



Cooperative Connections



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Utility Worker Safety

Slow Down in Work Zones



Tim McCarthy, GM/CEO

tim.mccarthy@siouxvalleyenergy.com

Nearly 100,000 crashes occur in work zones each year according to the Federal Highway Administration. That means all those cones, flashing lights, signage and flagging employees are not catching the attention of all drivers. Sioux Valley Energy has an aggressive work plan and our lineworkers spend countless hours working along the road side. Unfortunately, each year I hear stories from our crews about vehicles speeding through work zones and creating hazardous situations for our employees.

I know how busy we all are—trying to get kids to and from their activities, running late for work, etc. But shaving a minute or two off of drive time is NEVER worth injuring or killing someone in a work zone!

The other area of concern is distracted driving. According to the National Highway and Transportation Safety Administration “In 2015 alone, 3,477 people were killed, and 391,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.” Distracted driving can put our lineworkers in danger. Put the phone down! Stop reaching for that coffee! Save the food for the table! Keep your eyes on the road. While road side work zones are typically pretty obvious with flagging and signage, it only takes a few seconds to miss the obvious signs if you are distracted.

There are laws in place but a few years ago Minnesota electric cooperatives promoted, and the legislature passed legislation that expanded the move over law to include parked utility vehicles with their emergency or warning lights activated. This legislation applied to a highway having two lanes in the same direction. In passing a utility or other emergency and maintenance vehicle, the driver must safely move their vehicle to the lane farthest away from the utility or emergency vehicle.

This year Minnesota legislation was passed that adds to the statute streets or highways having only one lane in the same direction. The legislation requires that drivers slow down, maintain a safe speed for traffic conditions and operate the vehicle at a reduced speed until safely past the parked utility or emergency vehicle. This addition will further increase the safety of our lineworkers!

In closing, I implore you to be a vigilant driver. Please watch for both construction and utility workers on the side of the road this spring and summer.

Thanks again for attending our district meetings this year—we again had a great turnout and good feedback about the content of the program. Don't forget to mark your calendars for our upcoming annual meeting which will be held in Brookings on Tuesday, June 5 this year!

A decorative sunburst graphic with a central teal oval containing text. The oval is surrounded by several teal teardrop shapes of varying sizes, creating a sunburst effect.

Mark Your Calendar!
SVE Annual Meeting:
Tuesday, June 5, 2018
Brookings, SD
Swiftel Center

Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 497-440)

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Sioux Valley Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Free Trees Available to SVE Members Earth Day Celebration



Earth Day is celebrated on **April 22nd** and in recognition of Sioux Valley Energy's commitment to community and caring for the environment initiatives, the Cooperative will purchase a limited number of bare-root trees for members to plant.

The give-away event* will take place the week of April 24-27 (Tuesday-Friday) at each of the Co-op's service centers in Colman, Brandon and Pipestone. Members can stop by one of the offices during the hours of 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to pick up two trees--

Hackberry and Black Hills Spruce. There will be 700 trees in total available to the membership and they will be given out in a "first-come, first-served" basis. So once the trees are gone; they are gone!

In Spring of 1970, Senator Gaylord Nelson created Earth Day to bring the issue of pollution to national attention. Twenty-two million Americans demonstrated in different cities and Congress authorized the creation of a new federal agency, EPA, to promote ecology and awareness for the growing issues related to air, water and soil pollution.

***Give-away event is dependent upon weather, shipment dates and availability.**

Hein's Win Home Energy Audit

The winner of the Level II Energy Audit for the February energy makeover contest was Joel Hein of Colman.



Fly Drones Safely

Drones are unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) that are increasingly being used recreationally and professionally. As a result, there is an increasing need to ensure these craft are flown safely and within regulations.

Keep drones away from overhead power lines. If a drone flies into a power line, it could cause power outages. It could also result in downed lines, which pose a dangerous electrical



safety hazard. The falling debris could also endanger public safety.

Touching a downed line or anything it has fallen on, like a fence or a tree limb, could get you injured or even killed. Stay away and instruct others to do the same. If you come across downed power lines, call 911 to notify emergency personnel and the utility immediately.

Follow federal guidelines for registering your drone or getting business approval, and be aware of and abide by community and state-specific legislation. Also, keep these FAA safety guidelines in mind:

- Before flying the drone, check it for damage. Have a damaged drone repaired before use.
- Never fly drones higher than 400 feet.
- Do not fly the drone beyond your line of sight.
- Do not fly near airports, manned aircraft, stadiums or people.
- Do not fly for commercial purposes, unless specifically authorized by the FAA.
- Do not fly in bad weather conditions, such as low visibility or high winds.
- Never fly your drone recklessly. You could be fined for endangering people or other aircraft.

