A Change for the Better

It's the little things
When it comes to energy efficiency in the home, sometimes small changes can make a big impact. A small, unglamorous task like changing the filters on your HVAC system makes your unit run more efficiently – keeping your house cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. It also saves money. And the savings gained from having your system run more efficiently can be applied to more fun or entertaining pursuits that your family can enjoy together.

The lowdown on dirt
As you move around your home, you drive dust into the air from carpets, furniture and drapes. Regardless of where it comes from, dust and dirt trapped in a system's air filter leads to several problems, including:

- Reduced air flow in the home and up to 15 percent higher operating costs
- Costly duct cleaning or replacement
- Lowered system efficiency

Making the switch
Now, that you know the facts, it's time to get busy changing or cleaning the air filter in your heating/cooling system. Many HVAC professionals recommend that you clean or change the filter on your air conditioner or furnace monthly. It's simple and easy, and in many cases, it only takes a few minutes.

Filters are available in a variety of types and efficiencies, rated by a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV). MERV, a method developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, tests filter effectiveness. The higher the MERV number, the higher the filter's effectiveness at keeping dust out of your system. While most types of filters must be replaced, some filters are reusable. And don't forget about the winter months. Your heating system needs to work as efficiently as possible to keep you warm (and your loved one feeling snuggly), and a clean air filter helps it do just that.

Heating and cooling professionals recommend turning your system off before changing the air filter. Make sure that the arrow on the filter – which indicates the direction of the airflow – is pointing toward the blower motor. When you've made the change, turn your system back on.

A teachable moment
Beyond saving money and improving the air quality in your home, changing your air filter is a great opportunity to teach your family more about energy efficiency. Consider getting everyone involved, and the entire family will learn how simple changes can make a big difference.

For other tips on how to save, visit www.whetstone.coop or call the efficiency experts at 605-432-5331 or 800-568-6631.

Co-op's Tax Dollars Benefit Area Schools

Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative paid a generation tax of $289,113.21 to school districts within its service area in 2014.

This tax is paid to the county treasurer's office, which allocates the tax to each school district in the cooperative's service area.


The following chart shows the breakdown for three counties, which benefited from Whetstone Valley Electric's Generation Tax.

**Grant County**
- Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative: $77,968.49
- Basin Electric Power Cooperative: $33,852.15
- East River Electric Power Cooperative: $41,291.83

**Roberts County**
- Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative: $64,138.61
- Basin Electric Power Cooperative: $27,847.54
- East River Electric Power Cooperative: $33,967.58

**Codington County**
- Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative: $5,116.17
- Basin Electric Power Cooperative: $2,221.33
- East River Electric Power Cooperative: $2,709.51

**Total generation tax due:** $289,113.21
Manager’s Column

Summer!

Things are looking great in the Whetstone Valley and summer activities at the cooperative are well under way.

• Our member tour of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative facilities in North Dakota just concluded last evening.
• Our Line Department has begun several projects, including working with contractors to replace about 15 miles of overhead power line with underground.
• Other line maintenance projects are also underway.
• We are just thankful that we are not recovering from storm damage as electric cooperatives are doing in many areas of the state.
  • Jessica Zempel has returned from the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., that was held in June.
  • We have begun gathering data to produce a new “Cost of Service Analysis and Rate Study.” This study will be the basis of projecting where our costs will be and how to fairly allocate them to our different member rate classes in the future.
  • We also are making preparations for our Annual Audit which will occur in July.
  • Our board of directors has begun the process of selecting a new general manager to be in place by the end of this year.

Idle Services

One of our line maintenance activities is to remove power lines and equipment from service locations that have not been used for a long period of time. In the past two years we have made this a priority.

Facilities that are unused still require maintenance, require rebuilding in storm damage events, sometimes interfere with farming activities, and create the risk of public contact. We have looked at how other electric cooperatives handle this issue and have created a policy to direct us in the future.

Our practice is to allow unused facilities to remain for two years. At that point, they will be scheduled for removal. If a member plans to use facilities in the future, we will continue to maintain the line, but the member will be required to pay a facilities charge that is equal to one-half of the regular facilities charge that all of our members pay. The current residential monthly facilities charge is $40. So, the “Idle Service” monthly facilities charge is $20.

We make every attempt to contact members who own the property where these services are located, but we are not always successful in receiving a response as to their wishes. In that case we will schedule these unused services for removal.

So far, we have not assessed any Idle Service facilities charges. This will begin on Sept. 1, 2015.

Please give us a call if you have questions or concerns about this or any matter concerning the cooperative or your electric service.
We rarely are more vulnerable than when walking in urban areas, crossing busy streets and negotiating traffic. And we all are pedestrians from time to time, so it’s important to pay attention to what is going on around us.

Cell Phone Distracted Walking

It has become such a big problem in recent years that Injury Facts® 2015, the statistical report on unintentional deaths and injuries published by the National Safety Council, for the first time has included statistics on cell phone distracted walking.

