

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Sica Hollow State Park near Sisseton is one of several hidden gems in the park system that are waiting to be discovered

Spotlight on State Parks

Hidden treasures
for you to discover
Pages 8-9

REED Fund fills
community needs
Pages 12-13

Implementing the Plan



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/
Chief Executive
Officer

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com

Putting a plan of action to work... Sometimes it's called strategy; other times it's called goal setting. Regardless of the words used to describe it, it is essential for all organizations.

The Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors meets each year to develop and refine focus for the Cooperative and set plans for the future. Several years ago, we began utilizing a tool that has helped articulate and clarify long term strategy – it's called a balanced scorecard.

The development of the balanced scorecard is rooted in the Cooperative's guiding principles of member focus, community service, competitive products and services, commitment to quality and safety, responsible growth, and profitable diversification. Sioux Valley Energy's strategy is built from the foundation of these principles.

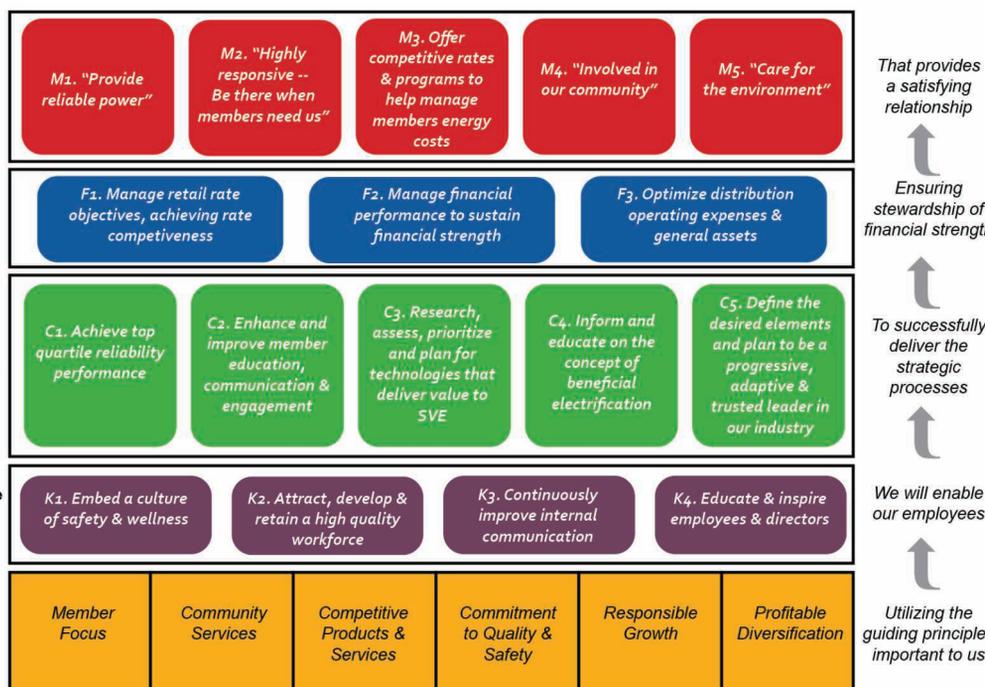
The balanced scorecard defines objectives in four distinct areas – internal knowledge and

skills, core operational strategies, financial performance, and member needs. It helps tie high level strategy to the work being done at the Cooperative for the members. There are both external and internal initiatives based on the balanced scorecard. In the end, every objective is focused on accomplishing the cooperative's mission which is: "Serving Our Members. Always."

Internally, we have worked very hard to cultivate a strong workplace culture at Sioux Valley Energy. This workplace culture connects directly to one of our balanced scorecard objectives of attracting, developing, and retaining a high-quality workforce. As you move up on the balanced scorecard you will see that knowledge and skill of employees comes into focus. That commitment from employees allows us to successfully deliver the following Sioux Valley Energy core strategies: achieve top quartile reliability performance; enhance and improve member education, communication, and engagement; research,

Continued on Page 3

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COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

SIoux VALLEY ENERGY

(USPS No. 497-440)

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Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections is the monthly publication for the members of Sioux Valley Energy, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017. Families subscribe to *Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections* as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of *Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections* is to provide reliable, helpful information to Sioux Valley Energy members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

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How to contact us: Phone: 1-800-234-1960
e-mail: sve@siouxvalleyenergy.com
Website: www.siouxvalleyenergy.com

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Sioux Valley Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

MANAGER'S COLUMN, Continued from Page 2

assess, prioritize, and plan for technologies that deliver value; inform and educate on the concept of beneficial electrification; and develop a plan to be a progressive, adaptive, and trusted leader.

As we work on these objectives, we are evaluating what our members are asking for. As an example, we increasingly have members who come to us to ask questions about beneficial electrification. They not only want advice; they also want to utilize new technologies. We have developed a well-thought-out plan that meets those desires of our membership. A perfect example is our realignment of existing resources to create a dedicated Beneficial Electrification Department.

Those initiatives are only possible if Sioux Valley Energy maintains a strong financial position. The next level of the balanced scorecard includes three objectives: manage retail rate objectives and financial performance as well as optimize distribution operating expenses and general assets. We continuously monitor Sioux Valley Energy's equity level which represents our members' ownership of the Cooperative. We strive to keep it between 32 percent and 38 percent. This equity level allows us to re-invest in our electric system and places the responsibility of maintaining the electric system on all members. At the end of 2021 our equity was approximately 35 percent. This is right where we want to be. If we fall below or above our set monitoring points, we will take a closer look at our capital credit retirement program and our operating budget. Currently, we distribute 2.5 percent of the prior year's total margins and equity to members as capital credits in the form of a bill credit.

To top off the balanced scorecard and to successfully live Sioux Valley Energy's mission of "Serving Our Members. Always.", we work to create relationships with our members by providing reliable power, being highly responsive, offering competitive rates and programs, being involved in our community, and caring for the environment.

When we say our mission is "Serving Our Members. Always." It's not just a statement written on a piece of paper. It's the core of everything we do. The key is to listen to our membership and respond to their needs. That is what this balanced scorecard is all about and in the end, we always keep the member our prime focus. Here at Sioux Valley, we don't just say it, we live it: Serving our Members. Always.

SAVE THE DATE:

Sioux Valley Energy Annual Meeting • Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Sioux Falls Convention Center • Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Four shocking electrical dangers in your home

Contact with electricity can result in something as innocuous (but still painful) as a mild shock to severe injuries like nerve damage and burns. In some cases, it can even cause cardiac arrest and death. Here's a list of some of the most common shock risks inside a home.

1. Appliances. Most shocks from household appliances occur during repairs. It's not enough to turn off an appliance before working on it - you need to unplug it to reduce risk. Large appliances are responsible for 18 percent of household electrical accidents; small appliances account for 12 percent.

