

NEWSLINE

Cast Your Vote!



ANNUAL MEETING

JOIN US AT ITASCA-MANTRAP JUNE 12!

The 2025 Itasca-Mantrap Annual Meeting is right around the corner—mark your calendar for Thursday, June 12, at the Itasca-Mantrap office. Registration and lunch begin at 11:30 a.m.; the business meeting will start at 12:15 p.m.

As a valued member of the cooperative, your participation matters. The Annual Meeting is a chance to stay connected with what's happening at your co-op — from updates on current operations to a look at our future plans. It's also your opportunity to be part of the decision-making process that shapes our direction.

What to Expect at the Meeting:

- Reports from Officers and Directors
- A presentation by Sean Ward, our 2024 Youth Tour Delegate
- Announcement of Director Election Results
- Other business that may come before the membership

Don't forget to vote! If you haven't already participated in our Director election, there's still time. Your vote helps guide the leadership and priorities of Itasca-Mantrap, and we encourage all members to take part.

To prepare for your arrival, our office will close at 11 a.m. on June 12 and will reopen at approximately 2 p.m.

We hope you'll take this opportunity to be an active part of your cooperative. Whether you've attended Annual Meetings in the past or if this will be your first, we're excited to connect with you, share what we've accomplished and look ahead into the future.

We're looking forward to welcoming you for another meaningful and informative gathering here at Itasca-Mantrap. See you at Itasca-Mantrap on Thursday, June 12, at 11:30 a.m.



CEO UPDATE

BY STEVE JOHNSON, PRESIDENT & CEO

Summer Greetings from Itasca-Mantrap!

As we await the full arrival of summer, it feels like winter and spring have been battling it out for center stage. Though the weather may be unpredictable, one thing remains constant—our gratitude for our membership! I'd also like to extend my appreciation to the dedicated team at Itasca-Mantrap for their hard work, dedication, and commitment. In my short time here, I've seen how each team member plays a vital role in creating an outstanding experience for our members and supporting the success of our cooperative.

Looking ahead, we're excited to invite you, again, to the 84th Annual Meeting of the Membership, which will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. at our headquarters in Park Rapids. This meeting is a key opportunity to reflect on the past year, share our financial results from 2024, and provide updates on the overall state of the cooperative. I'll also be offering some insight into what we see coming for our industry in the months ahead. If your schedule allows, we would be honored to have you join us.

In addition to the annual meeting, we've launched several opportunities for members to connect with us more informally, one being Apps & Amps meetings. We've had great success so far, and we're looking forward to the launch of our new Coffee with the Cooperative events. These gatherings are designed to foster meaningful conversations—whether discussing industry trends, voicing local concerns, or sharing new ideas.

Your feedback is not only welcome, it is essential. It helps shape our strategic planning and ensures we remain closely aligned with the needs of our members and the communities we serve.

In addition to these events, we are excited to bring back our entry in the Fourth of July parade in Park Rapids; the Energy Forum, with a focus on solar, currently slated for some time in August; and the End of Summer Social, as we say goodbye to summer and welcome fall.

I hope to see you at one of these upcoming events. And if not there, perhaps I'll run into you at a local business or favorite spot in town. We truly have so much to be proud of and thankful for in our service area.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer season ahead.

Warm regards,

Steve Johnson

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Approved:

- Consent agenda
- February financials, subject to audit
- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap rates:
 - Correction to Large Commercial Dual Fuel rate
 - Reactivation of Large Power Dual Fuel
 - Deactivation of Large Power Off Peak
- Brady Martz Independent Audit report of the Cooperative's financials for December 31, 2024 and 2023.
- Rate increase to Large Commercial, Small Commercial and Large Power rate classes effective July 1, 2025.

Reports heard:

- Operations and Safety
- Financial
- Marketing and Member Services
- CEO
- Privacy Committee
- Summaries of meetings attended

Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- GRE Power Cost Adjustment detail for February 2025
- Operation Round Up director term expirations
- Changes to Administrative Policies 2 – Miscellaneous Charges, IT.16 – Personal Device Acceptable Use and Security (Bring Your Own Device) and IT.31 – Artificial Intelligence.
- 2025 Operational Plan preview

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.



Operation Round Up Awards More Than \$32,000

Operation Round Up, a charitable program unique to electric co-ops, is designed to provide financial assistance to non-profit or community-based organizations that demonstrate a commitment to enhancing the quality of life in the local area served by Itasca-Mantrap.

The Operation Round Up® Trust Board recently awarded \$32,965 in Operation Round Up grants for 67 civic projects in the Itasca-Mantrap and surrounding areas. Applications received indicated a need for more than \$106,000.

