



THE OUTLET

Monthly Publication of Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

VOLUME 54
NUMBER 9
SEPTEMBER 2023

2023 RIVERBOAT HERITAGE DAYS

On Saturday, August 5th, Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative participated in the Riverboat Days Parade. Employees and their families led the parade along Minnesota Ave. It was an honor to partner with the Aitkin Chamber of Commerce to organize and execute this year's parade.

All cooperatives – not just electric cooperatives - operate according to the same set of 7 core principles. Principle #7 – Concern for Community – is one of the most well-known. It is also one of the most visible and meaningful to our members and our employees. MLEC is happy to be volunteering locally amongst our members. Thank you to employees, board members, and friends/family for supporting MLEC and our communities!



3 FACTORS THAT MAY AFFECT YOUR BILL

Are you surprised by your summer electric bill? If your usage hasn't changed, it is understandable that a higher-than-normal bill might not seem to make sense. Here are a few possible reasons why.



Air Conditioning

It may seem obvious, but warm weather plays a big role in your electric bill. Air conditioning accounts for as much as 50 percent of the average household electric bill during the summer months. Maintenance and smart use of your cooling system (such as keeping your drapes closed or planting trees for shade) will help keep your electric bill in check while at the same time, keeping your home at a comfortable temperature.

Dehumidifiers

Typical dehumidifiers cost about 6-10 cents each hour they're in use. Monthly costs of \$15-\$35 are common, but can exceed \$50 per month if the dehumidifier runs a lot.

Device Charging

Look around your home at all the technology that uses chargers: cell phones, iPads or tablets, electric razors, electric toothbrushes, laptops, portable game systems, and similar devices. The more gadget-oriented you are, the more likely you are to have these devices plugged in and sucking energy from your home. Unplug adapters and chargers from outlets when not actively charging a device, as they'll pull electricity simply from being plugged in.

Questions or concerns?
MLEC's Board of Directors represent you!

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Find minutes from
MLEC Board meetings at:
<http://www.mlcmmn.net>
under **My Co-op**

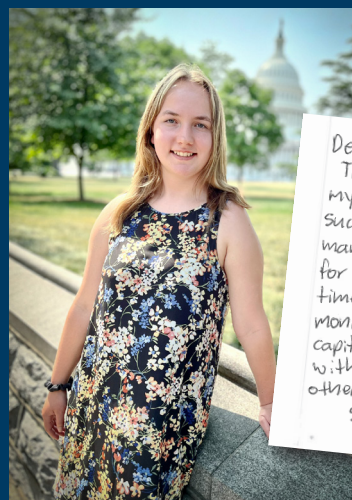
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your tax and interest paying
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE,
an organization which was
formed to supply you with
low-cost, dependable
electricity when other sources
failed to do so.*

Managing Editor: Kassie Peterson,
Communications Specialist

YOUTH TOUR

This June, Sophie Morris represented MLEC at the 2023 Washington DC Youth Tour. She had a great time and encourages others to apply for the 2024 tour. (Applications will open in January!)

Sophie said, "Youth Tour made a lasting impact on me in so many different ways. The first way is by giving me friends that I think I will have for the rest of my life. I also got to experience so many things that I could never have in a small town like Aitkin. The speakers and politicians made us feel incredibly important and that we have strong voices that we should use to better our communities and country."



Dear MLEC,
Thank you so much for sponsoring my trip to Washington DC. I have had such an amazing time and made so many great friends. I am so grateful for this experience and have had the time of my life exploring the many monuments and museums of our nation's capital. This trip was also so inspiring with speakers, representatives, and many other people I met along the way.
Sincerely,
Sophie Morris

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

"Thousands of years ago, the melting of a glacial ice sheet resulted in a lake about 20 miles long and 5 miles wide. This lake was later called Glacial Lake Aitkin. The gradual melting of this glacier was the beginning of the Mississippi River drainage system. There are at least seven other rivers or streams draining into the Mississippi between Aitkin and Grand Rapids. Lake Aitkin existed geologically for a very short period of time and created a series of 365 smaller lakes now located in the area of Aitkin County.

