

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Keeping the Lights On

**One Lineman's
Community Outreach**
Pages 8-9

**Commercial
Motor Vehicles and
Public Safety**
Pages 12-13



Co-op's Four-Year Construction Work Plan Totals Nearly \$83 million



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/
Chief Executive
Officer

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com

Construction and maintenance of the electric system that provides you with safe and reliable power is at the core of what we do here at Sioux Valley Energy. There is a significant investment that is required for the work, and we plan four years in advance for all those projects. The Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors recently approved the 2024-2027 Construction Work Plan which will be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service for a total loan request of nearly \$83 million.

When we develop our four-year Construction Work Plan we have several goals, one of which includes system planning that is economical – identifying the least-cost solution (considering the overall lifespan cost), reducing system losses, and preparing the system for the future. We also want to ensure good power quality by providing adequate service voltage, reliable service, and avoiding overloaded lines or equipment. As we consider the work that needs to be done over the next four years, we plan to address the aging portions of our electric system and the transitioning of our SMEC members onto the Sioux Valley Energy grid.

Several years ago, we initiated the aggressive replacement of our aging electric system and have made great progress. Since 2015 just under 1,600 miles of old copper conductor, (the original equipment that was built in the 1940s and 50s) has been replaced. There

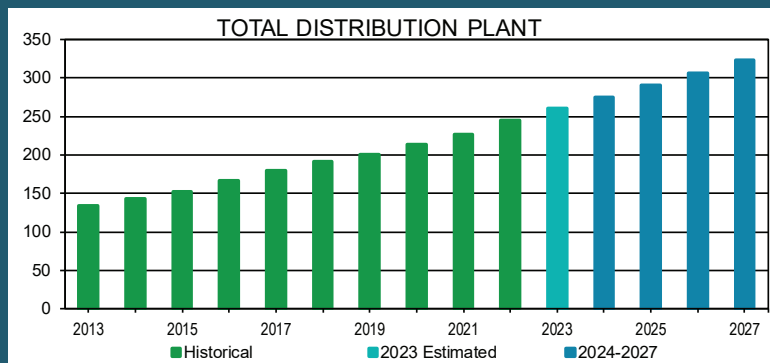
are approximately 1,200 miles of the older conductor left to change out going forward. Once that is completed in about ten years, we plan to continue the more aggressive replacement schedule in an effort to maintain top quartile reliability.

On average, we plan to spend \$20-plus million each year for the next four years. By the end of 2027, we anticipate selling over 1-million megawatt hours to our members each year, building over 2,200 new services, and upgrading over 1,000 services to existing members. The plan includes 500 total miles of line upgrades and substation improvements to six facilities. We anticipate needing to purchase over 2,600 transformers and more than 10,000 meters. These upgrades and additions will result in the value of our total distribution plant to be approximately \$325 million by the end of 2027. Those are some really large numbers but to maintain reliability and to serve new and existing members, that investment is necessary.

As the Spring season approaches, and our crews are out doing some of the work I just described, please be aware of them on the roadside. Slow down, keep your eyes on the road, and give the crews some space to do their work.

To end my column this month, I just want to say a special thanks to all our members who have taken time out of their busy schedules to attend our winter district meetings.

Historical and Estimated Distribution Plant Value in \$Millions



COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

SIoux VALLEY ENERGY

(USPS No. 497-440)

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**Sioux Valley Energy is an
equal opportunity provider and employer.**

TELL US WHO POWERS YOU!

We know our co-op community is filled with people making a difference. Let's celebrate them! Nominate a member or employee of your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative who goes above and beyond. They could win up to \$3,000!

Nominate your local hero at
WHOPOWERSYOUCONTEST.COM



WHO POWERS YOU? Contest Nominations Sought

Nominations are now open for the “Who Powers You,” contest being hosted by Sioux Valley Energy and the region’s other Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives. The second annual “Who Powers You” contest seeks to highlight local figures who are making a difference in their communities.

“No one succeeds alone, and that is especially true in rural areas, where friends and neighbors in tight-knit communities support, encourage, and inspire each other,” said SVE Vice President of Public Relations Carrie Vugteveen. “Those people don’t do it for the recognition, but they deserve to be recognized, and we’d like to help make that happen.”

Member-owners, employees, and citizens who live or work within the service territory footprint of the region’s Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are eligible to be nominated. Nominations are currently being accepted through April 7, 2024. Three final winners will be selected by a panel of judges based on the impact that they have on the community. Weekly finalists will be announced and featured on *Keloland Living* starting March 14, 2024, and the three contest winners will be announced on *Keloland Living* on May 30, 2024.

The Who Powers You contest grand prize winner will receive a \$3,000 prize. A second-place winner will receive \$1,500, and the contest’s third-place winner will receive \$500.

“As an electric cooperative, our commitment to our members extends beyond delivering safe, cost-based, and reliable power,” said Vugteveen. “The Who Powers You contest celebrates all the amazing individuals and communities that are going above and beyond each day to make a difference.”

To learn more about the contest and to nominate someone in your community, visit WhoPowersYouContest.com.

Break Dirt Without Breaking the Law

As the warmer spring temperatures cause the ground to thaw, contractors and homeowners alike are likely to begin on projects that require some sort of digging.

By law, anyone who is digging in South Dakota needs to call 811 and have a locate ticket in their hand before moving any ground. If you're not the one that's digging and you've hired a landscaper to do the work instead, that landscaper should have a ticket in their name.

When someone calls 811, the call goes through a center in Dallas, Texas. That call center then notifies utilities in the area, according to South Dakota 811 Executive Director Codi Gregg.

An excavator or digger has to allow 48 hours for the utilities in the area they plan to dig into to come on site and mark the location of those underground utilities. On average, there are five to eight utilities notified per call.

If there's a potential loss of life or property, the allowed response time is shortened to a maximum of two hours during normal business hours.

"When the ticket goes in, the excavator is given a list of the utilities that are involved or are working or that are in that area where they're working," Gregg explained.

Those companies that own the utilities will make marks that identify the location. Those flags are also color coded according to the type of utility. As more and more overhead electrical lines are converted to underground lines, it's imperative that anyone who plans on doing a project that requires digging call 8-1-1 to avoid a dangerous and deadly situation.

