



# Minnesota Valley Co-op News



Montevideo, MN

Volume 75 No. 10

October 2013

## Newsletter change announced

Minnesota Valley's monthly newsletter to members will take on a new look beginning in November.

The publication will be presented in a new format and distributed to members via a new method.

Each month, you will receive the newsletter in the same envelope as your energy bill.

The newsletter will be shortened to four pages.

It will contain articles from department heads as in the past and continue to report pertinent information on cooperative activities, finances, safety and industry news. The same - but different! It will continue to be available for viewing on our website at [www.mnvalleyrec.com](http://www.mnvalleyrec.com).

Including the newsletter with your monthly energy bill will make it more cost effective while remaining available to all members on a monthly basis. Members who opt to receive an emailed billing statement will see an additional link directing them to view the newsletter on our website. We welcome your comments and feedback and will answer any questions you have on all information printed in the newsletter. As always, if you want to speak to someone from your cooperative, you can reach us by calling 320-269-2163 or 800-247-5051 or by email at [mnvalley@mnvalleyrec.com](mailto:mnvalley@mnvalleyrec.com).

## Watch for the newsletter included with your November energy bill.

### Protect Your Home from Carbon Monoxide

Installing a battery-operated or battery back-up CO detector will alert you to any potential leaks. One tip to make sure your batteries stay fresh is to change them out when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall.

When the power is out, never use a gas range or oven for heating. It is also important to never use a generator inside your home, basement, or garage, or near a window, door, or vent. "One thing that people sometimes can forget when starting up their emergency generator during a power outage is the fact that the generator itself can create a carbon monoxide issue, and needs to be properly ventilated."

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is deadly. It is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States.

High utility bills  
Rooftop heat exchangers  
Stuffy air  
Sooty attic crawls  
You flex

### Know Your Ducts

In houses with forced-air heating and cooling systems, ducts are used to distribute conditioned air throughout the house. But in typical houses, about 20% of the air that moves through the duct system is lost due to leaks, holes, and poorly connected ducts. The result is higher utility bills and difficulty keeping the house comfortable, no matter how the thermostat is set.

The list on the right shows some signs that your home may have leaky, poorly insulated, or inefficient ducts:

- High utility bills
- Rooftop heat exchangers
- Stuffy air
- Sooty attic crawls
- You flex

### Comparative Report

Kwh Purchased	Kwh Sold
Cost Of Purchased Power	
Patronage Capital Margins	
Reserve For Taxes	
Cost Per Kwh Purchased	
Total Plant	\$6
# Of Members Receiving Service	
Average Residential Bill	
Average Residential Kwh Consumption	
Average Kwh Usage All Consumers	
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	

### MANAGER'S MESSAGE • PAT CARRUTH

General Manager

#### Obama Energy Policy has Utilities Concerned

The President has a goal of doubling renewable electricity generation by 2020, which will raise electric prices and slow U.S. economic growth. The Department of Energy's data shows that new electric generating capacity using wind and solar power tends to be considerably more expensive than conventional coal and natural gas resources.

Furthermore, renewable energy production relies on taxpayer subsidies in order to keep prices artificially low. According to reports in 2010, roughly 76 percent of the \$19.1 billion in federal tax incentives went to renewable energy recipients. These subsidies hide the real cost of renewable energy by simply passing it on to the taxpayer at a time when families struggle from already high utility costs.

### Some High Points in our KRTA

Each year a report called the Key Ratio Trend Analysis (KRTA) is put forth by one of our bankers, the Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC). The report produces several ratios that we can use to track our performance against our peers in the state and across the country. We just got the 2012 numbers and think we have several good things going for us at Minnesota Valley.

There are 43 cooperatives in Minnesota and of those only two have lower retail rates. One of the big contributors to our low rates is that we continue to have the lowest wholesale power rate in the state. This is due to our federal hydropower allocation and our fleet of well-run power plants at Basin Electric. Being one of the lowest cost electric providers in the state is notable in particular because we have the lowest member density in the state of 1.6 consumers per mile of line. This means we have to build and take care of more line to serve a single member than anyone else in the state. Only two have a lower average interest rate. Only five have retired a higher percentage of capital credits than Minnesota Valley.

### Protect Your Home from Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide is often referred to as the "silent killer" due to its odorless, colorless nature and its ability to cause sudden illness and even death. Thankfully, there are several preventative measures you can take to protect your family from this household hazard.

