



# Cooperative Connections

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Is Key**

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The Electric Grid

# Investing in Your Power



**Tim McCarthy, GM/CEO**

[tim.mccarthy@siouxvalleyenergy.com](mailto:tim.mccarthy@siouxvalleyenergy.com)

**This past month Sioux Valley Energy** sent 53 members and 20 EmPOWER youth students on a bus trip to Bismarck, North Dakota. While Bismarck may not seem like a tropical destination, it is the hub of energy here in the Northern Plains. That is where Sioux Valley Energy's main wholesale power supplier, Basin Electric, headquarters is located. The reason we send members and students to North Dakota each summer is because it offers a firsthand experience of how electricity is made and how it eventually makes it to your home or business.

Sioux Valley Energy and its power suppliers have an investment of approximately \$24,500 per member. This is just to get electricity from the generation facility to the member's light switch! That is an incredible amount, but it's an investment that helps provide reliable electricity to our members with 24/7 availability. We would love to be able to say that we don't have any outages but that is just not the case. Even though the cooperative system has been 99.98 percent reliable there is still room for improvement. Our promise is that we will continue to work hard for you, the members, to have as reliable of a system as possible.

So, what exactly does it take to make electricity? For Sioux Valley Energy members, it all starts at the generator and our wholesale power supplier has built an entire fleet of generating assets to make sure we have enough electricity 24/7 to power your homes and businesses. Not all power generation is the same, however. At the core, we need something called "baseload" assets. It's the workhorse of electric generation. Typically, these assets are coal plants. They run 24/7 and provide enough electricity for our members on an average day. We also have something called an "intermediate" power plant. This does not run all day but generates electricity from natural gas for an average of 20 hours a day. Our power supplier can use this asset in combination with wind to offer near-baseload capacity. However, you can't always count on the wind, so it is considered "intermediate". And finally, we have "peaking" facilities. These power generating assets provide power when there is high demand for electricity during extremely hot and cold weather. In essence, we can turn them on and off when needed. That sounds great, but unfortunately, they are the most expensive forms of generation, so we only want to use them when necessary.

Most Sioux Valley Energy members also get some power from the hydro-electric dams that span the Missouri River through the Western Area Power Administration. This, by far, is the most affordable form of power generation for Sioux Valley Energy. The catch, however, is that we have a limited allocation of hydroelectricity which only provides around 18 percent of our power to members.

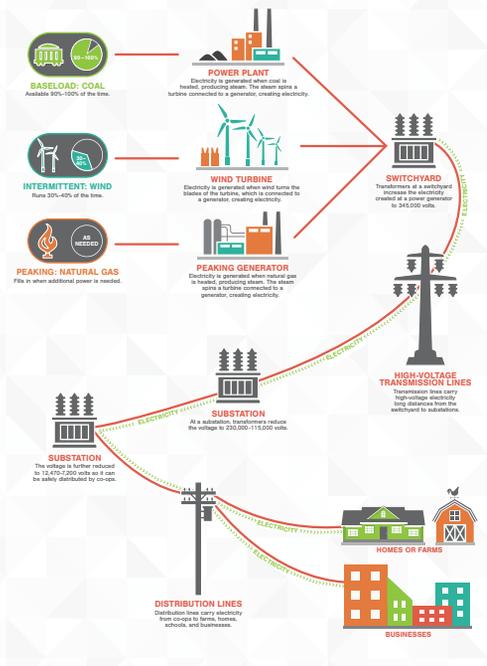
Approximately 900 of our members were welcomed to the co-op after Sioux Valley, along with 12 other co-ops, purchased electric assets of an investor owned utility in Minnesota. As a part of that agreement, Sioux Valley is required to purchase the wholesale power used to serve those 900 members from the investor owned utility for 10 years. Once that obligation is complete, all our members will be served with the diverse generating assets of Basin Electric and the Western Area Power Administration.

While electric generation is the core of delivering power to your home and business, we also need infrastructure to get the power there. That is where transmission and distribution equipment and lines come into play. Sioux Valley Energy's distribution system is just one piece of the puzzle, yet we maintain more than 6,000 miles of line to serve our membership. Our transmission power suppliers (East River Electric and L&O Power) have even more!

As you can see, the electric grid is a complicated system that requires a lot of resources and equipment to make it all work. Sioux Valley Energy, and its power suppliers, are up to the challenge. We will continue to maintain, improve and expand the electrical system to make sure you have the electricity you need when you need it. It's all a part of our commitment to you: Serving our members. Always.

## PATH OF ELECTRICITY

*From generator to switch*



# Sioux Valley Energy

## Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 497-440)

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**How to contact us:**  
**Phone: 1-800-234-1960**  
**e-mail: [sve@siouxvalleyenergy.com](mailto:sve@siouxvalleyenergy.com)**  
**Website: [www.sioxvalleyenergy.com](http://www.sioxvalleyenergy.com)**

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Sioux Valley Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Home Energy Makeover Contest Winner Announced



Michael, Natalie and Gabriella Watson of Brookings were the winners of the energy star dehumidifier for the ninth Energy Makeover Contest challenge.



