



MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

Air Conditioning Systems

Our Member Services Department, as well as most other contractors that service and install air conditioners and heat pumps, have been extremely busy. They are all struggling to keep up with

the repairs, as well as the heavy volume of installation requests that come in during a hot summer like this.

To keep your cooling system operating when you need it, planned maintenance helps. It doesn't hurt to have your cooling system serviced every couple of years to help ensure it is going to run when you need it. Also, if your system is getting old, you might want to consider installing a new one before it fails. The new one will be much more energy efficient and will be less apt to fail during the hot spells. The trick in all of this, of course, is to try and schedule this work in the spring or fall when the air conditioning people may have a bit more time to get to you.

Mid-Year Financials Show Minnesota Valley in Good Shape

We are better than where we thought we would be financially through the first half of this year. We have a total margin of over \$1.3 million through June. Energy sales are running slightly behind of where they were last year at this point. If this heat continues, we expect sales to inch ahead of last year over the next couple of months. Operationally, we are on track with our planned line construction projects and getting the maintenance projects completed that will ensure the system continues operating the way it needs to. Have a great rest of the summer!

Tips for a Safe Harvest

Agriculture is the backbone of our country and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- ✓ Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- ✓ Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- ✓ If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it) and hop away to safety.
- ✓ Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, please remember these safety tips.

SEE MEMBER SERVICES ARTICLE FEATURING OUR NEW **WATER HEATER PROGRAM** ON PAGE 4 OF THIS NEWSLETTER.



Operation Round Up Funds Help Support Our Community

Since the program's inception in November of 1994, Minnesota Valley's Operation Round Up Trust Fund has donated \$212,376 to support our community. A total of 581 different groups, organizations and families have benefited from these funds.

Operation Round Up donations are made possible by the generosity of Minnesota Valley members who allow their monthly energy bills to be rounded up to the next whole dollar amount. Employees also contribute by having their payroll checks rounded down each month.

The average contribution is just 50 cents a month. While that may not seem like a lot of money, each

person giving a little makes a big difference when combined with the donations of others.

Members interested in supporting this valuable program are encouraged to contact the cooperative office at (320) 269-2163 or (800) 247-5051 or send a note with your next energy payment mentioning that you want to be a part of Operation Round Up.

A request for assistance from this program can be made by completing a grant application with Minnesota Valley. The Operation Round Up applications are then reviewed on a case-by-case basis for approval. Applications are available on the cooperative's website at www.mnvalleyrec.com.

Operation Round Up Board

Left to right: Yvonne Severson, Norman Viken, Jon Kleven, Richard Phinney, Wendy VanRavenswaay, Kelly Aalfs. **Not pictured:** Janet Bossuyt



Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed Monday, September 6th in observance of Labor Day.

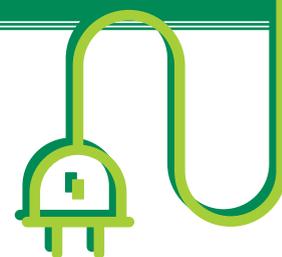
Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

When shopping for new light bulbs, know the difference between lumens and watts. Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption.

Energy-saving LEDs come in a variety of colors and brightness levels and last 15-25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

Source: energy.gov



Thank you to all who filled in the new contact information or registered on SmartHub!

Congratulations to *Gerhard Plessner* who received a \$10 credit to his energy bill for returning the updated contact form and to *Amber Tippe* who registered on SmartHub and received a \$25 credit to her energy bill!



ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // BOB KRATZ



Manager of Operations

The crews remain busy with underground installations, pole changeouts and service upgrades.

The pole treating crew is pretty much finishing up for the season and they will head back to school soon. The total number of poles that were treated this year and how many were rejected have not yet been tallied. As of the middle part of July, they had tested 1,543 poles, with 22 of those poles being rejected due to rot, ants or mechanical damage.

The number of underground outages this year has been more than in the past. A couple of these have had a few outages in the past, so it was time to address them and install new cable. There are also a couple more locations where we are looking into doing the same and installing new cable.

After a short break in the rebuilding of the transmission job on County Road #26 in Lac qui Parle Township, Karian-Peterson is again installing new poles and will be retiring the old ones in the middle of section lines. C two sixteen zero three This will probably take a few more months to achieve, as they have to work around some Otter Tail Power lines.

Minnesota Valley Tree Service also continues to cut trees in the western/southwestern part of the system and there is no lack of trees for them to cut. As I have mentioned before, please allow them to cut as much as possible, even beyond the 10' clearance Minnesota Valley requires. The number of outages from trees/branches has decreased, but we would still like to see a lot fewer.

As always, be safe and enjoy the rest of your summer.

