


member connection

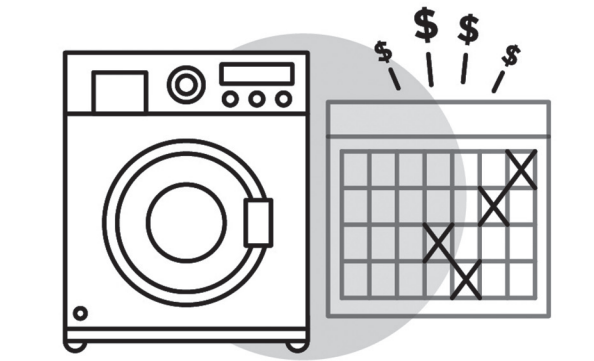
TIPS FOR PURCHASING NEW APPLIANCES

When shopping for new appliances, there are two price tags you should consider:

1. Purchase price of the appliance (think of this as a down payment)

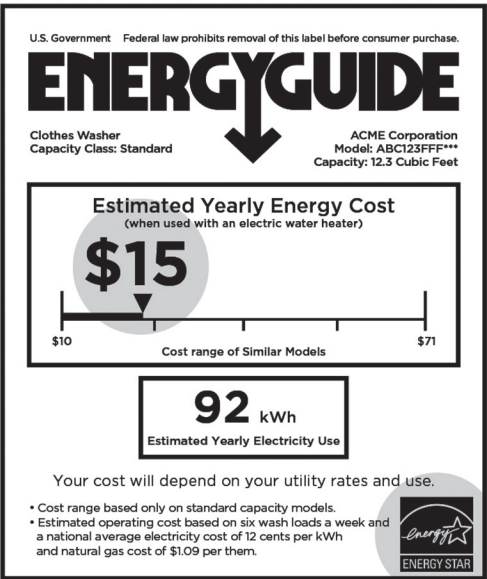


2. Cost to operate the appliance over its lifetime (how much energy the appliance uses)



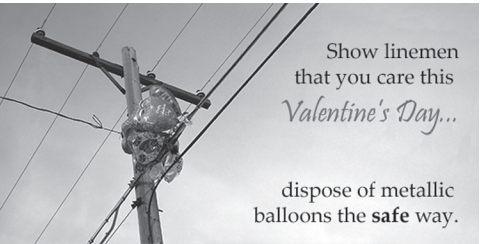
That second price is important because you'll be paying for the appliance's energy use for the next 10 to 20 years.

- **Look for the ENERGY STAR® label.** ENERGY STAR-qualified products exceed the federal minimum standards for efficiency and quality.
- **Carefully review the EnergyGuide label on the appliance.** The label provides information about how much energy an appliance uses compared to similar models.
- **Once you choose your make and model, compare prices.** Keep in mind, many retailers will match a lower price offered by competitors.
- **Recycle or sell your old appliance.** Ask the retailer if they'll pick up your old appliance, or you can sell it yourself. Either option is better than the landfill!



Source: Department of Energy

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric February 2021




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calendar of events

February

- 1** National Freedom Day
- 2** Groundhog Day
- 4** National Thank a Mail Carrier Day
- 7** Super Bowl LV
- 12** Abraham Lincoln's birthday
- 14** Valentine's Day
- 15** Presidents' Day
- 17** Ash Wednesday
- 22** George Washington's birthday



Thermostat Reminder

Your heating system works harder when the outdoor temp drops. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting.

Residential rebates announced for Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric members in 2021

Steele-Waseca member-owners seeking to add value to their energy dollar may utilize rebates offered by the co-op in 2021.

Rebates for central air conditioners and air source heat pumps are listed below, and require a quality installation. To find a qualified installer, visit Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop, click on "Residential Rebates," then "Qualified Installers List," listed under "Quick Links."

	A/C	ASHP
14.5-14.9 SEER	\$50	\$200
15.0-15.9 SEER	\$50	\$300
16.0+ SEER	\$50	\$400

Rebates for Energy Star® labeled ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) are \$100 per ton in 2021.

Heat pump water heaters (HPWHs) in 2021 have a rebate of \$500.

Steele-Waseca is offering a \$50 rebate for a residential HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM), which offers a higher efficiency rating than typical electric blowers or condenser fan motors.

