



Landscaping for energy efficiency

Spring has many gardeners turning their attention to planting plans, but if your goal is energy efficiency, landscaping is an approach that can beautify your home and help you control future energy costs for years to come.

According to researchers at the Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory, carefully positioned trees placed around a home can (32-11-34) save as much as 25 percent of household energy consumption for heating and cooling. Foundation shrub plantings can also help control costs by diffusing wind or solar heating to moderate thermal temperature transfers.

No matter how much you love trees, you will want to plant them at a distance. Too close to foundations, pavement, plumbing and root systems or maturing branches can damage foundations or roofs.

But planted in the right place, within five to 10 years, a fast-growing shade tree can reduce outside air temperatures near walls and roofs by as much as six degrees Fahrenheit on sunny days. Surface temperatures immediately under the canopy of a mature shade tree can be up to 25 degrees cooler than surrounding shingles or siding exposed to direct sunlight.

According to the Department of En-

ergy, deciduous trees—those that lose their leaves in autumn—are great options for seasonal summer shade. Tall varieties planted to the south of a home can help diffuse sunlight, providing roof shading.

Shorter varieties of deciduous trees can be planted near exposed west-facing windows to help shade homes on sultry summer afternoons. Mass plantings of evergreens selected for their adaptability to regional (516-38-031) growing conditions can be planted further away on a north or northwestern section of a yard to form a windbreak, shielding the home from frigid winter winds.

Deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns (i.e., leaves and branches) can be planted to the south of your home to provide maximum summertime roof shading. Trees with crowns lower to the ground are more appropriate to the west, where shade is needed from lower afternoon sun angles. Trees should not be planted on the southern sides of solar-heated homes in cold climates, because the branches of these deciduous trees will block some winter sun.

Properly selected, placed and maintained landscaping can provide excellent protection, which will reduce heating and cooling costs considerably.

Energy saving tip

Spring is here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it’s ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.

Source: energy.gov

Mark your calendar

- April 21Happy Easter!
- April 22 Earth Day
- April 25 Electric bills due
- May 12..... Happy Mother’s Day!



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.



A word from your
General Manager
Adam Tromblay

Tesla Model 3

Electrification of transportation is here. It is only going to grow as more and more companies move away from conventional gas and diesel powered modes of transportation. Many car companies have announced their intent to produce 100 percent electric vehicles (EVs) in the near future. As your trusted power provider, we want to make sure we have firsthand knowledge of electric cars to help you when the time comes for you to make that purchase. This is similar to what we did years ago when Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) first brought electricity to the countryside, various appliances were showcased so our members would have an idea how they worked and how they would make life better.

I've personally spent some time with the Tesla and was very skeptical when we first talked about the car. I wasn't sure how it would work in our part of the world and I had a pretty extensive list of why it wouldn't work better than what we have now. I'm sure our (504-38-162) parents



Some call this offer cool. Others call it hot. We say, it's both.

Cool and heat your home with an energy-saving air-source heat pump
AND receive a HOT promotional rebate!

ASHP	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate
15 SEER	\$580	\$1,250
16+ SEER	\$630	\$2,000

Air-source heat pumps provide home cooling and supplemental heating, using 72% less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.

Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice.

and grandparents thought the same thing when they first saw washing machines, blenders, toasters and a whole list of other wonderful products that were entering their lives. I was wrong. I firmly believe the electric vehicle is here to stay and is the future of the transportation world. The Tesla provides a fun and very pleasant driving experience. All of the design and details have been thought through. Our conventional way of thinking of what a car should be, has been pushed aside to make room for the EV.

I could go on about where we are at and where we are going with electrifying the transportation industry, but rather than write about it, we want you to come in and drive the Tesla for yourself. We want you to get behind the wheel and drive it along with one of our electric vehicle ambassadors. Feel free to ask them questions, so you can feel confident that owning an electric vehicle in our part of Minnesota will work for you. Remember "Every day is an EV day" at NCE.



**Every day is an
EV day at NCE**

Test Drive a Tesla Today

**Test drives available during
normal business hours.
Just call 800-776-0517
to reserve your spot.**

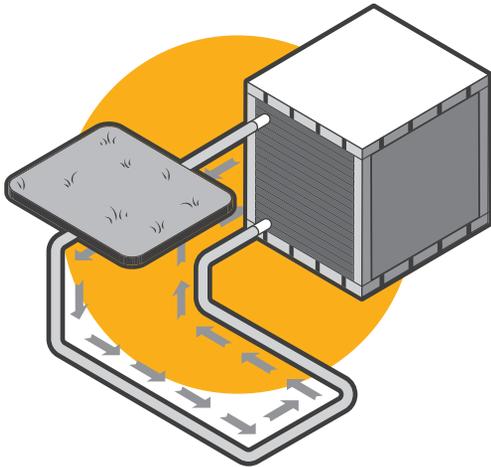
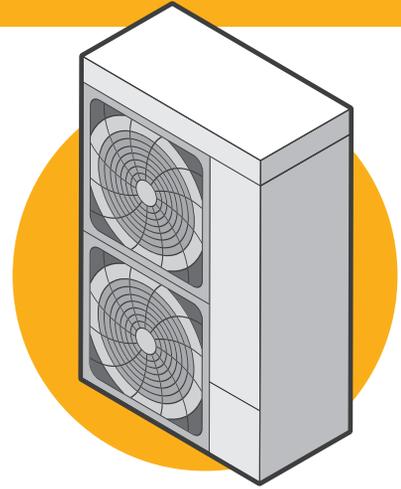
Types of Heat Pumps

There are three main types of heat pumps. Use the information below to determine the system that's best suited for your climate and home.