USING A GENERATOR?

8 DANGEROUS MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE

- 

1 IN ENCLOSED SPACES
Always use it in a well-ventilated area.
- 

2 NEAR WINDOWS OR DOORS
Place it at least 20 feet away from windows and doors.
- 

3 IN A GARAGE
Even if the door is up, never use a generator in a garage.
- 

4 IN THE ELEMENTS
Run it on a dry surface under a canopy-like structure (but not in a carport).
- 

5 PLUGGED INTO A WALL OUTLET
This can be deadly to you, family members, neighbors or utility workers.
- 

6 WITH THE WRONG EXTENSION CORD
Use a properly rated cord to plug appliances into a generator.
- 

7 WITHOUT CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) TESTERS
CO detectors should be on every level of your home (test them monthly).
- 

8 IN DISREPAIR
Make sure your generator is well-maintained and in good working order.

Comparative Report

| | Jan-Jun 2021 | Jan-Jun 2020 | Jan-Jun 2001 |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Kwh Purchased | 103,211,146 | 103,309,483 | 71,105,974 |
| Kwh Sold | 96,689,337 | 96,968,838 | 65,610,097 |
| Cost Of Purchased Power | \$4,666,718 | \$4,621,041 | \$1,549,687 |
| Patronage Capital Margins | \$1,363,768 | \$623,977 | \$275,038 |
| Reserve For Taxes | \$132,500 | \$133,319 | \$101,020 |
| Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills) | 45.22 | 44.73 | 21.79 |
| | June '21 | June '20 | June '01 |
| Total Plant | \$82,789,804 | \$78,806,695 | \$33,471,639 |
| Number of Active Services | 5,333 | 5,271 | 5,211 |
| Avg. Residential Bill | \$218.12 | \$207.51 | \$56.08 |
| Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption | 1,667 | 1,661 | 1,345 |
| Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers | 2,769 | 2,749 | 1,779 |
| Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load) | 31,586 | 30,604 | 25,500 |

Find Your Location Number for a Bill Credit!

There are two account numbers hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 to receive a bill credit. The bill credit starts at \$10, but if neither number is claimed before the 25th of the month, the unclaimed amount rolls over to the next month! If both numbers are claimed, the recipients split the credit, then it starts again at \$10.

FIND YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER AND CLAIM BY AUGUST 25TH TO RECEIVE:



MEMBER SERVICES // SCOTT KUBESH



Member Services Manager

Rheem Marathon Water Heaters

This may be the last water heater you'll ever have to buy!

Marathon Water Heaters use space-age materials and innovative construction methods to deliver long life, high efficiency and good looks! With a tough polybutylene tank and outer shell, they are warranted not to leak as long as you own your home.

Marathon Water Heaters have an Energy Factor of **0.95**. What is a water heater's energy factor? Energy Factor (EF) is a measurement that's used to describe the energy efficiency of a water heater. To calculate a water heater's energy factor, you take the amount of energy the water heater puts to use and divide it by the total amount of energy that goes into powering the unit. The higher the energy factor of a water heater, the more efficient it is. Rheem Marathon Electric Water Heaters have one of the best energy factor ratings in the business today.

Minnesota Valley offers lifetime warranty residential models that meet the newest federal efficiency requirements, at reduced costs for cooperative members. Our current rebates bring the cost even lower.

Financing is available at **0% interest for 12 months** on the Rheem Marathon Water Heater and installation. A one fifteen zero one A \$50 origination fee is required for the processing of the loan and approval will be based on previous payment history with Minnesota Valley Cooperative.

For more information on long-life Marathon Water Heaters, please contact Member Services.



Minnesota Valley Water Heater Rebates

- **50 Gallon**—\$100 rebate
- **85 Gallon**—\$200 rebate
- **105 Gallon**—\$300 rebate

Note: Available to Minnesota Valley members only. The water heater must be installed on Minnesota Valley lines to receive rebate.



Last Chance to Take Advantage of Double Rebate Savings

Now is the time to take advantage of **DOUBLE REBATE SAVINGS!** Ending on Labor Day of 2021, Minnesota Valley is doubling the rebates given for the installation of an air source heat pump, geothermal heat pump or central air conditioning unit.

Air source heat pumps (including mini splits) are \$12 per 1,000 Btus

Geothermal heat pumps are \$24 per 1,000 Btus

Central air conditioning systems are \$2 per 1,000 Btus for Energy Star rated units and \$4 per 1,000 Btus for units with a SEER rating of 16 or higher

Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

24-Hour Telephone Answering

320.269.2163
800.247.5051

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Website

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Address

501 South 1st Street
P.O. Box 248
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