Ductless ASHPs with the Energy Star label are eligible for a \$100 rebate if your primary heat is delivered fuel, and \$200 if your primary heat is electric.

Energy Star labeled refrigerators and freezers are eligible for a \$50 rebate, only if you recycle your old unit.

Dehumidifiers with the Energy Star label are eligible for a \$25 rebate.

Residential lighting rebates in 2021 will only be for LED (light emitting diode) lightbulbs with the Energy Star label. The rebate is \$2 per bulb up to one-half the purchase price (limit 5 bulbs).

Steele-Waseca members who install a LED yard light fixture that is Energy Star or DLC (Design Light Consortium) rated are eligible for a \$30 rebate; Wi-Fi smart thermostats are eligible for a \$25

rebate; Energy Star labeled electric clothes dryers are eligible for a \$25 rebate; a central air conditioner or ASHP tune up is eligible for a \$25 rebate per unit; variable speed pool pumps with the Energy Star label are eligible for a \$100 rebate; and pool ASHPs are eligible for a \$200 rebate.

Steele-Waseca is offering up to \$500 for members participating in the ChargeWise program. This is a voluntary program offered by participating electric cooperatives for qualified members who own a plug-in (PEV) or plug-in hybrid (PHEV) electric vehicle. The program allows members to charge their PEV/PHEV in their garage or carport using electricity from a specially installed 20-amp ChargeWise outlet. This ChargeWise outlet only provides energy during the off-peak hours of 11 p.m.-7 a.m. Members simply plug in the PEV in the evening and their vehicle is charged during those overnight hours at a reduced rate. They wake up to a fully-charged electric vehicle.

If you have a question, or wish to request a rebate form, please call Cindy Butterfield at Steele-Waseca weekdays between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rebate forms are available at Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop, by clicking on "Residential Rebates." Please visit energystar.gov to check the model number of qualifying products. 22547

Completed rebate forms must be accompanied with a copy of the receipt and submitted within 90 days of purchase. Please allow 6-8 weeks for processing. The rebate will appear as a credit on your Steele-Waseca bill.



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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

Operations Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

**For Customer Service, Billing
Questions and Power Outages
Phone:**

507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514

Before calling to report an outage

1. Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home and on meter pole.
2. Check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
3. Look for possible causes such as a tree branch on wires, a broken pole, twisted wires, etc.

**To leave a non-emergency message
whenever SWCE's Office is closed:**

Phone 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514 and listen to the prompts. Please have your account number, phone number, and name on the account available.

**Call *Before* You Dig
Gopher State One Call
811 or 800-252-1166**

48-hour notice required for **ALL**
underground cable locations

manager connection



By Syd Briggs,
General Manager

I'm hoping your new year is getting off to a promising start. I know I'm always encouraged by noticing the daylight is lasting longer as each day moves farther from the first day of winter.

This month I'd like to reflect on Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's business model as it sets us apart from other utilities because we adhere to seven guiding principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness, and service to the greater good of the community.

So, let's start with a brief history lesson. Cooperatives (organizations owned by the customers, employees, or other groups) started as far back as 1498. The earliest one that I know of was the Shore Porters Society in Scotland; a moving company which is still in existence today. It existed as a cooperative until the mid-19th century. 30448

Then, in 1844 when the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers was formed and formulated the seven cooperative principles cooperatives follow today. Principles such as: economic participation (you are an owner only if you buy the product); being autonomous (independent decision-making and getting decision-making from those involved in the company); one member, one vote; non-discriminatory (everyone, without exception, that buys the product, votes, and can be involved); dedication to education, training, and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and community involvement.

This particular cooperative had very humble beginnings; they initially only sold butter, sugar, flour, oatmeal, and candles. These are all basic items, and very important to an enhanced life. I cannot imagine living without butter; and yes, I would form a company with others or on my own just to make sure I can maintain having butter in my life. The interesting thing is, these simple items were (and still are) important enough in life that concerned individuals formed a company to receive, and afford, these items.

In addition, the customers involved had the foresight to recognize a monetary and long-term benefit, along with a long-term relationship, and was one of the first co-

operatives to pay a patronage dividend to the consumer/members that did business with the cooperative. From the desire of everyday items was born principles that cooperatives are guided by to this day.

