



NEWSLINE



February 2023

Share Your Thoughts for a Chance to Win!

We firmly believe that our image and cooperative name should reflect those we serve, the innovative work that we do every day, and our mission. In 2023, we are excited to revitalize our image as a modern and adaptable utility provider.

TAKE OUR BRAND REFRESH SURVEY

With the future of the cooperative in mind, we want to hear from you. By completing our brand refresh survey, by following the QR code below, you'll help guide us in making decisions about our new logo and brand image.

TAKE OUR BRAND REFRESH SURVEY BY MARCH 31 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN AN IPAD PACKAGE.



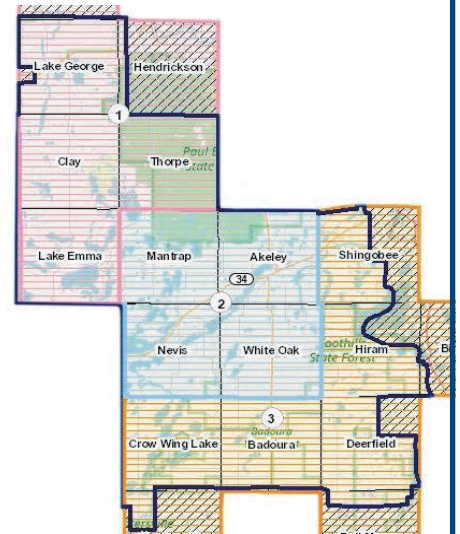
iPad Package includes:

- 10.9-inch iPad Air (64GB)
- Apple Pencil
- Logitech Combo Touch Keyboard Case

*One submission per account number.

Interested in serving on our board?

Itasca-Mantrap is seeking candidates for our Board of Directors in Districts 1, 2, and 3. Director elections are held in conjunction with the Itasca-Mantrap annual meeting.



Are you wondering what is involved in being a director? Learn more on page 4!

Win A Trip to Washington, D.C.

Attention high school sophomores or juniors: Win an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June!

Itasca-Mantrap is sending one high school student from our service territory to participate in the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The selected student will visit with congressional representatives, tour famous monuments and museums, and make memories and friends that will last a lifetime.

Rural electric cooperatives across the nation sponsor nearly 1,500 students to participate in the annual Youth Tour to

learn how government works and about the electric cooperative business model.

Students who attended this trip in the past said it was a wonderful experience and one of the best things they ever did.

Apply today! This contest is open to sophomores and juniors who live in the Itasca-Mantrap service territory. The Youth Tour is June 13-18, 2023.

Itasca-Mantrap Youth Tour Applications are available at our office, at www.itsasca-mantrap.com, or at your school's counseling center.

Application Deadline: March 16, 2023



2022 Youth Tour Winner: Jacob Lof





CEO Update - *By Christine Fox, President-CEO*

If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before.

Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, so do the costs. Regardless of market conditions, Itasca-Mantrap aims to deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 supply of power.

As you would expect, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. If your family is like mine, we use more energy in the morning as we start our day and in the evening when we return home. Itasca-Mantrap must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members at all times, including these "peak hours".

What you may not know is that electric utilities, including Itasca-Mantrap, typically pay more for electricity during those morning and evening "peak hours." In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it's especially cold outside,

when heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

If the "peak hours" concept is a bit puzzling, here's an easier way to think about it. Let's look at a music concert. We know costs go up when there is a strong demand for tickets (think Taylor Swift). The same is true for electricity. Both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it's more expensive. When they don't, it's cheaper – like a bargain matinee or an "early bird" special at a restaurant.

The cost to produce and purchase power is higher during these peak periods, typically 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. That's why we, at Itasca-Mantrap, encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few degrees, turning off unnecessary lights and using large appliances during off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such as computers, printers, and TVs into a power strip, then turn off the power strip during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, align the programming with off-peak rate periods.

Although our current residential rates do not vary by time-of-use, reducing your consumption of power during peak times impacts the power supply cost to every co-op member. These savings in power costs is an overall savings for the Cooperative and is returned to the members through steady rates and/or capital credits. I'm proud to say that Itasca-Mantrap has returned capital credits to our members every year and we've not increased residential rates since June 2018.

When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the electric grid and save a little money along the way. Collectively, everyone conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference.

Remember, taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice for you and our community.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you!

2023 Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Rebates

Itasca-Mantrap has many Commercial & Industrial rebates available for 2023, including rebates for lighting, compressed air systems, ground source heat pumps, cooling, heating, ventilation, motors and more.

