

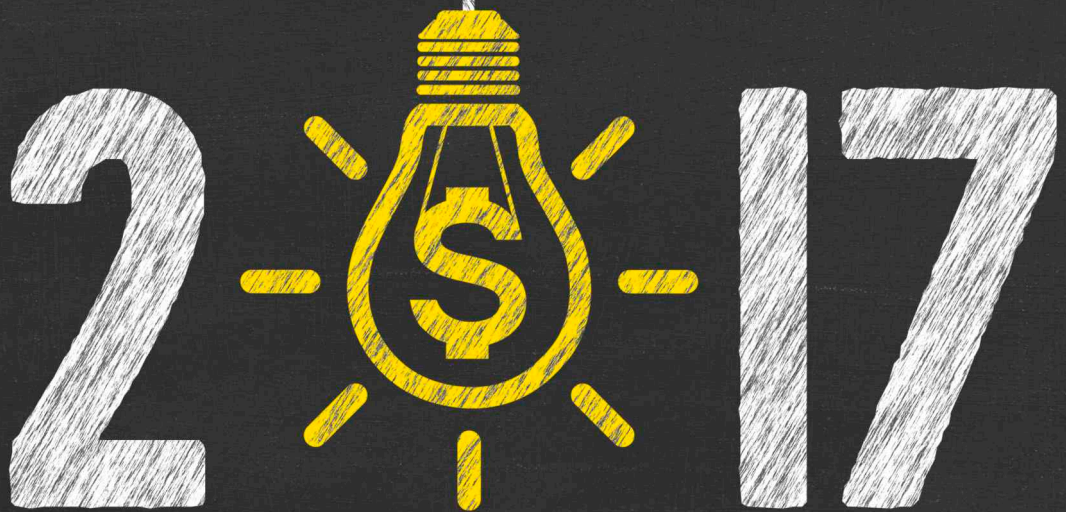


Sioux Valley Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Connections

JANUARY 2017 VOL. 17 NO. 9



Resolutions

To Help You Save

P8-9

It's not what's under the tree... but who's around it



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/CEO

"I want an official Red Ryder, carbine action, two-hundred shot range model air rifle!" And we all know what Ralphie's mom said next—"You'll shoot your eye out."

One of my favorite Christmas memories is watching the movie 'A Christmas Story' with my kids. It would never fail... every time we got to the scene with the

tongues frozen to the flag pole, we would all laugh. I probably laughed because I likely attempted something similar as a child!

As Christmas approaches and I grow a little older, I can't help but become a little more sentimental each year. Memories of past holidays seem so vivid now—but not for the toys or presents I received, but because of who was there with me. The saying, "it's not what is under the Christmas tree but who is around it that is important" really rings true for me.

When my family and I moved to South Dakota just a few years ago after living in Illinois and Indiana for most of our lives, it was somewhat nerve wracking. We were leaving a place where we had made great memories, raised our kids, developed strong friendships and had supportive family. But we took a leap of faith and now are surrounded this holiday season with amazing friends and co-workers. They have helped provide a caring community for my family and I am so grateful for that.

That's one of the reasons I have enjoyed working for electric cooperatives—they truly strive to provide a caring community to those around them. Take for example Sioux Valley Energy's Operation Round Up program. This is a program that our members and employees take part in and it's made a significant difference for thousands of people. In fact, by rounding up electric bills we have been able to provide nearly \$1.4 MILLION to communities and organizations throughout

our service territory. Occasionally I visit the organizations that receive funding through Operation Round Up and I am always amazed at the stories. Our members and employees, through their generosity, help feed, clothe, and shelter our neighbors. This is truly what Christmas is all about...taking care of our community.

As we usher out 2016, I also want to take the opportunity to thank Sioux Valley's nearly 100 employees. They have done an amazing job this year responding to our members electrical and community needs. They have shown leadership and engagement and I am so proud to be a part of it.

My wish for you this Christmas season is that you are surrounded by a caring community and that you take time to appreciate not what is under the Christmas tree but who is around it. Have a wonderful holiday season.





A Touchstone Energy Cooperative
The power of human connections

Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 497-440)

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Editor-Carrie Law

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Sioux Valley Energy's headquarters, Colman, S.D.

Operation Round Up Fund Kids Chess, Inc.

Checkmate. It's a move in chess that helps win the game. It's also a term that many elementary and middle-aged children learn through the Kids Chess, Inc. non-profit organization. Up to 40 youth in four Sioux Falls area schools take part in the program and they often come from low or limited income families.

The after-school chess programming was recently awarded a \$2,000 Operation Round Up grant which will help purchase chess sets, instructional books, tournament trophies, medals, food for students, memberships and chess instructor fees.

The program starts with the children learning the history of chess. Quiz-bowls are then held to help students retain the rules of chess. Once they have a foundation for the game, they begin playing chess with one another in a tournament setting. Students who win receive trophies and all participants receive medals.

In a letter, Chess Club Coordinator at All City Elementary, Kim Hilgenberg, wrote, "So many kids who participated gained confidence in themselves as a person and in their playing ability. It was truly amazing to watch this happen over the months. When I asked some of the students what they loved most about chess club, their answers ranged from 'I made new friends' to 'He made it fun and not full of boring lectures' and 'Even if you lose the match you still learn new things.'"

Kids Chess programming is free to students and does not require athletic or musical abilities or equipment. Chess is available for any child, regardless of family income or physical ability.

