

NEWSLINE



Stay in the Know: Setting Up Your SmartHub Notifications

Life gets busy, and it's easy to miss important updates or notifications about your electric account. The good news is SmartHub lets you choose exactly how and when you want to hear from us. Whether it's a planned outage, an unplanned one, restoration updates, or news about load management, billing, service, or usage, you're in control.

Here's how to turn on the notifications that matter most to you.

Types of Notifications:

- Outages (planned and unplanned)

- Restoration updates
- Load management
- Billing
- Service
- Usage

How to Set Up Notifications on the Web

Setting up notifications is easy; all you have to do is:

- Log in to SmartHub.
- Click "Settings" in the left-hand menu.
- Select "Manage Notifications."
- Choose the notification type you want to activate.
- Enter your email or phone number and save.

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Credit/Debit Card Payment Limit Effective October 1

To help manage payment processing costs, Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative will limit credit/debit card payments to \$2,000 per member each month beginning October 1.

Members with balances greater than \$2,000 may still make payments using one of the following options:

- Electronic check (ACH)
- Cash
- Check
- Money order
- Bank bill pay

This change only affects credit/debit card transactions and does not affect other payment methods.

If you have questions about your payment options, please contact our office at 218-732-3377.



CEO UPDATE

BY STEVE JOHNSON, PRESIDENT & CEO

Electricity Brings Everyday Value

When it comes to electricity, we rarely think twice when we flip on a light switch, brew coffee in the morning, charge our phones or adjust the thermostat. We simply expect the power to be there—and that's how it should be because you are a member of Itasca-Mantrap, and reliably powering your life is our mission.

We know that many families across our local communities are feeling the impact of rising costs for everyday expenses. Groceries, gasoline, insurance and other necessities cost more than they did just a few years ago. And because of that, we understand that every household is carefully considering where each dollar goes.

That's why I think it's important to occasionally step back and consider the value electricity provides.

The average U.S. residential electric bill is about \$150 a month—roughly \$5 a day. I often think about what that \$5 provides. It's about the cost of a specialty coffee, yet electricity powers nearly every moment of our daily lives, often without us giving it a second thought. In fact, many typical purchases cost more than a day's worth of electricity. A fast-food combo meal averages about \$9, and a single movie ticket can cost around \$13.

For about \$5 a day, your refrigerator keeps food fresh around the clock. Your heating and cooling system helps keep your family comfortable through the seasons. Lights brighten your home after sunset. Appliances make cooking and cleaning easier. Devices stay charged so you can work, learn, communicate and stay connected with loved ones. When you think about everything electricity makes possible, it's one of the greatest values in the average household budget.

Even with electricity's exceptional value, we know every dollar matters. If you're looking for ways to lower your energy use, Itasca-Mantrap is here to help. Whether you need efficiency advice, information about co-op rebates and efficiency programs or answers to questions about your monthly bill, our team is always available.

Itasca-Mantrap is proud to be more than your electric provider. Because we're a cooperative, we're locally owned by you, the members we serve. That means every decision we make is guided by what's best for our community—not by outside shareholders.

Thank you for trusting us to power your home and your life. We're committed to providing everyday value for you and your family, with reliable, affordable power—so you can make the most of every energy dollar.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Approved:

- Consent agenda
- May financials, subject to audit
- Draft Minutes of June 11, 2026 Annual Meeting
- Date for 2027 Annual Meeting
- Board Attendance at upcoming meetings/conferences

Reports heard:

- Operations
- Safety
- Financial
- Marketing and Member Services
- CEO
- Summaries of meetings attended

Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- GRE Power Cost Adjustment detail for April 2026
- Board Expenses to Budget YTD
- Scrap Material Sales
- Annual Meeting Recap
- Draft Policy governing the Election of Board Officers

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Understanding Demand:

A Closer Look

Your electric bill reflects two things: energy and demand.

Energy (kWh) is the total amount of electricity you use over time. Demand (kW) is the amount of electricity you're using at a single moment. Think of it like the difference between the miles on your car's odometer and the speed shown on your speedometer.

Two members can use the same amount of electricity in a month and still have very different demand levels depending on when they use it. Someone who runs the oven, dryer, and air conditioner all at once will create a higher demand than someone who spreads those activities throughout the evening.

That same concept applies across the entire cooperative.

Itasca-Mantrap does not generate electricity. We purchase power from Great River Energy, our wholesale power supplier. One of the factors in the cost of that power is the amount of demand

placed on the system at any given time. When many members use large amounts of electricity simultaneously, it increases the demand on the electric system.

Demand tends to change with the seasons. Summer air conditioning and winter heating during cold snaps are common drivers of higher demand. Understanding when your household's demand is highest can help you better understand your electricity use.

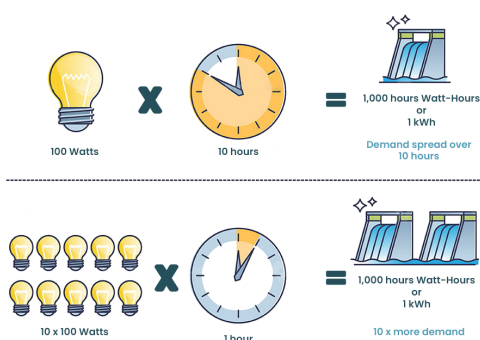
A few simple habits can help reduce demand, such as adjusting your thermostat during peak usage periods, running laundry or dishwashers later in the evening, or charging an electric vehicle overnight instead of immediately after arriving home.