There's also danger if your appliance comes into contact with water. Many of these hazards can be avoided by using a ground-fault circuit interrupter. A GFCI is a protective device installed on electrical outlets, primarily used where water is present. When the device detects an imbalance in the electric current, it turns off the power to minimize the potential for an electric shock.

2. Ladders. Typically, ladders present a falling hazard, but 8 percent of household shocks are also related to ladders. Electrocutation typically happens when the ladder makes contact with electrical wires. Before you use a ladder, make sure you can clearly see all power lines in the area - including those that may be hidden by tree branches. Ensure that the ladder is 10 feet away and won't contact a power line if it falls in any direction.

3. Power tools. Power tools account for 9 percent of consumer product-related shocks. According to OSHA, when you use power tools that are not double-insulated, are damaged or have damaged cords, you increase your chances of being injured. The chance of danger also increases when you use incompatible cords, use power tools incorrectly or use them in wet conditions. This is another situation in which GFCIs can help.

4. Electrical outlets and extension cords. Inserting anything that doesn't belong - screwdrivers, knives, fingers or toy cars, to name a few - into an electrical outlet can result in a dangerous electrical contact.

Use cover plates that fit properly and safety covers on all outlets. By installing tamper-resistant receptacles, outlets will have permanent security against foreign objects being inserted into the slots.

Any broken, loose or worn-out plugs, switches and light fixtures should be replaced immediately.

WE'VE GOT CO-OP COUNTRY COVERED



We know you love to read your local edition of Cooperative Connections magazine, but you'll get more great content when you visit our video companion, Cooperative Connections Plus. Scan the QR code or search YouTube for Cooperative Connections Plus and you'll be treating yourself to an intriguing repository of videos on interesting events going on around our state. There's walleye fishing, rodeos, electric vehicles, curling, Christmas at the Capitol, the State Fair and much more. Visit us today!



Call 811 before digging

Amelia Swift Hawk

Amelia Swift Hawk knows that it's wise to call 811 before digging into the ground. Amelia and her parents, Michael and Alyssa Swift Hawk, are members of Moreau-Grand Electric based in Timber Lake.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

SAVORY SEAFOOD

OYSTER STEW

Ingredients:
 1 onion, chopped
 6 T. butter
 2 tsp. minced garlic
 6 cup whole milk
 1 pint (2 cans) oysters - do not drain
 1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes
 1/4 tsp. paprika
 1 tsp. parsley
 1/4 tsp. Tabasco sauce

METHOD

Sauté onion and garlic in butter. Stir in undrained oysters. Cook at medium heat about 5 minutes until oysters curl at the edges. Stir in milk, red pepper flakes, paprika, parsley, and Tabasco sauce. Heat to serving temperature. Serve with oyster crackers.

Jane Ham, Rapid City

GRILLED SALMON

Ingredients:
 1 1/2 lbs. salmon fillet cut into 6 slices
 2 tbsp. olive oil extra virgin
 1 lemon or lime (juice of)
 1 tsp. smoked paprika
 1 tsp. garlic powder
 1 tsp. onion powder
 1 tsp. salt
 Ground black pepper to taste

METHOD

In a small bowl, add olive oil, lemon juice, smoked paprika, garlic and onion powders, salt, pepper. Whisk to combine. In a shallow flat dish with edges, lay salmon slices and brush with marinade. Marinate from 10 minutes to 24 hours. Longer marinating time, more flavorful salmon. Preheat grill to 450-500. Clean grill and oil grates with oil-soaked paper towel to avoid salmon sticking to the grill. Place salmon on the grill skin side up, close the lid and grill for 4-5 minutes. Check with spatula – if salmon has grill marks and comes off easy, flip it. Cook uncovered for another 3-4 minutes or until thermometer reads 125 degrees for medium rare or 140 for medium. Serve hot or cold on top of salad, mango salsa, guacamole, brown rice or quinoa. ifoodreal.com

SHRIMP AND SAUSAGE JAMBALAYA

Ingredients:
 12 ozs. fully cooked andouille sausage, cut to 1/2-inch slices
 12 ozs. uncooked shrimp (31-40 per lb.), peeled and deveined
 1 med. green pepper, chopped
 1 med. onion, chopped
 2 celery ribs, chopped
 3 garlic cloves, minced
 2 tsps. Creole or Cajun seasoning (paprika, with cayenne pepper, oregano, dried sweet basil)
 1 can (14-1/2 ozs.) fire-roasted diced tomatoes, drained
 1 cup uncooked "instant" rice
 1 can (8 ozs.) tomato sauce
 1/2 cup chicken broth
 3 green onion sprigs chopped

METHOD

Preheat oven to 425°. In a large bowl, combine all ingredients. Divide mixture among six greased 18x12-inch pieces of heavy-duty foil. Fold foil around mixture and crimp edges to seal, forming packets; place on a baking sheet. Bake until shrimp turn pink and rice is tender, 20-25 minutes. Use caution when opening packets as they will be steamy. Consider adding jalapenos to taste and/or some chopped pineapple to cool the palate. Try serving for breakfast or brunch with sumptuous eggs and biscuits.

Shannon Collins/Taste of Home

Please send your favorite beverage recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Energy Solutions for You and Your Family



Sheila Gross
Energy Services
Specialist

Sioux Valley Energy gives its members more reasons to “Go Electric!” with its 2022 program offerings. You’ll find a copy of the *Solutions Catalog* inserted in this month’s edition of the *Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections*.

The Cooperative’s Beneficial Electrification Department, established in 2021, works to find solutions for members seeking to save money, take control of their electric bill, and utilize technologies and equipment to be more energy efficient.

Beneficial Electrification is the use of electricity for end uses that would otherwise be fueled by fossil fuels. This not only eliminates the carbon produced locally but takes advantage of a reliable, low-cost electric grid that is getting greener every day with the implementation of additional wind and solar generation.