President and instructor, David Kerkhove, was classified by the US Chess Federation as an expert (top 5% of chess players). He has spent the last thirty years working with students on the game of chess.

For more information on Kids Chess, Inc., call 605-728-6851.



Carbon Monoxide Alarm Safety Tips

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas that is created when common fuels such as natural gas, oil, wood or coal burn incompletely. This odorless, colorless, tasteless gas is often called the “silent killer” because it is virtually undetectable without the use of detection technology like a CO alarm.

Installation Tips:

- Install CO alarms on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area.
- Interconnected CO alarms provide the best protection. When one sounds, they all sound.
- CO alarms are not a substitute for smoke alarms. Install both types of alarms in your home.
- Purchase CO alarms from a reputable retailer that you trust.



that bear the label of a nationally recognized testing laboratory.

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding proper placement and installation height.

Maintenance Tips:

- Test CO alarms at least once a month by pressing the TEST button.
- CO alarm batteries should be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, at least once a year. If an alarm “chirps” or “beeps” to indicate low batteries, they should be replaced immediately.
- The lifespan of CO alarms varies. CO alarms should be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Alarm Tips:

- Make sure that everyone in your family knows the difference between the sound of the CO and smoke alarms, and what number to call for a CO emergency.
- If your CO alarm sounds, immediately move to fresh air outside. Alert others in the home to the danger and make sure everyone gets to fresh air safely.
- Never ignore a sounding CO alarm.

Source: esfi.org

Kids' Corner Safety Poster



“Always use water on your fire.”

Braden Aukes

Braden was in first-grade when he submitted this safety poster. He is the son of Brian Aukes, Beaver Creek, Minn. He is a member of Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, S.D.

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.





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Super Soups



Cheeseburger Soup

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1/2 lb. ground beef | 3 cups diced, peeled potatoes |
| 3/4 cup chopped onion | 1/4 cup all-purpose flour |
| 3/4 cup shredded carrots | 2 cups cubed processed American cheese |
| 3/4 cup diced celery | 1-1/2 cups milk |
| 1 tsp. dried basil | 3/4 tsp. salt |
| 1 tsp. dried parsley flakes | 1/4 to 1/2 tsp. pepper |
| 4 T. butter or margarine, divided | 1/4 cup sour cream |
| 3 cups chicken broth | |

In a 3-quart saucepan, brown beef; drain and set aside. In the same saucepan, sauté onion, carrots, celery, basil and parsley in 1 T. butter until vegetables are tender, about 10 minutes. Add broth, potatoes and beef; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 10 to 12 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Meanwhile, in a small skillet, melt remaining butter. Add flour; cook and stir for 3 to 5 minutes or until bubbly. Add to soup; bring to a boil. Cook and stir for 2 minutes. Reduce heat to low. Add cheese, milk, salt and pepper; cook and stir until cheese melts. Remove from the heat; blend in sour cream. Yield: 8 servings

Nancy Noess, Mitchell

Butternut Squash Bisque

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1 T. canola oil | 4 cups peeled and cubed butternut squash |
| 1 T. unsalted butter | Salt and pepper to taste |
| 1/2 cup diced onion | 1/2 cup heavy cream, optional |
| 3/4 cup diced carrots | Ground nutmeg to taste |
| 3 cups vegetable broth | |

Heat oil and melt butter in a large pot over medium heat. Cook and stir onion until tender. Mix carrots and squash into pot. Pour in vegetable broth and season with salt, pepper and nutmeg. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer until vegetables are tender. In a blender or food processor, puree soup mixture until smooth. Return to pot; stir in heavy cream. Heat through but do not boil. Serve warm with a dash of nutmeg. Yield: 4 servings

Debra Weaver, Box Elder

Super Easy Potato Soup

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 8 oz. cream cheese, cut into small pieces | 2 lb. hash browns |
| 1 can cream of chicken soup | 1/3 cup chopped onion |
| 32 oz. chicken broth | Diced bacon or ham, as desired |
| | Salt and pepper to taste |

Mix together all ingredients in a slow cooker. Cook on LOW for 7 hours. May add diced green or red peppers and carrots for color.

Amy Schoenfelder, Cavour

Cream of Crab Soup

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter | 1/2 tsp. McCormick® Parsley Flakes |
| 1 medium onion, coarsely chopped (1 cup) | 4 cups milk or half-and-half |
| 1/3 cup flour | 1 lb. lump crab meat |
| 1 T. OLD BAY® Seasoning | 3 T. dry sherry |

Melt butter in 3-quart saucepan on medium heat. Add onion; cook and stir 5 minutes or until softened. Add flour, Old Bay and parsley; whisk until well blended. Whisking constantly, gradually add milk. Bring to boil, stirring occasionally. Stir in crab meat. Reduce heat to low; simmer 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in sherry. Heat 1 to 2 minutes. Sprinkle with additional Old Bay, if desired. Yield: 6 servings

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 285, Total Fat 14g, Cholesterol 119mg, Sodium 605mg, Carbohydrates 16g, Dietary Fiber 1g, Protein 22g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Mushroom Salsa Chili

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 lb. ground beef | 1 (4 oz.) can mushroom stems and pieces, drained |
| 1 lb. bulk pork sausage | 1/2 cup each chopped green pepper, sweet red and yellow pepper |
| 2 (16 oz. each) cans kidney beans, rinsed and drained | 1/2 tsp. dried oregano |
| 1 (24 oz.) jar chunky salsa | 1/4 tsp. garlic powder |
| 1 (14.5 oz.) can diced tomatoes, undrained | 1/8 tsp. thyme |
| 1 large onion, chopped | 1/8 tsp. dried marjoram |
| 1 (8 oz.) can tomato sauce | |

Cook beef and sausage over medium heat until meat is no longer pink; drain. Transfer meat to a 5-quart slow cooker. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Cover and cook on low for 8 to 9 hours or until vegetables are tender.