Source: safeelectricity.org

May is National Electrical Safety Month

This month, we encourage all members to take extra time to plug into safety.

#ElectricalSafetyMonth

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER

"If a power line is touching a car, stay in the car or jump out!"

JaeShawnia Iron Hawk, Second-grader at Dupree Public School



JaeShawnia is the daughter of Lindsey Flying By, Dupree, S.D. She is a member of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Timber Lake, S.D.

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.

Comforting Casseroles

Photo courtesy: McCormick

Quesadilla Casserole

1 lb. ground beef	2 tsp. chili powder
1/2 cup chopped onion	1 tsp. ground cumin
2 (8 oz. each) cans tomato sauce	1 tsp. garlic, minced
1 (15 oz.) can black beans, drained and rinsed	1/2 tsp. oregano leaves
1 (8-3/4 oz.) can whole kernel corn, undrained	1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper
1 (4-1/2 oz.) can chopped green chiles, undrained	6 (8-inch) flour tortillas
	2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese

Brown beef and onion in large skillet on medium-high heat; drain. Add tomato sauce, beans, corn and green chiles; mix well. Stir in all seasonings. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes. Spread 1/2 cup of the beef mixture on bottom of 9x13-inch baking dish sprayed with no stick cooking spray. Top with 3 of the tortillas, overlapping as needed. Layer with 1/2 of the remaining beef mixture and 1/2 of the cheese. Repeat with remaining tortillas, beef mixture and cheese. Bake at 350°F. for 15 minutes or until heated through. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Makes 8 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 391, Total Fat 19g, Sodium 950mg, Cholesterol 63mg, Carbohydrates 31g, Protein 24g, Dietary Fiber 4g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Ham and Cauliflower Casserole

4 cups chopped fresh cauliflower	1/2 cup sour cream
1/4 cup butter, cubed	2 cups cubed cooked ham
1/3 cup flour	1 (4 oz.) can mushrooms, drained
2 cups milk	Topping:
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese	1 cup soft bread crumbs
	1 T. butter, melted

In a large saucepan, cover cauliflower with water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 5 to 10 minutes or until tender. Meanwhile, in another large saucepan, melt butter; stir in flour until smooth. Gradually add milk. Bring to a boil; cook and stir until thickened. Remove from heat. Stir in cheese and sour cream until melted. Drain cauliflower. In large bowl, combine cauliflower, ham and mushrooms. Add cheese sauce and toss to coat. Transfer to a greased 2-quart baking dish. Combine topping ingredients; sprinkle over casserole. Bake, uncovered, at 350°F. for 40 to 45 minutes.

Rebecca Hauser, Tripp, S.D.

Chicken Crescent Casserole

4 cups cubed cooked chicken or turkey	1/2 cup chopped celery
1 can cream of chicken soup	1/2 cup chopped onion
1 can cream of celery soup	1/2 cup sour cream
1 (8 oz.) can sliced water chestnuts, drained	1 (8 oz.) can refrigerated crescent rolls
1 (4 oz.) can mushroom stems and pieces, drained	6 oz. shredded Swiss or American cheese
2/3 cup mayonnaise	2 to 4 T. butter, melted

In a large saucepan, combine first 9 ingredients. Cook over medium heat until hot and bubbly. Pour into an ungreased 12x8-inch baking dish. Place rolls on top of hot chicken mixture. Combine cheese and butter; spread over rolls. Bake at 350°F. for 20 to 25 minutes or until crust is deep golden brown. **Variation:** Substitute 4 cups of imitation crabmeat for the chicken or turkey and 1 can cream of shrimp soup in place of the cream of chicken soup.

Mary Crane, Mitchell, S.D.

Jalapeno Tater Tot Casserole

1 (2 lb.) bag tater tots	1 lb. bacon, cooked and crumbled
2 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese, softened	6 jalapeno peppers, deseeded and diced
1 cup sour cream	6 green onions, thinly sliced
2 cups Mexican Cheddar jack shredded cheese, divided	

Line a casserole dish with tater tots. Bake at 425°F. for 15 minutes. In a medium bowl, combine cream cheese, sour cream, 1 cup Cheddar jack cheese, bacon (reserve some for topping), diced jalapeno peppers and sliced onions (save a few for the top). Stir to thoroughly combine ingredients. Spread the jalapeno mixture over the tater tots. Top with remaining cup of cheese. Sprinkle with reserved bacon pieces and onion. Bake for 20 minutes. Serves 12.

