



Meeker Cooperative PIONEER

February 2019

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Official publication of

Meeker Cooperative
Light and Power Association

www.meeker.coop

Meeker Co-op is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Final year of 30% Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit

This is the final year residents can claim the full 30% federal Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit, so for residents considering a solar energy system (PV or hot water), small wind system, ground source heat pump, or other eligible systems, 2019 is a good time to install it.

The current tax credit means a taxpayer may claim a credit of 30% of qualified expenditures for a system that serves a dwelling unit located in the United States that is owned and used as a residence by the taxpayer. Expenditures with respect to the equipment are treated as made when the installation is completed. If the installation is at a new home, the “placed in service” date is the date of occupancy by the homeowner. Expenditures include labor costs for on-site preparation, assembly or original system installation, and for piping or wiring to interconnect a system to the home.

For instance, a resident planning a 5 kW solar photovoltaic (PV) system at a cost of \$20,000 would receive a tax credit of about \$6,000. The tax credit for all eligible systems will phase down over the next three years as follows:

- 30% for systems placed in service by Dec. 31, 2019.
- 26% for systems placed in service after Dec. 31, 2019 and before Jan. 1, 2021
- 22% for systems placed in service after Dec. 31, 2020 and before Jan. 1, 2022

The tax credit will end in 2022.

There is a similar Business Energy Investment Tax Credit (ITC) available for businesses, with a similar phase down schedule.

Other incentives

In addition to the federal tax credit, other incentives, such as Minnesota Housing’s Fix-Up Fund Loan Program, may help to finance renewable energy systems. To learn about the range of incentives that are available to Minnesotans for solar and other clean energy improvements, visit the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency at www.dsireusa.org.

Meeker Cooperative also offers substantial rebates for the installation of qualifying energy efficiency heating and cooling systems that are also on its Energy Management or Load Control program(s). Those programs include air and ground source heat pumps, water heating and more (see Page 6). Contact the Co-op at 320-693-3231, or visit our website at www.meeker.coop for additional information.

Mark your calendars for the 2019 Annual Meeting April 8

Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association Notice of Annual Meeting

Please take notice that the Annual Meeting of the members of Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 8, 2019, at Meeker Cooperative, 1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100, Litchfield, Minnesota, for the following purposes:

1. Reading of, and acting upon, the unapproved minutes of the 2018 annual meeting;
2. Receiving and acting upon reports of officers, directors and committees;
3. Electing directors of the Cooperative to fill offices of those whose terms expire on April 8, 2019;
4. Considering any unfinished business and taking up such new business as shall properly come before the meeting and acting on such matters as necessary for the best interest of the Association.

Brad Donnay, Secretary

District 5 - Applications sought for Director to fill open seat

District 5 Director Matt Woetzel is not seeking re-election and there were no candidates for that Director District, leaving the District 5 seat open. Per the Bylaws, the Board of Directors may appoint someone to fill that seat. Once appointed, the Director will serve until the next Annual Meeting, at which time the seat will be up for election by the membership to fill the unexpired term.

If you are interested in applying for the District 5 Director position, Director qualifications and the application form may be found on Meeker Cooperative’s website at www.meeker.coop. Select Member Services in the upper left corner and then Download Forms from the drop down menu. Click to download the Director Application Packet. Or you may obtain a packet by calling Mary Alice Holm at 320-693-3231.

The application deadline is the close of business on February 20, 2019. The Board of Directors will appoint an applicant to fill the District 5 seat following the Annual Meeting on April 8, 2019.



Polar Vortex, System Peaks and Heating Degree Days

The Polar Vortex brought the coldest air to hit Meeker Co-op's service territory in several decades. For several days in January we suffered in lower temperatures than Alaska. Even the South pole had warmer temperatures than us, if you consider -4 degrees Fahrenheit warm!

Thankfully, Meeker's electric system operated almost flawlessly throughout the frigid temps. With the exception of a couple of minor outages the power stayed on. In those outages the Co-op's crews were able to restore everyone's electricity in short order. Considering both the severe cold and the howling winds, outages could have been much worse. My thanks to the guys that were up in the bucket truck and on the ground repairing those outages. Also, a necessary thank you to the engineers who design the system and to all who work to maintain it in top order.

On January 30, East River Electric Cooperative, one of Meeker's power suppliers, set a new peak of approximately 715 Megawatts. The previous record peak was on January 15, 2018, at just over 696 Megawatts — a difference of 19 Megawatts. With each Megawatt equaling one million watts, that is 19 million more watts of electricity being used over the January peak than the previous year. That is an incredible jump up in usage in just one year.

To prepare for what was expected to be a peak electricity usage day

on January 30, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) issued a maximum generation event for our region. This MISO procedure is to ensure system reliability by preparing all available generation to be dispatched in case of an emergency. MISO is the regulatory organization that oversees the operation of the generation plants and transmission systems in all or parts of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin, and Manitoba, Canada.

