

NEWSLINE



CAPITAL CREDITS

NEARLY \$1 MILLION IN CAPITAL CREDITS PAID TO MEMBERS

The Itasca-Mantrap Board approved a payout of nearly \$1 million in capital credits to members during their January meeting.

What Are Capital Credits?

Being part of an electric cooperative comes with perks, and capital credits are a big one! When you're a member of Itasca-Mantrap, your investment supports the cooperative's operations. Unlike investor-owned utilities, where profits go to shareholders, Itasca-Mantrap's "profits" or margins are allocated back to its members as capital credits.

Here's how it works:

At the end of each year, Itasca-Mantrap calculates its margins (the extra money left after covering expenses). These margins are allocated back to members based on their electricity usage for the year. When financially possible, the board retires these credits by issuing checks or bill credits to members. The credits that are not retired and distributed are used to fund system improvements and reduce borrowing costs, ensuring reliable service for everyone.

This Year's Highlights

In February, nearly \$1 million in capital credits were retired. This payout was for capital credits allocated through 2007 for Itasca-Mantrap and 2005 for Great

River Energy. When you add up payments to current members and previous members, the total hits an impressive \$969,550.45 paid out in 2025!

As part of our ongoing efforts to streamline operations and reduce costs, we're implementing a change to how capital credits are paid to our members. This year, capital credits under \$200 will be credited to your electric bill instead of a check.

Why This Change?

Processing checks involves significant operational costs. By applying these credits directly to your bill, we're able to reduce overhead while providing you with your capital credit return in a timely and convenient manner.

How Will This Work?

Capital Credits Under \$200: you will receive a credit on your electric bill. Capital Credits Over \$200: you will receive a check in the mail.

Keep Your Info Updated

If you're planning to end service with Itasca-Mantrap, don't forget to update your address! That way, you'll still receive any future capital credit payments.



CEO UPDATE

BY STEVE JOHNSON, PRESIDENT & CEO

As I continue to settle into the Park Rapids area and my role as President and CEO at Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative, one of my primary focuses is evaluating the rates and rate classes we are utilizing. As with most cooperatives, we cover a large geographic area with a diverse membership base, and the way our members use electricity varies greatly. Despite the hard work of our board of directors and staff in stabilizing our rate adjustments, we are facing increased pressure this year due to rapidly rising wholesale power costs.

Both Itasca-Mantrap's wholesale power suppliers, Great River Energy (GRE) and the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), have announced significant rate increases for 2025. A large percentage of our annual budget is dedicated to purchasing power for our members, so these changes from our suppliers have a direct and substantial impact on the stability of our rates as we move forward.

GRE, our primary wholesale power provider, has projected an 8.5 percent rate increase for Itasca-Mantrap in 2025. We anticipate additional increases from GRE over the next three years, as they continue to invest in critical infrastructure to strengthen the electric grid and expand future capacity within our service area. These investments are essential to ensuring a reliable and sustainable energy future, but they also come with additional costs to our cooperative.

WAPA has also announced rate adjustments for 2025. While we are still working through some details with WAPA, we have been notified of a shortfall in our energy allocation, which is contributing to increased costs. As a federal power provider,

WAPA's rates are influenced by the cost of maintaining its hydroelectric facilities and transmission systems. These changes are part of WAPA's ongoing commitment to providing reliable, affordable electricity to rural communities while ensuring the sustainability of its infrastructure.

Although rate increases are always a challenge, it is important to note that both GRE and WAPA's rates remain competitive compared to neighboring utilities and are well below the regional average for wholesale electricity. Looking ahead, the investments made by GRE and WAPA are crucial for building a more resilient and sustainable energy system. While rate increases are never easy, they are necessary to maintain and improve the reliability of the electric grid and support the transition to renewable energy sources, as mandated by state regulations.

So, what does this mean for Itasca-Mantrap members? These rate adjustments from GRE and WAPA will directly affect our future rates as wholesale power costs represent nearly 67 percent of our total operating expenses annually. We are currently assessing the impact of these changes and working diligently to minimize the effects on our members.