Sandi Litschewski, Spearfish, S.D.

Please send your favorite dairy, dessert and salad recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).

Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2018. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Enter this month's contest and watch for next month's challenge to enter to win another valuable prize!

12 MONTH CHALLENGE TO SAVE MONEY AND WIN BIG!

You Could be a Winner!

The Energy Makeover Contest gives you 12 chances to win valuable prizes to enhance efficiency and conservation efforts in your home or business. Each month we will focus on a new topic to help you learn how little changes can help you save big!

The information gathered will help Sioux Valley Energy continue to educate our members about energy saving practices, safety, and to ensure the programs we offer meet your needs.

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A PHILLIPS HUE WIRELESS SMART LIGHTING STARTER KIT AND GOOGLE HOME MINI TO GET YOU STARTED ON LIGHTING AUTOMATION.

Please complete the entry below and mail to Sioux Valley Energy, Energy Makeover Contest, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017. The entry is also available online at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com. One entry per member. Challenge Month Seven entry must be received by May 31st to be eligible for the drawing.

Save with Smart Tech

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Account Number: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Email: _____

Do you currently use or plan to use smart technology to control any of the following—thermostat, electronics, appliances, or lighting? yes no

Do you feel SmartHub is a valuable tool in helping you manage your electric account and energy efficiency goals? yes no

I would like more information on:

- Sealing/Insulation Guide
- Heat pump rebate
- Residential LED program
- Commercial/Ag LED program
- Weatherization Program
- Yard Light rebate
- Residential Water Heater
- Energy Audit
- Electric Heat Rate
- Electric Car Charging Rate
- Time of use Rate
- Energy Tips
- Commercial/Ag Water Heater
- Third Party Irrigation Rebate

CHALLENGE MONTH EIGHT

Save with Smart Technology

Tracking your steps, monitoring your banking activity or locating your parked car—there's an app for that. Think about all the electronics and technologies that keep you well-connected these days. Over 95% of US families have a cell phone, 77% of Americans own a smart phone and nearly 80% of adults own a laptop, desktop computer or tablet. Consumer electronics, coupled with the growing array of smart appliances and technology, have steadily changed our homes, businesses and lifestyles. The increased reliance on these devices gives members the power to use smart technologies to impact their energy use and efficiency.

In many cases, energy savings is a touchscreen away as more apps enable you to monitor energy use. Here's just a few examples:

Smart Bridge: You can install an internet-connected smart hub/bridge system to allow you to communicate with and control all your smart devices from one app.

Smart Lighting: With just a few swipes on a smart phone app, you can control smart lighting in your home or business. It's more than just convenient. Smart light bulbs are more energy efficient and some bulbs use GPS on your phone to determine your location and can turn lights on or off based on where you are. Some bulbs can even be voice controlled.

Smart Blinds: These blinds are not only useful if you have tall or hard to reach windows, they can also improve your efficiency. Smart blinds allow you to schedule your blinds to open and close during certain times of the day to take advantage of the sun and increased efficiency.

Smart Thermostat: Many smart thermostats can learn your heating and cooling behavior and will auto-schedule based upon your preferences.

Smart Appliances: You can use smart Wi-Fi technology to make your cooking appliances, like smokers, set to cook the perfect meal while you are away from home. You can also program energy saving settings and timers on smart refrigerators, washers, dryers, and dishwashers.

While modern life involves greater dependence on technology, your local cooperative is also another resource for saving energy and lowering your electric bill. Sioux Valley Energy offers SmartHub as an app or through a web portal to make managing your energy bill easier than ever. SmartHub transmits utility data enabling consumers to see near real-time information about their energy use. Essentially, customers can better understand how and when they use energy. In addition, you can pay your bill, sign up for outage notifications and notify customer service of account or service issues.

This month's challenge: Sign up for SmartHub to manage your electric account, monitor your usage, compare your usage history data, and utilize smart technology to help you stay on a budget or to accomplish your energy efficiency goals. Download the free mobile or tablet app in the Apple App Store or Android Marketplace (SmartHub National Information Solutions Cooperative) or login/create an account from the front page of our website at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com. If you are already signed up for SmartHub, check out the resources available to manage your electric account. For more information on SmartHub, contact the billing department at 1-800-234-1960 or visit www.smarthubapp.com.

Call 811 Before You Dig

Need Your Lines Located?