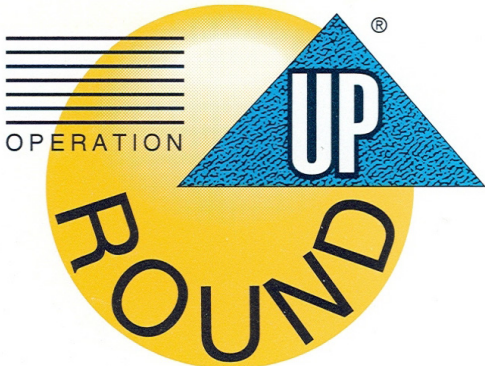
Since the program’s inception in 2006, the Operation Round Up Trust Board of Directors has awarded more than \$1.4 million to local organizations. The Operation Round Up Trust Board meets twice a year to select grant recipients from the applications received. Operation Round Up is possible thanks to the generosity of Itasca-Mantrap members.

The next application deadline for Operation Round Up is Monday, September 15, 2025.

Grant Recipients

BIO Girls	\$500	Walker Bay Theater.....	500
Carsonville Fire and Rescue	500	Youth Emergency Shelter & Supports (YESS)	750
Hackensack Area Fire and Rescue	500	Heartland Lakes Community School.....	300
Heartland Arts	250	Heartland Lakes Community School.....	400
Heartland Homes.....	500	Heartland Lakes Community School.....	250
Hubbard County Historical Society	510	Heartland Lakes Community School.....	200
Kinship of the Park Rapids Area	500	Heartland Lakes Community School.....	200
Living at Home of the Park Rapids Area	625	Heartland Lakes Community School.....	275
Lutheran Social Service Menahga Meals	1,500	Elementary School Social Work.....	500
North Country Trail Association	1,000	Nevis District 308	340
Northern Light Opera Company	300	Nevis Elementary 5th Grade.....	200
Northern Lights Council.....	600	Nevis Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS).....	150
Northwoods Arts Council	300	Nevis Post Prom.....	700
OBT Senior Nutrition Meals.....	2,000	Nevis Public School	150
Park Rapids Farmers’ Market.....	300	Nevis Public School - 2nd Grade.....	250
Park Rapids Firemen’s Relief Associations.....	1,000	Nevis Public School - Special Education Classroom (8th-10th).....	300
Park Rapids Rotary Foundation, Inc.....	500	Nevis Voluntary Preschool	900
Park Rapids Skating Club.....	500	Special Olympics - Nevis Public School.....	300
Pine Point Community Council.....	250	Century Art Department	500
Shop with a Hero - Heartland Lakes Development Commission.....	500	Century Elementary - 2nd Grade	60
Targets and Trails 4-H Club (Hubbard).....	125	Century Elementary School	80
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul	1,000		

Century Middle School	200	1st Grade Foodie Friday.....	300
Century PTA – Helping Hands.....	1,000	Pine Point First Grade.....	500
DCD Special Edu. Classroom – PRHS	500	Pine Point School	300
Native American Education Program.....	500	Second Grade Classroom Economy	300
Native American Education Program.....	475	Second Grade Science	200
Park Rapids Area School – 8th Grade	375	TOTAL	\$32,965
Park Rapids Area School District 309	1,000		
Park Rapids Area School Forest Committee	500		
Park Rapids Century Preschool	400		
Park Rapids School District.....	300		
Park Rapids School District.....	500		
Park Rapids Senior Slam	700		
Unified Special Olympics.....	900		
Unified Special Olympics.....	1,000		
Unified Special Olympics	150		
Boys & Girls Middle School Golf.....	700		
Century Elementary School	100		
Park Rapids Volleyball Program.....	500		
Park Rapids Volleyball Program	500		



THANK YOU
for your continued support of the
Operation Round Up program to help
local civic and charitable organizations.

Welcome Aaron Lake!
Our newest Seasonal Lineworker



Aaron Lake joined Itasca-Mantrap in May as a temporary seasonal lineworker. Aaron recently completed his Electrical Line Worker Technology diploma from Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Wadena.

He was previously employed with a local lawn and tree service company and a local farm, where he learned to use heavy equipment and power tools.

Welcome to the team, Aaron!

GreenTouch 2025
Park is back in action!



On May 3, Itasca-Mantrap partnered with Clearwater Polk to spruce up Itasca State Park for visitor season 2025!

Through our combined effort of 35 volunteers, we were able to quickly assemble and install tree cages, pick bud caps and clean up around the campground.