According to Injury Facts, distracted walking incidents involving cell phones accounted for more than 11,100 injuries between 2000 and 2011:

• 52 percent of cell phone distracted walking injuries happen at home
• 68 percent of those injured are women
• 54 percent are age 40 or younger
• Nearly 80 percent of the injuries were due to a fall.

The Vehicle Factor

While many communities are implementing measures to become more “walkable,” like adding more paths and traffic-calming measures, there still is a long way to go to keep pedestrians safe. Malls surrounded by parking lots, few sidewalks, blind intersections and high traffic areas all contribute to pedestrian fatalities and injuries.

According Injury Facts 2015:

• In 2013, 6,100 pedestrians were killed by motor vehicles
• That same year, about 160,000 pedestrian injuries required medical attention
• 23 percent of deaths and injuries result from pedestrians darting into the street, with the majority of those younger than age 15
• The number of pedestrian deaths has decreased significantly since the 1970s; during that decade, deaths were between 8,400 and 10,300
• During the decade from 2002 to 2013, death rates didn’t change much; they hovered around 6,000, with a low of 5,300 in 2009

Head Up, Phone Down

While pedestrian-vehicle injuries are the fifth leading cause of death for children ages 5 to 19, according to SafeKids.org, no age group is immune. Here are a few tips from NHTSA and NSC for children and adults of all ages:

• Look left, right and left again before crossing the street; looking left a second time is necessary because a car can cover a lot of distance in a short amount of time
• Make eye contact with drivers of oncoming vehicles to make sure they see you
• Be aware of drivers even when you’re in a crosswalk; vehicles have blind spots
• Don’t wear headphones while walking
• Never use a cell phone or other electronic device while walking
• If your view is blocked, move to a place where you can see oncoming traffic
• Never rely on a car to stop
• Children younger than 10 should cross the street with an adult
• Only cross at designated crosswalks
• Wear bright and/or reflective clothing
• Walk in groups

Take Steps to Avoid Injury or Death While Walking

Source: nsc.org
### Succulent Salads

**Cran-Chicken-Corn Salad**

- 1 (13 oz.) can premium chicken breast, drained
- 1 can whole kernel corn, drained
- 2 T. Miracle Whip

Mix together all ingredients and serve cold.

*M.J. Knopp, Madison, MN*

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**Strawberry Pecan Pretzel Salad**

- 1 cup crushed pretzels
- 1/2 cup pecans, chopped
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 3/4 cup butter, melted
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened

Mix together pretzels, pecans, brown sugar and melted butter; spread in a pan. Bake at 400°F for 7 minutes. Cool, then break into small pieces. Beat together cream cheese, sugar and vanilla. Fold in whipped topping. Before serving, stir the strawberries and pretzel/pecans pieces into the cream cheese mixture.

*Lillian Schlecht, Scotland*

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**Party Salad**

- 2 (3 oz.) pkgs. lemon gelatin
- 2 cans chicken rice soup
- 1 can tuna
- 2 cups chopped celery

Dissolve gelatin in hot soup; cool and refrigerate until partially set. Pour hot water over tuna in strainer; drain. Whip jello; fold in remaining ingredients. Prepare salad the day before so it sets well.

*Zona Schanzenbach, Aberdeen*

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**Garbage Salad**

- 16 oz. dry pasta
- 6 cups raw vegetables, any combination
- 2 cups mayonnaise

Cook pasta, drain and cold rinse. Cut any combination of vegetables into a large bowl. Add pasta. In separate bowl, mix mayonnaise, milk and dry Ranch. Add dressing to pasta/vegetables. Option: Substitute 1 (16 oz.) bottle of Italian dressing for Ranch dressing.

*Tina Suhr, Dimock*

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**Southwestern Bean and Quinoa Salad With Cilantro-Lime Dressing**

- 1 (15 oz.) can Southwestern Bean Salad
- 1/2 cup red cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/2 cup yellow cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/2 cup chopped tomatillos
- 1/2 cup thin bell pepper strips
- 2 cups cooked quinoa

Drain bean salad. Discard liquid or save for another use. In large bowl, combine bean salad, tomatoes, tomatillos and bell pepper. For dressing, whisk together oil, lime juice, peel and cayenne. Stir in cilantro. Toss with quinoa. Add to bean salad mixture; toss lightly to combine. Serve at room temperature or chilled.

Makes 4 servings.

*Nutritional information per serving: 250 calories; 10 g fat; 8 g protein; 35 g carbohydrate; 7 g dietary fiber; 0 mg cholesterol; 8.98 mg iron; 210 mg sodium; 0.12 mg thiamin; 781.13 IU vitamin A; 20.44 mg vitamin C*

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**Summer Bean Salad**

- 1 (15 oz.) can green beans, drained
- 1 (15 oz.) can yellow beans, drained
- 1 (15 oz.) can kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 (8 oz.) bag frozen peas
- 1 cup sliced onion
- 1-1/2 cups white vinegar
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup oil
- 1 tsp. salt, optional

In a large bowl, combine all vegetables. Stir together dressing ingredients, mixing well so sugar dissolves. Pour over vegetables. Refrigerate.