Stephanie Fossum, Hudson

Santa Fe Cheese Soup

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 (15 oz.) can whole kernel corn, drained | 1 (4 oz.) can premium chuck white chicken, drained |
| 1 (15 oz.) can pinto beans, rinsed and drained | 1 (4 oz.) can chopped green chilies, if desired |
| 1 (14 oz.) can chicken broth | 1 lb. processed American cheese, cubed |
| 1 (10 oz.) can diced tomatoes and green chilies, undrained | |

In a 3-quart saucepan or slow cooker, combine all ingredients. Cook and stir until cheese is melted. Garnish with crushed tortilla chips. If using a slow cooker, cook on LOW for 2 to 3 hours, stirring occasionally. Note: May serve with a dollop of sour cream in each bowl.

Patricia Hopkins, Central City, NE

Please send your favorite brunch and seafood recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2017. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

EmPOWER Youth Leadership

by Students from the
2016-2017 EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program

I feel EmPOWER in the air. It is a new season. It is a perfect opportunity to do something new, something bold, something EmPOWERing. Not only did we have a picture perfect fall, but for the students enrolled in the 2016-2017 EmPOWER Youth Leadership program, this November brought with it another great change. A chance to embark on a journey of self-discovery, leadership development, and co-op exploration.

On November 11, all 64 students that enrolled were invited to meet at the Pipestone Country Club for the first group session of the year. "When I heard about EmPOWER I thought it would be a great opportunity to have fun, meet new people, and learn new life skills. That is exactly what I accomplished when I went to my first session," remarked Garrett Satterly from Colman-Egan.

They kicked off the day by getting to know each other through mixers and activities that challenged them to get outside their comfort zone and open up. The students heard from EmPOWER Coordinator, Jennie Patrick, and Sioux Valley Energy CEO, Tim McCarthy, on what EmPOWER is, why we are here, and what to expect in upcoming gatherings.

After that, speaker/author, V.J. Smith, delighted us with his powerful message of gratitude and being thankful. "V.J.'s message motivated me to write and mail letters out to some of the people who matter most in my life, thanking them for all they do," expressed Madison Lee of Brandon Valley.

In the afternoon Nat Lock from Northcountry Cooperative Foundation taught us about cooperatives. They learned about what makes a cooperative unique, the difference between an investor-owned, a non-profit, and co-op and how they are owned, controlled and who they benefit. "We even got to make our own co-op and describe the word co-op down to one word," explained Danielle Spencer of Brandon Valley. Some of the cooperative ideas were a busing system, coffee shops, and eateries. Students narrowed their definitions of co-ops down to one word: service, organization, society, members, and me.

We created our own co-op, the Soda Pop Co-op. Each student member picked a district to join (journalism, promotions, community outreach, decor or social media.) Each district has a leader from the Advisory Committee who are students from last year elected by their fellow EmPOWERers to help lead this year. Using the cooperative model, a board member was then elected from each district to sit on the Soda Pop Co-op Board. The board will then hire a manager and assistant manager to run the Soda Pop Co-op.

There is nothing so stable as change. Seasons change, moments in life change; it's all how we react to them that makes the difference. "First, when hearing about EmPOWER a kid might think it's just another boring volunteer group but let me tell you, it's very far from that. Personally, I will be able to look back on this experience and will be glad and thankful I joined. But why wait until then? I'm already thankful now for the new experience, learning, volunteering, and making new friends," recalled Julia Ferguson of Luverne.

In closing, Bethany Malsom of Brandon Valley extends her gratitude "I am thankful to all the people who make EmPOWER possible and I am looking forward to our next meeting!"



The 2016-2017 EmPOWER Youth Leadership students:



Baltic High School:

- MacKenzie Ketcham

Brandon High School:

- Kassidi Bailey
- Elizabeth Braley
- Erika Christopherson
- Hannah DeVille
- Emma Eichelberg
- Alyssa Fick
- Bailey Frantz
- Emily Glanzer
- Ellie Holmes
- Nicole Huebner
- Madison Lee
- Bethany Malsam
- Alex Miller
- Nevaeh Munce
- Anna Nuss
- Sydnee Pottebaum
- Danielle Spencer
- Samantha Taylor
- Jadah Tschetter
- Christina Waller
- Ashlea Wolfe

Brookings High School:

- Marina Du
- Abby Enevoldsen
- Maci Law

Chester High School:

- Emma Roling
- Jaron Sagmoe
- Bayden Schneider
- Jadon Wages

Colman-Egan High School:

- Riley Blissmer
- Garrett Satterly
- Adrienne Towne
- Kayla Triebwasser
- Brody Wanner

Edgerton Public School:

- Lila Ockenga

Elkton High School:

- Tiffany Rouge
- Ashley Skeels



Estelline High School:

- Kerry Cosman
- Elizabeth Hofer
- Maria Martinez

Flandreau High School:

- Amanda Haugen
- Marianna Pavlis

Garretson High School:

- Jaden Flanagan
- Emily Malsom

Luverne High School:

