

Current Matters



Nobles Cooperative
Electric

© Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

January 2023
Vol. 15 Issue 1



How electric vehicles impact the grid

Last year saw a record increase in electric vehicle (EV) sales, and experts are predicting that by 2035, many major vehicle manufacturers will only produce electric models.

A 2021 study by the Department of Energy showed that increased electrification, or replacement of direct fossil fuel use with electricity, would account for a 38% increase in electricity demand by 2050—and EVs will play a major role in this increased electrification.

The (23-43-19) need for more electricity will have a major impact on the nation's grid, which means power supply and grid infrastructure must be carefully planned to accommodate the increased need for electricity.

EV charging presents new challenges in maintaining the electric grid. Fully charging an EV battery requires the same amount of electricity needed to power a home during peak energy use times. It also increases the amount of electricity a utility has to provide. Additionally, your transformer needs adequate capacity to handle the increased load. EV charging can shorten the lifespan of transformers by straining and overloading their capacity if they are not matched to energy needs.

Electric cooperatives are currently identifying ways to manage this new pattern of electricity use, though exact strategies will vary based on each utility's unique needs. Analyzing energy load patterns or identifying where and when the local grid has spikes in demand can provide electric co-ops with data on where to place higher-capacity transformers. This analysis can also provide a picture of overall energy use and patterns to help forecast energy consumption for the future.

EV owners can play a role in reducing energy costs and system stress associated with charging. Call Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) and ask about our Time-of-Use (TOU) rate. The TOU rate incentivizes charging during the night (only 5 cent energy), when electricity demand and wholesale energy rates are lower.

EVs are only expected to increase in number. Electric co-ops and EV owners both have roles to play in accommodating increased demand. If you own an EV, let your electric co-op know so they can better plan energy demand for you and the membership. There may even be a rebate on an electric charger for your home!

Energy saving tip

Did you know insulating your electric water heater could reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%? This could save you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs. Insulating your electric water heater is an easy, inexpensive project that can improve energy efficiency and save you money each month.

The Department of Energy rates this project level as medium difficulty, meaning most homeowners can tackle this project on their own. You can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets for about \$20 at most home improvement stores. *Visit energy.gov for project tips and additional considerations.*

Mark your calendar

Jan. 30 Electric bills due
Feb. 14 Happy Valentines Day!

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.



Manager's Message



Join us in celebrating
Brian Postma's retirement



Help NCE get our
cooperative voices heard



General Manager
Adam Tromblay



Service awards presented to NCE employees

Director Lee York recently presented service awards to three employees with years of service ranging from five to 35 years: General Manager Adam Tromblay - 15 years; Member Service Representative Beverly Pederson - 5 years and Accountant Daniel Fauskee - 35 years.

Our employees are one of our greatest strengths. They are very active in every part of our organization. Each of our employees has their own unique strengths that make our team stronger and more energized. Your cooperative is proud to have such a strong team to support our membership.

2023 Budget and opportunities

Your board of directors recently approved our 2023 Work Plan and Budget. One thing is clear, the costs for products, equipment and services have seen some significant increases. Take a look at what the cost of poles, wire and trucks were in 2019 compared to 2022:

	2019	2022
Poles	\$328	\$605
Transformers	\$825	\$1,485
Cable	\$2.17	\$3.30

Although NCE has seen increases in costs and challenges, as many businesses have, we will continue to work to hold the line on keeping our members' rates competitive. At this point, we do not anticipate a rate increase.

The year 2022 was a year to re-think, reinvent and restructure. In the past, we had the ability to purchase supplies and (532-38-042) equipment when we needed them. The cooperative is now ordering vehicles that will arrive in four years, while transformers and wire will arrive in two. The or-

ders placed have no price and are at the mercy of the manufacturers who state the costs will not drastically increase, but we have no assurance of that.

Regardless, NCE is excited (10-21-70) for 2023 and the new opportunities it will bring. Here are just a few highlights:

- Spend \$2.9 million on system improvements and work plan projects
- Convert 10.5 miles of overhead to underground
- Upgrade to a new billing and information system

• New Worthington Substation that will replace old substation and help with redundancy and more capabilities

• Learn from and experience the F-150 Ford Lightning as a fleet truck and offer test drives

• Implement new rebate on battery-operated yard tools

• Continue to look for more opportunities with student outreach and community involvement

• Gain insight from a member survey emailed to you in February

January Auto Pay Winner: John Maeyaert

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.