With impacts to fossil fuel prices and more member inquiries regarding heat pumps and electric heating rate comparisons, we are dedicated to helping members learn how going electric is a great alternative that can save them money. An electric heat pump not only cools a home in the summer, but also offers efficient heating in the winter. Sioux Valley Energy offers rebates for air-to-air and geothermal heat pumps for members

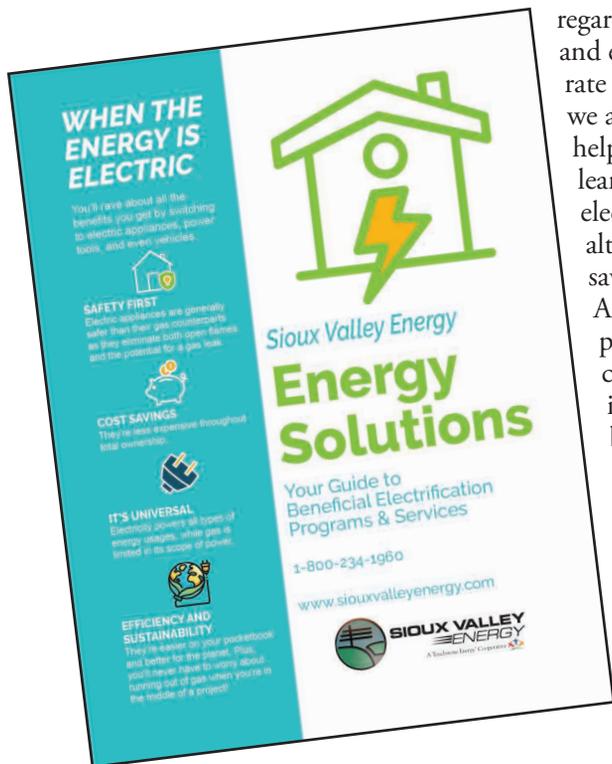
who are building, upgrading, or needing to replace their home’s heating and cooling system. We also offer a special electric heat rate for October through April billing cycles.

The Co-op’s large-capacity water heater program is a prime example of beneficial electrification. It’s an unbeatable price at \$400 (any size). Lifetime tank warranty/six-year parts for residential applications; limited warranty for agricultural, commercial, and rental applications (some restrictions apply). The water heaters are part of the Co-op’s long-standing load management program. During peak usage times on the system, managing devices such as water heaters helps shift the load peak to when members don’t use as much electricity. This program helps save over \$700,000 annually in power supply demand charges. Due to these water heaters’ large capacity and efficiency, members rarely experience inconvenience by participating in the load management program. Marathon and Westinghouse/HTP large-capacity water heaters are sold at our service centers. Please call ahead to place your order.

The Cooperative also has incentives for members planning to add electric vehicles to their households. The incentives include rebates for purchasing an EV, preparing a newly constructed home to be EV ready for a future EV charger, and special rates to encourage off-peak charging. Check out the EV resource tool on our website to learn more about EVs, calculate commute savings, search EV models, and much more at <https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/my-programs/electric-vehicles-evs-1>.

We are embracing what members want by offering programs and rates that put more control in their hands to help save money and be more efficient. For example, programs like the Time of Use Rate allow members to save money by shifting some of their daily chores and energy usage to off-peak times.

Contact us at 1-800-234-1960 for more information on programs and incentives. Learn more about Sioux Valley Energy’s programs at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/my-programs





**CO-OP CONNECTIONS®
CARD CORNER**

The Co-op Connections Card is a partnership between Sioux Valley Energy and local businesses! Each member received the Co-op Connections Card free in their January magazine. You get your Co-op Connections Card simply because you're a member of Sioux Valley Energy.

Each month, we'll include a listing of businesses participating in the program. Below are businesses located in Arlington and Brandon.

Arlington

- Bits of Yesterday Antique Mall
- Flowers by Betsy
- Lake Region Golf Club

Brandon

- 3 Degrees Infrared Sauna Studio
- Anytime Fitness
- Brandon Ace Hardware
- Brandon Golf Course
- Brandon Pharmacy
- Catori Wellness
- Fit for Life Chiropractic, LLC
- Harry Buck-Hegg Realty
- Heartland Funeral Home
- Jones Family Eyecare
- Love That Look
- Rivers Edge Decorative Concrete
- Splitrock C-Store
- Sunshine Foods
- Taco John's
- Tailgator's
- Today's Family Dentistry
- Wilde Prairie Winery

Scan this code to access the Sioux Valley Energy website where you can download the Cooperative Connections Card app for mobile devices.



Scholar of the Week

Erica Peterson, a student at Brookings High School, has been chosen as a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 'Scholar of the Week.' Peterson was recognized with a cash award by Sioux Valley Energy and was featured on Dakota News Now for her accomplishments. She is the daughter of Eric and Miranda Peterson of Aurora.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, like Sioux Valley Energy, have joined together with Dakota News Now to recognize the achievements of high school seniors throughout the region. Recipients are highly motivated high school seniors who excel in the classroom and community. This program was founded on the four pillars of Touchstone Energy: Integrity, Accountability, Innovation, and a Commitment to Community.

"Erica's talent is evident both through her music and her outstanding academic record. As a well-rounded young person, she also places high value on character and morals. Erica is a phenomenal example of the type of leader that deserves to be honored with the 'Scholar of the Week' award," said Tim McCarthy, Sioux Valley Energy General Manager/CEO.

On her nomination form, Brookings High School Counselor Linda Johnson listed Peterson's academic and music accomplishments. "Erica is active and truly gives of herself to others and does so with enjoyment and impact," Johnson said. "What I enjoy the most about Erica is her friendly and kind spirit. She is truly a person of character. She is so kind and has high energy and positive mood daily. She works exceptionally well as a leader in groups and manages her responsibility to that group. She pays attention to individual needs, has expectations of high achievement, and has regard for moral character. In summary, she cares about people."



Sioux Valley Energy's Lori George presents a check for \$250 to Brookings High School Senior Erica Peterson. Peterson was named a Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week in January.

Date	District	Director	Location
February 22	5	Weinacht	Taopi Hall, Colton, SD
February 24	8	Leuthold	Grand Prairie Event Center, Luverne, MN
February 28	1	DeGreef	Elkton Community Center, Elkton, SD
March 10	9	Johnson	Pipestone Area High School, Pipestone, MN
March 17*	6	Fish* & Rogen	Brandon Valley High School, Brandon, SD
March 22	3	Heinemann	William J Janklow Comm. Center, Flandreau, SD
March 24	7	DeMent	West Central School, Hartford, SD
March 28	2	Vostad	Sioux Valley School, Volga, SD
March 29*	10	Roskamp	Edgerton Public School, Edgerton, MN
March 31*	4	Daniel	Dakota Prairie Playhouse, Madison, SD



District Meetings

Members attending a district meeting will receive a **\$25 bill credit**. Only one bill credit is allowed per membership. You must attend the meeting to receive the credit.

Menu:
Bacon wrapped chicken breast, cheesy hashbrowns, green beans and cookie

Complimentary Meal: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
*Denotes Election Meetings

Sioux Valley Energy will follow all applicable local, state, and federal COVID-19 mandates that are in place at the time the meeting is held. Currently, masks are optional and social distancing, along with regular hand washing, is encouraged. If you feel sick or have been in close contact with someone that has been diagnosed with COVID-19 recently, please do not attend the meeting.

HIDDEN TREASURES

Despite its legacy as the site of an epic battle over good and evil, Sica Hollow State Park near Sisseton is a source of family fun for those who want to get away and enjoy the great outdoors. *Photos by SD Tourism.*

The State Park system has seen visitation increase with new programs in place to serve the public

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

At first blush, Sica Hollow State Park might seem like someplace you'd want to avoid.