When our electric co-op was founded, each member contributed an equal share in order to gain access to electricity that benefited individual families as well as the larger local community. Each member had an equal vote in co-op matters. That sense of equity and inclusion is still how we operate today.

Steele-Waseca was built by and belongs to the diverse communities and consumer-members we serve. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

We encourage all members to vote in Steele-Waseca's director elections typically held in June, but conducted in September 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. We also invite all members to participate in the co-op's town hall meetings, which were not held in 2020 due to the pandemic, to learn more about your co-op and the opportunities available to all members.

Steele-Waseca know the members of the communities in our service territory have different needs and perspectives, and we welcome diverse views on all issues under consideration by the co-op. The more viewpoints we hear, the better we are able to reflect on the needs of all corners of our communities.

While Steele-Waseca's top priority is providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity, we also want to be a catalyst for good in our community. We invest in our diverse community base through scholarship programs, charitable giving, educational programs, and more. The co-op strives to make long-term decisions that improve and enrich the communities we serve.

Today's world is radically different than it was when Steele-Waseca was founded (it's also much different than it was 11 months ago). However, our cooperative values have stood the test of time and remain just as relevant today. We recognize today's co-op members expect more, and my pledge to you—the members we proudly serve—is to promote a cooperative culture of inclusion, diversity and equity for all.

member connection

Take a break from the wind! Benefits of planting a windbreak or living snow fence

by Adam Arndt, Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Technician

Many people go to great lengths to conserve energy in this era of tight budgets and environmental awareness.

Each spring the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District in Owatonna distributes thousands of trees to homeowners for energy conservation, erosion control, and wildlife habitat.

Trees on our landscapes provide important benefits to our homes including wind and snow protection, energy conservation, shade, wildlife habitat, and increased property values. Windbreaks can provide all the benefits mentioned above and make a substantial difference in your quality of life and energy savings on your acreage.

A properly planted windbreak on the north and west of your building site helps to save energy and to reduce the cost of heating and cooling by protecting buildings and livestock from winter wind and summer sun. Windbreaks can reduce winter heating costs up to 25%. The reduction in summer air conditioning costs from windbreaks can be quite dramatic as well. The cooling effect of one mature deciduous tree is equal to 10

room-sized air conditioners.

Controlling where snow collects around your property can be a major factor in your quality of life. Snow that collects in your driveway can keep you from leaving or entering your property. You can spend many hours and significant amounts of money each year in snow removal. Studies have shown that 40% of the snow that falls is moved to another location by wind. A shrub row on the outside of your windbreak will start stopping snow in its third year of growth and only get better after that.

When planting around property lines, road rights of ways, and power lines, it's important to keep in mind setback distances. 128249

Shrubs should be planted 10 feet off the property line while trees need to be kept 20 feet off. All trees and shrubs should be planted 25 feet back of road right of way lines. Always keep in mind the mature height of the tree or shrub when planting around power lines. Trees and shrubs with a mature height of 25 feet or less should be planted 20 feet away from overhead lines. Taller trees should be planted the mature height



away from overhead power lines. You should always remember to contact Gopher State One Call when planning to dig or perform excavation in your yard.

The Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District offers site visits, advice, and plan creation for all types of windbreaks; 2021 tree order forms and tree descriptions can be found at steeleswcd.org, or Facebook@SteeleCountySWCD. Please contact adam.arndt@mn.nacdnet.net, or at the Steele County office by phone at 507-451-6730; ext. 3 for more information.



**Enjoy 50% off all standard LED
bulbs, Jan. 6 through Feb. 28!**

ENERGY STAR® certified standard LED bulbs use up to 80% less energy and last up to 22 times longer than incandescent bulbs, which means you'll save on both energy and replacement costs. LED bulbs are also great for both indoor and outdoor fixtures, since they work consistently despite temperature or humidity changes.

ENERGY WISE MN

**Make the upgrade
today and take
50% off, while
supplies last!**

Visit energywisemnstore.com

ad connection

give away

FREE ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS, you place & remove your own ad on SWCE's website, swce.coop, these are separate from Sparks & will not appear in Sparks unless mailed, delivered, faxd or emailed to SWCE.

wanted

GUNS; AMMO; METAL SIGNS; TACKLE; ES-TATES. 279-0431/Mark.

OLD STAMPS, DUCK MAIL, CHICKEN for my collection, older the better, meet in a safe place. 676-0970.