According to our records there were 1,744 heating degree days in January. That is the most for any one month since we began tracking this information five years ago. That is about 150 more heating degrees days than last January. Those 150 extra heating degree days is the equivalent of heating your home for an additional three days for the month. No question the extra heating will increase electric bills. If you need help in paying your electric bill please give us a call at 320-693-3231 and we can provide you with contact information for various agencies that offer heating assistance funding and help to establish payment arrangements.

VIBRANT Broadband Update - No question the cold January weather has slowed the construction down but we are hopeful a few warmer days in February will allow the construction crews to get back at it.

As the construction is slowly continuing, we are busy developing a VIBRANT webpage. Policies, procedures and all the other necessary documents that are needed prior to members and non-members signing up for the service are being prepared. We continue to order equipment and materials and are working with our vendors on training and servicing of all equipment.

A few weeks ago I read an article on the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) that was held in Las Vegas. The 2019 CES had more than 4,400 vendors that exhibited on about 2.7 million square feet of exhibit space. This annual show of the latest and greatest in consumer electronics drew more than 182,000 people of which 63,000 were from outside the United States.

The article went on to describe an electric piano, ovens, a lawn mower, a bicycle, cars, a mirror, headphones, a faucet and even a toilet that were all being exhibited. What did they all have in common? They all respond to Alexa, Amazon's virtual assistant. This means that all these devices need to be connected to the internet. No question the internet delivery system of the future will need to be more robust. Yes, the Internet of Things is coming. If you don't believe it, wait until all you need to do is say "flush" and "turn the water on". I think many Moms would like that.

2018 and 2019 Looking back, 2018 was a successful

year. Although the auditor has not yet closed the books on December, I can confidently say Meeker Co-op finished the year financially sound. The Co-op's overall electric sales were up compared to 2017. We finished installing the last of the new Sensus meters. Overhead and underground line construction projects were completed and somewhere around 75 new services were added. And of course, we started the VIBRANT Broadband project.

In December the Board of Directors approved the 2019 budget and workplan. No rate increase is called for meaning the rates will remain stable. Now let's hope and pray the storms that can cause so much damage and cost stay at bay.

Annual Meeting

Just a quick reminder that the Annual Meeting is on Monday April 8. We again will begin serving supper at 5:00 p.m. with the business meeting set to begin at 7:30 p.m.

I urge you to attend to hear the final results of 2018 and a look forward to what 2019 will bring — including a look at VIBRANT Broadband.

DID YOU KNOW –

According to the Department of Energy electric vehicles displaced 216 million gallons of gasoline in 2017, which is double the amount displaced in 2015.

Board of Directors

Karen Becker, President — District 2

Eden Lake in Stearns; Harvey, Manannah in Meeker

Kevin Issendorf, Vice President-District 4

Litchfield, Greenleaf in Meeker

Brad Donnay, Secretary — District 3

Luxemburg, Maine Prairie, South Maine Prairie in Stearns; Forest Prairie in Meeker

Karl Lundin, Treasurer — District 9

North Kingston, Kingston, Forest City in Meeker

Paul Bugbee — District 1

Roseville, Irving in Kandiyohi; Paynesville in Stearns; Union Grove in Meeker

Matt Woetzel — District 5

Fairhaven in Stearns; Cokato, Southside, French Lake in Wright; Dassel in Meeker

Mark Larson — District 6

Harrison, Kandiyohi, Genessee, Fahlun, Lake Elizabeth, E. Lake Lillian in Kandiyohi; Cosmos, Acton, Danielson, Swede Grove in Meeker; Brookfield, Boon Lake in Renville

K. Bruce Krueger — District 7

Collinwood, Cedar Mills in Meeker; Stockholm in Wright; Acoma, Hutchinson in McLeod

Larry Huhn — District 8

Darwin, Ellsworth in Meeker

Chad Felstul — Attorney

Meeker Pioneer

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CEO/General Manager: Tim Mergen
Editor: Becky Sorenson

The Meeker Pioneer is the official member publication of Meeker Cooperative and focuses on our members, programs and events. All member story ideas and comments are welcome. Send to Becky Sorenson at the address above.

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For 24-hour service call

320-693-3231

Fax: 320-693-2980

Web site: www.meeker.coop

Use the "Contact Us" form on the home page

Meeker Cooperative

Mission Statement

"To enhance the quality of life of the Cooperative's Members and Customers by providing safe, reliable, competitively priced energy and other value-added services, while practicing environmental stewardship."

Plan to join us for one or both of these Member Trips! More Details in the March Pioneer!

Twins vs. Seattle Mariners

Thursday, June 13, 2019

12:10 Game

Bus leaves Litchfield at 9:30 a.m.

2019 Energy Tour to North Dakota

July 24-26, 2019

Tour Power Station, Coal Mine, Garrison Dam & Fish Hatchery

Most meals included.

