



## WATCH FOR *THE RATE CHANGE* TO APPEAR ON YOUR OCTOBER BILL



**This is a friendly reminder** that the rate changes, effective with September 1 energy use, will appear on bills mailed in October. We've been doing our best to communicate the rate change through multiple channels since May to help members understand what the changes are and why they were made. There have certainly been several distractions this year so if you happened to miss any of our communications the following is a recap.

A five-year rate strategy was developed based on a cost of service study, approved by the Board, and went into effect in 2019. It outlines a plan and timeline to adjust and merge rates so they are: **1) fair and equitable** among classes of members and based on the type of service provided, **2) designed to collect the revenue** required to cover the fixed costs required to effectively maintain and operate the system, and **3) aligned with how we are billed** from our power providers.

**FAIRNESS OF RATES:** Since the Cooperative acquired Alliant's service territory in 2015, rates for Legacy and SMEC members (*former Alliant accounts*) have not aligned. This is due to restrictions put in place by the Public Utilities Commission (*PUC*) that resulted in an inequality in rates among members with similar service. SMEC rates for service similar to Legacy rates will start adjusting towards the Legacy rate until they merge to ensure fairness, equity, and consistency. To determine if your account is Legacy or SMEC, look at your bill. Information headers are green on Legacy bills and blue on SMEC bills.

**RECOVERING FIXED COSTS:** Historically, some of the fixed costs have been recovered in the energy (*kWh*) charge. This revenue is variable based on the amount of energy members use. To ensure the Cooperative is recovering enough revenue in a fair and equitable way, the new rate structure is moving towards collecting the fixed costs in the fixed charge (*basic service charge*). This helps ensure fixed costs are recovered and reduces the financial impact on members when they experience increased usage due to extreme weather conditions, such as a stretch of hot and humid weather in the summer or a polar vortex in the winter. *(continued on page 7)*

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Our Evergreen  
Energy Efficiency  
11. Programs

# CEO MESSAGE

FROM MICHAEL J. HENKE, PRESIDENT & CEO



mhenke@peoplesrec.com

*We've been "talking" about the September 1 rate change for months and the need to collect fixed costs in a fixed charge that is referred to as the "Basic Service Charge" on bills. Most of this charge covers construction and maintenance of the Cooperative's electric system.*

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People's Energy Cooperative's (PEC) engineering and operations departments are on track to complete the second year of the Cooperative's Four-year Construction Work Plan. The projects contained in the current work plan are for the 2019 through 2022 work seasons and total approximately \$34 million.

The Construction Work Plan provides a comprehensive analysis of the Cooperative's electrical distribution and transmission systems. It identifies: 1) specific functions to improve the overall strength and operating performance of the system; 2) areas of growth in the power needs of our members; and 3) creates efficiencies in maintaining our system for the future.

The plan also outlines the financial requirements for the work to be done. These investments are financed in large part through loans from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), a division of the United States Department of Agriculture. The Construction Work Plan is one of the documents used in loan applications as a basis to justify the need for the loan.

Currently, PEC has 121 line-miles of transmission line and 2,865 line-miles of distribution line. Of the distribution line 2,129 miles are overhead and 736 miles are underground. Of the 2,129 miles of overhead distribution lines, 36 percent (approximately 770 miles) is old copper wire. Of the 736 miles of underground line, 15 percent (approximately 109 miles) is older copper wire. Both were installed between the 1940s and 1980s.

For several decades, your Cooperative has had a plan in place to annually replace a portion of the aging overhead copper lines with aluminum conductor because it is stronger, more reliable, and less expensive. This is a slow, multi-decade process because of the cost of replacement.

The cost to replace a mile of overhead distribution line is \$46,000 per mile for single-phase and \$75,000 per mile for three-phase. The cost to construct a mile of underground distribution line is \$54,000 per mile for single-phase and \$107,000 per mile for three-phase. If the Cooperative replaced all remaining copper lines this year it would cost over \$45 million.

Therefore, the Construction Work Plan methodically identifies approximately 40 miles of old line to be replaced each year to have the greatest impact on improved reliability and increased capacity. As part of the plan we also upgrade and replace equipment such as voltage regulators and transformers. The plan also takes into account substation maintenance and improvements. For example, we just completed the reconstruction of the Chatfield substation this summer.