- Madelyn Aleman
- Ashlee Boltjes
- Brooke Feit
- Julia Ferguson
- Jacinda Hustoft
- Nathan Overgaard
- Michaela Sandbulte
- Emilie Staeffler

Madison High School:

- Morgan Johnson

Pipestone High School:

- Kaitlyn Draper
- Lauren Laphorn
- Autumn Mendo

Rutland High School:

- Jack Olson

2016-2017

Advisory Committee:

- Chantel Brende
- *Baltic High School*
- Mary Dybedahl
- *Tri-Valley High School*
- Ethan Geraets
- *Chester High School*
- Ashton Krueger
- *Luverne High School*
- Carter Schmidt
- *Colman-Egan High School*
- Lexis Sherron
- *Brandon Valley High School*
- Sam Ykema
- *Luverne High School*

2017 SVE District Meetings

Monday, March 6

District 5- Location: Luverne High School Cafeteria (Meal), High School Auditorium (Meeting) - Luverne, MN

Tuesday, March 7

District 10- Location: Edgerton Public School - Edgerton, MN

Monday, March 13

District 2- Location: Sioux Valley Middle School Gym - Volga, SD

Tuesday, March 14

District 4- Location: Dakota Prairie Playhouse - Madison, SD

Thursday, March 16

District 9- Location: Pipestone High School - Pipestone, MN

Monday, March 20

District 3- Location: William J. Janklow Community Center -Flandreau, SD

Tuesday, March 21

District 1- Location: Elkton Community Center - Elkton, SD

****Thursday, March 23**

District 7- Location: West Central School HS Gym - Hartford, SD

****Thursday, March 30**

District 5- Location: Taopi Hall - Colton, SD

****Tuesday, April 4**

District 6- Location: Brandon Valley High School - Brandon, SD

**Denotes Election Meetings

A complimentary dinner will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. (Meeting start time for District 7 in Hartford is 7 p.m.)

District 6 At-Large Election

The District 6 election will be an at-large election with the top two candidates having the most votes selected to fill the director seats for District 6. The candidate who receives the most votes will serve a 3 year term and the candidate who receives the second most votes will serve a 2 year term for the first election following the passage of the amendment in the Bylaws Article IV. Section 4. Director Districts. In the case of a tie, candidates will draw lots for what term they will fill. Thereafter, the elected directors shall be elected for a three year term.

Election Petition Deadlines:

District 7: January 22

District 5: January 29

District 6: February 3

Resolution to Save

Simple Steps to Saving on Your Energy Bill

Brenda Kleinjan

AS THE NEW YEAR DAWNS, THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS will make resolutions. Resolutions to lose weight. Resolutions to exercise more. Resolutions to save money.

America's Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives offer key tips for reducing energy costs – and many are low- to no-cost solutions. And, some are easy to implement – and stick with throughout the year.

"In a home, heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) is the largest use of energy. Setting back your thermostat is the easiest and cheapest way to save energy," said Chad Reisenauer, a certified energy manager at Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, N.D.

Here's the first 10 things to consider:

1. Replace any light bulb, especially ones that are on more than one hour per day, with a light-emitting diode (LED) bulb. Lighting ac-

counts for about 11 percent a typical home's energy use, so savings here can add up.

2. Close shades and drapes during the day to help keep heat out in summer. Opening coverings on south-facing windows can allow for radiant heat to enter during winter months. Heating and cooling accounts for the largest use of energy in a home.

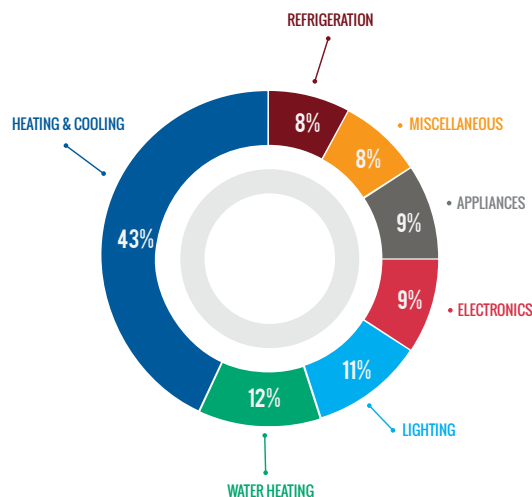
3. Plug electronic devices such as cable boxes, printers and TVs into power strips to turn off during vacations or long periods without use. Depending on your family, electronics can account for 8 percent to 15 percent of a home's electric bill.

4. Outside your home, caulk around all penetrations including telephone, electrical, cable, gas, water spigots, dryer vents, etc. Take the caulk gun inside, too. Caulking along baseboards with a clear sealant is recommended as



HOME ENERGY USE

WHERE DOES YOUR ENERGY GO?



Home energy use is different for everyone and hinges on several factors, including size of home, members in your household, your location and preferences. Knowing how your energy spend is divided will help you prioritize your energy saving habits.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, www.EIA.gov.

is caulking around plumbing penetrations that come through walls beneath sinks.

5. Change HVAC air filters monthly.

Make sure when changing the filters they are facing the correct direction. (Look for the arrow on the side of the filter.)

6. Use the dishwasher's air-dry cycle instead of the heat-dry cycle to dry dishes.

The kitchen can account for 15 percent to 20 percent of your home's energy use.

Energy Savings Prescription Pays Off at Wall Drug

As the owners of iconic Wall Drug in Wall, S.D., prepared to celebrate their 85th year of operation, they turned to their local Touchstone Energy Cooperative, West River Electric Association, for an energy audit and a prescription to use electricity more wisely.

