

# Current Matters



Nobles Cooperative  
Electric

© Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

December 2022  
Vol. 14 Issue 12



## Five ways to fight the winter chill and save energy

We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings and all fun outdoor activities that go with it.

But there's one thing we can all agree on: high winter bills are never fun. Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) is here to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in (18-19-54) check.

Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

1. Mind the thermostat. This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees.
2. Button up your home. The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24 to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy.
3. Use window coverings wisely. Open

blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out.

4. Consider your approach to appliance use. When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads.

5. Think outside the box. If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up—beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home. If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

If you're taking steps to save energy but continue to see major increases in your bills, give us a call at 800-776-0517 or sign up for MyMeter (details on page 4 to view your usage and payment history).

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills.

## Energy saving tip

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in the duct work, which can cause cracks and leaks to form. Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## Mark your calendar

Dec. 25 ..... Merry Christmas  
Dec. 30 ..... Electric bills due  
Jan. 1 ..... Happy New Year!

Offices will be closed December 26 and January 2, but lineworkers will be on call for outages.

## Find your location number and win a \$10 credit

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

## Auto Pay Winner: Curt VanDyke

Take a minute to sign up for Auto Pay and you may win a \$25 credit on your electric bill. A winner is chosen each month. Members who are already saving time and money with Auto Pay will be automatically entered in our monthly contest.



Manager's Message



Load management is a valuable asset



Access your MyMeter account anytime



**General Manager  
Adam Tromblay**

**Small change can change lives**

The holiday season is finally here. Some call it (23-58-34) the most wonderful season of all. That's because we associate it with family traditions and gathering with friends and loved ones. It's a time of giving and spreading joy.

It's also a time for giving back and spreading joy as far as we can, especially to the most vulnerable in our local area.

We have a strong, caring community and we can make a big impact when we work together.

When you are a member of NCE, you help us spread the good throughout the year and allow us to "round up" your monthly bill and donate to this fund. You're making a big difference in the community.

You've likely heard me say that the cooperative principle "concern for community" is part of NCE's DNA. It defines who we are as an organization. When we first brought electricity to this community in 1936, the quality of life improved. But other things also needed to be addressed and through the years, this cooperative has been at the forefront of improving the quality of life in this community. It's why we created Operation Round Up.

To date, with your help, we've given over \$458,000 back to the communities we serve through this program. And across the country, more than 350 electric cooperatives have an Operation Round Up program, and together, we've raised millions for local communities. This shows that small donations from electric cooperatives like ours, over time, can collectively make a big impact.

As a local cooperative, we have a stake in this community. We hope you

will think of NCE as more than your energy provider, but also as a catalyst for good where you live and work.

I hope all our members have a joyous holiday season. May it be merry and bright!

2022 Fall Distribution	
Organization	Amt.
Adrian High School	\$ 500
American Lutheran Church	300
Balaton Fire Department	1,150
Brewster Senior Dining	1,150
Chandler Quilters	300
City of Lake Wilson	950
Fulda Senior Center	710
Good Shepherd Lutheran Quilters	300
Lake Sarah Quilters of Garvin	300
MCC Drama Department	415
MCC Kindergarten	450
Nobles County Historical Society	710
Relay for Life of Murray County	1,100
Rushmore Fire Department	2,000
Slayton Area Chamber	470
Slayton Fire Department	1,675
University of Minnesota	1,000
Wilmont Fire and Rescue	795
Worthington Area YMCA	1,000
Worthington Civil Air Patrol	770





## Mentoring through the Lyon and Murray County CEO Program

The CEO program is Creating Entrepreneur Opportunities for area students. High school students participate in a year-long course designed to utilize partnerships that provide an overview of business development and processes. Currently, there are 19 young professionals who are paired with a mentor.

General Manager Adam Tromblay and Member Services Manager Tracey Haberman serve as mentors to these very bright and hardworking students. The students are currently working on a group entrepreneur project and their business plan.

This is a mentoring program for our future leaders and a (504-39-015) great opportunity to support these young professionals.

## Load management is a valuable asset that keeps our rates low

A lot can happen with the flip of a switch. It could mean starting your dishwasher or turning on a lamp to help you see. For electric cooperatives like NCE and our wholesale power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE), the flip of a switch can mean relieving the grid during high periods of stress (25-16-76) while also saving members money.

