

Current Matters



Nobles Cooperative
Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

December 2018
Vol. 10 Issue 12



Small heaters can lead to bigger bills

During winter, for many of us, comfort at home means heat.

While a good central heating system is designed to meet whole house needs, sometimes members turn to space heaters for additional warmth. Some people use one to boost temperatures for a single room where the available heat is inadequate, but their widespread use, over extended periods, can boost winter heating bills.

“Space heaters are not the ideal solution for heating homes,” said Brian Sloboda, a senior program manager for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. “For every unit of electricity that is consumed by these devices, (8-24-26) they produce one unit of heat.”

According to analysts at the Environmental Protection Agency, the key is using space heaters in smaller rooms that are occupied infrequently, in conjunction with lower thermostat settings on your central system.

Given a choice between high, medium and low, or an adjustable thermostat, choose the latter. A unit that heats your space to the desired temperature

will cycle less, saving you energy, and never overheat the room.

There are currently no space heaters among the EPA’s list of ENERGY STAR®-rated products. Agency officials said they have evaluated several models but have no plans to include such products in the labeling program in the near future.

(23-42-34) Still, high-end space heaters are heavily marketed during the autumn and winter months.

“Most of these units are very similar in design, but the cabinetry or packaging are major selling points,” said Sloboda. “Members should consider the wide range of heaters available, and their own taste in features and design before buying one. They should also keep in mind a 1,500 watt heater is a 1,500 watt heater no matter how it looks cosmetically.”

There may be other alternatives to keep warm this winter, like sealing air leaks, adding insulation or tuning up your heating system so it operates more efficiently,” said Sloboda. “Those are just a few of the options that won’t increase your overall energy use.”

Energy saving tip

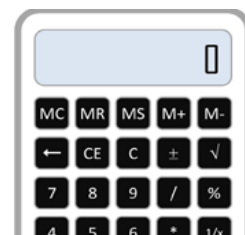
Heading out of town for the holidays? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, gaming consoles, chargers and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet even when they’re not in use. *Source: energy.gov*

Mark your calendar

Dec. 25 Electric bills due
Merry Christmas!

Jan. 1 Happy New Year!

Our offices will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, but linemen will be on call for outages.



How much does it cost to operate a 1,500 watt space heater?

Watts x hours of use/1,000 x cost per kilowatt-hour = **Cost of Operation**

If a 1,500 watt heater runs 24-hours a day at 10 cents per kilowatt-hour, the cost would be **\$3.60**. (1,500 x 24/1,000 x \$0.10). For a month, that would amount to **\$108**.



Beckering receives
CCD Certificate



ORU brings cheer to
local organizations



The War of the Currents
engages Ellsworth students



Happy Holidays from NCE!

November Auto Pay Winner: Michael Bousema

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 in *Current Matters*

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



Beckering earns Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate

Director Jerry Beckering earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Ron Schwartau, NRECA Director, presented (8-23-8) Jerry his certificate on November 19. To earn CCD certification, directors complete a series of courses that focus on basic governance knowledge and essential skills required by cooperative directors. Congratulations Jerry on advancing your cooperative governance knowledge!



Operation Round Up brings holiday cheer to local organizations

Nobles Cooperative Electric's (NCE) Operation Round Up program awarded \$16,050 to 23 community organizations.

Funding for Operation Round Up is donated by members of NCE who round up their monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar amount. Donations averaging only 50 cents a month are making these huge impacts. That's over \$314,000 distributed since the program began! Every penny goes to those in need.

Grant (31-28-73) recipients are selected biannually by a committee of cooperative members, with financial donations awarded to nonprofit organizations that improve our local quality of life and help our local communities.

