

PIONEER



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OUTAGE RESPONSE: TECHNOLOGY, TEAMWORK AND SAFETY

When the lights go out, most members have the same first question: *Does Meeker Energy know?*

Often, the answer is yes. Meeker Energy uses an outage management system called Pyxis, which works with meter data to help identify where outages are happening. When a meter loses power, it can send a “last gasp” message before going offline. That signal helps Meeker Energy determine whether an outage involves one member, a group of members or a larger section of the system.

Members who have opted in to outage text notifications may receive a message

when an outage is detected at their individual service address. When power is restored, the meter can send another message indicating service appears to be back on.

Still, technology does not replace member reports. If power is reaching the meter but there is an issue on the member’s side, Meeker Energy may not be able to detect it. During large outages, many meters may try to send signals at once, and not every message may get through. Cell service can also affect text notifications.

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OUTAGE RESPONSE CONTINUED...

If you are unsure Meeker Energy knows about your outage, or if you receive a restoration message but still do not have power, please report it.

Once an outage is detected or reported, crews use meter alerts, outage maps, dispatch information and member details to begin narrowing down the issue.

“When an outage is reported or detected, we usually receive the location, number of members out, whether it was member-reported or meter-reported, and any special notes,” said Al Resman, Foreman/Lineman, who has worked at Meeker Energy for 29 years. “That might be something like a tree on the line, a vehicle hit a pole or a cabinet was damaged.”

When crews arrive, their first job is to determine where power has been disconnected. Sometimes that means patrolling the line, or inspecting the electric system section by section, looking for loose hardware, broken insulators, tree issues or unsafe conditions.

Weather is one of the most common causes of outages on Meeker Energy’s system. Trees brought down by wind or heavy snow can damage lines and equipment. Animal contact may cause smaller outages that can often be restored more quickly, while large weather events, broken poles, damaged lines, snow, ice or widespread tree damage can take more time.

Once the problem is found, crews determine the safest and most efficient way to make repairs. That includes identifying what equipment, materials and crew support are needed, along with the safety steps required before work begins.

Safety is always the first priority. Crews must verify where lines are open and identify 36-15-201 public safety concerns, such as downed lines or poles on roads, in yards or near driveways. In some cases, power may need to be isolated or rerouted so crews can work safely.

During a larger outage, crews typically start with the areas that will restore power to the largest number of members. From there, they continue working through the system until smaller outages and individual services are restored.



From home, it may sometimes look like nothing is happening. Behind the scenes, crews may be locating the source of the outage, making the area safe, coordinating materials or repairing damage in difficult conditions.

“Some outages are quick to restore, and some take a lot of time,” Resman said. “There is a lot of effort put in to keep the public and workers safe, which can take time.”

Members can help by reporting outages, checking the outage map, keeping contact information current and opting in to outage text notifications. Members should also stay far away from downed power lines and damaged equipment, even if a line does not appear to be energized.

Outage response is a balance of technology, experience and teamwork. Meter data helps identify trouble. Member calls provide important details, and lineworkers bring the training and judgment needed to restore power safely.

For members, the best moment is when the lights come back on. For the lineworkers who restored them, that moment matters too. “It’s a tremendous amount of satisfaction,” Resman said.

POWER OUTAGES? GET NOTIFIED



When an outage happens, you want answers fast. Meeker Energy’s outage text notifications can help keep you informed when power is out at your service location and when it appears to be restored.

Sign up online at www.meeker.coop/outage-notification/ and have your electric account number ready. Once enrolled, you’ll receive text updates related to outages at your address.

Friday, June 26, 8:57 PM

Meeker Energy: Our system shows your service location is currently involved in a power outage. Service address: 12345 POWER LINE RD

Friday, June 26, 10:06 PM

Meeker Energy: Our system shows power has been restored at your service location. If your power is still out, please call 320-693-3231.



WHAT RELIABILITY MEANS IN REAL LIFE

Behind every switch is a system built to support real people and real needs.

As CEO of Meeker Energy, I spend a lot of time thinking about reliability. Not just outage reports, equipment assessments and infrastructure investments, but what that work actually means when it reaches the people we serve.

That is the part that stays with me.

When the power is on, most people do not think about it at all. That is by design. Your Cooperative's job is to be so consistent and dependable that electricity fades into the background of your day. You flip a switch and expect the light to come on. You adjust the thermostat and expect your home to respond. You open the refrigerator, start the coffee maker, or watch a ballgame without thinking much about the system working behind it all.

That invisibility is part of the value. Reliable electricity does more than power devices. It gives us time, comfort, convenience, safety and peace of mind. And for the members we serve, reliability is never abstract. It is personal.

