



POWER SUPPLY IN TRANSITION

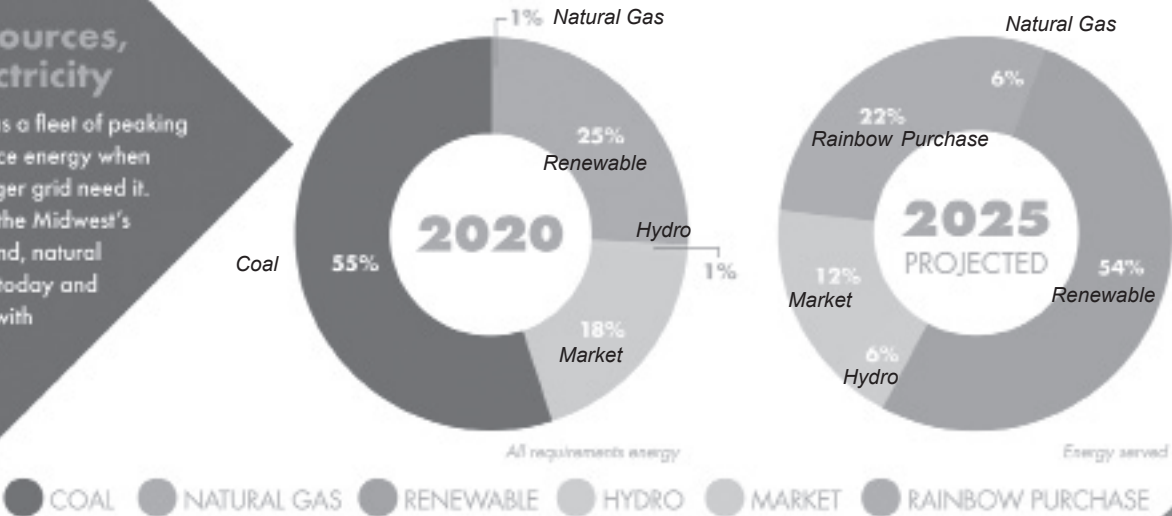
Great River Energy has surpassed state environmental goals years ahead of schedule, and has plans to achieve future emissions targets early. We have done this while maintaining our strong commitment to provide our member-owners with affordable, reliable and resilient power.

Flexible resources, reliable electricity

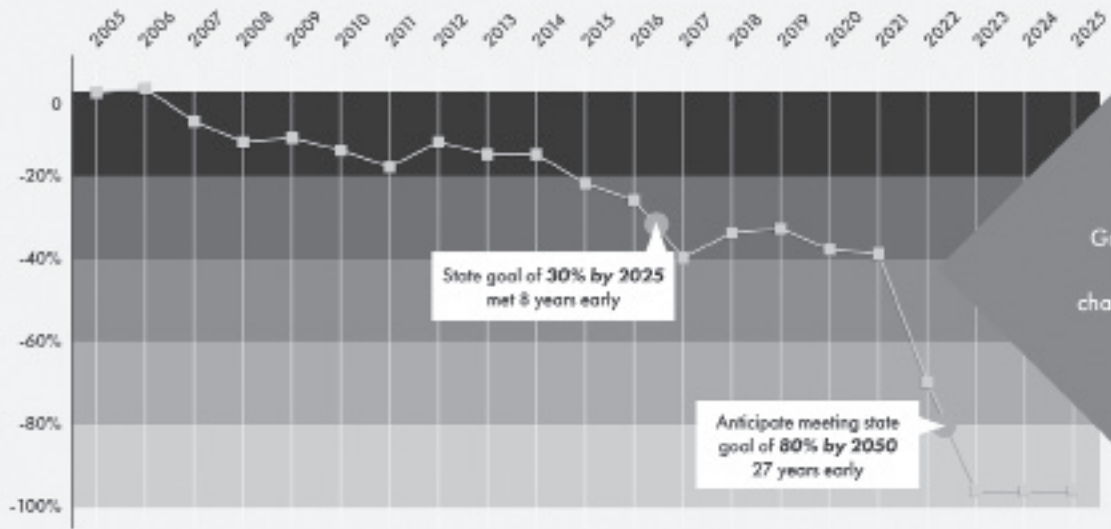
Great River Energy has a fleet of peaking plants ready to produce energy when its members or the larger grid need it. When combined with the Midwest's high availability of wind, natural gas provides stability today and flexibility for a future with new technologies and opportunities.