## Recycle CFLs!

*Sioux Valley Energy offers its members a CFL recycling service. Just bring your spent bulbs to one of our three service centers in Colman, Brandon or Pipestone.*

**Bulbs must be wrapped in paper towels and placed in a sealed zip-lock bag.**

Sioux Valley Energy will not accept any broken CFL bulbs.

## College Bound?

### Keep Safety in Mind

There are several specific causes for fires on in on- and off-campus college housing, including cooking, candles, smoking and overloaded power strips. For most students, the last fire safety training they received was in grade school, but with new independence comes new responsibilities. It is important that both off-campus and on-campus students know their fire risks and prevention actions that could save their lives.

### Cooking

- Cook only where it is allowed.
- Keep your cooking area clean and free of anything that can burn.
- Keep an eye on what you are cooking, especially if you are cooking at high temperatures.
- If a fire starts in a microwave, keep the door closed and unplug the unit.

### Candles

- Place candles in sturdy holders.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Keep candles away from anything that can burn.
- Use safe flameless candles.

### Smoking

- Make sure cigarettes and ashes are out. Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash can.
- Use deep, wide ashtrays. Place ashtrays on something sturdy and hard to burn.
- After a party, check for cigarette butts, especially under cushions. Chairs and sofas catch on fire fast and burn fast.
- Don't smoke when you have been drinking or are drowsy.

### Electrical safety

- Keep lamps, light fixtures, and light bulbs away from anything that can burn.
- Never use an extension cord with large appliances, like a refrigerator.
- Do not overload outlets.
- Use only surge protectors or power strips that have internal overload protection.

Source: U.S. Fire Administration

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/college.html>

## Are You Registered?

National Voter Registration Day is a national holiday celebrating our democracy. It was first observed in 2012 and has been growing in popularity every year since. Held on the fourth Tuesday of September, National Voter Registration Day will be observed on Tuesday, Sept. 25, this year. The holiday has been endorsed by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS). It is further supported by the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED).

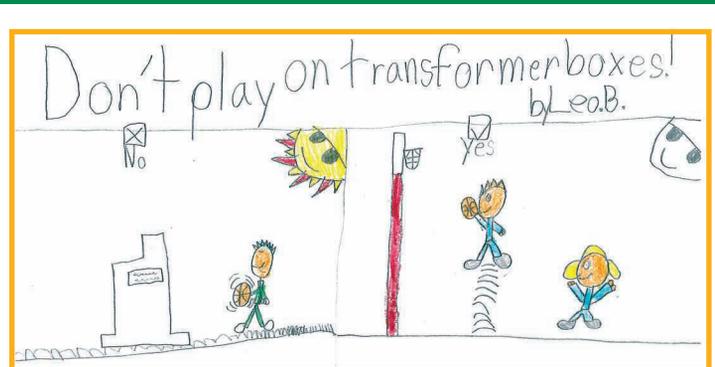
South Dakotans seeking to vote in the Nov. 6 general election must be a U.S. citizen residing in South Dakota and be 18 years old on or before Election Day. Voter registration forms must be received by the county auditor 15 days before the election day. Additionally, those seeking to vote may register at the county auditor's office, a driver's license station, city finance office, public assistance agencies providing food stamps, TANF or WIC, Department of Human Services offices which provide assistance to the disabled or military recruitment offices.

Minnesotans must be a resident of the state for 20 days prior to the election. They can register online, in person or on election day.

For more information, visit <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/> or call the Minnesota Secretary of State's office at 1-877-600-VOTE (8683) or contact your county election office.



## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



### "Don't play on transformer boxes."

Leo Bakeberg IV, Second-grader at Dupree Public School

Leo is the son of Leo Bakeburg and Amanda Grewe, Dupree, S.D. They are members of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Timber Lake, 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.

# Garden Goodness

## Cheesy Sausage and Potato Skillet Casserole

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 8 oz. bulk breakfast sausage, crumbled | 1/4 tsp. McCormick® Black Pepper, Coarse Ground   |
| 1 medium onion, chopped                | 1-1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese             |
| 1 medium green bell pepper, chopped    | 1 cup crumbled feta cheese                        |
| 6 eggs                                 | 2 plum tomatoes, seeded and chopped               |
| 1 cup milk                             | 1 T. oil  |
| 1 T. McCormick® Oregano Leaves         | 1 (20 oz.) pkg. refrigerated shredded hash browns |
| 1/2 tsp. salt                          |   |

Cook and stir sausage in large skillet on medium heat 5 minutes or until lightly browned. Add onion and bell pepper; cook and stir 5 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Set aside. Beat eggs in large bowl with wire whisk. Add milk, oregano, salt and pepper; mix well. Add sausage mixture, cheeses and tomatoes; mix well. Set aside. Pour oil into same skillet, swirling to coat the pan. Spread hash browns in bottom and up sides of pan. Pour egg mixture over potatoes. Cover. Cook on medium heat 10 to 15 minutes or until eggs are set. Makes 12 servings

