

# NEWSLINE



## GRACE OFFICER RETURNS! YOUTH TOUR 2025 RECAP

Grace Officer of Park Rapids represented Itasca-Mantrap at the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 16–21. Grace spent an adventurous week with more than 1,800 other students representing cooperatives from across the country. Grace and 28 other students from Minnesota participated in leadership training, engaged in conversation with elected officials, learned about electric cooperatives and the cooperative business model, and toured the many sites in Washington, D.C.

Grace, reflecting on her time spent at the Youth Tour, said, “This experience helped me grow as a leader by pushing me out of my comfort zone and encouraging me to connect with the other delegates across Minnesota and from across the nation. It was a unique experience to see how similar I was to the other kids from Minnesota.”

Grace went on to say, “meeting other delegates from across the country was surprising, as not only were there clear differences, there were plenty of similarities as well. The friends I made on the trip were the most meaningful part, as we all look to stay in touch and eventually meet again. Thank you, Itasca-Mantrap, and its members, for affording me this opportunity to represent you. I will cherish the memories and personal growth I gained from this trip moving forward.”

Since 1964, the nation’s electric cooperatives have sponsored more than 50,000 high school students to visit their U.S. congressional delegations, attend energy and grassroots government education sessions, and enjoy sightseeing in Washington, D.C. For more information about the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, visit [itasca-mantrap.com/youth-tour](https://itasca-mantrap.com/youth-tour).



## Marketing & Member Service Update

BY NIKKI TORKELSON, MARKETING & MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER

There's something about August in northern Minnesota—the golden evenings, the sense of community and the last stretch of summer that brings us all together. At Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative, August is more than just a month on the calendar. It's our time to reconnect with you, our members and to celebrate everything that makes our cooperative strong.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, our mission isn't about maximizing profits, it's about serving our members. As a member-owner, you're at the heart of every decision we make. You have a voice. You have a vote. And you benefit directly from the work we do. That's more than a philosophy; it's a promise. And it shows not just in the way we operate but in how we connect with you.

Being a cooperative member means more than just receiving electricity. It means you are part of something local, connected and people-focused. We return margins to you through capital credits, offer rebates to help you save on energy costs and invest in the well-being of our communities.

Our commitment to member value doesn't stop at programs and financial returns. It extends to how we engage with you in meaningful ways. And that's what our August events are all about—creating opportunities to connect, listen, learn and celebrate what makes our cooperative strong: you.

### Mark Your Calendar!

#### Solar Forum

*August 8 at The Event Room*

Interested in solar energy? Don't miss out on this opportunity to meet and learn from industry leaders,

gain valuable insights and be a part of shaping the future of renewable energy. We'll keep it straightforward and informative—no jargon, just real answers.

#### Coffee with Your Cooperative

*August 12 at the Emmaville Inn & Cafe*

Sit down with our CEO and leadership team for an open conversation about the co-op, the energy landscape and what matters to you. Bring your questions, your ideas or just a willingness to listen.

#### End of Summer Social

*August 21 at Itasca-Mantrap*

We're closing out the season with a celebration for the whole family. Expect games, snacks, fun activities and a chance to connect with members and co-op staff. It's our way of saying thank you for being a member.

At Itasca-Mantrap, your membership delivers year-round value. We're proud of our deep investment in the communities we serve. From supporting local schools and sponsoring community programs to driving economic growth, we know that when our members thrive, our communities grow stronger. This commitment to community is more than a responsibility; it's who we are.

Whether you're attending an event, receiving a rebate or simply turning on the lights, you are part of something bigger. So, we invite you to join us this August—at the Solar Forum, over a cup of coffee or at our End of Summer Social. However you choose to connect, know that your participation is what makes Itasca-Mantrap strong.

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

### Approved:

- Consent agenda
- April financials, subject to audit
- Acceptance of MN grant funds and implementation of contract
- Delegate appointments for Cooperative Finance Corporation and National Cooperative Services Corporation annual meetings
- Vote in favor of Great River Energy's request for Emmons-Logan Energy Storage agreement

### Reports heard:

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

### Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- GRE Power Cost Adjustment detail for April 2025
- WAPA 2025 Summer Preparedness letter
- Status of CFC Integrity Fund
- Additional Annual Meeting preparations
- Meeting attendance at MREA's District 2 meeting and Energy Issues Summit
- MREA Request for contributions to building fund
- Rate Class Increases effective 7/1/2025

### NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, August 28, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.



# 4th of July Festivities Recap:

Itasca-Mantrap took part in the 4th of July parade on Main Street in Park Rapids. The atmosphere was patriotic, and the streets were lined with excited families and community members. The crowd was electric as they kept yelling for Karl, a member of our line crew, to honk the horn! The parade is a positive reminder of the American spirit that embodies us all.