ENERGY MIX PROGRESSION

Over the past several years, Great River Energy has begun to transition from an energy mix heavily reliant on coal to one that will be over half renewable energy sources by 2025.



DIRECT CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS REDUCTION



Economic Benefits

Great River Energy projects upcoming power supply changes will produce billions of dollars of benefits to cooperative members.



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

August 2021

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calendar of events

August

- 6 Dodge Co. Relay for Life
- 6-8 Claremont Hogfest
- 14 Lonsdale Community Day
- 17-22 Steele County Free Fair
- 26 Minnesota State Fair starts
- 28 8th Annual Caleb Erickson Memorial Event in Waseca

Litomysl Summer Festival

Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna  
Sunday, July 25  
Polka Mass - 10 a.m.  
Festival 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Food, games & prizes for all ages  
Live Music  
Prune, Poppyseed, & Apricot "Buchty"  
Silent Auction & Used-a-Bit sale  
Everyone welcome!  
[www.litomysl.webs.com](http://www.litomysl.webs.com)

Great River Energy power supply transformation continues

New ownership group for Coal Creek Station plans carbon capture and renewables

Great River Energy (GRE), Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's wholesale power provider, reached an agreement to sell the Coal Creek Station power plant to Rainbow Energy Center, LLC.

The sale of Coal Creek Station averts the plant's closure, which was scheduled for the second half of 2022 unless a buyer was found. Rainbow Energy Center will continue to operate the 1,151-megawatt (MW) power plant using current plant employees they hire. Rainbow Energy Center also plans to develop carbon capture and storage at Coal Creek Station. 25787

"We are excited for what the future holds for our North Dakota employees and the communities surrounding Coal Creek Station," said Great River Energy President and Chief Executive Officer David Saggau (pictured above). Selling the plant also offers additional benefits for GRE's member-owners compared with shutting it down.

Nexus Line, LLC has reached an agreement to purchase from Great River Energy the high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission system that extends between central North Dakota and Minnesota. GRE will operate and maintain the HVDC system under a 10-year contract.

Rainbow Energy Center and Nexus Line are affiliates of Rainbow Energy Marketing Corp., of Bismarck, North Dakota.

"The successful implementation of carbon capture and storage is central to

our plans at Coal Creek Station," said Rainbow Energy Marketing Corp. President Stacy L. Tschider. "As a privately held company, we are uniquely positioned to continue the successful legacy that Great River Energy and its employees have established in North Dakota."

Rainbow Energy Center plans to add incremental generation from renewables to fully utilize the capacity of the HVDC transmission system.

Great River Energy will also enter into a power purchase agreement with Rainbow Energy Center, LLC.

These transactions will help ensure GRE continues to provide its member-owners with reliable and affordable electricity as the cooperative builds its future power supply portfolio.

"We are building a power supply portfolio that will serve our member-owner cooperatives with clean, affordable and reliable energy for decades," said Saggau. The cooperative will add 900 MW of wind energy by 2023 and remains on track to meet Minnesota's 80% carbon dioxide reduction goal ahead of schedule.

The sale of Coal Creek Station and the HVDC system is expected to close later this year, after required approvals are obtained.

(Editor's note: Great River Energy's power supply portfolio is highlighted in the display on Page 8.)









ad connection

give away

KITTENS, friendly, for the barn or indoors. 475-1743.

POOL HEATER, natural gas, works. 339-0763.

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

wanted

WOODEN LAMINATED ARCH SUPPORTS for a Quonset bldg 36' wide. 456-7754.

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

VENT-FREE PROPANE HEATER. 663-1275.

WILL ASSIST PEOPLE IN THEIR HOMES w/personal cares, exercises, housekeeping, meal prep, errands, appointments, 40+ yrs exper. 456-0076.

