



Cooperative Connections

**Preparedness
Is Key For
Natural
Disasters.**

Page 8

**DOE Gets
Studious.**

Page 12

'Twas The Week Before Christmas...



Tim McCarthy, GM/CEO

tim.mccarthy@siouxvalleyenergy.com

**We are reprinting
an "oldie" but a
"goodie" to celebrate
Christmas! Enjoy!**

'Twas the week before Christmas, when all through the halls,
Not one co-op employee was resting, they were answering your calls.
The electric system was working, providing power for Christmas light,
In hopes that St. Nicholas would find his way on a dark, freezing night.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of new electronics danced in their heads.
With mom changing laundry and the TV remote in dads lap,
The cell phones were charging, giving texting a long needed nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
Dad sprang from the couch to see what was the matter.
Away to the security cameras he flew like a flash,
Took a look, opened the doors and realized he forgot to take out the trash.

Mom was out blowing the new fallen snow,
Not realizing there were extension cords lying below.
When suddenly all the lights in the house began to disappear,
There was an open fuse or worse, dad began to fear.

He went to the basement to fix the fuse quick,
But nothing happened, not even the water heater went click.
He recognized a problem when down the kids came,
And began complaining about no power for their video game.

Dad unplugged his iPhone to make that important call,
But unfortunately, it was dead, despite being plugged into the wall.
A predicament, certainly, he thought to himself "wow",
He was missing the power he always expected now.

With the rev of an engine, he heard with great cheer,
He looked out the window and saw Sioux Valley Energy was here.
Out stepped the linemen all dressed in safety protection,
They told dad it wasn't just his house, it was the entire section.

They worked fast and worked safe to bring back the light,
They spliced and they fixed with all of their might.
Then in a twinkling, the lights came back on,
And before we all knew it, the linemen had gone.

Thank goodness for dedication, customer service and care,
Mom again would be able to blow dry her hair.
As the Sioux Valley truck disappeared out of sight,
We heard them exclaim, Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

*The Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors and leadership staff wishes you
and your family a safe and peaceful holiday season!*

Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections

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Operation Round Up Hits \$1.5 Million

Sioux Valley Energy's Operation Round Up has hit another major milestone.

The program, which allows members to 'round-up' their electric bill,

has provided \$1.5-million in funding to worthy organizations throughout its service territory. The dollars collected from "rounding-up" are placed into a trust. Nearly 78 percent of Sioux Valley's members take part in the program.

In total, over 1,500 applications have been approved since the year 2000 which is when Operation Round Up began at Sioux Valley Energy.

Operation Round Up is administered by a non-profit trust, the Sioux Valley Energy Customers' Trust. The Trust has its own board consisting of leaders within the community. The Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors appoints one director from each of the following counties: Minnehaha, Moody, Lake, Brookings, Rock, Pipestone and the at-large director. Current directors are: Greg Benda, Lake County; Joyce DeClerk, Moody County; Ann Vostad, Brookings County; Jeff Thompson, Minnehaha County; Jennifer Stratton, Rock County; Connie Hillard, Pipestone County and Alvina Harvey, At-Large Representative.

The major funding categories of the Sioux Valley Energy Customers' Trust include lending assistance to community service projects, economic development programs, education and



ORU Celebrates \$1.5-Million in giving. Pictured L to R: Debra Biever, SVE; Lori George, SVE; Alvina Harvey, Director; Ann Vostad, Director; Greg Benda, Director; Joyce DeClerk, Director; Jennifer Stratton, Director; Connie Hillard, Director; Tim McCarthy, SVE.

youth initiatives, and emergency energy assistance. These funds are also available, should the need arise, to provide disaster relief.

Examples of the types of organizations who have received funding in the past are daycare associations, schools, nursing homes, sports clubs, vocational schools, youth groups - scholarship programs, humanity programs, fire departments, cities, special needs for individuals, and senior dining programs.

The Operation Round Up Board meets quarterly in the months of March, June, September and December. All applications received by the 20th of the month preceding a Board meeting will be considered at the next Board meeting. For example, an application received at the Sioux Valley Energy office by February 20th will be reviewed for funding at the March Board meeting.

Completed applications should be mailed to:

Sioux Valley Energy Customers' Trust
PO Box 216
Colman, SD 57017

Home Heating Safety Tips

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January and February. With a few simple safety tips and precautions, you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



Heating Equipment Smarts

- Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.
- Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.

Source: nfpa.org

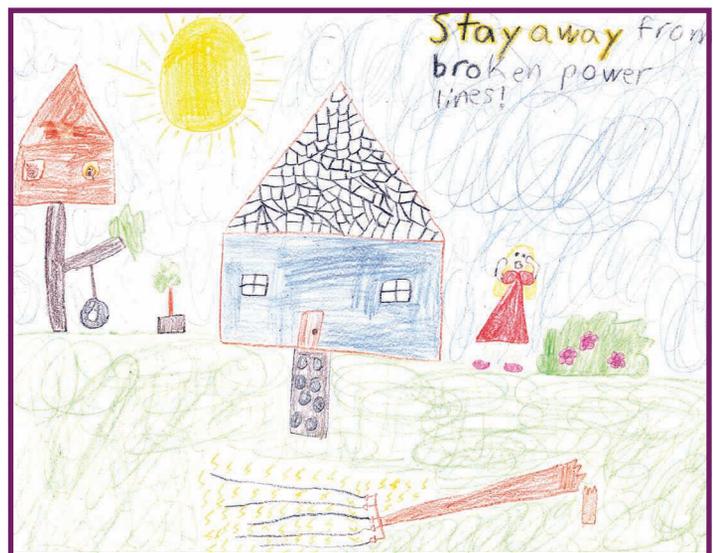
Rural Infrastructure Issues

Rural America needs more than roads and bridges when it comes to infrastructure. The National Rural Electric Association is working to remind policymakers about the broader infrastructure needs of rural America and the importance of reliable power.

