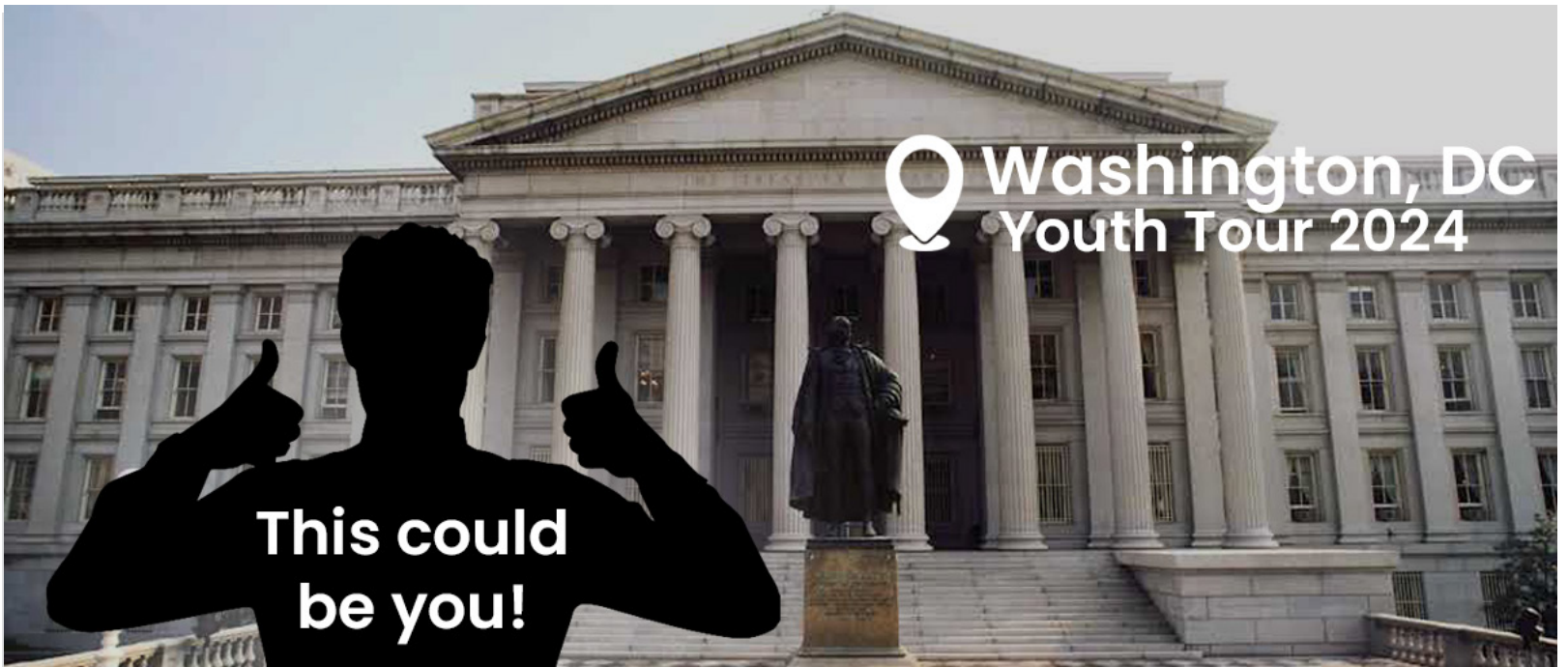


# NEWSLINE



Washington, DC  
Youth Tour 2024

This could  
be you!

## YOUTH TOUR 2024

ITASCA-MANTRAP AREA STUDENTS, DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE AT AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY!

Attention, local high school sophomores and juniors! We are excited to announce a fantastic opportunity for you to become our next Youth Tour delegate on an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C.!

Explore iconic monuments such as the World War II Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial, visit the historic Mount Vernon, and more!

To qualify, students must reside in our service area and be a member of the Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative!

The Youth Tour 2024 is scheduled for June 13-18, and applications must be submitted by March 1, 2024.

To apply, visit our website at [itasca-mantrap.com/youth-tour](https://itasca-mantrap.com/youth-tour) or give us a call today. Seize this chance to create lasting memories, make new friends and embark on the trip of a lifetime as our next delegate!

Remember, the deadline for applications is March 1, so apply today!



## CEO UPDATE

BY CHRISTINE FOX, PRESIDENT-CEO

Often when I flip the switch to turn on my lights – or ask Google to turn on the floor lamp, I think about the essential role that electricity plays in everyday life. It powers our homes, offices, hospitals, and schools. We depend on it to keep us warm in the winter and cool in the summer, charge our phones, and binge our favorite TV shows. If the power goes out, even briefly, our lives can be disrupted.

