

# NEWSLINE

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL

**CO-OP  
MONTH**

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit, community-led utilities. Because we are a co-op, we can adapt to our local members' needs, providing the programs and services you care about most. *That's the power of co-op membership.*

## EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY: THE COOPERATIVE VALUES OF ITASCA-MANTRAP

### Voluntary and Open Membership

Like other cooperatives, Itasca-Mantrap was created to address a community need. In 1939, neighbors united to form the co-op you know today, bringing electricity to local farms for a small fee. This collective effort powered economic growth in the community. Today, your co-op continues to focus on serving its members and enhancing the community's quality of life. Membership is open to everyone within the service territory.

### Democratic Member Control

As a locally governed cooperative, Itasca-Mantrap gives each member an equal voice and vote in co-op decisions. The board of directors, elected by the members, ensures the co-op's priorities align with members' needs, enabling informed decisions on investments like solar programs and technology upgrades.

Maintaining our close ties to the community allows us to better understand members' needs, enabling us to make informed decisions on long-term investments, such as solar and electric vehicle programs.

### Members' Economic Participation

Itasca-Mantrap's mission as a utility is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. However, as a co-op, we prioritize serving the members over generating profit.

Members contribute equitably and democratically control the cooperative's capital, directing surpluses toward programs and investments. Guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars—it's about creating opportunities for all and engaging fairly with our members. The cooperative way is a value-based business model.

Itasca-Mantrap reflects our local community and its evolving needs. We are committed to fairness, opportunity, and community improvement, serving as a catalyst for positive change. This commitment sums up the seventh co-op principle, "concern for community."



## CEO UPDATE

BY CHRISTINE FOX, PRESIDENT-CEO

This month, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the United States are celebrating National Co-op Month. It is a time to reflect on the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses and a time to celebrate the power of cooperative membership.

All cooperatives, including Itasca-Mantrap, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven principles are a framework to help cooperatives navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our purpose:

1. **Open and Voluntary Membership:** Cooperative membership is open to anyone who can use our services.
2. **Democratic Member Control:** Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. We are created by the members, for the members.
3. **Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute money to the cooperative to make sure it runs smoothly now and into the future. For Itasca-Mantrap, this happens when you pay your electric bill each month.
4. **Autonomy and Independence:** Cooperatives are independent and can operate on their own, which benefits members.
5. **Education, Training, and Information:** Cooperatives continuously focus on education to ensure team members have the training and information they need to make themselves and the cooperative successful.
6. **Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Cooperatives share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want all cooperatives to thrive.
7. **Concern for Community:** All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Cooperatives give back to their communities to help them succeed.

When I think about cooperatives, I think about communities. Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity,

some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities bring people together and create a sense of belonging. Cooperatives share in that sense of belonging and bringing people together. Electric cooperatives were started by individuals within the community who wanted to bring electricity to their rural homes and neighbors.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities, built by the communities they serve. For Itasca-Mantrap, our mission is to serve our members. We do so by providing reliable, affordable power to you. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we are uniquely suited to meet your evolving energy needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, Itasca-Mantrap supports local economic development projects, youth programs, charitable giving initiatives, and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

Our team members and directors are invested in our local community too. We own or have owned businesses, and you can find us coaching youth sports teams, serving on local advisory boards, fighting fires, and volunteering for local charities. We live here, and we serve here.

Itasca-Mantrap is deeply committed to you, our members, and we are glad that you are part of our electric cooperative community.

As we celebrate National Cooperative Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set us apart.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you!

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, July 25, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

### Approved:

- Consent agenda
- June financials, subject to audit
- Dissolution Agreement between Great River Energy and Crow Wing Power

### Reports heard:

- Operations and Safety
- Financial
- Marketing and Member Services
- CEO
- Quarterly
- 2023 Reliability
- Meetings summaries

### Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- Great River Energy Power Cost Adjustment detail for June 2024
- 2024 Youth Tour presentation
- Key Ratio Trend Analysis presentation

### NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, October 31, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

## End of Summer Social Recap

Friday, August 23, began with a cloudy sky, leaving everyone uncertain about the chance of inclement weather. But as the afternoon rolled on, the clouds parted, the sun broke through, and the stage was set for our End of Summer Social!

While the sun was out, guests cooled off with 1919 Root Beer Floats, the perfect treat for a warm afternoon. At our event, we also had Headwaters Animal Shelter, Bumpas Goats (who you can follow on Instagram @ bumpasgoats), and Face Paint by Shari. So you could say hi to all the furry friends or leave with a sweet face paint design from Shari.

Thank you to everyone who attended, and we hope to see you next year here at the End of Summer Social!