Utilities have long understood they can use the electric system efficiently and economically by reducing demand at certain times. It works like this: Members can choose to participate in one or several demand response programs through their electric cooperative. This allows the cooperative to “control” or “cycle” their electric heat, air conditioner, water heater, heat pump or other electric devices for a period of hours on high demand days. In exchange, the member receives a reduced electric rate or credit on their electric bill.



Electricity use fluctuates throughout the year. Electricity use elevates in the summer for cooling homes and businesses. In the winter, power use increases again due to lighting and heating demands. The electric system is designed to meet peak electricity demand in the summer and winter.

When the time comes for these appliances to be used for demand response — typically on cold winter days or hot summer days when energy prices increase — “the switch is flipped.” Technically speaking, a control schedule is sent via a radio-transmitter signal to receivers wired into the devices, alleviating demand on the grid. Each year our load control programs have parameters in place that limit the hours of control. Although we don’t expect to reach these limits, market conditions may dictate increased control in the future with inflationary pressures and supply chain constraints.

Your cooperative still has one of the lowest rates in the state, by working together these programs continue to be an effective tool in reducing electricity demand.



*Happy Holidays*

From our co-op family to yours, wishing you a joyous holiday season and a happy and peaceful New Year!

# Monitor and pay your bill all in one place including signing up for outage notifications

Manage your account like never before with MyMeter. Monitor and pay your electric bill all in one place. You can even sign up for outage alerts. Take control of your energy usage with tools made just for you.

To register for MyMeter, please go to our website ([www.noblesce.coop](http://www.noblesce.coop)) and create your new user account. You will need your member number and the name on your elec-

tric bill to complete (10-29-13) the registration process.

For more information on how to navigate around MyMeter and how to set up alerts and notifications, view the MyMeter Guide once you have created an account. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact NCE at 800-776-0517. We would be happy to assist you.

## MyMeter — your online account management tool

<p><b>View/Pay Bill</b></p>  <p>A variety of options to make paying your bill more convenient</p>	<p><b>Usage Dashboard</b></p>  <p>Little changes can mean big savings</p>	<p><b>Outage Map</b></p>  <p>To view current outages, view our outage map</p>
<p><b>User Guide</b></p>  <p>Learn more about the Portal!</p>	<p><b>Notifications</b></p>  <p>Sign up for outage or billing notifications</p>	<p><b>Support</b></p>  <p>We are here to answer your questions and concerns</p>

Access your MyMeter account anywhere, anytime!

Free download at your app store



## Country Cupboard Pumpkin Dessert

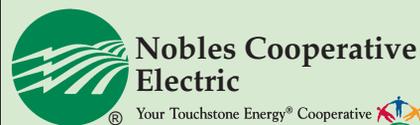
Perry Schweigert  
Fulda

Combine 1 c. flour, 1 c. flaked coconut, 1/4 c. sugar, 1/2 c. butter. Mix and pat into a 9 x 13" pan. Bake 10 minutes at 350 degrees.

Mix 2-15 oz. cans pumpkin, 4 beaten eggs, 1/2 c. of evaporated milk, 1 1/2 c. white sugar, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1/2 tsp. vanilla, 2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice. Mix and pour over baked crust.

Bake for 45 minutes at 350 degrees. Serve with whipped cream.

Send your best **cream cheese as an ingredient** recipes 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 December 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.



## Official monthly publication

22636 U.S. Hwy. 59  
P.O. Box 788  
Worthington, MN 56187-0788  
Phone: 507-372-7331,  
507-836-6107 or 800-776-0517

### Website

[www.noblesce.coop](http://www.noblesce.coop)

### Email address

[nce@noblesce.com](mailto:nce@noblesce.com)

### Winter office hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday  
Oct. 1 - April 30

### 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

### Board of Directors

Ronald Schwartau, President - 734-3052\*  
Lee York, V. President - 879-3497\*  
Cindy Hokeness, Sec./Treas. - 478-4965\*  
Jerry Beckering, Director - 227-4074\*  
Timothy Bickett, Director - 605-670-5294  
Gary Clarke, Director - 605-201-1903  
David Dorpinghaus, Director - 605-695-7816  
\*Telephone prefix 507

### Next Board Meeting

January 19, 2023

*This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