Vibrant Fiber Optic is Coming!

Feel the excitement!

- Super-Fast
- No buffering
- No data limits
- Stable, Reliable

VIBRANT Broadband

Powered by Meeker Cooperative

Looking for members to be part of next Co-op 101 group

Have you ever wondered where your electricity comes from? How the Co-op obtains financing? How politics impact business? What tools a lineman uses? What happens in a substation?

The Meeker Co-op 101 Member Group covers these topics and so much more. This member education group is open to three members from each district on a two-year rotation. They meet quarterly (May, August, November and February) from 7-9 p.m. every third Tuesday. Participants receive a \$50 stipend plus IRS-approved rate for mileage for each meeting attended. Please be aware there is some walking for various activities. Location # 25-27-122

Interested in participating? Fill out the form to the right and return to Mary Alice Holm by March 23, 2019. Directors will appoint participants and you will be contacted if you are selected to be a member of this Co-op 101 Member Group.



Join us for the Auto Show March 13!

See the latest 2019 vehicles and trends, including what's new in electric vehicles, and leave the driving to us! The Twin Cities Auto Show fills the Minneapolis Convention Center with everything from Mazdas to Maseratis, Lexus to Land Rovers, Jeeps to Jaguars!

PLUS an "Electric Room" where you can check out all that's new with hybrid and battery electric vehicles. The increase in charging stations across Minnesota means you can go farther than you ever thought possible!



Ask questions, get under the hood in the Electric Room!

March 13, 2019

Leave Meeker Co-op 4:30 p.m.

Back in Litchfield 11:00 p.m.

FREE for Members!

Guests (With a Member) Pay \$16



Back by Popular Demand: T. Texas Terry Cowboy entertainment

Meeker Cooperative Bus Trip: Twins Cities Auto Show
Mpls. Convention Center, Wednesday, March 13, 2019.
 Bus departs from Meeker Co-op at 4:30 p.m. Back to Litchfield around 11 p.m.

Name(s): _____

Acct #: _____ Phone: _____

of reservations: _____ Deadline to reserve a spot: **February 28, 2019**

Clip and send this form to: **Meeker Cooperative, 1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355, Attn: Becky Sorenson**

Co-op 101 Member Information

Members interested in being part of the next Cooperative 101 Member Education Group should complete this member information form and return it to the Co-op by March 23. This is a two-year commitment.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (Home): _____ (Cell): _____

Co-op District: _____ No. Yrs. as Co-op Member: _____

Cooperative programs member participates in (mark all that apply):

- Cycled Air Conditioning
- ACH (Auto Payment Plan)
- Dual Fuel
- Exede Internet Service
- Storage Water Heating
- Wellspring Wind Energy
- E-Bill
- Storage Heat
- Operation Round Up
- Member Solar Project
- Peak Shave Water Heating
- Other

Please return by mail to Meeker Cooperative, Attn: Mary Alice Holm, 1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355. Or simply drop off in the office.

Do NOT mail with bill payment.

Entrepreneurs Prove That Electricity and Water Sometimes Do Mix

Vascular Solutions company CEO Howard Root needed to unplug from his high-profile job and on-going legal battle with the federal government for which he was eventually exonerated. So he and a friend, Bart Jones, would spend part of their weekends customizing boats in Jones' workshop.

During their time in the workshop, Jones shared a dream he had to create an electric pontoon.

"That was 2017, after I had won my case and was still working at Vascular Solutions," Root told Twin Cities Business. Root has since sold the Maple Grove based medical device company.

Shortly following his retirement, the two men started working on an electric pontoon prototype. They began with an old, rust-bucket of a pontoon which they nicknamed the "Rat Rod." They replaced the pontoon's original engine and swapped it with a new electric motor, drive and battery. Their first test drive was on Lake Minnetonka.

"There I was with this really ugly pontoon boating around that summer and lo and behold it did really well," says Root.

The two men went on shortly after to design their first commercial prototype which was unveiled for the first time at January's Minneapolis Boat Show. It was branded as the first electric luxury fiberglass pontoon.

A striking, sleek design

Root admitted "I never liked the look of pontoons. It's just barrels with a dance floor and a living room stapled to it." So the team designed a sleek, modern design that incorporates the barrels into the hull of the pontoon, rather than under it. This, along with other innovations, gives the new electric pontoon its unique shape.

The men are marketing this new electric pontoon from a Mayer-based company called Elux Marine. They will manufacture just four boats in its first production year.

The regular going rate for an Elux Marine pontoon will be \$85,000, which a price shift likely in 2020, when the company opens their design up for customization.

Elux is branding its 24-foot electric pontoon as designed specifically for Minnesota lakes.

"Most boats out there are designed for the big water and then they try to sell them here," Root told TCB. "[Our pontoon is] designed for a three-hour sun cruise, not to be a boat you take down a river or across the ocean."