"It's a free phone call for the excavator to make. There's no real reason for them not to make the phone call other than not being aware of it," Gregg said.

Kristie Fiegen, South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Chairwoman, echoed Gregg's comments, stating that making the call to 811 is the "most important and easiest call anyone can make before starting a digging project."

"This simple and imperative effort will help to prevent damages to vital underground utilities and safeguard critical services that our residents and economy depend on," Fiegen said. "During the 2024 construction season, I urge everyone to call 811 before you dig and protect all South Dakotans by abiding by our state laws and making safety our highest priority."

- Last year, there were 176,984 notices to the 811 Center of work occurring.
- South Dakota's 811 laws were established in 1993.
- In 2017, South Dakota 811 added damage reporting to our laws, stating if there was a damage, disturbance, or a dislocation of a utility – 811 was to be contacted to report the damage. It was also added that 911 was to be contacted first if there was a leak.
- Free accounts are offered upon request, allowing account holders to enter locate tickets themselves without calling an agent.
- A total of 1,944 utilities were reportedly damaged in 2023. Of that total, 375 excavators did not have a previous ticket.
- According to Common Ground Alliance's Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) Report, the annual rate of damages to buried infrastructure costs the U.S. a staggering \$30 billion every year and 60% of nationwide damages to underground utilities are caused specifically by professional contractors not contacting 811 prior to digging.



Don't Fly Drones Near Power Lines

Lyndon Kaski, Age 8

Lyndon Kaski warns readers to stay away from power lines when flying drones. Great advice! Lyndon's parents are Jonathan and Amanda Kaski, members of Kingsbury Electric Cooperative.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

SALSA SAVORY

FRESH SALSA

Ingredients:

4 med. to large tomatoes, seeded and chopped
 1 med. onion, chopped
 4 fresh jalapenos, seeded and finely chopped*
 1 clove garlic, crushed
 1 tbsp. dried parsley or fresh cilantro to taste
 1 tsp. salt

Method

*To prevent jalapenos from burning your fingers, lightly rub fingers with shortening, especially around fingernails.

Serve with tortilla chips.

Linda Hubbard
 Rapid City, S.D.

LUANN'S FRESH SALSA

Ingredients:

4 med. tomatoes, peeled and chopped
 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
 1/4 cup finely chopped green pepper
 1 2 tbsps. jalapeno or other hot pepper, seeded and finely chopped
 1 tsp. salt
 pepper to taste
 1 tbsp. lime juice or red wine vinegar
 1 2 tps. catsup
 dash garlic powder
 dash cayenne pepper
 1 2 tps. sugar
 cilantro (optional)

Method

Mix all ingredients. Serve with any tortilla or corn chips for dipping. Will keep approximately 1 week in the refrigerator.

Nancy Stenson
 Fort Pierre, S.D.

TAMARIND PASILLA MANGO PINEAPPLE SALSA

Ingredients:

1 1/4 cups diced fresh pineapple
 1 large mango, pitted and diced (about 1 1/4 cup)
 1 small red onion, diced
 1 small red bell pepper, diced
 1/4 cup finely chopped fresh cilantro
 1 med. jalapeño pepper, seeded and finely chopped
 2 cloves fresh garlic, minced
 3 tbsps. fresh lime juice
 1 tbsp. honey
 4 1/2 teaspoons Tamarind Naturally Flavored & Pasilla Chile Seasoning

Method

Mix all ingredients in medium bowl. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes before serving. Stir before serving. Serve with tortilla chips or use to top tacos or nachos.

McCormick

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Shift to Time of Use Rate & Save



Sheila Gross
Energy Services
Specialist

Contact Sheila Gross at sheila.gross@siouxvalleyenergy.com to learn more. Check out our rebates and incentives here:

Sioux Valley Energy offers an optional rate choice – the Time of Use Rate (TOU) – which puts the power to save money in members’ hands by shifting energy use to off-peak times.

HOW DOES THE TOU RATE DIFFER FROM THE STANDARD RATE PROGRAM?

Members on the standard rate program pay \$0.1055/kWh regardless of the time of day energy is consumed. The TOU rate offers 16 hours of an off-peak rate of \$0.0592/kWh and just eight hours of an on-peak rate of \$0.1631/kWh during a 24-hour period – seven days a week. Members on either the TOU or standard rate will continue to receive a reduced rate for heating of \$0.0655/kWh October through April billing cycles. The TOU rate applies to all electric usage for your account – if you also have shops, farm-related activities etc., you’ll need to determine if this rate can work for you. The TOU rate is available for residential, rural-residential, and general service classifications.

HOW DOES THE TOU RATE WORK?

The answer is simple – shift daily chores to off-peak times and practice conservation. My husband and I are empty nesters. I am under the residential classification, have a heat pump with gas backup, all-electric appliances including a Marathon® water heater, and a home office. In the last 12 months, I’ve saved \$84.28, which is free money to cover nearly 70% of one of my average electric bills!

You may wonder how this rate could work for a rural residential account or a larger family. Reggie Gassman, SVE’s Beneficial Electrification Specialist, lives on a farm with outbuildings and cattle, still has family at home, has a geothermal heat pump, and all-electric appliances. Reggie saved \$173.94 in the last 12 months. His savings cover 83% of one of his average electric bills!

Remember that 16 hours each day are under the off-peak rate for all your electric load. I’m consistent with doing laundry and dishwashing during the off-peak hours. When I’m at my home office, I get the benefit of paying nearly half the standard rate for 75% of the workday hours. Most of us encounter the busyness of our evening during supper time and the on-peak hours from 4-9 p.m. However, there are many things you can do to practice conservation during that

time. I use appliances such as an air fryer, slow cooker, pressure cooker, and pizza oven that not only save me time and add convenience, but can also consume less energy than my electric stove. Grilling outside in the summer avoids heating up my house and making the air conditioner work harder. I have a smart thermostat, but I haven’t practiced shifting air conditioning load yet. I could save even more money by pre-cooling my home during the lower off-peak hours and adjusting the thermostat down during on-peak hours. I’m conscious about turning lights off in unoccupied rooms and unplugging unnecessary electronics and appliances.