1975-78 AMF HARLEY MOTORCYCLE FOR PARTS, also known as Aermacchi. 838-6912.

CARPENTER to do some cabin work/repair, cabin located on French Lk in Rice County. 273-4456.

WOODS 7' ROTARY CUTTER or other makes. 456-7614.

FORD DIESEL SKID STEER. 330-1849.

USED TYPEWRITERS, repairables, no junk, manu-al, old. 339-8577.

for sale

MEN'S T-SHIRTS, size 3X, some w/pockets, some w/buttons, & some plain; MEN'S JEANS, sizes 48x30, 50x30, & 52x30; MEN'S MUSCLE SHIRTS, sizes 2X & 3X (many of each never worn). 437-1061.

BRIGGS & STRATTON LAWN MOWER MOTOR, 17.5 gross hp, runs gd, \$175. 583-6679.

ALFALFA/GRASS MIX HAY BALES, full size, sm. sq., great quality, no rain. 451-2978.

RENTAL, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$125. 451-7946.

SONY CAR STEREO w/4-speakers, new in the box, \$150; TV CONVERTER BOX, new/never opened, \$50; FLARE BOX, exc. shape, \$625. 455-3881.

HVY DUTY TIRE CHAINS for a garden tractor, fits 24-12-12 & other sizes, \$65; BED LINER from a '17 Chevy Colorado, \$50; FRONT RUBBER FLOOR MATS from a '17 Colorado pu, \$15. 330-3444/Mdfd.

2-LEVEL LAKEFRONT CABINS, Lk Mazaska, not leased land, \$189,900 & \$224,900 respectively; 74 SHARED ACRES. 763-218-2948/txt questions.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

CLIMATE CONTROLLED UNITS FOR RENT, 11'x9' to 16'x10'. 332-4623.

2003 FORD F-150 PICKUP, 4x4. 685-2415.

MIXED GRASS HAY, sm. sq., no rain. 210-1158.

AMANA STOVE, exc. shape, works; FRIGIDAIRE STOVE, works; TABLE & CHAIRS; 3-CUSHION COUCH, 80" long. 213-0443.

2006 CHRYSLER 300C, 51,000 mi., \$6000; 2008 TOWMASTER UTIL. TRAILER, \$2300; 2020 PJ TRAILER, 22', full pwr tilt, \$6500. 323-5750.

TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL, & STUMP GRIND., pro climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; FRONT CHROME BUMPER for an F-650, new. 456-1609.

(54) SETS OF CABINET PULLS, BACK PLATES, & HINGES, 204 total pieces in burnished bronze, \$45/obo. 451-5121.

GRASS HAY, sm. sq., no rain, no chemicals, no dust, \$3/bale. 334-6377.

2011 PRIUS, charcoal gray ext., gray int., vry reliable car, mostly hwy miles, always garaged, owned for 7 yrs, 127,327 mi., well taken care of, \$7250. 491-4565.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

CRAFT SUPPLIES & SPOOLS OF RIBBON—lots, see to appreciate, best offer. 234-6449.

HAY, 4x5, all types avail., & prices vary. 475-2350.

LAKEFRONT CABIN, (2+) bdrm, 1-ba, French Lk, not leased land, Jet Ski & lift incl., (3) storage sheds, completely remodeled, 115 shared acres. \$315,000. 838-8322.

VARIETY OF MEN'S & WOMEN'S OLD WEST/ FRONTIER CLOTHING incl. hats, skirts, vests, frocks, shirts, trousers & accessories. 952-451-4821.

SPECIALIZED CROSSROADS, men's, 700x35c, 21-spd, hybrid, \$100; SCHWINN HOLLYWOOD, 24x175, C.B., nice shape, \$40. 330-3178.

60-RDS 17-REM FIREBALL, \$85; 42-RDS 44-40 WIN, \$30; 32-RDS 444-MARLIN, \$45; 43-RDS MAGTECH 25 AUTO, \$15; SNAPPER SNOW-BLOWER, \$200. 461-1191.

SOREL FELT-LINED MEN'S BOOTS, like new, size-13; (3) OTHER MEN'S BOOTS. 465-8153.

BEACHFRONT VACATION CONDOS FOR RENT in Fort Myers Beach, South Padre Island & Mexico, visit www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com for details & photos. 612-865-9604/Sandy.

