

Current Matters



Nobles Cooperative
Electric

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

August 2022
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Stay one step ahead of utility scammers

In 2021, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) received 5.7 million incident reports in the consumer marketplace. About half of those were identified as fraud and a quarter as identity theft. Those statistics don't tabulate utility fraud specifically, but the Better Business Bureau says it receives about 1,000 complaints of utility scams each year.

Let's look at a few common scenarios of utility scams:

- You receive a random call. The caller says you didn't pay your last electric bill and your power will be cut off immediately—unless you pay right now by credit card over the phone. Caller ID (6-24-25) shows it came from the utility; they even told you the exact amount of your most recent bill.

- You receive an alert that you overpaid your utility bill and to get the refund, you need to provide your financial information.

- A friendly couple in uniform knocks on your door saying they're from the power company and are following up on high-bill complaints from your neighbors. They just need to take a look at your utility bill so they can get

the information code to make sure you aren't being double-charged.

These real-life stories may seem like obvious scams. Who would ever fall for them? It turns out about one in four people.

While most people do the right thing and hang up the phone or contact their utility rather than handing over money or private information, more than \$6 billion in losses to various scams were reported in 2021. According to Utilities United Against Scams, the typical cost for each victim who lost money was about \$500.

Reading about avoiding utility scams makes it sound pretty simple. But the thing about scammers is they take you by surprise. They might be the most charming people you ever met. They might be the meanest and most intimidating, bullying you into acting. It can be hard to say "no" in the moment. One busy businessperson ended up handing over \$1,000 just to get through another one of the day's fast-paced distractions.

Scammers are notorious for recognizing when people are most vulner-

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Energy saving tip

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

Source: energystar.gov

Mark your calendar

Aug. 30 Electric bills due
Sept. 5 Labor Day

August Auto Pay Winner Roger Kleven!

Take a minute to sign up for Auto Pay and you may win a \$25 bill credit. A winner is chosen each month.



Spot your location number

If you find your location number (as it appears on your monthly electric bill) in this issue, you will receive a \$10 credit.



Manager's Message



Applications sought for
Operation Round Up



Twins baseball clinic
was a 'hit'



We are owned by those we serve and understand this legacy to the core

I've been devoting quite a bit of my free time outdoors, traveling and spending time with my friends and family. Like many of you, I have been trying to make up for those lost times when we were staying close to home during the pandemic.

I read quite a bit in my spare time and one of the biggest struggles that I have from a business and a personal standpoint is how and where to get information that is reliable and factual. In our world today, its hard to find the facts and get the information we want. It is easy to get the information I want to hear or agree with. It is also easy to get the information I want to disagree with or distrust. All you have to do is change the channel, station or read

a different newspaper or magazine.

It has always been our goal and intent to be reliable, factual and transparent. We want you to think of Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) as your trusted energy provider. We are owned by those we serve and understand this legacy to the core. The cooperative knows you depend on us to always communicate and operate with your best interests in mind.

We are here to help you navigate through any electric-related question or concern you have. Your cooperative has the tools to help you track your energy usage or help you determine how much a plug-in appliance or device may be using. With MyMeter, you can log into your account, see your usage and fig-



**General Manager
Adam Tromblay**

ure out your usage patterns over time.

I don't know about you, but anytime I have the tools to help me understand something better, it makes me feel in control and gives me a greater sense of ownership and accountability.

Don't be afraid to reach out to us for a better understanding of your usage, electric bill or other services we offer.

(32-8-66) Your cooperative is working for YOU each and every day!

Connecting with our members in so many ways

Current Matters	Monthly newsletter mailed and emailed to members
Social Media	Stay connected with us on Facebook and join our more than 3,300 followers
Website	Learn more about our services and programs. Visit us at www.noblesce.coop . MyMeter is also hosted here to help you understand your usage, pay your bill or report an outage.
In Person - Office	We would be happy to see you at 22636 U.S. Hwy. 59, Worthington. Hours: 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A payment drop box is also located here and at 1505 20th Street, Slayton
Phone	We are only a phone call away. Give us a call at 800-776-0517, 507-372-7331 or 507-836-6107. Our phones are answered after hours by a call center to dispatch crews for outages.
Email	Drop us a note in an email at: nce@noblesce.com
Mail	Any correspondence can be sent to: P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM UTILITY SCAMS



Applications sought for Operation Round Up

Apply now for Operation Round Up funds. Interested organizations may call the cooperative at 800-776-0517, e-mail nce@noblesce.com or visit our website at www.noblesce.coop for an application. Application deadline is September 1.