FORD SKID STEER, diesel. 330-1849.

WILL DO TILLING, PLOWING, BLADE & BUCKET WORK w/compact tractor. 451-6046.

DAIRY BARN FLY SPRAY FOGGR; OLDER STANDARD CAB FULL-SZ PKUP w/8' bx, must be in gd running cond. (no ext. cabs). 330-3856.

BARN, GRANARY, &/OR OUTBUILDINGS, I re-move to re-purpose the lumber; OLD TIN; BARN SIDING OR LUMBER. 330-0258/Tim.

WOOD QUILT RACK in gd cond. 583-7105.

UNWANTD BIKES & LWN MOWRS,\$ pd on delivrd. 330-3178.

JUNKERS OR REPAIRABLES, top \$ paid cars or trucks. 332-2300.

SOMEONE TO MAKE HAY ON MY 8-10 ACRE FIELD on shares or cash near Mdfd on county line. 339-0763.

UNWANTED TYPEWRITERS. 339-8577.

FORD 391 BIG BLOCK for 1978 Ford F-600 truck. 676-0969.

PAINTING JOBS: houses, barns, sheds, etc.; LADDER OR LUGGAGE RACK. 308-8556.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

for sale

KING CUTTER 3-PT BACK BLADE, 62" long, swivels 360°, replaceable cutting edge, shows vry little use, \$275. 612-247-2957.

SAANEN DAIRY GOATS, downsizing the herd, does in milk, \$300-\$350; & April doelings, \$200. 456-3838.

RED CEDAR FENCE POST, 7"x10", \$30/each; PET CARRIER, large, \$30; FLARE BOX, hydraulic lift, \$575; LAND WHEEL COUNTER, \$30. 455-3881.

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

ELEC. RECLINER CHAIR, gray, 2-yrs-old, \$200. 451-9078.

(2) RADIAL TRACTOR TIRES, used, 18.4x38, \$400. 649-7794.

(300+) GRASS HAY BALES, sm. sq., no rain, nice, located between Fbo & Nfld, will deliver in a reas. distance & help load/unload, \$5/bale. 330-5113.

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

FREE-RANGE CHICKEN EGGS, \$2/dozen; RHODE ISLAND RED CHICKENS, 12-wks-old. 651-260-9225.

BUILDABLE RIGHTS in Webster Twsp in Rice Co. 612-919-4130 for pricing & details.

MINI STORAGE UNITS in Ellendale. 456-1460.

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

18"X24' STEEL CULVERT w/apron; (2) BOAT SEATS w/pedestals; HOMELITE GAS WATER PUMP, 1.5"; MERCURY VAPOR YD LIGHT; RE-TRACTABLE CLOTHESLINE. 465-8566.

4D MFG LIVESTOCK/HORSE HAY/GR. FEEDERS: 2-horse 68"x38"x46", \$175; 4-horse 68"x38"x88", \$220;ABOUT (36) 4' FIBERGLASS STEP-IN ELEC. FENCE POSTS, used 1-season, \$1/ea. 323-4118.

LADIES RECLINER w/swivel base, burgandy color, no rips, buyer hauls, 2-yrs-old, \$15. 676-0825.

(2) TRAILER TIRES & WHEELS, brand new, 5-bolt, 5.30x12", \$100/both; (2) TRAILER TIRES & WHEEL, 155/80R13, 85% tread, 5-bolt, \$50/both. 491-4565.

DUMP TRUCK SERVICES FOR ALL YOUR HAULING NEEDS: rock, gravel, dirt, etc., 15.5-ton capacity. 456-7774.

BARITONE SAXOPHONE; BASS SAX; CORDLESS BLK & DECKER MOWER; TENOR SAX; BCS GARDEN SHREDDER w/PTO. 340-0506.

1.8-ACRE BUILDING SITE, wooded, secluded, 8-mi. west of Fbo by Cedar Lk, \$199,000. 210-5596.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

9T GRAIN BIN w/elec. auger, best offer; STORAGE FOR RENT: boats, trailers. 475-2322.