You can also install timers on equipment such as circulating pumps, pool/hot tub pumps, block heaters, etc., so they don’t operate during on-peak times. On days that Marathon® or HTP water heaters connected to SVE’s load management program are controlled, the patterns for control may not align perfectly to the on-peak rate blocks.

Outlet power strips allow you to shut off power to items that draw energy or remain in standby mode even when they aren’t turned on, like gaming stations. If you own an electric vehicle, schedule charging for off-peak hours. Switching to efficient LEDs is another way to save money and use less energy.

WILL I SAVE MONEY ON THE TOU RATE?

Try our three-month risk-free trial! Start with doing a walk-through of your home and any outbuildings to know what your electric loads are and when you are using them. SmartHub, our online account management tool, may also be helpful in reviewing your account usage and history. Call 1-877-511-8062 to sign up for the TOU rate. During this trial period, you’ll be billed for whichever rate is most advantageous to you. You’ll see a note with the TOU savings under the usage/weather bar chart on each monthly statement. Your account can be switched back to the standard rate upon request.

If you’d like more information on kWh use of common household appliances, visit our website and download the *Use Energy Wisely* booklet. <https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/energy-efficiency-tools>.



OFF PEAK RATE

\$0.0592/kWh
10 a.m. 4 p.m.
and 9 p.m. 7 a.m.
(nearly half of the
standard rate)

ON PEAK RATE

\$0.1631/kWh
7 10 a.m. and
4 9 p.m.
(about 1.5 times
higher than the
standard rate)

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG










SVE Contractor, Summit Utility Services, locates and marks underground utilities for SVE members

Digging without locating underground utilities, even the smallest digging projects, could leave you and your neighbors in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damages, or result in severe electrical shock. To stay safe, make use of the free national underground utility locating service by calling 811 at least two working days before you dig.

The 811 “Call Before You Dig” number will route your dig ticket request to Sioux Valley Energy, and all other utilities within your dig area. Be prepared to tell 811 operators where and when you plan to dig and what type of work you will be doing. From there, it takes a few business days for SVE’s contractor, **Summit Utility Services**, to come mark electric underground cable with flags and/or spray paint.

There are different colors of paint and flags that mark the

underground utilities, and each color is universal to what utility is buried.

-  **Red - Electric**
-  **Orange - Communications, Telephone/CATV**
-  **Blue - Potable Water**
-  **Green - Sewer/Drainage**
-  **Yellow - Gas/Petroleum Pipe Line**
-  **Purple - Reclaimed Water**
-  **White - Premark site of intended excavation**

Even if you previously had utilities located by calling 811, it is best to call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift, and it is important to be certain of where they are before ever putting a shovel in the ground.

For more information about 811 and digging safety, visit Call811.com and SafeElectricity.org.

Meet Our Contractor – Summit Utility Services

Sioux Valley Energy utilizes contractors for several services, including underground utility locating. The Co-op’s underground locating contractor, **Summit Utility Services**, was formed in 2011 and began locating for utilities in 2012. They have worked as a Sioux Valley Energy contractor for 12 years. They not only provide locating services for electric utilities, like Sioux Valley Energy, they also locate for fiber, natural gas, phone, and cable television.

When a Sioux Valley Energy member or contractor calls a locate request into 811, those tickets are forwarded to Sioux Valley Energy. Last year nearly 20,000 requests were sent to the Co-op. The SVE dispatchers were able to clear approximately 2,000 from the dispatch center. The remaining 18,000 requests were sent to **Summit Utility Services** to locate underground facilities.

Summit Utility Services has 30 local employees with an office in Canton, S.D. Members can identify them with

logoed clothing and vehicles (logo as seen in the above photo). There are several contractors throughout the region that have a similar name. **Summit Utility Services** is not associated with any other company and only provides underground locating services to utilities like SVE.

Homeowners and contractors who have electric facilities located can determine what is underground by distinct markings:

- **Clear/No Facilities:** No or OK flag
- **Secondary or Single-Phase:** Dashed red lines through workzone
- **Three-Phase:** Three lines grouped together in a similar manner.



Have a digging project this spring? Call 811 at least two business days ahead to have your underground utilities located.



KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON

Elliot and Janaye Rayman at their second annual Barefoot Fitness Memorial Day fundraiser.

One Lineman's After-hours Outreach

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Across the state, linemen are charged with keeping South Dakota's power going. It's a big responsibility: troubleshooting electrical systems, operating heavy equipment, and maintaining power lines. These workers are frequently asked to navigate high voltage and confront dangerous challenges in all kinds of extreme weather. In the face of these challenges, it takes a truly community-minded individual to ensure the community's lights stay on. Many of these crucial workers demonstrate their commitment to their community daily, both during and outside of work hours.

Butte Electric Journeyman Lineman Elliot Rayman, who has been with the cooperative for seven years, serves as just one example of an electric cooperative employee who has pulled extra hours for his local community of Spearfish, S.D. In addition to his role as a lineman, Elliot wears many hats in his community beyond just the hard hat of a co-op employee. He is a veteran of the National Guard, having served a deployment overseas. Elliot and his wife, Janaye, are also deeply involved in their community as the owners of Barefoot Fitness, a gym in the Spearfish community. Janaye, a cancer survivor, operates the gym and is an integral part of their community efforts.

Janaye and Elliot purchased Barefoot Fitness in 2018, fulfilling Janaye's long-standing dream of owning a gym. Shortly after their purchase, the couple learned that Janaye's cancer, previously in remission, had metastasized into Stage 4 breast cancer.

"In 2020, I had reoccurrence everywhere – brain, lungs, liver, bones," said Janaye. "Since then, I have been on a mission every day to heal and recover. It's also been my goal to help others every single day, day in and day out, and that's

what keeps me going. That's my job and it's what I love to do, so I'm not stopping."

"My wife is an inspiration to many people," added Elliot. "She is the strongest person I know."

Undeterred, Elliot and Janaye decided to press on and use their gym as a platform to engage with their local community. Despite Janaye's ongoing battle with breast cancer, the two started a new Barefoot Fitness tradition – an annual Memorial Day fundraiser to benefit South Dakota's gold star families, the families of fallen soldiers.

