



Sioux Valley Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Connections

JULY 2016 VOL. 17 NO. 3



Wagons Ho!
Exploring Western Heritage P8-9

Keep the Summer Safe



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/CEO

Energy is powerful. You can't see it but you know it's the reason we have lights, heaters, computers, machines, appliances and so much more. Tragically, this month South Dakota residents witnessed just how powerful energy can be when a farmer died after a piece of farm equipment made contact with an overhead electric line.

This heartbreaking event demonstrates the raw power that electricity can have. Electricity is useful and in most cases--

necessary, but it needs to be respected and has to be used safely.

Sioux Valley Energy is insured by an entity called Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange. We are just one of 810 rural electric and telephone systems in 42 states that are insured by Federated. In their 2015 report, Federated-insured systems had 99 public contacts with 13 fatalities. According to Federated, they ended the year with the lowest claim count ever given the number of members they insure (400 fewer claims in 2015 than the year prior). So while the amount of claims are dropping nation-wide, there are still too many accidents and fatalities. ZERO is the number we would like to see!

So far this year Sioux Valley Energy members have experienced 32 outages due to public activity such as contractors digging into underground lines, farm machinery hitting overhead lines, and car accidents involving people running into poles or transformers.

Thank goodness none of these public contacts led to a serious injury or fatality, but as the statistics from Federated Insurance demonstrates...it can happen if individuals are not aware of their surroundings or they take risks thinking it will never happen to them.

While Sioux Valley Energy is most alarmed about injury or death when it comes to electrical safety, we are also concerned about the cost of public contacts. We often have to replace overhead and underground lines, poles, and transformers, etc. when a member of the public makes contact with the equipment.

Outages caused by public activity are inconvenient for our members as well. As I mentioned before, Sioux Valley Energy customers have gone without power 32 times for 621 customer outage hours because of public contacts!

We are right in the middle of farming, construction and home project season! Many of our public contacts involve

farm and construction machinery. Be aware of what is above you. Often, the situation occurs because a newer, bigger piece of equipment no longer clears a line the way a smaller one did. In addition, shifting soil may also affect whether or not machinery avoids power lines from year to year. Be sure to call 811 before digging as well!

The following tips from www.safeelectricity.org will help keep everyone on a farm safe:

- Look over work areas carefully for overhead power lines and utility poles.
- Make sure you have ample clearance when moving large machinery such as sprayers, combines, grain augers, pickers, bailers, and front-end loaders. Do this every year as equipment sizes or soil conditions may change.
- Store large equipment properly if near or under power lines. When planning new construction, factor in existing power lines.
- Be extra careful when working around trees and brush; they often make it difficult to see power lines.
- Train all farm workers to keep an eye out for overhead power lines.

Summer "homeowner" projects are underway as well! Follow these tips from www.safeelectricity.org to avoid electrical injury around your home:

- Look up and around you. Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long metal tools like ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles, or when installing rooftop antennas and satellite dishes or doing roof repair work.
- Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from lines. Never trim trees near power lines – leave that to the professionals. Never use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines. Contact a professional maintenance contractor.
- If your projects include digging, like building a deck or planting a tree, call 811 for underground locates before you begin. Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. This service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted, and can help you avoid serious injury.
- Electricity + water = danger. If it's raining or the ground is wet, don't use electric power or yard tools. Never use electrical appliances or touch circuit breakers or fuses when you're wet or standing in water. Keep electric equipment at least 10 feet from wet areas.

And finally, keep an eye out for our lineworkers who are out working on public roadways. Please slow down when you see the warning signs—we want to make sure all of our employees go home safe to their family every night. Enjoy the summer and stay safe!!!



SIoux VALLEY ENERGY

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative
The power of human connections

Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 497-440)

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

SVE Solar Project Stats

May 2016 Output:
3,763 kWh's

May Capacity Factors:
South array = 21%
Southwest = 21.1%
West array = 18.7%
Combined capacity factor = 20.5%

Annual output: 34,799 kWh

For more information log on to:
<http://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/content/solar-project>

Sioux Valley Energy Solar Project



- Constructed in April 2015, Energized in May 2015

- 24.8 kW (Enough Power for 2 homes)

- 80 panels on low profile racking

- Panels face south, southwest and west

- 19 posts, 8 ft long, cemented in 5 ft hole

- There are no batteries used in this design

- Panels placed at 35 degree tilt

- Built and installed by SVE employees

- Array installed for less than \$4 per watt

- Estimated life of array is between 30 and 50 years

- Power that is produced is put back on to the SVE grid

- Solar Edge inverter monitoring system



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Air Conditioner and Fan Safety

Hot weather brings increased use of air conditioners. Contact with electric current from air conditioners accounts for a significant number of electrocutions and electrical injuries each year.

ESFI recommends that you always contact a qualified, licensed electrician to perform any electrical work in your home, including the installation and services of air conditioning and other cooling equipment.

