

NEWSLINE



YOUTH TOUR RECAP

TWO DELEGATES, ONE UNFORGETTABLE YOUTH TOUR

By Cadin Carmichael and Leah Romosz

Each year, Itasca-Mantrap sends local students to Washington, D.C., for the NRECA Youth Tour, an opportunity to explore our nation's capital alongside peers from across the country. This year, two delegates represented Itasca-Mantrap on the trip: Cadin Carmichael and Leah Romosz. Here's what they had to say about the experience.

Cadin, in his own words:

When I first applied to go on the Youth Tour, I didn't really know what I was getting myself into. A few weeks later, I got the call that I had been selected to be a delegate for the trip. I started to doubt if I was truly the best option for the spot. Even through that doubt, I got out of my comfort zone and immediately made friends with a group of people who would soon make this trip one I will never forget.



Over the course of the week, we went to so many breathtaking places. A few of my personal favorites were the memorials, where we learned their history on a guided tour. We also experienced an expansive tour of the White House, watched the Senate in action from the gallery, and walked through the Smithsonian museums along the National Mall. At the Holocaust Museum, I learned more in depth than I ever had about the horrors of the Holocaust. But my absolute favorite was seeing the Lincoln Memorial in person. Pictures could never do that memorial justice, because you can never tell just how grand and perfectly made it is unless you see it in person.

To wrap it up, the Youth Tour taught me so many things about myself, co-ops and our nation's history, all in the truly brief time of a week we spent in Washington, D.C. While I've named my favorite place, everything we did was an amazing experience. The icing on the cake was everyone from...

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CEO UPDATE

BY STEVE JOHNSON, PRESIDENT & CEO

The Talk: Data Centers and Electric Rates?

One of the most common questions I've received recently from our Itasca-Mantrap members is whether the growth of large data centers across Minnesota will increase electric rates for our cooperative members.

It's a fair question.

News stories often highlight how much electricity artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing, and data storage facilities require. Some individual data centers can consume as much electricity as a small city. As more of these facilities are proposed across the country and in Minnesota, many people naturally wonder if they will be paying the bill for these energy hogs.

The reality is more complicated.

While data centers are creating new demand for electricity across the state, they are only one of many industries influencing future electric costs. Across our region, utilities are investing billions of dollars to modernize aging infrastructure, strengthen the electric grid against severe weather, improve cybersecurity, replace aging equipment, and build new transmission facilities needed to deliver power reliably. These investments are occurring regardless of whether a data center is located nearby or thousands of miles away.

In Minnesota, electrification is also increasing demand on the system. As more homes adopt electric heating technologies, electric vehicles, and other energy-intensive equipment, the need for reliable generation and transmission infrastructure continues to grow.

The electric industry is experiencing something many sectors have faced over the last several years: inflation. The cost of poles, wire, transformers, vehicles, labor, and construction materials has increased significantly. Those costs ultimately affect the price of providing electric service.

Where Do Data Centers Fit In?

Data centers certainly contribute to growing demand for electricity, but it is important to understand that utilities and regulators generally seek to ensure large industrial customers pay the costs associated with serving their facilities. The goal is not to shift those costs to residential members but rather to make sure the investments needed to serve these new loads are appropriately collected and recovered from the customers creating them.

That doesn't mean the industry doesn't face any challenges. New generation resources, additional transmission capacity, and grid upgrades will be required to meet future demand.

For our members at Itasca-Mantrap, our focus remains on delivering safe, reliable, and affordable power while ensuring rates are fair for all members.

That is one reason we are completing a Class Cost of Service Study again in 2026. The study helps us understand what it actually costs to serve different classes of members and whether our rates recover those associated costs equitably. These costs include infrastructure, such as distribution lines, transformers and meters. The study provides this information so the cooperative can make decisions based on facts rather than assumptions.

Our Commitment

As the energy landscape evolves, we're committed to transparency. If our cost-of-service study leads to rate changes, we'll explain why. Our job is to make sure members understand both the challenges and the opportunities ahead.