"After a few years of owning the gym, we decided we needed to give back to the community, because the community had really been there for us through everything," said Elliot. "We knew we had the ability and the platform to give back to the community through Barefoot Fitness, so we settled on a Memorial Day fundraiser that would benefit gold star families in our state."

This May, Elliot and Janaye will host their fourth Barefoot Fitness Memorial Day fundraiser. Like previous years, the event will feature local catering from Spearfish businesses, such as Spearfish Brewing Company and Timmons Market. The event will also include an optional community workout for all ages.

"We kick off our day with the National Guard leading the pledge of allegiance and national anthem," said Janaye. "We do a prayer, and then we do our Memorial Day workout. It's a team workout that people are encouraged to complete with their family or friends."

According to Janaye and Elliot, the team workout is about more than just breaking a sweat. Instead, it's about remembering those who gave their lives for this country.

"You always hear about people doing things for veterans, but you never hear about the story on the other side of

that – the families," Janaye said. "A lot of times the family is forgotten so we really want to honor the families that also made a sacrifice."

At the end of the day, Elliot and Janaye said none of their efforts would be possible without the support they have received from the Spearfish community, the veteran community,

and the electric cooperative community.

"Butte Electric and the co-op world have helped us out so much," said Elliot. "The culture of the co-op community is huge: there is brotherhood – it's the way people help each other out. You just can't ask for a better group of people, and that's the same way with the veteran world."



Janaye and Elliot lead a community workout session, challenging participants to complete 300 weighted ball throws.

FAQS

Rate Increase for SVE Members in April

Sioux Valley Energy members will see a rate increase on their electric bill starting in April. To round out the third article in the rate increase series, we are providing members with additional information to some of the most frequently asked questions:

What is this Basic Service Charge and why is it increasing?

The Basic Service Charge is a fixed amount on your electric bill each month. This fee helps pay for the electrical infrastructure (poles, wires, transformers, substations, etc.) that is required to get power to your home or business. It also helps pay for the maintenance of that equipment. There is a fixed cost for the infrastructure regardless of how much electricity you use (even if you use 0 kWh there is a fixed cost to have the service at your location). The average investment per account is approximately \$12,500 plus ongoing maintenance costs. As the cost of infrastructure (poles, wires, transformers, etc.) have all increased significantly, the need for increasing the Basic Service Charge has also gone up.

What process does the Co-op go through when considering a rate increase?

The process Sioux Valley Energy goes through to consider a rate increase is very systematic. The Board of Directors monitors financials each month, reviewing both short and long-term forecasts; a third-party study into the Cooperative's cost of service is conducted; and an internal rate committee also analyzes that information.

SCAN THIS
CODE TO LEARN
MORE AND TO
CALCULATE
YOUR RATE



How will the rate increase impact my individual electric bill?

Sioux Valley Energy has a rate calculator on its website at <https://siouxvalleyenergy.com/2024-rate-changes> for members who would like to compare what their electric use would cost them on the old rate vs. the new rate. But as an example, if a single phase farm and rural residential member uses 1,500 kWh a month, their monthly electric bill will increase \$14.35. If a residential member uses 1,200 kWh a month, their monthly electric bill will increase \$13.48 a month.

I'm struggling to pay my electric bill, what can I do?

There are many assistance agencies available for members. You can find the agency listing here: <https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/my-billing#assistance>

Farm and Rural Residential		
Rate Component	Old Rate	New Rate
Single-Phase Basic Service Charge	\$55	\$65
3-Phase Basic Service Charge	\$100	\$120
Energy Charge	\$0.1026	\$0.1055

Residential		
Rate Component	Old Rate	New Rate
Basic Service Charge	\$20	\$30
Energy Charge	\$0.1026	\$0.1055

General Service		
Rate Component	Old Rate	New Rate
Single-Phase Basic Service Charge	\$55	\$75
3-Phase Basic Service Charge	\$100	\$120
Energy Charge	\$0.1026	\$0.1055

Large Power		
Rate Component	Old Rate	New Rate
Basic Service Charge	\$1.20/kVa	\$1.50 /kVA
Demand Charge	\$16.50/kW	\$17.00 /kW
Energy Charge	\$0.03650/kwh	\$0.03760 /kWh

A POWERful Lesson

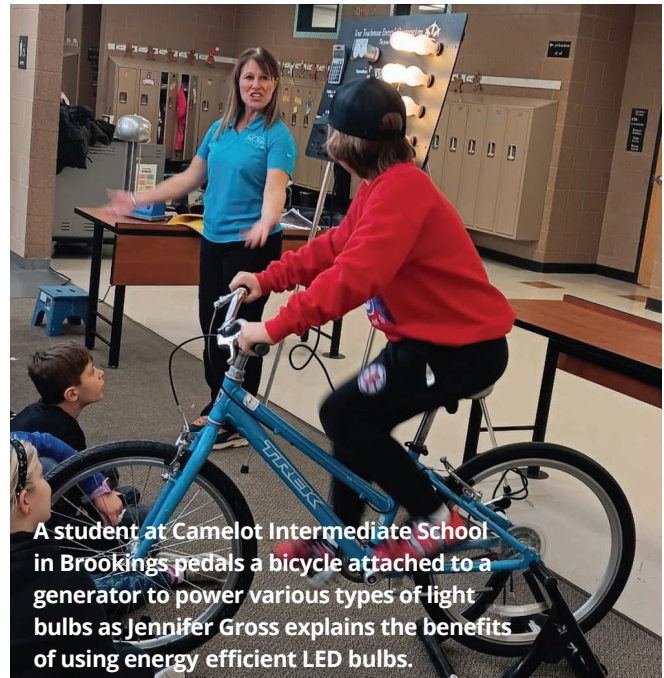
Co-ops in the Classroom delivers electric education to schools

What do socks, flashlights, and bicycles have in common? All these materials were used to teach more than 640 children in schools throughout Sioux Valley Energy's service territory this winter.