The area was named after a Dakota Sioux word used to describe something sinister and features a winding pathway called the Trail of the Spirits. There are maroon-colored bogs, sangria-tinged streams and brown foliage that reminded early tribes of the blood and flesh of their ancestors.

The undulating terrain is said to be the site of an ancient spiritual battle in which the land and the people were overcome by a malevolent force. Local legend has it that the restless souls of the dead manifest themselves as unexplained bursts of fire and light in the night, disturbing sounds of agonized wailing and the ominous beat of war drums in the distance.

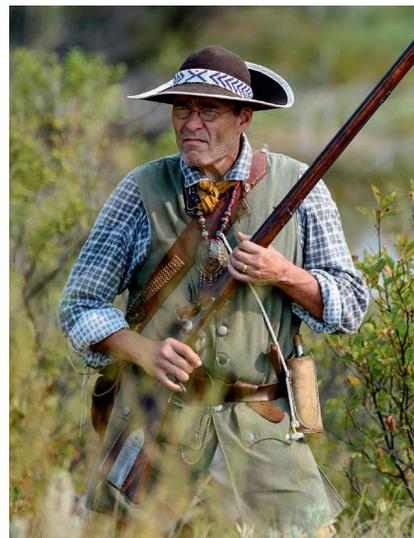
Apart from the spooky stories and eerie lore, Sica Hollow turns out to be one of many "hidden gems" in the

State Park system that are found off the beaten paths.

Sica Hollow is located in the northeast corner of the state near Sisseton where you'll find rustic bridges, winding creeks, scenic waterfalls and seasonal wildflowers festooning the eight miles of hiking trails. The Trail of Spirits, which today is a self-guided interpretive foot trail, was designated as a National Recreation Trail in 1971. The park also contains the Old River Warren and Coteau des Prairies, which have been named National Natural Landmarks.

With more than 60 facilities in its fold, the State Park system has lots to offer and includes several lesser-known destinations for families to discover such as Sica Hollow, Spirit Mound and Adams Homestead in the eastern part of the state and Shadehill, Rocky Point and Llewellyn Johns out west.

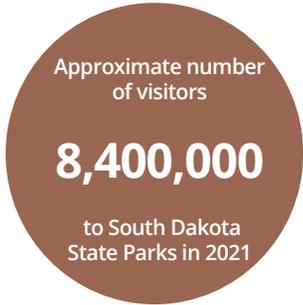
The Shadehill Recreation Area near Lemmon is situated on the shores of Shadehill Reservoir, which is one of western South Dakota's few large lakes.



At Llewellyn Johns Recreation Area, visitors will find a monument to Hugh Glass, a hunter who survived a vicious attack by a grizzly bear in 1823.

There are 85 campsites with seven camping cabins, a group lodge, and facilities for boating, fishing, canoeing, biking, archery and more.

Nearby is the much smaller Llewellyn Johns Recreation Area with just 10 campsites and an opportunity to enjoy



a quieter and more secluded camping experience. There are points of historical interest close by as many historic figures have traveled through the area, including George Custer’s 1874 Expedition and Hugh Glass. According to first-hand accounts, in 1823 Glass was attacked by a grizzly bear, an event documented in the novel *Lord Grizzly* and recounted in the movie, *The Revenant*.

Nick Harrington, communications manager for Game, Fish and Parks, reports that the system is stronger and more popular than ever. Last year more than 8.4 million visitors passed through the parks, representing a 25 percent increase in visitation over the nine-year average. Custer State Park, the system’s most popular spot, saw a 3 percent increase in attendance with more than 2.3 million visitors.

Seventy-seven percent of visitors rated their camping experience as an A with 43 out of the 48 areas surveyed receiving the top rating.

To keep the momentum moving along, the State Park system has added 15 new facilities from a new Bison Center at Custer State Park to an improved boat ramp at West Whitlock Recreation Area.

And just in time for the spring and summer camping season there is a new and improved way of helping campers navigate the parks and outdoor facilities. Through www.gooutdoorsouthdakota.com, customers can secure a camping reservation or buy an annual park



Sica Hollow is one of the “hidden gems” in the state park system where visitors can commune with nature while learning about local lore.

entrance license while also purchasing hunting and fishing licenses all from the same transaction. A new mobile app provides 360 degree views of the more than 4,000 campsites in the system.

The Department of Tourism has also launched a free mobile pass called South Dakota Great Finds that helps users explore the state’s many attractions, including hidden treasures like Sica Hollow. The pass can be accessed at travelsouthdakota.com, and there is no app to download.

According to Department of Tourism Secretary Jim Hagen, “This mobile experience allows us to better highlight what truly makes up the great state of South Dakota. It showcases rural America, unexpected businesses and parks, and gets people off the beaten path to discover something new.”

Search for “Go Outdoors South Dakota” to find GFP’s official mobile app for iOS and Android.

Top 10 most visited state parks in 2021

1. Custer State Park
2. Lewis & Clark Recreation Area
3. Spring Creek Recreation Area
4. Oahe Downstream Recreation Area
5. Cow Creek Recreation Area
6. Angostura Recreation Area
7. Roy Lake State Park
8. Farm Island Recreation Area
9. Springfield Recreation Area
10. Newton Hills State Park



EMPOWER

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

STEP UP AND STAND OUT!

Leadership, learning, friendships and challenges. Energize your potential through the EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program!

This inspiring, interactive program will help you discover personal strengths, build & improve leadership skills, link up with peers & professionals, and explore career paths.



Have a chance at:
SCHOLARSHIPS!
TRIPS!

FOUR FUN-FILLED, PEER-ADVISED PROGRAM DAYS FOCUS ON:

- Leadership Skills
- Cooperatives
- Personal Strengths
- Communication Skills
- Team Building
- Health & Wellness
- Electrical Safety/CPR
- Networking
- Career Options

TO APPLY:

The 12-month program is open to upcoming juniors and seniors who are ready to commit to fully EmPOWER themselves with fun, positive, open minds. Applications are available from your school counselor or on the Sioux Valley Energy website. Submit via email to Empower@siouxvalleyenergy.com.



Brought to you by



EMPOWERYOUTHLEADERSHIP.COM

Apply By May 13, 2022.

How to Connect a Generator

The peace of mind a standby electric generator brings to your home, farm or business is big. It's nice to have a backup plan to keep things running through unpredictable weather and occasional outages. But with big peace of mind comes big responsibility.

TELL US. First things first, let us know if you're installing a generator. Call Sioux Valley Energy at 800-234-1960 to notify us. The Cooperative also offers generator services if you need assistance. It's important that we update your account and are aware of all generators in the area. This keeps our linemen safe during outages. So, please, let us know!