Electric co-ops have three major priorities when it comes to infrastructure:

- Any infrastructure package should recognize the need to maintain and enhance the rural electric grid, which powers 42 million Americans.
- Electric co-ops are also working to ensure more timely permitting decisions to expedite and reduce the costs of critical infrastructure projects. Regulatory review time lines for infrastructure can stretch on for years. These delays present reliability problems, strain existing infrastructure and can force electric co-ops to take drastic measures to keep the lights on.
- Rural broadband deployment also must be an infrastructure priority. Broadband access is limited across much of the nation's rural landscape but is a key ingredient to a healthy 21st century rural economy. Electric co-ops are working to expand rural broadband access and look forward to working with other stakeholders to close the digital divide.

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Stay away from broken power lines!"

Alaina Dekrey, 9 years old

Alaina is the daughter of Don and Cassandra Dekrey, Blunt, S.D. They are members of Oahe Electric Cooperative, Blunt.

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.

Kettle Creations

Chicken Rice Soup

1 T. oil	1/2 tsp. minced garlic
1 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts	1/4 tsp. thyme leaves
1 cup chopped onion	2 bay leaves
4-1/2 cups water	1/2 cup sliced carrots
4 cups reduced-sodium chicken broth	1/2 cup sliced celery
	1 package ZATARAIN'S® Yellow Rice

Heat oil in large saucepot or Dutch oven on medium-high heat. Add chicken; cook 3 minutes per side or until lightly browned. Remove chicken; set aside. Add onion to Dutch oven; cook and stir 3 minutes or until softened. Add water, chicken broth, garlic, thyme and bay leaves. Bring to boil. Add carrot, celery, Rice Mix and chicken. Reduce heat to low; simmer 10 minutes or until chicken is cooked through. Remove chicken; set aside to cool. Cover and simmer soup additional 20 minutes or until rice and vegetables are tender. Shred chicken and add to soup. Remove bay leaves before serving. Makes 10 (1 cup) Servings

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 150, Total Fat 2g, Sodium 636mg, Cholesterol 27mg, Carbohydrates 27g, Protein 13g, Dietary Fiber 1g.

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Beef and Barley Soup

3 lb. beef roast	1 cup water
32 oz. beef broth	1/8 tsp. thyme
1/2 cup diced celery	Salt and pepper (to taste)
1/2 cup diced carrots	1/2 cup barley (quick)
1 cup peeled and diced potatoes	

Combine roast, broth and veggies in crock pot and turn on High. In bowl, combine water, thyme, salt and pepper. Pour mixture over roast. After about 6 hours, remove roast from crock pot. Trim fat and shred beef. Place shredded beef back in crock pot. Add barley. You may add more water if desired. Cook an additional hour on High.

Note: If freezing, freeze before adding barley. Barley can be added after soup thaws.

Melanie Eichmann, Canistota

Shamrock Soup

6 celery ribs, chopped	2 cups chopped cooked cabbage
4 medium carrots, sliced	1 tsp. dill weed
2 cups cubed peeled potatoes	1 tsp. salt
5 cups water	1 tsp. seasoned salt
3 cups diced cooked corned beef	1/2 tsp. pepper

In a large stock pot, bring celery, carrots, potatoes and water to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer until tender, about 20 minutes. Add remaining ingredients. Cover and simmer an additional 15 to 20 minutes.

Patricia Hopkins, Central City, NE

Potato-Sweet Pea Soup

3 lb. bag petite red potatoes, unpeeled and chopped into 1/2-inch to 3/4-inch pieces	1 tsp. Season-All seasoned salt
1 small onion, chopped	3/4 cup powdered coffee creamer
1 cup chopped or shredded carrots	3 T. butter
1 (13 oz.) bag frozen sweet garden peas	1 (12 oz.) can evaporated milk
1 tsp. salt	4 to 5 strips bacon, cooked and crumbled
1/2 tsp. pepper	

Boil potatoes, onion and carrots until almost done; add peas and continue boiling until tender. Drain water, reserving 3 cups. Add remaining ingredients except bacon. Reheat to a boil; add bacon.

Frankie Hofer, Rapid City

Please send your favorite bread/breakfast or seafood 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.

12 MONTH CHALLENGE TO SAVE MONEY AND WIN BIG!

You Could be a Winner!

Refrigeration accounts for approximately eight percent of your energy costs. Replacing those old inefficient appliances with new Energy Star certified ones can help you save money. Look for the Energy Star logo on the yellow and black energy guide label when shopping for new appliances.

A new Energy Star refrigerator uses at least 15 percent less energy than non-qualified models, 40 percent less energy than the conventional models sold in 2001, and as much as 75 percent less energy than a 1970 model. Models with top-mounted freezers use 10-20 percent less energy than side-by-side or bottom-mounted units.

The improvement in insulation and compressors means today's freezers consume much less energy than older models. Freezers with an Energy Star certification are ten percent more efficient than non-qualified models. There are over 35 million freezers in service in the United States and over 16 million of those are over ten years old. According to Energystar.gov, replacing your old freezer could save you up to \$175 over the next five years. Once you replace your old inefficient refrigerator or freezer, kick it to the curb or recycling center rather than moving it in the garage or basement as a spare.

Take the challenge this month and evaluate the age, condition, and energy use of your refrigerators and freezers. You can do this by taking the wattage x hours used per day x days used per year / 1,000 = Kilowatt-hour (kWh) used annually x the rate you pay for energy (.0955 cents per kWh for most SVE rates except for large power). You can usually find the wattage of most appliances stamped on the bottom or back of the appliance or nameplate.