Our team was full of smiles as they navigated the hot but beautiful day—spreading joy and celebrating the freedoms given to us by those who continue to defend them. Thank you to all the members who shared their support and kind words!



## TIP OF THE MONTH: **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Replace your cooling system's filter regularly to maintain strong airflow and boost energy efficiency. A clean filter means your system doesn't have to work as hard, saving energy and lowering your utility bills.

Factors like allergies and pets in the home can impact how often filters should be replaced. Check the filter every month and replace it as needed. Changing filters regularly also reduces wear and tear on your cooling system, helping extend the life of the unit.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)





# Your Power. Your Co-op. Your Value.

As the cost of just about everything continues to climb—groceries, gas and everyday essentials—you can count on Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative to keep your electricity reliable, affordable and one of the best values around.

Electricity plays a bigger role in our lives than ever before. From keeping food fresh and clothes clean to powering phones, tools and home offices. It's the fuel that keeps modern life running smoothly. And even as we rely on it more, electricity continues to be a stable and cost-effective part of the household budget.

While the price of many daily expenses has jumped in recent years, the cost of electricity has increased at a much slower pace. That's no accident. At Itasca-Mantrap, we work hard alongside our wholesale power provider, Great River Energy, to keep costs down. You pay only what it takes to build, maintain and operate the system that delivers safe, reliable electricity to your home—only your fair share.

In fact, Minnesota's average residential electric rates remain lower than the national average, according to the U.S. Energy

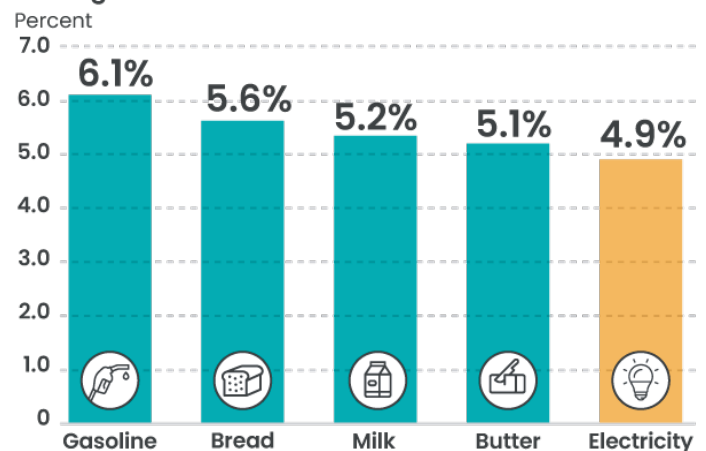
Information Administration. For the typical Minnesota household using about 25 kilowatt-hours per day, that adds up to around \$3 a day—less than the price of a single cup of coffee.

When you look at what electricity does for you, it's easy to see the value. Itasca-Mantrap knows electricity isn't just a convenience—it's a necessity. That's why we're committed to keeping it affordable, dependable and always working for you.

## ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

Although inflation has led to increasing costs in many areas of our lives, the cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common goods. Looking at price increases over the last five years, electricity remains a good value.

### Average Annual Price Increase 2018–2023



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Consumer Price Index



## Coffee With Your Co-op

Join us for a town hall-style chat with President & CEO Steve Johnson.

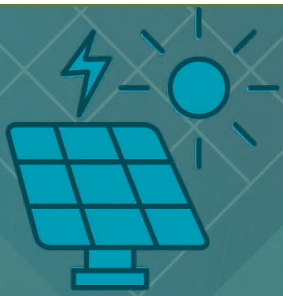
Date and time: Tuesday, August 12 starting at 8:30 a.m.

Location: Emmaville Inn & Cafe

Hear updates on rate adjustments and your energy bill—plus ask questions and share feedback.

Limited spots are available so call **888-713-3377** to RSVP!





## POWERED UP ENERGY FORUM SOLAR SOLUTIONS

Hosted by Itasca-Mantrap

Friday, August 8 | 1–4 p.m.

The Event Room – 1104 Park Ave S, Suite 2, Park Rapids

Curious about solar energy?

Join us for expert insights, real-world solutions and answers to your solar questions. Learn how solar can work for your home, business or community.

Featuring presentations from:

Star Energy Services & Wolf Track Energy



# The End of Summer Social!

@ Itasca-Mantrap

16930 County 6, Park Rapids, MN

Thursday, August 21, 2025

2–4 p.m.



Face painting • Sweet treats • and more!



## 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 Monday,  
September 1, in observance of  
Labor Day**

## Operation Round Up Application Deadline Monday, 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  
www.itasca-mantrap.com or pick one up  
at our office.



## Itasca-Mantrap Electricity Bill Payment Options

Pay through  
the SmartHub  
app



Mail in  
your  
payment



Setup  
autopay



Pay in  
office



Pay online  
at our  
website



Put your  
payment in  
the drive-up  
drop box

