



Co-op Advantage

Tri Lakes Community Center Touchstone Energy Community Award Winner

We are proud to name Tri Lakes Community Center of Superior, WI, as our winner of the 2019 Touchstone Energy Community Award, which comes with a prize of \$1,000.

The community center plans to use the prize money to help replace the roof, which is over 30 years old and prone to ice dams.

As an all-volunteer organization, Tri Lakes board members enjoy providing a welcoming gathering place for the local community. Each month, a wide range of events take place—weekly fitness classes, snowmobile club meetings, fundraising benefits, and more. The center also works with the Superior Challenge Center, multiple youth groups, and the Salvation Army.

Member Connie Noble notes, “Friendship and cooperation are at the heart of the community center. Our volunteers promote activities that are inclusive to everyone. This is where friends, neighbors, and families work together to improve our area.”

For more information, visit their website at trilakescommunitycenter.org or follow their Facebook page.

ECE presents the Touchstone Energy Community Award annually to a local organization that is making a difference in its community. As the local winner, the Tri Lakes Community Center will be entered in competition for the statewide Touchstone Energy Community Award.



ANNUAL MEETING
April 23, 2020

Braham Event Center
and
ECE Superior
Operations Center
(via live video)

Registration begins 5 p.m.
Business meeting 6 p.m.



Tri Lakes Community Center President Kathy Lisdahl, Treasurer Jay Hunger, and volunteer Connie Noble.



Auto Pay
WINNER

Congratulations
John and Deanna Quade
Rice, MN

Visit our website to learn
more about Auto Pay.

ECE's first after-hours dispatcher signs off

When Terry Parson signed up for electric service in August 1981, he remembers being asked to fill out an application for membership.

"I told her, 'A member of what?'" Terry chuckles. "Obviously I had no concept of a cooperative or what the future had in store."

Two years later, he was not only a member, but an employee as well. He worked as a dispatcher (now titled as a Distribution System Operator, or DSO), then moved to the tree-trimming crew, left in 1986 to teach in Mora, and returned to ECE in 2002 to resume his position as a DSO.



Terry with wife, Linda

Terry's daughters (L-R) Mara, Sarah, and Kristom



Terry credits former colleague Norman Ceaglske as a positive influence in his early career. "Norman had lots of great advice for me as a new guy and a new father. He was always a straight shooter and had a way of training that made the lesson stick."

What does retirement look like? He plans to sleep late for exactly one day before resuming work on his hobby farm. Reading, hunting, and fishing are also high on the list. More than anything, he's looking forward to traveling with his wife, Linda, and staying close to his three grown daughters.

"Who knew signing up for electricity would change the course of my life? What a difference this cooperative has made for me and my family."

STEP POTENTIAL

What you need to know:



A downed line does **NOT** have to be arcing or sparking to be energized — and dangerous.



Even if you do not touch lines or equipment, you can still be killed or seriously injured.



The **danger exists beyond** the point where the downed line is making direct contact with a vehicle or the ground.

Electricity can flow 360° around it.

What is step potential?

If a person connects **two different points** of this gradually-decreasing voltage **by walking away, stepping out of a vehicle, or touching the vehicle and ground** at the same time, electricity flows through the individual (path to ground).



Stay safe

If you're in a car accident that involves downed lines, **stay in the car**. If you come upon a scene with a downed line, **stay far away and call 911** to have the utility notified.





Q&A with Milt Gunderson



Hot water is essential for clean dishes and an enjoyable shower. Did you know water heaters also account for nearly 17% of a home's energy use? We asked Milt Gunderson, Energy Services Specialist, to tell us about energy-saving storage water heating.



What is storage water heating?

This is the program we offer members to reduce the cost of heating water for your home. It allows you to heat your water for eight hours during overnight hours and supplies sufficient hot water to meet your needs throughout the day. Even better, you'll enjoy a rate of 5.3¢ per kilowatt hour (kWh), rather than the normal winter energy rate of 12.49¢/kWh.

How does a storage water heater actually work?

It all comes down to science and the way that cold and hot water naturally interact. When cold water enters the tank, any warm water will naturally rise to the top of the unit. That's why water heaters have a dip tube to direct the incoming cold water to the bottom, and the hot water gets pushed out the pipe at the top. A storage water heater is simply a large water heater.

How can I keep my storage water heater in good condition?

This is a great question, and one we receive often. Rust will damage your system and decrease its life span. Flush the tank every six months to eliminate sediment and mineral deposits. Keep the tank clean and dry; any moisture on or around the tank should be investigated and corrected.



Questions? We're always happy to help. Call your energy experts at 1.800.254.7944.



**EASTCENTRALENERGY.COM
IS GETTING A NEW LOOK!
WATCH FOR OUR NEW
WEBSITE IN 2020.**

The savings are bubbling up

Save up to 63% with storage water heating.

Zero-percent financing may be available for water heaters purchased from ECE.

Visit our website to learn more!

**\$500 - \$700
REBATES**

**LIFETIME
WARRANTY**





CUSTOMIZE YOUR SMARTHUB NOTIFICATIONS

Be empowered with SmartHub by customizing the notifications you receive. Sign up for outage text and email messages, and you'll know why your slow cooker didn't finish dinner. Waiting for your bill? Get notified when it's ready to view.



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. Monthly board meeting highlights and board operating policies can be found on SmartHub.

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

Website:
eastcentralenergy.com



ECE is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To find the Statement of Non-Discrimination for ECE, go to eastcentralenergy.com and select About Us, or call us at 1-800-254-7944.



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1 OPEN THE SMARTHUB MOBILE APP



2 OPEN SETTINGS



iPhone users:

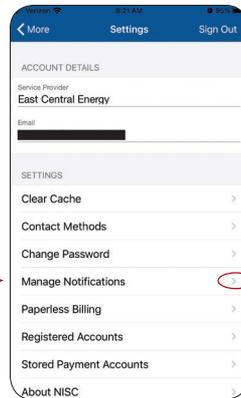
Tap on the three dots in the lower right corner, then select Settings.

More



Android users:

Tap on the three lines in the upper left corner, then select Settings.

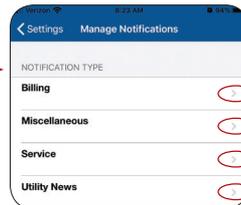


3 CHOOSE 'MANAGE NOTIFICATIONS'

Four types of notifications will appear.

4 OPEN EACH NOTIFICATION TYPE

Enroll in the messages you'd like to receive.



Notice to small power producers and cogenerators

In compliance with Minnesota Adopted Rules Relating to Cogeneration and Small Power Production, Chapter 7835, we are required to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers which satisfy the conditions of a Qualifying Facility.

We provide free information to all interested members regarding rates

and interconnection requirements. An application for interconnection is required for a Qualifying Facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system and is subject to approval by the cooperative.

Members interested in further information should contact us or visit our website.

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LIFETIME
WARRANTY

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