- **Example - A 600-watt refrigerator x 4 hours per day x 365 days = 876,000 / 1,000 = 876 kWh x .0955 cents = \$83.66 per year. Compare that amount to the Energy Guide Label of a new appliance to see what your savings may be if you invest to replace that appliance.**

Here's a few other ways to save without buying new appliances:

- Clean refrigerator coils annually. Set the temperature between 34-40 degrees F. Switch your refrigerator's power-saver to "on" if available and only use the anti-sweat feature when necessary.
- Regularly defrost your freezer to avoid ice build-up if it is not a frost-free unit. Set the temperature between 0-5 degrees F. Check the seals to ensure they fit tight.

Enter to Win!

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 AN IGLOO 5.1 CUBIC ENERGY STAR RATED CHEST FREEZER!

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 Two entry must be received by JANUARY 31 to be eligible for the drawing.

Challenge Month Four: Chill With Refrigeration

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Account Number: _____ Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Do you plan to replace your refrigerator or freezer in the next three years? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, do you plan to purchase an Energy Star certified appliance? Yes _____ No _____

Do you regularly clean your refrigerator coil and defrost your freezer to avoid ice build up? Yes _____ No _____

I would like more info on: Sealing/Insulation Guide Heat pump rebate Residential LED program Commercial/Ag LED program Weatherization Program Yard Light rebate Marathon Water Heater Energy Audit Electric Heat Rate Electric Car Charging Rate Time of use Rate Energy Tips Appliance/Electronics Guide

Board of Directors Vacancy in District 8

Sioux Valley Energy District #8 Director, Gary Drost, has chosen to not seek re-election in 2018.

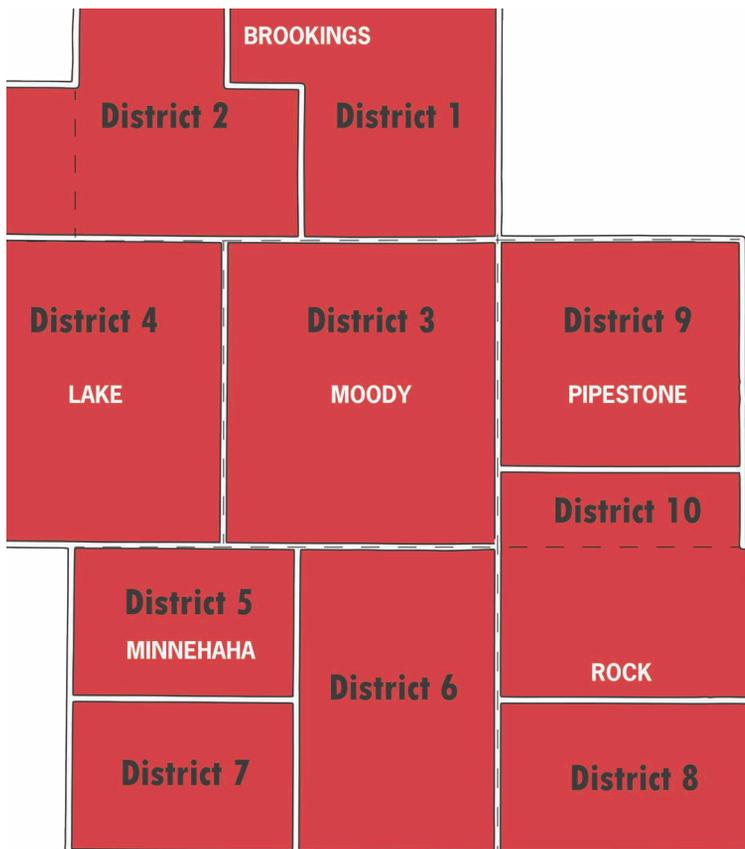
This creates a vacancy on the Board of Directors for District #8.

Sioux Valley Energy encourages District #8 members to consider running for the vacant Board seat if they are qualified, willing and able to serve in that capacity.

District #8 consists of the townships located in Rock County, Minnesota, which lie within Range 44, 45, 46 and 47 and townships 101 and 102.

Elections will be held in districts 8, 9 and 10. Petition Deadline for District 8 is January 26, 2018; District 9 is January 25, 2018 and District 10 is January 19, 2018. (All candidates must file a petition).

A complimentary dinner will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7 p.m. Sioux Valley Energy is also seeking community organizations to serve at district meetings. A donation is provided to the organization for its work. If your organization is interested, please contact Lori George at lori.george@SiouxValleyEnergy.com or 1-800-234-1960.



More than 4,700 members attended District Meetings in 2017.

District Meeting Schedule Set

- **Thursday, March 1**
District 6 – Location: Brandon Valley High School – Brandon, SD
- **Monday, March 5**
District 4 – Location: Madison High School Commons – Madison, SD
- **Tuesday, March 6**
District 3 – Location: William J. Janklow Community Center – Flandreau, SD
- **Thursday, March 8**
District 1 – Location: McKnight Hall – White, SD
- **Monday, March 12**
District 2 – Location: Sioux Valley Middle School Gym – Volga, SD
- **Monday, March 19**
District 5 – Location: Taopi Hall – Colton, SD
- ****Tuesday, March 20**
District 10 – Location: Edgerton Public School – Edgerton, MN
- **Thursday, March 22**
District 7 – Location: West Central School – Hartford, SD
- ****Monday, March 26**
District 9 – Location: Pipestone High School – Pipestone, MN
- ****Tuesday, March 27**
District 8 – Location: Grand Prairie Events Center – Luverne, MN

**Denotes Election Meetings

Every year, the U.S. is hit by many natural disasters, including snow and ice storms, tornadoes, hurricanes and wildfires. Before disaster strikes, familiarize yourself with the types of disasters that are common in your region.