Co-ops in the Classroom is a program offered by Sioux Valley Energy's wholesale power provider, East River Electric Power Cooperative. Jennifer Gross, Education & Outreach Coordinator for East River, travels throughout East River's service territory in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota to teach children about electrical safety, generation, conservation, and economics.

During the course of the hour long presentations, Gross took the students on the journey of electricity at the atomic level, all the way to the hundreds of miles it travels from the power plant to our homes.

A variety of hands-on demonstrations engaged the students. A Van de Graaff generator demonstrated the movement of electrons with some hair-raising results. "That one is always a crowd-pleaser," said Gross. "Not only does it provide a visible and audible example of how electricity moves, students also get a kick out of seeing their hair stand up and shocking their friends. Sometimes we even get the teachers to join in."



A student at Camelot Intermediate School in Brookings pedals a bicycle attached to a generator to power various types of light bulbs as Jennifer Gross explains the benefits of using energy efficient LED bulbs.

Another device that invokes a lot of excitement is the Pedal Power bicycle generator. Students are asked to become power plants as they provide the energy that produces electricity for lights and small household devices. "The Pedal Power turns the concept of electricity from something abstract into something tangible. By providing the energy needed to make a light bulb turn on, the students are able to quantify just how much more energy an incandescent light bulb requires than a CFL or LED," said Gross.



Scan the QR code to access the Sioux Valley Energy website where you can download the Cooperative Connections Card app for mobile devices.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD

The Co-op Connections Card is a partnership between Sioux Valley Energy and local businesses! Each member can download the card for free on the app by scanning the QR code. You get your Co-op Connections Card simply because you're a member of Sioux Valley Energy. Each month, we'll include a listing of businesses participating in the program. Below are businesses located in Arlington, Brandon, and Brookings:



SCAN ME

ARLINGTON

Bits of Yesterday Antique Mall
Flowers by Betsy

BRANDON

3 Degrees Infrared Sauna Studio
Anytime Fitness
Brandon Ace Hardware
Brandon Golf Course
Fit For Life Chiropractic, LLC
Harry Buck - Hegg Realty
Heartland Funeral Home
Holiday Inn Express & Suites - Brandon
Jones Family Eyecare

Love That Look

Rivers Edge
Decorative Concrete LLC
Splitrock C-Store
Sunshine Foods
Taco John's
Tailgator's
Today's Family Dentistry
Wilde Prairie Winery

BROOKINGS

b.beautiful Hair Lounge
Brookings Family Dentistry
Cubby's Sports Bar & Grill
Hometown Service and Tire

Martin Oil
Midwest Glass, Inc
Party Depot
Perry Electric
Air Conditioning & Heating
Powershop Gym
Qdoba Mexican Grill
Schoon's Pump N Pak
Tee'd Off Golf Simulators
The Automotive Service Center
The Optical Shop
The UPS Store
Young Door Service Inc



SDHP Trooper Megan Koch stands by her patrol vehicle. Koch works within the state's Motor Carrier Division. *Photo Credit: Shannon Marvel*

COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Shannon Marvel

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

When commercial motor vehicles come into the state of South Dakota, it's the job of the South Dakota Highway Patrol's Motor Carrier Division to ensure the drivers of those vehicles have the necessary paperwork, permits and documents.

The task is one of public safety.

Making sure the carriers are adhering to safe driving practices is just another way to ensure that everyone is as safe as they can be while driving on the state's roadways.

South Dakota Highway Patrol

Trooper Megan Koch is one of the officers who works within the motor carrier division.

"Our main focus is making sure the motor carriers or trucks are safe on the roadways and keeping everybody else safe. It helps them perform their job of carrying their property or passengers across the state lines and within the state. We help make sure that they can do that job," Koch explained.

Mainly, Koch works specifically with commercial motor vehicles that carry over a certain weight or property of monetary value within the state or interstate.

"When we do an inspection on a driver, we're checking a bunch of different things. Weight sometimes is one of them, but not always. It just depends on the situation," Koch said.

"They have to have certain paperwork with them and they are required to follow certain rules. It depends on what they're doing."

The dependent variables include whether a carrier is traveling with goods within the state or going out of the state and how far away they are from the hub, or where they leave every day or go home to every day.

Koch also checks their paperwork to ensure the drivers are within compliance of state law.

"They have to follow certain hours that they can work so that they don't get tired while driving. It's a big thing that we follow for safety," Koch said.

"We also check things like

equipment violations, headlights, taillights, tires, you know, stuff that makes them safe on the roadway and keeps them safe. We'll also check for things such as bad driving behavior, if they're not staying within their own lane, using blinkers, not properly stopping at stop sign – stuff like that. So, if we see something like that, we can initiate an inspection."

Koch, a Plankinton native whose father was a truck driver, said the division is typically checking brake lines and lights.

In South Dakota, there are four main ports of entry. The ports are located along Interstate 29 in Jefferson and Sisseton, and along Interstate 90 in Sioux Falls and Tilford.

Each carrier is issued a "safety score," which is assessed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

"That's based on whether or not they have the proper paperwork, if they're driving within their hours, if they have the proper equipment and whether or not they've received any driving or alcohol violations," Koch said.

If a driver has a high enough safety score, they aren't required by law to stop at a port for inspection.

Overall, it all comes down to keeping the roadways safe for everyone, regardless of what type of vehicle they are driving.

"These rules and laws are in place for a reason. They have to be extra alert and awake while they're driving and that all of their equipment works properly. If you're driving a very heavy, large vehicle, you need excellent brakes. You have to be able to stop in time. That is the main reason we're checking all these things. It helps everybody on the road."

The division also works

with rural electric cooperatives when oversized loads travel along the state's highway system, according to Lieutenant Austin Schmitz, District Four Assistant Commander with the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

Sometimes oversized loads require that overhead power lines be moved out of the way to let the carrier pass through.

"As a district we do work with a lot of the cooperatives such as East River Electric. We all get together when planning for oversized loads coming through our area," Schmitz said.

"They usually run the route first and let us know what lines they need to move."

That was the case when a massive generator was moved across the state. The generator was so heavy and huge that the truck carrying it could only travel 30 miles per hour. That truck was also equipped with over a hundred tires, Schmitz said.