At Itasca-Mantrap, we remain committed to providing you with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. Our priority is managing costs efficiently while ensuring that we have the infrastructure and resources to meet your energy needs now and in the future. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we navigate these changes. Itasca-Mantrap's mission remains steadfast: to "Serve Our Members" with excellent service.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Approved:

- Consent agenda
- November financials, subject to audit
- 2025 Financial Budget
- Banking Authorizations
- Federated Insurance Subscriber's Agreement and Power of Attorney
- Brady Martz Audit Engagement Letter
- Amendment to Appendix B of the Great River Energy (GRE) Purchase Power Contract
- GRE's purchase of NextEra's New Salem II and Red Butte Wind Projects Energy
- Attendance at upcoming GRE meetings
- Voting delegates for 2025

Reports heard:

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

Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- GRE Power Cost Adjustment detail for November 2024
- 2024 Margin Considerations
- 2025 Construction Work Plan

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

EARN \$10 BY GOING PAPERLESS!

Paperless billing is exactly what it sounds like: a paper-free way to receive your electric bill every month. Sign up via SmartHub and **receive a \$10 bill credit!**

WHY CHOOSE PAPERLESS?

- Reduced carbon footprint – no paper means less clutter and paper waste.
- Enhanced security – direct electronic communication reduces the risk of lost statements and mail fraud. Accessing your bill with a password adds another layer of personal security.
- Improved bottom line – transitioning to paperless reduces expenses for paper, printing, stuffing, and postage, leading to substantial savings.
- Pay your bill how you like – you still have the option to pay your bill using your favorite payment method (i.e., AutoPay, electronic payment, PayNow, by mail or by dropbox).

**Limit one credit per account.*

SIGN UP TODAY THROUGH SMARTHUB:

Using SmartHub on your web browser: Select “Settings” and “Paperless Billing” from the menu, then follow the prompts.

Using SmartHub on your mobile device: Select “More,” “Settings” and “Paperless Billing,” then follow the prompts.

DON'T HAVE A SMARTHUB ACCOUNT?

CREATE ONE TODAY.

Visit itasca-mantrap.com/smarthub to learn more and to sign up!

Or download the mobile app for your Apple or Android device by searching “SmartHub” in your app store!

Apps & Amps

Date: Thursday, April 17

Location: The Outpost

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm

23115 Old Bridge Rd, Menahga, MN 56570

Space is limited to 50 members. RSVP by Friday, April 11 if you plan to attend.

Check out our REBATES!

Heating & Cooling

Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP)*

≥ 14.3 SEER2 & ≥ 7.5 HSPF2	\$750
≥ 15.2 SEER2 & ≥ 8.1 HSPF2	\$1,000

*Installed ASHPs must be separately metered and controlled and installed by a participating quality installation contractor to qualify for rebate.

Air Conditioner or Air Source Heat Pump Tune-Up

\$25

Dual Fuel Heating Systems (per kilowatt installed*)

\$25/kW

*Installed dual fuel must be separately metered and controlled on the dual fuel program to qualify for a rebate.

Ductless Air Source Heat Pump

≥ 14.3 SEER2 & ≥ 7.5 HSPF2

\$300

Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM) Replacement*

\$50

*ECMs are standard in new construction. Rebates are available only for replacement.

Ground Source Heat Pump (Per ton, 5 ton maximum per Member*)

\$400/ton

Off-Peak Storage Space Heating (per kilowatt installed*)

\$100/kW

*Installed storage space heat must be separately metered and controlled on the off-peak program to qualify for a rebate.

Smart Thermostat

\$25

Water Heating

High-Efficiency Water Heating

Storage Water Heating* \$600

Peak Shave Water Heating** \$300

*Installed water heaters must have an energy factor of .90 or higher and have a combined capacity of at least 100 gallons to qualify.

** Installed water heaters must have an energy factor of .90 or higher and have a combined capacity of at least 50 gallons to qualify.