By: Sharla Haugen

Dialing 811 will get you to the one call center for the state which you are calling from (nationwide) or you can submit your locate request online at the following websites in our service territory:

- **SD:** www.sd811.com
- **MN:** www.gopherstateonecall.org
- **IA:** www.iowaonecall.com

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CALL 811 or GO ONLINE AND SUBMIT YOUR LOCATE REQUEST?

1. You will submit detailed information regarding your location of the dig area, including the address and or, street intersection with driving directions to the site. You will also enter specific instructions on what area at the site needs to be located. (WHERE DO YOU PLAN TO DIG)
2. Once the information is gathered and the request is submitted- you will receive a TICKET NUMBER – it's important to keep this number until your dig job is completed, in case you need to contact any utilities for information. We will require the TICKET NUMBER in order to process your request.
3. Once you have received your ticket number- the rest is in the hands of the one call center and the utility company. We have 48 business hours to complete the locate.
4. IF SVE does not own underground cable within 200 feet of your dig site, SVE will be cleared immediately at the one call center and we will not be notified or receive an electronic ticket.
5. If SVE owns underground within a 200 foot area of your dig site, the one call center sends an electronic version of your ticket request to Sioux Valley Energy Dispatch.
6. Sioux Valley Energy Dispatchers screen the ticket to determine if SVE owned cable is within the area of the dig site or not. If it is not, we will clear the request. As an example, a member may be digging on the north side of the road and the SVE cable is located on the south side. If the SVE owned cable is within 200 feet, however the ticket information allows us to determine if the member is clear to dig on the north side.
7. If a locate is necessary, SVE dispatchers will forward that ticket on to our contract cable locators (SUMMIT Utility Services, LLC). Who will then physically respond and paint and flag SVE facilities within your dig site.

SVE Facilities vs. Private, Member-Owned facilities:

SVE is responsible for locating any of our electric underground facilities (WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE DIG AREA ON THE TICKET) up to the metering point, at no cost to the member.

Any facilities beyond the metering point (from the meter to the members buildings, waterer, silo, wind turbine, etc.) are owned by the member and considered private facilities. SVE is not responsible for the location of private facilities. However, if our locaters are dispatched to locate SVE-owned facilities, we ask them to locate the member-owned lines as well. The member-owned lines must be within the scope of the dig area according to the original ticket to be eligible for locating. If SVE clears the ticket, members are responsible for locating their private facilities at their own expense and will need to coordinate with their electrician.



Boosting attic insulation is one way to cut energy bills.

ENERGY UPGRADES FOR A HAPPIER HOME

Boost Your Home's Comfort And Cut Energy Use

Diane Veto Parham

Contributing Writer

Imagine your house is not just the place you sleep, eat and store your stuff, but more like a part of your family, with its own unique needs. Ignore those needs and both you and your home suffer the consequences. But, pay closer attention, and you can find ways to enjoy a more pleasant – and efficient – living environment.

“It’s amazing how much comfort you can provide by spending a few dollars,” says Brian Sloboda, program manager for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Arlington, Va., “You’re going to increase your quality of life.”

Knowing what your house needs is job one. Your heating-and-air system, your appliances, your insulation and even your lightbulbs can affect not only how your home is behaving, but also how much you’re paying to keep it all running.

Need some ideas to get started? Here are seven smart ways to invest in a comfortable and energy-efficient house.

1. Get a professional home-energy audit

Cost: About \$250 to \$650.

Benefit: Making recommended improvements can cut energy use 10 percent to 40 percent.

DIY potential: None; use a certified professional.

A whole-house energy audit will take a few hours and evaluate household energy use, how the heating-and-air system is functioning and whether there’s adequate insulation. Using diagnostic

tools like a blower door and a thermal imaging camera, an auditor tests for leaks in ductwork and around windows and doors, plus other problems with the home’s “envelope” – essentially, the parts of the house that separate its insulated, air-conditioned interior from unconditioned spaces like attics and crawlspaces.

2. Seal your house

Cost: Ranges from a few dollars for weather stripping and caulk to thousands of dollars for whole-house weatherization.

Benefit: Annual energy savings of 10 percent to 20 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

DIY potential: You can do simple tasks; professionals should handle large-scale insulation or ductwork improvements

“Make sure your house is well insulated and well sealed,” says Alan Shedd, director of energy solutions for Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives. A handy do-it-yourselfer can tackle simple sealing tasks. Feel for drafts or look for cracks and gaps around windows and doors, around electrical outlets and light fixtures, where pipes and wires penetrate walls, floors or ceilings, around fireplaces and where ceilings meet walls. Basic DIY materials like weather-stripping tape, tubes of caulk and spray foam are available at home-improvement stores.