In January 2016, an energy audit of the facility was conducted. The sprawling complex which includes the street-level stores that are open to the public, also includes thousands of square feet of behind-the-scenes storage and offices that extend below and above the millions of visitors.

The audit accounted for the 5,400 light bulbs and more than 3,100 light fixtures throughout the attraction. It also looked at heating and cooling expenses associated with the facility as well as the efficiency of appliances and other electronics.

When all was said and done, the recommendations included some basic steps that are applicable in both homes and businesses.

The Husted family — which owns Wall Drug — had already started converting much of the property to LED

lighting. But, an important step behind-the-scenes had the potential to really add up in savings.

The audit recommended installing occupancy sensors — devices that sense when people enter and exit a room and adjust the lighting

accordingly — was a major step in reducing costs.

Another major recommendation was that exterior doors be kept closed during summer months to keep cooler air inside the building.

On one meter alone (the attraction has several meters), energy consumption was significantly reduced by taking the recommended steps.

Find out more about energy-saving steps you can take by contacting the energy experts at your electric cooperative.



7. Keep your garage door down. A warmer garage in the winter and cooler garage in the summer will save energy.

8. Set water heater temperature no higher than 120° F. Water heating can account for 12 percent of a home's energy use. For smaller households of one or two members, the temperature can be turned down to 115° F.

9. Make sure dryer vent hose is not kinked or clogged. Also be sure to clean the dryer's lint trap before each use and ensure that the dryer's outdoor exhaust door is not blocked or clogged.

10. Ensure refrigerator door seals are tight. Set the refrigerator temperature to 34° F. to 37° F. and the freezer temperature to between 0° F. and 5° F.

"Most of these are low-cost/no-cost measures," said Alan Shedd, a professional engineer and certified energy manager who is the director of energy solutions for the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives brand. "While you can save more by sealing ductwork and air-sealing your house to reduce leaks, we don't want to discourage people from doing the simple things first."

"Check out the newly re-designed TogetherWeSave page on TouchstoneEnergy.coop. We've added an energy saving tips section that includes a Top-10 list. For a direct link use <http://www.touchstoneenergy.com/energy-money-saving-tips/more-tips/> and click on the "Top 10."

Inset above: Chad Reisenauer, a certified energy manager with Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, N.D., takes measurements using a light meter at Wall Drug in Wall, S.D., as West River Electric Association's Veronica Kusser records the results. Another WREA team was counting each of the attraction's thousands of light bulbs as part of an energy audit to determine where energy savings could be found in the 85-year old tourist attraction.



Seeking Nominations for 'Power and Hope' Award

Do you know a Sioux Valley Energy member who is making a difference in his/her community? If so, nominate that individual for SVE's annual 'Power and Hope' award. This award will recognize those who have been generous, selfless and giving—someone who helps others expecting nothing in return.

Finalists will be chosen in January and recognized at their district meeting which will take place in March and April. Those finalists will then be recognized at the Cooperative's annual meeting in June. One finalist will be awarded the grand prize -- a \$1,000 donation to the charity of their choice (must be a 501c3). All finalists will receive a \$100 donation to the charity of their choice as well.

Who is eligible to receive the Sioux Valley Energy Power and Hope Award?

Nominees must be at least 13 years old. They must be a customer of Sioux Valley Energy or live in the household of a Sioux Valley Energy customer. Groups and organizations are not eligible for the award. SVE employees, board members or their immediate family members are not eligible to receive the award.

What is the deadline for nominations?

The deadline for nominations is January 1, 2017.

Where do I find a nomination application?

You can fill out an online nomination application from our website (www.siouxvalleyenergy.com under the 'MyCommunity tab') or you can call 800-234-1960 and request a nomination form be sent to you.

Who can I contact for more information?

You can contact Carrie Law through email at carrie.law@siouxvalleyenergy.com or by phone at 800-234-1960.

\$12,000 In Scholarships To Be Given Away

Sioux Valley Energy is offering \$12,000 worth of scholarships to eligible graduating high school seniors or first time attendees at an institution of higher education. The application deadline is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 13, 2017.

Applications will be judged on the basis of grades, ACT or SAT test scores, work experience, school activities, volunteer community service and an essay question.

The majority of the scholarship funding comes from Operation Roundup® funds, with additional monies from Basin Electric Power Cooperative and L&O Power Cooperative.

To be eligible you must:

- Be a graduating high school senior or first-time attendee at an institution of higher education.
- Plan to be a full-time student in an accredited college or vocational-technical school this fall.
- Be a child of a Sioux Valley Energy customer.
- Have a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA.
- Provide a written recommendation from a teacher, administrator or counselor.
- One winner per family/per year.

Applications are available from your school counselor, from any Sioux Valley Energy service center (in Colman, Pipestone and Brandon), on the web at:

<http://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/myCommunity/Scholarship/index.html>



Know Their Location?

Each year when Sioux Valley Energy mails capital credit checks to former customers, some are returned because the person has moved. If you know any of the people on this list, who are shown at the last known location in our records, please tell them to contact Sioux Valley Energy to claim their capital credit check. They can call 1-800-234-1960.

