

NEWSLINE



COMMUNITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

POWERED UP ENERGY FORUM RECAP

On July 26, Itasca-Mantrap hosted the Powered Up Energy Forum in partnership with Minnesota Power. The event took place at the Park Rapids American Legion Post 212, and the focus of the forum was to discuss, inform and educate attendees about certain aspects of renewable energy.

The event was broken into hourly panel discussions, which included the innovation of energy transmission, advancements in solar technology and unlocking the potential of EVs. Our panelists were representatives from Great River Energy, the Clean Energy Resource Team, STAR Energy, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Minnesota Power. The discussions allowed the opportunity for our panelists to share information within their area of expertise and to learn more about the needs of our region by hearing

directly from those in attendance. While the panel was held indoors, we also had an outdoor element with vendors that included L&M Fleet Supply, Pedego, Thielen Motors and 3 Bear Catering Food Truck. Despite the temperature, many event goers participated in the ride and drive courtesy of Thielen Motors and experienced the newest EV models of the Silverado and Equinox.

The energy forum was an opportunity to engage with our membership and to learn how we can better serve you as we continue to see an increased demand for renewable energy. We appreciate those who attended and came prepared with questions. We're looking forward to continued engagement!



CEO UPDATE

BY CHRISTINE FOX, PRESIDENT-CEO

If you have been reading my articles this summer, you know I have been discussing a few highlights of our strategic plan. I have highlighted a few of the goals and accomplishments of our first four focus areas: Safety, Members, Team Members, and Technology. Last month, I promised to wrap this up by sharing with you some of the progress on our final focus area, which is to “Ensure the ongoing viability and value of the Cooperative.” The emphasis of this final objective is financial planning, system planning, economic development, and fair rates. So, let’s dive in!

1. **Financial planning:** Our Cooperative has seen incredible growth during a period of sustained inflationary costs and supply chain issues. We’ve been able to plan accordingly to meet the needs of our membership. In the last few years within this strategic plan period, we have deferred an additional \$4.3 million in revenue. Further, we returned \$1.3 million to the membership through bill credits, and paid out \$2.85 million in the retirement of capital credits. Our financials are in great shape and with continued efforts to keep operational costs low, the future of our cooperative is bright.
2. **System planning:** We just completed a short and a long-term construction work plan that ensures we can meet the future needs of our members. Some of these projects will provide greater system reliability as we transition from overhead to underground lines, while other projects are for the maintenance of existing lines.
3. **Economic development:** We have worked with the United States Department of Agriculture and Great River Energy to help finance the construction of an additional memory care unit at Crystal Brook. Itasca-Mantrap continues to look for areas to invest these revolving funds. Bringing business to the area to enhance our economic

viability is a critical piece of our Economic Development Plan.

4. **Fair Rates:** And finally, our cooperative not only endeavors to keep electricity affordable for our membership, but also applicable to its use. We are currently considering additional rate classes for time-of-use, electric vehicles, and others, to encourage energy efficiency. This helps us all keep rates affordable. Despite the recent trend in power providers to increase rates, our cooperative has not raised rates since June 2018.

These are just a few of the highlights of the work that is being done by our Team Members to ensure the viability of our cooperative. There is so much more that I could share.

As I reflect on my tenure as your president-CEO, I am pleased with the progress we’ve made. Organizationally, we restructured our Team, endured a pandemic, facilitated the replacement of our metering infrastructure and embraced new technologies. As I think about these accomplishments, I would be remiss not to recognize the team members who have stepped up to the plate to not only do their full-time jobs but also the strategic work to position our cooperative for the future. I am so proud of them. It makes my next announcement a little easier to share, but bittersweet. I have enjoyed serving our members these last 5 years as your president-CEO. I’ve enjoyed getting to know many of you and interacting with you at our member events, but the time has come to pass the torch to a new president-CEO. I have informed the Board of my intent to retire effective January 2, 2025. The next few months will be busy but be sure to stop in to say hello and I’ll look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you!

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass’n. was held on Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Approved:

- Consent agenda
- May financials, subject to audit
- 2025 Annual Meeting for Thursday, June 12, 2025
- Board Policy 3.32 – Team Member PTO Donations
- Resolution to update authorized signers on Cooperative accounts
- Director Kivi to attend the regional meetings for the Cooperative Finance Corporation and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Reports heard:

- Operations and Safety
- Financial
- Marketing and Member Services
- CEO
- Meeting attendance

Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap’s membership
- Great River Energy Power Cost Adjustment detail for May 2024
- Minutes of the June 12, 2024 Annual Meeting
- Administrative Policy 10 – DOT Physical/Medical Exam
- Administrative Policy 12 – Workweek, Workday, Overtime Compensation

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Apps & Amps

Date: Thursday, October 10

Location: Clancy's Restaurant

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm

26333 Icon Dr, Park Rapids

Space is limited to 50 members so RSVP today!

Kids Day At The Fair

It was a bright and sunny day on July 19 at the Hubbard County Fair and with it, a heavy serving of humidity! But that didn't stop us from showing kids what we do to keep the power on.

Our linemen provided tool and glove demonstrations and some hands-on learning to all kids and adults who stopped by our booth.

Thanks to our linemen, many kids left with a smile on their face!





