




the power of human connections

# sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric September 2024

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- 7** Ad Connection; Smart home bundle promotion;
- 8** Demand for electricity on the increase

## calendar of events

### September

- 2** Labor Day  
**SWCE office closed;**  
Final day of Minnesota State Fair
- 4-8** The Defeat of Jesse James Days, Northfield
- 7-8** Mantorville Marigold Days
- 11** Patriot Day
- 19** Steele County Ducks Unlimited Fall Bash, Owat.
- 20** National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 22** First day of autumn


## Steele-Waseca utilizes Great River Energy contribution to benefit six community organizations

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's wholesale energy provider, Great River Energy (GRE), has increased their annual contribution to member-owner cooperatives to donate to organizations benefiting communities within their respective service territory.

As a result, Steele-Waseca selected six community group recipients to each receive an equal contribution. The recipients included: Ellendale Fire Department, Medford Fire Relief Association, Community Pathways of Steele County, Inc., Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center and Food Shelf, Dodge County Food Shelf, and Com-



munity Action Center of Northfield and Faribault.

GRE appreciated Steele-Waseca's assessment of where the communities' needs were greatest and could help make the biggest impact. 

 #swceCOOPERATION



### Paving the way

M&W Blacktopping of Faribault completed paving of the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric member parking lot Thursday afternoon, July 18. Steele-Waseca members and employees were required to park in the adjacent lot and access a side door throughout the week while work was completed. 17438



With a new school year around the corner...

TALK TO YOUR

# TEEN DRIVERS

Remind your teen drivers to slow down and pay attention when kids are present - especially before and after school.

 Safe Electricity.org

 #swceLIFE+

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric will be conducting Town Hall meetings in September and October. Look for a postcard in the mail for the meeting scheduled for your district. All meetings will be at Torey's Restaurant & Bar in Owatonna.

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 Owatonna MN 55060-0485

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

Website: [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop)  
 Email: [info@swce.coop](mailto:info@swce.coop)



**Board of Directors**

- PJ Duchene, *Vice President* . . . District 1
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**Division Managers**

- Kim Wilson . . . . . *Member Services*
- Jon Stelter . . . . . *Finance*
- Dan Meier . . . . . *Operations*

**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*

**E**lectricity provides benefits we often take for granted.

It goes well beyond short-term satisfaction by allowing us to charge devices and have cold food and hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate. Besides the privilege it affords, electricity has also remained relatively cost-stable even amidst inflationary times.

As a member-owned cooperative, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric does everything in our power to ensure your costs stay reasonable, and that electricity remains a great value for our members. It’s not always easy, as there are several factors beyond inflation that impact the price of electricity—some within our control, but most beyond it.

In the last 12 years, Steele-Waseca has had very small adjustments to our member’s bills; we are fortunate to be in a very stable position with the cost of power and the cost of service.

Great River Energy (GRE), our power supplier, has had very little increases in this time period and what we correspondingly pass along to our members has been very small. 1019034

Our cost of service has also remained proportional to our increases in sales and, again, we have not had to pass on a full system increase in those 12 years.

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure

investment, maintenance and operational expenses. Our costs of power can change by the hour based on market conditions on the grid. The components that change can be transmission-related costs, capacity, and energy, based on supply and demand, and based on scheduling that vary each hour.

Through our cost of service studies we attempt to forecast and plan so we can charge a constant rate as much as possible to prevent our member’s bills from having an extreme fluctuation from month to month or even from day to day.

Weather patterns also contribute, affecting both demand and generation capabilities, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions.

Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. Your electric co-op considers all these aspects when rates are adjusted, and because we’re a cooperative, we consider the impact of those costs on our members as well.

**A**s the communities within our service area continue to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, farms, and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. You can be assured, Steele-Waseca always puts you top of mind and works each day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money.

#swceTRUST

**WAYS YOU CAN USE ELECTRICITY** ⚡  
 that cost less than a to-go coffee ☕ \$6

- RUN FRIDGE 24 HOURS
- FULLY CHARGE CELL PHONE
- WATCH 2 HOURS OF TV
- USE OVEN 4 HOURS
- POWER LAPTOP 8 HOURS
- DRY A LOAD OF LAUNDRY

# Beginner's guide to the electric grid

by Maura Giles, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)

Electricity plays an essential role in everyday life.

It powers our homes, offices, hospitals and schools. We depend on it to keep us cool in the summer and warm in the winter, charge our phones and binge our favorite TV shows. If the power goes out, even briefly, our lives can be disrupted.