Fitted with a 72-volt, 420-amp lithium battery, the Elux pontoon can reach speeds up to 14 miles per hour.



Bart Jones (left) and Howard Root on the electric pontoon they designed in Jones' workshop. (Photos courtesy of Elux Marine)



The logo sports a bolt of electricity to signify its power source.

Charging the battery is simply done by plugging it into a standard electric outlet, which will take up to 12 hours to charge from half to full and can run more than 10 hours at cruising speed on a single charge. Elux pontoons have a smart charger system to insure the battery won't overcharge or drain to a point that would damage the battery.

Land of Lakes top spender on boating

According to the National Marine Manufacturers Association, Minnesota has a long history of being one of the country's top spenders on boating. Sales have increased over the last eight years and in 2017, sales totalled \$807 million, a 12 percent increase over 2016. Only four states spend more on boats than Minnesotans do.

Jones and Root are betting that their nice boat will eventually have a market in small numbers and that they will do very well.

While the Elux Marine pontoon price will be out of the price range of most folks, it's a great example of what can be accomplished by people who are thinking outside the box and using electricity in new and innovative ways.



Designed to seat one to 12 for cruising, swimming, fishing and more.

Features of the Elux electric pontoon include:

- Seating for 12
- Two-foot swim platform with under-mount telescoping ladder
- GPS with Simrad GO9 XSE 9-inch display and TotalScan transducer sonar
- Eight built-in speakers with subwoofer
- LED bow and stern lighting
- Handheld electric portable vacuum
- Multiple USB chargers
- Slide-out cabinets to discretely store a beverage cooler, trash and recycling containers
- Lockable storage space for valuables
- Flip-up storage for pool noodles and other equipment
- Removeable shade sail for sun and rain protection
- Removeable transom gate and table

Source: Story elements used by permission of Twin Cities Business online magazine, Sam Shoust, Digital Editor

Co-op Policy Priorities for the New Congress

Every time a new Congress convenes, electric cooperatives have the opportunity to educate new lawmakers on issues that matter most to their consumer-members and the communities they serve. The 116th Congress kicked off in January with more than 100 new members in the House and Senate.

Since then, co-ops have been working with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization that represents more than 900 not-for-profit electric cooperatives, to introduce ourselves to new members on Capitol Hill. Here are several priority issues that we're bringing to lawmakers' attention.

Energy Policy and Infrastructure

The potential for energy and infrastructure legislation presents a significant opportunity as electric cooperatives work to meet the growing needs of their local communities. NRECA will work to ensure that any infrastructure package focuses on more than roads and bridges, including opportunities to modernize the electric grid and expand rural broadband access. This is critical to ensuring that rural America is not left behind in the 21st century economy.

Environment

NRECA will promote and encourage bipartisan support for renewable energy research and development programs—including programs that focus on finding a viable use for carbon capture, utilization and storage, which comprise a suite of technologies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. Cooperative renewables use has increased substantially in recent years, more than doubling since 2010.

Grid Resilience

Protecting our nation's vast power grid is a national priority and focus for electric cooperatives. Ensuring appropriate information sharing and preserving existing partnerships and structures are essential to these efforts. We will advocate for resources and technologies that meet the unique cybersecurity and recovery needs of small and medium-sized utilities to help protect our systems.

Advocating for the interests of our consumer-members and the communities in which they live is at the very heart of our business.

~Dan Riedinger, for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Assoc.

An outlet for energy savings



The Insteon® On/Off Outlet is one of many options for smart, energy-saving outlets. Both outlets can be controlled remotely, but consumers will need to purchase the Insteon Hub first, which costs about \$40. Photo credit: Insteon®

Technology keeps advancing and just when you think you've seen it all, there's another new device. Fortunately for us, there are devices that help keep a tab on our energy use—the energy saving outlet.

These next-generation devices afford the same surge protection as their predecessors, but also tie in the "smart" functionality of an internet-connected device.

There are several different kinds of energy-saving outlets available, but there are two factors you should consider. First is size; there are many different sizes ranging from a single external outlet to a power strip with multiple sockets.

The second thing you'll want to consider is Wi-Fi connectivity; internet-connected outlets, commonly known as smart plugs, may enable you to fully realize the potential of these energy savings. This is because you'll have greater remote control of the outlet through your smart phone, tablet or home assistant (like Google Home or Amazon's Alexa).

You'll also want to consider where you'll be using the energy-saving outlet and what you'll be using it for. Answering these questions will make it easier to choose the device that works best for you.

With smart plugs or smart power strips, a few clicks and swipes on your smart phone will enable you to fully shut down the electrical currents to your high-powered devices to prevent them from consuming electricity even when switched off. Several devices found inside your home are commonly referred to as "parasitic loads," "phantom loads" or "energy vampires." In fact, most entertainment systems consist of several parasitic loads, such as televisions, DVD players and video gaming consoles. These outlets can potentially curb these loads, which can cost the average household an extra \$200 per year.