TIP OF THE MONTH:  
**ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY**

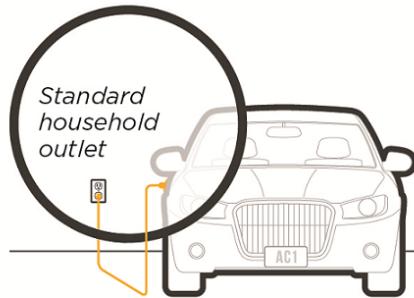
Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified.

Source: Dept. of Energy



# Electric Vehicle Charging Levels

## AC Level One



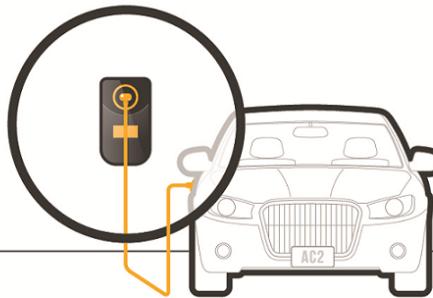
**VOLTAGE:**  
120V 1-Phase AC

**AMPS:**  
12-16 Amps

**CHARGING LOADS:**  
1.4 to 1.9 kW

**VEHICLE CHARGE TIME:**  
3-5 Miles per Hour

## AC Level Two



**VOLTAGE:**  
208V or 240V 1-Phase AC

**AMPS:**  
12-80 Amps (typ. 32 Amps)

**CHARGING LOADS:**  
2.5 to 19.2 kW (typ. 6.6kW)

**VEHICLE CHARGE TIME:**  
10-20 Miles per Hour  
*20+ for some EV models*

## DC Fast Charge



**VOLTAGE:**  
208V or 480V 3-Phase AC

**AMPS:**  
>100 Amps

**CHARGING LOADS:**  
50-350 kW

**VEHICLE CHARGE TIME:**  
60-80 Miles in 20 Minutes

Sources: Advanced Energy and EPA

## EV CHARGING BREAKDOWN

Electric vehicle (EV) owners have multiple options for charging their vehicle at home. There are three common EV charging levels: Level One, Level Two and DC Fast Charge.

### Level One Charging

Level One is the most basic charging level. If you choose this option, your EV will typically include an adapter that plugs into a standard 120-volt outlet. This is the easiest charging solution, but it will take much longer to charge your EV.

### Level Two Charging

Level Two is about three to five times faster than Level One, but this level of charging often requires separate purchases and installation. The EV is plugged into a 240-volt outlet, which is used for larger appliances, like a clothes dryer. Most homes do not include a 240-volt outlet in garages, so the outlet must be installed by a licensed professional. You typically see Level Two charging stations at

shopping malls, office buildings and community/activity centers.

### DC Fast Charging

DC Fast Charge stations are typically seen near high-traffic public areas, like gas stations, rather than in homes. This is the fastest charging level, with the ability to charge an EV to 80% in under 30 minutes. As EVs continue to become more popular, you can expect to see more DC Fast Charge stations throughout Minnesota.

If you're charging an EV at home, please contact Itasca-Mantrap. By letting us know about your EV charging levels, we can help ensure your home is prepared for the additional energy load. Itasca-Mantrap offers two voluntary rate options for charging your EV at home. Sign up for one, and you could be eligible for a \$500 rebate to cover the cost of adding a charger!

# Touchstone Energy Community Award

When you think of community, is there a local business/group that embodies that definition? Do you know of an organization that has helped make the Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative service area a better place to live and work? Consider nominating them for the Touchstone Energy Community Award, which recognizes community groups or businesses that have demonstrated a strong commitment to the community. The winning organization will receive a plaque and a \$500 cash award for its cause.

Community members may nominate an organization, association, or business by completing an application form, available at our office or online at [www.itasca-mantrap.com](http://www.itasca-mantrap.com). The application requires a description of the project, program, or event and the positive impact it brought to the community. Completed applications must be received at Itasca-Mantrap's office by Oct. 31, 2024.

The award recipient will be announced in November and will then contend for the statewide Touchstone Energy Community Award, which has a cash prize of \$2,000. The statewide award winner will be recognized at the Minnesota Rural Electric Association annual meeting in 2025. The Minnesota Touchstone Energy cooperatives are part of a national alliance of more than 700 electric cooperatives in 46 states that adhere to the values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

The Touchstone Energy Community Award highlights the Seventh Cooperative Principle - Concern for the Community.



## Apps & Amps

Date: Thursday, October 10

Location: Clancy's Restaurant

Time: 5:30 - 7:00 pm

26333 Icon Dr, Park Rapids

Space is limited to 50 members so RSVP today!





# ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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itasca@itasca-mantrap.com  
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### 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

Christine Fox

\*Great River Energy Director Representative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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