*Jane Ham, Rapid City*

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**Oreo Fluff Salad**

- 1 box instant chocolate pudding
- 2 cups cold milk
- 1 pkg. Oreo cookies, crushed

Prepare pudding with milk according to package directions. Refrigerate for 15 minutes. Fold in Cool Whip and Oreos. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Note: cheesecake or white chocolate pudding may also be used.

*Jillian Nedved, Harrisburg*
Dear Jim: I plan to make a few efficiency improvements to my home and hire a contractor for the job. I would like a better understanding of how a home loses and gains heat so that I am not persuaded into unnecessary projects. Can you help?

– Sheri W.

Dear Sheri: It never hurts to be as informed as possible about the projects you are considering. Using just a few of the proper terms and displaying some knowledge can keep a contractor from attempting anything unnecessary or unethical. Keep in mind, you will not know if the improvements helped until next year’s utility bills arrive.

There are many DIY books about efficiency improvements, which would be a great starting point. Each home is unique though, so what some books recommend in general may not provide the best payback for your specific living space.

The most common misconception about a home is that heat rises. Heat does not actually rise. Instead, heat, which is a form of energy, flows equally in all directions. What does rise is warm air because it is less dense than cool air. This is important to keep in mind when determining where, how much and what types of insulation to use for various areas of your home.

The basic types of heat flow, out of your home during winter or into it during summer, are conduction, convection, radiation and air infiltration (leakage). Conduction is probably the most common type. This is how the handle on a cup gets hot from the coffee or how heat flows through the wood studs inside the walls.

The amount of heat lost or gained from conduction is primarily a function of the temperature difference (also called ΔT) between the indoor and outdoor surfaces of an outside wall. If the outdoor temperature drops so that the temperature difference is twice as large, twice as much heat will be lost through the wall. This is why setting the thermostat lower during winter or higher during summer saves energy.

The insulation level of a home also affects heat loss. If the insulation R-value is doubled, the amount of heat loss is cut in half.

Convection refers to heat flow from a fluid, such as air or water, moving over a surface. The heat lost by convection will also double if the temperature difference doubles, but it will increase even more as the air blows faster. This is what causes a wind chill factor during winter months.

Radiation is heat flow, which moves through space or air. This is how the sun warms us. Just as it warms you, your home also loses radiant heat to the outdoors, especially on a clear cold night.

Radiant heat flow is different in that when the temperature difference is doubled, the heat flow increases by 16 times. On a clear night, outer space is minus 460 degrees Fahrenheit, so the heat loss increases dramatically. You may have noticed how chilly you feel standing by a window at night. On a summer afternoon, a black shingle roof can easily reach 160 degrees Fahrenheit, which radiates heat down through the insulation and the ceiling.

Now that you have this background knowledge, make a list of problem areas, such as a persistently chilly room. If the room is located on the northwest side of the home, convection losses and air infiltration from winter winds could be a factor. Erecting some type of windbreak – a privacy fence or even planting evergreen trees – can help.

Since heat moves down as well as up, check the lumber band joist, which rests on the foundation. If it is not insulated, which is not uncommon, much heat can be lost by conduction moving out of it. If this is the case, I recommend insulating the joist. While the insulation is being installed, caulk where the joist rests on the top of the foundation. This spot is often uneven and leaks air.

Installing shades and closing them at night can block the direct radiant heat flow to the cold night sky or from the hot afternoon sun. This is much less expensive than installing new windows. Have low-emissivity, reflective foil stapled under the roof rafters. This dramatically reduces the radiant heat flow downward on hot summer afternoons.
Cell Phones and the Do Not Call Registry

Despite viral email, there is no new cell phone database. Consumers may place their cell phone number on the National Do Not Call Registry to notify marketers that they don’t want to get unsolicited telemarketing calls.

The truth about cell phones and the Do Not Call Registry is:
- The government is not releasing cell phone numbers to telemarketers.
- There is no deadline for registering a cell phone number on the Do Not Call Registry.
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations prohibit telemarketers from using automated dialers to call cell phone numbers without prior consent. Automated dialers are standard in the industry, so most telemarketers are barred from calling consumers’ cell phones without their consent.

There is only one Do Not Call Registry, operated by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), with information available at donotcall.gov. There is no separate registry for cell phones.

The Do Not Call Registry accepts registrations from both cell phones and land lines.

To register by telephone, call 1-888-382-1222 (TTY: 1-866-290-4236). You must call from the phone number that you want to register. To register online (donotcall.gov), you will have to respond to a confirmation email.

If you have registered a mobile or other telephone number already, you don’t need to re-register. Once registered, a telephone number stays on the Do Not Call Registry until the registration is canceled or service for the number is discontinued.

