



## Battery storage is the trend to watch

In this case, “battery storage” does not refer to the drawer where you put the extra AA batteries for your flashlight! Instead, it refers to an emerging energy trend. Batteries and battery storage are evolving, much like the way LED bulbs and lumens have transformed how we light our homes.

Rooftop solar costs are dropping and community solar options are increasing in popularity. In 2017, wind and solar electricity generation set a record by exceeding 10 percent of U.S. energy generation, according to the Energy Information Agency (EIA). News in the automotive world was dominated by announcements of major auto makers stepping up production of electric vehicles (EVs), or in some cases, phasing out gas-powered engines altogether. As EVs gain popularity, charging stations are popping up in places of business and in other public spaces.

Consumers are clearly looking for more renewable energy options. But intermittent power from wind and solar sources creates a need for energy storage. This is where batteries come into play. An increase in research and development in this energy sector is being driven by EVs and renewable energy trends. There

are hundreds of lithium-ion batteries, all of which have different capabilities and voltages.

While consumers using rooftop solar or other renewable energy sources have the most to gain, it’s not as easy as you would think to go off the grid completely. Powering the average consumer’s home, including HVAC systems, lights, appliances and the big screen TV, requires a tremendous amount of energy. Significant weather variation is another complicating factor. Going off the grid would require a solar array coupled with battery storage that is properly sized based on your energy consumption. Because battery storage technology is evolving and battery banks are not widely available, it is still not yet cost-effective for the average consumer to purchase.

If you decide to purchase an EV, let us know; your current electric service was designed (16-16-30) and sized to meet consumers’ demands when the power lines were originally established and connected. We can also tell you about ideal charging times, like during off-peak hours, which helps conserve energy.

As your energy needs evolve, look to your co-op for the information about energy trends and how to save energy.

## Energy saving tip

Consider insulating your hot water pipes. Doing so can reduce heat loss, allow you to lower the temperature setting and save an additional 3 to 4 percent per year on water heating.

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

## Mark your calendar

Feb. 19 ..... Presidents’ Day  
Feb. 25 ..... Electric bills due  
Mar. 11..... Daylight savings time

## Spot your location number in *Current Matters* and earn \$10

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



Manager’s message



2018 Rebates  
are a slam dunk



Know the difference  
between lines and wires



A word from your General Manager **Adam Tromblay**

### Washington, D.C., Youth Tour

NCE supports programs intended for our young people within our service territory.

I believe it is important to support our youth, not only to enrich their lives, but also instill the value of cooperative membership. They will, after all, become our future community and co-op leaders.

The Washington, D.C., Youth Tour allows eligible freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors to submit an application to NCE. A panel of judges evaluate the entries submitted and determine the recipients who will represent NCE on the Youth Tour.

The tour is coordinated through the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) and hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). In 2017, 39 delegates from Minnesota participated in the Youth Tour. They joined over 1,800 students from across the country who participated in their state's Youth Tour program. While in Washington, D.C., delegates have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss issues that are important back home. They'll have an

## Just take a minute to win it Sign up for Auto Pay today!



Take a minute to **sign up for Auto Pay**. You could win a **\$25 credit** on your NCE bill.

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 for three months.** Each month a winner will be randomly selected to receive a \$25 credit on their electric bill.

There is no fee to sign up for Auto Pay. By enrolling, you choose to conveniently have your bill payment automatically deducted from your checking or savings account. This eliminates mailing payments and helps avoid late payments. Whether you're home or away, this service keeps your pay-

ments on time. No fees. No checks. No postage.

Visit our website ([www.noblesce.coop](http://www.noblesce.coop)), go to "Quick Links" and click on "Auto Pay Sign Up Form." You may also sign up by calling our office at 800-776-0517. (039-04-018) Join now to be eligible for our Auto Pay drawing.

(18-4-53) opportunity to learn about the cooperative business model and enjoy sightseeing in the nation's capitol.

The Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young people an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

### Scholarships

For high school seniors graduating in 2018, NCE offers \$500 Operation Round Up scholarships to those planning to continue their education on a full-time basis at a two or four-year technical school or college.

One scholarship is awarded within each of our seven districts, plus an additional one. Scholarship applicants must be a dependent of a NCE member.

Please find a scholarship application with this billing statement.