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 221, Total Fat 13g, Saturated Fat 6g, Cholesterol 122mg, Sodium 477mg, Protein 12g, Carbohydrates 14g, Dietary Fiber 2g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Zucchini Hot Dish

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1 medium unpeeled zucchini, washed, seeded and cut into chunks | Sliced onion           |
|  | Sliced green pepper    |
| 1-1/4 cups uncooked rice                                       | American cheese slices |
| Fresh sliced tomatoes  | Uncooked bacon         |

Spray a 10x10-inch casserole dish. Layer zucchini chunks in bottom of pan. Sprinkle rice over top of zucchini. Place a layer of tomatoes, sprinkled with oregano, salt and pepper over rice. Next, top this with a layer of onion, green pepper and cheese slices. Lastly, place layer of bacon over all. Bake, covered, at 350°F. for 1-1/2 hours. The raw ingredients will provide enough moisture to cook the rice.

**Gail Lyngstad, Pierre, SD**

## Sandi's Tomato Garden Salad

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 3/4 cup sugar            | 6 large tomatoes, coarsely chopped       |
| 1/2 cup olive oil        | 1 large onion, coarsely chopped          |
| 2/3 cup tarragon vinegar | 2 green peppers, coarsely chopped        |
| 2 T. yellow mustard      | 2 cucumbers, coarsely chopped (optional) |
| 2 T. parsley             | Rotini noodles, cooked                   |
| 1 tsp. basil             |  |
| 1 tsp. thyme             |  |
| Salt and pepper to taste |  |

In a large bowl, mix together first 8 ingredients. Add vegetables. Refrigerate overnight.

**Sandi Polkinghorn, Lake City, SD**

## Apple Corn Bread Crisp

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 4 cups peeled, sliced tart apples, about 4 to 5 medium | 1 (8.5 oz.) pkg. corn bread/muffin mix |
| 3/4 cup packed brown sugar, divided                    | 1 tsp. ground cinnamon (or to taste)   |
| 1/2 cup quick-cooking oats                             | 5 T. cold butter, cubed                |

Stir together apples and 1/4 cup brown sugar. In another bowl, combine corn bread mix, oats, cinnamon and remaining brown sugar. Cut in butter until crumbly. Add 1/2 cup corn bread mixture to apples. Transfer to a greased 8-inch square baking dish. Sprinkle remaining corn bread mixture over top. Bake at 350°F. for 30 to 35 minutes or until filling is bubbly and topping golden brown. Serve warm.

**Jean Osterman, Wheaton, MN**

Please send your favorite pasta, slow cooker and holiday favorites 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 2018. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

This is the last month  
to enter the Energy  
Makeover Contest.  
Thanks for taking part  
all year long!

# 12 MONTH CHALLENGE TO SAVE MONEY AND WIN BIG!

## You Could be a Winner!

**Over the last 12 months**, we have shared with you a year's worth of energy savings ideas. Many members took part in the monthly 'Energy Makeover Contest' and also asked for more information. Our goal was to get people thinking about their everyday electricity use and how they can be more efficient...well, it worked! Thank you for taking part in the monthly contest.

Please complete the entry below and mail to Sioux Valley Energy, Energy Makeover Contest, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017. The entry is also available online at [www.siouxvalleyenergy.com](http://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com). One entry per member. Challenge Month 12 entry must be received by September 30th to be eligible for the drawing.

**ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN OUR ENERGY MAKEOVER CONTEST GRAND PRIZE - A MARATHON OR WESTINGHOUSE WATER HEATER OR \$400 BILL CREDIT! THE WATER HEATER MUST BE PLACED IN A SERVICE RECEIVING ELECTRICITY FROM SIOUX VALLEY ENERGY AND APPLICABLE TO THE TERMS OF OUR WATER HEATER PROGRAM. THE MEMBER MUST AGREE TO ALLOW THE WATER HEATER TO BE CONNECTED TO THE LOAD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM WITHIN 90 DAYS OF DELIVERY. THE MEMBER WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INSTALLATION AND ASSOCIATED COSTS. IN LIEU OF WINNING THE WATER HEATER, A MEMBER CAN CHOOSE THE OPTION OF A \$400 BILL CREDIT.**

## CHALLENGE MONTH TWELVE

### DON'T LET YOUR WATER HEATER DRAIN YOUR BILL

Water heating ranks in the top five energy users in U.S. homes. It accounts for about 16% of your energy bill based on the national average. Your water heater works with many of your home's other systems. Here are a few ways you can save energy and reduce your water heating costs. Turn down your water heater to 120 degrees. This will also slow mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes. Consider insulating your hot water pipes. Doing so can reduce heat loss, allow you to lower the temperature setting and save an additional 3 to 4 percent per year on water heating. You can also insulate your water heater tank, which could reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent and save you up to 9% in water heating costs. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets to make the job easier. Installing a water softener in areas with hard water will help with sediment buildup and the performance of your water heater. Refer to your owner's manual for regular maintenance. Other tips to conserve hot water in your home include installing low-flow showerheads and changing your laundry habits. Wait to do full loads which means fewer cycles. Use the cold or warm setting to wash and cold to rinse.