The system that delivers your electricity is often described as the most complex machine in the world, and it's known as the electric grid.

What makes it so complex? We all use different amounts of electricity throughout the day, so the supply and demand for electricity is constantly changing. For example, we typically use more electricity in the mornings when we're starting our day, and in the evenings when we're cooking dinner and using appliances. Severe weather and other factors also impact how much electricity we need.

The challenge for electric providers

is to plan for, produce and purchase enough electricity so it's available exactly when we need it. Too much or too little electricity in one place can cause problems. So, to make sure the whole system stays balanced, the electric grid must adjust in real time to changes and unforeseen events.

At its core, the electric grid is a network of power lines, transformers, substations, and other infrastructure that span the entire country. But it's not just a singular system. It's divided into three major interconnected grids: the Eastern Interconnection, the Western Interconnection, and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. These grids operate independently but are linked to allow electricity to be transferred between regions when backup support is required.

Within the three regions, seven balancing authorities known as independent system operators (ISOs) or regional transmission organizations (RTOs) monitor the grid, signaling to power

plants when more electricity is needed to maintain a balanced electrical flow. ISOs and RTOs are like traffic controllers for electricity.

## The journey of electricity begins at power plants

Power plants can be thought of as factories that make electricity using various energy sources, like natural gas, solar, wind and nuclear energy. Across the U.S., more than 11,000 power plants deliver electricity to the grid.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric receives power from their generation and transmission (G&T) co-op, Great River Energy (GRE). They work closely with GRE to provide electricity at the lowest cost possible. Being part of a G&T benefits members like you by placing ownership and control in the hands of your co-op, prioritizing affordability and reliability, supporting local economic development and fostering a sense of community. 20107

To get the electricity from power

*(Electric grid guide continued on Page 7)*

## HOW ELECTRICITY GETS TO YOU



**step 1**  
**Generation**  
Electricity is generated from various sources.



**step 5**  
**Distribution Substation**  
Voltage is lowered further for safe distribution.



**step 2**  
**Step-Up Transformer**  
Voltage is increased to push the electricity over long distances.



**step 6**  
**Distribution Power Lines**  
Electricity travels across these lines in your community.



**step 3**  
**Transmission Power Lines**  
Lines carry electricity over long distances.



**step 7**  
**Final Stop**  
A transformer reduces voltage a final time, and electricity is sent to your home.



**step 4**  
**Transmission Substation**  
Voltage is lowered so electricity can travel across the local system.



## cookin' connection

### Cranberry Salad

Linda Danks

Medford

- 12 oz. pkg cranberries, ground
- 1.5 c. sugar
- 3 c. miniature marshmallows
- 20 oz. can of crushed pineapple, well drained
- 8 oz. container of Cool Whip whipped topping

Mix cranberries and sugar together and refrigerate overnight. Next day add marshmallows, pineapple, Cool Whip and stir together. Let stand for two hours and serve.

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 52 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during July 2024. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, [swce.coop](http://swce.coop). #swceINNOVATION

### 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. 1102143

## August issue of Sparks



#### Numbers found:

No members found their number

#### Numbers not found:

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Geiger  
 Brad/Andrea Classon  
 Richard Lees  
 Sara Robles  
 David/Kathy Wead



## 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.

- **July temps** – The average high temperature for July was 80° F, while the average low was 62° F. This resulted in 198.5 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs), and 2.5 Heating Degree Days (HDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 81° F and average low of 57° F. This resulted in 146.5 CDDs and 29.5 HDDs.

- **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2024, 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.

- **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



## DON'T PLUG THESE 15 THINGS INTO A POWER STRIP

It is fine to plug in some things into a power strip, such as computers, lamps, phones and other light-load electronics.

However, appliances that require a lot of power should not be plugged into a power strip. Do not use a power strip with the following appliances:

### IN THE KITCHEN

- × Refrigerators
- × Microwave ovens
- × Toasters
- × Coffee makers
- × Blenders
- × Slow cookers
- × Rice cookers

### IN THE BATHROOM


- × Hair dryers
- × Curling irons
- × Other hairstyling tools

### IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM


- × Washing machines
- × Dryers

### ANYWHERE

- × Sump pumps
- × Space heaters
- × Portable air conditioners

 Do not overload power strips by plugging in appliances that consume more watts than the cord can handle. This can cause the power strip to overheat or start a fire.

 Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.safeelectricity.org)

 #swceLIFE+



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Now is the time to schedule annual maintenance for your home's heating system. During fall months, HVAC technicians are typically less busy, making this an excellent time for maintenance and any necessary repairs before the winter months.

A qualified technician can clean filters, check for leaks and ensure all system components are working efficiently to keep you home cozy and warm when the temperatures begin to drop.



## ad connection

### give away

(2) SWIVEL CHAIRS; QUEEN BOX SPRING; OAK ENTERTAINMENT CENTER; (2) FULL-SIZE HEADBOARDS: 1 brass, 1 padded. 612-598-4005.

USED "OLDS" TROMBONE w/case for beginner. 383-7883.

DIGITAL-TO-ANALOG CONVERTER BX. 634-7988.

WOODEN SPOOLS at SWCE. 451-7340/Todd.

KITTENS. 461-9373.

DOWNED, DEAD TREES, you cut up. 451-7837.

CATS/KITTENS, friendly, litter-box trained, used to be around dogs. 612-910-0041.

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, or emailed to SWCE.

### wanted

MOTOR PARTS from 1979-80 Int'l grain truck or school bus, 404 gas or 345 gas. 213-0692.

JUNKERS & REPAIRABLES, top \$ paid for used cars, trucks, SUVs, some farm equip. 332-2300.

TOPPER for 2013 Ram 1500 short box. 451-2722.

(300) GRASS HAY BALES, 20-mile radius around Nfld or delivery. 612-325-8027.

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

RETIRED THERAPIST WILL PROVIDE HOME CARE SERVICES for those needing personal cares, light housekeeping, exercise, errands, etc., in Owat., Mdfd, Fbo areas. 213-9502.

FORD SKID STEER, diesel. 330-1849.

### for sale

JD 335 ROUND BALER; 600 LB. TO 800 LB. ROUND BALES. 783-9240.

CATERPILLAR D2 w/blade, \$4000. 330-3945.

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

## All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

FIBERGLASS PICKUP TOPPER, 80"x70.5", fits ext. cab; WOOD BENCHES; RHUBARB PLANTS. 497-6402.

(2) 1958 JEEPS, 1 hard top, 1 title. 951-2568/lv.msg.

TRUCK RIMS, set of 4, 16.5, 8 bolt, \$100; SONY CAR STEREO w/speakers, AM/FM/CD/MP3, new in the box, \$150. 455-3881.

SHINGLING & LIGHT CONSTRUCTION; TREE REMOVAL, free estimates. 456-0296.

BAUMALIGHT STUMP GRINDER, 3 point, PTO pwr, like new. 332-8526/leave message.

14' BEAN HEAD for an older JD 6600 combine, it works & is in the shed, \$100; JD 444 CORN HEAD, vry gd shape, \$1000/obo; HAY, sm. sq., \$3.50/bale. 456-9546/text or email: [eakerdr@gmail.com](mailto:eakerdr@gmail.com).

TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL, & STUMP GRINDING, professional climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; 2006 FORD F-650 FRONT BUMPER, new. 456-1609.

JD 5205, 2WD w/521 loader, blade, & double auger snowblower, 3-point quick hitch, always shedded, \$20,000/firm (will sell separately); (20) HERTER'S PLASTIC DUCK DECOYS, \$100. 461-0241.

2002 JEEP; 2009 KAWASAKI VULCAN SPECIAL; (4) 20" RIMS for 2013-24 Ford F-150. 444-9640.

USED MOTORS & TRANS. for trucks, cars, used auto parts, 30-day warr. on eng. & trans. 332-2300.

A-C C, CA TRACTORS; MOWERS; FLATBEDS; 5 POST FRAME RACK; BELLY MOWERS for IH Farmall. 402-7679.

ANTIQUÉ BUGGY; ANTIQUÉ STROLLER (both wicker & prices negotiable). 838-2610.

110V LIFT MATE BOAT LIFT, 5000 lbs. cap.; (2) 24" PATRIOT DOCK TIRES, \$100; ORANGE SNOW FENCE, 3 rolls, 4x100'; \$100. 645-5077.

BOAT/RV STORAGE FOR RENT. 475-2322.

1994 IH STRAIGHT TRUCK w/refrigerated Johnson 18' freezer box, \$7200. 334-7177.

1974 VOLKSWAGEN SUPER BEETLE, new tires, new brakes, gd body, runs, drives, gd project car. 236-0601.

LAYING HENS. 380-4291.