DINING ROOM BUFFET, 60-yrs-old, \$50. 649-7820 (For person who previously called, your message was lost, please call again).

1-PAIR CARHARTT BLK JEANS & 1-PAIR WRANGLER JEANS, size 38x30, \$20/each. 210-6728.

REESE 18K 5TH WHEEL w/slider, \$800; 7" STRIKEMASTER AUGER, \$200; VENTED CAMPER TAILGATE for Dodge truck, \$100. 210-6084.

SHINGLING & LIGHT CONSTRUCTION, free estimates. 456-0296.

CANON PIXMA MX340 COPY-SCAN-FAX MACHINE, comes w/cartridges (4-blk, 1-color), \$250; GARAGE DOOR, 7x18', like new, complete, \$250. 334-3804.

(5) YEARLING REGISTERED HEREFORD HEIFERS exposed to Hereford bull; KATAHDIN HAIR SHEEP RAM LAMBS. 451-2722.

COMMERCIAL VENDING MACH., \$150; ARE RED HARDTOP for Dodge Ram pickup, \$100. 334-7177.

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

ELNA EXPRESSIVE 830 - 2 MONTHS OLD SERGER SEWING MACHINE, all attachments with it. 475-9388.

(38) MN PHEASANT HABITAT FRAMED W/STAMP PRINTS, 1983 1st of state to 2021, ready to hang on wall. 581-6402.

4X5 MIXED GRASS HAY ROUND BALES & CORNSTALK BALES, net wrapped, no rain. 451-5131.

TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL, & STUMP GRIND., pro climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; 2007 FRONT CHROME BUMPER for an F-650, like new. 456-1609.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

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

  
TRUST OUR EXPERIENCE. LOVE YOUR VACATION.

member connection

Daley's new role at Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric benefits co-op's operations

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's Jeff Daley (pictured right) started his new role at the co-op, March 1, as GIS (Geographic Information System)/Staking Supervisor. The co-op has benefited with the new position, according to Operations Division Manager Dan Meier.

"When we made the decision to GPS (Global Positioning System) and inventory our system four years ago, most of the work was farmed out," said Meier. "We knew at that time we would need someone at Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric to take control of that system and keep it up-to-date and running smoothly." Meier noted Daley stepped up and filled that role at that time while still fulfilling his daily duties as field technician, which lead to the new position being created. 1006642

"I am able to devote more time and energy to the mapping system and member inquiries, which in turn will increase productivity and member satisfaction," said Daley. He is also responsible for investigating, surveying, and staking

distribution lines according to construction specifications, and prepare staking sheets and work orders.

As for the impact the new position has had on the Operations Division at Steele-Waseca, "This has been a great transition for Operations," said Meier. "It has allowed us to be more self-sufficient by keeping the work in-house, also benefiting Operations with the technical skills needed to keep the system viable."

While not having to juggle two jobs has been beneficial, it also has been a challenge for Daley, "Being able to relinquish duties to the new staker, Gabe (Roetman), as I transition into my new responsibilities."

Daley joined Steele-Waseca as a field technician, June 27, 2011. He arrived at the co-op with 12 years of experience at Valley Electric Association in Pahrump, Nevada, which is 60 miles west of Las Vegas.

Jeff is originally from Minnesota as he grew up in Grand Rapids, where he graduated from high school in 1986.



He also comes from a large family with 10 brothers and six sisters. Jeff earned a diesel mechanics degree from Staples Vo-Tech.

During his free time, Jeff enjoys ATV trail riding, target shooting, and kayaking with his wife, Paige. *By Jeff Daley*

ENERGY WISE MN

WHETHER TEMPS RISE OR FALL, YOUR ENERGY BILL WILL STAY COOL.

Air Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate
≥ 8.2 HSPF	\$1,000
≥ 9.0 HSPF	\$2,000

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS UP TO \$2,000 REBATE WHEN YOU INSTALL A QUALIFYING, ENERGY-SAVING AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP!

Air source heat pumps provide home cooling and supplemental heating, using 72% less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.