OLD STAMPS: VFW 75th anniversary 10c, (23) stamps; (10) USA 13c, orange or checkerspot; (34) misc. stamps in a frame, gd cond. 451-1180.

MINI STORAGE UNITS FOR RENT. 456-1460.

MIXED GRASS HAY, 4x5 round bales & cornstalk bales, net wrapped, no rain. 451-5131.

FORTUNE CREEK TRL LOTS, the covenant allows for a pole shed, starting at \$75,000. 838-5033/John.

FORD 5-BTM PLOW, always shedded; BRANDT SWING HOPPER, 10x60, hydraulic lift. 553-3517.

GRASS BALES, large, exc. for horses, \$70/each. 838-1784.

2013 185 CFM COMP., \$10,000; REFRG. AIR DRYERS, \$100/ea.; AUGERS & ELEV., \$50-\$100/ea.; TRUCK TOOLBOXES, alum. & steel, \$50-\$100/ea. 271-6592.

BATT-OPERATED SCOOTER; REMOTE LIFT CHAIR RECLINR; WHEELCHAIRS; HUGO WALKERS; ADULT TRICYCLE, 3-spd, gd brakes; QUEEN BED; DRESSERS; REFRIG. for garage. 363-6601.

NordicTrack® TREADMILL w/power incline; OAK BUFFET w/glass doors (both in excellent cond.) 684-2144.

LOTS OF BULLETS & BRASS to reload 7 mm - 270 & 338 + some misc. 330-5413.

7-PC DEWALT TOOL SET, 18V, (5) batteries, (2) chargers, \$200/obo. 323-4362.

2020 HOME, new, (3) bdrm, (2) full baths, move in today, Colonial Manor, 16x80, \$109,900. 838-5459.

CIRCLE LK LOT, 0.7 acres; (2) DOWNHILL ROSSIGNOL SKIS. 678-978-7444.

2009 VW PASSAT, 2.0L, turbo, new adds informations, clean title, 96,000 mi., 308-4513/evenings.

FISHER V-PLOW, stainless steel, loaded up, 2-yrs-old, \$7500/obo. 456-1181.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) assumes no liability for the content of, or reply to, any item posted. The party posting any advertisement assumes complete liability for the content of, and all replies to, any advertisement and for any claims against SWCE as a result thereof, and agrees to indemnify and hold SWCE harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.

travel

Call 4-Seasons at 373-4705 or 373-2473, from 9 a.m. to noon Mondays, to learn more about their tour information.

4 Seasons Vacations, Inc.

TRUST OUR EXPERIENCE. LOVE YOUR VACATION.

member connection

Great River Energy moves on renewable energy transition

Dodge County Wind among GRE's renewable output purchases

With long-term agreements to purchase the output from four large wind energy projects, Great River Energy (GRE) has secured energy resources to transition to a largely renewable power supply portfolio by 2023.

GRE has signed agreements with subsidiaries of NextEra Energy Resources to receive more than 700 megawatts (MW) of energy from four wind farms located primarily in southern and southwestern Minnesota:

• Buffalo Ridge Wind: 109 MW, Lincoln County, effective 2021.

• Dodge County Wind: 170 MW, Dodge and Steele counties, effective 2022.

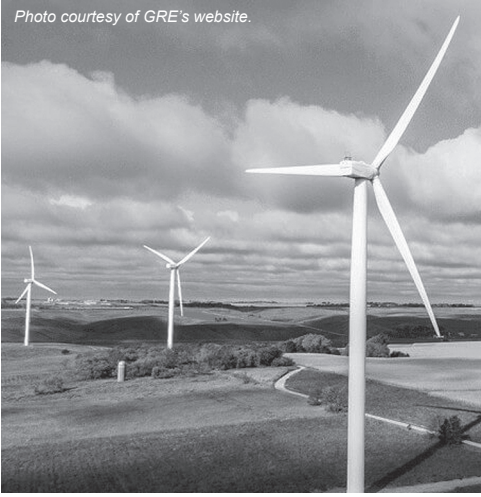
• Three Waters Wind: 280 MW, Jackson County, effective 2023.

• Timberwolf Wind: 150 MW, Fillmore County, effective 2023.