# Slam Dunk 2018 Rebates

## RESIDENTIAL

### Replacement refrigerator or freezer

\$75 with recycling of old unit

### Electric clothes dryer

\$25

### Dehumidifier

\$25

### Ground Source Heat Pump

\$200/ton

### Air Source Heat Pump

SEER 14.5 = \$480

SEER 15 = \$580

SEER 16+ = \$630

### Cycled Air Conditioning

SEER 14.5 = \$50

SEER 15 = \$50

SEER 16+ = \$50

## BUSINESS

NCE has many business and agricultural rebates available including rebates for lighting, compressed air systems, ground source heat pumps, cooling, heating, ventilation, motors and more.

*Rebates are only for products purchased on or after January 1, 2018. The products must be installed where electricity is supplied by the cooperative. Rebate submittal must follow the guidelines outlined by NCE. Rebates are a first-come, first-served member benefit.*



## Operation Round Up just makes good 'cents'

Concern for communities is one of the driving forces behind everything we do at NCE. We take pride in the fact that we are actively involved in making our communities better places to live.

The cooperative implemented Operation Round Up® (ORU) in 2001. ORU is just what the name implies. Members allow the cooperative to round up their electric bills each month to the next highest dollar. A participant in ORU with an electric bill of \$126.73 would pay \$127. The extra 27 cents is placed in the ORU trust fund.

With the average donation only being 50 cents a month, the most a member will pay is about \$6 a year. That spare change adds up quickly. Since its inception, over \$300,000 has been awarded locally.

NCE is accepting applications for ORU. Applications can be obtained at our offices or are available on our website [www.noblesce.coop](http://www.noblesce.coop). The deadline for submitting an application is March 1.

With your help, small change can help change lives in our communities.



## Washington, D.C., Youth Tour deadline draws near

Your co-op sponsors a trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C., June 9-14 for an area youth through the annual Youth Tour Contest. The Youth Tour is an opportunity to travel, sightsee, meet teens from across the nation, learn about your co-op and rural electrification. It is a great opportunity for a young individual to see one of the most fascinating cities in the world.

To enter, you must be a high school (36-3-34) freshman, sophomore, junior or senior attending a high school or home school in Murray or Nobles County. Each individual must fill out an application and write a 300-word essay on a topic determined by NCE. The deadline for submitting is February 28. Applications are available from a school counselor, calling NCE or printing one from our website at [www.noblesce.coop](http://www.noblesce.coop).



YOUTH TOUR

# Stay Back!

Know the difference between types of lines and wires. If you see a downed electric line, be aware that it could be live and dangerous!

## Electric Wire

Electric wires are larger and can be easily identified by the three separate twisted wires, one being uniquely silver or uninsulated.

## Cable Wire

Cable lines are round and look similar to the coaxial cable that connects to the TV in your home.

## Phone Wire

Telephone wires are typically smaller, flat wires.

Mark your calendar for  
NCE's 2018 Annual Meeting

**April 5**  
Fulda High School Gymnasium

## Country Cupboard Seasoned Potato Wedges

1/3 c. flour  
1 tsp. paprika

1/3 c. Parmesan cheese

**Pam Barrie**  
Westbrook

Combine in a plastic bag. Cut three potatoes in eight wedges. Dip wedges into 1/3 c. milk and place in bag and shake. Bake uncovered at 400 degrees for 20 minutes. Drizzle with 2 T. butter. Turn potatoes and drizzle with butter again baking another 20 to 25 minutes more. (30-32-41)

Dip:

16 oz. sour cream  
2 T. chives

8 bacon strips browned and crumbled  
1/2 tsp. garlic powder

Mix together to serve with the potato wedges.

## Potato Bake

1 - 2 lb. bag Mrs. Deli hash browns

Mix together:

1 pt. sour cream  
1/2 c. milk

2 cans cream of chicken soup  
1 T. butter

Then mix the following ingredients with the hash browns and soup mixture:

1 1/2 c. cubed Velveeta  
1/2 c. mozzarella cheese

2 c. shredded cheddar cheese

Bake at 350 degrees for one hour.

Send your favorite **soup** 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 February 26. 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.

**Lois Harberts**  
Rushmore



**Nobles Cooperative  
Electric**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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800-252-1166 or 811

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Adam Tromblay

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### Next Board Meeting

February 16, 2018

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