If you invested in a professional home-energy audit, you know exactly where air is leaking and what repairs are needed. For fixes outside your skill set – for example, adding insulation or repairing leaky ductwork – ask your co-op for a list of certified contractors or visit Building Performance Institute’s website.

3. Replace your HVAC system

Cost: Ranges from a few thousand dollars for a single-zone, mini-split system up to tens of thousands to install a geothermal system.

Benefit: Upgrading to ENERGY STAR®-certified heating and cooling equipment can deliver annual energy-bill savings of 10 percent to 30 percent, according to the Department of Energy; geothermal systems can cut energy use for heating and cooling by 25 percent to 50 percent.

DIY potential: You'll need a trained professional to properly size and install a system for your needs.

Heating and cooling account for about half of typical household energy costs. Minimize those expenses by upgrading to a more efficient system when your current unit ages out. Expect an HVAC system to last, on average, about 10 to 12 years.

Air-source heat pumps, which draw heat from the air and move it indoors or outdoors as needed, provide efficient heating and cooling from a single unit. Ground-source (geothermal) heat pumps are the most efficient, albeit more expensive, heating-and-cooling option. Drawing heat from stable ground temperatures rather than fluctuating air temperatures, geothermal heat pumps use about 25 percent to 50 percent less electricity than conventional HVAC systems.

Geothermal is “the gold standard” for peak efficiency in heating and cooling, Shedd says, where the property can accommodate an extensive vertical or horizontal underground-loop system.

For any heating-and-cooling system, proper installation is essential to reap full benefits of energy-efficient performance. A certified HVAC contractor will do a load calculation to determine what size HVAC unit is right for your house and whether any special adjustments are necessary for your location.

4. Modernize major appliances

Cost: Hundreds of dollars for major appliances; zero dollars for unplugging energy hogs that are not in use.

Benefit: Save anywhere from a few dollars up to hundreds of dollars a year.

DIY potential: You'll need a professional to install some appliances, but you can unplug small appliances around the house in minutes.

Among your appliances, the two biggest energy users are water heaters and refrigerators, which are nearly always on duty. After that, you might be surprised by another energy hog: consumer electronics.

“The fastest-growing user of electricity in your house is all the things you plug in,” Shedd says.

5. Boost your attic insulation

Cost: National averages range from \$1,300 to \$2,000, depending on home location, attic size and type of insulation.

Benefit: Reduce your energy bills by keeping heated and cooled air in your living space.

DIY potential: Handy homeowners can add insulation with

proper tools, safety gear and precautions, but it's a job best left to professionals.

It's all about the R-value. That's the number assigned to insulating materials based on how well they resist the transfer of heat. Higher numbers mean more resistance to heat flow and more effective insulation. For attics, recommended R-values range from 30 in warmer climates to 60 in colder regions. To learn what's recommended for your climate zone, consult the R-values map at www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_sealing.hm_improvement_insulation_table.

Older homes are more likely to lack enough attic insulation for peak efficiency, because “energy-efficiency standards keep going up and getting higher,” Shedd says. “Thirty years ago, R-19 was standard practice.”

What you spend to upgrade your attic insulation will depend on multiple variables, including the type of insulation – for example, fiberglass or cellulose, batts or loose fill – as well as the size of the attic space and the contractor's labor costs.

6. Switch to efficient light bulbs

Cost: A few dollars per bulb .

Benefit: Save about \$50 per year by replacing 15 traditional incandescent bulbs with more efficient energy-saving light bulbs.

DIY potential: You can handle this.

You're going to change your light bulbs sooner or later. When you do, why not invest in bulbs that will save energy and create the lighting environment you want in your home?

When you're shopping, pay attention to lumens – the brightness of the bulb – rather than watts, which indicate how much energy it uses. Packaging often refers to the wattage a new bulb can replace – for example, an energy-saving 800-lumen bulb can replace a 60-watt bulb. Look at the lighting-facts label for details about the bulb's lumens, estimated yearly energy cost and lifespan and the lighting color. ENERGY STAR®-certified bulbs can deliver the brightness you want while using 70 percent to 90 percent less energy.

7. Install smart thermostats

Cost: Products range from about \$170 to \$250.

Benefit: Manufacturers estimate annual savings of 9 percent to 23 percent on heating and cooling costs.

DIY potential: Video and written instructions can guide you through installation and Wi-Fi set-up.

