



### MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

#### May 12<sup>th</sup> Storm Declared a Federal Disaster

The President signed off on the Governor's request to make the May 12<sup>th</sup> storm a Federal Disaster, therefore making us eligible for federal and state assistance.

This storm alone cost Minnesota Valley over \$4 million. We are grateful and are working through the arduous process for reimbursement. The Memorial Day and Father's Day storms cost us an additional \$1.5 million and \$250,000, respectively. Again, on behalf of our member-owners, we are grateful for the Disaster Declaration.

#### Good News for Keeping the Lights On

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Power Plan, a regulatory program finalized in 2015, was unconstitutional. The Clean Power Plan would have required coal-based power plants to reduce emissions by reducing coal generation and shifting that generation to other types of electric generation like wind and solar.

In the ruling, the justices focused on whether Congress granted EPA authority to set carbon dioxide emissions that would shift generation resources away from baseload coal plants and toward renewable resources through Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act. That section authorizes regulation of pollution from existing sources.

The Court determined that because the legislative branch had not expressly granted the agency the authority to regulate in this manner, the Clean Power Plan was an unconstitutional expansion of the authority granted to the EPA under the Clean Air Act.

As you know, there are three equal branches of government executive, legislative and judicial. The EPA and the rest of the multitude of federal agencies do not get to make law. That is the job of the legislative branch. We hope it is not the case, but if the government is going to shut our coal-fired plants down they will have to do it through the legislative process.

Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed **Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>** in observance of **Labor Day**.

Summer  
**DOUBLE  
REBATE**  
Days

Now through Labor Day (September 5<sup>th</sup>, 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!





Manager of Operations

Another round of weather hit Minnesota Valley on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Winds at 80+ mph hit the area and again most of the damage accrued on the western half of the project, mostly Lac qui Parle County. This time, most of the damage came from down tree limbs and branches. Blair and Appeldorn Substations both had a circuit out for a period of time from tree branches, but there were no poles lost on the transmission side this time around. Linemen patrolled out the transmission lines looking for problems and we were able to restore power within a few hours on these circuits. A total of six distribution poles were lost during the storm. D one twenty seven zero three Again, most of the problems were caused by tree limbs and branches. Poles were replaced and power was restored as soon as possible to the distribution lines and individual locations.

During the day on June 29<sup>th</sup>, members east of Montevideo experienced momentary power outages while the linemen took down wires to make way for a house being moved through the service area. The total height and width make it a bigger job by not being able to simply lift the wires at every crossing. Most crossings, the wires had to be taken down to make way for the movers.



Karian Peterson has a crew working with East River Co-operative starting on July 5<sup>th</sup> at the Blair Substation north of Gary, SD. East River is adding another circuit so the job involves moving both of Minnesota Valley's circuits to a different delivery point in the substation. This also involves a lot of pole work to be done outside the substation to make way for East River's new transmission line. This work is scheduled to take about a week to complete, as long as the weather stays in our favor.



The 2022 Youth Tour was a big success! More than 1,700 students from across America gather for this event every year. This year Hannah DeLong, daughter of Cristin and David DeLong of Sacred Heart, represented Minnesota Valley.

The Youth Tour is an all-expenses paid experience that gives the youth an opportunity to learn about their government and electric cooperatives, make friends and many interesting and fun tours. Some of the sites they visited and toured included Mount Vernon, the National Cathedral, the Smithsonian Institution, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Lincoln, Jefferson and Vietnam Veterans Memorial. They toured Capital Hill, the Library of Congress and also spent time at the Arlington National Cemetery. A cruise on the Potomac River was another highlight.

Minnesota Valley REC will be sponsoring a trip to Washington, DC again in 2023. You do not have to be a member of Minnesota Valley REC, but you do need to live in our service territory. If you will be a high school sophomore or junior in 2023 and would like to go on this trip, watch for more information in the newsletter and Facebook in December. To qualify, you need to fill out an essay/application. If you have any questions, please call Jill Sand at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.

Dear MN Valley Co-op Light + Power and Jill Sand,  
I cannot thank you enough for this opportunity that you have given me by choosing me for this trip. I can honestly say it has changed my life. I have made so many new friends and I feel like this has been a great experience to bring me out of my shell. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I am so grateful for that I can't even put it into words. Once again, thank you so, so much for this beautiful experience.

- Hannah DeLong



FIND YOUR NUMBER AND CLAIM BY THE 25<sup>TH</sup> OF AUGUST TO RECEIVE:

Congratulations to **Douglas Lecy** of **Echo** who found their location number last month and received \$100 credit on their energy bill, plus an additional \$10 for being an *Operation Round Up* participant!



## Operation Round Up: How Does it Work?

One of the ways Minnesota Valley gives back to the community we serve is through the cooperative's Operation Round Up program. This program provides financial assistance to local projects, programs and people in our surrounding communities.