For a farmer running irrigation during hot, dry weather, power is part of the crop plan. Water has to move on schedule. When a pump goes down mid-season, the concern is not just inconvenience. It is yield, and a year's worth of work. Reliable electricity is as much a part of agriculture as the seed in the ground.

For a small business, the open sign, point-of-sale system, walk-in cooler, computers and lights all depend on power that has to show up. There is no easy way to recover a lost hour of business. For entrepreneurs in our communities, reliability is part of their business continuity plan.

For families, reliable power means a good night's sleep, a safe home for young children and peace of mind for anyone looking after an elderly parent. Summer heat in central Minnesota is real, and so is the cold that follows. A working air conditioner or furnace is not a luxury. It is part of keeping a home safe and comfortable.

For some members, electricity is critical. Those who depend on home medical equipment for dialysis, mobility or respiratory care cannot treat an outage as a minor inconvenience. It is a health risk. For these members, reliable power is not just a service. It is a lifeline.

For students, dependable electricity is also part of opportunity. Homework happens online. Classes meet virtually. College applications are submitted through portals. Learning, communication and access all require a reliable

connection, and a reliable connection requires reliable power. For a student in rural Minnesota, dependable electricity is part of having a fair shot.

Every one of those members has a different story, different needs and a different reason why power matters. But the ask is the same: electricity that is there when they need it, without question.

That is the responsibility behind the work we do at Meeker Energy.

Reliable service starts long before a storm appears on the radar or an outage is reported. It starts with maintenance, inspections, vegetation management, system planning and thoughtful investments in the grid. Some of that work is visible, like trucks along the road and crews in the field. Much of it happens behind the scenes through monitoring, planning and coordination.

As a Cooperative, we also understand reliability must be balanced with affordability. Every project, repair and upgrade must be considered carefully. Our goal is to invest wisely, maintain the system responsibly and keep service dependable without losing sight of the impact costs have on members.

That balance matters more as electricity becomes even more central to daily life. More members are working from home, relying on connected devices and depending on electric equipment for comfort, safety and productivity. Farms, schools, healthcare providers, local businesses and homes all depend on a strong electric system.

We understand that when the power goes out, it is more than an inconvenience. It disrupts work, strains families and creates real challenges for farms and businesses. No electric system can prevent every outage. But we can keep doing the work that reduces risk, strengthens our response and supports the lives our members have built around reliable power.

Reliability is not just measured by the system. It is measured by the lives it helps power every day.

Dedicated to keeping the lights on and the data flowing,

Luke Johnson
CEO, Meeker Energy

HELPING STUDENTS POWER THEIR FUTURE

At Meeker Energy, we believe strong communities start with opportunity. Each year, we are proud to support local students as they take the next step in their education, whether that path leads to college, technical school or specialized training.

Meeker Energy is pleased to recognize this year's Meeker Cooperative Electric Trust Scholarship recipients. Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship to help support their continued education and future goals.

These scholarships reflect our commitment to investing in the next generation and supporting the students who will help shape the future of our local communities. We congratulate each of this year's recipients and wish them the very best as they begin this exciting new chapter.

Students interested in future scholarship opportunities can learn more through their high school guidance counselor.

ACGC Senior High School*	Seth Carlson Haley Johnson Brinley Grimsgard
Dassel-Cokato High School*	Allyson Dallmann Madilyn Eckhoff Hannah Lang Jaeden McKinley
Eden Valley-Watkins High School	Alexis Bailey Ava VanderBeek
Kimball Area High School	Frank Scheifelbein Cruz Gohmann
Litchfield Senior High School	Beau Schultz Katelyn Guggemos
Paynesville High School	August VanderWeyst Carter Flanders

**Schools may have more than two recipients if scholarships from a previous year were not claimed.*

CONNECT WITH MINNESOTA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES AT FARMFEST 2026!

Join Meeker Energy and Minnesota's rural electric cooperatives at Farmfest, August 4-6 in rural Redwood County.

Stop by the Minnesota electric cooperative booths to explore tools and technology that make outdoor work easier and learn more about electrical safety through an interactive exhibit and live safety demonstration. These demonstrations highlight the importance of staying alert around power lines, especially when moving large equipment around the farm.

Plus, enter for a chance to win battery-powered electric tools; including lawn care essentials like a pole saw, leaf blower, chainsaw, and string trimmer, as well as an ice auger for winter use!



FARMFEST

28366 COUNTY HWY 13
MORGAN, MN (GILFILLAN)



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®



MEMBER INFO:

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

COULD PAST CAPITAL CREDITS BE WAITING FOR YOU?



