



Co-op Advantage



All About YOUth: ECE in the Classroom

Our commitment to community often brings us into the classroom. This spring, we hit the road to connect with students in Mora, Princeton, Braham, and Milaca.



We visited schools to share how electricity is generated and how to use it safely. Students were given the opportunity to try on safety gear. Their curiosity led to lively discussions about renewable energy and electrical safety.

MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENTS
OCTOBER 3

SAVE THE DATE!

On Arbor Day, Princeton Elementary students learned about the importance of trees. Our Forestry Services department and arborists from Lake States Tree Service spent the day teaching kids how to plant trees properly in locations where they won't grow into power lines. Our safety presentation pointed out the dangers of climbing trees near power lines and playing near electrical equipment.



Students enjoyed our energy wheel during Conservation Day at Recreation Park in Milaca. With a spin of the wheel, students learned about electrical safety, energy conservation, co-op values, electricity fun facts, and renewable energy.

Watt's Cookin'

Congratulations to Dale Beidleman, a member from Bruno, MN, for winning the Watt's Cookin' banana recipe contest. Dale will receive a \$25 energy credit.

HAWAIIAN BANANA PIE

6-7 cups sliced bananas
¾ c. pineapple juice
¾ c. sugar
1 T. flour
1 ½ tsp. cinnamon
1 T. butter or margarine
2 pie crusts for 9" pan

Soak bananas in pineapple juice for 20 minutes. Preheat oven to 400°. Line 9-inch pie pan with one pie crust. Drain bananas, saving four tablespoons of juice. Place bananas in pie shell. Combine sugar, flour and cinnamon; sprinkle over bananas. Dribble saved pineapple juice over everything, then dot with butter. Cover with second crust. Cut four slices in top of crust. Bake for 35-40 minutes or until crust is browned. Cool and serve.

To enter our Watt's Cookin' contest, mail your favorite Mexican food recipe to Watt's Cookin', P.O. Box 39, Braham, MN 55006. Entries must include your name, address, telephone number, ECE account number, and be received by Sept. 2, 2019. The winning recipe and the contributor's name and city will be featured in a future edition of the Co-op Advantage. Recipes can also be emailed to info@ecemn.com.

Follow us!



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Auto Pay WINNER

Visit our website to learn about Auto Pay. If you would like to be entered in the monthly drawing, sign up for Auto Pay today!

Members who currently participate in Auto Pay will automatically be entered in the drawing.



Congratulations
Gwen and Jeff O'Brien, Cambridge, MN

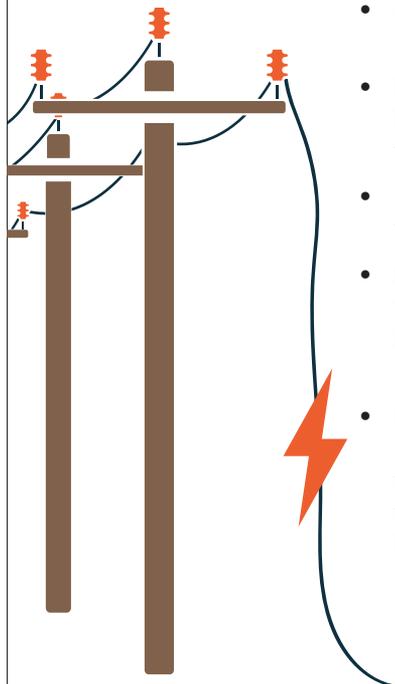
KNOW WHAT TO DO

WHEN YOU SEE A DOWNED POWER LINE

Power lines can come down for a few reasons. Severe weather or damage due to a car accident are two of the more common ones.

When lines go down, the following precautions could save your life:

- Call 9-1-1 to report fallen or downed power lines.
- Know that power lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from the line.
- If the line is down because a vehicle has struck it, remain in the vehicle until emergency crews say it is safe to exit.
- If there is a fire or you smell gasoline, hop out with both feet together (without touching the vehicle). Continue hopping away to safety. Visit our website to watch a video demonstration.



Safe
Electricity.org

Never touch any line that is down—always treat it as live.

Checking it Twice: Power Line Inspections

More than 7,000 miles of power line on our system will be visually inspected this year to help ensure you have electricity when you need it and to protect our crews and the public.

“All the lines on our system are patrolled on a 12- to 18-month rotation,” said Andy Olson, Supervisor, Forestry Services. “The timing depends on how recently the circuit was cleared of vegetation, which is done on a six-year cycle, and the time of year when the circuit was last patrolled.”