This year our team has also been tasked with replacing over 50 miles of line damaged during Winter Storm Wesley (April 2019). The cost of these repairs is \$3.6 million and the deadline to complete the work is December 1, 2020, to receive Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding. We expect that 75 percent of this cost will be covered by FEMA funds and 25 percent will be paid for by State emergency funds.

Our engineering, procurement, warehouse, and operations staff have done an excellent job in designing line, procuring and delivering material to the project sites, and coordinating staff and contractors for the line construction. Because of the staff's commitment to shoulder this additional workload, we are on pace to complete the projects before the deadline!

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*Even during these uncertain times, you can count on your Cooperative's commitment to ensuring safe and reliable electric service today, tomorrow, and in the future. People's Energy Cooperative is here for you, our member-owners.*

**Sincerely,  
Michael J. Henke,  
President & CEO,  
800-214-2694**

# MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

# highline

Vol. 84 • Issue 09

PEC's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on August 31. During the meeting, the following items were discussed:

*construction on solar project anticipated to begin in September; the upgraded Chatfield substation started serving members on August 6; outage minutes for public accidents continues to remain high, but tree outage minutes are down; FEMA repair projects on track; members needed for the Member Advisory Committee; SMEC Renewable Energy Recovery Program ended August 31; financials have recovered due to good sales and cost control in the last two months; fleet changes; and RUS audit review.*

A quorum of directors was present, and the following actions were taken:

- ▶ **Approved a 4.7 mill power cost adjustment (PCA) for Legacy members for August energy use billed in September**
- ▶ **Approved a 1.8 mill power cost adjustment (PCA) for SMEC members for August energy use billed in September**
- ▶ **Reviewed Board Self-Assessment Survey results**

## MANAGEMENT

Michael J. Henke,  
*President/CEO*

Gary Fitterer,  
*Director of Engineering*

Michelle Olson,  
*Director of Member Services*

Anthony Stern,  
*Chief Financial Officer*

Gwen Stevens,  
*Director of Cooperative Relations*

## 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**DISTRICT 1:**  
Joe Book

**DISTRICT 2:**  
Ken Wohlers,  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

**DISTRICT 3:**  
Robert Hoefs,

**DISTRICT 4:**  
Tracy Lauritzen

**DISTRICT 5:**  
Jerry Wooner,  
*Board Chair*

**DISTRICT 6:**  
Art Friedrich  
*Vice Chair*

**DISTRICT 7:**  
Jeff Orth

*Visit [peoplesenergy.coop](http://peoplesenergy.coop) for a listing of the areas covered by each district.*

## GENERAL INFO

**Office Hours:**  
7:30 am – 4:00 pm, M–F

**Telephone:** 507-367-7000

**Toll-Free:** 800-214-2694

**Web Address:**  
[www.peoplesenergy.coop](http://www.peoplesenergy.coop)

**Gopher State One Call:**  
1-800-252-1166  
*(digging & line location)*

# ask us!

**QUESTION:** “Why are certain lines cleared of trees more than others?”  
*This is a question often asked by cooperative members.*

**ANSWER:** Tree contact and plant growth interfere with overhead power lines and are the main cause for power outages. This is a major inconvenience for members, but it also results in additional service calls and expenses for the Cooperative. Because of this, People's has a comprehensive vegetation management program to keep trees and shrubs out of power lines. How we trim vegetation around certain types of line depends on the voltage and how many members are served by that particular line.

**Secondary Lines** are the lines from a transformer to the meter and are trimmed the least. Trees can be very close, with leaves and small branches touching these lines without the need to remove the trees. In this situation, we only trim branches that are rubbing or putting pressure on lines.

**Single-Phase Primary Lines** run from main feeders to transformers. Trees by

these lines are typically trimmed to keep a 20-foot distance. In residential areas where yard trees are present, a minimum distance of 10 feet with no overhanging branches is required.

**Three-Phase Primary Feeders** run from substations to residential areas and require 30 feet of clearance from trees due to their increased load. Several hundred members can be affected by an outage on these lines.

**Transmission Lines** feed our substations and supply power at 69,000 volts. These lines are cleared of trees to a minimum distance of 40 feet. In this case, trees are generally removed. An outage on a transmission line can take out several substations which, in turn, affects several thousand members.

