your cooperative

Join us at our October member appreciation events and celebrate the people who make WH strong — you, our members!

October 13



Member Lunch

Come enjoy a free member appreciation lunch* at WH’s Rockford headquarters in honor of National Co-op Month. Meals will be served from **11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Meals will include a hamburger, chips, potato salad, and a cookie.



October 15

Fall Festival

This open house-style event will run **5-7 p.m.** at WH’s Rockford headquarters! Come decorate a pumpkin*, enjoy the inflatable slide, balloon animals**, a magician, and more!

Check out a line truck up close and get a plastic ‘hard hat’ for the kids!



* While supplies last. **Balloon animals for children 2 and up while supplies last.

Co-op Connections deal of the month

YOUR BUSINESS COULD BE FEATURED HERE

Visit whe.org/co-op-connections to get started. It's free!

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!



Fall farm safety

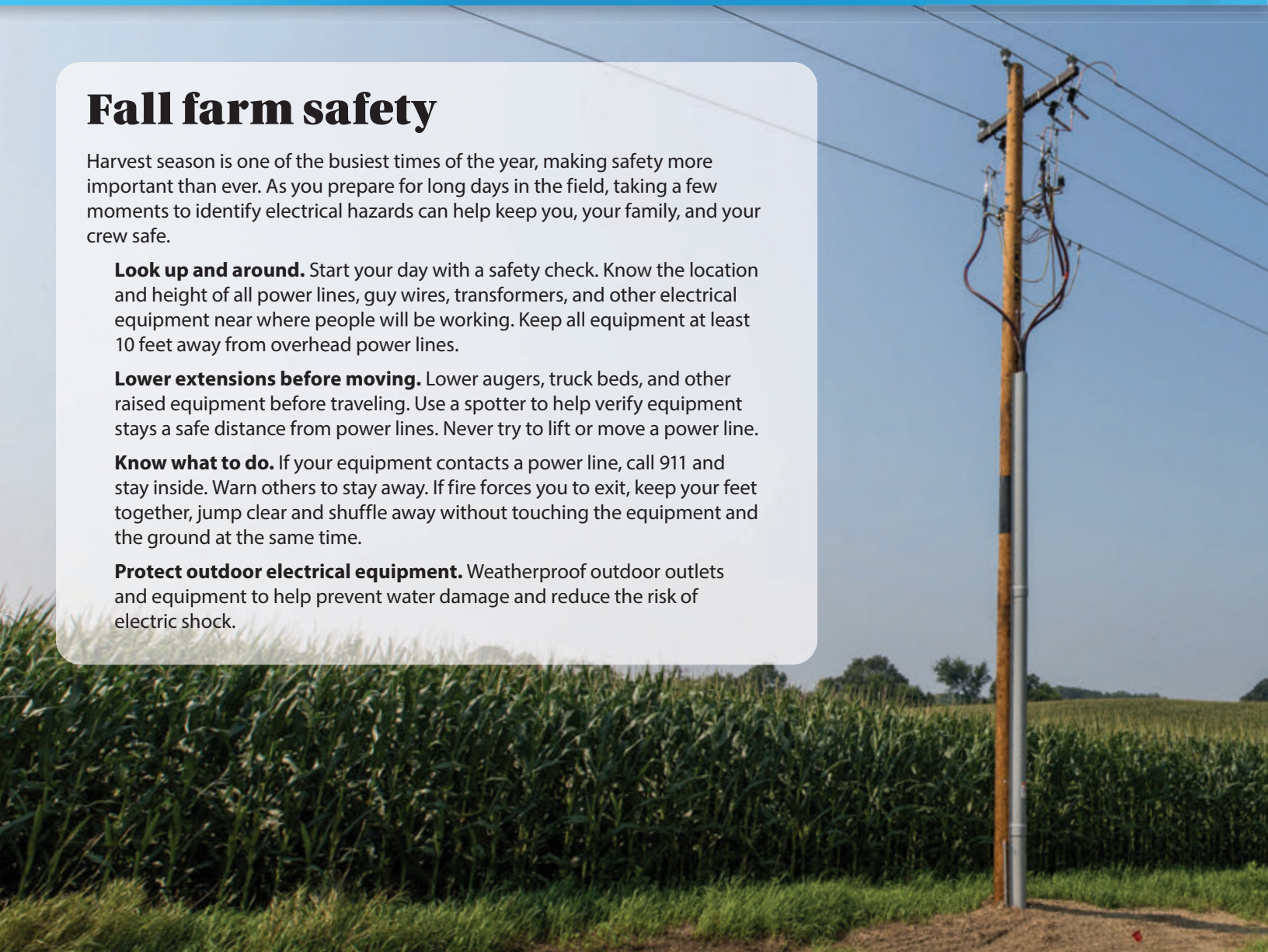
Harvest season is one of the busiest times of the year, making safety more important than ever. As you prepare for long days in the field, taking a few moments to identify electrical hazards can help keep you, your family, and your crew safe.