Facts and Statistics

- According to the CPSC, 15 percent of consumer-product related electrocutions are attributed to large appliances. These electrocutions occur most commonly while someone is attempting to service or repair the appliance.

- In 2006, an estimated 33,500 injuries were reported to hospital emergency rooms as involving air conditioners, fans, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, air purifiers, and heat pumps. The leading types of injuries were laceration (14,890), contusion or abrasion (6,110) and strain or sprain (4,430).

- In 2006, air conditioning or related equipment was involved in an estimated 7,400 reported U.S. home structure fires, with associated losses of 270 civilian injuries and \$200 million indirect property damage.

- In 2003 to 2006, the 7,000 reported home structure fires per year involving air conditioning and related equipment included 2,400 per year involving central and room air conditioners specifically and 3,700 per year involving fans.

- In 1995 to 2003 (excluding 1999, which was not reported), there were 11.5 electrocution deaths per year involving air conditioners and 4.3 electrocution deaths per year involving fans.

Cooling Equipment Safety Tips

- Keep safety in mind when selecting cooling equipment for your home.
- Have a qualified, licensed electrician install and service any electrical equipment in your home.
- Have electric-powered equipment inspected and maintained regularly for safety.
- Make sure your equipment has the label showing that it is listed by a recognized testing laboratory.

Source: *esfi.org*

Tell Congress to Extend the Geothermal Tax Credit Today

Across the nation, electric cooperatives and public power districts help our member-owners save energy and money by promoting the use of geothermal heat pumps. These super-efficient heat pumps can cut home heating and cooling bills by up to 70 percent. Many member-owners install geothermal units with assistance from the geothermal tax credit. The tax credit expires at the end of this year, jeopardizing the continued use of this energy efficient technology.

COOPERATIVE ACTION NETWORK

Co-ops and their members are asking Congress to extend the credit. Go to the Cooperative Action Network's action.coop

and ask your Member of Congress to extend this credit by supporting H.R. 5167.

The Cooperative Action Network is the advocacy hub for America's electric cooperatives. It's more important than ever to band together and promote common sense solutions to the problems facing our nation.

Join our growing grassroots army today and become part of our team of more than one million advocates around the nation. By signing up, you'll maximize your voice as you hold elected officials accountable and promote the importance of electric cooperatives across the nation.

The Cooperative Action Network is the grassroots arm of the NRECA — the national service organization for more than 900 not-for-profit rural electric cooperatives that provide electricity to more than 42 million consumers across 47 states. Together, rural electric cooperatives serve 75 percent of the nation's landmass and account for approximately 12 percent of total electricity sales in the United States.

Kids' Corner Safety Poster

"Don't play by wires."



Alandra Kontz, 10 years old
Alandra was 10 years old when she submitted this safety poster. She is the daughter of Kelly and Val Kontz, Pipestone, Minn. They are members 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.

Delectable Desserts



Anzac Biscuits

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 cup quick cooking oats | 1/2 cup butter |
| 3/4 cup flaked coconut | 1 T. golden syrup (honey works) |
| 1 cup all-purpose flour | 1 tsp. baking soda |
| 1 cup sugar | 2 T. boiling water |

In a bowl, mix together oats, coconut, flour and sugar. In a small saucepan over low heat, melt butter and syrup. Dissolve soda in boiling water; add to melted butter and syrup. Add butter mixture to dry ingredients. Drop by teaspoonfuls on greased cookie sheets (or baking paper). Bake at 350°F. for 18 to 20 minutes.

Clarice Roghair, Okaton

Apple Dumplings

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 apple, cored and cut into 8 pieces | 2/3 cup sugar |
| 1 (8 oz.) can crescent rolls | 8 pats butter |
| Cinnamon | 1 cup Mountain Dew soft drink |

Place 1 apple slice on widest end of crescent roll; roll up starting at wide end. Pinch and seal shut. Place in an 8x8-inch pan. Continue until all slices are used. Sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar. Top with a pat of butter on each. Pour Mountain Dew over all. Bake at 350°F. for 45 minutes.

Velma Schmitz, Bonesteel

Earthquake Cake

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 box German chocolate cake mix | 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened |
| 3 eggs | 1 stick butter, softened |
| 1-1/3 cups water | 2 cups powdered sugar |
| 1/2 cup oil | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 1 cup coconut | 1 pkg. chocolate chips |
| 1/2 cup chopped walnuts | Whipped topping |

Lightly spray a 9x13-inch pan with cooking spray. Put coconut and nuts in bottom of pan. Mix cake mix according to package directions. Spread batter over nuts and coconut. In a bowl, mix cream cheese, butter, vanilla and powdered sugar until fluffy. Spread over batter. Sprinkle with chocolate chips. Bake at 350°F. for 50 minutes. Cool. Serve with Cool Whip. When this comes out of the oven, it looks like it has exploded (it does not actually explode, so it won't mess up your oven!). That's why it's called an Earthquake Cake. The cream cheese mixture sinks and the nuts and coconut rise.