In addition to preventing unnecessary energy consumption, these energy-saving outlets are affordable for most folks who are looking to trim their use. The average smart outlet costs around \$10 to \$20 on Amazon.com and has the potential to pay for itself



ThinkEco also offers smart, energy-saving outlets. Shown here is the modlet (or modern outlet), which can be controlled remotely and even adjust to your personal schedule. Photo credit: ThinkEco

within two years or less depending on how often you use it.

Smart plugs typically come with simple instructions to download an accompanying app on your smart phone and then connect the plug to your home's Wi-Fi. The convenience in being able to turn the device on and off using your phone cannot be understated. Advanced smart plugs and smart plug apps also have the ability to automate the use with your schedule and even your presence in the home.

You can also have large-load devices turn off at a set time each night and turn on every morning when you're ready to use them. If you want to use your television, for example, at a time that's outside of the preset hours, you can easily switch the device on through the smart phone app. Through automation, you're able to power down these energy-intensive devices and prevent unnecessary energy use.

For folks who are looking to optimize their energy use and eliminate vampire loads, smart plugs may be your best option. For others who want more of a hands-off option to save additional dollars, energy-saving outlets and power strips without the Wi-Fi connection may be a better choice. Either way, energy-saving outlets are just one of many energy efficient options out there, and as technology continues to evolve, we'll likely see additional options emerge in the future.

Kaley Lockwood writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Energy Management 101: How to Successfully Save Energy and Money

Energy Management (or off-peak) programs are proven to save our members energy and money each time they are utilized. In fact, in 2018, our 4,755 members who are enrolled in one or more energy management programs (9,864 total programs) saved \$2,676,380. That's substantial savings that are reflected on those members' electric bills.

How energy management (EM) works

Energy Management programs are designed to reduce energy use during "peak" energy use periods. In order to keep members' electric rate as low as possible, wholesale power suppliers build energy management or load control strategies into the rate. Anytime the Co-ops who purchase their wholesale power go over the "peak" set by the power suppliers, it costs the Co-op (and its members) more money to purchase that power.

Energy Management programs allow the Co-op to turn off the primary electric power to reduce the peak, thereby saving on power costs. Those members who agree to allow the Co-op to control their electric heat or air conditioning, etc. during the peak reap the benefit of cost savings through a nearly half-price electric rate, which then saves them a lot of money on their bills, plus substantial rebates to help in the up-front cost. It's truly a win-win relationship.

This type of system can be utilized to reduce the cost of residential members' space heating, cooling and water heating systems.

There are guidelines that must be followed for these programs to be successful and effective. Here are a few of the issues that we encounter: Location #29-02-134

1 No automatic back-up heat for dual fuel systems.

Many years ago, when off-peak heating programs were relatively new, control times were generally held during specific times of the day and during extreme temperature conditions. Members could plan to be at home during those times to manually stoke the fireplace or corn stove to keep the home warm during controls.

Today, control times are more frequent and sporadic and often cannot be anticipated. That makes it much more difficult for members to manually meet the heating requirements during a control. The Co-op no longer allows manual heating sources to be eligible for enrollment in an EM program.

The most common type of automatic back-up system is the propane or oil furnace. These are engaged during control to keep the home warm. Some members don't have ductwork and don't want to spend the money to install it. For those members, a self-contained room space heating such as a Steffes room heating unit works very well. In this type of system, specially-designed ceramic bricks are heated up during off-peak hours overnight when electricity use is low and cheaper. When the temperature dips in the home, the room unit will provide the supplemental heat needed.

2 Member hasn't called the Co-op to report the addition of new energy management equipment to their home's HVAC system.

If you are building a home or planning to add or upgrade equipment to your heating, water heating or cooling system, be sure and call the Co-op for information on our valuable rebates and help you compare heating systems to make sure you get the best bang for your buck. You won't know which system would work best in your situation and with your budget until you've explored all the options. Making a wise choice with adequate information about costs and rebates will ensure you are happy with your decision for years to come.

3 Failure to call our office for a system "check-out."

Once you have installed your new or upgraded furnace, heat pump, water heater, or A/C unit, be sure to call the Co-op to have one of our technicians come to your home to do a "check-out." This will insure that the meter is working as it should. Failure to do a "check-out" will delay your rebate and you will not receive the low EM electric rate. Your system will run at the general service rate and you will be missing the savings you are entitled to.

If you have any questions about our EM programs, rebates or low EM electric rate, call our office at 320-693-3231 and ask to speak with one of our EM Technicians.