The electric industry may be changing rapidly, but our commitment remains the same: to provide safe and reliable service while treating all members fairly.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Approved:

- Consent agenda
- April financials, subject to audit
- GRE Contracts:
 - Resolution for the Amended & Restated PPC, Amendment 1 to TSC, and Amendments to PPC/TSC Appendix Bs
 - New Salem Wind PPA
- Revisions to Board Policy 5.25 – Capital Credits
- Board Attendance at upcoming meetings/conferences

Reports heard:

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

Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- GRE Power Cost Adjustment detail for April 2026
- Board Expenses to Budget YTD
- Scrap Material Sales
- RESCO Capital Credit statement

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

around the country we met. It's funny that despite our differences, we all had to commit to this trip and step into an unfamiliar environment.

That experience makes you realize everyone carries their own hardships, and somehow we go through them together. I would like to thank everyone at Itasca-Mantrap and the members for making this trip possible. It truly is the greatest experience I have had so far.

Leah, in her own words:

When I was selected to represent my local electric cooperative, Itasca-Mantrap, on the NRECA Youth Tour, I knew it would be an exciting opportunity, but I never expected it to leave such a lasting impression. Traveling to Washington, D.C., with students from across the country gave me the chance to step outside my comfort zone, make new friends and experience places I had only ever seen in pictures.

From the moment our trip began, I felt welcomed by everyone. Although many of us had never met before, it didn't take long for conversations to turn into friendships. One of my favorite parts of the week was getting to know people from different states and hearing about their hometowns, interests and goals for the future. Those connections made every stop along the way even more meaningful.



Visiting our nation's capital brought history to life. Walking through the memorials and monuments was an unforgettable experience, especially seeing the Lincoln Memorial, the U.S. Capitol and Arlington National Cemetery. Standing in places where so many important events have taken place gave me a greater appreciation for our country's history and the people who have helped shape it. Learning more about electric cooperatives and how they work to serve their communities also gave me a new perspective on the importance of leadership and service.

As the week came to an end, I realized I was leaving with much more than souvenirs and pictures. I returned home with lifelong memories and many new friendships. The NRECA Youth Tour challenged me to grow, try new things and appreciate opportunities I may not have had otherwise.

I am incredibly grateful to Itasca-Mantrap for making this experience possible. The NRECA Youth Tour is an opportunity I will always remember, and I hope future students have the chance to experience everything it has to offer.

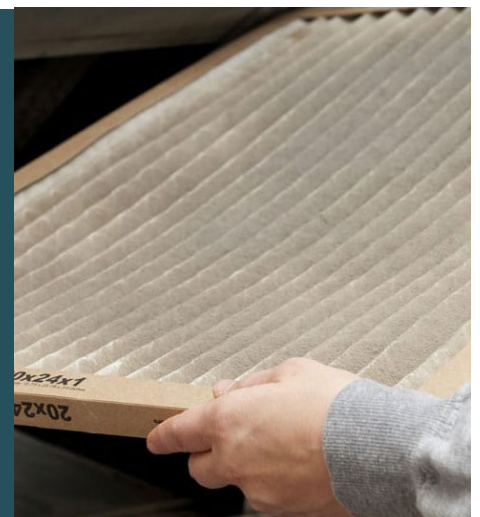
Itasca-Mantrap is proud to send students like Cadin and Leah on the Youth Tour each year, and we look forward to continuing this opportunity for future delegates.



TIP OF THE MONTH: **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

August heat can put your air conditioner to the test, making it a great time to check your system's air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts airflow, forcing your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. That extra strain can reduce efficiency, increase energy use and contribute to unnecessary wear and tear on equipment. Inspect your filter monthly during periods of heavy air conditioner use and replace it if it appears dirty. A clean filter supports efficient operation and can even enhance indoor air quality—helping you stay cool and comfortable during the hottest days of summer.

Source: energy.gov



Understanding Demand

Your electric bill measures two different types of energy usage:

Energy (kWh) is the total amount of electricity you use over time, like the miles on your car's odometer.