Rowena Wipf, Doland

Spiced Triple Berry Shortcakes

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Berry Filling: | Spiced Shortcakes: |
| 2 cups sliced strawberries | 1-1/2 cups reduced fat baking mix |
| 1 cup blueberries | 3 T. sugar |
| 1 cup raspberries | 3/4 tsp. ground cinnamon |
| 2 tsp. pure vanilla extract | 1/2 tsp. ground ginger |
| 1/3 cup sugar | 6 T. fat free milk |
| 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon | 2 cups thawed fat free whipped topping |
| 1/4 tsp. ground ginger | |

For filling, mix berries and vanilla in large bowl. Mix sugar, cinnamon and ginger in small bowl. Sprinkle over berries; toss to coat well. Let stand 30 minutes to allow berries to release their juices, stirring occasionally. For the spiced shortcakes, mix baking mix, sugar, cinnamon and ginger in large bowl. Add milk; stir to form a soft dough. (If necessary, knead dough in bowl to incorporate dry ingredients.) Drop dough by 6 spoonfuls onto sprayed baking sheet. Bake at 425°F. for 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown. Cool slightly on wire rack. To serve, split warm shortcakes. Place 1 shortcake bottom on each plate. Top each with 2/3 cup berry filling and 1/3 cup whipped topping. Cover with shortcake tops. Makes 6 servings.

Nutritional Facts Per Serving: Calories 266, Total Fat 2g, Cholesterol 0mg, Sodium 280mg, Carbohydrates 58g, Dietary Fiber 4g, Protein 4g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Rhubarb Cobbler

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 4 to 5 cups diced rhubarb | 1/2 cup butter |
| 1-3/4 cups sugar, divided | 1/2 cup milk |
| 1/8 tsp. plus pinch salt, divided | 1 T. cornstarch |
| 1 cup flour | Pinch of salt |
| 1 tsp. baking powder | 1 cup boiling water |

Spread rhubarb in a 9x13-inch glass pan. Combine 1/2 cup sugar, 1/8 tsp. salt, flour, baking powder, butter and milk. Place over rhubarb. Mix together remaining sugar, cornstarch and pinch of salt. Sprinkle mixture over batter. Pour boiling water over all. Bake at 375°F. for 1 hour.

Darlene Meyer, Florence

Cookies and Cream Pie

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 pkg. white chocolate pudding | 1 cup chopped regular or Mint Oreos |
| 1-1/2 cups milk | 1 graham cracker crust |
| 8 oz. Cool Whip | |

Beat pudding with milk for 1 minute; let set 5 minutes. Fold in Cool Whip and cookies. Spoon into crust; freeze.

Debbie Hinman, Carter

Please send your favorite dessert, salad and garden produce 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 2016. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Sioux Valley Energy

ANNUAL MEETING

Sioux Valley Energy Annual Meeting was as hot as fire!

More than 800 members and guests attended Sioux Valley Energy's annual meeting and member appreciation event on June 6th at the Swiftel Center in Brookings. The family fun event featured something for everyone: bingo, children's activities, fire dancing, aerials, and contortionists.

During the business meeting, the membership voted to approve the one proposed bylaw amendment which changed the way director vacancies are handled. Manager Tim McCarthy introduced the current EmPOWER Youth class and was happy to report that more than 60 young people will be taking part in next year's class.

Eight employees-- Greg Meyer, Kathy Nepp, Mike Gengler, Kevin Leighton, Sharla Haugen, Dave Ossefoort, Tom Sebert and Jason Sage were recognized for their collective 250 years of service to Sioux Valley Energy.

The entertainment of the evening was provided by "FlowTricks" which lit up the crowd with their amazing fire dancing.

Thanks to the generosity of the members, over 700 pounds of food items were donated to local food pantries.





On the Trail, Time Slows Down and History Comes **Alive**

FOR A FEW DAYS EACH SUMMER, PARTICIPANTS IN area wagon trains slow it down a notch as they roll across the prairie, often times retracing portions of the state's history.

By
Brenda
Kleinjan

Large wagon trains have been organized for the past several years, one in 2014 commemorated South Dakota's 125th year of statehood, tracing a route from the former Territorial Capitol of Yankton, S.D., to the State Capitol in Pierre, S.D., during a 17-day ride.

Others have wound through the state connecting communities via horse- and oxen-drawn conveyances.

"It's our heritage; if we don't pass it on down, it will get lost," said Willie Cowan of Pierre who has participated in several wagon trains and is an organizer of the upcoming one-day event planned for the Dakota Western Heritage Festival Sept. 16 in Fort Pierre.