*Never attempt to prune or remove trees close to power lines. If you have a tree concern contact us at **800-214-2694**.*

You can email your questions to [memberrelations@peoplesrec.com](mailto:memberrelations@peoplesrec.com) or message us on Facebook. Your question may be in the next newsletter!

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION: A CONVERSATION WITH PEC BOARD CHAIR, JERRY WOONER



*It's that time of year again; the leaves are beginning to turn colors and the PEC board elections are just around the corner. The seats for Districts 2 and 4 are up for election in 2021 and now is the time for eligible members to consider running.*

As the governing body of the Cooperative, the Board of Directors (BOD) is elected by the membership. Directors represent their fellow members in selecting and managing the CEO; approving the annual work plan and budget; setting and reviewing policies; approving electric rates; authorizing loan requests; approving all significant capital expenditures; and hiring corporate legal assistance and an auditing firm.

*We encourage all members to take an active role in the election process. If you are interested in running for the Board of Directors or serving on the Nominating Committee, contact Gwen Stevens, director of cooperative relations, at 507-367-7015 or by email at [gstevens@peoplesrec.com](mailto:gstevens@peoplesrec.com).*

*We sat down with Jerry Wooner, PEC Board Chair to ask him about his personal experience serving on the BOD and why he encourages other members to consider running for these seats.*

**HIGHLINE:** *Jerry, you have served as a Director for 9 ½ years and as Board Chair for 7 ½ of those years. Why did you run?*

**JERRY:** The Nominating Committee contacted me because my name was submitted. I had thought about doing it, but with working full time and, with little ones at home, I wasn't sure. I talked to a few friends and they said if you want to do it, do it.

**HIGHLINE:** *What have you found to be the most rewarding about your time on the PEC board?*

**JERRY:** I feel a sense of pride serving my fellow members the best I can. The Board is comprised of members, elected by members; and we work together to ensure electricity is fairly priced, members receive great service, and the Cooperative stays financially healthy. When you serve on the Board, you really learn a lot about where your electricity comes from.

**HIGHLINE:** *What kind of commitment does serving on the Board require?*

**JERRY:** Directors are elected to three-year terms and during that time we actively participate in monthly board meetings, attend cooperative events, and participate in state, regional, and national conferences and training sessions. It is a time commitment, but so rewarding. I have found that many businesses recognize the value of an employee participating on the Cooperative Board and have been supportive, knowing you are doing something positive. And unlike many not-for-profit organizations, the Cooperative has been able to reimburse Directors for expenses incurred from Board participation and training.

**HIGHLINE:** *Is there preparation and training for new Directors?*

**JERRY:** Yes, there is. We have a three-day onboarding process for new directors to meet the CEO, Board Chair, management staff, and the attorney. New Directors learn about the Cooperative, their responsibilities, and the budget. There are also ongoing educational opportunities offered through associations. These programs are not mandatory, but strongly recommended so Directors really get to know cooperatives.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 101:

Interested in learning more about the role of the Board of Directors at the Cooperative? Join us for Board of Directors 101 hosted online. We'll gather via videoconference to explain the role of a board member and the director election process.

MONDAY, OCT. 7 • 6:00 pm  
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 12 • 12:00 pm  
*Please RSVP no later than 4:00 pm on Friday, October 2 by emailing us at [rsvp@peoplesrec.com](mailto:rsvp@peoplesrec.com). A link to join the meeting will be sent upon confirmation of the reservation.*



# Meaningful Connections

*“Something I’ve learned is when one person is going through cancer in a family, everyone is going through cancer in that family,” explains Shanna (Decker) Lunasin, founder and president of Childhood Cancer Community.*

When she was seven years old, Shanna was diagnosed with a rare bone cancer. After 49 weeks of chemotherapy and a unique amputation called rotationplasty, she is now dedicating her life to helping others who face a life-altering cancer diagnosis. Childhood Cancer Community’s mission is to provide meaningful connections for families affected by childhood cancer to provide positivity and purpose throughout their journeys.