Early versions of programmable thermostats were hailed as tools that would help homeowners save energy and money and increase home comfort, all by tailoring thermostat settings to daytime, nighttime, weekend and vacation schedules. And they did – but only for those who bothered to manually program them.

Thanks to the internet connection and remote-control options, smart thermostats are ideal for use in electric cooperative load-control programs. Across the country, cooperatives are testing new programs that use this technology to help members save energy and help co-ops reduce demand.

EMPOWER

Youth Leadership *Making Your Mark on the World!*

Deadline to apply:

Friday,
May 11th



EmPOWER youth Leadership

WHAT DOES LEADERSHIP LOOK LIKE TO YOU?

Sioux Valley Energy encourages you to apply for the opportunity to learn and EmPOWER yourself with a leadership skill-set through excitement and collaboration! Learn what makes cooperatives unique and how their business model EmPOWER's members and communities to succeed. You will also have opportunities to travel and earn scholarships!



OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW!

College and
Future
Preparation

Scholarships
and Travel

Explore Careers

FOUR FUN-FILLED PROGRAM DAYS FOCUSING ON:

- Cooperative Business Model
- Self Confidence/Awareness
- Financial Future
- College and Career Prep
- Professional Networking

- Personal Strengths
- Communication
- Friendship
- Teamwork
- Leadership



TO APPLY:

- Be a sophomore or junior during the 2018-2019 school year.
- Apply online at:

empoweryouthleadership.com

Questions? Ask your guidance counselor or email AMY.VOELKER@SIOUXVALLEYENERGY.COM or call 800-234-1960

Brought to you
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BE THE LEADER YOU WERE MEANT TO BE

EMPOWER

EmPOWER Youth Leadership participants took part in their fourth and final session at the end of March; receiving motivational messages from SVE CEO, Tim McCarthy and guest speaker, Malcom Chapman. The students also took part in sessions focused on financial preparation and college readiness. At the end of the day, several "mini-sessions" filled the afternoon with discussions on stress management, healthy eating, CPR and resume/interview skills. They rounded out the day with a tour of the SVE Dispatch Center and a "Co-op Principles" Easter egg hunt. Several EmPOWER students applied to represent SVE at the National Rural Electric Cooperative "Youth Tour". Emilie Staeffler of Luverne and Hannah Droge of Humboldt were selected to represent the Cooperative in Washington, D.C.



EmPOWER Youth Leadership FACTS:

- The SVE Board of Directors developed the concept of EmPOWER in 2014
- More than 150 students have taken part in EmPOWER over four years
- \$20,000 worth of scholarship will have been awarded by the end of 2018
 - Many students take part in the program for two or more years
 - Each year, a group of EmPOWER students are elected to serve as the Advisory Council and help plan sessions for next year
 - The four sessions throughout the year are held on school-observed holidays



Make, Model, Capacity, Oh My!

Tips for Purchasing New Appliances

By Paul Wesslund

NRECA Contributing Writer

The No. 1 problem for homeowners is trying to determine which of the things actually presents value.

The Sloboda family needed a new refrigerator so Brian volunteered to do the shopping. After all, he's a national expert on electric appliances.

He came home frustrated. There were just too many choices, even for the guy whose job title is program and product line manager for energy utilization, delivery, and energy efficiency at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Arlington, Va.

"Just buy whatever you want," he told his wife, Sami Jo.

He finally got to use his in-depth knowledge when he looked over the model that Sami Jo brought home.

"Why didn't you get the version that has a camera inside, so you can use your smartphone in the grocery store to see if we need more milk?" he asked.

"Because it costs \$500 more," she said.

That, said Brian, was a good reason.

That's the kind of reasoning we're all going to be doing in the coming months and years as we grapple with the newest trend in appliances – connection to the internet.

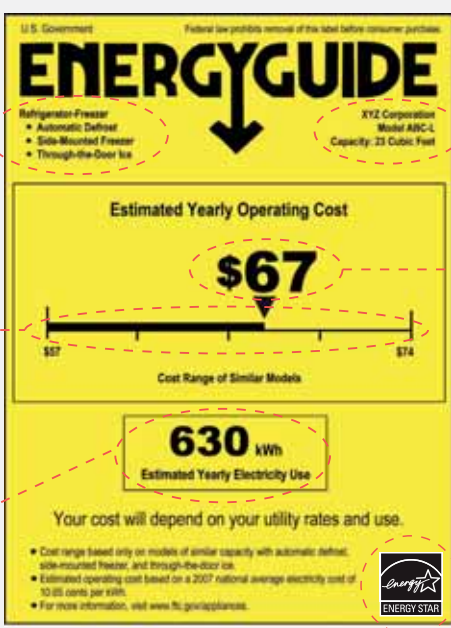
"The No. 1 problem for homeowners is trying to determine which of the things

Understanding the ENERGYGUIDE Label

The ENERGYGUIDE label is a great tool that helps consumers compare the energy use and costs of new appliances. Use the sample below to better understand how to use the information found on the label.