2019 Energy Management Programs and Rebates/Credits

2019 Energy Management Programs

Rebate

NEW: Electric Vehicles (EVs)

- **Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV)** \$200
- **Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV)** \$400
- Metered Separately (\$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug)

Water Heating

Peak Shave - Monthly Credit (Electric WH not on load mgmt.) \$800

- Controlled Up to 8-Hours*
- Minimum 0.90 Energy Factor
- Must use greater than 400 kWh/month
- \$4 per month bill credit

Peak Shave - Metered at energy mgmt. rate (Electric WH not on load mgmt.) \$400

- Controlled Up to 8-Hours*
- Minimum 0.90 Energy Factor
- Must use greater than 400 kWh/month
- Metered Separately (\$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug)

Peak Shave - Metered (Gas conversion/new construction) \$800

- Minimum 80 gallon capacity with mixing valve
- Minimum 0.90 Energy Factor
- Must use greater than 400 kWh/month
- Metered Separately (\$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug) controlled
- Or \$4 per month bill credit with no control

Space Heating

Interruptible Dual Fuel** \$10/kW

- Minimum 5 kW resistance or an Electric Thermal Storage room unit (new or existing)
- Metered Separately (\$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug)

Ground Source Heat Pumps - Controlled On Dual Fuel** \$400/Ton

- Metered Separately (\$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug)

Ground Source Heat Pumps \$100/Ton

- Metered at Applicable General Service Rate
- Must be Controlled for Cycled Air Conditioning

Electric Thermal Storage \$25/kW

- Central, Room, Cable, Hydronic
- Metered Separately (\$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug)

Air Source Heat Pumps Standard Rebate** \$300/unit

- Minimum 5 kW resistance or an Electric Thermal Storage unit (new/existing)
- Controlled on dual fuel and cycled air conditioning
- Metered Separately (\$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug)

Air Source Heat Pumps** (Quality Installation-must have Q.I. form completed)

- Installation must be performed by a registered HVAC contractor
- Matched equipment of the outdoor unit and indoor coil
- Proper equipment sizing with a completed load calculation on file
- Performance tests and measurements of the airflor and refrigerant charge
- Sealing of the exposed ductwork in the mechanical room area
- Controlled on dual fuel and cycled air conditioning
- Metered Separately (\$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug)

14.5 - 15.0 SEER \$480 Rebate

15.1 - 16.0 SEER \$580 Rebate

>16.1 SEER \$630 Rebate

SEER = Season Energy Efficiency Ratio

Cooling

Cycled Air Conditioning \$100/unit

- Cycled Control
- Metered Separately (\$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug)
- Free AC Tune-Up for up to \$100 for units greater than 5 years old

AC Tune-Up

- Unit must be five years or older and in working condition \$25/unit
- Work must be performed by licensed HVAC contractor

Electric Service Incentive

- New and existing services that install an energy management program will be credited \$1.00 per lineal foot for either underground or overhead service. Rebate must be applied for within 12 months of service installation.

*Member required to pay sales tax.

**System must include automatic back-up heat.

All rebates for new installations. Retrofit equipment qualifies for 50% rebate.

For the most efficient heating and cooling, choose a heat pump

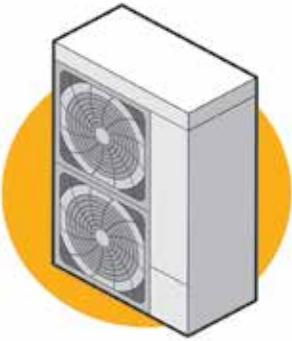
Types of Heat Pumps

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

Air-Source Heat Pumps

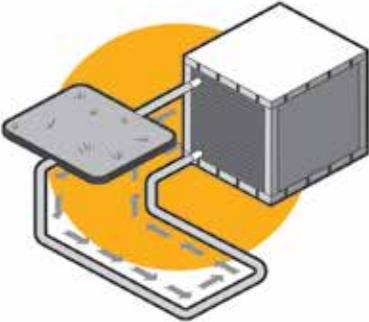
- Most commonly used heat pumps
- Moves heat rather than converting it from a fuel like combustion heating systems do
- Can reduce heating costs by about 50 percent when compared to baseboard heaters or electric furnaces
- Newer, more efficient systems now represent a legitimate space heating alternative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



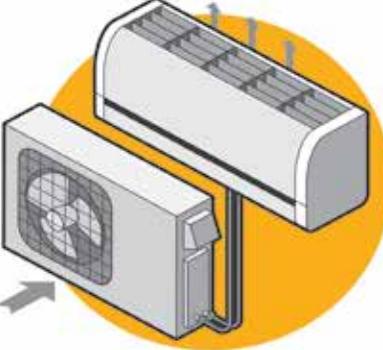
Geothermal Heat Pumps

- 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




Did you know?

In Minnesota in 2013, 10 percent of home fires were caused by heating devices.

Most home fires occur in the winter and peak in January.

Most Minnesota heating fires occur in fireplaces and chimneys.

HEATING SAFETY

- Keep portable heaters three feet from anything flammable.
- Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have your home heating system and chimney cleaned and inspected annually.
- Make sure your wood stove is properly installed and ventilated.