If you are in the market for a new water heater, there's four things to think about: tank size, type of energy, warranty and overall efficiency. Sioux Valley Energy has an unbeatable water heater program. We carry energy efficient electric Marathon water heaters for residential applications and Westinghouse water heaters for ag/commercial applications. Get the peace of mind in having a water heater that is guaranteed not to leak for as long as you own your home or business (some restrictions apply). Water heaters are connected to a load management program that helps shift demand during peak usage on the system benefiting the overall rates for members. Contact SVE for more information and to learn how you can purchase the last water heater you will ever need to buy for \$400 plus applicable tax.

**This month's challenge:** Inspect your water heater. Can you make any changes to improve the efficiency of your water heater and to save on energy costs such as turning down your water heater to 120 degrees, insulating your hot water pipes or water heater tank, and changing your laundry habits? If you are in the market for a new water heater, contact SVE at 800-234-1960 to learn more about our energy efficient water heater program.

## Water Heater Drain

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Why would you like to win an energy efficient Marathon or Westinghouse water heater? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of water heater do you currently have?

electric  natural gas  propane  on-demand system

Have you made any changes to improve the efficiency of your water heater or to save on energy costs? yes  no

What information was the most valuable over the last 12 months?  
What programs and incentives would you like to see offered by SVE?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### I would like more information on:

Sealing/Insulation Guide  Heat pump rebate  Residential LED program  Commercial/Ag LED program  Weatherization Program  Yard Light rebate  Residential Water Heater  Energy Audit  Electric Heat Rate  Electric Car Charging Rate  Time of use Rate  Energy Tips  Commercial/Ag Water Heater  Third Party Irrigation Rebate

# 'Pop-Up' Picnics

Hundreds of Sioux Valley Energy members took part in the first-ever Co-op 'Pop-Up' picnics. Board members and staff visited with members while they enjoyed a meal of brats and hotdogs. Pictured below are the picnics that took place in Hartford, Colman and Pipestone.