When Cowan and his wife, Loretta, started participating in wagon trains about 10 years ago, it took him a bit to recall all the steps involved in relying on horsepower.

"The skills I had learned as a boy took a while to remember," said Cowan.

But those skills came back as did the realization that when on the ride, one is focused on the task at hand – caring for the horses, looking for obstacles and moving toward one's destination at a speed that allows one to really observe and enjoy the surroundings.

For the Cowans, who are no strangers to rodeo and western life (Willie himself was a state high school saddle bronc champion in the mid-1950s), the wagon trains are a family affair. Their children and grandchildren also participate, either with one of the family's various wagons or as outriders with the train.



Photos by Colleen McCurtin



“The most enjoyable part is the kids and observing what they get out of the experience,” said Willie.

As one rolls along the prairie behind the team of horses, Cowan says one ponders things.

“The first thing you wonder is how they got across the prairies with water. They had to follow creeks and rivers,” noted Cowan.

“It gives you a greater appreciation for what those people went through,” said Loretta.

Willie says he has nothing to prove with his wagons and favors modern improvements over authenticity on his wagons.

“The ride on our big wagon is like a Cadillac, not bone jarring,” said Willie. Nylon ropes rather than leather are less likely to break and cause problems, rubber tires smooth out the ride compared to the jarring of wooden wheels.

For the Cowans’ daughter, Colleen McCurrin, the entire process of the wagon train builds a better understanding of western history.

“It’s part of the heritage; it’s how we got here. The people who settled the area arrived in wagons of many shapes and doctor buggies – everyone hitched up a team to do their jobs,” said McCurrin.

The variety of wagons that show up for a wagon train ride bring that heritage to life, and help participants envision days gone by.

For Loretta, the wagon trains helped realize a

life-long dream.

“It was always a dream of mine to stand in the wagon ruts of the freight trains that ran from Fort Pierre to Deadwood,” said Loretta. In the Fort Pierre to Deadwood ride a few years back, she achieved that dream.

“It’s a tangible thing – you can touch the history.”

Her daughter is quick to expand on the comment.

“It’s a tangible thing – you can touch the history,” said Colleen.

And one connects.

“It takes a bit to getting away from needing to get from point A to point B in three hours; on the rides, you might have 10 days,” said McCurrin. “You have to gear down and change mentality.”

The Cowans note that another feature of wagon trains is the camaraderie amongst the participants.

“Everyone helps everybody. If your outfit breaks down, they’re all there to help,” said Willie.

In 2015, the Dakota Western Heritage Festival took participants through a buffalo farm near Fort Pierre and over to the Scotty Phillips Cemetery, named for the Scottish-born rancher and state politician who is credited as “the man who saved the buffalo.”

The 2016 train will take a different trek exploring history to the southwest of town.

The public is welcomed to attend the Dakota Western Heritage Festival. There are limited opportunities for individuals to ride with a wagon.

Above: The Fort Pierre Livestock cattle yard is visible in the background of this photo taken during the wagon train at the Dakota Western Heritage Festival. **Opposite page:** Willie Cowan of Pierre drives a wagon in a train in western South Dakota. **Cover:** A wagon and outriders make a crossing of a waterway during a wagon train in western South Dakota.

Safety is Sky High at SVE

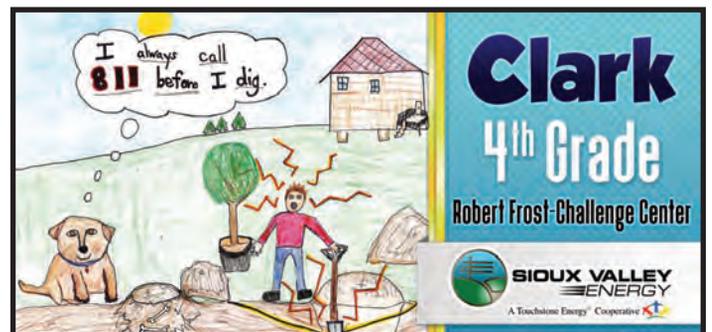
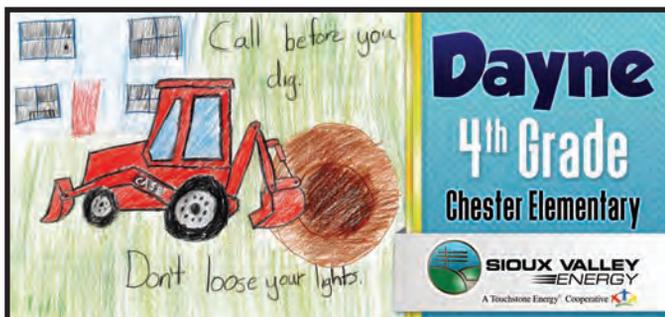
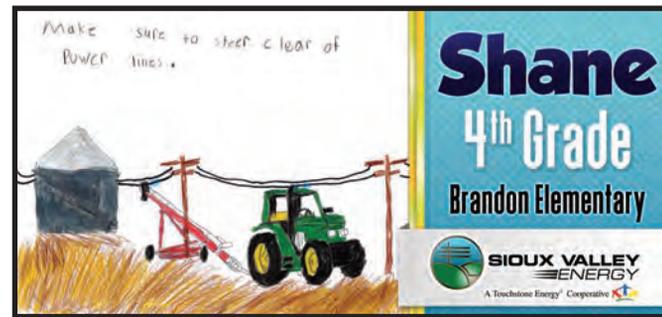
More than 2,400 Sioux Valley Energy members helped choose the top three winners for the 2016 Safety Poster Contest. Members voted on their favorite posters--400 posters were entered by fourth graders from local schools. The winners received a \$50 cash prize in addition to having their poster displayed on a Lamar billboard. Look for the billboards of our contest winners throughout the month of June.