"That generator came through Watertown a couple of years ago and we've got some more coming in two or

three years," Schmitz said, referring to the multi-million pound machines.

"The planning for those started last year. That equipment will be coming in through the Great Lakes on a ship. They'll pick them up there and then they'll move through our state then Wyoming, Montana, however they can go," Schmitz said.

The truck carrying the heavy equipment is too big to go across most bridges and overpasses, so finding a route that allows the machinery to snake across the country is tricky.

While moving huge pieces of machinery can be one of the more interesting parts of the job, it's the flexibility of the job that Koch enjoys most.

"I get to pick and choose where I want to go for the day. I get to do something a little bit different every day. Because, I mean, nothing is ever the same," Koch said.

"It's kind of nice to be able to do that and make the day what you want of it."



A SDHP officer has the latest technology at his or her fingertips to ensure trucks on South Dakota roads are operating safely. Photo Credit: South Dakota Highway Patrol

Capital Credits

Each year when Sioux Valley Energy mails capital credit checks to former members, some are returned because the person has moved.

Jody Lebahn, Manager of Accounting

jody.lebahn@siouxvalleyenergy.com

These checks were sent in December 2023 to members from 2000, 2001 and 2022. If you know any of the people on this list, please tell them to contact Sioux Valley Energy at 800-234-1960 or email jody.lebahn@siouxvalleyenergy.com to claim their capital credit check.

ALASKA TO GEORGIA

Borah, Milt..... Soldotna, AK
 Maras, Andrew..... Casa Grande, AZ
 Dewitt, Agnes M..... Kingman, AZ
 Lutz, Sharon..... Phoenix, AZ
 Pape, Danette S..... Phoenix, AZ
 Ryan, Clifford M & Virginia L
 % Fred Ryan..... Phoenix, AZ
 Benson, Jeff & Karen..... Scottsdale, AZ
 Butterfield, Mark..... Sierra Vista, AZ
 Polzin, Tim..... Sun Lakes, AZ
 Brooke, Kerry %Linda Kennedy ... Colusa, CA
 Trinity Broadcasting Net,
 Attn: LPTV Dept..... Santa Ana, CA
 Byers, Mark B. & Tonya K..... Yuba City, CA
 Schemmel, Jerry..... Littleton, CO
 Miller, Shelby..... Orange City, FL
 Gau Craig A. & Jan..... Sunrise, FL
 Midwest Fidelity Partners..... Atlanta, GA

IOWA

Koistinen, Keith..... Ames, IA, IA
 Bentson, Don & Loretta..... Cedar Rapids, IA
 Pithan, Virgil..... Denison, IA
 Hykes, Randy..... Elkhart, IA
 Nelson, Dustin & Nicole..... Hawarden, IA

SOUTH DAKOTA

ABERDEEN

McCarlson, Jeanette K.
 Steinhouse,
 Blaine S. & Faye M.

ALEXANDRIA

Hayne, Larry

ARLINGTON

Anderson, Delores
 Meyer, Craig
 Scott, Paul

ASTORIA

Tharp, Cecil

AURORA

Criner, Mark
 Fleiter, Jamie
 Hruska, Rob
 %Stephanie Huska

BALTIC

Olson, Amanda R.

BRANDON

Bennett, Marlys
 Dardis, Dave & Betty
 Duke, Ralph
 & Shelly R.

Else, Shannon

Else, Wade

Johnson, Kris

Lindner, Joseph M.

Mark, Amy

Muhs, Jean S.

Olson, Marian

Robinson, Dorothy A.

Steffel, Tim & Tammie

Waldner, Angela C.

Wartner, Barry

BROOKINGS

Bauer, Sherie L.

Burkhalter, Brian E. &
 Gwendolyn S.

Rodriguez, Juan..... Independence, IA
 Wolf, Erma..... Inwood, IA
 Goemmel Estate, Leon,
 % Kurt Goemmel Payee..... Logan, IA
 Putnam, Ryan & Calli..... Milford, IA

Knudtson, Dodie L..... Waverly, IA

IDAHO TO MASSACHUSETTES

Navaille, Patrick..... Ashton, ID
 Kothe, Charlotte R..... Bonners Ferry, ID
 Staufe, Bruce A. & Regina..... O'Fallon, IL
 Gamber, Jasen..... Ridge Farm, IL
 Turner, John & Lori A..... Auburn, KS
 Anderson, Dr. Edward..... Weston, MA

MINNESOTA

Barber, Andrea..... Alberta, MN
 Miller, Chandra R..... Albertville, MN
 Storbeck, Curt & Wendy..... Baudette, MN
 Abdallah, Nathan..... Beaver Creek, MN
 Gade, Michael..... Dassel, MN
 Thomas, Lyn..... Eagan, MN
 Lents, Stephen..... Edgerton, MN
 Krogmann, Bonita..... Hendricks, MN
 Oelfke, William A..... Holland, MN
 Feltman, Larry..... Jasper, MN
 Rodman, Shannon & Lisa..... Jasper, MN

Carr, Oscar E. &
 Beatrice

Craig Christopherson
 Dreis, Casey & Stacy
 Ellis, Jim

Herman, Mike
 Ireland, Larry & Sandy

Jacob, Donald F. &
 Helen C

John, Janet S.
 Joseph, Andy

Jungen, Daniel
 Kabris, Mitchell

Mathis, Jerry
 Metcalf, Matt

Nelson, Brian
 Overskei, Shirley

Palmer, George &
 Mary Ann

Pickard, Eric
 Simet, Joyce V.