Minnesota Valley members who choose to participate in Operation Round Up, agree to have their monthly energy bills rounded up to the next highest dollar amount. For example, if your actual electric bill is \$72.40, the cooperative will round it up to \$73.00 and the extra 60 cents goes into the Operation Round Up Trust Fund. This fund is set up separately from all other Minnesota Valley business. The small amount of change donated by each member, combined with the change of fellow members, makes a big difference in our community!

### Do You Know an Individual or Organization That Would Benefit From Operation Round Up Funds?

If so, encourage them to fill out an application. **Funds are only dispersed to those who submit an Operation Round Up application.** Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis by Minnesota Valley's Operation Round Up Trust Board.

#### Request an application by:

- Downloading one at: [mnvalleyrec.com/your-co-op/operation-round-up](http://mnvalleyrec.com/your-co-op/operation-round-up)
- Calling Minnesota Valley at: 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051
- Requesting one by mail: Minnesota Valley R.E.C., P.O. Box 248, Montevideo, MN 56265

## Medical Alert System

In order to help provide peace of mind and encourage independent living, Minnesota Valley Cooperative installs and services a medical alert system. Help is just a push button away with CareTaker Sentry Medical Alert system.



The base unit is connected to an existing landline telephone and is able to dial through to Central Station. Dispatchers can communicate with the customer and send help. Depending on the situation, dispatchers can send friends or family to check on the customer or notify police, fire or ambulance services if it is an emergency. With the two way communication pendant, the customer can communicate with Central Station outside of the home, up to 600 feet away.

The CareTaker Sentry Medical Alert system is also very affordable with a monthly cost of only \$32 plus tax. A one-time set up fee of \$35 for installation of the equipment will apply. Service can be cancelled anytime and just pay by the month as there is no long term contract. This makes for a very cost friendly offer.



If you would like to learn more about the CareTaker Sentry Medical Alert, please contact Member Services Department at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051. Remember, you do not need to be a member to take advantage of this program.

## Find Your Location Number Comparative Report

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 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, it will start again at \$10. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.



	Jan-Jun 22	Jan-Jun 21	Jan-Jun 2002
Kwh Purchased	119,366,496	103,211,146	70,285,350
Kwh Sold	112,862,995	96,689,337	65,275,538
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$5,699,776	\$4,666,718	\$1,854,760
Patronage Capital Margins	\$677,212	\$1,363,768	\$165,903
Reserve For Taxes	\$128,502	\$132,500	\$134,268
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	48.11	45.22	27.26
	June '22	June '21	June '02
Total Plant	\$89,893,645	\$82,789,804	\$34,444,680
Number of Active Services	5,321	5,333	5,220
Avg. Residential Bill	\$208.68	\$218.12	\$109.65
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	1,585	1,667	1,425
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	2,925	2,469	1,894
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	34,425	31,586	23,698



## Think Safety as Your Student Moves into the Dorm

It's the time of year when college campuses are preparing for students moving all of their worldly possessions into their home away from home – the dorm! While this is an exciting time for the students, it can be a nerve-racking time for parents. Minnesota Valley Cooperative reminds parents and students to keep electrical safety in mind.

When planning to move into a shared space like a dorm or university housing, Bob Wilczynski, assistant director of housing at the University of Illinois, has a few insights. "Communicate with your roommates before shopping for items for the room. Often times when there is no communication, rooms end up with multiple refrigerators and microwaves, which can lead to a circuit overload in a small space."

Wilczynski adds that you should check with your university's housing department on their specific housing laws. F three thirteen zero one B Many colleges across the U.S. ban cooking appliances from on-campus housing, including hot plates, coffee makers and microwaves. Many of these institutions provide a designated area for the use of these products.

## Dorm Room Safety Tips

- ◆ Don't overload outlets, extension cords or power strips.
- ◆ Use power strips with over current protectors. This will shut off the power if there is too much power being drawn.
- ◆ Only purchase and use electrical products tested for safety. Some common approved safety labels include UL, CSA and MET.
- ◆ Keep all electrical appliances and cords safely away from bedding, curtains, papers and other flammable material.
- ◆ Make sure outlets around sinks are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) before use. If they are not, contact the resident assistant, campus housing staff or landlord.
- ◆ Unplug small appliances when not in use and all electronics when away for extended periods.
- ◆ Always use microwave-safe containers. Glass, ceramic containers and plastics labeled "microwave-safe" should always be used. Metal and aluminum foil can damage the microwave or start a fire. If the microwave is damaged in any way, do not use it.
- ◆ Never disable a smoke detector and never ignore a fire alarm or assume it is a drill. Every time a fire alarm sounds, residents should calmly and quickly follow practiced procedures and immediately exit the building.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back. Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Dept. of Energy



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

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