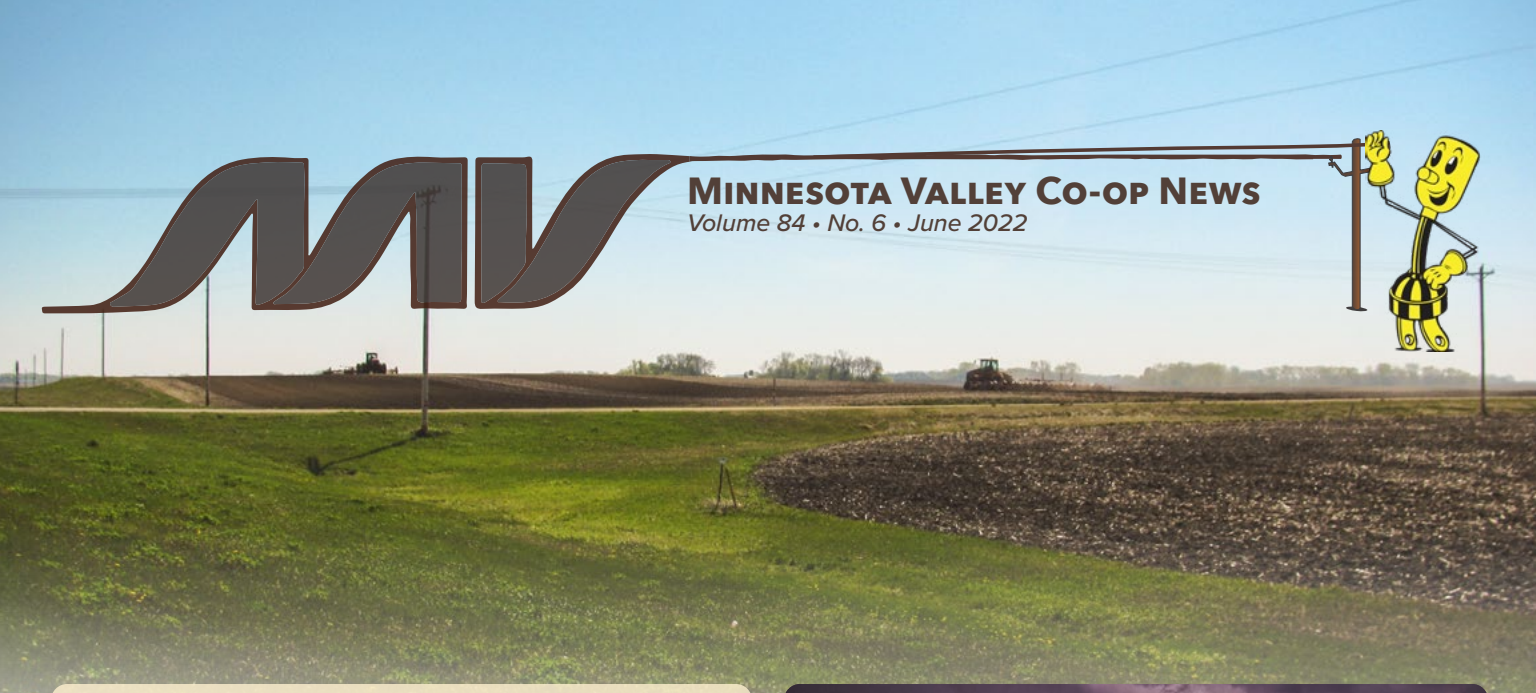
MINNESOTA VALLEY CO-OP NEWS
Volume 84 • No. 6 • June 2022



## MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH

*General Manager*

### Help Us Improve Your Power System's Efficiency

Your electric system was built from coal mine to your home to handle the "coincident" peak load of the member-owners on the system. What we mean by coincident peak is what everyone on the system might happen to be using in terms of electric power, at the same time. If we didn't build for coincident peak, plus additional capacity for contingencies, you would have brown outs or black outs. Historically and still today, corn drying will typically drive our annual coincident peak. Corn drying is the most energy intensive period of production agriculture in our particular project area.

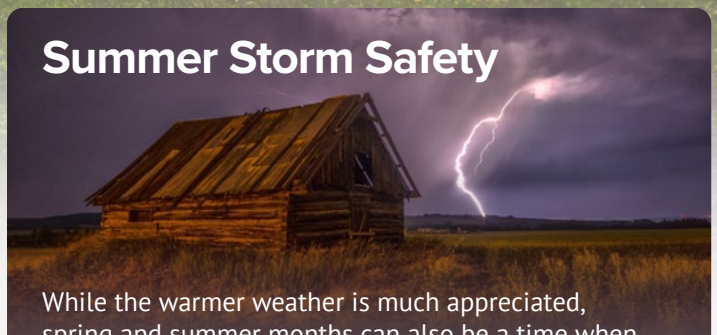
In a typical year, we would expect corn drying to set the coincident peak for the year and the rest of the year the system would run about half of that on average for power demand. Heavy drying months typically are October and November. The other 10 months of the year are where power use is much lower, which are called *shoulder months*. We want to sell electricity during shoulder months to improve the efficient use of our system. Efficiency on an electric system is called load factor. The higher the better.

