



NEWSLINE



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

November 2020

Are you ready for winter?

Dual fuel combines two heating sources to best fit your budget and tailor your energy investment to meet your heating needs. Itasca-Mantrap's dual fuel program offers the option to incorporate a low-cost electric heat source with an alternate heating system.

In a dual fuel heating system, an electric heat source, such as baseboard heat, is used in conjunction with fuel oil, propane or electric storage heat as the back-up heating system.

Dual fuel is a controlled electric heating program that helps save money and conserve energy. When demand for electricity is high, the electric heat source is shut off, or controlled (up to a maximum of 400 hours per heating season) with a maximum continuous control time of 12 hours (usually 4 to 6 hours at a time). During control periods,

your home's back-up heating system provides the heat you need. Signing up for the dual fuel program qualifies you to receive a reduced rate of \$0.068 per kWh.

Our power supplier, Great River Energy, controls dual fuel heat whenever we approach peak capacity. In preparation for occasional control, now is the time to have a heating professional check and test your equipment to ensure it is operating properly. A properly functioning back-up system is essential for participation in the program, and will ensure you stay warm all winter long.

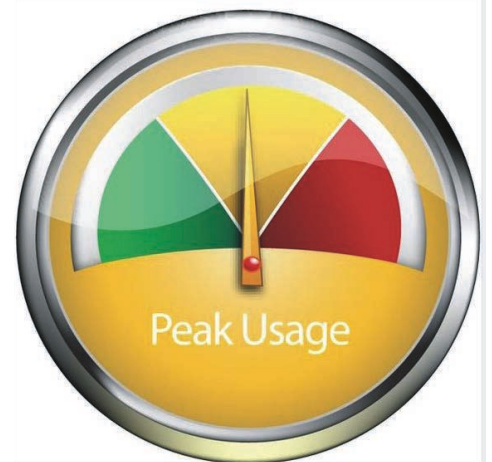
To check the status of current and potential dual fuel control times, visit www.itsca-mantrap.com on our homepage, or Like our Facebook page for updates. Contact our office to receive a dual fuel control notification email.

If there are any questions regarding Itasca-Mantrap's load management program, please contact our office.



Itasca-Mantrap Co-op Electrical Association

There will be dual fuel control tonight from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and peak shave water heating control 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
<http://imguide.greenergy.com/>



Co-op Connections® Card



Itasca-Mantrap

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



SMALL CARD, BIG SAVINGS.

The One Card That Does it All®.

www.itsca-mantrap.com/content/co-op-connections



CEO Update - By Christine Fox, President-CEO

If you have been reading my column, you know about Itasca-Mantrap's concern for our community. It is one of the core principles that sets cooperatives

apart from other types of utilities and businesses. We have always taken this mission and responsibility to heart. It is who we are as a co-op.

Over the past few months, like so many of you, we have risen to meet new challenges and strengthen the safety net for our community, particularly those who are most vulnerable. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have made numerous adjustments to programs and operations to maintain business continuity while staying focused on the bigger mission of helping our consumer members during this turbulent time.

Now, with the holidays fast approaching, these recent events have made me pause and think about the role we play in our community. While our purpose is to provide safe and reliable energy to you,

the members we serve, we have a greater mission – to be a catalyst for good.

In that regard, we created our Operation Round-Up program, where we accept donations from generous members like you, who have “rounded up” the amount due on their electric bill to provide grants to area non-profit organizations for their community projects. We have a Youth Tour program, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington D.C. for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action. And, we have recently donated one of our old trucks to the Minnesota State Community and Technical College (M State) Electrical Line Worker School for their use in training soon-to-be linemen.

We also have a strong commitment to safety – not just for our employees, but for our community as well. We visit schools to teach children of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. We hold safety demonstrations and help to train first responders in electrical safety.

Itasca-Mantrap also invests in the economic development of our community. We have established a rotating loan fund whereas we lend money for the purpose

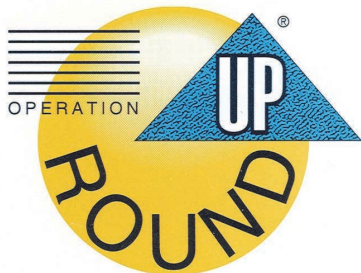
of economic development. Our monies are currently loaned out, but as soon as that money is paid back, we will lend it to another recipient who will use it to better the economics of our community.

You will see our employees serving on local boards, coaching youth sports, volunteering for charitable events and immersing themselves in our community. This is because when you work at a cooperative, you understand how important a strong community is. We know that without you, our cooperative would not exist.

We know that our core job is to keep the lights on, but we are passionate about our community. We live and work here too. If there is anything we can do for you – whether providing energy saving advice to help lower your monthly bill, discussing payment plan options during these difficult times, or anything else, please reach out to us at 218-732-3377. We are here to help. You can count on us.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Operation Round Up

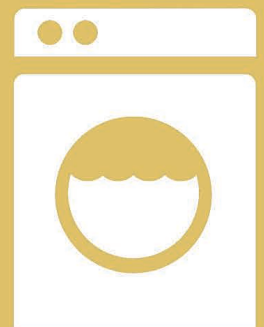


Thank you for your continued support of the Operation Round Up® program to help local civic and charitable organizations.