Funding Guidelines

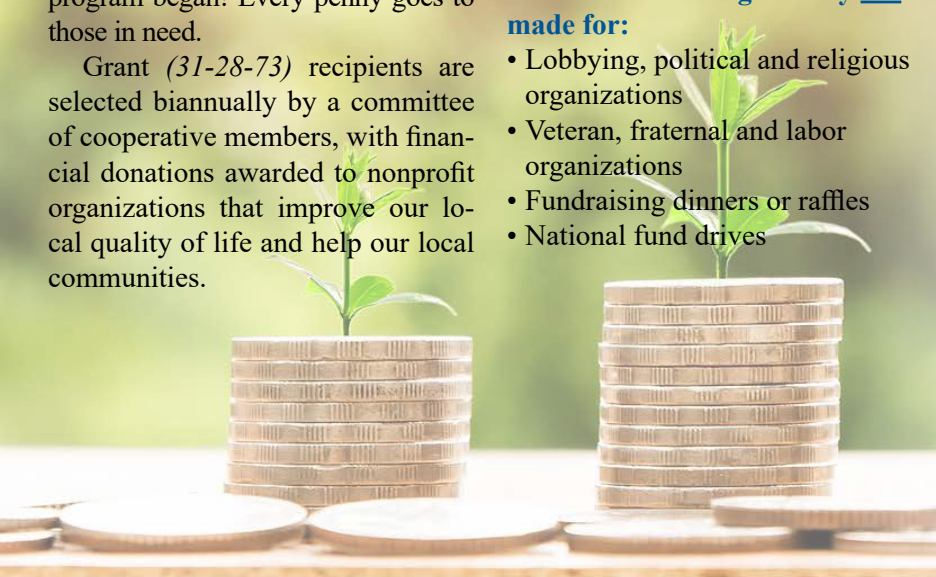
Contributions are generally made to 501(c)(3) organizations in the following categories:

- Community service
- Economic development
- Education and youth
- Environment
- Disaster relief

Contributions are generally not made for:

- Lobbying, political and religious organizations
- Veteran, fraternal and labor organizations
- Fundraising dinners or raffles
- National fund drives

Organization	Amount
A.C.E. SW MN - Murray Cty.	\$ 850
Brewster Senior Dining	1,000
Chandler Area Quilters	300
Community Christmas Baskets	600
Fulda Grades K-3	650
Hospice of Murray County	950
Junior Achievement - Murray Cty.	450
Lake Wilson Fire Department	1,350
Monday Morning Quilt Club	300
Murray Cty. Central 2nd Grade	525
Murray Cty. Daycare Assn.	675
Our Savior's Lutheran Quilters	300
Reading Community Center	1,150
Shetek Area Sportsmen's Assn.	350
Sillerud Lutheran Church Quilters	300
Slayton Fire Department	1,300
Slayton United Methodist Quilters	300
Troop 134	600
True Friends	850
United Way of SW MN	1,225
Wilmington Fire and Rescue	825
Worthington Area YMCA	600
Worthington - Civil Air Patrol	600



The War of the Currents engages students in Ellsworth



Thomas Edison, Nikola Tesla, and the story of their feud provides a gateway into learning about science and the history of electrification and how we generate it. The War of the Currents engages students into thinking about this tricky topic. The show was (516-37-091) presented to third through sixth grade elementary students in Ellsworth on November 27. The War of the Currents is sponsored by Nobles Cooperative Electric and Great River Energy.

Use Space Heaters Safely

DON'T: Leave your space heater unattended. Always unplug it before you leave the house or go to bed.

DON'T: Place your space heater near curtains, clothing, furniture or bedding.

DON'T: Use an extension cord to plug in your space heater. It can cause the heater to overheat, and can be a tripping hazard.



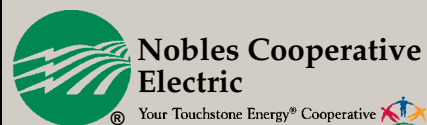
Country Cupboard Chili

Lois Harberts
Rushmore

1 lb. ground beef	1/4 tsp. hot pepper sauce
1/2 c. onion	1 to 2 garlic cloves
3/4 c. water	28 oz. can tomatoes, cut up
1/2 c. chopped pepper	1 can tomato soup
3 tsp. chili powder	6 oz. can tomato paste
1/2 tsp. salt	4 oz. can chopped green chilies
1/4 tsp. pepper	1 can kidney beans

Brown ground beef with onion and combine remaining ingredients except put the kidney beans in last.

Send your favorite **crook-pot** 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 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.



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Adam Tromblay

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Next Board Meeting

January 21, 2019

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