Carbon monoxide, or CO, builds up in enclosed spaces, poisoning both people and animals that come in contact with the gas. In addition to being produced by vehicles, CO is created by small gasoline engines, stoves, burning charcoal and wood, lanterns, gas ranges, and heating systems.

One of the most important things you can do to prevent CO building up in your home is to make sure a qualified technician inspects and services your heating system, water heater, and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances every year.

"The great thing about electric heating equipment and electrical equipment in general is that you don't have any open flames that could contribute to a carbon monoxide issue," explains Minnesota Valley Co-op Member Services Manager Bob Walsh.

"Make sure all gas appliances are properly vented to avoid any CO leaks. It is also important not to burn anything in a stove or fireplace that isn't vented. If you do use a fireplace in your home, have the chimney checked and cleaned annually to prevent possible blockage by debris."

(Continued on page 2)

### Heating Vents

Check all heating vents and clear or remove any obstacles that might have fallen into the vent. Vacuum the vents to remove any build up of dust since this can circulate back into the room once the heat is on and can aggravate allergies. Seriously consider sealing your ductwork as indicated in the Know Your Ducts article on page #2.

### Furnace Inspection Form

It's time to think about getting your heating system ready for winter! Please complete and return the form below to get on the schedule for your furnace inspection. Minnesota Valley will notify you in advance about the date and time of your scheduled appointment. Be sure to include a daytime phone number.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location #: \_\_\_\_\_ Main Heat Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS • JOHN WILLIAMSON

Manager of Engineering & Operations

#### Line Department

Summer: where did it go? Summer took a while to get here and now "POOP" it's gone. Crews have been working basically pretty much all over our system doing service upgrades and been busy on the CapX relocations. We still have to install a number of underground services yet this fall with some needing to wait until crops are removed from the fields.

Many services now days for grain air handlers systems are getting large enough that a phase converter is required if grid three phase is not a viable option. When this happens, we need to know this so a calculation can be made to verify that the additional starting currents will not cause blinks on the power lines. Please call our office if you are installing one of these units. 2116

Our pole treating crew has wrapped up for the season on testing poles with a rejection rate of around three percent. Tree cutting crews continue to cut trees to maintain required clearances from the power lines and are now in the southwest corner of the system in Canby-Minnesota area.

### School is back in session - please drive safely!

With this harvest season by always keeping in mind over-reliance on lines and poles. Equipment is much larger now and in the fall you may have seasonal helpers that are familiar with the larger size combined with the long hours.

### WILLIE'S SCOREBOARD

Congratulations to William King of Canby, 231-03, who identified his number and received \$10.00. Unfortunately, the other member did not identify their number.

There are two hidden account numbers in this newsletter. If you find your number, you will receive a \$10 energy credit, or \$20 if you are an Operation Roundup participant. Call the office to claim your credit.

## Manager's Message

Pat Carruth  
General Manager



### Make safety first this harvest season

**L**ong hours, powerful equipment and the rush to get the crop out of the field can all add to the risk of an accident. Most electrical contact accidents can be prevented with a few simple safety steps. First, make sure that you and your farm workers know the location of overhead power lines and plan out ways to avoid them when moving equipment. Make sure, don't assume, everyone understands that any contact with these lines creates a path to the ground for electricity and carries the potential for a serious, even fatal, accident. Everyone should know the height of all your farm equipment and how high power lines are to prevent accidental contact. A good rule of thumb is to stay at least 10 feet away from power lines. Be extra careful when moving grain augers. Many electrical accidents on farms occur when augers are accidentally raised into power lines or implements are folded or unfolding into power lines. These rules also apply to guy wires, which support power line poles. Damaging guy wires can weaken the poles and even cause them to topple, bringing live power lines down onto the ground and creating an extremely hazardous situation. If your farm machinery or any other vehicle hits a power pole or comes in contact with electrical wires follow these rules to stay alive:

**Do not get out of the vehicle unless it is on fire.** The safest place is to stay in the vehicle and call for help or wave to someone passing by. Motion to them to call for help but also motion them not to approach the vehicle if they are moving toward you. There have been several occasions when equipment operators have called on a cell phone from inside the cab when their equipment has become entangled in power lines. They should stay put until our linemen arrive to safely handle the situation.