DANGERS OF BACKFEEDING. The generator must be properly installed, by a licensed electrician, using a transfer switch. A connection without the correct type of switch can cause backfeeding on the utility system. A backfeed creates a dangerous situation, which can be deadly to you and/or linemen. When backfeed enters a power line from a generator, it can create an energized line. If a lineman expects the line to be de-energized due to an outage situation, but it's not de-energized because of your generator, it could create a life-threatening situation.

BE AWARE OF CARBON MONOXIDE. Generators must never be operated in enclosed buildings. Be sure your generator is vented and has enough air to be safe. Carbon monoxide emissions can build up quickly and can be deadly.

FUEL SAFETY. Whether propane, gasoline, or diesel, be sure generator fuel is stored correctly in approved containers. Never refuel while the generator is running or still hot.

DISCONNECT FROM MAIN SOURCE. Always power down and disconnect from your utility service, using an approved transfer switch, before starting your backup generator.

GIVE IT A BREAK. Manage the use of your generator during outages to save on fuel. It helps you be more energy efficient and keeps your generator in good running order. If the power is out for an extended period of time, use the generator to run the refrigerator every few hours so it stays cool enough for food without taking up constant energy. Giving the generator breaks is important. Most portable generators are not equipped to run around the clock. Be sure to shut it down and let it cool off.



MEETING YOUR GENERATOR NEEDS

Sioux Valley Energy is now offering services of installing interlock kits and Kohler standby generators to give you peace of mind for Mother Nature's temperament. Here are the programs and services available:

INTERLOCK KIT:

One of the simplest and least expensive methods of readying your home for the connections of a portable generator is to install an interlock kit in the main electrical panel and a permanently installed generator inlet on the outside of your home. By feeding your entire electrical panel with the generator you will not have to run any extension cords from the generator throughout the house. Most interlock kits can be installed for less than \$500.

KOHLER STANDBY GENERATOR:

A permanently installed standby generator keeps your power on during an outage. It's installed outside (like an AC unit) and comes on automatically – whether you are home or away – all within seconds of a power outage. There's a higher investment to install a standby generator, but it takes all the work and worry out of dealing with a power interruption. The Kohler standby units come in a range of sizes from 12 kW to 20 kW. Loans are available up to \$10,000, 5 percent interest with a 7-year term for the purchase and installation of standby generator equipment by the Cooperative.

Call us at 800-234-1960 for more information on Kohler generators or go online at <https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/my-programs/rebates>.



REED FILLS THE NEED

Pictured at right, Renville-Sibley Co-op Power CEO DeeAnne Newville (left), presents a check to the local Community Center and Cougar Club daycare facility in Franklin, MN, through the electric cooperative REED Fund.

Electric cooperative REED Fund helps meet many needs for communities in South Dakota and western Minnesota

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Leaders of the Garretson community northeast of Sioux Falls had the vision for a much-needed expansion of the small town's non-profit daycare center. Since cobbling together two older structures in 2019 and taking in more tykes, it was apparent that the current white-hot demand for childcare was going to necessitate yet another expansion.

So they set their jaws, put together a plan and mustered up the will to make it happen for the sake of local families and the greater good of the community.

Now, all they needed was a miracle.

That miracle came in the form of a random conversation that took place between Blue Dragon Academy Board Member Kris Frerk and Sioux Metro Growth Alliance CEO Jesse Fonkert.

Frerk was in full fret mode over a lack of funding for the project, but it turned

out Fonkert had a fail-safe solution.

Through his contacts Angie Neises at East River Electric and Jay Buchholz at Sioux Valley Energy, Fonkert was aware of the Rural Electric Economic Development Fund, or REED Fund. He knew it was a valuable financial resource made available by electric co-ops in South Dakota and western Minnesota just for this kind of project.

Bottom line: Blue Dragon Academy will begin work in April with plans to complete the 3,500-sq. ft. project in November. Best of all, nearly 40 more families in and around the town of Garretson will have access to quality child care services.

While Frerk doesn't recall any trumpets blaring or harps playing in the background, she contends that her off-hand discussion with Fonkert was delivered by divine intervention.

"It's a pure miracle," she said. "We had been putting feelers out for funding because we have a big need in this area.

When I got that information from Jesse, it was just like a miracle. We jumped on it, we got accepted by the REED Fund Board and now we're ready to get the work done."

Blue Dragon secured a low-interest REED loan for nearly \$700,000. The non-profit organization is required to match \$239,000. Now Frerk and her crew are heavy on the fund-raising trail and have already received tremendous support from many donors in the community, she said. The Blue Dragon Board hopes to pay the debt off early with plans to hire five or six more workers once the project is complete.

For East River Electric Economic Development Director Eric Fosheim, it was another day at the office. His job is to match the money with the need, and he says many recipients respond with the enthusiasm and gratitude Frerk expresses when they receive funds.

He does fall just short of uttering the "M" word, however.

“It’s extremely satisfying to be in a position to help people solve problems and overcome challenges in their communities,” Fosheim said. “We try to work together with folks to cut through the red tape and bureaucratic impediments and come up with clever ways to get projects across the finish line. This is all made possible through the electric cooperatives and the fact that they take their responsibilities and obligations to their communities very seriously.”

The REED Fund has backed scores of projects and loaned out more than \$100 million since it was established in 1996. Fosheim sees it as the perfect tool for promoting local economic growth, improving infrastructure, enhancing community facilities and contributing to job, business and wealth creation.

Funds have gone to retail and service businesses, industrial parks and office facilities, fire protection projects, manufacturing firms, housing projects, health care facilities and more.

Approximate amount of money
\$100 million
 loaned through the electric cooperative REED Fund

Chris Larson, general manager at Clay-Union Electric in Vermillion, and his board tapped REED funds to support the Wakonda Heritage Manor assisted living facility. They also worked with the business to secure a zero-interest loan through the USDA’s Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program.

“It’s truly an honor for us to have this tremendous resource available to help improve the lives of our members and the community at-large,” Larson said.

The real meaning of the REED program came to light when he and the board visited the place.