Tennessee

KNOXVILLE	LUNDIEN, MATTHEW
KNOXVILLE	BRISON, TRACY
LEWISBURG	MERTENS, MARTY & TANYA

Texas

AUSTIN	PEPPER, DEBRA
GEORGETOWN	HEISER, KEITH H & CAROLYNN
HELOTES	WEST TWINS THEATRE
	%DAN PROSTROLLO
IRVING	NIELSEN, VIRGIL P
LIVINGSTON	DEEN, JAN
MISSION	MARONE, ROBERT J
RICHARDSON	ABDO, MARWAN & CYNTHIA
ROBSTOWN	NEUROTH, NICOLE
SAN ANTONIO	HALLENBECK, JOYCE
	JONE HEDRICK PAYEE
SPRING	WYSONG, KOURI & NORA

Utah

LAYTON	RAMSEY, ROB
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Washington

LAKESIDE	HASSEBROEK, CHAD
VANCOUVER	LAROCK, JAMES M & PATRICIA B
VANCOUVER	FERGUSON, JASON

Wisconsin

COTTAGE GROVE	KONZ, HEATHER & JASON
DE PERE	STEVENS, CHERYL A
FORT ATKINSON	STEELE, THOMAS & ATHENA
LA CROSSE	PLUEGER, RON
MARSHFIELD	MAST, SHERRY
MILWAUKEE	NIEDERBAUMER, JESSE
NEENAH	BRUDER, ERVIN
PLOVER	PATTERSON, SCOTT & BRIDGID
STOUGHTON	ANDERSON, DIANE
SUN PRAIRIE	POLLARD, LOLA
WATERFORD	PEARSON, BRAD & BEV
WEST BEND	LEWANDOWSKI, BOB & LUCY
WESTON	GRAY, BART

West Virginia

HURRICANE	LOEB, JENNIFER
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Wyoming

GILLETTE	VONEYE, HEATH & CANDICE
SHERIDAN	SWANSON, BRIANA & TRAVIS

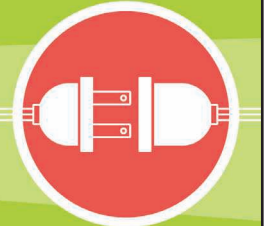
Ontario

THUNDER BAY	WALL, STEVEN
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HOLIDAY LIGHTING SAFETY TIPS



Consider purchasing LED holiday lights; they are cool to the touch and more energy efficient than incandescent bulbs.



Test holiday lights by connecting each strand before hanging them.



Make sure there are no broken bulbs or damaged or frayed cords. Discard any defective strands.



Use holiday lights that include the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) label.



Avoid resting bulbs on tree needles and branches. Try using a clip to keep the bulbs upright.



Do not overload electrical outlets or extension cords.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting before leaving the house or going to bed.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Be merry and bright, but don't let your holiday lights shine all night. Save money on your electric bill by installing a light timer for your decked out home. It can help lower your electric bill and reduce energy consumption. Use a manual timer plugged into an electrical outlet to automatically turn lights on and off as scheduled.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Illuminating Choices

Watts, Lumens, Kelvin Can Be Confusing When Buying Bulbs

GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN GRABBING A LIGHTBULB at the hardware store was as simple as knowing whether you were in search of a 40-watt, 60-watt or a 100-watt bulb.

Today, a trek down the lighting aisle can be confusing and at times intimidating as one wades through the packaging.

If you have been gradually making the switch to the new energy efficient lighting choices, you've noticed that more changes have come to the light bulb aisle. Remember when the odd looking corkscrew compact fluorescent (CFL) bulb was introduced to consumers a few years ago? It's still there and so are most of the classic pear-shaped incandescent bulbs. But today's lighting choices have expanded and gotten serious makeovers – their packaging labels and lingo included. There are LEDs, CFLs, halogen, lumens, CRI and more, and there is a host of lighting brands. But in recent years, the focus has been on making *all* bulbs more energy efficient and cost effective.

End of an Era

We've basked in the golden glow of Thomas Edison's incandescent bulb since the 1800s, but January 2014 marked the end of its run. That's when the federal government finalized its mandated phase out of selected general-purpose light bulbs and Edison's less energy efficient incandescent ones. While you still may find 100- and 75-watt bulbs on store shelves, manufacturers in the U.S. stopped producing them. The old 40- and 60-watt bulbs, which represented over half the market, are following suit. What brought about the lighting change? In 2007, the U.S. Department of Energy estimated that home and commercial lighting was consuming more electricity annually – about 300 billion kilowatt-hours of lighting or the equivalent of about 100 power plants – but most of it was wasted. Old-fashioned incandescent bulbs used plenty of energy to produce only 10 percent light, with 90 percent of the energy given off as heat. In comparison, today's more energy-saving incandescent light bulbs use 25 percent less energy to do the job of lighting the same spaces in your home.

Look on the Bright Side

Prime replacements for the traditional incandescent light bulb are the higher-efficiency CFL

and LED or light emitting diode bulbs. But be prepared to pay more upfront for some of the bulbs you choose. Lighting experts say that LEDs are the best choice for energy efficiency and if price is not a concern – they can last for up to two decades, save you 75 percent or more in energy costs, and offer superior color and brightness. However, they can cost an estimated \$10 to \$60 per bulb.

The Energy Department assures consumers that there is a bright side – lower electricity bills over the longer term. These are their estimates: using a traditional incandescent bulb adds about \$4.80 per year to the average household electric bill, but a CFL bulb adds just \$1.20 a year and an LED about \$1 per year. That means that a typical household could potentially save about \$50 per year by replacing 15 old incandescent bulbs.