“We are proud to serve our membership with low-cost energy from our own home state,” said Great River Energy President and Chief Executive Officer David Saggau. “These projects are not only good for our cooperative member-owners, they are good for Minnesota’s economy.”

A University of Minnesota Extension economic impact study found the projects represent an \$882 million investment



and will contribute nearly \$440 million of additional economic activity within the state, including \$173.2 million in labor income. They will also support 2,590 jobs across all industries, including direct jobs at the construction sites and ripple effects.

“These projects will produce emission-free energy, lower electric rates and provide a much-needed boost as Minnesota’s economy recovers from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic,” Saggau added.

Great River Energy plans to interconnect three of the four new wind farms to the electric grid through existing GRE “peaking plant” facilities, which will continue to provide core reliability for the grid. Strong transmission at these sites makes them ideal locations for new renewable projects.

“We are pleased to partner with Great River Energy to help bring low-cost, renewable energy to their members,” said NextEra Energy Resources President and Chief Executive Officer John Ketchum. “Due to increased customer demand for renewable energy, finding ways to connect new resources to the electric grid can be challenging. Great River Energy worked with our company to find an innovative way to bring additional renewable energy to market by using existing transmission resources.”

GRE’s fleet of fast-starting natural gas peaking plants provide year-round reliability services for members’ electricity needs and the regional grid while enabling significant growth of energy supply from renewable sources. These peaking plants also help protect consumers from high market prices while emitting relatively small amounts of carbon dioxide. 1023350

Great River Energy forecasts its power supply transition will significantly reduce power costs for its member-owner distribution cooperatives that purchase wholesale electricity from GRE.

“The decision to power our system with new sources of wind energy is in line with our mission to provide member-owners with affordable, reliable energy in harmony with a sustainable environment,” said Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke.



Walk-ins welcome

For the first time since March 2020, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric opened their doors Monday, Jan. 4, to members and the general public as the coronavirus pandemic continues to make headlines. Visitors will notice signage at the entrance requiring masks to enter the co-op’s office, and to maintain social distancing recommendations.

cookin' connection

Hot Melted Chocolate Topping for Ice Cream

Rachel Peterson

Medford

1 square of chocolate or 3 Tbsp. powdered cocoa
1/3 c. boiling water
1 c. sugar
2 Tbsp. butter
2 Tbsp. white corn syrup
1 pinch of salt

Mix the chocolate and boiling water together in a bowl. Add the mixture with all other ingredients to a small saucepan on stovetop. Bring to a boil. Let boil for three more minutes while stirring frequently. Be sure to not overboil or the syrup gets extremely hard. Serve over your favorite ice cream.

Please use a 3 x 5 card when submitting your recipe. The member whose recipe is published will receive a \$7 energy credit.



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's solar subscribers will see a 19 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during December 2020. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop.

Was your account number in Sparks?

Each month five account numbers are printed in *Sparks* and a total of \$35 in energy credits is divided among however many of those numbers are found. For example, if all numbers are found, a credit of \$7 will be applied to the members' following month's electric bills; or, if only one number is found, that member receives the full \$35 credit. Members finding their numbers who have a load management receiver on their dual fuel, electric water heater, air conditioner, or genset will receive an additional \$7 credit. When you find your number, phone our office no later than the 7th of the month following receipt of the *Sparks*, or the amount will be forfeited.

January issue of Sparks

Numbers found:

Anthony Diercks

Numbers not found:

James/Joan Spaulding
Brooke/Michael Yerxa
Kelvin/Doris Moeller
Heather Hines

KEEP
LOOKING!



Sparks in brief . . .

• Want easy energy payments? Sign up for **EnergyPay Plus**, our automatic payment plan, or **Energy Prepay**, our discounted advance payment plan. Contact our office for details. You may also pay your bill online at www.swce.coop. By entering your Steele-Waseca username and password you can also view a 13-month history of your account.

• If you have changed or added phone numbers, please contact SWCE to update your contact information.

• Need a new water heater? For information about our Westinghouse Electric Water Heater Program, phone Cindy Butterfield at our office between 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 446-4204 / 800-526-3514.

• December temps – The average high temperature for December was 33° F, while the average low was 15° F. This resulted in 1,261 Heating Degree Days (HDDs), and 0 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 29° F and average low of 14° F. This resulted in 1,348.5 HDDs and 0 CDDs.