Appliances & Lighting

ENERGY STAR® Appliances

Dehumidifier \$25

Freezer - replacement with proof of recycling \$75

Refrigerator - replacement with proof of recycling \$75

ENERGY STAR Lighting

(Rebate only available online at www.energywisemnstore.com, also linked on www.itasca-mantrap.com)

LED Bulb \$2/bulb

Electric Vehicle Charger

Level 2 Charger* \$500

Consider becoming a Director!

The Timeline

Itasca-Mantrap is seeking candidates from Districts 4 and 5 for our Board of Directors. Director elections are held in conjunction with the Itasca-Mantrap annual meeting on June 12.

Candidates must meet eligibility requirements as specified in the Itasca-Mantrap Bylaws. Board directors serve three-year terms and represent all co-op Members.

Wondering what's involved in being a director?

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Establish relationships between the board, the membership and the President-CEO.
- Report to the membership.
- Maintain legal entity and practices.
- Review and update bylaws and policies, as needed.
- Attend meetings and conferences.
- and more!

Interested? Contact Itasca-Mantrap for a director candidate packet. Completed petitions and forms must be received in the Itasca-Mantrap office by 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 14.

DISTRICT 4 – includes Henrietta, Hubbard and Shell River in Hubbard County.

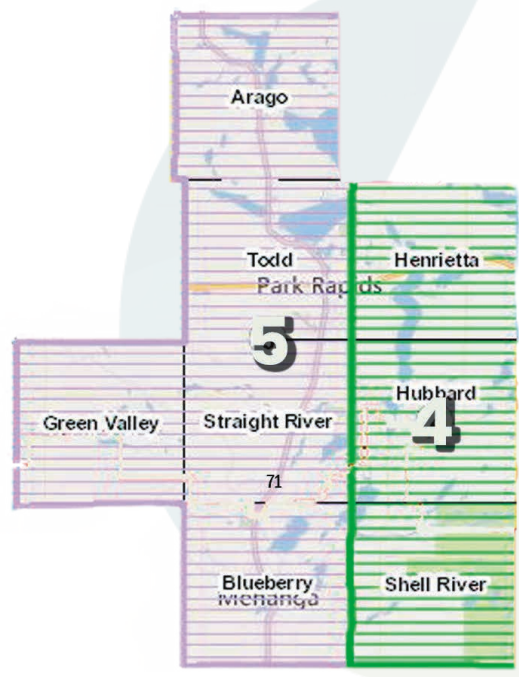
DISTRICT 5 – includes Arago, Blueberry, Green Valley, Straight River and Todd townships in Hubbard County

For more information, contact Itasca-Mantrap at 218-732-3377. More details about serving on the Itasca-Mantrap Board, including director qualifications can be found at itasca-mantrap.com/board-directors.

APRIL
14
Petitions Due

MAY
2025
Annual Meeting Booklet Distributed/Election Voting Begins

JUNE
12
Annual Meeting & Elections Held





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.

GreenTouch

Volunteers needed for spring clean up



Spring is nearly here!

We are looking for volunteers to help ready Itasca State Park for visitor season!

We will meet at the park Saturday, May 3 at 9:00 a.m. and serve a free lunch around noon. No park pass is required that day.

Volunteers are needed for pruning, transplanting trees and shrubs, installing tree cages, high pruning, removing bud caps, raking and various other projects.

Volunteers can RSVP by calling Itasca-Mantrap at 218-732-3377 or toll-free at 1-888-713-3377.

Operation Round Up

Applications are due March 17

Operation Round Up Grants will be awarded to non-profit or community-based organizations that demonstrate a commitment to enhancing the quality of life in the region. Grants will be awarded primarily to applicants in the local area served by Itasca-Mantrap.

To be considered at the April Trust Board meeting, grant applications must be received in the Itasca-Mantrap office by Monday, March 17.

Download the application form at www.itasca-mantrap.com/operation-round.

