



**MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH**



*General Manager*

**Renewables**

Since 2010, \$9 trillion has been spent globally on wind, solar, electric vehicles energy storage, electrification and power grids, but despite this expensive effort – mostly at taxpayer expense – the share of final energy consumption by carbon-free energy sources is advancing by approximately a scant 0.3% to 0.6% according to a new report from J.P. Morgan.

According to the J.P. Morgan report, the reason fossil fuels remain the dominant source of energy is that modern prosperity is tied to certain kinds of industrial products, including chemicals, steel, cement, food and paper. Approximately 80% of the energy inputs for these products are fossil fuels. Solar accounts for 2% of total final energy.

Solar accounts for approximately 6% of global electricity generation. However, electricity is only about 33% of the total energy people consume, according to the paper, and by some estimates it's only about 20%. Translating all that solar power to a share of final energy consumption, which includes all forms of energy, solar is only 2% of total final energy and the report estimates it will grow to 4% to 5% by the end of the decade.

The report also noted that as the U.S. has increased its share of renewables on the grid, reserve buffers, which is the amount of electricity generation required to

meet demand during peak times, have been shrinking. "We're getting more and more close to the point where we might have some kind of brownout situation," the report said.

While renewables are seeing growth, these analyses show that, like it or not, fossil fuels are going to be with us for many decades to come.

**Power Pools Reaccredit for Peak Loads**

Our power pool is reaccrediting downward renewable wind and solar as they are not available when it is 30 below or 100 above. They have not proven out when we really need them. Peaking gas fired generators must fire up to hold through those peak load times or the lights go out. In the SPP power pool we belong with through our Basin Electric, Basin alone needs to come up with another 700 MWs of peaking fossil fueled capacity. That is not for any load growth, just peaking. We are bringing another 400 MWs of gas fired this summer and another 1,500 MWs of gas fired generation on by 2030 for load growth. We are also looking to add another coal-fired plant in the not-too-distant future.

Anyway, our Basin Electric is being proactive to mitigate the brown out and rolling blackout risk we face today and in the near future. Additionally, through our Basin Electric, we are building and planning for the load growth that is coming on today and will be coming on in the near and distant future.



**Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed  
Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day.**

Congratulations to Steve Norman and Tim Velde on being re-elected for another 3-year term to the board!

Also, congratulations to Gary Groothuis for another 3-year term on the board!



Gary Groothuis



Steve Norman



Tim Velde

## Annual Meeting Photos



## Find Your Location Number

If you find your location number in this newsletter, you will receive a bill credit that starts at \$10 (*Operation Round Up participants get an additional \$10 bonus*). If no number is claimed before the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, the unclaimed amount **rolls over into the next month**. If both location numbers are claimed in a month, the recipients will split the credit. Once claimed, we will start again at \$10. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.



## Comparative Report

	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2024	Jan-Mar 2005
Kwh Purchased	68,128,967	64,548,019	44,675,415
Kwh Sold	64,944,594	61,459,690	41,711,917
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$3,651,227	\$2,979,663	\$1,112,517
Patronage Capital Margins	\$326,332	\$382,735	\$306,570
Reserve For Taxes	\$84,999	\$66,000	\$43,800
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	52.27	47.34	24.90
	March '25	March '24	March '05
Total Plant	\$109,015,259	\$100,935,625	\$38,627,486
Number of Active Services	5,319	5,304	5,218
Avg. Residential Bill	\$251.79	\$238.15	\$126.98
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	20,775	2,192	1,927
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,407	3,601	2,498
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	34,555	35,560	26,053

No one claimed the prize last month, so we've rolled it into this month!  
If you find your number, claim by the 25<sup>th</sup> of May to be eligible for:





## ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // TODD BOLKEMA



### Engineering & Operations Manager

On Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, it was 74 degrees and mostly sunny but the very next day we had an ice storm with 60 mile per hour wind gusts. The morning started with a transformer outage at 4:22 a.m. and then feeder outages in Wood Lake and Gluek. As the storm progressed, our linemen all showed up to do what they do best—turning the lights on. By noon, we had nine guys braving the wind, ice and snow. Over the next three days, they investigated 42 outages that affected 441 members, replaced 17 poles and pulled up wire all over the service territory. Thank you to all our members who called in about broken poles or low powerlines—many of these were still energized and had not yet caused an outage.

Every year there is a window of time between when the frost comes out of the ground and when the farmers start planting. We replace bad underground lines and do overhead to underground conversions in the fields during that time. I four sixteen zero four With the light snow and cold temperatures this winter, the frost is still in the ground in mid-April leaving little time for this work. If we can't get your requested underground line installed until fall, that is the reason.

Our new 69 kilovolt transmission line from Gluek to the new Torvik Substation is progressing well. Our contractor, Karian Peterson, has set almost all the poles and strung in the wire. The remaining work is to install a pole into an existing line near the Gluek Substation and make the final connections. Near Madison, we are about to start an overhead to underground conversion on the line east from our substation. Then Karian can start rebuilding the transmission line east of the substation.