Funding Future Linemen

Pictured are the 2015 recipients of the South Dakota Line Superintendents Association scholarships at Mitchell Technical Institute. The superintendents organization awarded eight $500 scholarships to students enrolled in the Power Line Construction & Maintenance program in March. Standing left to right are: Austin Stahl, Hitchcock; Tyler Pickett, Sturgis; Brandon Houska, Chamberlain; Garrett Metzinger, Pierre; Adam Major, Sioux Falls; Rhett Bothwell, Pierre; Bradley Hahn, Martin; and Dylan Parker, Box Elder. In addition to the line superintendents scholarships, Bothwell was awarded a $500 Larry Brink Memorial Scholarship and Hahn received a $500 Mark and Kathy Hofer Scholarship.
Getting Ready for the Rumble

Co-ops Prepare for 75th Sturgis Rally

Time will tell exactly how large the 75th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally will be, but most expect it will be large. Very, very large.

The rally’s 60th gathering in 2000 brought an estimated 633,000 people to the town of just more than 6,600 people. More recent rallies have been smaller, with 442,000 attending in 2014. This year, attendance is expected to exceed 750,000, with some estimates as high as 1.2 million.

The influx of people for the annual August event puts pressure on infrastructure from roads and transportation corridors to electricity and utilities.

For homeowners and landowners, the impact of having an extra RV or two or three parked on their property may bring hidden surprises if those units are plugged in and air conditioners are cranked up to battle hot weather.

Responding to those trouble calls can be tricky for area electric cooperatives. Cooperatives have been busy staging supplies for easy access during the rally to hopefully avoid congested thoroughfares.

“Our biggest problem will probably be getting around because of traffic,” said Mike Letcher, manager of operations for West River Electric Association in Wall, S.D.

WREA serves one of the area’s largest camp-

By Brenda Kleinjan
grounds – the Buffalo Chip Campground on the east edge of Sturgis.

“We try to have two guys up there during the rally,” Letcher said. The linemen, equipped with infrared cameras, inspect the system, looking for hot spots which signal a malfunction.

“We typically burn up a transformer every year,” said Letcher, noting that they keep a couple of the devices on hand for emergency repairs.

Like WREA, Butte Electric Cooperative in Newell, S.D., is also planning ahead.

“We’re anticipating traffic issues,” said Brett Fosheim, manager of operations at Butte Electric. “It makes it harder for our guys to get around.”

The co-op has an outpost in Sturgis, but gaining access to the building requires the crews to cross the city’s main highway which is extremely congested during the motorcycle gathering.

“Getting the employees to the outposts and offices is the biggest challenge,” Fosheim said. In addition to having linemen based in Newell and Sturgis, the co-op also has four workers in Spearfish.

Even the backways, usually known only to locals, will see traffic, lots of traffic.

“We see cycles 30 to 50 miles off of pavement, riding on gravel,” noted Fosheim.

While the rally provides for some variety, both co-ops still have their normal day-to-day work to see to.

For Fosheim, his co-op plans to stop working on a project in Spearfish Canyon in late July and early August, but, work in other areas will go on.

“We have some bigger projects in Butte County that we’ll probably keep working on as they’re pretty rural,” Fosheim said.

Planning for the logistics of getting employees around during the rally is just one challenge the co-ops are faced with.

As the region’s population swells for the annual gathering, the demand for electricity soars.

For West River Electric, the Buffalo Chip Campground will become one of the co-op’s top loads. Typically, the co-op’s largest customer is about a 1.5 megawatt load. The Chip is poised to surpass those energy needs during the rally.

“The hardest part is trying to predict the load. You don’t know how many people are going to show up or what the weather will be like,” said Letcher.

Both Letcher and Fosheim agree that milder temperatures will go a long way for making the rally more manageable for everyone.

“The numbers and weather are going to be what the problem is,” Fosheim said.

Letcher concurred. “How it all ends up depends on the weather,” he said.
Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative took 41 consumers along on its Annual Basin Tour June 24-25. Rural electric cooperative members have an opportunity to view their power source up close and gain interesting knowledge regarding the process involved in producing, transmitting and delivering power to consumers.

Once arriving in Bismarck, N.D., the group met with Erin Huntimer from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, where Whetstone Valley Electric buys electricity from, to learn about the history of Basin Electric and the relationship Basin Electric has with cooperatives such as WVEC.

From there they continued to the Garrison Dam. Garrison Dam is the fifth largest earthen dam in the world. The dam utilizes five generating units that produce 1.8 to 2.6 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity per year.

The next day they loaded the bus to head to Dakota Gasification Company. This the only commercial-scale coal gasification plant in the United States that manufactures natural gas. Here everyone was able to see cutting edge technology, perhaps inspiring them to think about the future of energy both in its conservation and its production, as well as its impact on the world.

Next they toured Antelope Valley Station where the coal is turned into electricity. The tour guides showed a large model of the plant and explained how it all worked. Then they went inside the
plant and were able to see the boiler and learn how the electricity is created. The Antelope Valley Station is a lignite-based electric generating station with a capacity of 900,000 kilowatts. The majority of energy produced at Antelope Valley is sent to a substation near Huron, S.D., where it’s delivered to Basin Electric’s member systems.

After the tour they enjoyed lunch at the plant and went on to Coteau Freedom Coal Mine.

One of the largest pieces of equipment in the coal mine is a dragline, which is used to remove earth and coal with a large bucket, and weighs 13 million pounds and stands 215 feet tall. They also talked about the reclamation process the mine goes through to return the ground back to its natural beauty. The plant reclaims the land at the same rate as it is mined, so within six years of starting the process, the land is returned to its original form and is able to be farmed or used for other purposes.

