



NEWSLINE



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

November 2021

Member Appreciation Open House Drive Thru

Swing by Itasca-Mantrap to enjoy treats and receive
a gift from the comfort and safety of your vehicle!



Friday, December 10 | 16930 County 6, Park Rapids, MN 56470 | 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM



Itasca-Mantrap Electricity Bill Payment Options

AUTO PAY



**ONLINE
THROUGH
SMARTHUB**



**ONLINE WITH
PAY NOW**



MAIL



**DRIVE-UP
DROP BOXES**



OFFICE





CEO Update - By Christine Fox, President-CEO

I'm not sure if you have noticed or not, but our power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE), has been receiving a great deal of negative press lately. It seems the media has focused

on the negative. After all, they do need to sell papers and it is human nature to focus on negative rather than positive news. Remember the last time you received one piece of negative feedback interspersed with a whole lot of positive feedback? If you are anything like me, you focused on the negative and had a lot of internal dialogue about how you could have done things better. Well, regarding GRE, I would like to shed some light (pun intended) on the positive.

GRE has been focused on the environment since long before I started at the Cooperative. In fact, it is embedded within their mission of providing reliable, affordable, and environmentally friendly electricity to its members. They and by extension, Itasca-Mantrap, met the Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard (30 percent by 2025) in 2017 - eight years early. Their latest projection is to meet the state's carbon reduction goal (80 percent by 2050) twenty-seven years early.

While GRE and Itasca-Mantrap are focused on the environment, we are also strategically focused on reliability. To achieve reliable service, we currently use 1,151 megawatt (MW) of baseload energy produced by coal, which works 24/7, and 1,570 MW of peaking plant

capacity for when we need a boost in our supply (think hot summer days or cold winter nights).

GRE and its members, Itasca-Mantrap included, recently made the decision to sell our last coal plant, Coal Creek Station (CCS) and purchase back a portion of the energy produced by it, rather than shut it down. We decided that weaning ourselves off coal was a much better alternative for our members than going "cold turkey". In my mind, this makes sense for a variety of reasons:

- Our energy produced from coal at CCS will be reduced from 1,151 MW to approximately 300 MW in 2023. That's a 74 percent reduction.
- Rainbow Energy (the purchaser of CCS) has committed to carbon capture and sequestration. GRE can terminate their supply contract if Rainbow does not comply, thus incentivizing Rainbow to invest in research and development of carbon capture technology. Once the technology is perfected, it can be shared with other coal burning facilities reducing CO2 emissions for all.
- Our electric supply will go from our current 55 percent carbon emitting resources to 28 percent carbon in 2023 and eventually to 94 percent carbon-free.
- We will maintain reliability while various new technologies are being developed for that purpose. Reliability is of great concern in a carbon-free world. Currently, we have nuclear and/or batteries that are considered reliable resources. But GRE does not own any nuclear facilities and current battery technology will only keep the grid

supplied with energy for short spurts of time - minutes or hours rather than the days or weeks that are needed for times when the sun is not shining and/or the wind is not blowing. There are many scientists researching varied solutions to this reliability issue, but they all take time to develop. (By the way, GRE has invested in a company that is developing long-duration battery storage technology.)

- This strategy is more cost effective. By selling CCS rather than shutting it down, GRE will save \$130 million over the next 10-15 years. This savings is passed along to Itasca-Mantrap and, in turn, to our members. This can equate to a smaller increase, no increase or even a reduction in Itasca-Mantrap rates.
- Last, but not least, GRE will be saving the jobs of their employees, some of which have been running CCS for more than 40 years. Not only does this impact the employees but also the North Dakota community where these employees live.

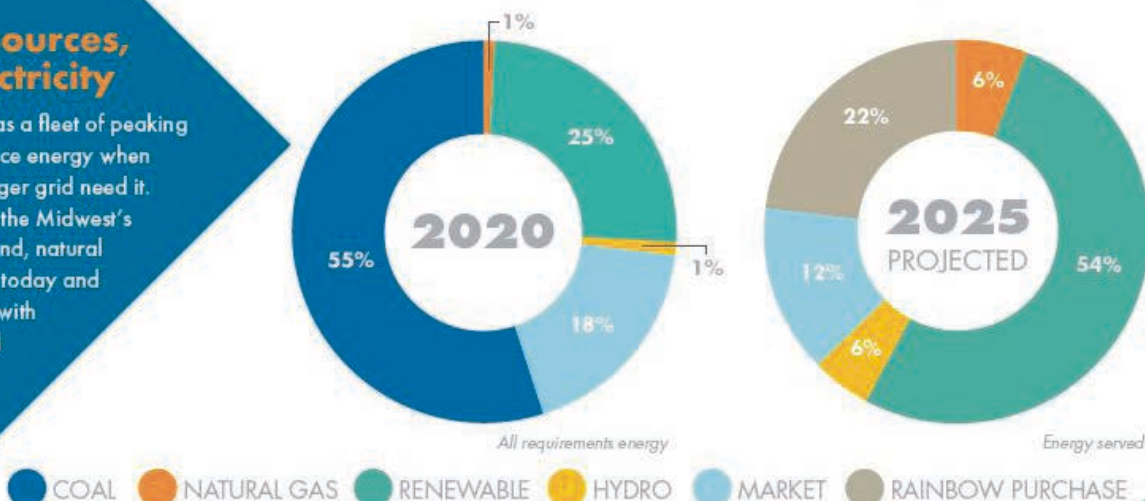
So, although our critics, whose only focus is the environment, think of this as bad news, I believe the sale of CCS meets the competing objectives of providing reliable electricity at an affordable cost, caring for the livelihood of our employees, and caring for the environment. This is good news!