**Always assume a power line is hot!** Do not let others get close to the farm equipment or vehicle until our linemen have arrived and cleared the equipment. Do not attempt to move a downed line with anything. If your vehicle is on fire, jump out and away from the vehicle so that no part of your body touches the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Continue jumping away from the vehicle for quite some distance. Be sure to visually check for any wires on the ground or in your path before jumping.

Please share these safety rules with everyone in your family and those that work on your farm. Make regular safety discussions an ongoing part of your harvest season. Have a safe and prosperous harvest!

### October is National Cooperative Month

Cooperatives are member-owned businesses and are part of the self-help tradition of America. Cooperatives are businesses organized by people to provide needed goods and services.

Cooperative businesses:

- ▼ are owned by the people who use their services;
- ▼ provide an economic benefit for their members;
- ▼ are democratic organizations, controlled by their members;
- ▼ are autonomous and independent;
- ▼ recognize the importance of education about cooperative business and organizational practices;
- ▼ support cooperation among cooperatives, which has resulted in the growing importance of cooperatives in today's global economy;
- ▼ exhibit concern for their communities.

Electric cooperatives across the country play an important role in their rural communities by providing reliable electricity and so much more. Minnesota has 44 electric distribution co-ops that serve 730,000 customer meters, or about 1.6 million people of Minnesota's 5.1 million residents. Electric cooperatives cover 85 percent of the geographic area in Minnesota. Cooperatives also operate the largest distribution network in the state by far, with more than 121,000 miles of electric distribution lines.

### Method of delivery for Minnesota Valley Co-op News changes in November

Monthly newsletters from now on will be included in and mailed along with your light bill. The format will be a bit different but we will continue to try and keep you informed with what we think is important to you. As with the fifth cooperative principle bulleted earlier in this article, we recognize the importance of education about your cooperative business and its organizational practices. For those of you who have opted for an electronic statement by email you will be prompted to the newsletter on

our website when you get electronic notice of your light bill. Remember that the Minnesota Valley Co-op News is always available on our website at [www.mnvalleyrec.com](http://www.mnvalleyrec.com). As always, if you have questions, comments or concerns please call the office at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.

### Best wishes, Kathy!

Long-time employee, Kathy Christenson, will be retiring this month after over 38 years of dedicated service to Minnesota Valley. For the past 18 years, Kathy has held the position of Communications Manager. She will be missed and we all wish her the best!

#### *A note from Kathy:*

*This will be my last Minnesota Valley Co-op News publication. On November 8th, I will be entering the world of retirement.*

*It has been an honor and a pleasure to spend some time with you each month through this newsletter. It has been one of my favorite parts of my job. Whether I got to know you through a story, met you at an Annual Meeting or connected in some other way, I have enjoyed being an employee of your co-op for over 38 years. It's been a wonderful way to spend my employment years. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve you.*



#### **Minnesota Valley Co-op News**

##### **Published monthly by:**

Minnesota Valley Cooperative  
Light and Power Association  
501 South 1st Street  
P.O. Box 248  
Montevideo, MN 56265

##### **Office Hours**

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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## Administration's climate plan tactics revealed

Activists campaigning for the Obama administration's climate regulation plans have been told not to discuss economic and affordable energy issues but to stress references to industrial polluters, asthma attacks, and children's health.

An "administration briefing document" obtained last month by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association matches, verbatim, language in an email cited in a July U.S. Senate hearing by Sen. David Vitter (R-LA), who said administration officials were coaching volunteer campaigners to steer discussion away from high-profile energy and economic concerns.

In parallel columns labeled "Do's and Don'ts," the briefing document warns volunteers not to "lead with straight economic arguments," urging them instead to emphasize "health impacts including asthma attacks and extreme weather events" and to characterize "carbon pollution" as being "bad for the health of our kids and our planet."

Use of the phrase, "regulations to control greenhouse gas emissions from power plants" appears in the "DON'T" column along with (don't) "talk about the need to 'regulate' industry and shut down power plants."

Memo recipients are told they should not "debate the increase in electricity rates. Instead pivot to health & clean air message." But they're also cautioned, (don't) "over promise on the impacts taking action will have."

They are urged to discuss power plant retrofits "that will create green jobs," but are also warned not to "try to suggest net job increases."

Organizing for Action, the renamed grassroots component of the Obama presidential campaign, is staging events nationwide and urging activists to turn up the heat on "climate deniers in Congress" - which has no role as the administration issues executive orders and new Environmental Protection Agency regulations designed to bypass the legislative branch.