Look up and around. Start your day with a safety check. Know the location and height of all power lines, guy wires, transformers, and other electrical equipment near where people will be working. Keep all equipment at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.

Lower extensions before moving. Lower augers, truck beds, and other raised equipment before traveling. Use a spotter to help verify equipment stays a safe distance from power lines. Never try to lift or move a power line.

Know what to do. If your equipment contacts a power line, call 911 and stay inside. Warn others to stay away. If fire forces you to exit, keep your feet together, jump clear and shuffle away without touching the equipment and the ground at the same time.

Protect outdoor electrical equipment. Weatherproof outdoor outlets and equipment to help prevent water damage and reduce the risk of electric shock.



Call 811 before you dig

It's the perfect time to wrap up summer yard work — but before you put a shovel in the ground or plant a new tree, make sure you know what's above and below you.

- **What is 811?** 811 is a free national service that helps you locate underground utility lines, including electric, gas, water, sewer, and telecommunications lines, before you dig. When you call 811 or visit their website, local utility companies will come to your property and mark the approximate location of their buried lines.
- Always call at least three business days before you plan to dig.

Visit Call811.com for more information.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

A trip to remember: My Youth Tour experience in Washington, D.C.

By Miles Lantto, WH's 2026 Youth Tour delegate, Annandale

This past June, I had the honor of representing Wright-Hennepin Electric on the NRECA Youth Tour. I got to spend a week in Washington D.C. with people my age who have the same interests as I do. This has been one of the most memorable weeks of my life.

I got to see so many interesting and famous places. We toured places like the Lincoln Memorial, the U.S. Capitol, the Washington Monument, Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and all the rest of the National Mall and more. If it was in Washington D.C., we got to see it.

I learned so much, too. On the day we visited the Capitol, we got to go inside and even had the opportunity to watch the Senate and House of Representatives in session. We also met with our Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar, and got to ask them anything that was on our mind. That entire day was such a moving experience, and really opened my eyes to how the government really works.

The Youth Tour was also just fun. I was kind of skeptical about being on my own and with a new group of people, but by the end I didn't want to leave. The week flew by. I made so many friends on this trip, and met so many other delegates from all over the country.

I would recommend this experience to all juniors in high school. If you have an interest in government, and/or electric cooperatives, and history, take the chance and apply. You are going to have an unforgettable experiences.



What is Youth Tour?

The Washington, D.C. Youth Tour is held each June, organized by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). For more than 50 years, the Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington, D.C., to experience firsthand how the national government works and how decisions made at a federal level affect their co-op locally. More than 1,800 students from across the country have the opportunity to visit to their U.S. representatives and senators' offices and learn about the importance of civic engagement. In addition, Youth Tour delegates' experience encompasses sightseeing and leadership experiences.





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- ✓ Furnace
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PACKAGES START AT
\$20⁷⁵
/month

* Additional appliance coverage also available. Certain restrictions apply.

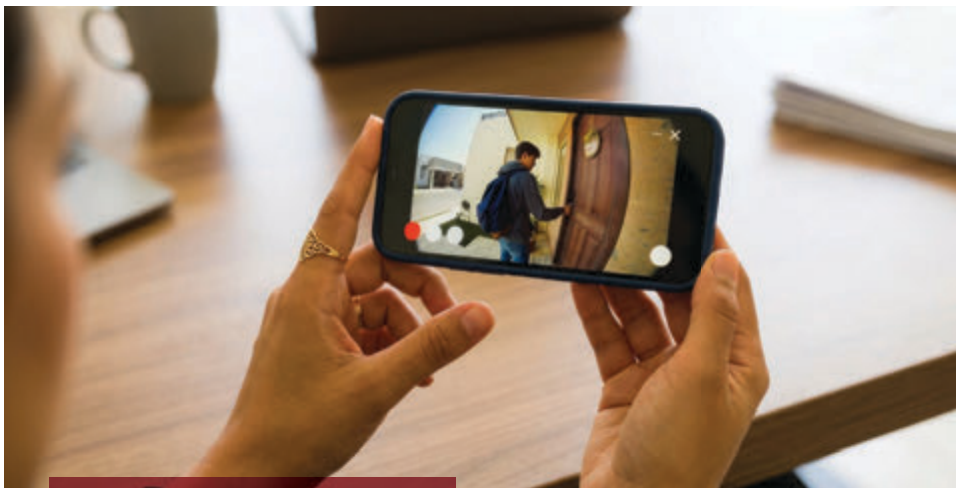
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- Storm damage clearing
- Aerial bucket truck work
- Emerald ash borer treatment



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Solar Winners

JUNE SOLAR WINNERS

LINDA FLYNN of Buffalo wins a credit for 273 kWh, May's output from one of WH's solar panel arrays.

GLEN KROFT of Maple Grove wins a credit for 117 kWh, May's output from WH's second solar panel array.

JULY SOLAR WINNERS

CARLA WEST of Maple Grove wins a credit for 251 kWh, June's output from one of WH's solar panel arrays.