If you have any questions or would just like to talk about this long-term decision that will affect us all, please give me a call.

Chris

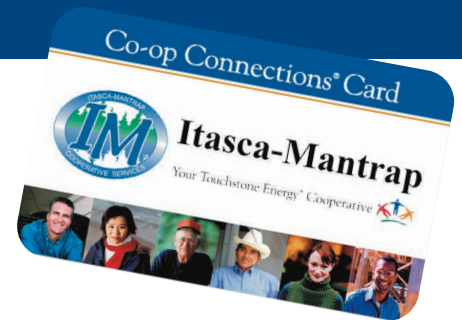
Flexible resources, reliable electricity

Great River Energy has a fleet of peaking plants ready to produce energy when its members or the larger grid need it. When combined with the Midwest's high availability of wind, natural gas provides stability today and flexibility for a future with new technologies and opportunities.



Shop local with Co-op Connections!

Shop locally and save this holiday season with your Co-op Connections card! Simply show your Co-op Connections card at any local participating business to save. Locating a participating business is easy; just look for the Co-op Connections sticker on the business' door or cash register. A list of local participating businesses is provided below and is available at our office and at www.itasca-mantrap.com. This free program is one more way you benefit from being a cooperative Member.



Abigail's Attic Antiques, Collectables & New Gifts

5%-10% off store wide, excluding new gift items

Amish Oak & Americana Furnishings

10% off storewide, non-sale

Aune's Kauppala Gifts & Collectibles

5% off storewide, non-sale items

Aunt Belle's Confectionery

10% off any regularly priced item

Beagle and Wolf Books & Bindery

10% off one Midwest Connections pick

Bella Caffé

Free flavor in coffee drink

Beyond Juice

10% off

Blue Sky Beads

10% off when you spend \$30. Discount cannot be applied to commissioned pieces

Brothers Self Storage

10% off any size unit (1 year term limit) or 15% off 10x10 unit (1 year term limit)

Character Challenge Course

Buy 1 combo package, receive \$20 discount towards second. (Combo price \$50). Reservations required, maximum weight 250 pounds

Delaney's Sports

Free fatheads with a \$5 tackle purchase

Dorset Corner Liquor

10% discount on wine purchase, cannot be combined with any other discounts, not valid on sale items

Ecowater Systems

1 year supply of salt with purchase of

a new residential water softener and reverse osmosis system

Evergreen Gifts & Fun Park

5% off any purchase

Flying W Gardens

10% off trees, shrubs & perennials, only non-sale items

Haas Printing, Inc.

10% off on color copies.

Hafner's Greenhouse

10% off storewide, non-sale items

Jerry's Budget Auto

10% off service and repair on all small engines

Kathy's on Main

10% off any one regularly priced item

Max Bailey Photography

10% off original print order

Minnesoda Fountain

10% off total purchase, cannot be combined with other discounts, not valid on sale items

New Frontier Resort

5% off lodging for stays over 3 days

Orton's Menahga BP

5 cents off per gallon

Orton's Park Rapids Cenex

5 cents off per gallon

Orton's Park Rapids Food Mart

5 cents off per gallon

Owl's Nest Resort

10% off weekly rate

Park Rapids Auto Centre

5% off parts and labor

Park Rapids Building Supply & Rental

5% off, non-sale items

Park Theatre

Free bag of popcorn with purchase of ticket

Pixie Point Resort

10% off

Quietwoods Resort, LLC

10% off new lodging reservations, camping and cabins

Rapid Spirits Liquor Store

10% off wine purchase, cannot be used with any other discount

Smokey Hills Outdoor Store

25% discount on any live bait

Strandell Kennels

5% off any training service, 5% off puppy purchase, \$3 off daily boarding services (limit 2 days)