A 4th grader at Brandon Elementary School, Shane Bolcerek, won with his safety poster cautioning farmers to steer clear of power lines. Shane is the son of Brian and Janice Bolcerek. His poster will be located on a billboard on East 12th Street in Sioux Falls.

Dayne Wyszynski, a student at Chester Elementary in Chester, won with his poster warning people to call before you dig. He is the son of Derek and Bess Wyszynski. His poster will be displayed on Highway 34, west of Egan.

"I Always Call 811 Before I Dig" is the safety message that Clark Egland, a Robert Frost-Challenge Center fourth grader, displayed on his safety poster. He is the Son of Paul and Kristi Egland. His poster will be on display on the bypass of Highway 38 and I-29.

Sioux Valley Energy places a strong emphasis on educating the public on the benefits and dangers of electricity and is proud to partner with Lamar Advertising to get the message out. The annual safety poster contest is designed to help teachers incorporate electrical safety messages into their lesson plans and draw attention to the general public.



Top: Terry Ebright, SVE Safety Coordinator, Shane Bolcerek and Matt Seivert, Journey Lineworker.

Bottom Left: Dayne Wyszynski and Debra Bieber, SVE Director of Customer and Employee Relations.

Bottom Right: Dan Doyle, SVE Journey Lineworker, Clark Egland (winner), Siyanne Redda (finalist) and Terry Ebright, SVE Safety Coordinator

ORU Supports Summer Transition Program

Many young adults can't wait to leave the comforts of home and go out into the world—ready or not. But for others, transitioning into adulthood does not come as easy. Independent Living Choices offers a reality-based Summer Transition Program to help youth with disabilities ages 14-21 develop the skills necessary for independent living including employment, community participation, adult services, and secondary education. The agency covers Brookings, Lake, Moody and Minnehaha Counties in Sioux Valley Energy's territory and has offices in Aberdeen, Brookings, Huron, Mitchell, Sioux Falls, and Watertown.

The program teaches students self-advocacy skills, social skills, and independent living skills such as cooking, cleaning, budgeting, and grocery shopping. Students will learn how to use the local public transportation and will be given information on available housing options. The summer program provides opportunities for field trips and hands-on learning experiences, as well as guest speakers from community resources. Each student sets individual goals to achieve so the program is customized to the growth and success of transitioning each participant.

Independent Living Choices received an Operation Round-up grant of \$1,000 to assist in purchasing curriculum and

supplies for the Summer Transition Program. The funding allowed them to update their curriculum to include advances made in technology that students will be expected to use. Matt Cain, ILC Executive Director, shared "The Operation Round-up funds from Sioux Valley Energy helped Independent Living Choices provide services to people with disabilities who make independence their choice. The funds were specifically used for our summer transition class to help young adults with disabilities as they move from a family living situation to an independent setting where they need to make choices, decisions, and encounter life experiences on their own. Thank you for your support of our program!"

For more information on the Independent Living Choices or their Summer Transition Program, contact Matt Cain at 605-362-3550.



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Innovation

Could Put Coal Use in a Whole New Light

By
Paul Wesslund

SINCE COAL GENERATED MORE THAN HALF THE nation's electricity as recently as 10 years ago, that share has fallen to one-third as of last year. The decline of coal generation will continue as new environmental rules are set in place and prices for natural gas remain relatively low.

So it's curtains for coal, right? Not so fast.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan still calls for more than one-fifth of our electricity to come from coal by its 2030 target date.

Even President Obama's Energy Secretary sees a future for coal.

"We are talking about a progressively lower-carbon future, but we have not abandoned coal as part of that future," Secretary Ernest Moniz told the Lexington (Kentucky) Herald-Leader in April. "Coal can play a major role in a low-carbon economy."

A role for coal is important, says Daniel Walsh, senior program manager for generation, environment and carbon at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Citing the huge coal supply in the U.S., Walsh sees coal as a key

to energy security. "We need to use this valuable resource we have in this country."