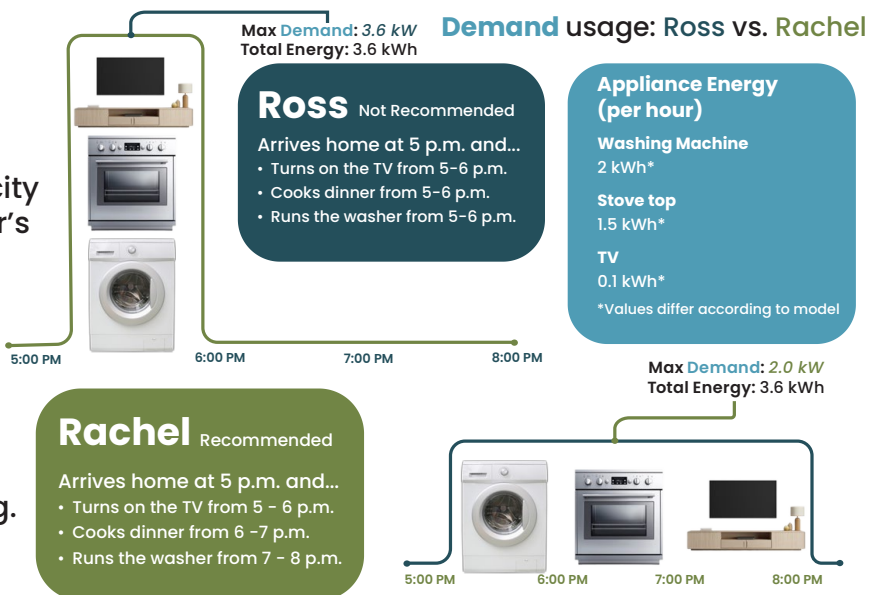
Demand (kW) is the rate at which you use electricity at any one moment, like your speedometer.

Two members can use the exact same amount of energy in a month and still have very different demand, just based on timing. Here's an easy way to picture it. Say Ross and Rachel both get home at 5 p.m., and both use the same appliances for the same total energy that evening: 3.6 kWh.

Ross cooks dinner, washes clothes, and watches a show all between 5 and 6 p.m. Running everything at once pushes his max demand to 3.6 kW.

Rachel spreads the same tasks out. Dinner from 5 to 6, laundry from 6 to 7, and her show from 7 to 8. Same total energy, same appliances, but her max demand comes in at just 2 kW.

Same energy bill, very different demand, just because of timing. That matters because Itasca-Mantrap has to have enough capacity on the system to handle everyone's highest demand, even if it only lasts a few minutes.



The good news is that small shifts can make a real difference:

- Nudge your thermostat a few degrees during peak hours
- Run laundry and dishwashers later in the evening
- Charge your EV overnight instead of right when you get home

Visit our website at Itasca-mantrap.com/what-is-demand for more examples and to learn more about demand.

Stepping Up to the Plate: Twins Let's Play Ball Clinic Comes to Town

Park Rapids, MN — It was a big day for young baseball players at the Century School Ball Fields on Thursday, June 25.

In cooperation with the Minnesota Twins and Great River Energy, Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative hosted its Let's Play Ball Clinic in Park Rapids. Around 106 players came out to receive coaching and practice their skills under the guidance of experienced professional baseball instructors.

We want to extend a thanks to all attendees and to the parents who volunteered their time to help run the event. Thanks to the community coming together, the kids had a fantastic time.



4th of July Festivities Recap:

Our team here at Itasca-Mantrap took part in the 4th of July parade on Main Street in Park Rapids. The streets were lined with excited families and kids waiting for us to toss our goodies.

Days like this remind us what a great community we have. Our team spent the early afternoon soaking up the sun and celebrating the freedoms we're lucky to have, all thanks to those who've fought to protect them.

A big thank you to everyone who came out, waved, cheered, and shared kind words along the route. We appreciate your love and support!



The End of Summer Social!

@ Itasca-Mantrap

16930 County 6, Park Rapids, MN

Thursday, August 20, 2026

2-4 p.m.



Face painting • Sweet treats • and more!



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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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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

ARE YOU ON THE LIST? PLEASE SEE INSERT FOR UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDIT LIST

Included with this publication, Itasca-Mantrap has provided a list identifying those individuals who have unclaimed capital credits. Are you on the list? Know anyone else who is on the list? Please help us find these individuals to claim their capital credits. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about capital credits, please visit itasca-mantrap.com/capital-credits or give us a call.



Operation Round Up Application Deadline Tuesday, Sept. 15

To be considered at the October Trust Board Meeting, grant applications must be received in the Itasca-Mantrap office by September 15.

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



OUTAGE TEXTING

Text 'OUT' to 844-551-6903 to report an outage.

Text 'STATUS' to 844-551-6903 to check the status of an outage.

Not signed up for outage texting? Members will need to update the outage text phone number to 844-551-6903. Members must have their current phone number on file and have opted-in for outage notifications on SmartHub to use texting. If you have **multiple accounts**, please report outages by phone or through SmartHub.