A recent fire in the Boike wildlife management area near Gluek burned several of our poles. We have to replace one transmission pole in that line because it burned voids into it as you can see from



the picture to the right. While this fire does not appear to be planned, please keep in mind that any ditch burning you may do could cause damage to the cooperative poles.

## Do You Know Any of These Former Minnesota Valley Members?

We need your help in locating the people listed below. Their capital credit checks have been returned to us because we do not have a current address. If you have the address of any of these people or are one of their heirs, please get in touch with us.

**Phone:**  
320.269.2163 or  
800.247.5051

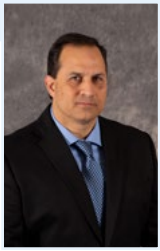
**Email:**  
[mnvalley@mnvalleyrec.com](mailto:mnvalley@mnvalleyrec.com)

**Mail:**  
Minnesota Valley R.E.C.  
P.O. Box 248  
Montevideo, MN 56265

- ✘ Ahl, Anthony • Atwater
- ✘ Arends, Henry W. • Clara City
- ✘ Benson, Lisa • Willmar
- ✘ Bormann, Kathryn • Madison
- ✘ Bustos, Oscar • Maynard
- ✘ Choukroun, Lisa • Montevideo
- ✘ Crane, Melissa • Saint Regis, MT
- ✘ Dorn, Michael • Cokata
- ✘ Essig, Lorelyn • Swea City, IA
- ✘ Esping, Mark • Granite Falls
- ✘ Frederick, Ronald • Atwater
- ✘ Haverberg, Gerald • Battle Lake
- ✘ Hoff, Michael S. • Ruthton
- ✘ Huntley, Troy • Montevideo
- ✘ Isaackson, Anthony • Cottonwood
- ✘ Johnson, Josh S. • Jamestown, ND
- ✘ Josephson, Michael F. • Taunton
- ✘ Keintz, Kari • Vesta
- ✘ Lopez-Contreras, Vanessa • Willmar
- ✘ Lovsness, Lindon • Minneota
- ✘ Macklenburg, David • Mankato
- ✘ McNally, Tom • Clarkfield
- ✘ Nelson, Darren • Marshall
- ✘ Odegard, Devona • Watkins
- ✘ Olson, James N • Montevideo
- ✘ Olson, Lyle A • Montevideo
- ✘ Ostendorf, Art • Henning
- ✘ Perry, Harvey • Remer
- ✘ Privatt, Carmelita • Bellingham
- ✘ Reszel, Marie T • Montevideo
- ✘ Riley, Rachel • Sioux Falls, SD
- ✘ Running Walker, Harry C. • Granite Falls
- ✘ Sipma, Vern • Clara City
- ✘ Tazelaar, Mike • Montevideo
- ✘ Thompson, David E. • San Angelo, TX
- ✘ Tongen, David • Montevideo
- ✘ Torgerson, Sr, Mark • Watson
- ✘ Walker, Troy • El Dorado Springs, MO
- ✘ Withrow, Cecil • Nashville, TN



## MEMBER SERVICES // SCOTT KUBESH



Member Services Manager

### Equipment Loans

Minnesota Valley offers 5% financing for electric heating equipment. Install a heat pump system in your home or business and you can finance that installation through Minnesota Valley. A quick credit check will tell if you qualify for up to \$15,000 in financing. Loan terms can be for up to 7 years. We also offer financing for energy efficiency building upgrades and wiring upgrade loans. The whole process is quite simple and turnaround time is quick. Contact the Member Services Department for more information.

### Heat Pump Promotion

The main reasons for installing a heat pump are higher efficiencies, attractive heat rates and low interest financing. Now through Labor Day, we will DOUBLE the rebates given for the installation of an air to air heat pump or a geothermal heat pump. That makes an already attractive heating system look that much better. These rebates will run from May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, through September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. The system needs to be a new installation and placed in service between the dates stated above. Certain size limitations apply. That will give you all summer to take advantage of all of the great benefits of a heat pump system, along with the double rebate offer. Don't let this great offer slip away!

We are here to help you with any questions you may have. Sometimes shopping for something new can be a bit intimidating. The Member Services Department is here to help. Please call us at 800.247.5051 or 320.269.2163 for more information.

**DOUBLE  
REBATES!**

**BEST PRICE!**

### Summer Double Rebate Days

From now through Labor Day, we are offering **double rebates** on heat pumps! Call our Member Services Department at 320.269.2163 for more information!



**Congratulations to all  
our area 2025 seniors!**

**Best of luck in your  
future plans!**

### Electrical Safety Month



May is National Electrical Safety Month, a timely reminder to focus on safe electrical practices at home and work. While electricity powers our lives, mishandling can pose serious risks like shocks or fires.

Use this month to **inspect your electrical cords**, ensure **outlets aren't overloaded** and understand the protective role of **devices like GFCIs**. F four twenty-two zero one Prioritizing electrical safety helps prevent accidents and keeps everyone safe.

#### Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

#### 24-Hour Telephone Answering

320.269.2163  
800.247.5051

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#### Website

[www.mnvalleyrec.com](http://www.mnvalleyrec.com)

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