But the best part is that our collective effort led to 85 trees being planted! Huge shout out to all of our volunteers! Be on the lookout for next year, the first weekend of May and join us for GreenTouch 2026!

Just how much DOES it cost?

Building and maintaining the electric grid costs a lot of money. This quiz, which was originally run in our June newsletter in 2018, offers perspective on how the costs of building the system and delivering electricity to your home have changed since 2018.

How much does an overhead transformer cost?

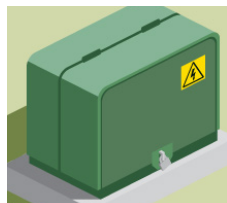
- A. \$900
- B. \$650
- C. \$1,300
- D. \$1,500



Answer: The answer would've been \$650 in 2018, but in 2025, it is C, \$1,300! Itasca-Mantrap has 4,130 overhead transformers on our system. Overhead transformers convert the voltage along the power lines to a safe level for your home.

How much does a padmount transformer cost?

- A. \$2,275
- B. \$2,500
- C. \$1,950
- D. \$2,000



Answer: The answer would've been \$1,300 in 2018, but in 2025, the total cost is B, \$2,500. We have 5,720 padmount transformers on our system. Padmounts have the same function as an overhead transformer; only this equipment is used with underground cable.

How much does a large bucket truck cost?

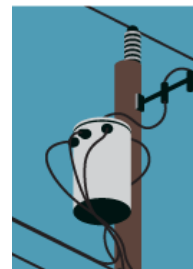
- A. \$350,000
- B. \$220,000
- C. \$390,000
- D. \$269,000



Answer: In 2018, the answer would have been 220,000, but in 2025, the cost of a large bucket truck is A, \$350,000! And that is before we install our custom equipment!

How much does an installed power pole cost?

- A. \$3,500
- B. \$1,450
- C. \$2,300
- D. \$3,000



Answer: In 2018, the answer would've been \$1,450, but in 2025, the amount is D, \$3,000. Itasca-Mantrap has 19,583 poles on our system.

As you can see, the cost of equipment and resources we use has increased substantially. With ongoing supply chain issues, there is uncertainty about the availability of resources to manufacture transformers, and the rising price of copper is adding to the challenge.

Expenses are expected to continue climbing, however, at Itasca-Mantrap, we are working diligently to maintain cost-effectiveness to keep rates as low as possible for our members.

Increased Rebate amounts for Ductless Air Source Heat Pumps!



Ductless ASHP

Efficiency Rating Requirements	Rebate Amount
≤ 1 ton ≥ 14.3 SEER2 & ≥ 7.5 HSPF2	\$300.00
> 1 ton ≥ 14.3 SEER2 & ≥ 7.5 HSPF2	\$750.00
> 1 ton ≥ 16.0 SEER2 & ≥ 8.0 HSPF2	\$1,000.00

Ducted ASHP

Efficiency Rating Requirements	Rebate Amount
≥ 14.3 SEER2 & ≥ 7.5 HSPF2	\$750.00
≥ 16.0 SEER2 & ≥ 8.0 HSPF2	\$1,000.00

See how you can save with our available rebates and submit your application online at [itasca-mantrap.com/rebates](https://www.itasca-mantrap.com/rebates)

Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts are subject to change without notice. Installed centrally ducted ASHPs must be separately metered and controlled and must be installed by a participating quality install contractor to qualify for rebate.





ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

16930 County 6, PO Box 192
Park Rapids, MN 56470

(218) 732-3377 | (888) 713-3377
itasca@itasca-mantrap.com
www.itasca-mantrap.com



OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

(800) 252-1166

www.gopherstateonecall.org

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1

Brian Behrens, Chair

DISTRICT 2

Patricia Roehl, Treasurer

DISTRICT 3

Terrence Cook, Vice Chair

DISTRICT 4

Al Czczok, Assistant Secretary-
Treasurer

DISTRICT 5

Nancy M. Utke, Director*

DISTRICT 6

Tim Kivi, Secretary

DISTRICT 7

Dan Breitbach, Director

PRESIDENT & CEO

Steve Johnson

*Great River Energy Director Representative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative is an
equal opportunity provider and employer.*

Office closed on Thursday,
June 19, in observance of
Juneteenth.



LOCAL BUSINESS BIG SAVINGS

AVAILABLE IN THE PALM OF YOUR HANDS



Scan here to check
out local participating
businesses!

Co-op Connections® Card



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

You can conveniently
manage your electric
bill at your fingertips.

Use the SmartHub
app to access your
account whenever,
wherever you want!