Sioux Indians were among the original occupants of the area. During the 1600's, the Ojibwa/Chippewa forced the Sioux to move westward into what is now southwestern Minnesota and the Dakotas. There were many battles for the Aitkin County area because the area was recognized as a rich hunting paradise. This area will forever remain rich in Native American history." – Aitkin County Website, co.aitkin.mn.us

I am lucky enough to work and be a permanent resident of this beautiful paradise, Aitkin County. I am proud of Aitkin County's commitment to recognizing this rich history, and protecting it's future. Did you know that 51% of Aitkin County is considered jurisdictional wetland? In April 2000, Aitkin County developed a Comprehensive Land Use Management Plan which states "the County shall protect and enhance the wetland resources through management policies that maximize the functions and benefits this resource provides."

According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) "soil erosion and sediment runoff to waterways are significant problems in Minnesota." When new construction projects are not handled responsibly, they further add to this problem. That is why I want to assure our members and governing agencies that MLEC is taking the rules and regulations of Aitkin County, the State of Minnesota, and the MPCA seriously, and is doing everything necessary to protect our streams and waterways from sediment and erosion pollution during and after our new building construction.



The first phase of this was the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP is a written plan that must be approved by the MPCA prior to the disturbance of soil on a construction site. As outlined by the MPCA, it "describes the strategies and steps that will be taken to prevent nonpoint source pollution discharging from a construction site."

An approved SWPPP comes with a permit that outlines the specific requirements of the plan. One requirement is that the owner of the project (MLEC) retain a trained individual



Sarah Cron
CEO

to oversee the implementation of the SWPPP. Landwehr Construction Inc. has been our "trained individual" to oversee the testing of the SWPPP. While working on site prep, they have assured us that the double silt fence (sediment control device) has been appropriately placed around the entire construction site and we have passed our initial testing requirements.

Braun Intertec is an employee-owned company in Minnesota that we have used for other environmental assessments. They have been to our site multiple times to make sure that all work is being done correctly and responsibly.

We will continue to monitor the construction process and keep you all updated as to the progress. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sm



LET'S DISH

SEND US YOUR RECIPES!

We'll credit your account **\$10.00**
if it's printed in THE OUTLET

MAIL TO:

Kassie Peterson
Mille Lacs Energy, P.O. Box 230 Aitkin,
MN 56431

OR E-MAIL:

kpeterson@mlcsmn.com



DILL PICKLE BREAD

1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 cup oil
2 eggs
1 Tbsp sugar
1 Tbsp pickle juice
1 3/4 cups flour

1 1/2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 cup shredded cheese
2 Tbsp fresh dill
1/2 cup chopped dill pickles

In large bowl, mix all ingredients. Pour into a greased 9x5 inch loaf pan.
Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Enjoy!

Thank you to Connie Pearson or Aitkin
for sharing this month's recipe.

LOAD MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

MLEC's Freedom Heat program is coming to a close

MLEC is in the process of evaluating and upgrading our load management programs. In order to become consistent with the offerings from our wholesale power provider, Great River Energy, the Freedom Heat program is being discontinued.

Members who were a part of the Freedom Heat program are encouraged to join another load management program or simply change to the general energy rate. Our Energy Services team can assist you in choosing the best option for your existing equipment, budget, and lifestyle.

Visit us online at www.mlecsmn.net or call our Energy Services team at (218) 429-0432 to learn more.



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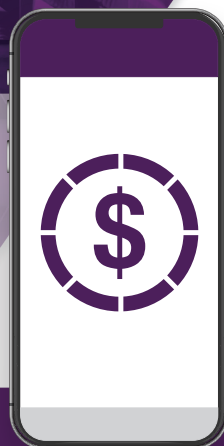
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927-2191 or
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One Call or log on to:
www.gopherstateonecall.org

Then contact a licensed electrician
to locate your secondary wires.

MN Electrical Inspectors

Aitkin County &

South East Crow Wing County

Jeff Larson 320-227-3009

Northern Crow Wing County

Nathan Readle 218-537-8419

Mille Lacs County

Benjamin Husom 320-277-6277

Off-peak and dual fuel system
consumers should call an
electrician or heating contractor for
service or repairs.

Find load control schedule at
www.mlecmn.net under Quick Links.