Through its Operation Round Up program, People’s Energy Cooperative recently awarded Childhood Cancer Community \$4,000 to help the non-profit launch its new Diagnosis Duffel program. Each Diagnosis Duffel bag will include pockets to organize medications and will get filled with essential resources, gift cards, hospital/clinic parking passes, therapeutic gifts, and other items to provide tangible comfort to families who have a child newly diagnosed with cancer.

“When a family is diagnosed with childhood cancer it often comes out of the blue. They go to a doctor and aren’t planning to be immediately sent to a hospital, but that’s often the case,” Lunasin comments. “Because Childhood Cancer Community consists of families who have traveled this journey, we can provide people with things they’ll need to help ease the initial adjustment period. It also gives families an opportunity to connect

with our group and start making connections with other people who can be in their corner.”

When a family is newly diagnosed, Childhood Cancer Community meets with the family and spends time with them as they begin adjusting to this new diagnosis. The high-quality duffel bags will get distributed at this time. The organization anticipates gifting approximately 30-35 Diagnosis Duffels annually, at a cost of around \$10,000 - \$12,000. Twenty-six thousand twenty.

“We are honored to have received a grant from Operation Round Up,” Lunasin says. “It is our joy to provide these services to families with kids who have cancer. We are a small team that works very locally.”

Childhood Cancer Community currently serves anywhere from 100-140 people each month, with 60-80 of them being children/teens. Once a month, the organization hosts a Community Night where families affected by childhood cancer come together for dinner and entertainment. Following the meal, parents get an opportunity to talk to one another while the kids participate in activities.

To learn more about the programs and services offered through Childhood Cancer Community, visit [childhoodcancercommunity.org](http://childhoodcancercommunity.org).

*“Anytime we don’t have to spend fundraising dollars gives us more time to focus on establishing important relationships and providing valuable services to families with childhood cancer.” – Shana Lunasin*





Then. Now. Always.  
We're proud to power your life.  
**October is National Co-op Month.**

**As an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the members we serve.**

*Because we are a cooperative, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local communities – and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months. One of the seven principles that guides all cooperatives is “concern for community.” To us, this principle is the essential DNA of People’s Energy Cooperative, and it sets us apart from other electric utilities. Five Hundred twenty-five.*

**OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH**, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we “Power On.” Keeping this theme in mind, we recognize the essential role we play in serving a special region like ours.

Who would have fathomed in March, that the COVID-19 virus would amount to a test of our communities and our nation? The changing circumstances due to the pandemic have created both challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we’ve all been challenged to operate differently. At the Cooperative, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity. For our members, we waived late fees and suspended disconnections for non-pay for several months and continue to work closely with those who need to make special payment arrangements to avoid additional fees or disconnection of service. We’ve seen other local businesses rising to meet similar challenges during this time, because that’s what communities do. While the challenges caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, we’re heartened to see how our region is pulling together.

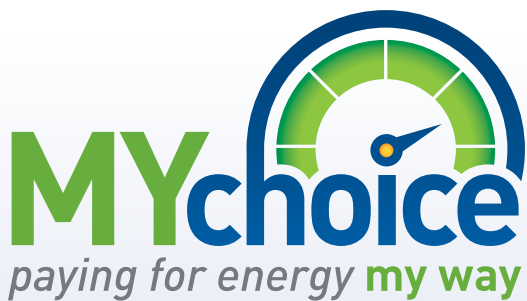
In 1936, People’s Energy Cooperative was built by the community to serve the community, and that’s what we’ll continue to do – **POWER ON.**

**#PowerOn**

# Solar\$ense

If you are thinking about your own solar energy system, make sure to visit our website to learn more about Solar\$ense, our new pilot program for residential members. *This program gives members another choice in how to benefit from installing their own net-metered (40kW or less in size) photovoltaic (PV) solar system.*

*Interested? Please visit [peoplesenergy.coop/member-owned-renewable-energy-systems](http://peoplesenergy.coop/member-owned-renewable-energy-systems) to learn more.*



**A FLEXIBLE PAYMENT OPTION** that allows you, as a member, to prepay on your electric account.

For more, visit [peoplesenergy.coop/account-management](http://peoplesenergy.coop/account-management) or call 800-214-2694 to speak to one of our member services reps. *Nine thousand eight hundred eighty-one.*

## RATE CHANGE (continued from cover article...)

**ALIGNING WITH POWER COSTS:** As a distribution electric utility, the Cooperative purchases power and the bill from the power provider has three components: 1) the equivalent of a basic service charge; 2) the energy (kWh) charge for the electricity consumed by members, and 3) the charge for the demand (kW) members put on the system. Demand, also referred to as capacity, is the amount of electricity needed at a specific moment in time and has a significant impact on the cost of power. Some rates have a demand component for members who put a higher demand on the system.