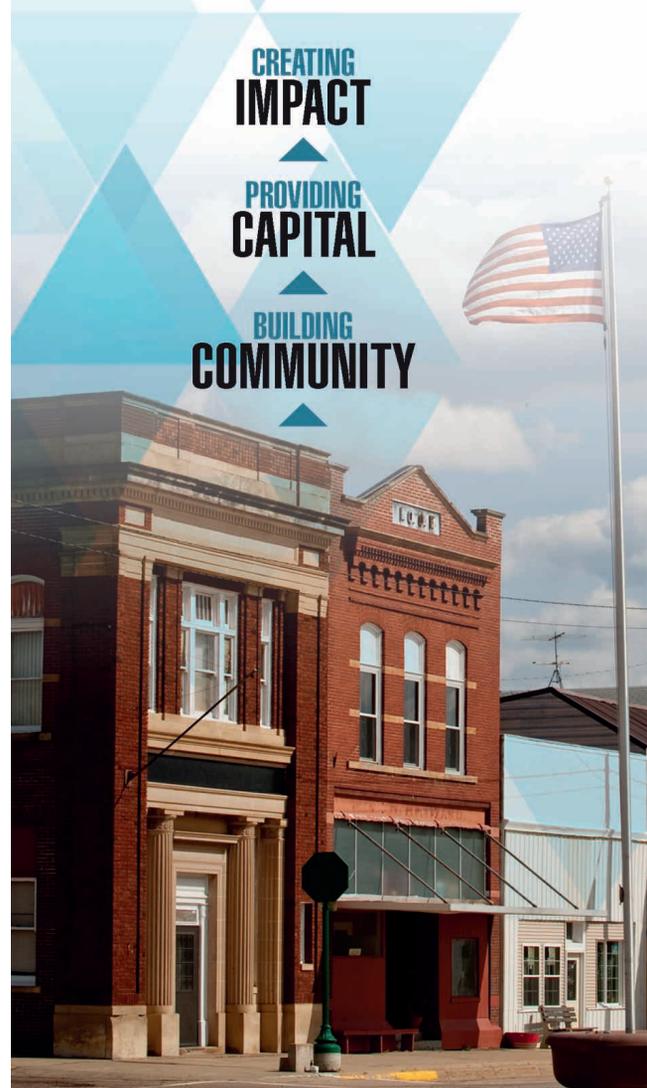
“We viewed the improvements they’d made, and heard from the people there about how it enhanced their quality of life. It really warms your heart to know you’re part of a co-op system that can have a positive impact on families and businesses. It just shows how much of a difference we can make when we all work together, pool our resources and get things done.”

East River cooperatives serving western Minnesota have also participated in the program. As with the Garretson community, parents in Franklin, MN, also had a need for a daycare center.

www.reedfund.coop

RURAL ELECTRIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

REED FUND



The Cougar Cub Child Care Center was launched with the help of REED funds obtained through Renville-Sibley Co-op Power after two of the town’s three daycare facilities closed.

Renville-Sibley CEO DeeAnne Neville said, “We were happy to help fill the gap. Concern for community is one of the seven cooperative principles. It’s an example of the city, school and economic development coming together for the good of the people in our rural communities.”

For more information about the REED Loan program, visit www.reedfund.coop.

CUTTING CARBON, SAVING CASH



Owned by H-D Electric Cooperative based in Clear Lake, this Tesla Model 3 has been used during the legislative session to educate lawmakers about the emergence of EV technology and beneficial electrification. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

Cooperatives promote the concept of beneficial electrification to help members cut carbon and save money

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Lather. Rinse. Repeat.

When that short snappy algorithm started appearing on the sides of shampoo bottles back in the 1950s, some said it simply encouraged people to practice good hygiene and do a more thorough job of scrubbing their tresses right down to the scalp.

More cynical observers took it as a thinly-veiled scam devised by some devious marketing firm to sell more shampoo and spin bathers into an endless cycle of washing their hair, breaking only long enough to go out and purchase more Prell.

Rare is the business that encourages customers to use less of its product. But that's the very approach that lies at the

heart of electric cooperatives and their guiding principles. Electric co-ops exist exclusively to deliver the power their members need, but they also go above and beyond by working to make sure their members don't pay a penny more than the cost of providing the service while helping them to better manage their consumption.

That basic formula has remained the same since the rural electric cooperative movement began back in the 1930s, even as new methods of generating, distributing and using electricity have evolved over the decades. Every step along the way, co-ops have stood at the forefront to help members make the best and most efficient use of whatever new development comes down the pike.

Enter the emergence of a concept

called beneficial electrification. This is a relatively new term that describes the pursuit of solutions that allow cooperatives to meet rising service demands while helping their consumers save money over time, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, fostering a more resilient electrical grid, protecting the environment and improving the quality of life for all.

Across the country, electric cooperatives are launching and embracing beneficial electrification programs and blazing pathways that lead to providing more value to members, their local communities and the environment.

Some of what falls under the heading "beneficial electrification" has been adopted by co-ops and their consumers for years, such as replacing older and inefficient gas furnaces and water heaters with more efficient electric heat pumps. More recently, cooperatives have implemented load management programs that enable the co-op to control devices in the home and help balance power supply and demand, resulting in more efficient consumption and potential savings for

the member. Or as it's known in more colloquial terms, a "double back scratch."

And even more recently, cooperatives have accelerated their adoption of renewable power and have gotten involved in programs to incentivize the use of electric vehicles and help build out a system of fast-charging stations across the state, region and nation.

All of these types of initiatives are called "beneficial" because they help members save money and also help protect the environment.

In his role as Manager of Beneficial Electrification at Sioux Valley Energy in Colman, Ben Pierson often works with members to give them what they've indicated through surveys that they want: more information about how they can use technology to reduce their energy consumption while saving money.

"As we get out in the community, we hear from our members all the time, especially as we discuss the benefit of EVs in particular," Pierson said. "We try to make it easier to integrate this emissions-reducing and money-saving technology by offering incentives for installing home chargers and a time-of-use plan that allows members to charge their cars overnight at a much lower cost."

Pierson said some members are taking advantage of the home-charger incentive even though they aren't yet among the nearly 500 South Dakotans who own an EV.

"They're just excited that we've made these programs available," he said. "They realize EVs are going to be a substantial part of our transportation future and they want to be ready to ease the transition for them and their families."

Robert Raker is manager of communications and public relations at West River Electric and works out of the co-op's Rapid City office. Raker sees a fertile field for promoting beneficial electrification as the Rapid City area experiences accelerated growth. Like Sioux Valley Energy and other co-ops around the state, West River Electric offers load management programs, rate structures and incentives

SAVE MONEY

Electricity is becoming cleaner every day and can save consumers money on their energy costs over time.



Did you know...

Replacing your HVAC system with an electric heat pump can **save you nearly \$1,000 per year** on your heating and cooling bills.¹



Did you know...

The average cost of **charging an electric car** is equivalent to **\$1.20 per gallon of gasoline.**²



Did you know...

Owning an electric vehicle can **save you over \$800** in annual maintenance.³

for electric appliances like water heaters and heat pumps.

He uses the cooperative's Nissan Leaf EV to demonstrate the advantages of this emerging technology and is also part of the effort to leverage government and private funds to build a reliable EV charging network.

As neighborhoods grow and businesses expand in his area, Raker collaborates with developers to promote beneficial electrification. He also sees value in encouraging residential members to make more beneficial use of electricity by converting lawn implements from gas to electric.

"We've seen a real shift in mentality toward carbon-free growth," he said. "Our job is to educate and inform our members about how they can continue to integrate technology into their everyday lives on any scale."