PREPARING FOR DISASTER

Planning Ahead Can be Key For Your Family

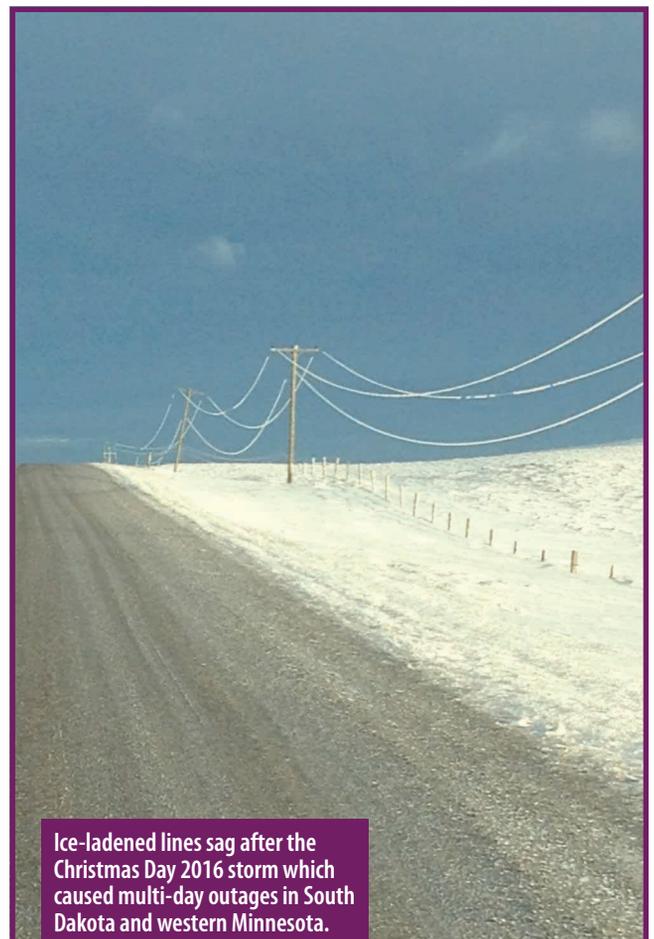
Thomas Kirk

Associate Analyst, NRECA

Every year, the U.S. is hit by many natural disasters, including snow and ice storms, tornadoes, hurricanes and wildfires. These types of disasters pose a significant threat to our communities and homes. The most important step you can take to keep you and your family safe is to prepare beforehand, but knowing what to do during and after the event is crucial as well.

Before disaster strikes, familiarize yourself with the types of disasters that are common in your region, especially if you're new to the area. Many of the specifics depend on what type of disaster you're expecting, but there are several general guidelines to keep in mind as you prepare:

- **Water:** You will need one gallon per person per day. If you assume your family of four may be stranded for a week, store a minimum of 28 gallons.
- **Food:** Stock up on non-perishable or long shelf-life items, such as wheat, soybeans, canned fruits, peanut butter, jelly and condensed soups.
- **First Aid Kit:** Make sure your kit includes adhesive bandages (assorted sizes), antiseptic wipes, aspirin, hydrocortisone ointment, scissors and a thermometer. For a full list of suggested items, visit www.redcross.org.
- **Flashlights and candles:** Be sure to keep extra batteries and matches (in a waterproof container) on hand.



Ice-laden lines sag after the Christmas Day 2016 storm which caused multi-day outages in South Dakota and western Minnesota.

For additional guidance on emergency items to keep around the house, visit www.ready.gov/build-a-kit. Also consider training offered by local emergency management services such as Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes.

Some disasters occur suddenly, but many bring advance warnings, like hurricanes and winter storms. Pay special attention during the week leading up to the event for local and state government warnings and evacuation notices. Make sure every family member knows what your emergency plan is: staying or leaving, safe

rooms in the house, where supplies are located, what to do if anyone is separated and how to notify loved ones that you're safe after the event. It's also a good idea to know where your home's main water and gas shutoff valves are located.

While the U.S. electric grid is reliable, it is possible to lose power during a storm. The outage could be momentary or last hours or even days. If you live in an area where loss of power after a storm could be dangerous, consider purchasing a backup generator for your home. These can cost anywhere from a few hundred to few thousand dollars, depending on

your needs. Be sure to test the generator before the disaster to ensure it's operating properly.

If you don't have a backup generator and lose power, don't panic. Most power outages in the U.S. are short and will not last more than a few hours. However, without knowing in advance how long the outage will last, it's wise to assume and act as though it will last for days. Here are a few general tips for wise energy practices during a disaster:

- Consume perishable and refrigerated foods first before they spoil.
- Pack frozen foods close together and consider freezing water bottles to eliminate any air pockets. The frozen water will help keep the food cooler longer.
- Make sure you have alternative lighting sources, like candles and flashlights (with spare batteries) located throughout the home.
- Keep manual tools such as a can opener on hand to replace any electronic gadgets you typically use.
- Similar to filling a bathtub with water before a storm, make sure that all cell phones are fully charged.
- If the disaster involves lightning, unplug all electronic devices to protect against a power surge.

After the storm, be cautious when leaving your home. Listen to government warnings and use common sense when approaching any damaged buildings or fallen trees. If you see a power line that is down, always assume the wires are live and dangerous. If possible, call your local electric cooperative to report the downed power line.

With a little bit of forethought, you're highly likely to make it through a disaster without too many problems. Remember, you and your family's safety should always come first.

For more information on disaster preparedness, visit www.ready.gov.

