

NEWSLINE



Smart Water Heating: *Comfort, Savings & Simplicity*

Your water heater works hard every day, and it can also be one of the more efficient ways to lower your energy bill. Itasca-Mantrap offers programs designed to help make water heating more efficient while putting money back in your pocket through rebates and lower electric rates.

Peak Shave Water Heating

When you install a qualifying Peak Shave Water Heater, your system may be temporarily controlled during times of high energy demand. Thanks to stored hot water, you will still have plenty available when you need it. Members who qualify can receive a \$300 rebate and enjoy energy rates of \$0.068 per kWh year-round under the dual fuel program.

Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Water Heating

Upgrading to a ETS water heater (Energy Factor 0.90 or higher, with at least 100 gallons of storage) helps conserve energy by heating water during off-peak hours, typically 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., when electric costs are lowest. Members who install one are eligible for a \$600 rebate and can take advantage of off-peak rates of \$0.053 per kWh year-round, adding up to big savings and reliable comfort.

General Service ETS/Peak Shave

Members with only one electric meter can take advantage of money-saving water heating options through our general service programs. The ETS program offers a \$600 rebate for qualifying 100-gallon or larger water heaters, plus a \$5 monthly credit for homes using at least 400 kWh per month. Water heaters charge typically from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. and store hot water all day, helping shift energy use to lower-cost times. The Peak Shave program provides a \$300 rebate for 50-gallon or larger high-efficiency water heaters and a \$3 monthly credit for qualifying homes. These units are controlled for up to 8 hours during high-demand periods. Both programs are designed for members with a single meter and offer a simple way to save energy and money.

A Smart Choice for You and the Grid

By taking part in these water heating programs, members help balance energy demand across the system. That means more reliability, better efficiency and lower costs for everyone in our cooperative community.

Ready to save while staying comfortable? Contact Itasca-Mantrap to learn more about rebate qualifications and how to get started.



FINANCE & ACCOUNTING UPDATE

BY MINDY YOUNG, CFO

Budget Season and the Three-Legged Stool: Balancing Our Priorities Together

As we turn the page into November, we enter a season that blends thoughtful reflection with careful planning. While many of us are preparing to gather around Thanksgiving tables, here at Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative, we are also gathering around conference tables—because it's budget season.

This is the time of year when we take a close look at our financial outlook, set priorities for the coming year, and ensure that we're responsibly managing your cooperative's resources. And just like any well-planned meal, a good budget depends on the right balance.

To guide our decisions, we use a model that resembles the balance necessary in a three-legged stool. Just as a stool needs all three legs to stand strong and steady, our cooperative needs balance among three essential pillars: equity, rates, and infrastructure investment.

Here's how each leg supports the health of your cooperative:

1. Equity

As a member-owned cooperative, every dollar you invest as a member-owner matters. This leg of the stool focuses on maintaining healthy equity levels (your share in the cooperative) while ensuring we're returning value to you. Through capital credits and prudent financial management, we strive to manage member equity in a way that supports the long-term strength and sustainability of the co-op.

2. Rates

We work hard to provide electricity at the lowest possible cost while maintaining the high standards of service you expect. This leg ensures that rates are fair, predictable, and reflective of actual costs. Setting rates too low may defer necessary improvements, setting them too high places undue burden on members. Budgeting helps us find that balance, delivering value today while preparing for tomorrow.

3. Infrastructure Investment

Reliable service depends on strong infrastructure. This includes upgrading aging lines, modernizing substations, and preparing our system for emerging technologies and future growth. Investing in our grid today reduces outages, increases efficiency, and positions us to serve you better—whether it's during a winter storm or a summer peak.

As we build our budget, we aren't just crunching numbers, we're making decisions that impact the entire membership. And as we do, we're guided by one central question: What's best for our members? That's why we're especially mindful during this season of Thanksgiving. We're grateful for the trust you place in us, for the communities we serve, and for the shared commitment to cooperative values that make this all possible.