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445 Minnesota St., Suite 145, St. Paul, MN 55101 Telephone: 651-201-7200 Fax: 651-215-0525

2019 Energy Star Appliance Rebates



The following residential appliances qualify for a rebate provided they are Energy Star rated.

Energy Star Dehumidifier	\$25 Rebate
Energy Star Dishwasher	\$25 Rebate
Energy Star Clothes Washer	\$25 Rebate
Energy Star Clothes Dryer	\$25 Rebate
Energy Star Freezer	\$25 Rebate
Energy Star Refrigerator	\$25 Rebate

Rebate applications can be downloaded from www.meeker.coop Download Forms, or call 320-693-3231. Along with the application, you must also submit a dated receipt and the yellow Energy Guide from your appliance. All these materials must be submitted within 90 days of purchase to:

Meeker Cooperative, Attn: MSR, 1725 US Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355
FOR ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES ONLY

Wild Rice Soup

Eileen Reiter of Eden Valley submitted this month's winning recipe for **"Wild Rice Soup"** (Best Crock Pot recipe). She will have \$10 credited to her account. Congratulations!

Wild Rice Soup

- ¾ cup wild rice, uncooked
- 7-10 slices crumbled bacon or cooked chicken
- 1 can mushrooms, drained
- 1 cup half & half
- 4 chicken flavored bouillon cubes
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 4 cups water (or chicken broth)
- Diced celery to taste

Cook in crock pot on high for four hours.

For March, submit your favorite Recipe using potatoes by February 28 to:
Meeker Cooperative, ATTN: Becky Sorenson,
1725 US Hwy 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355

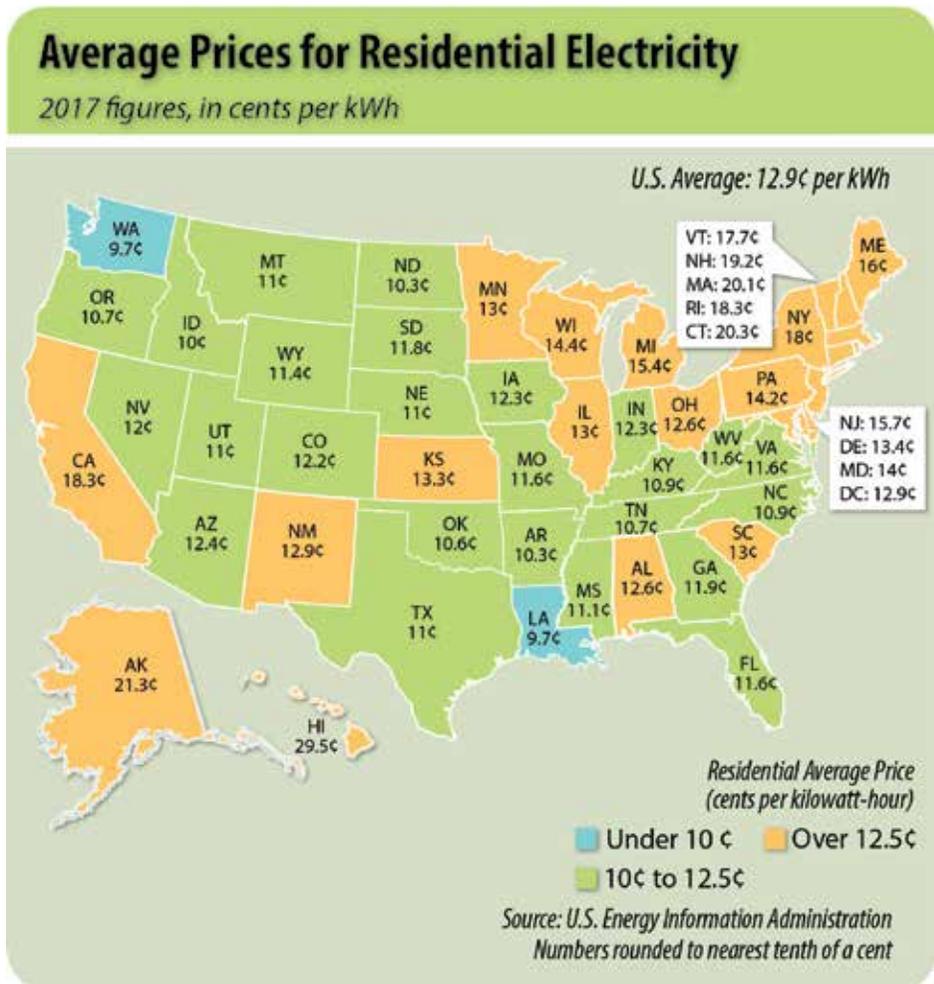


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Pioneer Ads — Free want ad service for members. Please limit your ad to nine words, one word per line. One phone number please. Use the coupon below or pick one up in our office. Ads will be printed for one month only. Please submit a new ad if you want it published more than one month. Include your name and address, which will be used for identification purposes only. Ads received by **Feb. 28** will be included in March issue.