Lists key features of the appliance and the similar models that make up the cost range below.

The make, model and size tell you exactly what product this label describes.



The cost range helps you compare the energy use of different models by showing you the range of operating costs for models with similar features.

What you might pay to run the appliance for one year, based on its electricity use and the national average cost of energy. The cost appears on labels for all models and brands so you can compare energy use.

An estimate of how much electricity the appliance uses in a year based on typical use. Multiply this by your local electricity rate on your utility bill to better judge what your actual operating cost might be.

If you see the ENERGY STAR logo, it means the product is better for the environment because it uses less electricity than standard models.

Source: Federal Trade Commission

actually presents value," says Sloboda. For example, when you're on vacation you can use your smartphone to check whether you've left the oven on or the garage door open.

Sounds nice, but is it worth it?

"There's a Crock Pot® app," he says. "Does that have value to you? It might if you use a Crock Pot® a lot."

"There are infinite possibilities," says Sloboda. "They sound nice when you first hear about them, but you have to remember you are paying more for those features."

Web-connected appliances could also offer online diagnostics. There might not be strong everyday reasons for a washing machine to be hooked into cyberspace, but



Home owners have a wide array of choices when it comes time to upgrade major energy-using appliances.

if it broke, the manufacturer could log in to figure out what's wrong. That could help decide the best way to repair or replace the equipment. But is it worth the extra cost?

"It's a good feature," says Sloboda, "but one you're only going to use when the appliance breaks."

If you're longing for lower-tech help in decision-making, look to the yellow and black U.S. Department of Energy's EnergyGuide label on each appliance.

"It's one of the single greatest pieces of information that you can find when you buy an appliance," says Sloboda.

He says the most useful info is the big dollar figure right in the middle of the label, showing what it will cost to use that appliance for a year.

Sloboda cautions that the number doesn't tell you exactly what you will pay because it doesn't use your local utility's kilowatt hour rate. But it's a perfect way to compare appliances because every appliance's label is based on the same national average electric rate.

"You can stand in that aisle looking at all the washing machines and you can scan the entire row and narrow your options down from a dozen," says Sloboda, "down to the three or four that use the least amount of money."

Taking charge of your appliances

Other especially useful parts of the label, he says, include the lower right corner – if you see an ENERGY STAR® logo it means the appliance will use less energy than one without. He also singles out the upper right corner that lists the manufacturer

and model number, which you can use for more detailed comparisons with other models.

Sloboda also advises to pay attention to the age of your major energy-using appliances. In addition to dramatic energy efficiency advances over the past several years, motors start degrading in refrigerators and in heating and air conditioning systems. He says to consider upgrading air conditioners and heat pumps older than 10 years and refrigerators older than eight years.

Pay attention to the age of your major energy-using appliances.

The Department of Energy offers a handy way to check whether it's time to replace your refrigerator: visit the EnergyStar.gov website and in the search box, type "flip your fridge calculator." You'll find a link to a page where you can enter your type of refrigerator and its age to calculate how much you'd save buying a new one.

All these options mean more decisions for consumers. But help is on the way.

Sloboda says that electric co-ops are working with two national laboratories to study the most useful ways to connect appliances with the internet and with the utilities that provide the electricity. He says that over the next two years the study will report on how consumers can more easily make decisions on how to use appliances and even how to enhance cybersecurity for the growing number of internet-connected

devices in the home.

Sloboda says the aim of the study is "to understand what the value of internet-connected devices is to the consumer. Then the manufacturers can start to build products that the consumer wants."

The study will also look for futuristic-sounding ways that co-op members can sign up for optional utility programs to help homeowners decide how they want to use electricity.

"The appliances would be networked together and they would talk to one another," says Sloboda. "In a very advanced scenario, the home could actually reconfigure the way appliances are being used depending on occupancy of the home at the moment and the weather conditions."

That setup could even let homeowners decide if they are a person who wants to save as much energy and money as possible or if they would rather the house be warmer or cooler.