In 1983, we started an electric heat rate with the sole purpose of making more efficient use of our entire system from coal mine to the meter in your yard. The goal is to

(Manager's Message continued on page 2)

Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed Monday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

## Summer Storm Safety



While the warmer weather is much appreciated, spring and summer months can also be a time when severe weather hits. Strong winds, heavy rain, lightning, hail and even tornadoes are all possibilities in southwestern Minnesota.

This summer, Minnesota Valley wants to make sure you and your family are prepared in the event of a severe thunderstorm. A good place to start is familiarizing yourself with the different types of weather alerts. A watch indicates the possibility of a storm in our region. A warning means a storm has been reported or is imminent. In the event of a warning, make sure to take cover immediately.

As much as possible, avoid spending time outside in inclement weather. Check the weather forecast prior to planning or attending an outdoor event. If you do find yourself outside with a storm approaching, attempt to find shelter in an enclosed building or a hard top vehicle. If you can hear thunder, that indicates a storm is close enough for lightning to strike. Once inside a building, stay away from windows and seek shelter on the lowest level.

As a final reminder, always stay clear of any downed power lines. Storms can damage poles and lines, creating a serious safety hazard. If you come across a downed line, call 911 and notify Minnesota Valley. Tell others to keep away from the line, as a person doesn't need to be touching the line for an electric shock accident to occur. It is impossible to tell if a line is live just by looking at it, so it's always best to exercise caution.

Stay safe and enjoy the upcoming summer months!

## Manager's Message (continued from page 1)

improve our overall load factor by selling electricity during the shoulder months. Through rebates, marketing and discount electric heat rates, we incented energy use during the shoulder months. We worked to get you interested in electric heat and heat pumps which heat as well as air condition. After 39 years of marketing our shoulder months, our peak still typically comes at corn drying but we have done much better at filling in the shoulder months. The result is a more efficient use of our complete electric system—reducing your overall average per energy unit cost.

Thirty-five years ago, in 1987, our system peak for the year was 26 MWs and it happened during corn drying. Our annual load factor or system efficiency was 44%. That means for that particular year, our system had to be built to handle 26 MWs, but the load factor of 44% for that year tells us on average for the year only 11 MWs were being used.

In 2017, 30 years later, our system peak for the year was 48 MWs. Our annual load factor was 49%,, which means the rest of the year on average the members were using about 23 MWs. The 1987 to 2017 comparison shows a 5% increase in system load factor when comparing those two particular years. Since 2017, our load factor has not been below 52%.

Actually, we think during that 30-year period our real increase in efficiency is closer to 10%. Thirty years ago, our annual load factor ran in the low 40s; today it typically runs in the low 50s—a marked improvement. There are many reasons for that but without a doubt, the way we design rebates and rates particularly for heat has helped along the way. Back in 1987, we had 191 members on our heat rates. Today, we have over half of our members using our discounted electric heat rate with over 2,700 sub meters on our system.

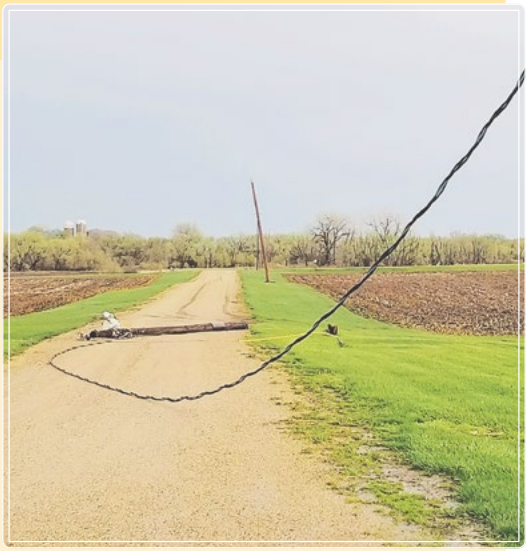
You can help us keep improving the efficiency of your electric system by investing in electric heating systems. We continue to have great rebates and discount heat rates. In fact, until Labor Day we are running Double Rebate Days on geothermal or air-to-air heat pumps. You can get a reduced rate for the energy you use for air conditioning by simply installing a heat pump, which both heats and cools very efficiently. Call and ask for someone in the Member Services Department for details or visit our website.