Achieving that brighter future for coal could depend on huge improvements to a technology called carbon capture.

Carbon capture seeks to solve a top environmental complaint about coal, which is that burning it releases carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that has been linked to climate change. Grabbing the carbon dioxide before it leaves the power plant would keep it out of the atmosphere.

Carbon capture is still a developing technology, with 15 test plants in the world and seven more coming online by 2017, according to an international industry group. One of the main holdups to that development is that the technology is expensive to build and operate. Really expensive.

Running carbon capture equipment at a power plant uses about one-third of the electricity produced by that power plant.

As daunting and inefficient as that sounds, Moniz cites \$6 billion spent on carbon capture research by the Department of Energy as proof of his



optimism. NRECA's Walsh believes in the power of researchers to make carbon capture costs competitive.

"We will continue to see innovation," says Walsh. "We're going to be successful."

One reason for that sunny outlook comes from a 35-year trend of finding cleaner and more efficient ways to burn coal. Since 1970, electric utilities in the U.S. have reduced pollution regulated by the federal Clean Air Act by more than 60 percent. Techniques have ranged from washing coal with water, to burning it at lower temperatures to release less harmful chemicals, to large and expensive flue gas desulfurization equipment, also called scrubbers.

Over the decades, those technologies improved, says Kirk Johnson, NRECA senior vice president for government relations. He says those improvements can be a model for carbon capture.

"We didn't start out with scrubbers that achieved a better-than 90 percent reduction in sulfur dioxide removal, but we ultimately got there," says Johnson. "The future has got to be in continued research."

Electric co-ops launched a drive to that success with the April ground breaking for the Integrated Test Center in Wyoming. Operation is scheduled for summer 2017. The state of Wyoming is funding \$15 million of the center, which will be built at the site of the existing Dry Fork Station, a coal plant owned by Basin Electric Cooperative, a regional co-op based in North Dakota. Another \$5 million of support will come from another regional co-op, Denver-based Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, and \$1 million from NRECA.

The test center aims to advance carbon capture research by focusing on a looming question about the technology – once you capture the carbon dioxide, what do you do with it? The test center focus will be on a new area of carbon capture work that is even changing the name of the technology.

For years the process has been referred to as CCS – for Carbon Capture and Storage (or Sequestration). Geologists looked for underground formations where the carbon dioxide could be stored safely and permanently. An evolving terminology refers to CCU, for Carbon Capture and Utilization, or CCR, for Carbon Capture and Recycling.

The idea is that one way to make carbon capture more cost-effective would be to find commercial or other uses for the carbon dioxide that produces a better return on investment than burying it underground. Researchers at the test center will be able to use carbon dioxide from the Dry Fork Station to run tests. Among the first researchers, the test center will host teams competing for part of \$20 million

in XPRIZES on ways to use carbon dioxide (CO₂) at power plants. The XPRIZE Foundation supports innovation in several areas, and its recent call for entries reads, "Do you have what it takes to turn CO₂ emissions into valuable products?"



CAPTURING CARBON

Researchers around the world are studying ways to capture carbon from coal-fired power plants to keep the greenhouse gas from entering the atmosphere. There are 15 test plants around the world that remove flue gas to test the technology for removing the greenhouse gas.

There's reason to believe that lofty challenge might succeed at the test center, says NRECA Communications Manager John Pulley. He describes the plans as bringing researchers in to develop their ideas in the "real-world" setting of a power plant.

"Once you have a facility like this in place that will allow people to test their great ideas, the sky's the limit," he says. "People might look at coal in an entirely new light."

Paul Wesslund writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Electrifying Ways to Help Kids be Smart Energy Users

D ID YOU TURN OFF THE LIGHTS IN YOUR ROOM?”
“We’re not paying to heat the whole neighborhood!”

“Save some hot water for the rest of us!”

Across America, parents utter these phrases to their children countless times each day. Despite their best efforts, it can be tough to help kids understand the importance of saving energy – and to put that knowledge into action.

Few people have more experience talking about energy efficiency than the communication professionals who work at America’s electric cooperatives. So we asked them how they persuade the toughest audience they face every day: their kids.

Here are a few of their tips.

Deputize an “energy enforcer”

Several parents recommended deputizing children to investigate wasteful energy practices.

When her children were young, Heidi Smith

of Tideland Electric Membership Corporation in North Carolina let them take turns playing the role of energy deputy.