Meeker Energy is working to reconnect former members with unclaimed Capital Credits that may still be owed to them.

Capital Credits represent a member's share of the cooperative's margins during the years they received electric service. In some cases, retirement payments cannot be delivered because a member has moved or their contact information is no longer current.

Former members are encouraged to review the unclaimed Capital Credits list at www.meeker.coop/capital-credits. Select the "Unclaimed Capital Credits" link to download the complete list of names.

You may also contact our office to request a copy of the list by email. If you find your name, or recognize the name of a family member, friend or former neighbor, please contact Ty at 320-693-3231. Even a simple connection could help us return funds to their rightful owner.

Minnesota law allows cooperatives to donate unclaimed Capital Credit balances after seven years of unsuccessful attempts to locate the member. At Meeker Energy, those funds are directed to the Operation Round Up program and used to support educational purposes within the communities we serve.

Please take a few minutes to review the list and help us spread the word. Your name, or the name of someone you know, may be waiting.

VISIT US AT THE 2026 MEEKER COUNTY FAIR

Meeker Energy and Vibrant Broadband will be at the 2026 Meeker County Fair July 30 through August 2.

Stop by our booth in the southeast corner of Commercial Building 2. We'll be there daily from noon to 8 p.m. to answer your questions about electric service, broadband options, programs, services and more.

Whether you have a specific question or just want to say hello, we'd love to see you at the fair!



WILLIE WIREDHAND'S ELECTRICITY FUN FACT

On hot July days, power lines can sag slightly because metal expands as temperatures rise. This is a normal seasonal change utilities plan for when designing and maintaining the electric system. Proper clearances, inspections and engineering standards help ensure lines continue operating safely and reliably, even during stretches of summer heat.

MEMBER NEWS

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

At Meeker Energy, we value being part of the communities we serve. This summer and fall, we're looking forward to connecting with members at local parades, community celebrations, educational events and other area activities. Catch us at these upcoming events:

- **Litchfield Parade**
Saturday, July 11 | 6:00 p.m.
- **Legion Car & Bike Night**
Thursday, July 16 | Litchfield
- **Kimball Parade**
Saturday, August 8 | 10:30 a.m.
- **Legion Car & Bike Night**
Thursday, August 27 | Litchfield
- **Fall Into Fun Fest**
Saturday, September 19 | Litchfield
- **Trunk or Treat**
Saturday, October 24 | Paynesville
Sunday, October 25 | Litchfield

We hope to see you out in the community!



The Value of an **AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP**



Heating and cooling account for a large share of the energy used in most homes. That means the system you choose can have a big impact on both comfort and cost.

WHAT IS AN AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP?

An air-source heat pump, or ASHP, is a heating and cooling system in one.

- In summer, it works like an air conditioner by moving heat out of your home.
- In winter, it pulls heat from the outdoor air and transfers it inside.
- When temperatures drop very low, or during off-peak control periods, a backup heat source helps maintain comfort.

Today's air-source heat pumps are built to perform much better in colder climates, making them a practical option for many Minnesota homes.

WHY IS IT SO EFFICIENT?

Unlike a furnace or baseboard heat, a heat pump does not create heat. It moves heat from one place to another. Because of that, it can heat your home using less energy than many traditional systems.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

• **LOWER ENERGY USE**

Because heat pumps operate so efficiently, they can help reduce the amount of energy 18-14-301 your home uses for heating and cooling.

• **POTENTIAL COST SAVINGS**

Members who connect a qualifying system to an off-peak program may benefit from a reduced energy rate. Rebates may also be available to help offset installation costs.

• **LESS FUEL PRICE UNCERTAINTY**

A heat pump can reduce your reliance on propane or natural gas, helping protect against fuel price spikes and supply concerns.

• **COMFORT IN EVERY SEASON**

With both heating and cooling in one system, an air-source heat pump provides reliable, consistent comfort throughout the year.

THE BOTTOM LINE

An air-source heat pump can help you use less energy, manage costs, and enjoy efficient comfort in every season.



**GO ELECTRIC.
SAVE ENERGY.
WIN \$250.**

Join one of Meeker Energy's Energy Management Programs for a chance to win a \$250 VISA® Gift Card.

When you sign up for an eligible electric load, you'll be entered into a quarterly drawing, four chances in 2026 to win, while enjoying lower electric rates on qualifying equipment.

WATT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- Lower electric rates on electric water heaters, electric heat, electric vehicle charger, or heat pumps
- A chance to win \$250 just for participating plus you save money every month!