"They won't have to figure out if they want to set the thermostat back," says Sloboda. "The homeowner would tell the system whether they wanted to maximize comfort or maximize savings, then the home would communicate to the utility. That way it won't be the utility controlling the system, it won't be the appliance manufacturer, but it will be the occupant of the house who is making the decisions."

Paul Wesslund writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

2018

Annual Meeting

Cruisin' with
the Co-op



Tuesday, June 5
Brookings, SD
Swiftel Center

- *1950's Costume Contest*
- *Live Music (50's Era)*
- *Kids "Drive-In" Movie*
- *Games for Kids*
- *Registration Gift*
- *Technology Display*
- *Interactive Learning*



COLMAN FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES ORU GRANT

By: Sheila Gross

The donation to the Colman Fire and Rescue Department marks a special milestone for the Operation Round Up program. Over \$1.5-Million has now been awarded to worthwhile charitable causes throughout the cooperative's service territory since its inception in 2000. The concept of the circle of giving (give and you receive) is fitting for a volunteer fire and rescue department that gives so much back to the community.

The Colman Fire and Rescue department, staffed with 29 volunteers, responds to approximately 100 calls per year in western Moody County for fires, accidents and medical emergencies. They also provide mutual aid to Brookings, Chester, Dell Rapids, Flandreau, Trent and Wentworth. The \$1,600 donation went towards the purchase of seven LED scene lights that were mounted on the trucks. These lights replaced old quartz lights and will provide improved lighting and lower power draw along with better endurance when subjected to vibration. These new lights will benefit the volunteers in rescue times and improved safety.

The generosity of cooperative members makes it possible to support charitable organizations in our local communities. "Thank you for the donation from Sioux Valley Energy and its members. Operation Round up helps volunteer groups to pursue modernizing equipment and making it safer for us to work," shared Mike Gengler, Safety Officer for the Colman Fire and Rescue Department.

More than 75 percent of Sioux Valley Energy members and employees take part in Operation Round Up. The concept is easy, participating members "round-up" their electric bills and the difference of the amount is placed in a trust which is governed by an independent Board. For more information log on to: <https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/content/operation-roundup>



Pictured – Justin Landis, Fire Chief, and Mike Gengler, Safety Officer, for the Colman Fire and Rescue Department with their newly mounted LED scene light.

Available to SVE Members...

The Co-op Connections Card.

Local and national business discounts are available to you as a member of Sioux Valley Energy. Go to <http://www.connections.coop/> and click on co-op deals!



April 28-29

Quilters Guild 2018 Quilt Show, Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Swiftel Center, Brookings, SD, 605-690-8281 or mcfarlas@brookings.net

May 5

Consignment Auction, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

May 6

Opening Day, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644,

May 27

Season Opening and 50th Anniversary of Brookings County Museum, 1 to 5 p.m., City Park, In concert with that, there will be a grand opening of the Trygve A. Troien Horse-Drawn Museum that is now a part of the six-building county museum complex, prizes, drawings, tours, refreshments, Volga, SD, Contact Chuck Cecil at cfcecil@swiftel.net

June 3

Prairie Village Pageant, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

June 7-9

Senior Games, Sioux Falls, SD, Contact Nicole Tietgen at 605-665-8222

June 7-9

Senior Games, Sioux Falls, SD, Contact Nicole Tietgen at 605-665-8222

June 8

Northern Bull Riding Tour, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644



June 12

Ag Women's Day, 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Registration at 8 a.m., First Lutheran Church Activity Center, Brookings, SD, 605-692-8003, Ext. 2

June 16

Holy Rocka Rollaz concert, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

June 23-24

Dakota Royal Charity Draft Horse Show, 1 p.m., Swiftel Center, Brookings, SD, 605-543-5051

June 24

Variety Show, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

July 7

Divas Through the Decades concert, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

July 7-8

Railroad Days, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

July 28

Abbey Road concert, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

August 4-5

Riverside Park Days, City Park, Flandreau, SD

August 5

25th Annual Car Show, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

August 11

Ninth Annual Camaro Fun Days, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Parade Line-up at 9 a.m., Cruise at 3 p.m., Pioneer Park, Brookings, SD, Contact Terry 605-695-1560 or Calvin 605-690-1057

August 18

Outside Christian Concert featuring Turkey Creek Revival Band, Faith Lutheran Church, 511 S Main St., Humboldt, SD, 605-363-3700

August 23-26

56th Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree featuring the Minneapolis Moline National Show, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

September 21-22

Holiday Arts Fall Craft Show, Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

October 6

Pumpkin Train, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

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.