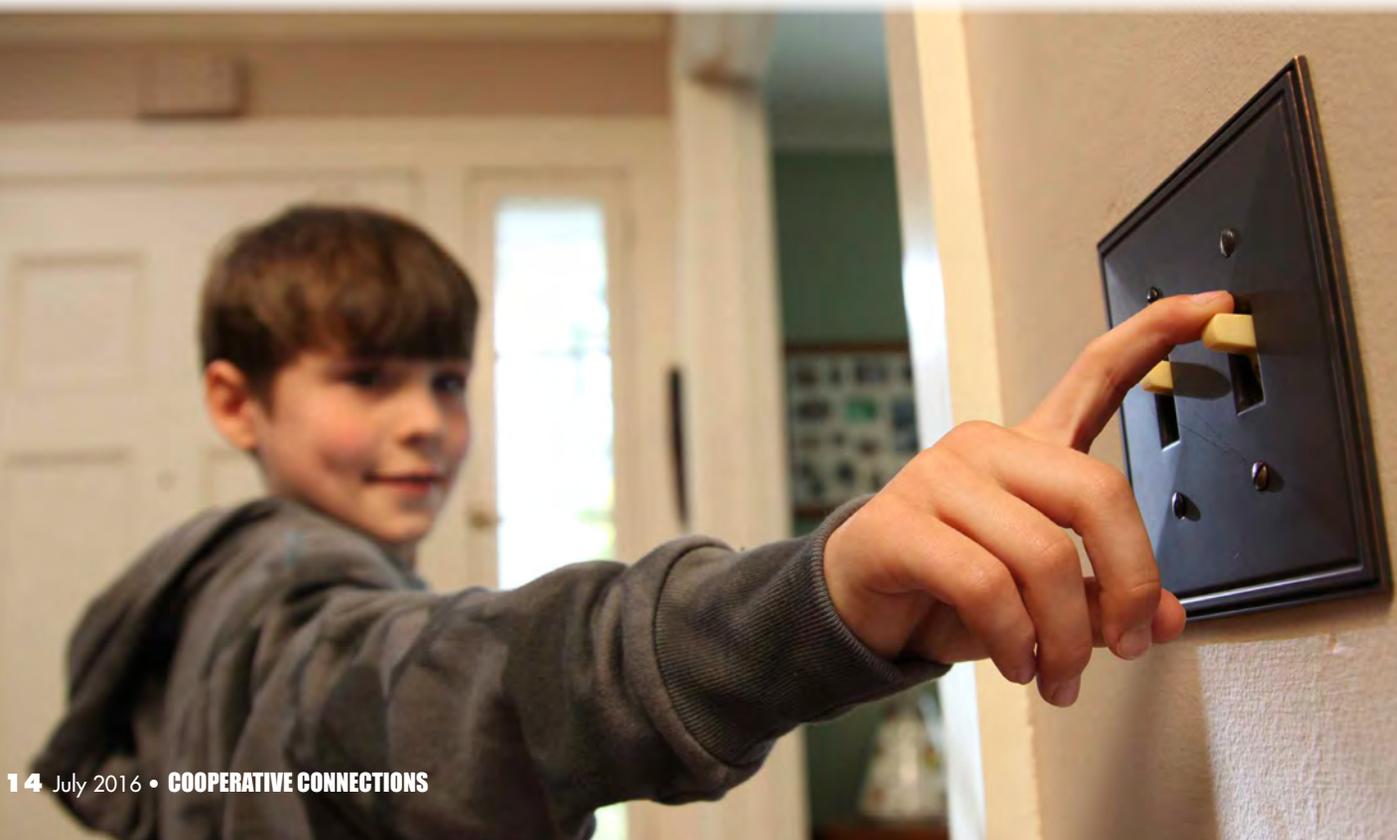
Each week, the appointed child was given a badge and empowered to seek out energy waste and hold the offending party accountable.

“My youngest son took it so seriously that he once cracked open the bathroom door and reached in to turn off the light on his dad after he decided daddy had been in there long enough,” Smith said. “All five of my children are now grown, but they continue to practice energy efficiency in their own lives.”

Diana Hersch of Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative in Ohio offered a slightly different twist on the same idea. She suggests offering your little energy deputies a bounty for finding leaks, drafts and other wasteful energy practices around the house.

Their progress can be tracked with stickers on a calendar and when the kids reach their goal, they

By Justin LaBerge



can be rewarded with a sheriff's badge or another small toy of their choice.

Penalty stroke

In addition to teaching her patience and discipline, the rounds of golf Jim Nimmo plays with his 11-year-old-daughter have turned into valuable lessons in energy conservation.

Nimmo, of Farmers Electric Cooperative in Texas, has started adding a penalty stroke to his daughter's score for each time he's had to turn off her bedroom light and fan since their last round.

"It gives new meaning to the term penalty stroke," Nimmo said. "We don't have much of a problem anymore." No word on whether his daughter is allowed to return the favor.

The invisible hand

If your child's hand never seems to find its way to the light switch, perhaps the invisible hand of the free market can help them out.

Katie Kothmann Haby of Medina Electric Cooperative in Texas said her dad used to fine her 25 cents for every light bulb she and her siblings left on in their rooms. For her ceiling fan with four bulbs, that was a costly mistake.