Based on rate classification and consumption, the overall impact of the rate change on bills will vary. All members will experience an increased basic service charge. This charge provides the funds required to maintain the quality, reliability, and integrity of the system and services that members expect. SMEC members (former Alliant accounts) may face the most significant impact because, other than a one percent increase in 2018, it's been nine years since they have experienced a formal rate change.

*We encourage you to visit [peoplesenergy.coop](http://peoplesenergy.coop) to learn more about the five-year rate restructuring plan, get answers to frequently asked questions, and access a listing of the most common rates.*

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

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12. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Stockholder Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Stock: **None**

13. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Officer or Director: **Christ Stevens, 1773 Lake Street, Suite 5, Urmooch, MN 55004-2101**

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9. Total (Sum of 8 and 9)		0	0
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22. Total (Sum of 20 and 21)		18,179	18,179
23. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
24. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
25. Total (Sum of 23 and 24)		18,179	18,179
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28. Total (Sum of 26 and 27)		18,179	18,179
29. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
30. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
31. Total (Sum of 29 and 30)		18,179	18,179
32. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
33. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
34. Total (Sum of 32 and 33)		18,179	18,179
35. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
36. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
37. Total (Sum of 35 and 36)		18,179	18,179
38. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
39. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
40. Total (Sum of 38 and 39)		18,179	18,179
41. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
42. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
43. Total (Sum of 41 and 42)		18,179	18,179
44. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
45. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
46. Total (Sum of 44 and 45)		18,179	18,179
47. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
48. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
49. Total (Sum of 47 and 48)		18,179	18,179
50. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
51. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
52. Total (Sum of 50 and 51)		18,179	18,179
53. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
54. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
55. Total (Sum of 53 and 54)		18,179	18,179
56. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
57. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
58. Total (Sum of 56 and 57)		18,179	18,179
59. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
60. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
61. Total (Sum of 59 and 60)		18,179	18,179
62. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
63. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
64. Total (Sum of 62 and 63)		18,179	18,179
65. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
66. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
67. Total (Sum of 65 and 66)		18,179	18,179
68. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
69. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
70. Total (Sum of 68 and 69)		18,179	18,179
71. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
72. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
73. Total (Sum of 71 and 72)		18,179	18,179
74. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
75. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
76. Total (Sum of 74 and 75)		18,179	18,179
77. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
78. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
79. Total (Sum of 77 and 78)		18,179	18,179
80. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
81. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
82. Total (Sum of 80 and 81)		18,179	18,179
83. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
84. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
85. Total (Sum of 83 and 84)		18,179	18,179
86. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
87. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
88. Total (Sum of 86 and 87)		18,179	18,179
89. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
90. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
91. Total (Sum of 89 and 90)		18,179	18,179
92. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
93. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
94. Total (Sum of 92 and 93)		18,179	18,179
95. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
96. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
97. Total (Sum of 95 and 96)		18,179	18,179
98. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 2 and 4)		18,179	18,179
99. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 3 and 4)		0	0
100. Total (Sum of 98 and 99)		18,179	18,179

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13. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Officer or Director: **Christ Stevens, 1773 Lake Street, Suite 5, Urmooch, MN 55004-2101**

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# Do I really need a home Security System?

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT HEARTLAND SECURITY

When a cooperative member meets with Heartland Security, they often don't know they can receive very significant discounts just by being a member of PEC. This is because Heartland Security is cooperative owned!

*There are many reasons to choose a local security company instead of a national company. One of the best reasons is the trust factor. You trust your electrical cooperative, and with their ownership, they in turn trust Heartland Security to take care of their members.*

**WHEN YOU PURCHASE AN ALARM SYSTEM**, video surveillance system, fire alarm system, or card access system, you will work with Heartland Security employees who live in the area they work in. If an issue with your system comes up later, you will typically have the same technicians doing the service call that installed your system.