- Never give personal information to an unknown visitor or caller.
- Demands for payment by gift card or cryptocurrency should immediately raise red flags.
- When in doubt, call your electric co-op directly.

Scammers cont. from page 1

able—Christmas, right after a hurricane or tornado, or with the approach of really hot or cold weather. Fraud reports skyrocketed during the Covid-19 pandemic—FTC figures show complaints rising from almost 3.5 million in 2019 to more than 5.5 million in 2021.

Con artists keep up with technology—they’ll come at you through email and texting. In one of the top recent scams, you’re told to pay by gift or cash card, giving the swindlers the card and PIN number so they can have easier access to your money. (Hint—a utility will never ask you to pay by gift card.)

Another new scheme tells you to pay (16-35-35) your bill with cryptocurrency. Your electric co-op will not

require you to pay by bitcoin or similar methods.

The best way to avoid being a victim of a utility scam is to call your electric co-op directly. Scammers will try to rush you into acting, but no billing situation is so urgent you can’t check on it.

If you do lose money on a scam, don’t be embarrassed. Report it to your electric co-op. The state attorney general is responsible for going after fraud and will want to know about any suspicious schemes. You might even be able to get your money back.

Letting the appropriate contacts know about a scamming operation can help protect others in our community and let you feel secure in enjoying your electric service.



NCE sponsored pedal pull in Adrian was a hit

Your cooperative sponsored the pedal pull at Adrian’s Ribs and Rims on July 22. It was great to see so many members and their young families attend. What a blast we had!

Take me out to the ball park

Twins Playball baseball clinic held July 30

Over 170 boys and girls enjoyed a beautiful morning at the ball park on Saturday, July 30. Play Ball! Minnesota conducted a free youth baseball clinic at Bicentennial Park in Slayton. NCE hosted the event and provided free t-shirts for clinic (532-38-104) participants. Participants gathered on the field eager to learn fundamental skills of baseball. Three Twins clinicians spent time teaching proper batting, fielding and throwing techniques.

Presented by Great River Energy, Play Ball! Minnesota Clinics are free for boys and girls ages 6-12. Funding is provided by the Twins Community Fund and Great River Energy.

NCE was proud to host this event with help from the Slayton community. We love to see kids getting outside to learn and play! Seeing their smiles and enthusiasm was contagious! Thank you to everyone who joined us.



Country Cupboard

Chocolate Oreo Fluff

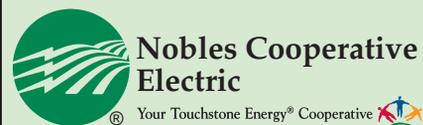
2 small boxes instant chocolate pudding
1 - 8 oz. Cool Whip

2 c. milk
15 broken or crushed Oreo cookies

In a large bowl, combine pudding mix and milk. Beat until mixture thickens. Allow to set slightly. Add Cool Whip and blend thoroughly. (34-28-26) Refrigerate. Before serving, add Oreos, blending into the pudding mixture. May use vanilla pudding instead of chocolate pudding if you would like.

Send your favorite **cabbage recipe** to Nobles Cooperative Electric, ATTN: Tracey, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187-0788. Entries must include your name, address, telephone number and NCE location number. All entries must be received by August 25. The winning recipe will be featured in the next edition of *Current Matters* and the winner will receive a **\$10 credit** on their electric bill.

Sue Davis
Cannon Falls



Official monthly publication

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Monday through Friday

24-Hour outage service

800-776-0517

Gopher State One-Call

800-252-1166 or 811

Electrical inspectors

Murray County
Randal Maha - 507-274-5261
Nobles County
Austin Kurtz - 651-368-3021

General Manager

Adam Tromblay

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Timothy Bickett, Director - 605-670-5294
Gary Clarke, Director - 605-201-1903
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*Telephone prefix 507

Next Board Meeting

August 22, 2022

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