As spring and summer are just around the corner, he said, one way most residential members can help in the goal to curb carbon emissions is to convert lawn and garden equipment from gasoline to

electric/battery-powered.

Electric lawn care equipment options are becoming more popular than ever, offering consumers faster charging times, longer battery life and quieter, greener products.

There are several electric lawn mower brands that operate without a cord, unlike the first generation of electric mowers. Typically priced in the \$200-\$500 range, electric mowers are powerful, low maintenance, and work well for lawns that are a half-acre or less.

Electric trimmers and leaf blowers are also catching up to their gas-powered competitors in performance and reliability.

Raker encourages members to do their research before investing in electric lawn equipment, citing consumerreports.org as a trust source of information.

He and Pierson agree that beneficial electrification is the way of the future and there's no better time for members to engage in this environmentally-friendly approach than the present.



March 12
28 Below Fatbike Race, Ride and Tour
 Spearfish Canyon Lodge, Lead, SD

Photo by Travel South Dakota

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

To view the publication's master event calendar, scan the QR code below:



Or visit <https://sdrea.coop/cooperative-connections-event-calendar> to view more upcoming events.

FEBRUARY 25-26
Mardi Gras Weekend
 Main Street, Deadwood, SD,
 605-578-1876

FEBRUARY 25-27,
MARCH 3-5
Making God Laugh
 Grand Opera House, Pierre,
 SD, 605-224-7826

FEBRUARY 26
The Music of John Williams
 Washington Pavilion, Sioux
 Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

MARCH 3-5
Pro Snocross Races
 Days of '76 Rodeo Grounds,
 Deadwood, SD, 800-344-8826

MARCH 4-5, 10-13
The 39 Steps
 Orpheum Theater Center,
 Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

MARCH 4-6
Home & Garden Show
 Brown County Fairgrounds,
 Aberdeen, SD, 605-225-2055

MARCH 5
I Hate Winter Cornhole
Tournament
 Scherr Howe Arena,
 Mobridge, SD, www.mobridge.org/Corn-Hole-Tournament

MARCH 5
Minnehaha Co. Pheasants
Forever Banquet
 El Riad Shrine, Sioux Falls, SD,
 Contact Bill at 605-214-1415
 for more info

MARCH 5-8
2022 Summit League Men's
and Women's Basketball
Championships
 Denny Sanford Premier Center,
 Sioux Falls, SD, www.thesummitleague.org/tickets

MARCH 10
Singing in the Rain: Dinner
& A Movie
 Goss Opera House, Watertown,
 SD, 605-753-0200

MARCH 10
TobyMac Hits Deep Tour
 The Monument Summit Arena,
 Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

MARCH 10-13
Annual Sioux Empire
Sportsmen's Show
 Denny Sanford Premier Center,
 Sioux Falls, SD, www.siouxfalls.sportshow.com

MARCH 12
28 Below Fatbike Race, Ride
& Tour
 Spearfish Canyon Lodge, Lead,
 SD, www.28below.com

MARCH 12
Meraki Dance Competition
& Convention
 Washington Pavilion, Sioux
 Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

MARCH 14
Harlem Globetrotters
 The Monument, Rapid City,
 SD, 605-394-4115

MARCH 18-19
St. Patrick's Day Weekend
 Main Street, Deadwood, SD,
 605-578-1876

MARCH 18-19
Sioux Empire Arts & Crafts
Show
 W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux
 Falls, SD, 605-332-6000

MARCH 18-19, 25-26
Schmeckfest
 748 S Main Street, Freeman,
 SD, 605-925-4237

MARCH 19
Dakota Coffee Festival
 Denny Sanford Premier Center,
 Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

MARCH 19
St. Patrick's Day Celebration
 Various Locations, Watertown,
 SD, 605-886-5814

MARCH 20
Sioux Falls Izaak Walton
League February Trap Shoot
 5000 N Oakview Place, Sioux
 Falls, SD, 11 a.m. start, lunch
 available, 605-332-9527

MARCH 26
Annual Ag Day
 Washington Pavilion, Sioux
 Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

APRIL 1-3, 7-10
Those Crazy Ladies In the
House on the Corner
 Palace Theatre, Luverne, MN,
 507-283-4339, www.palace.theatre.us

Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.

WHEN THE ENERGY IS ELECTRIC

You'll rave about all the benefits you get by switching to electric appliances, power tools, and even vehicles.



SAFETY FIRST

Electric appliances are generally safer than their gas counterparts as they eliminate both open flames and the potential for a gas leak.



COST SAVINGS

They're less expensive throughout total ownership.



IT'S UNIVERSAL

Electricity powers all types of energy usages, while gas is limited in its scope of power.



EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

They're easier on your pocketbook and better for the planet. Plus, you'll never have to worry about running out of gas when you're in the middle of a project!



Sioux Valley Energy

Energy Solutions

Your Guide to
Beneficial Electrification
Programs & Services

1-800-234-1960

www.siouxvalleyenergy.com



SIoux VALLEY
ENERGY
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Electric Vehicle Program

Tax credits, lower operating costs, and SVE's special rate programs make owning an electric vehicle (EV) a smart transportation choice. EVs are environmentally friendly with no tailpipe emissions and virtually maintenance free – no oil changes, belts, air filters, spark plugs etc. Charge up conveniently at your home with clean, American-made electricity. EV range, depending on make and model, can range from 80 miles to more than 300 miles on a full charge to handle most daily commutes quite easily. Electric motors provide quiet, smooth operation and their power and quick acceleration make them fun to drive. Visit www.siouxvalleyenergy.com to check out the EV resource tool to learn more about EVs, calculate commute savings, search EV models, and to locate public charging stations.



Rate Options to Take Advantage of Off-Peak Reduced Rates (*Must allow submeter installation*)

- Time of Use Rate (TOU): Whole home usage including EV charging
- Vehicle Plug-In Rate: EV charging usage only

Rebates and Incentives

- Rebate for new EV purchase (With participation in one of the off-peak rate options listed above)
 - \$500 for battery electric vehicle (BEV)
 - \$250 for plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV)
 - Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) Rebate – Receive one year of free RECs to off-set your total electric usage with renewable energy
- EV Ready New Home Construction Rebate – \$300 for a new home that at a minimum has 1-inch conduit installed from the breaker panel to the garage to provide a means for future EV charger installation. If preferred location for a receptacle is known, installation of a 40-amp (minimum) branch circuit and NEMA 14-50 receptacle is also acceptable.

Energy Audits

An energy audit is a great tool to help you determine the location of energy leaks in your home and prioritize efficiency upgrades. Sealing and insulating the home's envelope is a cost-effective way to improve efficiency and comfort.

ENERGY AUDIT – Contact SVE to schedule a third-party certified energy audit

- \$100 fee includes use of infrared camera imaging and blower door testing
- Receive a complimentary weatherization kit and audit report

Loan Program

Loans up to \$10,000, 5% interest with a seven-year term are available to assist qualifying members in purchasing heat pumps, weatherization products, and Kohler stand-by generators.