Stoll, Duane
 & Michelle

Stoll, Peggy
 Sturm, Todd

Suhr, Habe
 Swier, Kevin

Thue, Roger
 Zawacki, Lynn

CHESTER

Gullickson, Don
 Martinson, Chadwick

COLMAN

Gergen, Jeff
 Lelm, Lenny

Patterson,
 Pat & Sharon

COLTON

Farr, Joyce
 Vandervliet, Albertha

COLUMBIA

Kuhl, Renae

Lake Benton LyonsClub.....
 C/O James S. Sorensen .Lake Benton, MN
 Varns, Ronna Lake Wilson, MN
 Beyenhoff, Herman Df Luverne, MN
 Hessel, David G. Luverne, MN
 Mulder, Henrietta Luverne, MN
 Nugteren, Wes Luverne, MN
 Westphal, Jerry Luverne, MN
 St. Aubin, John & Tracey Lynd, MN
 Smith, Jason J.,
 C/O Marilyn Smith Maple Grove, MN

Rock Pickers Inc.,
 C/O Shawn Patty Marietta, MN

Carr, Darwin & Martha New Prague, MN
 Martinez, Mauricio Pipestone, MN

Scofield, Tim Pipestone, MN
 Freitag, Kathie..... Renville, MN

Kennedy, Denise..... Rochester, MN
 Rydberg, Kevin & Deidra Rochester, MN

Walsh, Shontell T. Saint Cloud, MN
 Enga, Colleen Saint James, MN

Westley, Troy Saint Louis Park, MN
 Crockford, Deeann Trimont, MN

Nichols, Steven C. Tyler, MN
 Erickson, Elizabeth E.

C/O Connie Styf Woodbury, MN

MISSOURI TO OREGON

Miller, Ed..... Columbia, MO
 Heinert, Nathan Minot, ND

Gylten, Heather Wahpeton, ND
 Tayer, Don % Kyle Speidel Wahpeton, ND

Espeland, Keith Grand Island, NE
 Willard, Clyde & Roberta Lincoln, NE

Donnelly, Pat & Kris..... Papillion, NE
 Rosenkranz, Jason Stromsburg, NE

McDougall, Michael..... Las Cruces, NM
 Potter, Rosemary..... Ashland, OH

Dove, James Columbia Station, OH
 Carnice, Ray Oregon, OH

Fawcett, Richard W. & Urszula Bend, OR

CROOKS

Jensen,
 David & Colleen

Moss, Bradley
 & Erica K.

COLUMBIA

Kuhl, Renae

CUSTER

Johnson, Jay % Jessica
 Rasmussen

DELL RAPIDS

Beamon, Helen L.

Klein, Stacey

Niklason, Ruby J.

Schmidt, Greg

FLANDREAU

Armstrong, Paula J.

Collins, James F.

Hansen, Eddie

Lovejoy, Kimberly

GARRETSON

Clima, Judy

Johansen, Terry

HARRISBURG

Ramirez, Porfirio

Skroch, Jay & Rebecca

Trowbridge, Alan

HARTFORD

Busch, Michelle

Goldie, Jordan J.

Henery, Gladys

Pahl, Larry & Cindy

Steenblock, Brad

Vesh, Roni

HECLA

Frohling, Lance

HOT SPRINGS

Fallang, Duane

HOWES

Sandal, Scott

SVE to give out Bare Root Seedling Trees

Celebrate Earth Day 2024 by picking up a trio of small bare root seedling trees (hackberry, Autumn Blaze maple, and Black Hills spruce) at Sioux Valley Energy. In recognition of Sioux Valley Energy's commitment to community and caring for the environment objectives, the Cooperative will be providing 350 sets of bare root tree seedlings for members to plant.

Members are eligible for three trees in total for as long as the trees last. The give away event (which is dependent upon weather, shipment dates, and availability) will take place at each of the Co op's service centers in Colman, Brandon, Hartford, and Pipestone.

Members can stop by one of the offices on Thursday, April 18 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If there are any extra trees available after the Thursday give away, those trees will be available Friday, April 19, during the hours of 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. **Trees will be given out on a "first come, first served" basis. So**

once the trees are gone; they are gone! Check

Facebook and www.siouxvalleyenergy.com

for updates or call 800 234 1960 before you come to ensure there are still trees available!



HUMBOLDT
Stephenson, Charity

HURON
Clark, Jamie L.

LAKE PRESTON
Bradfield, Gregory A.

LEAD
Campbell, Elizabeth

LENNOX
Hoffmann, Kevin & Gina
Rens, Dennis & Rita

MADISON
Christensen, Lisa
Clarke Realty,
Dwayne Clarke
Cole, Lois
El-Gayar, Omar
F & M Cafe
%Don Sheppard
Gilbert, Brad
Graves, Ronald
Hass, Luke W.
Kaufenberg, Mike

MITCHELL
Alexander, Curtis
Blom, Jolene
Miskimins,
R.S. & Betty
Nolz, Greg
Thiess, Justin
Tobin, Steve

NEW UNDERWOOD
Chivers, Sabrina

PARKER
Dather, Grant
Dean, Kara
Plucker, Debbie
Van Emmerik,
Dean & Jodi

PIERRE
Ellis, Leon R.
Sweetman, Mark

RAMONA
Lund, Dennis & Pat

RAPID CITY
Kenyon, Bill
Sehr, Julie
Wiatr, Edward

RAYMOND
Mahrt, Koby & Donna

REDFIELD
Belkham, Jack

SALEM
Baxter, Kathy
Weber, Ron

SIoux FALLS
Aase, Bonnie
Anderson, Brian
Baker, Lisa
Baxter, Patrick J. & Martha
Berg, Jim & Debra
Betts, Kathy
Bowar, Roman & Jan
Brasel, Larry
Brown, Clyde J. or Vivian
Chen, C. H.
Christensen, Brent
Dakota Earthworks,
DBA: Dakota Ag-
gregate Resource
DeJong, David L.
DeJong, Gail
DeWitt, Martin
Dingler, Bart
Dresch, Amy
Driscoll, Michael
Duncan, Sandy
Eitreim, Randall L.
Entenman, Debbie
Evans, Jerry & Rachele
Foss, Kevin
Fox Dvm, Kari
Frank, Scott
Fuller, Betty
Graves, Helen
Gross, Beth
Haagenson, Wm A.
Haakinson, Rick & Karen
Hagerty, Bill & Karen
Hajek, Douglas J. & Anne C.
Hanson, Elaine A.
Harlow, Paula
Harvey, Lori
Hasvold, Marvin C.,
C/O Dave Hasvold
Heald, David S.
Holey Cow Inc,
C/O Jim & Deb Heine
Howard, Carla M.
Huddleston, Gail
Jackson, Cheryl
Jensen, Tim
Johnson, Heidi
Kalkbrenner, Angela
Kleinsasser, Linda
Konz, Jason
Langdon,
Rob & Jennifer
Lange, Ryan & Amy
Larsen, Richard W. &