I have heard the electric grid referred to as one of the modern-day wonders of the world. I know that it is often described as the most complex machine in the world.

To me the complexity stems from the fact that we cannot inventory vast amounts of electricity like you can any other manufactured product. In addition, we all use different amounts of electricity throughout the day, so the supply and demand for electricity is constantly changing. For example, we typically use more electricity in the mornings when we are starting our day, and in the evenings when we are cooking dinner using appliances. Severe weather and other factors also impact how much electricity we need.

The challenge for electric providers is to plan for, produce and purchase enough electricity so it is available exactly when we need it. Too much or too little electricity in one place can cause problems. So, to make sure the entire system stays balanced, the electric grid must adjust in real time to changes and unforeseen events.

At its core, the electric grid is a network of power lines, transformers, substations, and other infrastructure that spans the entire country. But it is not a singular system. It is divided into three major interconnected grids: the Eastern Interconnection, the Western Interconnection, and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. These grids operate independently but are linked to allow electricity to be transferred between regions when backup support is required.

Within the three regions, seven balancing authorities known as independent system operators (ISOs) or regional transmission organizations (RTOs) monitor the grid, signaling to power

plants when more electricity is needed to maintain a balanced electrical flow. ISOs and RTOs are like traffic controllers for electricity.

The journey of electricity begins at power plants. Power plants can be thought of as factories that make electricity using various energy sources, like coal, natural gas, solar, wind, and nuclear energy. Across the United States, more than 11,000 power plants deliver electricity to the grid.

To get the electricity from power plants to you, we need a transportation system. High-voltage transmission lines function as the highways for electricity, transporting power over long distances. These lines are supported by massive towers and travel through vast landscapes, connecting power plants to electric substations.

Substations are like pit stops along the highway, where the voltage of electricity is adjusted. They play a crucial role in managing power flow and ensuring that electricity is safe for use in homes and businesses.

Once the electricity is reduced to the proper voltage, it travels through distribution power lines, like the ones you typically see on the side of the road. Distribution lines carry electricity from substations to homes, schools, and businesses. Distribution transformers, which look like metal buckets on the tops of power poles or large green boxes on the ground, further reduce the voltage to levels suitable for household appliances and electronic devices.

After traveling through transformers, electricity reaches you – to power your life.

We are proud to be your local, trusted, energy provider. From the time it is created to the time it is used, electricity travels great distances to be available at the flip of a switch. That is what makes the electric grid our nation's most complex machine – and one of our nation's greatest achievements.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you!

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative was held on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

### Approved:

- Consent agenda
- October financials, subject to audit
- Director Kivi to serve as voting delegate at the Cooperative Response Center (CRC) annual meeting.
- Purchase of a 2025 large bucket truck
- Defer revenue of \$1.3 million and provide a bill credit of \$1.3 million
- Engagement of Brady Martz for the audit of 2023 Itasca-Mantrap records.
- Directors Cook, Kivi, Behrens, and Roehl to attend the MREA Annual Meeting
- Changes to Great River Energy (GRE) bylaws and articles of incorporation

### Reports heard:

- Operations and Safety report
- Marketing and Member Services report
- Financial report
- CEO report
- GRE update with GRE president David Saggau
- Meeting attendance

### Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- GRE Power Cost Adjustment detail for October 2023

### NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

# Director Candidates Wanted!

Itasca-Mantrap is seeking candidates from Districts 6 and 7 for our Board of Directors. Director elections are held in conjunction with the Itasca-Mantrap annual meeting on June 12.