• **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2021, all ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), electric clothes dryers, dehumidifiers, central air conditioners, air and ground source heat pumps, light emitting diode (LED) bulbs purchased (limit 5) are eligible to receive rebates (may not be combined with special promotions). Rebate request forms must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Rebate forms are available at www.swce.coop. For more information or to receive a rebate request form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 446-4204 or 800-526-3514.

• **Steele-Waseca's tree service contractor** – Carr's Tree Service, Inc., is contracted to do SWCE's tree trimming. To report a tree concern, phone:

507-451-7340 / 800-526-3514

STEELE COUNTY TIP LINE

866-878-7964

TO BE USED TO REPORT ANY CRIME OR
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY ANONYMOUSLY

COVERS ALL OF STEELE COUNTY
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF:

OWATONNA ELLENDALE
BLOOMING PRAIRIE MEDFORD

health & safety connection

Generate Safely

Safe Generator Operation

Keep this card in your home's emergency kit or with your generator.

☐ Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment:

Stationary Generator: An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.

Portable Generator: Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.

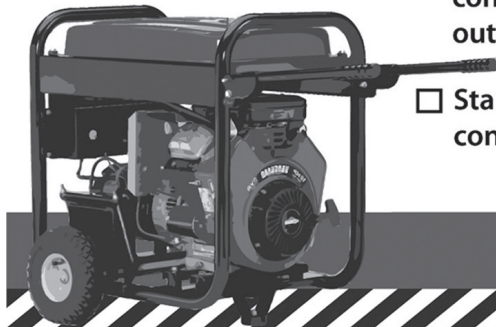
☐ Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows, and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is **DEADLY**.

☐ Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.

☐ Start the generator first **BEFORE** connecting appliances.

Source: SafeElectricity.org

Developed jointly by the Energy Education
Council & Rural Electricity Resource Council



WATT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

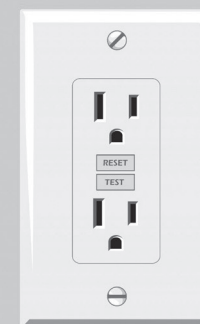


Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter

Prevents electrical shock by detecting variations in current.

Install in areas where water and electricity are in close proximity.

Test outlets with GFCIs monthly; if they don't work properly, consult your electrician.

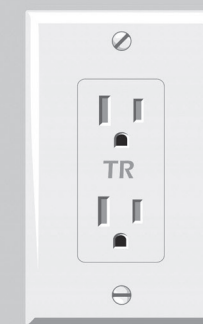


Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter

Prevents electrical fires caused by arc flash. Usually installed by an electrician.

An arc is an electrical discharge that can cause intense heat or light.

It interrupts the circuit when it detects an arc or other abnormalities in the flow of electricity.



Tamper Resistant Outlet

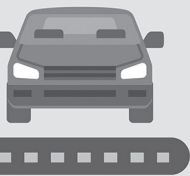
Prevents shocks caused by tampering with an outlet.

The protective shutters are designed to move when a plug is correctly inserted.

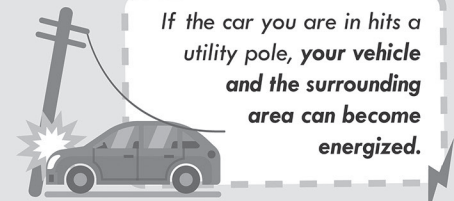
Became part of the National Electrical Code in 2008; if your home does not have these, install childproof devices.

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KNOW WHAT TO DO



if in an Auto Accident
with Power Lines



Even if you do not touch lines or equipment, you can still be killed or seriously injured.



1. Do **NOT** leave the car, and warn others to stay away.

2. Call **911** to have the utility notified.



3. Wait until a utility professional has told you it is safe.



If the car is on fire, jump clear of the vehicle: with feet together, and without touching the car and the ground at the same time.

Continue to **hop away** with your feet together as far as you can.



Learn more at

Safe
Electricity.org

If you wish to reduce clutter and add convenience, you may elect to receive an email that your bill is available to view online. Log in to your online account at www.swce.coop, click on the "Alerts" tab, and check "Bill Notification," and "Electronic Only." Enter your email address and click "Update" to receive your bill notification by email instead of in the mail. 1056071