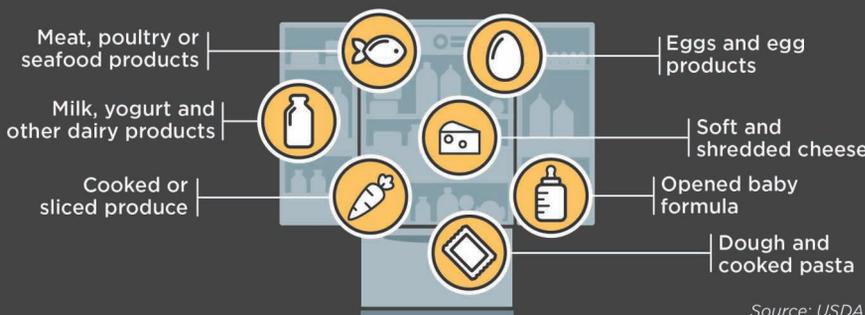
Thomas Kirk is an associate analyst of distributed energy resources for the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Business & Technology Strategies (BTS) division.

Keep Food Safe Before, During and After a Power Outage

Unfortunately, power outages do occur from time to time. It's important to know how to keep your food safe during an outage. Use these tips from USDA to help minimize food loss and reduce your risk of illness.

Before power outage	During power outage	After power outage
 <p>Keep refrigerator at 40° or below. Freeze items like fresh meat and poultry that you won't use immediately. Keep freezer set to 0° or below. Group frozen foods to help items stay colder longer.</p>  <p>If you anticipate an extended power outage, buy dry or block ice to keep the fridge and/or freezer cold.</p>	<p>Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed!</p> <p>If the doors stay closed during the length of the outage:</p>  <p>A full freezer will hold its temperature for 48 hours.</p>  <p>A refrigerator will keep food safe for four hours.</p>	 <p>Check the temperature inside your refrigerator and/or freezer.</p>  <p>If the temperatures are safe, the food should be safe to eat.</p>

Foods that should be thrown out after an extended power outage:



Source: USDA

EmPOWER Youth Leadership

Building Future Leaders

First Session A Success

#empoweryouthleadership

“These students are leaders. They have really taken ownership in the program and we are so proud of what they have accomplished.”

The Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors had a vision a few years ago--to develop leaders. Their hope was that in time, those leaders, would provide a strong foundation for its future workforce and governance structure as well as growing engaged community leaders. That vision turned into the EmPOWER Youth Leadership program.

EmPOWER Youth Leadership is now in its fourth year. There are more than 40 students from 16 area schools taking part this year. The first session for the 2017-18 school year took place in Pipestone during the month of November.

“The most important thing I received from our first session was discovering my weaknesses in communication in order to learn how to fix them,” said EmPOWER participant Samantha Wiseman.

Each year, the program is planned by the EmPOWER Advisory Council, which is made up of students from the previous year. They serve as student leaders and mentors to current EmPOWER participants. They plan everything from interactive presentations to motivational speakers and life-skill sessions to

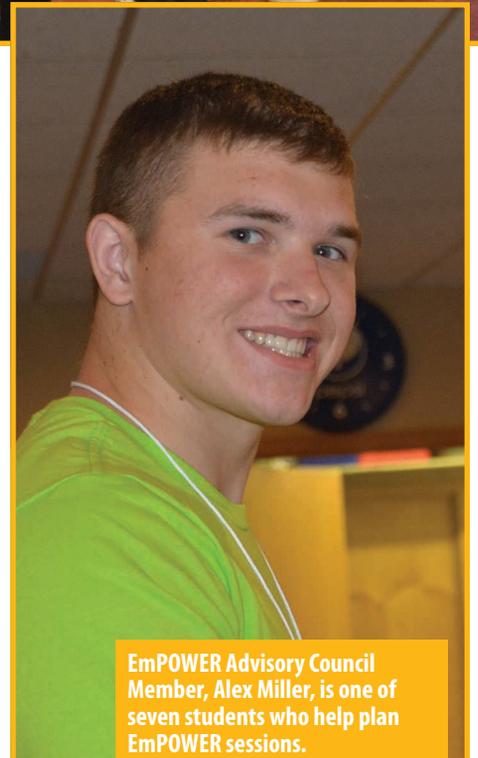


Team building activities help students learn to work together.

ice-breaker activities.

“These students are leaders. They have really taken ownership in the program and we are so proud of what they have accomplished,” said Carrie Law, Director of Communications and Government Relations. She added, “Each one of them has their individual strengths and are an integral part of the EmPOWER team.”

Session one featured Jarrid Sebesta. Sebesta is a motivational speaker who talked to EmPOWER students about youth leadership, finances and self-awareness. The second half of the session was led by Toby Kane who taught the students about the importance of communication, including body language and interviewing skills.



EmPOWER Advisory Council Member, Alex Miller, is one of seven students who help plan EmPOWER sessions.



Toby Kane teaches EmPOWER students about body language.

Students also developed a “mock” cooperative by splitting into districts, electing a Soda Pop Co-op Board and “hiring” a manager and assistant manager to run the cooperative. Excess revenue from the Soda Pop Co-op is given to a charity, which is selected by the students.

“This gives EmPOWER Youth leaders the chance to see how a cooperative is run. They get hands-on experience utilizing the cooperative business model,” said Tim McCarthy, Sioux Valley Energy General Manager/CEO.

The foundation of the program is based on a points system where they can earn points which gives students a chance to earn scholarships and travel.

Future sessions include more detailed information on cooperatives, StrengthsFinder 2.0, public speaking and college preparation.

EmPOWER participant Lucy Fods finds value in discussing her future academic plans.

“It is very important to know what you want before you start college,” said Fods.

The third session features a fun spin on professional networking. Students call it “netweaving”. Professionals from all different industries and trades visit with students on a one-to-one basis for just a few minutes at a time and then they rotate to the next professional. This helps students learn about many different career options.