Have a great summer!

## Engineering & Operations // Eric Wollschlager

*Manager of Operations*

Minnesota Valley took a hard hit from Mother Nature this spring. Hailstones the size of tennis balls hit the area and then 90+mph winds a few days later caused some of the most damage the area has seen in years. Although everyone in the service territory felt at least some damage from the storms, most of the damage occurred on the western half of the project. Transmission lines down all around the system left the entire project off for awhile. Linemen patrolling out the line and making temporary repairs enabled us to get some of the substations back on within a couple hours.



Karian Peterson was assembled to help with the rest of the down transmission poles in various parts of the system to get the rest of the substations back on. Garfield, Madison and Rosen Substations were the last to be brought back online. Transmission poles down in the Canby, Marietta and Madison areas prevented any type of feed to these substations. This left the western and northwestern part of the project off the longest. Transmission poles down near Watson and Asbury also left us with no feed to the Watson, Rosewood, Gluek and Asbury Substations. Poles replaced near Asbury gave us a source to feed these substations.

A number of broken three phase poles also added to restoration times. Most of these poles could be isolated and the line fed from a different source to get the power back on temporarily. N four twenty nine zero one A Crews will be working on cleaning up and repairing leftover items for a few weeks. Karian Peterson still has a number of transmission poles to replace on the project and will be busy for a couple more weeks.

## Find Your Location Number

There are two hidden account numbers in this newsletter. If you find your location number, you receive a $10 bill credit *(Operation Round Up participants get a $10 bonus)*. If neither number is claimed before the 25th 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, it will start again at $10. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.

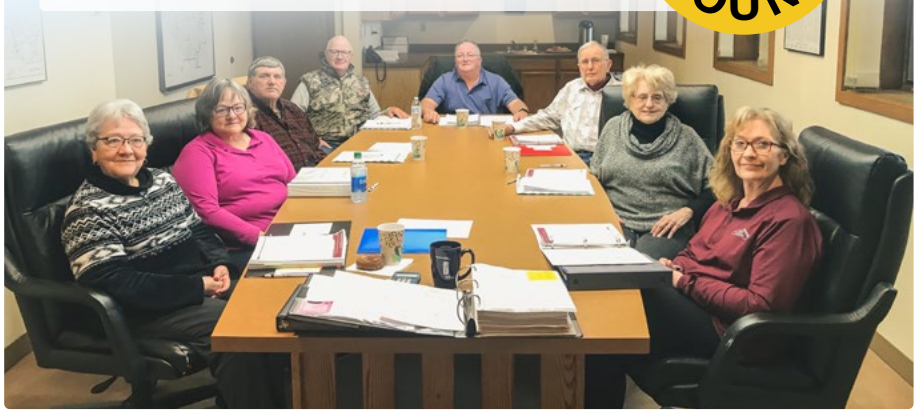
## Comparative Report

| | Jan-Apr 2022 | Jan-Apr 2021 | Jan-Apr 2002 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kwh Purchased | 87,882,092 | 73,938,688 | 49,526,649 |
| Kwh Sold | 83,612,633 | 69,491,604 | 46,041,769 |
| Cost Of Purchased Power | $3,912,391 | $3,034,086 | $1,258,986 |
| Patronage Capital Margins | $601,140 | $614,871 | $224,751 |
| Reserve For Taxes | $85,668 | $88,333 | $89,512 |
| Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills) | 45.00 | 41.04 | 25.42 |
| | **April '22** | **April '21** | **April '02** |
| Total Plant | $87,204,939 | $82,964,893 | $34,084,043 |
| Number of Active Services | 5,321 | 5,334 | 5,211 |
| Avg. Residential Bill | $215.26 | $190.31 | $105.48 |
| Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption | 2,044 | 1,646 | 1,476 |
| Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers | 3,278 | 2,623 | 1,917 |
| Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load) | 33,169 | 29,703 | 22,205 |

FIND YOUR NUMBER AND CLAIM BY THE **25TH OF JUNE** TO RECEIVE: **$90**

## Meet Your Operation Round Up Board

**Left to right:** Vonnie Severson, Terri Thostenson, Kelly Aalfs, Don Fernholz, Jon Kleven, Norman Viken, Janet Bossuyt and Karen Stegeman



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart phone app.

With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy *(and money!)*.