Carla M.
Larsen, Russ
Larsen, Jeff & Shelley
Larsen, Steve C. & Elaine D.
Leuning, Nate
Ley, Stephanie
Lieuwen, Percy R.,
DBA Liewen
Construction
Lipp, Greg
Lynch, Matthew G. & Stacey L.
Marquardt, Paul
McDonald,
Arthur & Barbara
McDonald, Cara, DBA
Midwest Dance
Center
Moench, Laura
Mullin, Todd
Munce, John
Neilson-Rehm,
Mickey
Nelson, David & Laurie
Nielsen, Dawn,
% Angie Pankonin
Nuncio, George
Nygard, Matthew & Kathy
Olson, Bruce & Linda
Palmer, Dawn
Parker, Tricia
Pasch, Dennis
Paulin, Darrell
Pedersen, Dale A
Pickett, Jeff
Piechowski,
Kimberly J.
Porter, Anna
Post, Gordon
Pulscher, Gordon
Raymer, Michael
Reu, Julie
Satellite Cable S,
Ervices
Sawvell, Rick & Sandy
Schafer,
Derrick & Toni
Schmidt,
Tony & Teresa
Shaffer, Julie
Shaver,
Charles B. & Gina
Short,
Greg & Elizabeth
Siefken, Donna
Sim, Jin
Smith, Laura L.
Smith, Preston

Smith, Timothy & Jean
Snaza, Darin
Swenson, Melissa
Taggart,
Roger & Mickie
Terwilliger, Robin
Tiff, Kendra
Tobias, Donna
Tokheim, Jim A.
Wahlberg, Tami
Waldner,
Mark & Sheila
Wallin, Doug
Webb, Janice
Weigel, Brad & Gina
Weiler, Marlys
Weyh, Dawn D.
Wilebski, Travis L.
Wilson, Glenna
Wommack, David
Wuebben, Leslie A.
Wulf, Jason C.
Wurtz, Richard
Zobel,
Raymond & Elaine
Zoomers Inc,
DBA Dairy Queen

STRATFORD
Zimmerman, Gail

STURGIS
Bloom, Eric

TEA
Atkins, Alvin
Dunker, Craig

VALLEY SPRINGS
Gregg, John
Herrin, Nancy
Johnson, Karen
Owsley, Jamie
Smith, Sandra

VERMILLION
Oehler, Travis

VOLGA
Bruett, Ellen
Holt, Kim
Osterberg,
Dustin & Amy
Weinberg, Mike
Wynia, Nicole

WATERTOWN
Borns, Douglas
Clark, Richard
Conklin, Doug
Huls, Todd & Rhonda
Johnke, Carrie
Korslund, Dennis
Larsen, Tammy
Mutschler, Bruce

Eldridge, Robert W.....Bristow, VA
Hanson, Douglas A.
& Kelly M..... Chippewa Falls, WI
Hoffman, Steven & Jennifer A.Weston, WI
Pedersen, Arnie & Ida Gillette, WY
McKinley, Randy A. Sheridan, WY

TEXAS TO WYOMING

Eastman, Arla Kae.....Crawford, TX
Patouga, Leonid & Yelena Hixson, TX
Carlson, Rachel.....Fort Sam Houston, TX
Schmidt, R.d. & Eve.....Kerrville, TX
Lattimer, Lonna.....Killeen, TX
Guajardo, Juanita G.Knippa, TX

If you know any of the people on this list, please tell them to contact Sioux Valley Energy at 800-234-1960 or email jody.lebahn@siouxvalleyenergy.com to claim their capital credit check.



APRIL 5-7, 2024
PBR: Unleash the Beast
 Denny Sanford
 PREMIER Center
 Sioux Falls, SD

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

MARCH 30
BHEC Community Easter Egg Hunt
 10 a.m.
 Hermosa Baseball Fields
 Hermosa, SD

MARCH 31
Easter Sunday Sunrise Celebration
 7 a.m.
 Mount Rushmore National Monument
 Keystone, SD

APRIL 2
Clay-Union Electric Ribbon Cutting & Open House
 3 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
 31321 SD Hwy. 19
 Vermillion, SD

APRIL 5
A Night at the Races fundraiser for Safe Place of Eastern SD
 6:30 p.m.
 Highland Conference Center
 Mitchell, SD

APRIL 5-7
71st Annual Hayes Play: Under a Cowboy Moon
 7 p.m.
 Hayes Community Hall
 Hayes, SD

APRIL 12-14
The Farmer's Daughter 19th Anniversary Celebration
 Hill City, SD

APRIL 13
Front Porch 605 Shop Hop
 9 a.m.
 Groton, SD

APRIL 20
Groton Firemen's Spring Social
 7 p.m.
 Groton Fire Station
 Groton, SD

APRIL 21
Fiddle & Popular Song
 2 p.m.
 Gayville Hall
 Gayville, SD

APRIL 26
Mitchell Technical College Alumni Cornhole Tournament
 6:30 p.m.
 World's Only Corn Palace
 Mitchell, SD

APRIL 27
66th Annual Lions Pancake Jamboree
 7 a.m.
 Masonic Hall
 Mitchell, SD

MAY 4
Consignment Auction
 Historic Prairie Village
 Madison, SD

MAY 5
Opening Day
 Historic Prairie Village
 Madison, SD

MAY 18
Booth Day
 10 a.m.
 D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery
 Spearfish, SD

JUNE 1
Miss Prairie Village/Miss Prairie Princess Pageant
 Historic Prairie Village
 Madison, SD

JUNE 6
14th Annual Ag Women's Day
 GracePoint Wesleyan Church
 1420 Orchard Dr.
 Brookings, SD

JUNE 8
Antique Tractor Pull
 Historic Prairie Village
 Madison, SD

JULY 31-AUG. 3
4-H & FFA Livestock Shows Carnival Rides & Games
 Pipestone, MN

Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.