Sioux Valley Energy will begin accepting applications for the 2018-19 school year in April. For more information on EmPOWER Youth Leadership contact Carrie Law at carrie.law@siouxvalleyenergy.com or Amy Voelker at amy.voelker@siouxvalleyenergy.com.

“They get hands-on experience utilizing the cooperative model.”

2017-18 Participants

Brandon Valley High School

Danielle Spencer, Kassidi Bailey, Maximus Outland, Grace Wright, Sydney Rau and Kaleb Holm

Brookings High School

Caitlyn Nielson

Chester Area High School

Bayden Schneider, Kendra Hofeman, Lucy Fods, Lillian Kenton and Elizabeth Selman

Colman-Egan High School

Kayla Triebwasser, Riley Blissmer, Jordan Wittrock, Shannon White, Makayla Walz and Allie Olson

Deubrook Area High School

Lily Ruhd and Trixie Jo Schlechter

Edgerton High School

Lizzy Ockenga

Elkton/Lake Benton High School

Ashley Skeels

Estelline High School

Elizabeth Hofer and Amiah Klimple

Flandreau High School

Grace Johanson

Hills Beaver Creek High School

Josie Scholten

Luverne High School

Julia Ferguson, Nathan Overgaard, Emilie Staeffler and Claire Baustian

Pipestone High School

Autumn Mendro and Madison Ference

Rutland High School

Jack Olson

Tri-Valley High School

Jack Ruedebusch, Courtney Anderson and Samantha Wiseman

West Central High School

Hannah Droge

Madison High School

Sydney Johnson

2017-18 Advisory Committee

Emma Eichelberg, Brandon Valley; Garrett Satterly, Colman-Egan; Morgan Johnson, Madison; Lauren Laphorn, Pipestone; Jacinda Hustoft, Luverne; Alex Miller, Brandon Valley and Bethany Malsam, Brandon Valley.

The Encyclopedia of Modern Electricity

DOE study describes how coal plants and solar cells can share the same power lines – and more.

By Paul Wesslund

NRECA

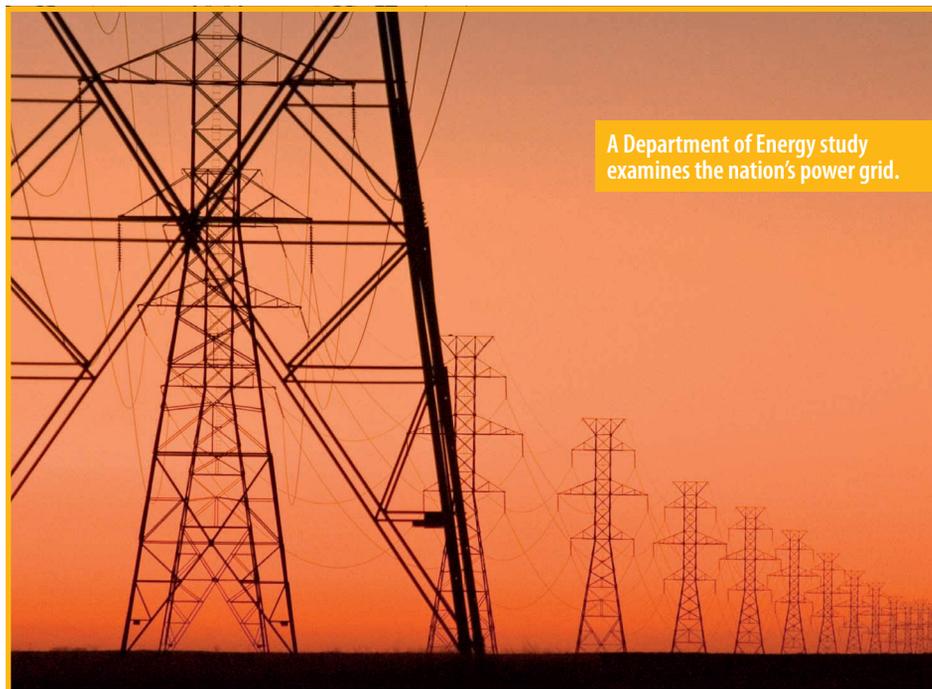
Coal-fired power plants are closing. Homeowners with rooftop solar panels are selling unused electricity back to their utility. Windfarms are springing up across the Great Plains. Fracking and other drilling techniques have cut the cost of natural gas by more than half since 2002 and doubled the amount of electricity generated by natural gas.

What does all this mean for the nation's network of wires and power plants otherwise known as the electric grid? The answer lies within a new report from the U.S. Department of Energy, says Pam Silberstein, senior director of power supply for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"It's incredibly well-written, well-researched, very thorough, very comprehensive," says Silberstein. "It's a well put-together compilation of the state of the grid."

The study is a quick turnaround response to an April 14 memo from Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry

DOE's August 2017 Staff Report to the Secretary on Electric Markets and Reliability describes the complex state of the electric grid and goes into great detail on how utility trends might affect the price and availability of electricity. It highlights



A Department of Energy study examines the nation's power grid.

the importance of retraining coal and nuclear power workers and the effects that renewable energy has on the stability and reliability of the existing electric utility system.

Better reliability

Another way to describe the report: If someone decided that every high school student should understand how the nation's system of electric wires and power plants works, this study would make a good textbook.

Silberstein sees the grid study as a report that puts in one place all the changes affecting utilities and what those changes might mean. She says, "We're asking our utility systems to meet a lot of demands they haven't been asked to do before."

The study is a quick-turnaround response to an April 14 memo from Energy Secretary Rick Perry to DOE's chief of staff to "explore critical issues central to protecting the long-term reliability of the electric grid."