Not every member can adjust when they use electricity. Medical equipment, home health needs, and certain work situations often require electricity use at specific times. That's completely understandable. Demand awareness is simply about helping members better understand how electricity is used and how the electric system operates.

Want to learn more about demand? Visit our web page www.itsca-mantrap.com/what-is-demand.

Demand Simplified

$$\text{Power} \times \text{Time} = \text{Energy Consumption}$$



Apps & Amps

Date: Thursday, Oct. 15

Location: Foxy's Bar & Grill

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. 26146 Co Rd 89, Park Rapids, MN 56470

Space is limited to 50 members. RSVP by Tuesday, October 13 if you plan to attend.

Setting Up Your SmartHub Notifications (continued from Page 1).

Illustrations on how to set up SmartHub notifications via the web

How to Set Up Notifications on Mobile

- Log in to the SmartHub app.
- Tap "More" in the bottom right corner.
- Tap "Settings," then "Manage Notifications."
- Tap the notification type you want to edit or activate.
- Enter your email and or phone number and save.

Illustrations on how to set up SmartHub notifications via mobile app

Reporting an Outage

Setting up notifications allows you stay more informed in the event of an outage. If your power goes out, here's how to report it and check for updates. *Note: In order to use the text service, you must have it added and enabled in SmartHub.*

Text OUT to 844-551-6903 to report an outage.
Text STATUS to 844-551-6903 to check for updates.
Call 218-732-3377 or toll-free at 888-713-3377.

Once you're set up, you'll get the updates you want, right when you want them. So don't wait, make the change today and stay notified.

Having issues getting set up? Give us a call at 218-732-3377 or stop by our office for assistance!



Presentations in order

Leah Romosz and Cadin Carmichael reported to the Itasca-Mantrap Board of Directors at the latest meeting held on July 30.

Leah and Cadin reiterated that their time spent at the Youth Tour, while chock full of activities, had a lot of meaning behind it. They made friends with other delegates and enjoyed the little things as much as the big-ticket items on their journey, such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Smithsonian museums and Mount Vernon, to name a few.

Overall, they expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity to represent our great co-op. Thanks to the generosity of McLeod Cooperative Power, Itasca-Mantrap was able to sponsor an additional delegate this year, sending two bright students to Washington, D.C. instead of just one.



Preparation Is Safe & Safety Is Key:

Protect Your Team and Your Equipment This Season

Tractors, combines and grain augers all share one hazard that's easy to overlook until it's too late: **overhead power lines**. Just one moment of distraction or an unexpected gust of wind is sometimes all it takes for equipment to contact a line.

A few minutes of planning before the job starts can make the difference between a normal day and a life-threatening emergency. Here are some tips that every equipment operator and farmer should keep in mind before starting work.

Start Every Day With a Plan

Before you climb into the cab, take a few minutes to walk through the job. Know where the power lines are in your work area or around the farm and think through how you'll stay clear of them as you move equipment.

Keep Your Distance

Maintain at least 10 feet of clearance between yourself, your machinery and any overhead power line, in every direction, at all times.

Bring a Spotter

An extra set of eyes goes a long way when you're maneuvering large or tall equipment near power lines.

Never Raise a Sagging Line Yourself

If a sagging line is in your way, don't try to lift it, push it aside or work around it on your own. Call

your utility and we'll come out to raise the line to a safe working height, free of charge.

Watch the Weather

Wind can blow tall equipment, augers or loads out of control and into a line that seemed like a safe distance away. Some jobs are better saved for a calmer, drier day.

If Equipment Contacts a Power Line, Stay Put

If your equipment becomes entangled in or contacts a power line, do not step off the equipment. The ground surrounding energized equipment can become charged, and stepping off makes you the path for that electricity to travel, which can result in a fatal shock.

Instead: stay on the equipment, call your utility immediately for assistance, warn anyone nearby to stay well back, and wait for utility professionals to confirm the power has been shut off and it's safe to exit.

Make Sure Everyone Knows the Plan

Make sure everyone you're working with, including seasonal help and family members, knows these safety procedures and has emergency contact numbers on hand before work begins.

If you ever have questions about power line locations, voltage or clearance on your property, give us a call.



ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

(800) 252-1166
www.gopherstateonecall.org

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Steve Johnson

*Great River Energy Director Representative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Operation Round Up Application Deadline Tuesday, Sept. 15

To be considered at the October Trust Board Meeting, grant applications must be received in the Itasca-Mantrap office by September 15.

Download the latest application form at
www.itasca-mantrap.com or pick one up
at our office.



LOCAL BUSINESS BIG SAVINGS

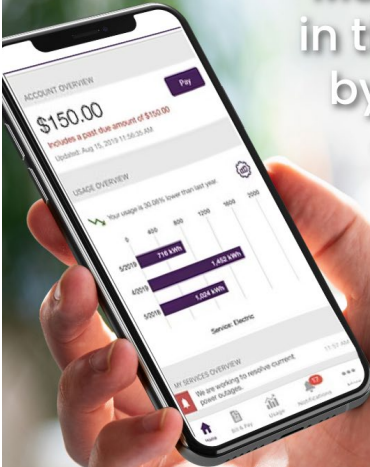
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under the "Community"
tab and click
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