Lighting the Way

Since lighting accounts for nearly 20 percent of the average home's electricity use, don't stay in the dark when shopping for new bulbs that save on energy and your electric bill. **Things to know before you go:**

Lumens are the new watts. It's all about the lumens or the amount of light a light bulb emits. Remember this formula: The higher the lumens, the brighter the light – to replace a 100-watt incandescent bulb, choose a bulb that offers about 1,600 lumens. There are handy charts at www.energystar.gov/ that help you compare the old measure of watts to lumens.

Three-steps to your new bulbs. STEP 1: Choose the amount of lumens you need based on how bright you want a room; **STEP 2:** Determine which bulb has the lowest estimated energy cost per year. This will save you the most money; and **STEP 3:** Choose bulbs based on your needs – how long it will last and light appearance.

Read the label. Always check the package, making sure that it carries the U.S. Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR® logo. New Lighting Facts labels on boxes will also help consumers understand what they are purchasing – amount of lumens, estimated annual operating cost and light color.

By B. Denise
Hawkins

Don't Watch for Watts, Look for Lumens!

Tips for lightbulb shopping by lumens instead of watts

A lumen is a measurement of how much light you are getting from a light bulb.
More lumens means a brighter light, fewer lumens a dimmer light.

What you will see
on the package

Brightness
Energy cost

The bulb's life expectancy

Light appearance
(for example, if the bulb provides
"warm" or "cool" light)

Wattage
(the amount of energy the bulb uses)

Whether the bulb contains mercury

Lighting Facts Per Bulb	
Brightness	870 lumens
Estimated Yearly Energy Cost	\$1.57
Based on 3 hrs/day, 11¢/kWh Cost depends on rates and use	
Life	5.5 years
Based on 3 hrs/day	
Light Appearance	
Warm	Cool
2700 K	
Energy Used	13 watts
Contains Mercury	
For more on clean up and safe disposal, visit epa.gov/cfl	

Brightness

870
lumens

Estimated
Energy Cost
\$1.57
per year

What watts translate to

Watts vs. Lumens

What you used to look for	WATTS (energy consumed)	150 w	2600 lm	LUMENS (brightness output)	Now you look for
		100 w	1600 lm		
		75 w	1100 lm		
		60 w	800 lm		
		40 w	450 lm		

What Color Bulb Would Work Best For Your Use?



Light color is measured on a temperature scale referred to as Kelvin (K). Lower Kelvin numbers mean the light appears yellow; higher Kelvin numbers mean the light is whiter or bluer.

Common uses

2700K	3000K	3500K	4100K	5000K	6500K
warm white	soft white	cool white	neutral white	natural daylight	
most spaces, standard color		kitchens and work spaces		reading	



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®

For more energy saving tips, visit www.YourCoopPower.com

Defending the Surge

Is Your Home Protected?

AS THE TECHNOLOGY OF ELECTRIC DEVICES ADVANCES, so does the need to protect them from power surges.

With all the microprocessors that drive modern appliances, computers, and home entertainment systems, proper use of surge suppressors can save you the expense of replacing damaged equipment.

A power surge usually lasts only a fraction of a second, but the excessive voltage is enough to destroy circuitry inside sensitive electronics.

Digital devices have thousands of tiny on and off switches that continuously send and receive information during normal operation.

A shift in the smooth supply of electricity can disrupt this flow of information and cause the device to malfunction.

Flickering lights and blinking computers are sure signs of power fluctuations during a storm. A direct lightning strike will send up to 200,000 amps coursing through a power line, enough to burn up standard 20-amp electronics.

But most surges are less dramatic and occur without a homeowner's knowledge. These surges result from sudden changes in electricity caused by anything from a downed power line to the cycling energy use of a hair dryer.

Transient surges can produce instantaneous results: a crashed computer, for example. But often the damage goes undetected, only to surface later in a detrimental way, such as a microwave that suddenly stops working.

Homeowners can protect their electronics

with surge suppressors. As the term implies, these devices suppress an erratic power supply by diverting excess voltage to a ground wire. Suppressors will not protect a home from a direct lightning strike.

Suppressors come in a multitude of applications, from single-plug wall units to rack-mounted, home-entertainment system protection.

Many models also have options for telephone line and cable television connections to protect modems, fax machines and video equipment.

Here are some features to look for when buying a surge suppressor:

- Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) tested, with a UL 1449 listing and the term "Transient Voltage Surge Suppressor." The UL 1449 standard changed in 1998, so check old surge suppressors to make sure they still comply.
- An indicator light or some other feature is needed to show whether the device has experienced a power spike. If the light is out, the suppressor no longer works properly and should be replaced.
- Voltage suppression of 330 volts per UL standards. Higher voltage ratings give less protection.
- The suppressor must discharge excess energy to ground, not to neutral.
- Make sure any manufacturer insurance guarantees cover the cost of replacing damaged equipment.
- Check with your local utility before buying a surge suppressor. Your utility can recommend proper surge protection for various applications and often carries high-quality models at competitive prices.

Mike Federman is a contributing writer on energy at Ruralite Services.

**By Michael
Federman**



Surge and Protect

Power Surges and How to Protect Yourself

The Issue

WHAT IS A "POWER SURGE"?

A power surge, or transient voltage, is a **sudden and unwanted increase in voltage that can damage, degrade or destroy** the sensitive electronic equipment in your home or business.



CAUSES

The National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) estimates that **60-80% of surges are created within a facility**, such as when large appliances, like air conditioners, turn on and off. Surges can also originate from the **electric utility company during power grid switching**. Lastly, the most powerful surges can be caused by **lightning**.