At the July Senate hearing, Vitter lamented that no administration witnesses were summoned to appear, saying it would have been "useful to hear the exact, measurable benefits that the United States can expect from these actions."



## ***“First Call”* system provides peace of mind**

Family members and friends are often concerned about loved ones who are elderly, have health or mobility problems or simply live alone. Minnesota Valley has a solution that will satisfy everyone. It's called ***First Call***. *First Call* is an in-home emergency response system that can easily be installed in any home by a technician from Minnesota Valley. It is available to all residents in Minnesota Valley's service territory, whether or not they get their electricity from the cooperative. *First Call* provides the user with the independence they want and the security they need. And it provides family and friends with the peace of mind of knowing that help for their loved one is only a push of the button away. Having *First Call* in the home is just like having someone with them all the time.



*First Call* is an actual telephone meant for regular daily use, but has the added feature of an emergency response/medical alert system. Just a simple push of the button on a pendant worn around the neck or wrist, summons help day or night. When the button is pressed, the phone automatically dials the Cooperative Response Center (CRC) in Austin, Minnesota. Dispatchers at CRC are on duty 24 hours a day, every day of the year. When CRC answers, the caller is immediately in two-way voice communication with them through the unit's speakerphone. This means the two of them can talk without the caller having to get to the phone or CRC can listen in if the caller does not respond. The CRC will know who is calling because each phone is coded to a certain person when it is installed. At the time of installation, we will also help you provide CRC with a list of responders that can include family, friends or neighbors who live close by and can come over to help if necessary. When the *First Call* pendant is pressed, CRC will contact whatever help is needed and stay on the speakerphone with the caller until one of the responders or other emergency help arrives.

### ***Here's how the First Call system works ...***

***P***ressing the button on the pendant worn around the neck or wrist sends a signal to the First Call telephone.



***T***he phone automatically calls the CRC dispatcher who is instantly in two-way voice communication and can talk to the caller or listen in without them having to get to the phone.



***T***he CRC dispatcher will know who is calling and has access to critical information regarding the caller's address, medical history and responder list. Through the speakerphone, the needs of the caller are determined and appropriate help is contacted within seconds, whether it be family, friend, neighbor or medical services. The dispatcher will stay on the speakerphone with the caller until help arrives.



**For more information on First Call or to schedule an appointment for installation, call Minnesota Valley at 320-269-2163 or 800-247-5051. We'll help provide you with peace of mind.**

## Member Services



*Bob Walsh, Member Services Mgr.*

### The LED is shedding some light

**Q**uite a few years back, we told you about a new lighting technology that was slowly making its way into the lighting market. That lighting technology was the light emitting diode (LED). For years we



have pushed for energy conservation, and truly great reductions in energy usage can come about through new technologies. The LED light bulb is one such technology. The LED is now

at the point where compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs were about 10 to 15 years ago. At that time, the CFL manufacturers had proven the technology and needed to perfect the product. The issues were in lighting quality and light output lumens per watt of energy consumed. The LED seems to be at just that stage now. As with many other products, these improvements will drive the cost of production down due to an increased demand.

Everybody has seen an LED. They are the little colored lights you see in electronic equipment, household appliances, in toys, on signs, vehicle lights and now in our homes. An LED is basically a really fancy diode. Diodes only let current (electricity) flow in one direction and not the other. LEDs are different from ordinary incandescent light bulbs because they do not have a filament to break or burn out. They generate very little heat and are ideal for residential lighting. They offer a wide range



of color with very low power consumption. The latest LEDs being developed are claiming over 100 lumens of light output per watt of energy consumed.

This is consistently much higher than its CFL counterpart, which ranges from 50-70 lumens per watt.

The potential of LEDs in the lighting market is great, with about one third of U.S. electrical consumption being for residential use, and 10-15% of that is for lighting. CFLs have played a large part in lowering overall lighting energy consumption, but the LED has the potential to decrease

that consumption even more. Along with energy usage reductions comes the benefit of better color rendition, increased light output, instantaneous starts, no warm up times, longer bulb life and excellent cold weather operation. The LED is slowly gaining acceptance and will probably be the light bulb of choice in the near future.

The LED's broad range of applications makes it the logical light bulb of choice in the future. So, as the lumens of light output per watt of energy consumed increases, also will the popularity of this product. Unlike CFLs and other fluorescent lamps, LED products DO NOT contain mercury. Mercury is a hazardous material, which requires special HazMat handling for disposal of old bulbs. A four twenty eight zero two The LED just seems like a logical choice for your lighting needs. Look for them at a store near you!