Plenty has changed for electric utilities over the past 20 years and this DOE study describes that new landscape with enough detail to satisfy the most hard-core energy nerd:

- About 15 percent of the nation's power plants have been retired since 2002, mainly coal and nuclear plants. That trend is expected to continue due to low natural gas prices, slower growth in demand for electricity, environmental regulations and more solar and wind power. While new generating

capacity from sources including natural gas and renewable energy has amounted to about three times the plant retirements, that radical change in the energy mix requires new ways of managing the flow of electricity from the power plants where it is made, to the homes and businesses where it is used.

- People are demanding better reliability in their electricity; enough that utilities have supplemented their goals of reliability with a new term, “resilience.” Basically that means being able to get the lights back on faster after a natural disaster. That has utilities experimenting with things like utility-scale storage batteries and more precise targeting of which customers should get power restored first.
- A lot of states are passing Renewable Portfolio Standards that mandate levels of green energy, creating a patchwork of requirements in the national grid.
- New and growing additions to the electric grid are changing the way it needs to be managed. Those new power sources include rooftop solar panels that sell electricity back to the utility, natural gas plants that require new pipelines, solar and wind farms in remote areas that need to be connected with new transmission lines and “demand response programs” in which utilities can turn off home water heaters and air conditioners for short periods during times of peak demand.

Recommendations from the study include:

- Updating the pricing arrangements that govern the buying and selling of electricity.
- Improving disaster preparedness.
- Reviewing regulations that limit the growth of power generation, especially for coal, nuclear, and hydroelectricity.
- Focusing on workforce development as energy workers face a changing energy marketplace.
- Modernizing the software that manages electricity transmission.
- Coordinating with Canada and Mexico to enhance electric reliability across all of North America.

The study also notes the importance of cybersecurity to the electric grid, but said that would be addressed in an upcoming joint report from the Department of Energy and the Department of Homeland Security.

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.

THE EVER-CHANGING ELECTRIC GRID

A recent DOE report on the nation’s electric grid tells the story of an extreme makeover that is impacting the price and availability of electricity. Let’s take a look at some of those changes and how they impact utilities:

Less Coal and Nuclear:

About 15 percent of the nation’s power plants have been retired since 2002, while new generating capacity from sources like natural gas and renewable energy has amounted to about three times the plant retirements. This radical change to our energy mix means utilities must find new ways to manage the flow of electricity.



More Renewables:

Over the last year, renewable energy generation increased from 7 percent to 10 percent. These new and growing additions to the electric grid are changing the way it needs to be managed.

Green States:

29 states and the District of Columbia have adopted Renewable Portfolio Standards, which require a certain amount of electricity to be produced from renewable energy. This means utilities have to manage a patchwork of different requirements.



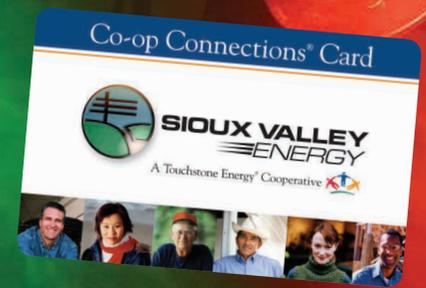
Storm Recovery:

People want electricity all the time. In addition to reliability, utilities are exploring a goal of resilience, which means faster recovery and restoration after major storms and natural disasters.

SOURCE:
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE)

Co-op Connections

Spotlight

**Perry Electric Inc. (DBA: Perry's) - Brookings, S.D.**

Contact: 605-692-6495 / KevenP@PerryElectric.net / <https://www.perryelectric.net/>

Co-op Connections Card Deals: 1) Free radon test 2) Planned service on heat pump, dual fuel or all electric for \$100 3) Performance test for GS heat pump 4) Static pressure test on duct system

Perry Electric, also known as Perry's, commits to "being the right company, with the right solution, at the right time, with the right price". Owner, Keven Perry says Perry's is special because they follow a stringent code of ethics. They will only sell the best available for the customer. Perry says their job is to provide comfort, safety, health and convenience. Perry's provides heating, air conditioning, electrical, and related services.

Arlington Inn - Arlington, S.D.

Contact: 605-983-4609 / deb@arlington-inn.com / <https://www.arlington-inn.com/>

Co-op Connections Card Deal: 10% Discount

The Arlington Inn is located in Arlington S.D. near the intersection of Highways 14 & 81. The 21-unit facility is locally owned and operated since 1993. They are fully committed to providing services with values that stem from old fashioned small town living. These values are the cornerstone to ensuring quality, reliability and care with a personal touch.

**Tammen Auto & Tire, Inc. - Hartford, S.D.**

Contact: 605-528-6666 / lynnae@tammenautoandtire.com / <http://tammenautoandtire.com/>

Co-op Connections Card Deal: \$5 off oil change

Tammen Auto & Tire is a full service, automotive repair and maintenance shop serving the Hartford area with consistent and friendly service. Owner, Lynnae Redenius, says Tammen's philosophy is a "customer for life". They pride themselves in fixing things right the first time. They are so serious about quality that they have a two year warranty on parts and labor. Tammen's is a Cooper Tire Dealer but sells all brands.

**Your Peace of Mind Home Inspections - Madison, S.D.**

Contact: 605-530-4685 / YourPeaceofMindHomeInspections@hotmail.com

Co-op Connections Card Deal: \$10% off standard house inspection

'Your Peace of Mind Home Inspections' owner, Ron McKinstry will inspect your home or building to make sure its safe and usable. McKinstry will help potential home buyers know what to look for when inspecting a home they would like to purchase. His goal is to make customers aware of problem areas in the homes or buildings he inspects so they are not surprised with extensive repairs after the purchase.