**YOU CAN PURCHASE A BASIC HOME SECURITY SYSTEM** for as little as \$95 and Heartland's monthly monitoring costs start at \$20.95. Other features may be added on and with a simple app on your phone you can arm/disarm the system, lock/unlock doors, turn the temperature up/down, turn lights on/off, open/shut garage doors and with a doorbell camera, you can both see and speak with someone who comes to the door.

**YOUR MEMBER-OWNED SECURITY SYSTEM COMPANY**, Heartland Security, will come to your home or business to give you a "no high pressure" quote and the best part is that you will have no surprises if you choose to have a system installed.

For a free security analysis, please call **888-264-6380** or visit Heartland Security online at [www.heartlandss.com](http://www.heartlandss.com).

## PROTECT WHAT MATTERS

You need only watch the local news or read your newspaper to see the increase in burglaries of homes both in town and in the rural areas.

On the right, we've listed a few statistics on home burglaries:

- ▶ **HOMES WITH A LOT OF COVER** (such as trees, fences, long driveways) are the most commonly broken into.
- ▶ **MOST BREAK-INS** occur in July and August.
- ▶ **95% OF BREAK-INS** involve force, such as breaking a window or kicking in a door to gain access.
- ▶ **9-OUT-OF-10 BURGLARS** said that if they encountered an alarm or home security system they would not break into the home or business and go find an easier target elsewhere.
- ▶ **HOMES WITHOUT A SECURITY SYSTEM** are 2.7 – 3.5 times more likely to be burglarized. Five hundred twenty-five.
- ▶ **THE MAIN DETERRENT** to getting a home security system is the cost, but the national average of a loss from a burglary is \$1,725, and the cost of a home security system is far less.





# Winterize YOUR HOME BEFORE THE SNOW BLOWS



AS THE NIGHTS START GETTING COLDER, it's evident winter is just around the corner. Fall is the perfect time of year to tackle any weatherization projects before the snow starts falling and temperatures dip below freezing. Ensure your home is ready for winter by following these suggestions:

- ▶ **WHERE NECESSARY**, apply caulk around window and door frames to help prevent air and water infiltration. Replace any damaged weatherstripping.
- ▶ **INSPECT THE EXTERIOR OF YOUR HOME** to make sure shingles are intact, gutters and downspouts are clear, and the foundation is in good condition.
- ▶ **APPLY INSULATION** to any unheated crawl spaces.
- ▶ **PROTECT YOUR PIPES** from freezing by adding pipe insulation covers.
- ▶ **HAVE YOUR FURNACE INSPECTED** for leaks, replace the furnace filter, and consider installing a programmable thermostat to help conserve your energy dollars.

For those who qualify, weatherization assistance is available through **Three Rivers Community Action** and **Semcac Community Action Agency**. When individuals are evaluated for energy assistance funding, they are also evaluated for the Weatherization Assistance Program. To learn more, visit one of the two agencies below based on which county you live in. Twenty-nine thousand five hundred eighty.

If you live in Olmsted or Wabasha county, visit [threeriverscap.org/energy/weatherization](http://threeriverscap.org/energy/weatherization) or call 800-277-8418.

If you live in Dodge, Fillmore, Mower, Winona, Freeborn, Houston, or Steele county, visit [semcac.org/community-development/weatherization](http://semcac.org/community-development/weatherization) or call 800-944-3281.

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on National Energy Efficiency Day,  
Oct. 7!



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## ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS



Everyone | Everyday | Everywhere | Everything

an *alternative* way to support renewable energy

### FOR OVER 20 YEARS, THE EVERGREEN PROGRAM HAS HELPED MEMBERS

of the Cooperative support development of renewable energy, including utility-scale solar installations. Residential members and small businesses can take advantage of many options:

**EVERGREEN EVERYONE:** Support utility-scale renewable energy in increments of 100 kWh blocks for just \$1 per block per month.

**EVERGREEN EVERYDAY:** Enroll in a storage strategy for your electric water heater and receive up to four Evergreen blocks.

**EVERGREEN EVERYWHERE:** Charge your electric vehicle during off-peak hours and receive up to four Evergreen blocks.

**EVERGREEN EVERYTHING:** Choose to have 100 percent of your electricity use generated by renewable energy for \$1 per 100 kWh block.