WAYS TO \$AVE

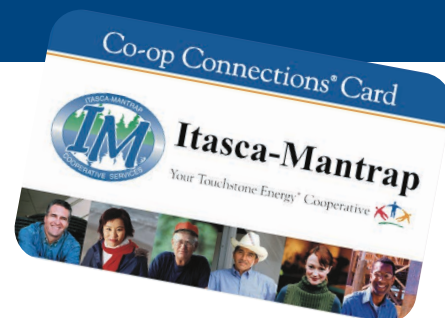
Save money and ease stress on the electric grid by doing activities that require lots of energy in late evening or at night.



Safe
Electricity.org

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

Lickin' Good Whole Pet Foods

5% off Darford Dog Treats

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

Smoky Hills Art

50% off up to 3 bead strands

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

Team Member Spotlight

CHRIS FOX

Job Title:
President-CEO

How I serve the Co-op: Bringing people together to accomplish great things.

Started at Itasca-Mantrap:
July 2014

Where I live: Nevis, MN

Hometown: Silver Bay, MN

Education/ Training: Bachelor of Science in Accounting, MBA with concentration in Finance

Prior Experience: In the Manufacturing Industry

Why I like working at Itasca-Mantrap: The people.

Family: Married with two children, and two grand dogs

Community Involvement: Rotary, Heartland Lakes Development Commission Board

Hobbies: Pontooning, four-wheeling, listening to music, lounging out at the lake

Fun Fact: I'm overly optimistic.



JEFF WEISS

Job Title:
Equipment Operator

How I serve the Co-op: Maintain vegetation under distribution lines as well as various duties at Headquarters.

Started at Itasca-Mantrap: May 2019

Where I live: Park Rapids, MN

Hometown: Park Rapids, MN

Education/ Training: High School Graduate

Prior Experience: Worked with a local excavating company, and worked with I-Serv

Why I like working at Itasca-Mantrap: I enjoy running equipment and assisting my co-workers when needed.

Family: Married with two children

Hobbies: Anything outdoors - hunting, fishing, riding off-road vehicles, and spending time with family and friends



Turn the Heat Up and Keep Your Energy Bill Low

A few simple steps to keep your house cozy and your energy bills manageable



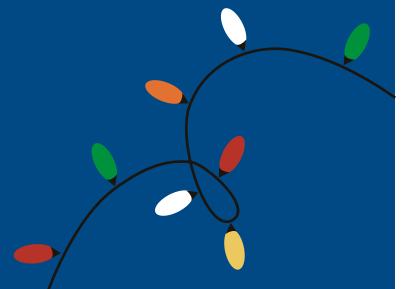
Open your curtains and allow the sunlight to naturally heat your home.



Remember to close the damper when the crackling fire is out, so the warm air doesn't escape right up the chimney.



When you are away or asleep at night, turn the thermostat back 10 - 15 degrees and you could save 10% a year on heating costs.



Switch to LED holiday lights now to use 75% less energy than incandescent ones, and they last much longer.

Itasca-Mantrap Donates Truck to Power Line School



Pictured (L-R): Wayne Dykhoff (M State Lineworker School Instructor), Colton Casper (Student), Adam Larson (Student), Jefferson Speiker (Student), and Jerry Byer (Itasca-Mantrap Line Superintendent).

Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. (Itasca-Mantrap) recently donated a flatbed crane truck to the Minnesota State Community and Technical College (M State) Electrical Line Worker School. This is the first and only flatbed crane truck that they have at M State. This truck will be used to teach the students how to lay wire line down, both underground and above ground. It will also allow students to learn the operations of the crane functions such as using it to lift heavy equipment around the worksite and onto the flatbed.

Lineworker Superintendent Jerry Byer presented the truck to the school's instructor, Wayne Dykhoff, on Tuesday, September 29. The used truck was appraised at \$20,000.

This donation will assist instructors to prepare the students the best they can for their future lineworker careers. Byer said, "This is a great training facility with good instructors and good students, and this is just our way of giving back. We are happy to contribute to helping students learn how to operate these vehicles. With this knowledge, they will be more valuable employees in the utility industry."

Chris Fox (Itasca-Mantrap President-CEO) said M State's program is highly regarded in the area. Ten of the Itasca-Mantrap lineworkers have graduated from M State. Fox explained, "At Itasca-Mantrap, we value our partnership with M State through the Electrical Line Worker School program. We were preparing to retire a flatbed crane truck in our fleet when we realized the current class did not have access to one. We recognized the value the truck would bring to the program. The truck is fully operational for the school to use for years to come."

Dykhoff said the flatbed crane truck will be used by about 60 students this semester alone. "We have a valued 15-year partnership with Itasca-Mantrap and I would like to thank Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. for its generous gift to the program. Together we are making a difference in the lives of these young people," Dykhoff remarked.



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 27, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. office located in Park Rapids, Minnesota.

A quorum of directors was present.

Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Approved the consent agenda.
- Heard the Operations, Safety and Engineering report and the Marketing & Member Services report.
- July Financials were received and filed subject to audit.
- CEO Christine Fox gave her monthly CEO report.
- CEO Christine Fox updated the Board on the Cooperative's responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 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 19, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

**Follow us to stay
updated on the latest!**





Make smart payments with SmartHub

Save time.

Avoid service interruptions.

Eliminate late fees.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

Source: energy.gov

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.

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!**



**OFFICE CLOSED
NOVEMBER 26 &
NOVEMBER 27**

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