"It taught us that electricity really did cost money since we had to pay when we didn't conserve it," Haby said. Though her daughter is only 2 years old, Haby says she plans to use the same approach when she's older.

Game Theory

Other creative strategies to inspire kids to do their chores and keep peace in the home can be found in *The Game Theorist's Guide to Parenting*. The recently published book, written by Paul Raeburn and Kevin Zollman, shows how Game Theory can be applied to many of daily transactions of parenting, such as sharing, dividing, collaborating and compromising.

No matter what the approach, talking to kids about energy use is sure to pay dividends. They might not always follow through, but they'll be learning important lessons about the value of energy and the importance of conservation that can last a lifetime.

Justin LaBerge writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

FIVE QUICK TIPS TO SAVE ENERGY

AN ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOME WILL KEEP YOUR FAMILY COMFORTABLE WHILE SAVING YOU MONEY. THERE ARE SIMPLE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO SEE LOWER ENERGY BILLS.

Install a programmable thermostat to lower utility bills and manage your heating and cooling systems efficiently.

Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players, into power strips; turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use -- TVs and DVDs in standby mode still use several watts of power.

Take short showers instead of baths and use low-flow showerheads for additional energy savings.

Check to see that windows and doors are closed when heating or cooling your home.

When washing clothes, a simple switch from hot water to cold water can save a great deal of energy. Consider air drying or even line drying to save even more household energy.

Source: energy.gov

Regional Dateline

June 26

Prairie Village Variety Show
Prairie Village, Madison, SD
605-256-3644

July 2

Free Gospel Concert, 1 to 5 p.m.
Brandon Valley High School
Performing Arts Center
Brandon, SD, Contact Marv
Veldkamp at 605-582-8714 or
605-728-4560

July 9

Gardening with the Masters
"Garden Watering and
Weeding in Situ" SHUMC
Community Garden
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-362-2777

July 9-10

Summer Arts Festival
Pioneer Park, Brookings, SD

July 11

Gardening with the Masters
"The Good, The Bad and The
Ugly" Outdoor Campus
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-362-2777

July 21

Party Like It's 1945 Hanger
Dance, 7 to 11 p.m.
Maverick Air Center at
Sioux Falls Regional Airport
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-594-2978
www.cafjoefoss.com

July 22-23

South Dakota Senior Games
Brookings, SD, Traci Saugstad
at 605-692-4492

July 28

Ag PhD Field Day
Baltic, SD, 605-529-5412
www.agphd.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOWARD BICH

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

July 8-9

South Dakota Senior Games
Madison, SD, Bernie
Schuurmans at 605-270-3327

July 9-10

Railroad Days, Free Hobo
Stew Sunday, Prairie Village
Madison, SD, 605-256-3644
www.prairievillage.ofg

July 30

Doug Allen Nash Country
Music Concert, Prairie Village
Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

July 30

Women in the Outdoors
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Hunter's
Pointe, Humboldt, SD
605-553-3634 or
605-366-8528

July 30

RSVP Outdoor Vendor and Craft
Show, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
In conjunction with Crazy Days
Mitchell, SD, 605-995-8440

August 1

Gardening with the Masters
"Baby It's Hot Outside"
Outdoor Campus
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-362-2777

August 6

Gardening with the Masters
"Garden Harvesting in Situ"
Lincoln El Community Garden
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-362-2777

August 7

23rd Annual Madison Car
Show, Prairie Village
Madison, SD, 605-256-3644
www.prairievillage.org

August 25-28

54th Annual Steam
Threshing Jamboree featuring
the Massey Expo of North
America, Parades, largest
flea market in the area, over
700 antique tractors, antique
car show, horse and steam
powered threshing, saw mill &
machinery demonstrations
wagon train, tractor pulls
train & carousel rides, musical
entertainment, food and
family fun, Prairie Village
Madison, SD, 605-256-3644
www.prairievillage.org

August 25-28

National Park Service's 100th
Birthday, Fee Free Days
Pipestone National Monument
Pipestone, MN, 507-825-5464

August 27

Poker Run/Supper/Silent
Auction, Special Olympics
United Wolf Pack Team
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-261-9341

August 27

McCrossan Boys Ranch Xtreme
Event Rodeo, 4 p.m. - Gates
open, 4:30 p.m. - Pre-show
entertainment, 5:30 p.m. -
Rodeo Show Begins, McCrossan
Boys Ranch Campus
605-339-1203

September 12

Gardening with the Masters
"Putting It to Bed" Outdoor
Campus, Sioux Falls, SD
605-362-2777

October 1

Pumpkin Train, Ride the train
to the pumpkin patch and kids
pick pumpkins, Prairie Village
Madison, SD, 605-256-3644
www.prairievillage.org