Air-Source Heat Pumps

- Most commonly used heat pumps
- Moves heat rather than converting it from a fuel like combustion heating systems do
- Can reduce heating costs by about 50 percent when compared to baseboard heaters or electric furnaces
- Newer, more efficient systems now represent a legitimate space heating alternative in colder regions like the Northeast and Midwest.

Note: *If temperatures in your area drop below 10 to 25 F, you will need an auxiliary heating system (depending on the size of the system).*

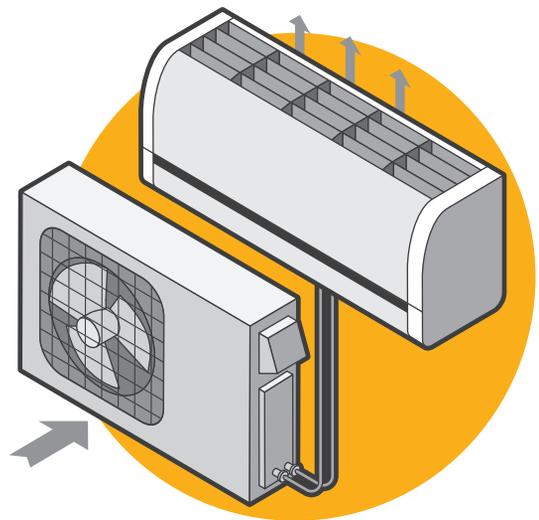


Geothermal Heat Pumps

- More expensive to install but provide more energy savings for heating and cooling
- Move heat through pipes buried underground
- When compared to a conventional heating system, can reduce energy use by 25 to 50 percent
- Effective in extreme climates
- Not ideal for smaller lots and certain soil conditions

Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pumps

- Easier to install, quiet, small in size
- Flexible for heating and cooling individual rooms and smaller spaces
- No energy loss through ductwork, which accounts for more than 30 percent of a home's energy use for space heating/cooling.
- Installation can be pricey, but federal incentives may be available



Heat pump systems should be installed by a licensed professional. Contact your local electric cooperative for more information about options and potential incentives.

Sources: Dept. of Energy and Consumer Reports

Notice to cogenerators

In compliance with NCE adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, NCE is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers who satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. NCE is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by NCE. Interested members should contact **Nobles Cooperative Electric, 22636 U.S. Hwy. 59, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187 or call 800-776-0517.**

NCE has adopted the Cooperative Minnesota Distribution Energy Resource Interconnection Process.

WHEREAS, the interconnection process for distributed energy resources has been updated by the State of Minnesota Public Utilities Commission; and WHEREAS, under Minnesota Statute 216B.1611 cooperatives shall adopt an interconnection process that addressed the issues addressed in the Commission's order; and WHEREAS, NCE has updated the Cogeneration Policy to reflect the adoption of the Cooperative Minnesota Distribution Energy Resources Interconnection Process, (C-MIP); and WHEREAS, NCE's Board of Directors has adopted the revised Cogeneration Policy as provided by MREA on February 22, 2019; and WHEREAS, all new distribution energy resources shall follow the C-MIP interconnection process beginning May 1, 2019. The Board of Directors of NCE has adopted the Cogeneration Policy, along with the updated Cooperative Cogeneration rules.

April Auto Pay Winner: Kraig Onken

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. (11-29-65) Members who are already saving time and money with Auto Pay will be automatically entered in our monthly contest. The Auto Pay promotion will run all year.

Country Cupboard Peanut Butter Pie

Mary Leonard
Slayton

Cream filling:

1/3 c. sugar 3 egg yolks
3 T. corn starch 1 tsp. vanilla
2 c. milk, divided (1/4 c. cold, 1 3/4 c. scalded)

Blend sugar and corn starch with 1/4 c. milk, add to scalded milk, stirring constantly. Cook until it thickens. Add beaten egg yolks by first adding some of the hot mixture to yolks and then add to rest of hot mixture. Cook 1 to 2 minutes longer. Remove from heat and add vanilla. Mix 2/3 c. powdered sugar and 1/2 c. crunchy peanut butter until crumbly. Put in 1/2 inch baked pie shell and top with cream filling. Cool. Whip 3/4 to 1 c. of whipping cream and put on filling when cool, then put remaining crumbles on top. You may also use meringue topping in place of the whipped cream.

Send your favorite **spring salad** 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 April 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.



**Nobles Cooperative
Electric**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

E-mail address

nce@noblesce.com

Summer office hours

7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
May 1 – Sept. 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
Scott Preuss - 507-430-3652

General Manager

Adam Tromblay

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Next Board Meeting

April 22, 2019

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