Generator Services

Sioux Valley Energy offers generator services to give you peace of mind for Mother Nature's temperament. An interlock kit with generator inlet box can be installed for less than \$500 for most applications. It's the simplest, least expensive, safest way to ready your home for the connections of a portable generator. No more extension cords running from the generator throughout the house. A permanently installed stand-by generator comes on automatically – whether you are home or away – all within seconds of a power outage. There's a higher investment to install it, but it takes all the work and worry out of dealing with a power interruption. SVE's Kohler stand-by generators come in a range of sizes from 10 kW to 20 kW and include a heater kit. Propane/natural gas installation/hook-up not included. Contact SVE for an estimate.



Renewable Energy Credit (REC) Program

Do you want to support renewable energy without the costs or hassles of installing solar? Consider SVE's Renewable Energy Credit (REC) Program that allows you to off-set your energy usage up to 100% with renewable energy for pennies a day. Sioux Valley Energy has RECs available for purchase to offset your current usage. Contact SVE for more information.

Water Heaters – \$400

Purchase the last water heater you will ever need to buy for your home! Lifetime tank/six-year parts warranty for original purchaser of Marathon® or Westinghouse/HTP water heaters (some restrictions apply). \$400 plus applicable tax with participation in the load management program. In stock at SVE service centers in Colman, Brandon and Pipestone – call to place your order. SVE provides warranty and repair services.

Marathon SIZES: 85 gallon – 28¼" x 70¼" and 100 gallon – 30¼" x 70¾"

Westinghouse/HTP SIZES: 80 gallon – 23¼" x 71½" and 115 gallon – 27" x 73"



Rebate eligibility once every 10 years per account. Rebates cannot exceed the cost of the equipment.

Electric Heat

Heating and cooling use the largest chunk of your home energy dollars. When you choose electric, you know it's clean, reliable, safe – and it can also be very energy efficient. It's tough to beat the efficiency of an electric heat pump that not only cools your home in the summer, but also heats it in the winter.

Heat pumps – geothermal or air-to-air systems including ductless solutions – are designed to be used in any home whether it's new construction, a renovation project or replacing existing equipment. Sioux Valley Energy offers rebates and special electric heat rates to make choosing electric a great value.

Air-to-Air Heat Pump Rebates (2 ton and larger)

- With Electric Back-up Furnace: \$1,200
- With Non-Electric Back-up Furnace: \$600

Geothermal Heat Pump Rebates (2 ton and larger)

- \$1,200

Ductless Air-Source Heat Pump Rebates (under 2 ton)

- Rebate of \$300 per structure

Electric Heat Rate

- Reduced rate of 6.35 cents/kWh (compared to regular rate 10.26 cents/kWh)
- Available October – April billing cycles
- Sub-meter installation required – Free installation for heat pumps 2 ton and larger or electric resistance heat over 5 kW or \$200 fee charged

Time of Use Rate

The Time of Use Rate (TOU) was developed for members who are seeking opportunities to directly impact their electric bill through their conservation efforts and daily usage habits. It's also a great way to take advantage of smart home automation and electric vehicle technology. Rearranging tasks and conserving energy to take advantage of reduced off-peak rates is good for both the member and the utility – we both save money! Contact Sioux Valley Energy's Member Services Department to sign up for a three-month risk-free trial period to get acclimated to the new rate structure without the concern of paying a higher amount than the regular rate program. Use **SmartHub** to manage and review your usage.

Time of Use Rate Options

Time of Use

- Pay 5.84 cents/kWh off-peak rate (10 a.m.-4 p.m. and 9 p.m.-7a.m.)
- Pay 16.15 cents/kWh on-peak rate (7-10 a.m. and 4-9 p.m.)
- Members with electric heat rate remain on the reduced heat rate program

Regular Residential Rate

- Pay 10.26 cents/kWh any time of the day

Smart Thermostat Rebate

A smart thermostat is a great way to keep your home smart and energy efficient. This \$50 rebate works in conjunction with SVE's Time of Use Rate. Make the switch to a smart thermostat! Call to learn more.



Commercial and Agricultural Energy Efficiency Programs



Westinghouse/HTP Water Heater – \$400: Commercial and agricultural members can take advantage of a high efficiency water heater. Its innovative technology and high-quality construction will save you money. Ten-year tank/one-year parts warranty for original purchaser (some restrictions apply). \$400 plus applicable tax with participation in the load management program. In stock at SVE service centers in Colman, Brandon and Pipestone – call to place your order. SVE provides warranty and repair services.

Westinghouse/HTP SIZES: 80 gallon – 23¼” x 71½” and 115 gallon – 27” x 73”

Electric Heat Rebate: Available for heat pump and electric resistance heating equipment in agricultural, commercial and multi-family facilities.

Rebates:

- Heat Pumps: \$50/ton up to 150 ton
- Electric Resistance: \$10 per kW up to 600 kW

Electric Heat Rate

- Reduced rate of 6.35 cents/kWh (compared to regular rate 10.26 cents/kWh)
- Available October – April billing cycles
- Sub-meter installation required
- Free installation for heat pumps 2 ton and larger or electric resistance heat over 5 kW or \$200 fee charged
- Fees apply for sub-metering three-phase equipment
- Electric heat rate is not available for large power accounts. Tenants in all-electric heated apartments larger than eight (8) units can receive a reduced rate in lieu of sub-metering.

Retrofit LED Lighting Rebate: Available for retrofit LED lighting projects in existing agricultural and commercial facilities. \$0.10 cents per watt saved up to 50% of project costs or a maximum rebate of \$1,000 per structure is available (lifetime member maximum of \$5,000).

Energy Audits: Commercial members can be reimbursed up to \$1,000 for a third-party commercial energy audit to inspect a facility or calculate equipment efficiency/paybacks.

Irrigation Rebate: \$150 per device applied annually for five years (\$750 total) is available for a third-party remote managed irrigation system that allows SVE to control usage during peak times. Members participating in the load management program receive a reduced rate per metered kW for the billing cycles of June through September.

Commercial Public Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger Rebate:

- Up to \$500 for equipment purchase and installation costs to businesses that promote the charging infrastructure for EVs
- Install a Level 2 or larger charging station for public/employee use

Programs and rates are subject to change. Some restrictions apply.

Visit us online or call us to learn more about our programs and services at 1-800-234-1960!

www.siouxvalleyenergy.com [@svecoop](https://www.facebook.com/svecoop) [@siouxvalley](https://twitter.com/siouxvalley) [siouxvalleyenergy](https://www.instagram.com/siouxvalleyenergy) [sioux-valley-energy](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sioux-valley-energy)



SIoux VALLEY
ENERGY
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Sioux Valley Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.