May your Thanksgiving be filled with warmth, gratitude, and the comfort of knowing your cooperative is planning carefully—for today and for the future.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on at Thursday, August 28, 2025, 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Approved:

- Consent agenda
- July financials, subject to audit
- Revision to Board Policy 2.20, Meetings of the Directors
- Guest Director attendance at GRE Board meeting in 2026

Reports heard:

- 2025 Youth Tour Report
- 2024 Reliability Report
- Safety Reports
- Operations and Safety
- Financial
- Marketing and Member Services
- CEO
- Summaries of meetings attended

Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- GRE Power Cost Adjustment detail for July 2025
- Board Expenses to Budget YTD
- Scrap Material Disposition
- WAPA CROD Memo
- Policy on utilizing legal counsel
- White Earth Public Comment response

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

What Is Demand?: A Quick Overview And What To Know

When you think about your electric bill, you probably focus on how much energy you use in a month. But there's another factor that can affect your costs: your demand. Demand is the rate at which you use electricity at one time, measured in kilowatts (kW).

Energy (kWh) = total amount used over time.

Demand (kW) = highest amount used at once

A kilowatt (kW) is 1,000 watts of power. A kilowatt-hour (kWh) means you used 1 kW steadily for one hour.

Examples:

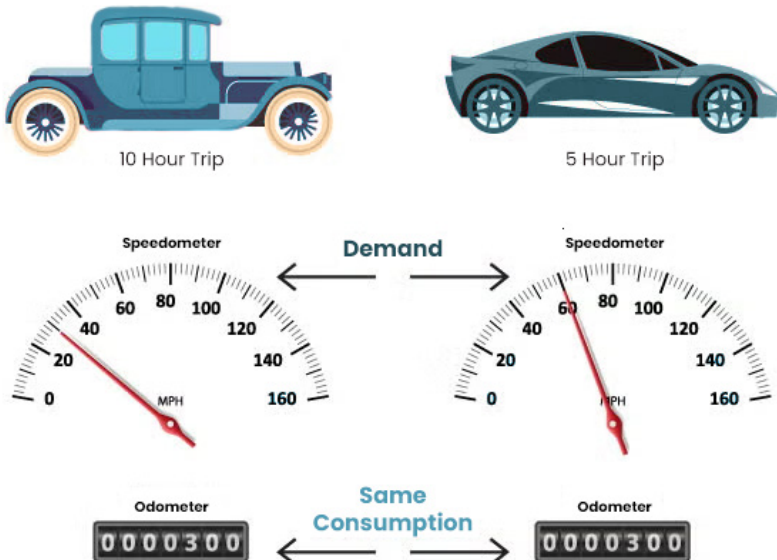
Two members each use 1 kWh:

Member A uses it steadily over an hour — demand = 1 kW.

Member B uses it all in 15 minutes — demand = 4 kW (four times faster).

Driving a Car

Your speedometer is like demand (how fast you're using power right now). Your odometer is like total energy used. Two cars can travel the same distance, but the faster one needs a bigger, more expensive engine—just like higher demand needs more capacity from our electric system.



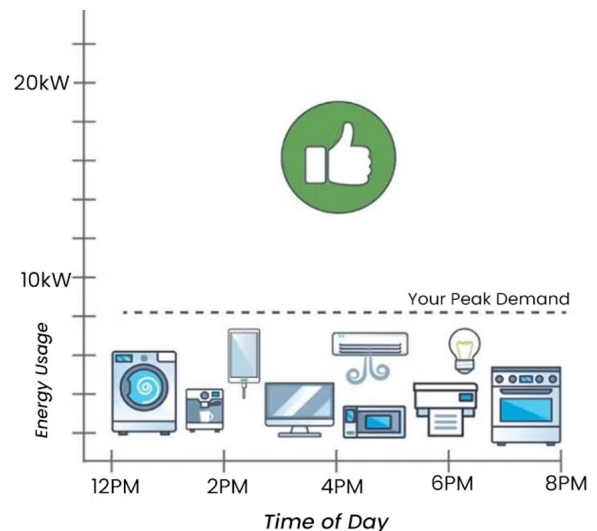
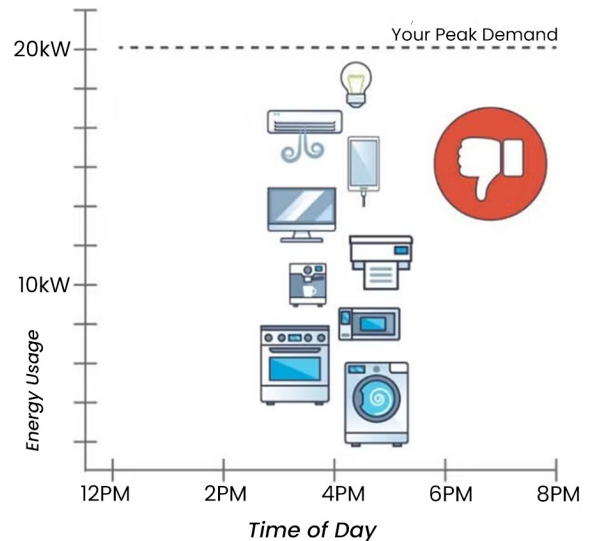
How can I keep my demand low?