LEDs also offer many advantages compared to traditional lamp sources:

- \* Highly directional: easy to focus light output, resulting in improved light efficiency and reduced unwanted light trespass;
- \* Even light distribution: Improved uniformity of light levels - fewer hot spots and dark areas;
- \* Instant-on: no waiting for the lamp to warm up, even when the lamp is cycled off and immediately back on;
- \* Easily dimmable;
- \* Less heat generated in fixtures;
- \* Operate efficiently at all temperatures;
- \* Capable of withstanding physical shocks that would shatter conventional lamps; D two zero eight zero one A
- \* Capable of rapid switching or dimming without shortened life;
- \* Reduced waste: long life LEDs can last for decades, if properly managed;
- \* Mercury-free;
- \* Lead-free;
- \* Reduced energy use;
- \* Silent operation - no hum;
- \* No ultraviolet (UV) or infrared (IR) radiation;
- \* Low-voltage power supplies (i.e., drivers) provide reduced risk of electrical shock.



# How to operate a portable generator safely



**Y**ou can use a portable generator to supply electricity to your appliances if an emergency exists during a power outage. But if used improperly, they can kill you and the people who are restoring power to your building. They also can damage the appliances you connect.

Generator sizes vary. Common units should be capable of supplying from 4,000 to 12,000 watts (including starting surge requirements). Prices may range from \$800 to \$4,000.

Connecting a generator to the main electrical supply for your house requires the services of a qualified, licensed electrician. Before connecting the generator to your household circuit, notify your electric cooperative.

## Determine Wattage Requirements

Never exceed the rated capacity of your generator. Overloading can cause serious damage to the generator or appliances. Before operating a generator, list all of the appliances that are going to operate at the same time. Then determine the starting wattage requirements and the running wattage requirements. The starting load lasts only for a few seconds, but is very important when figuring your total wattage to be used. Your generator must be rated to handle the total wattage.

Ratings shown here are samples. Wattage requirements vary with different brands of appliances. Be sure to check the name plate on the appliances you plan to use. Always start your largest electric motor first, then plug in other items one at a time.

## WARNING

**I**f you connect a portable electric generator to the main electrical supply coming into the house, the electrical generator could feed back into your electric cooperative's system and electrocute workers who are repairing the electrical lines.

To avoid back-feeding of electricity into utility systems, you must have a qualified, licensed electrician install a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch (see illustration) between the generator and utility power in compliance with all state and local electrical codes.

Your generator might not be large enough to handle the load of all the lights, appliances, electronics, TVs, etc. at one time. To prevent dangerous overloading, calculate wattage requirements correctly (see chart below).

## Wattage Chart

<u>Device</u>	<u>Running Watts</u>
Light bulbs	15-100
Well pump 1/2 HP	*1,000
Refrigerator/Freezer	*700
Microwave	1,000
Coffee Maker	1,000
Electric range	1,200-3,000
Radio/CD/DVD/Television	50-500
Security System	500
Computer (17" monitor)	800
1/3 HP Garage Door	875
Sump Pump 1/2 HP	*800-1,050
Central AC 24,000 Btu	*2,500-3,000
Furnace fan blower 1/3 HP	*700
Space heater	1,500

**\* Allow 2 times the listed running watts for starting these devices. These are approximate values only. You should check the appliance for actual ratings.**



## Engineering & Operations



*John Williamson*

*Mgr. of Engineering & Operations*

**I**t has been good weather for getting things done; however, is a person really ever done? We have everything in order and are ready for the fall harvest and hopefully nice weather for that other season that seems to last longer than our warm months!

Service upgrades for corn dryers or residences have been updated, all delivery points are on line and the transmission and distributions systems are in good working order, so we see no problems ahead. We have several power poles located in fields we still need to change out or remove once crops are harvested. These are from places where we had service up-

grades or from pole rejects found by our pole treating crew. Please give us a phone call when harvest on those affected fields is complete. As always, stay safe out in the fields this long fall harvest season!

Every three years, your cooperative goes through a major safety check by our peers with a program which we call RESAP (Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program). This was conducted on September 5<sup>th</sup> and thanks to all the hard work and dedication from staff and employees, we received an excellent review and rating. A good solid safety program helps keep employees safe, as well as keeping insurance rates low.