For the last leg of the tour, the group spent time at the North Dakota State Capitol and the Heritage Museum exploring all of the different displays.

We hope that if you have not been able to attend this trip in the past you consider coming next summer!

This year’s Basin Tour participants were Brian and Brenda Block, Travis Burtke and Kelsey Bergquist, Rusty Dimberg, Alan and Brenda Gengler, Dave and Lindy Lu Hammer, Mike and Debra Hanen, Eric Hansen, Ronald and Vadnae Kottke, Marianne Lan- tis and Marjorie Schmidt, Elroy and Sandy Madsen, Dwight and Karen Nedved, Lawrence Schmig and Eugene Schmig, Joe and Patsy Serokci, Barbara Smith and Stephanie Schwenk, Gene Spiering, Lisa Tornes and Jeanne Lewno, Gene and Susan Vostad, Warren and Debbie Hemmer, Roger and Irene McCulloch, Dale Jensen, Tom and Linda Berens, Jon Christensen, Dillon Zemlicka and Alex Pauli.

Thank you to Whetstone Valley Electric directors and employees for taking time out of their schedule to help with the Basin Tour.

Agency Laundromat, Sissetton
Amberg, Robert, Sissetton
Anderson, Dean, Aberdeen
Anderson, Timothy, Fargo, ND
Barse, Donna, Agency Village
Barse, Violet, Sissetton
Bear, Marie, Agency Village
Beetem, Pam, Sissetton
Behr, Lavern, Steen, MN
Bellew, Jeanne, Sissetton
Biel, Osi, Browns Valley, MN
Bjerke, Mervin, Brookings
Bluedog, Theresa, Agency Village
Boerger, Ronald, Big Stone City
Boise, Shelly, Watertown
Bolte, Glen, Shoreham, VT
Branson, Floyd, Watertown
Caball, James, Milbank
Cameron, Richard, Wilmot
cass, Vera, Peeber
Caudill, S F, Louisville, KY
Cloos, Eugene, Big Stone City
Connor, Cheryl, Laurel, NE
Contreras, Nodine, Sissetton
Crawford, James, Sissetton
Crow, Hubert, Milbank
Dahlgenn, Warren, Milbank
Davis, Darold, Milbank
decoua, Peggy, Flandreau
decoua, Sean, Sissetton
Demerrins, Lincoln, Peeber
Deves, Dean, Rochester, MN
Dewall, R H, Buena Vista, CO
Dijonne, Shelly, Montevideo, MN
Donaldson, Oliver, Milbank
Dubois, Kim, Agency Village
 Dumare, Vera, Watertown, ND
Dum, Darwin, Brandon
Dunn, Jamie, Watertown
Edwards, Russell, Sissetton
Eide, J J, Corona
Erne, Marcella, Milbank
Ernst, Helen, Milbank
Fairall, Craig, Tokio, ND
Farkas, Frank, Sioux Falls
Feather, Larry, Peever
Fishier, Monte, Agency Village
Flute Owen, Marjory, Sissetton
Foster, Irene, Martell, MN
Fryer, Donald, Brookfield
Gillette, Jack, Ortonville, MN
Glass, Marcelle, Peeber
Godfrey, Dain, Sissetton
Grant Catany, Sissetton
Granzuick, Carl, Owatonna, MN
Great Plains Cable TV
Clinton Shop, MN
Graves, Joleen, Sissetton
Griffith, Dennis, Sioux Falls
Groebner, Clets, Revillo
Gunther, Dorothy, Revillo
Hansen, Richard, Webster
Hansen, Willis, Cannon Falls, MN
Hanson, Dale, Henderson, TN
Hanson, Viola, Chippewa Falls, WI
Hartter, Verna, Eureka, IL
Haworth, Nodine, Sissetton
Haugan, Willard, Arizona
City, AZ
Hay, Sherman, Cloquet, MN
Heeber, Ralph, Cambridge, CA
Hege, Roger, Big Stone City
Heggen, Harvey, Milbank
Herman, Owen, Minot
Hicks, Annie, Milbank
Howarth, A W, Grand Junction, CO
Johnson, Erwin, Watertown
Johnson, Michael D, Fridley, MN
Jones, Floyd, Sioux Falls
Jurgens, Angelina, Milbank
Kampeska, Jody, Sissetton
Karges, Duane, Milbank
Kasten, Ben, Watertown
Keeten, Lloyd, Circle Pines, MN
Keeney, James, Milbank
Kempten, Dale, Peever
Keonig, Tony, Chancellor
King, Lyle, Peever
Kirckandall, Gary, Duluth, MN
Klein, Douglas, Shoeshini, WI
Kliven, Alfred, Watertown
KMSDF FM Tower, Milbank
Kondol, Gertrude, Brookings
Konstant, Sylvia, Milbank
Koz, Raymond, Brandon
Korn, Jackie, Milbank
Larson, Olvin, Watertown
Lavender, Andrew, Sissetton
Leeb, Charles, Iredon, IA
Leiseth, Rodney, Piedale, WI
Leith, John, Peever
Leith, Yvonne, Peever
Lewton, Woodrow, Bison
Leybig, Kermit, Brookings
Lineman, Bernard, Big Stone City
Lockwood, Jacqueline, Peever
Lutz, Roger, Mt Pleasant, IA
McClelland, Jack, Timber Lake
McDonald, Pat, Worthing
McPartland, Florian, Conde
Matheson, Monroe, Ortonville, MN
Midwest Tire Service, Milbank
Miller, Kent, Watertown
Minch, Phyllis, Aberdeen, WA
Mitchell, Dennis, Milbank
Moon, Ronald, Sioux Falls
Morrison, J J, Veneta, OR
Murley, Ray, Sioux Falls
Mutusco, Edith, Milbank
Nelson, R, Lake City
Nigg, Lloyd, Browns Valley, MN
Nutbrock, Mark, Arlington
Olhnsrud, Maxine, Highlands Ranch, CO
 Olson, Harry, West Des Moines, IA
Osterhaw, Marle, Watertown
Otto, Chuck, Watertown
Owen, Dino, Peever
Owen, Elizabeth, Peever
Owen, Ron, Peever
Pepke, Olga, Watertown
Peterson, David, Big Stone City
Peterson, Stacy, Dolan, MN
Pewamo, Gordon, Sissetton
Pehps, Eleanor, Peever
Pies, Albert, Milbank
Pond, Burnell, Custer
Raabe, Roger, Brookings
Rasmussen, Tami, Shokopee, MN
Reif, Mike, Rosemount, MN
Remund, Kevin, Browns Valley
Rennville, Arnold, Sissetton
Rennville, Barbara, Peever
Rennville, Flora, Sissetton
Rennville, Gladys, Watertown
Rennville, Jeremiah, Peever
Reville, Lavern, Agency Village
Rennville, Lorena, Watertown
Rethke, Lester, Milbank
Rethko Farms, Milbank
Rethko, Tom, Cape Caverns, FL
Reyelts, Alan, Wilmot
Reynen, Marlin, Milbank
Rice, Sharron, Agency Village
Riggin, Morris, Nita
Rise, John, Milbank
Roy, Margaret, Aberdeen
Sattler, Marlow, Webster
Schaefer, Jeff, Stanley, ND
Schaffer, Scott, Huron
Scherr Cente Co, Valley City, ND
Schmuckhab, James, Sioux Falls
Schoenrock, Rose, Agency Village
Schuelke, Patty, Conby, MN
Smith, Verne, Wilmot
Spider, Maurice, Wilmot
Strube, W E, Big Stone City
Thompson, Colin, Sissetton
Thompson, Mike, Milbank Village
Thyne, James Estate, Milbank
Tietjen, David, Dallas, TX
Tijden, Violet, Sioux Falls
Tomanio, Donald, Omaha, NE
Two Stars, Nancy, Sissetton
Vircow, Janet, Madison
werkins, Nancy, Altoona, IA
West, Lathum, Chandler, AZ
Western Wireless Corp, Little Rock, AR
Yankton, Mandel, Peever