STACY ANGERHOFER of Annandale wins a credit for 99 kWh, June's output from WH's second solar panel array.

Learn more at whe.org/solar-contest

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 18, 2026. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Approved line of credit with Huntington Bank.
- Reviewed the 2026 Annual Meeting and approved holding the 2027 Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 22, 2027 with a back-up date of Thursday, April 29, 2027.
- Approved pork chop vendor for the 2027 Annual Meeting.
- Approved winners of the WH Security, Slebiska Lineworker, Future Trades Scholarships.
- Approved WH Holding Secretary of Incumbency Certificate.
- Approved the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's membership dues.
- Approved January – June 2027 board meeting dates.
- Approved Multi-Factor Authentication for Board iPads.
- Nominated Chair Heinz to serve on the Great River Energy Board.
- Selected a director to represent WH during the fall Washington, D.C. legislative visit.
- Heard the reports on 1st quarter Balanced Scorecard results, safety, as well as WH's safety protocols when supporting other cooperatives through mutual aid.
- Directors shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative.
- Reviewed and filed CEO, financial, and other reports.
- Member Attendance: None.

JUNE BOARD MEETING

The Wright-Hennepin (WH) and WH Holding monthly Board of Director meetings were conducted June 18, 2026. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Approved the Policy, Planning and Professional Services (PPP) Committee guidelines.

- Chair Heinz appointed Director Dehmer to serve on the PPP Committee.
- Approved holding the annual PPP Committee Meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 2026.
- Approved annual renewal of insurance with Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange.
- Approved a Large Load Commercial and Industrial Service Rate.
- Approved a Board email and ipad policy.
- Approved holding the 2027 Scholarship Banquet on Tuesday, June 8, 2027.
- Approved the proposed City of Rogers' five-year Franchise Fee Tax increase to be collected from Rogers members and remitted to the City.
- Selected a director to attend the Wright County 4-H Auction and bid up to \$2,500.
- Heard the following reports:
 - » WH received a 90 on its recent American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) survey.
 - » Update on WH Holding businesses activities with The Monitoring Association and Minnesota Electronic Security and Technology Associations.
 - » Update on Artificial Intelligence use in WH Holding businesses.
 - » Monthly Legal Counsel update.
- Directors reported on industry meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.
- Reviewed and filed CEO, financial, and other reports.
- Member Attendance: None.

JULY BOARD MEETING

The Wright-Hennepin (WH) and WH Holding monthly Board of Director meetings were conducted July 14, 2026. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Board congratulated Director Dehmer on receiving his National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate
- Approved rescheduling the February Board Meeting to Thursday, February 11, 2027.
- Staff provided a quarterly AI update.

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

Social: @WrightHennepin



Board of Directors:

District 1: Timothy Young, Annandale

District 2: LeRoy Lindenfelser, Monticello

District 3: Pat Bakeberg, Waverly

District 4: Richard Dehmer, Buffalo

District 5: Chris Lantto, Annandale

District 6: Mike Tieva, Maple Grove

District 7: Audrey Britton, Plymouth

District 8: Mark Skinner, Maple Grove

District 9: Erick Heinz, Corcoran

WH President and CEO: Tim Sullivan

WH CFO: Susan Sorensen

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

- Legal Counsel gave his monthly update.
- Directors reported on industry meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.
- Reviewed and filed CEO, financial, and other reports.
- Following the meeting, the Board partook in a tour of the Wealshire of Medina.
- Member attendance: one member.

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Hotline Update

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	WHAR Choice Plan	WHAR Choice Plus Plan
Appliances included	Up to 5	Up to 8
Monthly price	\$20.75	\$36.75
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Additional appliance coverage (add-on)	\$6.25/each/month	\$6.25/each/month
Preventative maintenance coverage (add-on)	\$10/month/unit	\$10/month/unit



Give us a call at 763-477-3000 or find more details at whe.org/wh-appliance-repair



Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association (WH) earns this award based on data modeled by the ACSI® in 2026. Award criteria are determined by the ACSI based on customers rating their satisfaction with WH in a survey independent of the syndicated ACSI Energy Utility Study. For more about the ACSI, visit www.theacsi.org/badges. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.

Join an Energy-Saving Program!

EV Time-of-Use (TOU) Program

New! PHEVs are now eligible to join the TOU program. Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) are now eligible to join the TOU program. Charge your EV or PHEV smarter and cheaper by enrolling in Wright-Hennepin's EV TOU program. Your energy rate varies based on the time of day you charge your EV. Charging is available anytime, but you'll save the most by charging overnight during off-peak hours. Rebates are available for the purchase/installation of a new level 2 charging station (up to \$500).

Learn more at: whe.org/electric-vehicle-charging-program

Electric Water Heater Savings Program

New! Join with your new or existing water heater

If you already have an electric water heater or are planning to install one (50 gallon or more), you could save up to \$60 per year with this easy Energy-Saving Program that offers monthly bill credits and a one-time \$200 rebate. There's no cost to join.

Learn more at:
whe.org/peak-shave-water-heating-program



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