WINTER ENERGY EFFICIENCY: LEVERAGING DUAL FUEL SYSTEMS

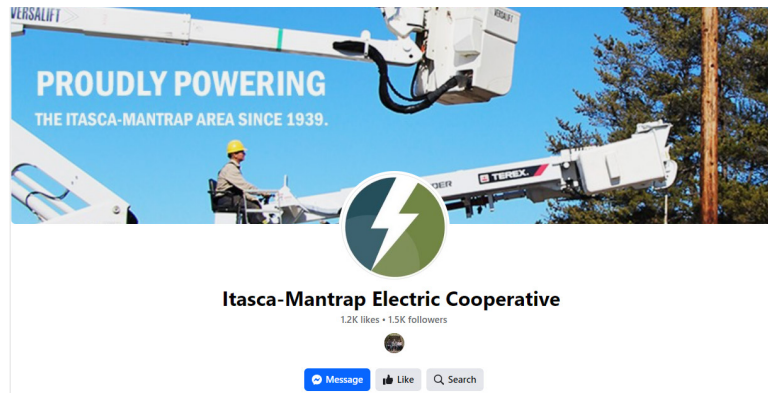
Dual fuel combines two heating sources to best fit your budget and tailor your energy investment to meet your heating needs. Itasca-Mantrap's dual fuel program offers the option to incorporate a low-cost electric heat source with an alternate heating system.

In a dual fuel heating system, an electric heat source, such as baseboard heat, is used in conjunction with fuel oil, propane or electric storage heat as the backup heating system.

Dual fuel is a "controlled" electric heating program, which helps save money and conserve energy. When demand for electricity is high, the electric heat source is shut off or controlled a maximum 12 continuous hours (usually 4 to 6 hours at a time and no more than 400 total hours per heating season.) During control periods, your home's backup heating system provides the heat you need. Signing up for the dual fuel program qualifies you to receive a reduced rate.

Our power supplier, Great River Energy, controls dual fuel heat whenever we approach peak capacity. To prepare for occasional controls this upcoming season, now is the time to have a heating professional check and test your equipment to ensure it is operating properly. A properly functioning backup system is essential for participation in the program and will ensure you stay warm all winter long.

To check the status of current and potential dual fuel control times, visit www.itasca-mantrap.com or like our Facebook page for updates. If you have any questions regarding the load management program, please contact our office.





Cold Weather Rule

The Cold Weather Rule (CWR) provides additional protections to certain members facing disconnection for non-payment.

The CWR allows for the reconnection of electrical service for residential members if the disconnection affects the primary heat source of the residential unit and ALL of the following conditions are met:

1. Disconnection occurs between October 1 and April 30.
2. A member receives referrals from the co-op for energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce the member's energy bills.

3. The household income of the member is at or below 50% of the state median household income. Local energy assistance providers (listed to the right) may verify income.

4. Under a payment arrangement with Itasca-Mantrap, a member makes reasonably timely payments based on the financial resources of a household.

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely prevent winter disconnects.

Contact Itasca-Mantrap promptly if you receive a disconnection notice, or if you have questions about the Cold Weather Rule or energy assistance programs.

LOCAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

Becker County Human Services
218-847-5628

Bi-County CAP, Inc.- Bemidji
800-332-7161 & 218-751-4631

Bi-County CAP, Inc.- Walker
218-547-3438

Hubbard County Human Services
218-732-1451

Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership

Detroit Lakes: 218-847-1385

Park Rapids: 218-732-7204

Wadena: 218-632-3600

White Earth Housing Authority
218-473-4663

White Earth Energy Assistance
218-473-2711 & 866-885-7656

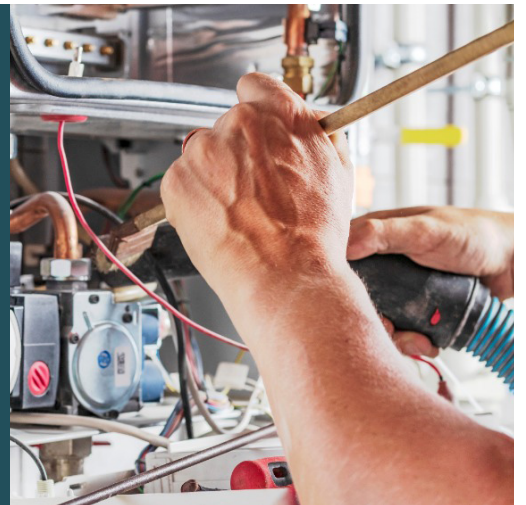


**TIP OF THE MONTH:
ENERGY
EFFICIENCY**

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





ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

(800) 252-1166

www.gopherstateonecall.org

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*Great River Energy Director Representative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative is an
equal opportunity provider and employer.



Manage your electric bill
in the palm of your hands
by using the SmartHub
app to access your
account 24/7!

Operation Round Up Application Deadline Monday, Sept. 16

To be considered at the October Trust Board Meeting,
grant applications must be received in the
Itasca-Mantrap office by September 16.

Download the latest application form at
www.itasca-mantrap.com or pick one
up at our office.



LOCAL BUSINESS BIG SAVINGS

AVAILABLE IN THE PALM OF YOUR HANDS



Scan here to check
out local participating
businesses!



Or go to our website
under the "community"
tab and click
"Co-op Connections"