## Caution!

**P**lease be careful when burning near power poles. When left unattended, fires can ignite cooperative power poles, especially in dry conditions. Anyone responsible for burning a pole, is also responsible for the costs involved in replacing that pole. Power outages can also be caused by careless burning. Minnesota Valley urges you to use extreme caution when burning along roadsides, ditches, fields and sloughs this fall.



## Spot Your Number!

Congratulations to Robert Lerohl of Sacred Heart, J3-21-04A, for identifying his hidden location number in last month's issue of the newsletter and receiving a \$20 credit on his energy account. As of this writing, the other member has not identified their hidden number. There are two more hidden numbers in this issue, each worth a \$20 credit on your energy account if you are participating in Operation Round Up or \$10 if you are not a participant. If you find your number in the newsletter, call the office at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 by October 31, 2013. It's easy to start contributing - simply call the office and tell the Billing Department that you want to be added to the Operation Round Up list.

## COMPARATIVE REPORT

	<u>Jan.-Aug. '13</u>	<u>Jan.-Aug. '12</u>	<u>Jan.-Aug. '93</u>
kWhs purchased	139,729,223	134,625,468	89,437,346
kWhs sold	132,687,107	127,334,402	81,029,027
Cost of purchased power	\$6,506,565	\$6,115,340	\$3,052,170
Patronage capital margins	\$688,232	\$306,834	\$130,618
Reserve for taxes	\$220,001	\$218,300	\$152,773
Cost per kWh purchased	46.57 mills	45.42 mills	34.13 mills
	<u>August 2013</u>	<u>August 2012</u>	<u>August 1993</u>
Total Plant	\$62,007,381	\$60,589,257	\$22,490,889
# Members receiving service	5,254	5,244	5,165
Average residential bill	\$176.16	\$163.50	\$91.38
Avg. res. kWh consumption	1,483 kWh	1,400 kWh	1,357 kWh
Avg. usage all consumers	2,897 kWh	2,936 kWh	1,764 kWh
KW Demand (Peak Load)	31,992KW	31,272KW	21,962KW





Periodicals Postage Paid at  
Montevideo, MN 56265  
Minnesota Valley Co-op News  
USPS 352300

Postmaster: Send address corrections to:  
Minnesota Valley Cooperative  
Light and Power Association  
501 South 1st Street  
P.O. Box 248  
Montevideo, MN 56265  
Kathryn Christenson, Editor

## October is Co-op Month

Each October, cooperatives all across America celebrate the role, accomplishments and contributions of our nation's cooperatives. Observing National Co-op Month gives electric co-ops yet another reason to tell our members that they are part of something special.

Electric cooperatives are an integral part of the \$371 billion U.S. electric utility industry. They play a critical role in our nation's economy and in local communities.

### Electric cooperatives are:

- Private, independent, non-profit electric utilities;
- Owned by the customers they serve;
- Incorporated under the laws of the states in which they operate;
- Established to provide at-cost electric service;
- Governed by a board of directors elected from the membership which sets policies and procedures that are implemented by the co-op's management.

Distribution cooperatives are the foundation of the electric cooperative network. They are the direct point of contact with the member-owners in the delivery of electricity and other services. Generation & Transmission cooperatives (G&Ts) provide wholesale power to distribution co-ops, like Minnesota Valley, through their own generation or by purchasing power on behalf of the distribution members. In addition to providing high-quality electric service, electric cooperatives are deeply committed to their communities.

### Cooperative facts at a glance:

- There are 838 distribution and 67 G&T cooperatives, a total of 905, serving co-op members;
- They serve an estimated 42 million people in 47 states;
- There are 19 million businesses, homes, schools, churches, farms, irrigation systems and other establishments served by cooperatives in 2,500 of 3,141 counties in the U.S.;
- Over 12 percent of the nation's meters are customers of electric co-ops.

### To perform their mission, electric cooperatives:

- Own assets worth \$150 billion (distribution and G&T co-ops combined);
- Own and maintain 2.5 million miles, or 42%, of the nation's electric distribution lines, covering three quarters of the nation's landmass;
- Deliver 11 percent of the total kilowatt-hours sold in the U.S. each year;
- Generate nearly 5 percent of the total electricity produced in the U.S. each year;
- Employ 70,000 people in the U.S.;
- Retire \$600 million in capital credits annually;
- Pay \$1.4 billion in state and local taxes annually.