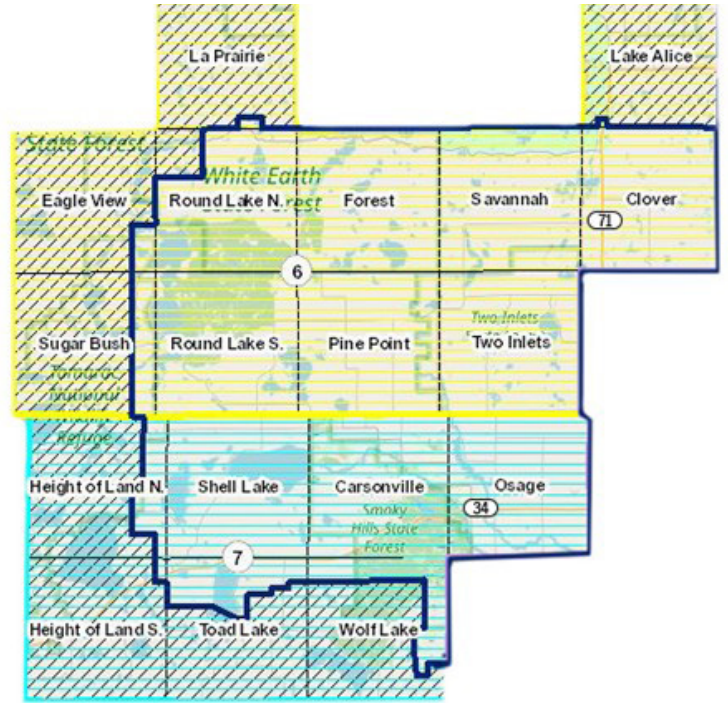
Candidates must meet eligibility requirements as specified in the Itasca-Mantrap Bylaws. Board directors serve three-year terms and represent all co-op Members.

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 15.**



DISTRICT 6 – includes Eagle View, Forest, Pine Point, Round Lake North, Round Lake South, Savannah, Sugar Bush and Two Inlets Townships in Becker County; Clover and Lake Alice Townships in Hubbard County; and LaPrairie Township in Clearwater County.

DISTRICT 7 – includes Carsonville, Height of Land North, Height of Land South, Osage, Shell Lake, Toad Lake and Wolf Lake Townships in Becker 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 [www.itsasca-mantrap.com/board-directors](http://www.itsasca-mantrap.com/board-directors).

## TIMELINE



Director Packets Available



Petitions Due



Announcement of Candidates



Annual Meeting Booklet Distributed



(Annual Meeting) Elections held (by mail, in-person voting or electronic voting)

# RESIDENTIAL CASH REBATES



ITASCA-MANTRAP  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## Heating & Cooling

### Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP)\*

≥14.3 SEER2 & >7.5 HSPF2	<b>\$750</b>
≥15.2 SEER2 & >8.1 HSPF2	<b>\$1,000</b>

\*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** **\$200**  
≥14.3 SEER2 & >7.5 HSPF2

**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*	<b>\$600</b>
Peak Shave Water Heating**	<b>\$300</b>

\*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	<b>\$25</b>
Freezer - replacement with proof of recycling	<b>\$75</b>
Refrigerator - replacement with proof of recycling	<b>\$75</b>

### ENERGY STAR Lighting

(Rebate only available online at [www.energywisemnstore.com](http://www.energywisemnstore.com), also linked on [www.itasca-mantrap.com](http://www.itasca-mantrap.com))

LED Bulb	<b>\$2/bulb</b>
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### Electric Vehicle Charger

Level 2 Charger*	<b>\$500</b>
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## New Team Member!

Welcome to Monica Quaschnick!

Monica Quaschnick joined Itasca-Mantrap in January as a new member service representative. Monica will provide exceptional service with timely and accurate responses to member inquiries and assist in the planning, developing and administration of Itasca-Mantrap's member service program.

Monica brings more than twenty-two years of customer service experience from other utility cooperatives. She was most recently a customer service representative with West Central Telephone in Menahga.

Welcome Monica!



## Statement of Nondiscrimination

Itasca-Mantrap is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the Cooperative prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Cooperative (not all bases apply to all

programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the Cooperative or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program

Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intakeusda.gov](mailto:program.intakeusda.gov).



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

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static.

Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

Source: Dept. of Energy





# 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, Director

#### DISTRICT 3

Terrence Cook, Treasurer

#### DISTRICT 4

Al Czczok, Assistant Secretary-  
Treasurer

#### DISTRICT 5

Nancy M. Utke, Director\*

#### DISTRICT 6

Tim Kivi, Secretary

#### DISTRICT 7

Dan Breitbach, Vice Chair

#### PRESIDENT-CEO

Christine Fox

\*Great River Energy Director Representative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

## Operation Round Up

*Grant applications are now being accepted*

It seems like only yesterday that Operation Round Up declared its recipients for the most recent ORU awards. The time is drawing near for the next ORU deadline, and local businesses and organizations are encouraged to apply!

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.

The funds raised through ORU will be distributed primarily 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 Friday, March 15. Download the application form at [www.itasca-mantrap.com/operation-round](http://www.itasca-mantrap.com/operation-round).



## Itasca-Mantrap Electricity Bill Payment Options

Pay through  
the SmartHub  
app



Setup  
autopay



Pay online  
at our  
website



Mail in  
your  
payment



Pay in  
office



Put your  
payment in  
the drive-up  
drop box