The easiest way to keep your demand low is to stagger the use of major appliances. Instead of running the oven, dryer and air conditioner all at once, space them out so they aren't operating at the same time.

Technology can make it even easier. Use timers, delay-start settings, mobile apps or programmable thermostats to help you shift usage without having to think about it.

Why your co-op cares

Itasca-Mantrap must have enough capacity to meet the highest demand from all members, even if it only happens for a short time. Reducing your personal demand helps keep costs more stable for everyone.





COOPERATIVE HEROES AWARD: RECOGNIZING DEDICATION TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Do you know someone in your community who consistently goes above and beyond to make life better for others? Perhaps they've supported a local nonprofit, helped neighbors in need, or organized a project that made a lasting impact. These are the kinds of people who make our towns stronger, and now is the time to recognize their efforts.

Itasca-Mantrap is proud to partner with Minnesota's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to introduce the Cooperative Heroes Award. While the Touchstone Energy Community Award celebrates outstanding local organizations and businesses, the Cooperative Heroes Award focuses on individuals who put cooperative values into action every day.

Minnesota is home to 44 electric distribution cooperatives, serving 85 percent of the state and touching every county. This award highlights the

cooperative principles that bind us together: integrity, accountability, innovation, reliability and commitment to community. Judges will evaluate nominees for these qualities as they select three winners who have shown what it means to live cooperatively.

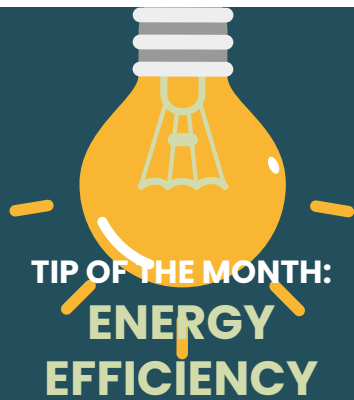
Winners will receive funding to support a cause or nonprofit of their choice:

First place: \$1,000

Second and third place: \$500 each

Nominations are open through Nov. 15, and the application process is short and simple. You can find the form online at www.mrea.org/programs/touchstone-energy.

Together, let's shine a light on the community heroes whose dedication has touched lives and inspired positive change.



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: U.S. Dept. of Energy



Passing of the Torch

Farewell And Hello On The ORU Board

With heartfelt thanks, we bid farewell to Ron Ahmann, who has completed his term on the Operation Round Up Board. We appreciate his dedicated service and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.



Pictured above: Ron Ahmann



We would like to extend a warm welcome to Dorothy Pierzinski to the ORU board!



Pictured left to right: Carol Van Nyhuis, Kathy Pachel, Dorothy Pierzinski, Barb Boeckman, Jen Magnussen and Steph Carlson. **Not Pictured:** Lisa Koppelman.

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.

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.

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 by visiting our website at www.itasca-mantrap.com



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.*

**Our office will be
closed November
27 & 28.**

**Wishing you a
wonderful holiday!**



ITASCA-MANTRAP
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



The SmartHub online and mobile app help you manage your account by providing many features including, but not limited to:

- Auto Pay
- Billing & Payment Information
- Outage Reporting
- Quick, Easy Communication
- Billing Alerts
- Detailed Usage Reports

Make account management easier and sign up today!