MINN KOTA TERROVA TROLLING MOTOR, 80 lb., 24V, bow mount, GPS, DI, spot lock, hand remote, foot control, quick release, complete manual, great unit. 581-6950/Nfld.

55-GAL. PLASTIC & STEEL BARRELS w/covers, \$5-\$15; 220-GAL. POLY TANK w/valve in forklift frame, \$75. 421-2521.

VINTAGE: LAMPS, FLOOR LAMPS, TOYS; CANS; BOTTLES. 491-2667.

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.

A-C WD LOADER & CHAINS, \$1450; A-C WD, \$900; FARMALL W4, need to get running, \$1500; FARMALL C, need to get running, \$1200; FARMALL H MOTOR STOCK, gd tires, \$800. 456-1181.

BALDOR ELEC. MOTOR, 2 hp, 230V, reversible cord & pulley, \$175; MARATHON ELEC. MOTOR, 1.5 hp, 115/230V rev. cord & pulley, \$150; GRAIN HOPPER for 6"-8" auger, \$75. 465-8566.

GRASS HAY, sm. sq. bales by Waldorf. 327-3672.

4-ACRES LAND, DOUBLE INSULATED BLDG approx. 45'x90' located on MN Hwy 251 between Hollandale & Maple Island, look for the sign. 612-418-4375.

TREK 7100, men's hybrid, 21 spd, F.S. Fork, 700x35c, \$150; GARY FISHER MTB, men's, 21 spd, 26x175, \$100; TREK 16" TRAINING WHEELS, \$40. 330-3178.

1955 JD 70 TRACTOR, gas, 45 loader, runs gd, new battery, new Power Trol gasket, narrow front, wheel weights, gd tires. 456-3522/text.

HOSPITAL LIFT BED in exc. cond., price negotiable. 581-4827.

GIBRALTER IV WOODSTOVE, 18"x32"x26"height, 1/4" steel, fire brick, \$175; FIREWOOD, cut & split, pickup load, \$75. 210-5353.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

### travel

THE ARK ENCOUNTER, Oct. 7-12. Deluxe motor coach, 11 meals, Creation Museum, Nat'l Underground Railroad Freedom Center, B&B Riverboat Dinner Cruise, & more! \$1,299 pp w/2 per room.

IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS—THE MUSICAL, Nov. 6. Depart from Albert Lea to Chanhassen Dinner Theatre, includes lunch and dessert, show begins at 1 p.m. \$139 per person.

NYC SPECTACULAR, Nov. 12-16. Round trip Delta flights, tour NYC, 911 Memorial & Museum, Radio City Music Hall, The Rockettes Christmas Spectacular, & more! \$2,699 pp w/2 per room.

Call 4-Seasons at 373-4705 or 373-2473, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, to learn more about their tour information.



### Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by Sept. 5 to ensure being printed in the October Sparks. Please print neatly or type your ad of 20 words or less on this form. We reserve the right to edit ad copy to allow space for more ads. Ads received after the 5th will be printed in the November issue.

For Sale  Wanted  Give Away

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to: SWCE, PO Box 485, Owatonna MN 55060-0485, deliver to the SWCE office, or email your ad to: [sparks@swce.coop](mailto:sparks@swce.coop).

## ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

**PRIDE JAZZY EVO 613 ELEC. WHEELCHAIR** in blk, used only a few times, indoors only, \$2200, 583-6679.

**WEBER TRAVELER GRILL**, used vry little; **REESE 18K 5TH WHEEL HITCH** for Ford F-350 factory pucks. 213-6582.

**WOODSTOVE** w/double insulated pipe, \$50; **CANNING JARS**, quart & pint size, no lids, \$3/dozen, 451-7837.

**HUNTING BLINDS**, weather/rodent proof, insulated & more. 330-2452.

**MINI STORAGE UNITS**, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

**RENTAL**, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$150, 451-7946.

**HARLEY-DAVIDSON WILLIE G LEATHER COAT**, women's med., \$250; **W.G. SM. CHAPS**, \$200; **MORE COATS, CHAPS, VEST, BAGS** in various sizes. 491-4565.