Tamarac Resort & Campground

5% off with five-day stay or more

The Flower Boutique

15% off storewide

The Wild's Resort & Campground

15% off

Tim Parker Family Glass

10% off all windshields

Utke's Country Pine Furnishings

5% off in-stock merchandise, includes gifts, accessories and furniture

Warnick's Janitorial Service

20% discount on any service excluding house cleaning

3rd Street Market

Free coffee with the purchase of a pie

AGI Project Update

Itasca-Mantrap is in the process of making a substantial investment in our advanced grid infrastructure, building one of the most technologically advanced power control systems. In 2021 and 2022, Itasca-Mantrap will continue to implement an advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) and install a meter data management system (MDMS). The new meters will improve reliability and give you more tools and opportunities to manage and save energy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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



Board Report: Meeting Highlights

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Approved the consent agenda.
- Heard the Operations and Safety report and the Marketing and Member Services report
- July financials were received and filed subject to audit.
- CEO Christine Fox gave her monthly CEO report.
- Approved revisions to Board Policy 3.35 – Parental and Medical Leave.
- Directors and CEO Christine Fox reported on meetings attended on behalf of the Cooperative.

The November meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, November 18, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

Keep Utility Poles Clear

Keeping utility poles and electrical equipment free of signs, flags, and other foreign objects helps keep the community powered and our line crew safe.

It may seem harmless, but nails, staples, or other fasteners in utility poles present safety hazards to workers who have to climb the poles to repair or maintain the equipment. Sharp objects in the pole can lead to lineworkers snagging or piercing holes in their protective equipment, such as the rubber gloves that are meant to insulate workers from high voltage. Hanging things from utility poles also presents dangers to the community, putting individuals at risk of making accidental contact with energized power lines.

Safety is our number one priority. This is a reminder to do your part by keeping utility poles clear.



Keep utility poles free of signs, posters, flags, and other foreign objects.

Holiday LIGHTING Safety

Use only holiday lights that have been safety tested and have the **UL label**.



Before using, **check each strand** for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs.



Don't string together more than **three** standard-sized incandescent sets of lights or you could **overload the circuit**.



Don't throw lights over tree branches that are **near power lines** and service connections.



Always unplug lights before leaving your home or going to bed; a timer can help with this.



Learn more at

**Safe
Electricity.org**



Sales Tax Exemption

Members who use electricity as their primary source of residential heat are exempt from paying taxes on the electricity purchased during the billing months of November through April. If more than one type of heat is used, electricity is not taxable only if it is the primary source of heat for the largest period of time during the heating season.

To apply for the sales tax exemption, Members must complete the exemption form, available at www.itasca-mantrap.com or in our office. If you have already applied for a sales tax exemption, there is no need to re-apply; your enrollment will automatically carry forward each year.

COOK UP ENERGY SAVINGS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

- Clean oven burners regularly.
- Match the pan size to the burner you're using.
- Use small appliances like slow cookers and toaster ovens when possible.

**From our table to yours,
Happy Thanksgiving!**

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing.

Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

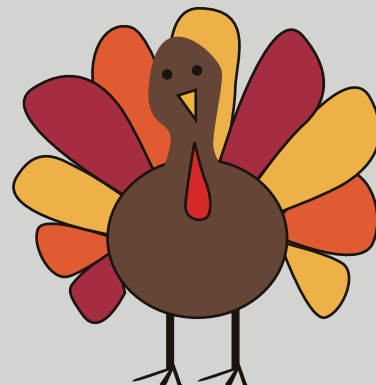
Source: energy.gov



THANK YOU

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

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!**



**OFFICE CLOSED
NOVEMBER 25 & 26**

ITASCA-MANTRAP COOPERATIVE

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Phone: 218-732-3377 or 888-713-3377
Fax: 218-732-5890
E-mail: itasca@itasca-mantrap.com
www.itasca-mantrap.com



GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

1-800-252-1166
www.gopherstateonecall.org

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Dist. 1 – Brian Behrens, Director
Dist. 2 – Patricia Roehl, Director
Dist. 3 – Terrence Cook, Treasurer
Dist. 4 – Al Czezok, Asst Sec-Treas
Dist. 5 – Nancy M. Utke, Chair
Dist. 6 – Tim Kivi, Secretary
Dist. 7 – Dan Breitbach, Vice Chair
President-CEO – Christine Fox

Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives have retired \$18 billion to members since 1988 – \$1.3 billion in 2019 alone.

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.

Source: National Rural
Utilities Cooperative
Finance Corporation

\$1.3
BILLION
IN 2019

\$18
BILLION
SINCE 1988