# Senator Thune Talks Energy

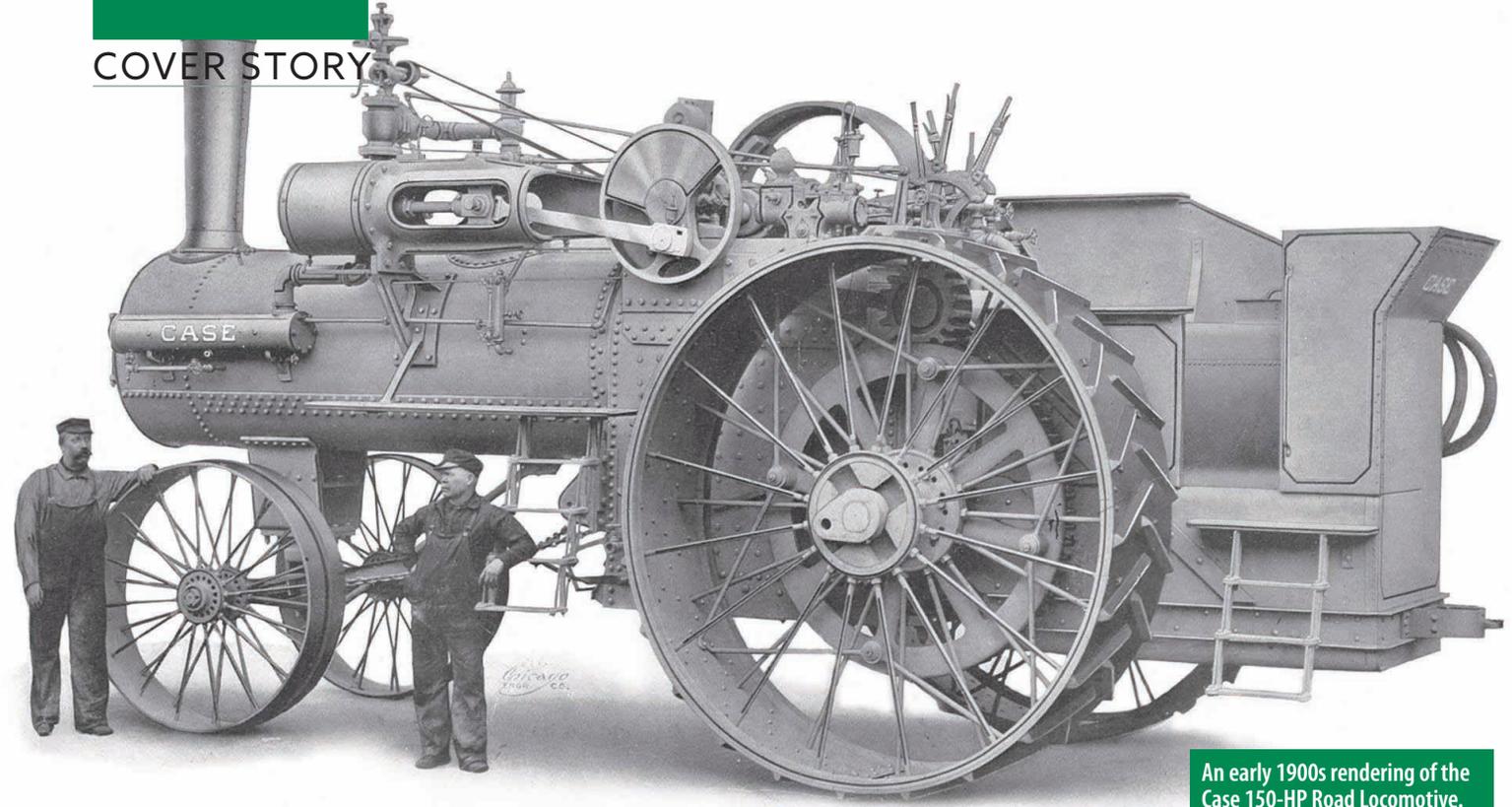


Back Row, L to R: Sioux Valley Energy Employees, Lori George, Sarina Hanson and Carrie Vugteveen. Front Row, L to R: Sioux Valley Energy Employees, Jay Buchholz, Senator John Thune, Tim McCarthy and Debra Biever.

The third annual 'Take Action' forums took place during the month of August. U.S. Senator Thune was the keynote speaker for the August 8th event in Brandon, S.D. CEO and General Manager, Tim McCarthy, gave SVE members in attendance an update on legislative priorities for electric cooperatives. Those priorities focused around the Farm Bill which expires in September. Senator Thune and SVE Director of Communications and Government Relations, Carrie Vugteveen, discussed a variety of energy issues including the future of Power Marketing Administrations, an update on the Clean Power Plan and the Renewable Fuels Standard. Senator Thune then spent time answering questions from the audience. A second event took place in Pipestone Minn., featuring State Senator Bill Weber and State Representative Joe Schomacher.



Over 200 Sioux Valley Energy members attended the 'Take Action' event in Brandon featuring U.S. Senator John Thune.



An early 1900s rendering of the Case 150-HP Road Locomotive.

# STEAM POWER DREAM

## Recreating the Case 150-HP Road Locomotive

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdrea.coop

A legacy preserved in pictures and technical drawings has been brought back to life and debuts Sept. 7-9 at the James Valley Threshing and Tractor Club Show at Andover, S.D.

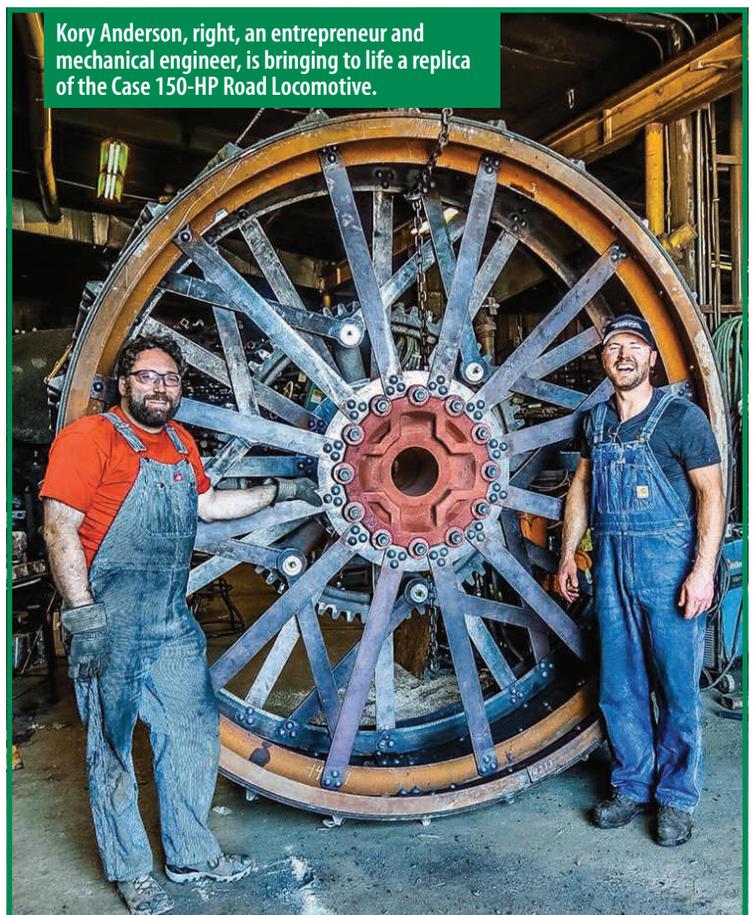
More than 100 years ago, the largest steam tractor ever produced – the 150-horsepower Case Road Locomotive – rolled off the drawing boards and onto the landscape. Fewer than 10 were produced and the behemoth's sheer power created technical issues for its ongoing reliability. But despite the issues that would eventually silence its massive engine, the giant – its rear wheels stood 8 feet tall and the front wheels reached the shoulders of a full-grown man – made an impression on Kory Anderson.