HOW TO QUALIFY:

- Enroll in an Energy Management Program (new or additional)
- Replacement (10 years or older) of existing heating/cooling equipment on energy management
- You will be placed in the drawing for the quarter when installation is complete

DRAWING WILL BE AFTER EACH QUARTER IN 2026

To enroll or if you have questions, please call 320-693-3231 and ask to speak to the Energy Services Department.



**FIND YOUR
LOCATION
NUMBER**

Four location numbers are hidden in this issue of the Pioneer. If you find your location number, call Meeker Energy before July 31 to claim a \$10 bill credit. To receive the credit, your location number must appear in this issue. When you call to claim it, we will also verify that your account information is correct in our system. Members who find and claim their location number will receive an additional bill credit equal to one month's output from a Member Solar Panel.

MEMBERS EXPLORE THE POWER BEHIND THE SWITCH ON 2026 ENERGY TOUR



From June 10-12, 40 members from Meeker Energy and Agralite Electric Cooperative traveled together to North Dakota for the Cooperative's annual Energy Tour, gaining a firsthand look at the people, facilities and processes that make reliable electricity possible.

The three-day tour gave members an opportunity to see every step of the power generation process while learning more about the partnerships that help keep electricity affordable and dependable for Cooperative members.

The trip began with a stop at Frontier Village in Jamestown, North Dakota, where the group visited the World's Largest Buffalo statue before continuing to Mandan.

On Wednesday evening, members gathered for a banquet hosted by Basin Electric Power Cooperative. During the dinner, a Basin Electric representative shared an overview of how electricity is generated and delivered across the region, providing valuable insight into the Cooperative's role as one of Meeker Energy's wholesale power suppliers.

Thursday's activities focused on the journey from coal to electricity. Members visited Coteau Freedom Mine in Beulah, where recent heavy rains prevented the group from entering the active mine. Instead, employees provided an informative presentation about the mining process, explaining that the region's lignite coal reserves are expected to last approximately 800 years. Members also learned about the extensive reclamation process used to restore mined land after coal is removed and toured the maintenance facility to see the enormous mining equipment up close.

The group then traveled to Antelope Valley Station, where they learned how smaller pieces of lignite coal are used to produce steam that powers two large turbines capable of generating 900 megawatts of electricity. Seeing the scale of the generating station helped members better understand the infrastructure required to provide reliable power every day.

Later that afternoon, members visited the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and Fort Mandan in Washburn. The group explored the reconstructed fort where the Lewis and Clark Expedition spent the winter of 1804-1805 and learned more about the history, culture and commerce of North Dakota's Northern Plains. Members also attended a presentation highlighting the many practical uses of coal by-products.

The tour concluded Friday morning at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum in Bismarck. The museum's exhibits trace more than 600 million years of North Dakota history, providing an interesting final stop before the group returned home.

Energy Tours like this provide members with far more than a sightseeing experience. 08-36-105 They offer meaningful opportunities to ask questions, engage directly with industry experts and better understand how electricity is generated, transmitted and delivered to homes and businesses throughout Meeker Energy's service area.



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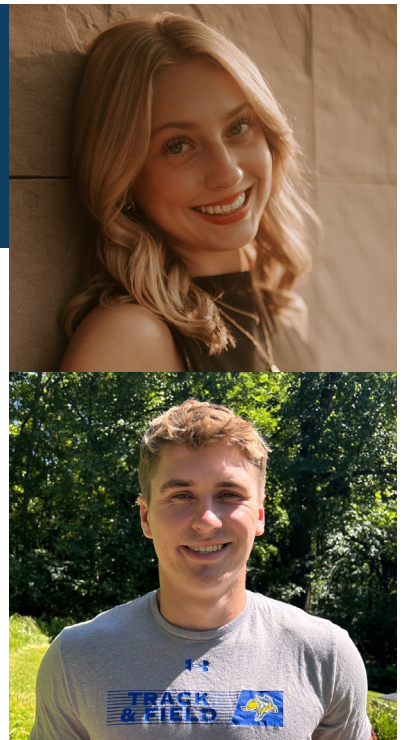
Chad Felstul, Attorney

2026 BASIN SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to Brinley Grimsgard and Tait Christensen! Both students were selected to receive a \$1,250 Basin Scholarship, made possible through one of our wholesale power providers, Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

This scholarship recognizes students for their hard work, dedication and potential to make a difference in their communities. We are proud to celebrate Brinley and Tait and wish them the best as they continue their education.

Information about next year's scholarship opportunity will be available on our website and in our newsletter when applications open in late fall.



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