The following list of people have capital credits that were undeliverable in May 2015. The capital credit retirement was for the Basin Electric and East River Electric portions for the year 1992 and 42 percent of 1993. If you know the current address of anyone listed here, please let us know by calling 1-800-568-6631.
For the traveling public, a stop at a highway truck stop is usually helpful for refueling one’s vehicle and refreshing the driver with a quick dose of caffeine.

But for the observant, a stop at the Coffee Cup Truck Stop on Interstate 29 and SD Highway 50 at the Vermillion exit can be an illuminating experience.

In 2014, the truck stop replaced the lights in its parking lot with energy-efficient LED bulbs.

LED lights can also be seen at work at other Coffee Cups in the state.

In fact, across the country, truck stops are looking at more energy efficient lighting as a way to cut costs.

Since truck stops and travel plazas are typically open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the business is constantly using electricity. Many operators and owners of the businesses find that exploring ways to reduce the energy needed to run the business makes financial sense.

Among the many ways to reduce energy needs is to install LED lighting in their fuel canopies. Experts say that the move can be cost effective, with payback coming within less than two years in some cases. Payback is the point where cost savings in energy costs covers the expenses in making the efficient changes.

Another advantage of LED lighting is that the light is directed to a more focused area – namely the space directly below the bulbs.

The Coffee Cup at Vermillion went the extra step to replace its general overhead parking lights with the LED models.

Inside the stores, many operators have also looked at replacing lighting in coolers as well. Switching from fluorescent bulbs to LED lighting in the coolers can have a 2.5-year payback.

Retrofit kits are available that let operators swap out fluorescent bulbs in coolers with LED, typically with a 2.5-year payback.

Truck stops and travel plazas are not the only
type of businesses exploring lighting efficiency.