Anderson, an entrepreneur and mechanical engineer started with an idea 12 years ago to build a scale-model replica of the 25-foot, 10-foot wide machine. He spent the ensuing years researching the machine – including a visit to the Case archives in Wisconsin, recreating the drawings in CAD and researching what materials would overcome the original issues caused by lack of metallurgical advancements 100 years ago.

Anderson crafted mahogany molds for the parts that would need to be cast at Dakota Foundry in Webster. The services of an Amish boilermaker in Ohio would be secured.

The machine's rear wheels – each standing 8 feet tall and

Kory Anderson, right, an entrepreneur and mechanical engineer, is bringing to life a replica of the Case 150-HP Road Locomotive.



# Case 150-HP Road Locomotive Specifications

from the Case archive documents:

- **BOILER** - Shell 42 inches in diameter.
- **TUBES** - Ninety-three 2 inch tubes, 108 1/2 inches long, of cold drawn, seamless steel tubing
- **FIRE BOX** - 58 1/4 inches long, 39 1/4 inches wide, and 45 inches high, made of the best open-hearth flange steel.
- **HEATING SURFACE** of boiler, 515 square feet. Grate area of boiler is 15.8 square feet.
- **BOILER PRESSURE** - The boiler tested at 350 pounds hydrostatic pressure, and can carry 160 pounds as a working pressure.
- **WATER TANK** - The capacity of the tank is about 500 gallons
- **WATER FEED** - An ejector will fill the water tank in eight minutes from any stream or other accessible water supply
- **FUEL CAPACITY** - The coal capacity is about 2,750 pounds.
- **ENGINE CYLINDER** - 14 inches diameter by 14 inch stroke.
- **HORSE POWER** - The engine easily develops 150 brake horse power running at its normal speed of 300 revolutions per minute.
- **TRACTION POWER** - The engine has been built for heavy hauling purposes and is capable of drawing 40 to 50 tons up grades from 5 percent to 10 percent. The engine itself, not loaded, will go up a 40 percent grade.

[www.jamesvalleythreshers.com/case150.htm](http://www.jamesvalleythreshers.com/case150.htm)

Photos by Anderson Industries, LLC



Kory Anderson, left, and Gary Bradley stand next to some of the inner workings of the steam powered Case. Cover: Michael Dean Bradley and Gary Bradley pose by the hulking Case 150-HP Road Locomotive.

measuring 3 feet wide – would need to be fabricated. Finished, they would weigh three tons each. Parts would be painted, lettering and graphics would be applied. And thousands of hours would be spent breathing life into a machine not heard from since the 1920s.

In the age of railroads and horse-drawn power, the turn of the 20th century saw some innovative tractors that would transform the agriculture. The Case Road Locomotive had the potential to eclipse them all. Designed to move heavy loads where rail lines didn't exist, it was used to haul copper ore in New Mexico, and was used for jobs ranging from plowing beet fields, threshing and hauling stone from a quarry in states including Georgia, Kansas,

Kentucky, New York and Wisconsin.

The thing was built for power, if not speed. (In low gear, it crawled along at just over 2.5 miles an hour, while high speed doubled the pace, reaching more than 5.6 miles per hour.)

While the original machine sold for around \$4,000 in 1904 (roughly four times the cost of a 1904 Cadillac). The 2018 version will cost considerably more: an estimated \$1 million.

For more about the build, visit <https://www.facebook.com/Anderson-Industries-LLC-115448931876302/>

For more about the Threshing Show, go to <https://www.facebook.com/jvthreshers/> or <http://www.jamesvalleythreshers.com/>



Among those lending a hand to the project's build are Mark Knox, left, and Bob Johnson, second from right. Johnson is system support/member services manager at Codington-Clark Electric in Watertown.

# SVE Members & EmPOWER Students Travel to ND

**Just over 50 SVE** members and 20 EmPOWER Youth participants traveled to North Dakota to learn how electricity is generated and flows through the system; eventually allowing a flip of the switch to start the flow of power.

Trip participants toured the Coteau Freedom Coal Mine, Antelope Valley Power Plant and the Great Plains Synfuels Plant. The adults enjoyed a Lewis and Clark Riverboat Cruise and the kids took in some swimming at a water-park. One participant offered comments on the tour, "All three tours were extremely informative. It was very interesting to see how all of them actually worked together to make everything more environmentally friendly."

The three-day trip for the adults also included cooperative members from Iowa and Minnesota. The EmPOWER Youth added a day to their trip to visit Bismarck State College where they took part in hands-on activities.