Please run this ad in the next Pioneer

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

Please check ad category

For Sale, Misc.

Agricultural

Automotive

Wanted

Giveaway

Service

For Rent

Clip and Send to: Meeker Cooperative, 1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355 Attn: Becky Sorenson or email rsorenson@meeker.coop

As usual, Meeker Cooperative's rates fall below the Minnesota average retail rate. Combining our 3-month summer rate of 12.3¢/kWh and our winter rate of 10.3¢/kWh, our average residential rate is 10.8¢/kWh. Our rates for energy management programs are 6.2¢/kWh in the summer and 5.7¢/kWh in the winter, which can save hundreds of dollars each year in heating and cooling your home. Location #08-13-301

- For Sale - Miscellaneous**

 - 1996 Coachman 5th-wheel camper, new tires, very gd. cond. 320-292-6628.
 - Lk. Manuella seasonal. Septic/well. 75'x200' level. \$175K/obo. 320-420-3074.

- Sz. 2 boy's clothes. 320-398-8211.
 - Direct TV antenna/dish/support brkt/braces. \$20. 320-587-2235.
 - Firewood. You cut. Price negotiable. Forest City. 320-693-2235.
 - Pool table slates: 1-32"; 2-27". Make offer. 320-905-6597.

- 16-ft. Lund Pike DLX EZ kloader 50hp Merc. Lots x-tras. EC. 320-250-7027.
 - Clam 5600 fish hse. w/custom trailer. \$300. 320-249-4790.
 - Classic records. Serious inquiries only. 651-451-1934.
 - DVD player, Apple USB Super Drive, lk. new. \$25. 320-221-2487.
 - Dresses, girls' new white formals, sz. 8-9. \$20/ea. 320-552-3907.
 - Small TV stand. \$5. 320-583-3749.
 - Ironrite auto ironer w/orig. chair. \$100/obo. 320-275-2132.
 - 1999 8-ft. pop-up pickup camper, lk. new. \$4,000. 320-262-6299.

Find your location number

Four location numbers have been hidden within this *Pioneer*. If you find your number and claim it by calling Meeker Cooperative by Feb. 28 you will have \$10 credited to your account! If you find your number and your information is correct in our system, you'll receive a bill credit equal to one month's output from a Member Solar panel. Vinal Christopherson of Paynesville found his location number in January. Good luck!



- Dry firewood, pickup load, \$55. You haul. 320-275-2958.
 - 4 wood bar stools. 320-583-3749.
 - Tanning bed. 320-583-3749.
 - 24" snowblwr, 6hp, 5-sp. Reverse/chains, new eng. 12/17. \$375. 952-938-8269.
 - Min Pin puppies, 10 weeks old. \$100. 320-557-7746.
 - Emerson portable ice maker, 3 cube sizes. Lk. new. \$75. 612-701-8291.
 - Audi Q7 alum. roof rack cross bars. \$25. 320-583-7116.
 - Barska varmint rifle scope, 16x50, used little. \$75. 612-868-6835.
 - Snow blade for 2003 Polaris ATV, 5; man. Lift. \$250. 612-868-6835.
 - Green soft & love seat, \$150; Burgundy sofa & Chair, \$200. 320-275-5603.
 - Tan Lazy Boy recliner. \$75. 320-275-5603.
 - 13 x 10-ft. braided rug, tan, burgundy, blue. \$50. 320-275-5603.
 - Solid alum. sled deck for pickup w/ramp. \$1,500. 320-693-8136.
 - Keurig coffee maker. Large coffee pot and extras. 320-293-8770.
 - 2015 Volkswagen Jetta diesel, 25K mi. \$15,500/obo. 612-859-5186.
 - Location #24-35-204
 - 1976 Triumph Spitfire. Garage-stored, needs TLC. Fun car. 320-492-0440.
 - 2000 Cadillac DeVille, bronze, tan leather, 117K mi., Nice. \$3,500. 320-276-8575.
 - 2007 GMC Yukon XL. Loaded, very nice. \$9,150/obo. 952-607-5446.
 - 2004 Pontiac Bonne, 180K mi., some rust, runs grt. Well maint. \$2,300. 320-295-1017.
- For Sale - Agricultural**

 - '58 Chev. 283 eng. Fits up to 1970. \$500/obo. 320-693-8136.
 - J.D. 2800 5-bottom plow vi-wide; Century 300-gal. crop sprayer. 320-453-6122.
- Wanted**

 - Any kind metals. Will pick up or tear down. 320-905-5625.
 - Forest City town team baseball memorabilia/photos. 320-693-3941.
 - Old spears & wood decoys used for spearing Northerns. 320-583-6903.
 - Shorter grain auger w/elec. motor, on wheels. 320-221-1070.