Sioux Falls Family Vision

Contact: (605) 275-6100 / <http://www.siouxfallsfamilyvision.com>

Co-op Connections Card Deal: 1) \$5 off routine eye exam or \$10 off contact lens exam 2) 20% off frame and lens products except for our family value board 3) 10% off contact lenses purchased

Sioux Falls Family Vision is a Family Focused clinic. We are committed to offering you and your family an extensive array of eye care services utilizing the latest technology available in the eye care industry. Our clinic is committed to serving the vision needs of all ages, and specialize in the care for vision correction alternatives in either glasses, contacts, prescriptions, and surgical consultation if needed.



\$14,000 In Scholarships To Be Given Away

Sioux Valley Energy is offering \$14,000 worth of scholarships to eligible graduating high school seniors or first time attendees at an institution of higher education. The application deadline is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 12, 2018.

Applications will be judged on the basis of grades, ACT or SAT test scores, work experience, school activities, volunteer community service and an essay question.

The majority of the scholarship funding comes from Operation Roundup® funds, with additional monies from Basin Electric Power Cooperative and L&O Power Cooperative.

To be eligible you must:

- Be a graduating high school senior or first-time attendee at an institution of higher education.
- Plan to be a full-time student in an accredited college or vocational-technical school this fall.
- Be a child of a Sioux Valley Energy customer.
- Have a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA.
- Provide a written recommendation from a teacher, administrator or counselor.
- One winner per family/per year.

Applications are available from your school counselor, from any Sioux Valley Energy service center (in Colman, Pipestone and Brandon), on the web at: <https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/content/scholarship-program>



Students of SVE members are invited to apply for \$14,000 worth of scholarships

Nominations Sought for 'Power and Hope' Award

Who is eligible to receive the Sioux Valley Energy Power and Hope Award?

Nominees must be at least 13 years old. They must be a customer of Sioux Valley Energy or live in the household of a Sioux Valley Energy customer. Groups and organizations are not eligible for the award. SVE employees, board members or their immediate family members are not eligible to receive the award.

What is the deadline for nominations?

The deadline for nominations is January 1, 2018.

Where do I find a nomination application?

You can fill out an online nomination application from our website (www.siouxvalleyenergy.com under the 'MyCommunity tab') or you can call 800-234-1960 and request a nomination form be sent to you.

Who can I contact for more information?

You can contact Carrie Law through email at carrie.law@siouxvalleyenergy.com or by phone at 800-234-1960.

Do you know a Sioux Valley Energy member who is making a difference in his/her community? If so, nominate that individual for SVE's annual 'Power and Hope' award. This award will recognize those who have been generous, selfless and giving - someone who helps others expecting nothing in return.

Finalists will be chosen in January and recognized at their district meeting which will take place in March. Those finalists will then be recognized at the cooperative's annual meeting in June. One finalist will be awarded the grand prize - a \$1,000 donation to the charity of their choice (must be a 501c3). All finalists will receive a \$100 donation to the charity of their choice as well.

power
+
hope

December 15-March 31

South Dakota snowmobile trails season, Lead, SD, 605-584-3896

December 23

Skates and a Movie, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

December 31

Make-A-Wish New Year's Eve Dance, Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center, Aberdeen, SD, 605-370-4588

December 31

HOT 93.1 Downtown Countdown, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

January 6

Cyanotype Photography Process, Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

January 11-13

Ice Fishing Tournament and Expo, Mobridge, SD, 605-845-2500

January 12-13

Red Dirt Festival, Deadwood, SD, 605-559-0386

January 13

Christmas with the Animals, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7003

January 13

Game Lodge Snowshoe Hike, Custer, SD, 605-255-4515

Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Mar. 11

Trap Shoot (Meat Shoot), Gun Club, Lunch Available, 11a.m., Garretson, SD, 605-359-6843

January 17-25

Winter Art Show, Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

January 19

Portland Cello Project Concert, Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973



January 9
 South Dakota Legislature Convenes, Pierre, SD
February 20
 Minnesota Legislature Convenes, St. Paul, MN

January 19-20

Media One Funksi, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-339-0000

January 19-20

ISOC Deadwood SnoCross Showdown, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

January 20

Bark Beetle Blues, Custer, SD, 605-440-1405

January 21

REO Speedwagon, Deadwood, SD, 605-559-0386

Jan. 21, Feb. 18, Mar. 18

Trap Shoot (Meat Shoot), Izaak Walton League Club, Lunch Available, 11 a.m., Sioux Falls, SD, 605-332-9527

January 26-February 4

Annual Black Hills Stock Show and Rodeo, Rapid City, SD, 605-355-3861

January 27

Central Valley Struttin' Gobblers Hunting Heritage Banquet, Community Center, Humboldt, SD, 605-321-4142 or 605-941-4297

January 27

Sioux Empire on Tap, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

February 3

Tomahawk Snow Jam, Deadwood, SD, 605-569-2871

February 6-10

Winter Farm Show, Watertown, SD, 605-886-5814

February 9-10

Mardi Gras Weekend, Main Street, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

February 15-17

Sno Jam Comedy Festival, Sioux Falls, SD, siouxfallssno-jamcomedyfest@gmail.com

February 16-18

2018 National Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic, Sioux Falls, SD, 651-209-4933

February 16-18

Annual Frost Fest, Brookings, SD, 605-692-6125

February 24

Snow Jam, Lead, SD, 605-569-2871

February 24

Annual Outhouse Races and Chili Cook-off Contest, Nemo, SD, 605-578-2708

March 3-6

2018 Summit League Basketball Championship, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

March 10-11

2018 Gun Show, American Legion Hall, Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. MST, Philip, SD, 605-859-2280 or 605-441-8466

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.

Photo by Chad Coppess/SD Tourism