#ThankALineman



# Stay Focused on Safety During Harvest

**During harvest season**, many farmers reap the benefits of advancement in agricultural technology. With the help of GPS auto-steer devices, farmers are able to decrease driver error and maximize productivity. Yet despite these advances, safety risks remain. To help farmers stay out of harm's way, Safe Electricity shares tips for a safe harvest.

GPS with auto-guidance provides farmers with real-time location data about a field, which can be used for crop planning, map making, navigation assistance and machinery guidance. During harvest, this technology allows drivers to have their hands off the steering wheel as the combine maneuvers itself through the field. Thanks to this technology, farmers can more easily and efficiently maintain accuracy even during low-light conditions, which enhances productivity.

"One critical part of safety around electricity is awareness," explains Kyla Kruse, communications director of the Safe Electricity program. "It's important to remember that farm machinery is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its large size, height and extensions. Being aware of the location of overhead power lines and planning a safe equipment route can help reduce accidents."

In equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering, which may lead some drivers to think that they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. However, even while using a GPS with auto-steering, farm workers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on their surroundings.

Putting safety first requires alertness, focus and knowledge of potential hazards and safety steps. Varying pass-to-pass accuracy levels and potential issues, such as power poles not being correctly plotted in the system, reinforce the need for drivers to stay focused on the location of the farm equipment while in the field and to be ready to take action if necessary.

Regardless the technology used on the farm, keep the following electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines—at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when moving any



equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.

- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead power lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact Sioux Valley Energy.

If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

# Power in Preparation

## Co-ops Committed to Preparedness Every Day

**Derrill Holly**

NRECA

Preparation is the key to success in many things we do in life. Planning, practice and thoughtful assessment provide opportunities to work out potential problems in advance.

September is National Preparedness Month, and the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency is encouraging all of us to prepare for emergencies. But most of us do better when we prepare for the routine, the extraordinary and the unexpected.

For electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota, preparation plays a huge role in ensuring that our members have the electricity they need as soon as they flip a light switch or start an appliance.

When a co-op crew pulls a truck into a loading bay, warehouse workers have already pulled the parts and equipment needed for that crew's scheduled day's work. When a member services representative discusses balanced billing by telephone, they're helping a member with preparations to ease the impact of seasonal high bills.

When meteorologists call for exceptionally hot or cold weather, electric co-ops work closely with their generation and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts) to ensure adequate supplies of electricity are reserved to meet anticipated demand.

South Dakota and western Minnesota electric co-ops are constantly preparing for the future. Engineers and construction crews design, build and upgrade the electric system to move electricity from

### Be Prepared Before the Storm

Here are some basic items you should store in your home in case of emergency:

-  **Water:** Three day supply, one gallon per person per day
-  **Food:** Three day supply, non-perishable, high-energy
-  **Clothing, bedding, and sanitation supplies**
-  **Tools:** Can opener, plates, utensils, flashlight, batteries, cash, bleach, hand sanitizer
-  **First aid supplies, medicine**
-  **Important documents**

Visit [redcross.org/domore](http://redcross.org/domore) to learn more about disaster kits.

Photo Caption.

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency

power plants and substations to farms, homes and businesses.

All of these actions prepare electric co-ops to deal with the daily challenges of meeting the electricity needs of their members. But working together, we put in just as much effort preparing for the uncertainties posed by flooding, tornadoes, wildfires, high winds, blizzards and ice storms. Electric co-ops maintain and constantly update emergency response plans. Employees train for major events and know in advance what their primary and secondary roles would be. Electric co-ops also subscribe to mutual aid agreements. That's why you see trucks and crews from co-ops in other states in your communities when major power outages occur.

We also work with state and national

officials to help ensure that crews can get to your communities when they are needed and have the lodging, food and support necessary to work effectively far from home.

September may be National Preparedness Month, but the region's electric cooperatives are committed to preparedness every day – for the routine, the extraordinary and the unexpected.

*Derrill Holly writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.*

# Are You Ready?

The heat of August and September make it hard to remember that winter snows will be here before we know it.

The South Dakota Office of Emergency Management offers the following preparedness tips:

Winter storms, especially blizzards, can be very dangerous. Preparing before extremely cold, snowy weather occurs can save your life. Know what winter storm watches and warnings mean. If a Winter Storm Watch has been issued for your area, hazardous winter weather conditions (such as snow greater than 6 inches in 24 hours, winds gusting over 35 mph, or visibilities less than a 1/4 mile) are expected in the next 12 to 36 hours. A Winter Storm Warning means the conditions listed for the Watch exist.

Try to stay indoors during a blizzard. If you have to go outside to check on animals or for another reason, be sure to dress warmly in loose fitting layers of clothing.

Wear heavy gloves to protect your hands and heavy socks with boots that will not absorb water. Cover your mouth so that you don't breathe in freezing cold air that can damage your lungs. Keep your body dry.

Know the signs of hypothermia or frostbite.