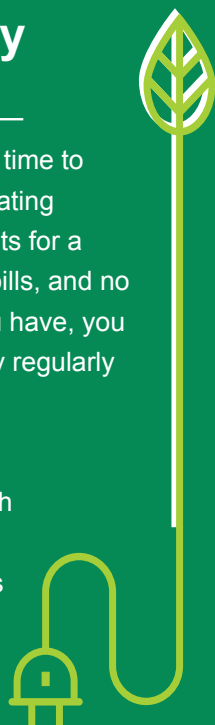
Visit our website -
www.mlecmn.net
E-mail us - mlec@mlecmn.net

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know fall is the perfect time to schedule a tune-up for your heating system? Home heating accounts for a large portion of winter energy bills, and no matter what kind of system you have, you can save energy and money by regularly maintaining your equipment.

Combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings can save about 30% on your energy bills.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Pole Inspection Notice

There will be contractors working on behalf of MLEC throughout September. They are testing and inspecting power poles. They will be traveling on ATVs, in pickup trucks, and will be wearing vests with the MLEC logo.

Questions? Call MLEC at (218) 927-2191.

Second Quarter Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative

Comparative Operating Statement for the Quarter Ending June 30, 2022 & June 30, 2023

	2022	2023
OPERATING REVENUE	15,519,244.54	15,356,445.03
COST OF PURCHASED POWER	9,037,947.95	8,189,734.39
DISTRIBUTION EXPENSE-OPERATION	745,187.33	824,201.58
DISTRIBUTION EXPENSE-MAINTENANCE	1,059,735.51	1,045,530.48
CUSTOMER ACCOUNTS EXPENSE	383,515.10	465,984.03
CUSTOMER SERVICE / INFORMATIONAL EXPENSE	351,219.07	258,299.50
ADMINISTRATIVE / GENERAL EXPENSE	964,744.60	982,430.09
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	3,504,401.83	3,576,445.68
TOTAL OPERATIONS EXPENSE	12,542,349.56	11,766,180.07
DEPRECIATION	1,079,027.67	1,129,870.05
TAX EXPENSE	1,360.00	1,358.00
INTEREST ON LONG TERM DEBT	639,126.25	589,035.94
INTEREST EXPENSE-OTHER	255.92	6,759.07
OTHER DEDUCTION	300.00	750.00
TOTAL COST OF ELECTRIC SERVICE	14,262,419.40	13,493,953.13
OPERATING MARGINS	1,256,825.14	1,862,491.90
NON OPERATING MARGINS-INTEREST	31,890.01	244,655.46
NON OPERATING MARGINS-OTHER	(76,275.07)	(70,383.61)
GENERATION & TRANSMISSION CAPITAL CREDITS	-	-
OTHER CAPITAL CREDITS	84,944.56	71,493.77
NET MARGINS	1,297,385.64	2,108,257.52



Unclaimed Capital Credits Checks

You can see the list on our website at www.mlecmn.net under My Co-op and choose Capital Credits on the drop menu.

A hard copy is available at MLEC's office. Maybe a check is waiting for you! If you know someone and how to contact them, please call MLEC at 218-429-0431.

PHOTO CALENDAR

See your photo in MLEC's 2024 Calendar! We're asking members to submit photos by October 27, 2023. Winning photos will receive a \$10 credit on their electric bill. Voting will take place after the deadline on the MLEC Facebook page. The 12 photos with the most likes will be featured in the calendar.

Photos must be emailed to:
photos@mlecmn.com
by 11:59 p.m. on October 27, 2023.

Winning photographers automatically give MLEC permission to use the photos in the calendar, in other publications, member presentations or electronically online.



A BETTER CHOICE for rural Internet.

Did you know that you don't have to suffer from slow, unreliable Internet, even if you live in the country? Get the Internet service you deserve. Make the switch to MLEC Fiber.



MLEC fiber
Powered by Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative

GIFT CARD TRIVIA!

Correctly answer the question below for your chance to win a gift card from a local business within our service area. The answer can be found within this issue of The Outlet. You must be an MLEC member to participate. Be sure to include your name and service address! Entries must be received by **September 30th**.

MAIL TO:
Kassie Peterson
Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative
P.O. Box 230
Aitkin, MN 56431

OR E-MAIL:
kpeterson@mlecmn.com

When do applications open for the 2024 Youth Tour?

Name:

Address:

Congrats to JoAn Miller, the July gift card trivia winner!



MILLE LACS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

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