

# NEWSLINE



Start your  
≡ engines...



## EV RIDE AND DRIVE ALL CHARGED UP

The EV Ride and Drive event was one for the ages, as members were able to view and test drive electric vehicles (EV) and hybrids from multiple manufacturers such as: Volkswagen, Chevrolet, Tesla, Hyundai, Chrysler and Ford.

Those in attendance were able to hear from representatives with Great River Energy and the Minnesota Automobile

Dealers Association about specific developments tied to EVs and what changes are being made to better accommodate the EV driver.

Thank you to everyone who attended our EV Ride and Drive! We look forward to next year and expanding it to be bigger and better!



# CEO UPDATE

BY CHRISTINE FOX, PRESIDENT-CEO

The holiday season is just around the corner, and soon festive music will flood the airwaves, sparkling lights and decorations will adorn homes and businesses, and good tidings will abound.

The holidays also bring a frenzy of decorating, cooking, and family gatherings. Amid the hectic hustle and bustle, you may receive higher than usual energy bills. Keeping this in mind, I thought this month would be an opportune time to provide tips to help lower your monthly energy use:

- Make minor, low-cost improvements, like weatherstripping exterior doors and caulking around old drafty windows.
- Use LED holiday lights. They use 88% less energy than incandescent holiday lights. The Department of Energy estimates that standard holiday decorations using incandescent lights increases your energy bill by \$33 or more. In contrast, LED lights typically cost only about \$5 to \$7 to run. Now, if you go above and beyond with incandescent holiday lighting (think Clark Griswold), your energy bills could increase by as much as \$350. LEDs are also shock-resistant, shatterproof, and cool to the touch, making them safer for your home.
- Manage your holiday lighting with a smart light timer, or if you do not have smart home technology, any timer will do.
- Turn off overhead lights and use your holiday lighting to illuminate your home.

- If you have a fireplace, remember to close the flue when it is not in use to ensure heat does not escape through the chimney.
- Use small countertop appliances like microwaves, air fryers and slow cookers when possible. They use much less energy than the stovetop or oven.
- Bake multiple dishes at once when using the oven. It takes the same amount of energy to bake one dish as it does to bake several.
- Turn the oven off a few minutes before the recipe's end time and allow the residual heat to finish baking the dish.
- Once the food is done, leave the oven door ajar to allow the residual heat to warm the room.
- When using the stove top, match the pan size to the burner to maximize the stove top's efficiency.

I hope a few of these tips will be helpful as we approach the holiday season. If you have questions about managing energy or your monthly bill, we are always happy to help.

From your friends at Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative, we hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

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, August 24, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

### Approved:

- Consent agenda
- July financials, subject to audit
- Revisions to Board Policies:
  - o 5.91 – Liens and Judgments
  - o 7.15 – Damage to Member Property
  - o 7.16 – Limited English Proficiency
  - o 7.50 – Resale of Energy

### Reports heard:

- Operations and Safety report
- Marketing and Member Services report
- CEO report
- Meetings attended on behalf of the Cooperative

### Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- GRE Power Cost Adjustment detail for July 2023
- Administrative Policy 3.30 – Remote or Flex Working Arrangements

### NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.



# Apps & Amps

We invite you to join us at Osage Bait and Tackle to participate in energizing conversation. We encourage you to ask questions and give us any feedback you may have! Oh, and enjoy fresh appetizers with us!

**Date: Thursday, November 16**

**Time: 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Location: Osage Bait and Tackle**

54507 MN-34, Osage, MN 56570

Space is limited to 50 members. RSVP by Friday, November 10 if you plan to attend.



## In Memoriam

### **Kenneth Lymburner**

Nov. 24, 1934 – Sept. 16, 2023

Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative mourns the passing of former District 7 Board Director Kenneth Lymburner of Osage, Minn. Lymburner was elected to the Itasca-Mantrap Board of Directors in 2006 and served until his retirement in 2012. He served as assistant secretary/treasurer in his final year on the board.

Lymburner's commitment and service to Itasca-Mantrap, its members, and the area are appreciated.

Funeral services were held Sat., Sept. 30.

## 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, but only if it is the primary source of heat for the longest period of time during the heating season.

To apply for the sales tax exemption, Members must complete the exemption form, available at our office or at [www.itasca-mantrap.com](http://www.itasca-mantrap.com). 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.



# Member Appreciation Open House

Friday, December 8th

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate YOU!


With the holidays fast approaching, so is our Member Appreciation Open House! Join us as we celebrate the many years of dedication from all our members and staff to the great community that is Itasca-Mantrap.

For our appreciation to you, we will be hosting a giveaway of various prize baskets from local businesses that participate in our Co-op Connections program!

Those who stop in will receive an attendance gift, be treated to some of our snacks and beverages, as well as enjoy conversations with our staff.

We hope you will stop by and visit with us. Thank you for being a member!

## Cogenerators and Small Power Producers



Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative will interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers who satisfy the conditions of a qualifying facility. Itasca-Mantrap will provide information to all interested Members, upon request, regarding rates and interconnection requirements.

An application for interconnection is required for a qualifying facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the Cooperative's distribution system and is subject to approval by the Cooperative. Any disputes over interconnection, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative Board.

Interested Members should contact Itasca-Mantrap at 218-732-3377 or toll-free at 888-713-3377.

# Load Control Notifications

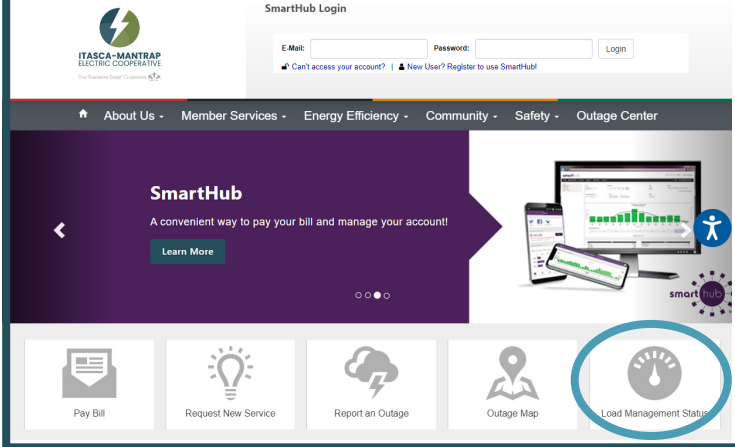
Stay updated when load management takes place.

Load management is a cost-savings approach to curtail the peak demand of electric energy to allow better use of existing generating capacity. Lowering the peak benefits all members by reducing our wholesale power costs. These savings are passed along to participating members through lower rates on our dual fuel and off-peak programs.

New systems may also be eligible for installation rebates. Contact our office to learn more about our load management programs.

Stay informed through load control notifications:

- Check our social media or our website.
- Sign up for email notifications to receive notice during business hours Monday through Friday.
- Enroll in text notifications through SmartHub.



# New Employee Alert!



Welcome to Brittany Edelman!

Brittany joined Itasca-Mantrap in September as a new member service representative. Brittany 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.

Brittany brings over 15 years of customer service experience. She was most recently a pharmacy technician to an area pharmacist.

Welcome Brittany!



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

Spending more time in the kitchen during the holiday season?

Here's one way to be more energy efficient: Unplug small kitchen appliances, like toaster ovens and microwaves, when not in use. You could save \$10 to \$20 per year.

Source: energy.gov





# ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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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.

## Reminder:

Our Office will be closed Nov. 23 & 24



## 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