Visit [energywisemn.com/promotions](http://energywisemn.com/promotions) to learn more about the rebate!

Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice.  
Offer expires July 30, 2021



## cookin' connection

### Rhubarb Butter Crunch

Deb Randgaard

Faribault

**Crust:**

3 c. rhubarb; 1 c. white sugar; 3 Tbsp. flour

**Topping:**

1 c. brown sugar	1/2 c. butter
1 c. oatmeal	1/2 c. shortening
1 1/2 c. flour	

Combine rhubarb, sugar, and flour. Place in 9x9 greased baking dish. Combine brown sugar, oatmeal, flour, cut in butter and shortening. Sprinkle over rhubarb mixture. Bake at 375° for 40 minutes. Serve warm with 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 56 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during June 2021. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, [swce.coop](http://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.

## July issue of Sparks



**Numbers found:**  
Jeanne/John Ullian  
Kevin Filan or Jessica Rathke

**Numbers not found:**  
Craig & Jody Ohnstad  
Russel/Jill Kiker  
Joni/Mark Biebighauser



## 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](http://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.

• **June temps** – The average high temperature for June was 86° F, while the average low was 61° F. This resulted in 263 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs), and 14 Heating Degree Days (HDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 82° F and average low of 61° F. This resulted in 204.5 CDDs and 4.5 HDDs.

• **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](http://www.swce.coop). For more information or to receive a rebate request form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 446-4204 or 800-526-3514. 1020180

• **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

### How GFCIs can help keep you safe

Imagine cleaning up in the kitchen. The sink is full of hot soapy water, and you accidentally knock an appliance into the water. With a pop, the power instantly goes off. Your life was just saved by a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).

Help prevent electric shocks in your home by installing GFCIs. They can provide protection against shock from an electrified appliance, equipment in contact with water, and from a damaged or defective appliance.

GFCIs should be installed in areas near water. This includes: bathrooms, kitchens, garages, basements, and the outdoors. A GFCI detects an abnormal flow of electricity and shuts off the power, preventing shock or electrocution.

Electricity is always looking for a path to ground. A ground-fault is an unintentional electrical path from the power source and a grounded surface. Under normal conditions, current flows in a circuit, traveling from the source, through the device it operates, and back to the source.

If an electrified appliance gets damaged by water, that flow is broken. Without a GFCI, your body could become that path to ground for the electric current.

GFCIs come in three different forms. First, there is the receptacle GFCI. This type fits into a standard outlet box and protects against ground faults for whatever is plugged into the outlet.

Next is the circuit breaker GFCI. This is a circuit breaker with a built-in GFCI installed directly in a panel box to add protection to the circuits it supplies.

Portable GFCI is the third form. These are designed for locations where there is not a permanent GFCI installed. Some plug into the receptacle, and devices can then be plugged into the GFCI. Another type has the GFCI circuitry built into an extension cord. Both types plug into an outlet like any corded device and require no installation.

If you have receptacle or portable GFCIs, you should test them after installation, after power failures, and on a monthly basis. They will have test and reset buttons for this purpose. 1061618

If you are interested in making your home safer by installing GFCIs, con-

**LOVE THE OUTDOORS?**  
**BE SAFE OUT THERE**

**2/3** of lightning fatalities are associated with outdoor recreational activities.

Pay attention to weather forecasts **before you go canoeing or boating**. Get off the open water as soon as you **hear thunder**.

**Do not use generators in enclosed areas.** The same goes for grills, camping stoves or other small appliances that produce carbon monoxide.

**Look up** for power lines while fishing or sailing.

**FACT: Fishing is the most common outdoor activity associated with lightning-related deaths.**

**Going for a hike?** If you hear thunder or see lightning, **do not seek shelter under a tree.**

**Tent camping?** Plan ahead, seek shelter in a hard-top vehicle or four-sided building during a storm or at the first sight of lightning.

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

tact a qualified electrician to do so. For more information on home electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

**1,000**

Approximately 1,000 deaths occur each year in the United States as a result of electrical injuries.

[SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org) Source: The National Institutes of Health.