We contract with certified arborists to patrol the lines, a job that continues year-round.

Arborists look for trees that are likely to contact overhead power lines because they are dead, dying, diseased, storm damaged or otherwise structurally unsound. These hazard trees can cause power outages, line damage, and fires.

Trees scheduled for removal are marked with red paint or ribbon. They are usually removed without notification, unless they are in a home landscape. Tree debris is typically left on site.

“While patrolling, contractors also do a visual inspection of the above-ground electrical equipment to ensure it’s in safe working order. They report any equipment in need of repair,” Olson highlighted.

Line patrol and hazard tree removal, combined with the other components of our vegetation management program, helped ECE achieve the best reliability record in our history in 2018. For more information, call our Forestry Services department at 1-866-293-9068 or visit our website.



Example of a tree marked for removal

Road Trips are **EV**olving

The classic summer road trip has gone electric, thanks to the adoption of new technology. Among others, Tesla, Chevrolet, and Ford are increasing their electric vehicle (EV) offerings every year.

Yet when it comes to a road trip, charging is a major concern for people considering EVs. The idea of running out of battery power along the roadway (called “range anxiety”) is not a comforting thought, but in reality, the newest EVs drive farther than ever. In addition, the placement of charging stations along major highways has been significant in recent years.

We are embracing the shift in the transportation industry. We now offer rebates for the installation of 240-volt charging stations in homes and businesses. You can wake up with a full charge and go about your day in a vehicle that uses battery power but still has plenty of torque.

Taking a road trip in an EV might seem like an impractical endeavor. But with a little planning and flexibility, you can see the sights while enjoying a quieter, smoother ride.



To find charging stations for your summer road trip, visit our website.



Currently, 64,435 public charging points in 21,851 stations are available across the United States, and more are added every week.

*- U.S. Department of Energy
May 30, 2019*



East Central Energy
P.O. Box 39
Braham, MN 55006

Service Center locations:
Braham, Milaca, and Finlayson
Monday-Friday
Hours vary by service center.

1.800.254.7944
General business calls are answered from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Emergency and outage calls are answered 24 hours a day.

Email: info@ecemn.com

The ECE Board of Directors meets monthly. Please call Executive Administrator Julie Johnson at 763-689-8046 to confirm meeting information.

The Co-op Advantage newsletter is published by East Central Energy, your not-for-profit, member-owned, local electric cooperative.

ECE is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Website:
eastcentralenergy.com



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ENERGY MATTERS

with ECE President/CEO Steve Shurts

Cybersecurity: Keeping You Safe

We work every day to ensure you have access to reliable power. Part of those efforts include protecting our system from cyberattacks. Cyberattacks can be directed toward our computer network or toward the electric infrastructure, also known as the grid.

While every employee undergoes continual training to guard against vulnerabilities, our Information Technology (IT) and System Control departments are each responsible for large portions of grid security and work together to protect our assets from harm.

IT scans our networks to identify and correct any issues that are found. We have sensors that constantly monitor all traffic coming into and out of ECE, as well as a system that monitors internal activity. We block all communications coming from countries that have a history of cyberattacks, and ECE computers do not accept any unauthorized portable storage devices, like USB or jump drives.

System Control remotely monitors our electric distribution system 24/7 to ensure a safe, reliable flow of electricity. Safeguards are in place to ensure we comply with—and often exceed—industry standards related to traditional threats to our grid.

Most successful attacks are caused by human error. To create awareness and protect the co-op, employees and board members receive training and are sent simulated phishing emails to see how likely they are to click on a malicious link. Additionally, everyone completes mandatory online training on an annual basis.

The number of cyberattacks our system experiences is increasing exponentially. We will continue to work diligently to recognize and stop these attacks before they affect you.



Watch our Facebook page for more tips on cybersecurity.



FACT

ECE will **NEVER** require our members to purchase prepaid debit cards or money orders to avoid immediate disconnection.

4 1.800.254.7944

If you receive a call that sounds like a scam, hang up and call us to report the incident.

Time to replace your old water heater?

We make it easy and affordable for ECE members to purchase a new water heater, AND save up to 63% on your water heating costs with storage water heating.

- 0% financing may be available on high-efficiency Westinghouse® water heaters purchased from ECE
- Lifetime warranty

Call or visit our website for details.

ECE 1.800.254.7944
eastcentralenergy.com

**\$500
REBATE**

ECE is an equal opportunity provider and employer.