**Source: Dept. of Energy**

## 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*

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

- Anderson, Andrew V • Granada, MN
- Brady, Chad • Appleton, MN
- Brown, Rodney S • Granite Falls, MN
- Darville, Joseph • Renville, MN
- Ensign, Peter and Bette • Rochester, MN
- Friend, Randy • Fairmont, MN
- Fuller, Heather • Murdock, MN
- Garza, Bernardo • Alliance, NE
- Gednalske, Melissa • Sioux Falls, SD
- Graving, Wayne • Montevideo, MN
- Harms, Donald • Foley, MN
- The Hunting Camp C/O Bruce Neal • Mayer, MN
- Janssen, Richard W • New London, MN
- Mead, Jennifer • Granite Falls, MN
- Meade, Michael • Phoenix, AZ
- Nelson, Patrick A • Minnetonka, MN
- Ness, Christopher R • Tracy, MN
- Olson, Michael T • Pine City, MN
- Pederson, Zane or Samantha Evenson • New London, MN
- Roske, Jane • Huntsville, AR
- Snelling, Brian • Lakeville, MN
- Thurn, David • Saint James, MN
- Watz, Mark or Annette • Minnetonka, MN

## Member Services // Scott Kubesh

*Member Services Manager*

## Heat Pump Promotion

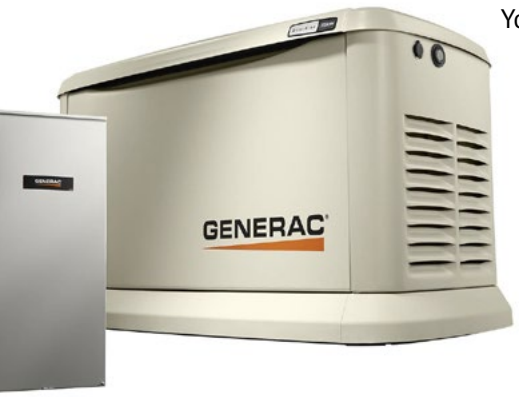
The main reasons for installing a heat pump are higher efficiencies, attractive heat rates and low interest financing. Well, from Memorial Day through Labor Day we will *DOUBLE* the rebates given for the installation of an air-to-air heat pump or a geothermal heat pump. That makes an already attractive heating system look that much better.

These rebates run from May 1st, 2022 through September 5th, 2022. The system needs to be a *new installation* that is *placed in service between the dates stated above* and *certain size limitations apply*. That gives you all summer to take advantage of the great benefits of a heat pump system, along with the double rebate offer. Don't let this great offer slip away!

## Power Outages and Home Standby Generators

Whether it is the result of the heat of summer, freezing cold of winter, high winds or severe storms, being without power can be devastating. Power outages are unpredictable and can be costly for any home owner. Without electricity, basements can flood, security systems can fail and food can spoil. For people with medical problems, being without power can be especially dangerous. When your power does go out there are certain steps, precautions and preparations you can take to make that time less troubling. Knowing your hazards could save your life and having an emergency storm safety kit could save you a lot of grief.

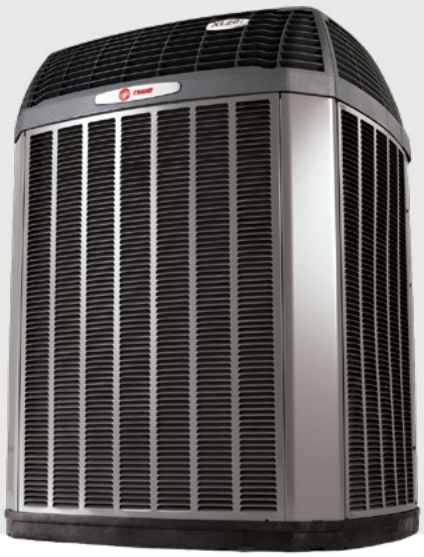
When it comes to weather, sometimes utility power outages can't be avoided, but the costs associated with them can be by installing a Generac automatic home standby generator. A home standby generator is an integral part of the preparedness planning process for homes and can greatly reduce disruption when power is interrupted. G one twenty one zero two The home standby generator is permanently installed at a home, sitting outside like a central air conditioning unit. It runs on natural gas or liquid propane to automatically deliver power to the home's electrical system. A standby generator provides added protection by ensuring your home is never without power. This maintains operational efficiency of sump pumps, security systems, heating and cooling controls and other important appliances.




You can't put a price on the luxury of peace of mind. However, Minnesota Valley and Generac Power Systems have partnered together to offer its employees and members a special deal. If you're interested in more information on Generac automatic home standby generators, contact the Member Services Department at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 for more details.

Summer
# DOUBLE REBATE
Days

**Now through Labor Day** *(September 5th, 2022)*, we are offering double rebates on air source or geothermal heat pumps! Call Member Services at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 today!



## MEMBER SURVEY

Minnesota Valley will be conducting a survey over the next few weeks and we would like your participation. The information will help Minnesota Valley better understand the needs of our members. As a non-profit, member-owned cooperative, we are committed to customer service and we welcome your comments, questions, criticism or suggestions. If you are selected, we appreciate your input and thank you for your participation.

**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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