Line Superintendent Brian Postma retires after 44 years

NCE's Line Superintendent Brian Postma will hang up his hard hat for the last time on January 31. Brian "Bucko" retires after 44 years of service.

Postma's sense of community runs deep. In a lineman's world where you are focused on members and providing an essential service, deadlines and to-do lists rule everyday routines and dropping everything at a moment's notice isn't uncommon. Linemen work with potential danger at every turn, constant travel, physically demanding work and long hours. Line work is not for everyone. "Bucko" made it his career and excelled at it, inspired by his brother-in-law and a neighbor.

"My brother-in-law and neighbor were linemen and inspired me to go to line school. Both worked for cooperatives and attracted me to cooperative life over a municipal."

I graduated from Harrisburg High School in May 1977. In September 1977, I enrolled in Sheldon Vo-Tech. I graduated on a Friday in 1978, married my beautiful wife, Melanie, on Saturday, and started working at NCE on Monday. My career started in Slayton with a great group of guys.

I was a lineman for 37 years and a line superintendent for seven. The electric industry has changed immensely over the years. When I started, Melanie and I did not have a phone, so (12-18-43) the guys had to pick me up for outages with a door knock! Then we went from rotary phones to push button, bag to flip phone and now I have a computer on my phone. The line world is an electronic adventure now.

NCE has been my second home for 44 years and it will be hard to get it out of my mind for a while. It is going to be tough not thinking about working when a storm goes through and just sitting back and relaxing.

Melanie and I plan to see the kids and grandkids and use the camper more often.

Thank you all, NCE!"

Brian has built many relationships over the years with members, cooperatives, employees and directors. He has been a leader in the ever-changing needs of the area we serve. Please join us on Friday, February 3 as we honor him for his years of service and retirement.

Brian's working days are done,
now he is ready for some fun

Join us
February 3 from 2 - 4 p.m.
at Slayton warehouse
(1505 20th Street)



Help us work to keep energy reliable and affordable in Minnesota

As a local energy cooperative, we work daily to provide reliable, affordable power to the communities and member-owners we serve.

We have a long history of coming together to turn on the lights for rural energy consumers. Over the years, we have adapted our business practices to continue providing reliable, affordable energy even though the industry continues to change at a rapid pace.

But this year, we need your help!

NCE is just one of 50 electric cooperatives that serves rural energy consumers in Minnesota. We have partnered with other Minnesota cooperatives through our statewide organization, Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), and our national organization, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), to ensure we have a voice at the table this upcoming legislative session and make our cooperative voices heard when it comes to energy policy in Minnesota.

Help us advocate for reliable, affordable energy for all of Minnesota's energy consumers by signing up for Voices for Cooperative Power (VCP), a network of electric cooperative member-consumers who are working together to ensure the needs of rural America are reflected in state and national policy decisions.

You can learn more and sign up at <https://voicesforcooperativepower.com/minnesota>

Through VCP, you will have (37-5-25) access to resources designed to help you learn more about your local and national legislators and about issues impacting rural energy cooperatives both in Minnesota and across the nation. VCP also provides the tools and information you need to communicate easily and effectively with our state legislators regarding Minnesota's energy policies and legislation.

Together, we can elevate the voice of our members and other rural energy consumers across the state and help keep electricity reliable and affordable for all. Thank you for your continued membership and partnership.

Country Cupboard

Taco Appetizer

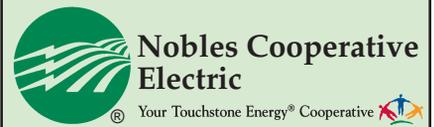
1 - 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese

1 - 8 oz. carton sour cream

Mix well and spread on a Pam sprayed pizza pan or large platter. Brown 1 lb. of hamburger and cool. Sprinkle over cream cheese/sour cream mixture. Add one jar of taco sauce and spread over hamburger. Then top with shredded cheddar cheese, lettuce and chopped tomatoes. Use Doritos as dippers.

Send your **breakfast 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 February 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.

Jan Sathre
Ellsworth



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

Email address

nce@noblesce.com

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

February 16, 2023

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