U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Alliance supported the Lighting Energy Efficiency in Parking (LEEP) Campaign. More than 100 U.S. businesses and organizations are participated in the campaign and are planning or installing energy efficient lighting in their parking lots and garages. These organizations have committed to install efficient lighting across more than 270 million square feet of parking space – cutting energy use by up to 90 percent.

"By making parking lots and garages more energy efficient, our partners in the Lighting Energy Efficiency in Parking Campaign are saving energy, improving their bottom lines and serving as models for other organizations to increase the use of energy efficiency in their communities," said Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy David Danielson.

Building owners spend more than $6 billion to light their parking lots and garages, and much of this could be saved if parking lots and garages were upgraded to the most efficient lighting solutions. LEEP Campaign participants have upgraded their facilities to high efficiency metal halide, fluorescent, and LED solutions that last three times longer than their previous technology and by using controls are able to reduce energy use when parking facilities are not in use. Through the LEEP Campaign, the Energy Department's Better Buildings Alliance, the Building Owners and Managers Association, the Green Parking Council and the International Facility Management Association are working together to help owners of parking lots and garages upgrade to energy efficient lighting.

The Energy Department joined LEEP Campaign co-organizers to recognize 12 organizations for leading the way in efficient lighting. Combined, these 12 winners save nearly 45 million kilowatt-hours and $4 million per year by upgrading to high efficiency lighting in 500,000 parking spaces nationwide.

Since 2009, the Energy Department's Better Buildings Alliance has provided technical assistance to help building and parking facility owners and managers install energy efficient lighting. Find more information on the Energy Department's broader efforts to save money at U.S. parking facilities and a full list of the organizations recognized today.

**Eight Things to Know about LEDs**

1. In 2012, about 49 million LEDs were installed in the U.S. — saving about $675 million in annual energy costs. Switching entirely to LED lights over the next two decades could save the U.S. $250 billion in energy costs, reduce electricity consumption for lighting by nearly 50 percent and avoid 1,800 million metric tons of carbon emissions.

2. The first visible-spectrum LED was invented by Nick Holonyak, Jr., while working for GE in 1962. Since then, the technology has rapidly advanced and costs have dropped tremendously, making LEDs a viable lighting solution. Between 2011 and 2012, global sales of LED replacement bulbs increased by 22 percent while the cost of a 60-watt equivalent LED bulb fell by nearly 40 percent. By 2030, it’s estimated that LEDs will account for 75 percent of all lighting sales.

3. Since the Energy Department started funding solid-state lighting R&D in 2000, these projects have received 58 patents. Some of the most successful projects include developing new ways to use materials, extract more light, and solve the underlying technical challenges. Most recently, the Energy Department announced five new projects that will focus on cutting costs by improving manufacturing equipment and processes.

4. LEDs contain no mercury, and a recent Energy Department study determined that LEDs have a much smaller environmental impact than incandescent bulbs. They also have an edge over compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) that’s expected to grow over the next few years as LED technology continues its steady improvement.

5. From traffic lights and vehicle brake lights to TVs and display cases, LEDs are used in a wide range of applications because of their unique characteristics, which include compact size, ease of maintenance, resistance to breakage, and the ability to focus the light in a single direction instead of having it go every which way.

6. Unlike incandescent bulbs — which release 90 percent of their energy as heat — LEDs use energy far more efficiently with little wasted heat.

7. Good-quality LED bulbs can have a useful life of 25,000 hours or more — meaning they can last more than 25 times longer than traditional light bulbs. That is a life of more than three years if run 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

8. A light-emitting diode, or LED, is a type of solid-state lighting that uses a semiconductor to convert electricity into light. Today’s LED bulbs can be six to seven times more energy efficient than conventional incandescent lights and cut energy use by more than 80 percent.

**Cooperative Connections** • August 2015 13
A trio of towns in western Minnesota have had some brighter nights — and lower electric bills — in the past year due to upgrades in street lighting.

Last year, Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative in Tyler, Minn., received $8,600 in funding from the Southwest CERT (Clean Energy Resource Teams) to implement an LED lighting project in three southwestern Minnesota communities.

Through funding provided by the Minnesota Department of Commerce’s Division of Energy Resources, CERT awarded $20,000 worth of seed grants, catalyzing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects across the region.

Lyon-Lincoln’s award, the City of Russell LED Lighting Project, allowed the cooperative to replace several existing mercury vapor and high pressure sodium street lights with LED lights to reduce energy use by the cities of Russell, Arco and Lynd, Minnesota.

Since the installation of the lights (the City of Russell switched its lights in May 2014) Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative has been and will continue to study the results of the project and share that information with its nearly 4,000 utility members and through energy education programs at area schools.

Before the retrofit, the project included 72 mercury vapor lights of 175 watts each, 23 high pressure sodium lights of 100 watts each and seven 400-watt street lights. The lights used about 80,000 kWh annually (84,473 kWh in 2012 and 79,092 kWh in 2013) and cost more than $9,600 a year to light.

As part of the retrofit, 104 48-watt Type III 5,700 K lights were purchased and installed.

The project is estimated to save more than 61,600 kWhs a year and reduce lighting expenses by $5,570.