IMPACT

A spike in voltage can be **harmful to electrical devices** in your home if the increase is above the device's intended operating voltage. This excess voltage can cause an arc of electrical current resulting in **heat that damages** the electrical components. Repeated small-scale surges may slowly **damage your electronic equipment** and **shorten the life** of appliances and electronics involved.



The Solutions

POINT-OF-USE SURGE PROTECTION DEVICES

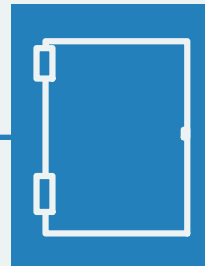
Protect only the items that are **directly plugged into the device** from most electrical surges. It does not suppress or arrest a surge but **diverts the surge to ground**. Use point-of-use surge protectors that have an indicating light and/or audible alarm that alert when it needs replacement.



SERVICE ENTRANCE SURGE PROTECTION DEVICES

Mounted in or on your main electrical panel or at the base of the electric meter, this device provides **protection for your entire electrical system**.

This device covers components that cannot be connected to a point-of-use device, such as outlets and light switches.



REMINDERS

- ! No surge protection device can handle a **direct lightning strike**. The best surge protection is to **unplug devices from the wall** if you suspect a surge might be coming.
- ! Power strips **do NOT provide surge protection**. Be sure you are relying on the appropriate device for protection.
- ! Power strips and surge suppressors **don't provide more power to a location**, only more access to the same limited capacity of the circuit into which it is connected.

Regional Dateline

December 15-March 31

South Dakota Snowmobile
Trails Season, Lead, SD
605-584-3896

December 22-23

1880 Train Holiday Express
Hill City, SD, 605-574-2222

December 25

Visitor Center Closed
Pipestone National Monument
Pipestone, MN, 507-825-5464

January 7-14

71st Annual Snow Queen
Festival, Aberdeen, SD
www.sdsnowqueen.com

January 12

The Ennis Sisters in Concert
Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

January 12-14

16th Annual Ice Fishing
Tournament, Mobridge, SD
605-845-2500

January 18-26

38th Winter Art Show
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

January 19-21

Snowmobile Rally
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

January 20-21

ISOC Deadwood SnoCross
Showdown, Deadwood, SD
605-578-1876

January 21

Bark Beetle Blues Crawl
Custer, SD, 605-440-1405

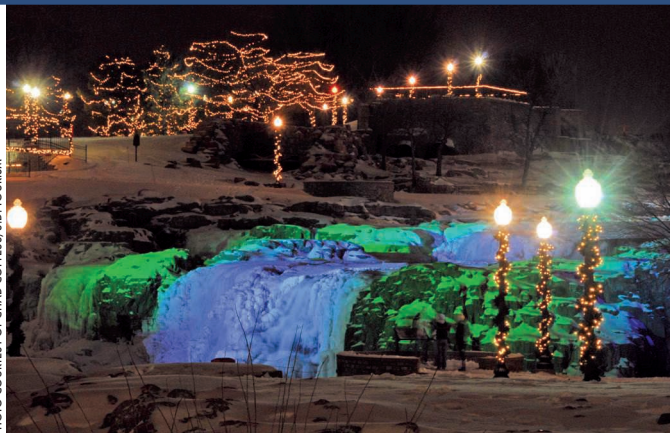


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To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks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

Events of Special Note

November 18-January 8

Winter Wonderland, Falls Park
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-275-6060

January 28

Central Valley Struttin'
Gobblers 12th Annual NWTF
Banquet, Community Center
Humboldt, SD, 605-528-3592
or 605-201-5102

January 21

Tommy: A Bluegrass Opry by
the HillBenders, Spearfish, SD
605-642-7973

February 10-11

Strawbale Winery Valentine
Twilight Flights, Renner, SD
605-543-5071

March 4-7

Summit League
Basketball Championship
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

January 27-February 5

Annual Black Hills Stock Show
& Rodeo, Rapid City, SD
605-355-3861

February 10-12

35th Annual Black Hills Sport
Show and Outdoor Expo
Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

March 11-12

2017 Gun Show, American
Legion Hall, Saturday 9 a.m.
to 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to
3 p.m. MST, Philip, SD
605-859-2635, 605-859-2280

February 3-4

Who Got Greased? Murder
Mystery Dinner Theater
Elks Lodge, 705 Circle Drive
Aberdeen, SD, 605-380-9743

February 11

Sioux Empire on Tap
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

March 17-18

28 Below Fatbike Race
Lead, SD, 605-584-3435

February 4

Twenty One Pilots in Concert
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

February 16-18

Sioux Falls Sno Jam Comedy
Festival, Sioux Falls, SD
siouxfallssnojamcomedyfest@
gmail.com

March 24-25, March 31-April 1

59th Annual Schmeckfest
Freeman, SD, 605-925-4237

February 4

LHIA Fishing Derby
11 a.m. to 3 p.m., City Boat
Landing Access Point
Lake Hendricks, MN

February 16-19

Steel Magnolias Community
Theater, Spearfish, SD
605-642-7973

March 31-April 2

Professional Bull Riders
Built Ford Tough Series
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

February 7-11

Winter Farm Show
Watertown, SD, 605-886-5814

February 17-19

Sioux Empire Wacipi
Sioux Falls, SD, 310-922-1886

April 7-8

Forks, Corks and Kegs
Food and Wine Festival
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876