If you are traveling at all when a winter storm is possible, then you should always bring emergency supplies with you. You can never predict when you might get stranded and need them. If stranded, make sure you stay in your vehicle. Run your vehicle about 10 minutes every hour. Open windows a little for fresh air to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Make yourself visible to rescuers by turning on the dome light at night, tie a colored cloth to your antenna, and raise the hood after the snow stops falling.

If you are caught outside, find a dry shelter and cover all exposed parts of the body. If shelter is not available, prepare a lean-to, wind break, or snow-cave for protection from the wind.

Build a fire for heat and to attract attention. Place rocks around the fire to absorb and reflect heat. Do not eat snow, it will lower your body temperature. Melt it first.

Weather related dangers can be very unexpected. Being prepared for a potential hazardous situation could save your life.



# Supply Kit

Prepare your family for any disaster by putting together an emergency supply kit. Make sure your kit is always ready, easily accessible and stored in a durable container.

## Recommended Kit Supplies

- Water, one gallon per person per day for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask or cotton t-shirt to help filter the air
- Moist towelettes for sanitation
- Wrench or pliers
- Can opener for food
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape
- Unique family needs, such as daily prescriptions, infant formula or diapers, and copies of important family documents
- Garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation

## Other Items to Include

- Change of clothing
- Sleeping bag or blanket
- Hat, mitten, scarf
- Waterproof matches
- Toys, books, puzzles, games
- Extra house and car keys
- List of contact names and numbers
- Sturdy shoes
- Gloves for clearing debris
- Tent
- Fuel for cooking
- Plastic knives, forks, spoons
- Paper plates and cups
- Paper towels
- Heavy-duty aluminum foil
- Hand sanitizer
- Bar soap and liquid detergent
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Feminine supplies
- Toilet paper
- Household bleach with no additives
- Newspaper to wrap garbage and waste
- Ax, shovel, broom
- Screwdriver, hammer
- Coil of one-half inch rope
- Knife or razor blades
- Garden hose for siphoning and fire fighting

Source: <https://dps.sd.gov/emergency-services/emergency-management/preparedness>



It can be tough to help kids understand the importance of saving energy.

## Electrifying Ways to Help Kids Be

# SMART ENERGY USERS

“Did 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



A creative way to engage your child in practicing energy efficiency is to deputize an “energy enforcer.”

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 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.

**When the kids reach their goal, they can be rewarded with a sheriff’s badge or another small toy of their choice.**

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 very young, 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.



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*.

## August 23-26

56th Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree featuring the Minneapolis Moline National Show, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

## August 25

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

## August 25-26

Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival, Sunrise each day at airport, Activities all day, Night Glow Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Hot Springs, SD 605-745-4140

## August 30

Value Added Ag Day and Specialty Crop Workshops at the State Fair, SD Value Added Ag Development Center and SD Specialty Producers, Huron, SD, 605-681-6793 or SDSPAinfo@gmail.com

## September 6-9

Senior State Games, Sioux Falls, SD, Howard Bich at 605-491-0635

## September 8

Movies in the Park, Despicable Me 3 sponsored by Braun Trucking, Dress as a Minion or favorite character, Garretson, SD

## September 8

Eggs, Mushrooms and Microgreens Tours, Noon to 4:30 p.m., Free, Brandon, SD, Contact 605-681-6793

## September 11

Women in the Outdoors, 6 to 9 p.m., Hunter's Pointe, Humboldt, SD, 605-321-4142 or 605-610-6896



## September 11

S.D. Co-op Hall of Fame Induction Banquet, The Lodge, Deadwood, SD, 605-945-2548

## September 15

KJAM Ladies' Day Out, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dakota Prairie Playhouse, Madison, SD, 605-256-4514

## September 16

9th Annual Barrels for Beth and Becky, Lake County 4-H grounds, Registration 9 a.m., Games begin at Noon, All money raised goes to "All Women Count," Madison, SD Janet at 605-579-0186, Korisa at 605-579-0096, Katie at 605-579-0100 or Verna at 605-270-1056

## September 16

Fried Chicken Dinner, St. Jacob's Lutheran Church, Taopi Hall, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Colton, SD, 605-446-3866

## September 21-22

Holiday Arts Fall Craft Show, Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

## September 30

Cancer Shoot Out, Brookings Gun Club, 3 to 5 p.m., Monies raised go to Relay For Life/ American Cancer Society, Brookings, SD, 605-695-8591

## October 6

Pumpkin Train, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

## October 11-12

South Dakota Women in Ag 2018 Conference, The Lodge, Deadwood, SD, 605-390-4241, amy.pravecek@zoetis.com, southdakotawomeninag.com

## October 20

Harvest Festival Soup and Pie Supper with crafts and bake sale including homemade lefse, 4 to 7 p.m., Lutheran Church, 47474 258th St., Renner, SD, 605-338-7120

## October 20-21

South Dakota State and National Cornhusking Contest, State is on the 20th and National on the 21st, 9 a.m., Flandreau, SD

## October 27

Hartford Women of Today Fall Craft Fair, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., West Central Becker Center, Hartford, SD, 605-359-2049

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.