In the spring of 2015, Lyon-Lincoln also worked to replace 38 mercury vapor lights (175 watts each),...
21 high pressure sodium lights (100 watts each) and one 400-watt street light in the City of Lynd, population 450. The new lights were expected to drop the community’s light bill from right at $5,000 a year to $3,400 a year, reducing energy use from more than 50,000 kWh a year to just under 35,000 kWh. In the City of Arco, the co-op was replacing 37 lights (17 at 175 watts, 14 at 100 watts and six at 400 watts), a move that was projected to save the community of 78 people about $2,000 a year, shaving nearly 21,000 kWh of energy use.

“We’ve presented information on the project to utilities and communities throughout the state of Minnesota and view this as a wonderful fulfillment of our Vision Statements of being member-owner oriented, environmentally responsible, and focused on the future,” said Brian Jeremiason, Energy Services Manager for Lyon-Lincoln Electric.

“Combined, these communities, and ultimately our members who live in these communities, will realize over $11,000 in energy savings. These are recurring, annual funds that represent a substantial savings for these small communities as they face budget challenges.”

The bars above show monthly energy use for streetlights in the city of Russell, Minn., starting with January 2014 on the left and ending with December 2014 on the right. The sixth bar marks the month of June. The decrease in energy consumption is due largely to a conversion to LED lights. Also, longer daylight hours in the summer cause a natural dip in the amount of night lighting needed.
Regional Dateline

**Events of Special Note**

_**July 24-26**_
- **Prairie Paint-Out, The Farm B&B**
  12505 BIA Hwy 701, Sisseton, SD
  Contact Betsy Klimmek at 605-698-4104

_**August 8-9**_
- **Threshing Show, Twin Brooks, SD**
  605-432-9487 or 605-432-7990

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.

**Regional Dateline**

**Wednesdays in July & August**

Weekly tours of the Governor’s Mansion, 30-minute tours will begin at 1 p.m. and will be conducted by volunteers, including the First Lady. Tour groups will consist of up to 40 people, Free tickets must be obtained in advance from the Pierre Chamber of Commerce at 605-224-7361

**July 21-25**
- **Days of ’76 Rodeo and Parades**
  Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

**July 24**
- **Storybook Land Festival**
  Aberdeen, SD
  artsCouncil@nvc.net

**July 24-26**
- **Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant**
  “By the Shores of Silver Lake”
  DeSmet, SD, 800-776-3594 or 800-880-3383

**July 24-26**
- **24th Annual Honey Days**
  Bruce, SD, Find us on Facebook

**July 24-26**
- **Gold Discovery Days**
  Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

**July 26**
- **Folk Off & Rib Challenge**
  Renner, SD, 605-543-5071

**July 30**
- **Bad River Music Series**
  BlackHawk, The Outlaws
  Slamabama, Silver Spur
  Fort Pierre, SD, 605-220-9405

**August 1**
- **BBQ Pit Row**
  Winner, SD
  605-842-1533

**August 2-8**
- **Motorcycle Rally**
  Sturgis, SD
  605-720-0800

**August 5-9**
- **Day County Fair**
  Webster, SD, 605-345-4668

**August 7-9**
- **Harvey Dunn Society Plein Air ‘Paint Out’, De Smet, SD**
  605-854-9011

**August 8**
- **WVRA Ranch Rodeo**
  6:30 p.m., 2 miles East of Highway 15 on 150th Street
  Milbank, SD, Contact Tim Tyler
  605-467-3073

**August 10-16**
- **Brown County Fair**
  Aberdeen, SD, 605-626-7116

**August 14-16**
- **Frontier Days Rodeo**
  White River, SD, 605-669-3310

**August 14-16**
- **Black Hills Steam and Gas Threshing Bee, Sturgis, SD**
  605-721-6967

**August 15-15**
- **Wing and Brew Festival**
  Brookings, SD, 605-692-7539

**August 15**
- **Culture Shock: Young Artist Festival, Rapid City, SD**
  605-716-7979

**August 16**
- **Leading Ladies Marathon, Spearfish, SD**
  edoll@rushmore.com

**August 16**
- **River Days Rodeo**
  White River, SD, 605-669-3310

**August 19**
- **Bad River Music Series**
  BlackHawk, The Outlaws
  Slamabama, Silver Spur
  Fort Pierre, SD, 605-220-9405

**August 20-23**
- **Kool Deadwood Nites**
  Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

**August 21-23**
- **Summer Arts Festival**
  Yankton, SD, 605-665-9754

**August 22-23**
- **Harvey Dunn Society Plein Air ‘Paint Out’, De Smet, SD**
  605-854-9011

**August 27-30**
- **Bad River Music Series**
  BlackHawk, The Outlaws
  Slamabama, Silver Spur
  Fort Pierre, SD, 605-220-9405

**September 3-7**
- **South Dakota State Fair**
  Huron, SD, 605-353-7340

**September 4-6**
- **LifeLight Festival**
  Worthing, SD, 605-338-2847

**September 5**
- **Third Annual Rush-No-More Car Show and Shine**
  Sturgis, SD, 605-347-2916