**MIXED GRASS HAY**, sm. sq., no rain. 334-6377.

**1995 FORD F700 BOX TRUCK**, 24' box w/5' attic over cab, 156,750 mi., manual transmission, \$13,500. 475-8551.

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

**26" SAMSUNG TV** w/remote, great working order & condition, \$20. 363-2219.

**VINTAGE METAL TANKER DESK; GREENWORKS ELEC. 12" SNOW SHOVEL; JD 960 FIELD CULT./DIGGER; FARM KING SNOWBLOWER.** 213-0443.

**HOLSTEIN BEEF PROCESSED** at Herdas, Fbo, ready by 9/15/24. 685-4372.

**PYGYM KID GOATS.** 475-1468.

*Ads need to be received in the Steele-Waseca office by Thursday, Sept. 5, to ensure being published in the October 2024 Sparks newsletter.*

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.

**PLUG INTO  
BIG SAVINGS  
THIS SUMMER!**

For a limited time, save **30%** on a Simply Conserve® smart home bundle!

Members like you and your family can help make a better energy future by using electricity wisely. That's why Energy Wise MN is offering discounts on a smart home bundle that includes two Wi-Fi smart sockets, one Wi-Fi standard smart LED bulb, and a one flood smart LED bulb. Make your home *smarter and more efficient* by controlling lighting, electronics, and more with your smart phone or voice control.

Visit [energywisemnstore.com/SmartHome](http://energywisemnstore.com/SmartHome) to get your bundle today. Scan the QR code to learn more!

Offer valid from July 1 through August 30, 2024, while supplies last. No coupon necessary. Discount applied at checkout. Member assumes responsibility for all sales tax.

**ENERGY WISE MN**

(Electric grid guide continued from Page 3)

plants to you, we need a transportation system. High-voltage transmission lines act as the highways for electricity, transporting power over long distances. These lines are supported by massive towers and travel through vast landscapes, connecting power plants to electric substations.

Substations are like pit stops along the highway, where the voltage of electricity is adjusted. They play a crucial role in managing power flow and ensuring that electricity is safe for use in


homes and businesses. 1081045

Once the electricity is reduced to the proper voltage, it travels through distribution power lines, like the ones you typically see on the side of the road.

Distribution lines carry electricity from substations to homes, schools, and businesses. Distribution transformers, which look like metal buckets on the tops of power poles or large green boxes on the ground, further reduce the voltage to levels suitable for household appliances and electronic devices.

After traveling through transformers, electricity reaches you—to power everyday life.

From the time it's created to the time it's used, electricity travels great distances to be available at the flip of a switch. That's what makes the electric grid our nation's most complex machine—and one of our nation's greatest achievements.

 #swceSERVICE

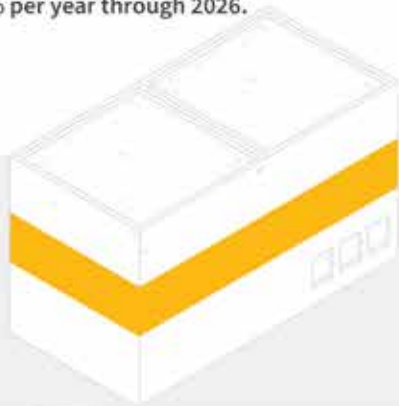
# Soaring Demand

Second in a series

After decades of flat or declining electricity demand, the United States is in the midst of a boom in power use. Recent data shows that power consumption nationwide is set to increase by at least 38 gigawatts between now and 2028. This trend would ordinarily be great news for the power industry. But government policies aimed at shutting down fossil-fuel-based generation and years-long delays in permitting and siting for new transmission lines are turning this power boon into a capacity crisis. Here are the primary demand drivers:

## Electrification

Electric vehicle adoption, electrification of home heating and industrial electrification are expected to increase overall U.S. energy consumption by 1% per year through 2026.



↑  
**65%**

## Data Centers

Driven by explosions in artificial intelligence, cryptocurrency and cloud computing, total U.S. data center load is projected to increase by 65% by 2050.

## Economic Growth

Residential power consumption is expected to increase by 14% to 22% through 2050 due to increases in population and steady economic growth.



## Manufacturing Growth/Onshoring

New, expanding and “onshored/reshored” manufacturing capacity driven by federal incentives is expected to increase industrial demand by 13,000 GWh per year.

**Key products:** EVs, batteries, semiconductors, solar power components

## Total Demand

Analysts predicted in 2023 that U.S. peak demand will increase by at least 38 GW over the next five years, nearly double the growth rate predicted in 2022.



Sources: NRECA, EPRI, Grid Strategies, U.S. EIA, International Energy Agency; Design: Jerry Rosemak