To get started, visit our website for more information and an online enrollment form.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR YOUR BUSINESS



Is your business looking to support green energy? Are there specific sustainability goals your business would like to achieve?

If so, Evergreen for Business may be the perfect solution. This voluntary green power program is provided by People's Energy Cooperative (PEC) in partnership with our wholesale power provider Dairyland Power Cooperative. In addition to meeting their green energy or sustainability goals, program participants support increased opportunities for additional renewable energy generation sources.

PEC member businesses and government entities who use a minimum of 200 MWh annually (200,000 kWh or 16,667 kWh/month) are eligible to subscribe to the new program. Participants choose how much of their annual electricity use they wish to offset – from 200 MWh per year up to 100 percent of their annual electricity use. Program participation is 60 cents per MWh (\$0.60/MWh or renewable energy credit with a minimum annual commitment of 200 MWh (\$120). This is in addition to your monthly electric bill.

"Evergreen for Business is a convenient and cost-effective option for many businesses in our service area," says Cristina McNallan, electrical services and programs coordinator at PEC.

"We do have some businesses that choose to install their own renewable energy systems, but it can be costly," McNallan adds. "A lot of businesses simply don't have the right location. Perhaps their site doesn't allow for a ground system or their roof has limitations preventing the installation of solar panels. Evergreen for Business allows these businesses to still participate in green energy without the hassle and cost of setting up a system."

Each Evergreen renewable energy credit (REC) is generated within Dairyland Power Cooperative's service territory and tracked by Dairyland. Renewable energy comes from solar, wind, hydro, and biogas generation resources via owned resources and power-purchase agreements. Every megawatt-hour (1,000 kilowatt-hours) of electricity generated by a renewable resource also creates one REC. The RECs that supply Evergreen for Business are above and beyond government requirements and replace electricity that would have otherwise been generated by conventional fossil fuels.

To confirm if your account is eligible for this program, contact Marty Walsh, PEC's economic development and key accounts manager, or Cristina McNallan at 800-214-2694.



# People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South  
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



## 24-HOUR OUTAGE NUMBER

### WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT, SO DO WE

Call even if you think your neighbors have reported the outage. Leave one light on so you know when power has been restored. Have an emergency kit prepared.

**507.367.7000 or 800.214.2694**

## SPOT YOUR NUMBER

# \$30

Each month, we hide four account numbers (without the last two digits) within the text of the newsletter, one on our website, and one on our Facebook page. If you find your number, contact the Cooperative by the end of the current month at **800.214.2694** or **memberservices@peoplesrec.com** to receive a \$30 credit on your electric bill.

**GOOD LUCK IN FINDING YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER!**

## MN COLD WEATHER RULE BEGINS OCTOBER 15

**REMINDER:** *the Cold Weather Rule will go into effect on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15.*

*NOTE: this rule does not prevent the Cooperative from shutting off your power for non-payment during winter months.*

*More information regarding this state statute and resources available to help will be included in October bills.*



## SCHEDULE YOUR HOME ENERGY AUDIT NOW FOR ONLY \$50!

*PEC and Minnesota Energy Resources are partnering again to schedule appointments in Chatfield, Dover, Elgin, Eyota, Oronoco, Plainview, and Stewartville on **October 20 - 22**, for in-home energy-saving audits.*

Valued at over \$300, you pay only \$50, PEC and Minnesota Energy Resources pay the rest! Low-income consumers may be eligible for a standard energy audit at no cost. What you'll get:

- A comprehensive audit of your home's energy use, both gas and electric.
- Information on what energy-efficient improvements make the most sense for your home.
- A blower door test to determine leaks in your home.

- Safety tests: combustion safety, depressurization and carbon monoxide detection.
- A comprehensive review of all relevant rebate opportunities.

**PLEASE NOTE: To be eligible, you must be a consumer of both People's Energy Cooperative and Minnesota Energy Resources.**

*Our auditors follow CDC guidelines, wear proper personal protection (PPE), maintain social distancing and perform daily self-health assessments. All tools and equipment used for your in-home energy audit will be sanitized before they are used in your home.*

**Call 800-376-0517, or visit [minnesotaenergyresources.com/audits](http://minnesotaenergyresources.com/audits).**