- **Agricultural**
 - Dairy-Free Heater
 - Dairy Plate Cooler (Well water pre-cooler)
 - Ventilation
 - Robotic Milking
- **Building Studies & Benchmarking Programs**
- **Commercial Food Service**
- **Compressed Air**
- **Electric Forklift**
- **Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging**
- **Lighting - Custom or Retrofit**
- **Motors/Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs)**
- **Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning**
 - Air Source Heat Pumps
 - Chillers
 - Economizers
- **Ground Source Heat Pumps**
- **Packaged Terminal Air Conditioners (PTAC)**
- **Rooftop Units**
- **Split Systems**
- **Mini-splits**

Contact the Itasca-Mantrap office to see if your energy saving project qualifies for a rebate.

2023 Residential Member Rebates

Heating & Cooling

• Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP)*

HSPF 8.2/HSPF2 7	\$500
HSPF 9/HSPF2 7.7	\$800

*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	\$300
• Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM) (per qualifying ECM*)	\$50

*ECM must be part of a new HVAC system or a new ECM replacement on existing HVAC system to qualify for a rebate.

• Ground Source Heat Pump* (5 ton maximum per Member*)	
Residential per ton	\$400
• 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
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Water Heating

• High-Efficiency Water Heating

Storage Water Heating*	\$600
Peak Shave Water Heating**	\$300

*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 peak shave water heaters must have an energy factor of .90 or higher and have a capacity of at least 50 gallons to qualify.

Appliances & Lighting

• ENERGY STAR® Appliances

Refrigerator - replacement with proof of recycling	\$75
Freezer - replacement with proof of recycling	\$75
Dehumidifier	\$25

• ENERGY STAR Lighting* (online only)

LED Bulb	\$2/bulb
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*Rebate only available through online store at www.energywisemnstore.com

Electric Vehicles (EV)

Level 2 EV Charger*	\$500
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*EV Charger must be on whole house time-of-use rate or separately metered and controlled on the off-peak program to qualify.

Interested in serving on our board?

Director candidates must be nominated by 10 (ten) members in their district. Director candidates can pick up a director packet at Itasca-Mantrap. This packet contains the petition and additional forms that must be signed and submitted before the April 14th deadline.

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.
- Review and approve a financial plan.
- More duties and responsibilities are listed on our website.

Meeting attendance requirements:

- Monthly Board Meetings – Board meetings are held 12 times per year, usually the fourth Thursday of the month.
- Other meetings – Itasca-Mantrap annual meeting; other meetings to learn policies and procedures of the electric industry.
- Optional education/events – Itasca-Mantrap member events (Apps & Amps, Open House, etc.); MREA district meetings; Director education; etc.

Directors can expect 13-18 days per year for meetings and education/ events.

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.itasca-mantrap.com/board-directors.

TIMELINE



Director Packets Available



Petitions Due



Announcement of Candidates



Annual Meeting Booklet Distributed



(Annual Meeting) Elections held (by mail and in-person voting)

Board Report: Meeting Highlights

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Approved:

- Consent Agenda
- October financials, subject to audit
- Duplication of rate classes for testing time of use functionality
- Deferment of excess revenue
- GRE's Request for approval of Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency Power Supply Contract
- Directors Cook, Roehl and Utke to attend the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) Annual Meeting

Reports Heard:

- Operations and Safety report
- Marketing and Member Services report
- CEO report
- Quarterly reports
- Directors and CEO Fox reported on meetings attended on behalf of the Cooperative

Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- Great River Energy (GRE) PCA detail for October 2022
- Governance Talk video on *Creating a Healthy Culture in the Boardroom*

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Staying prepared for any weather

Just as you take precautionary measures to prepare for the winter season, so too do utilities and the organizations that manage, monitor and regulate the electric system.

Grid stakeholders work together year-round to ensure electric service is reliable by conducting various assessments ahead of each season to project the energy needs of homes and businesses. This process provides especially important information for summers, when temperatures can soar, as well as each winter when they can fall dangerously low.

The results of these assessments, which consider probable and worst-case scenarios, help guide utilities like Great River Energy when managing their electric systems during extreme weather and elevated demand for electricity.

Assessments conducted by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) for this winter found that the grid has a sufficient supply of capacity resources to meet consumer demand under peak conditions.

However, NERC's assessment highlights risks presented in specific regions — including portions of MISO's southern territory — in the case of extreme, prolonged cold weather. Itasca-Mantrap is in MISO's northern territory.

MISO acknowledges one of winter's key challenges is the potential for "high risk, low probability" events, such as unusually cold weather, intense storms and/or fuel supply issues that could impact available power and create challenges.

"Operating the power system is extremely complex and adverse weather conditions can test the resiliency of the electric grid," said Jessica Lucas, executive director of system operations at MISO. "We have a responsibility to ensure 42 million

customers have reliable power, which is why we work collaboratively with our partner utilities as we head into winter."

The NERC assessment mentions that MISO has implemented actions to provide situational awareness and early coordination for reducing risks from extreme winter weather since 2021. It also indicates that an upcoming change to the way MISO plans for energy resources — which will consider the unique needs of each season — will better align winter resource capacity with peak winter load needs.

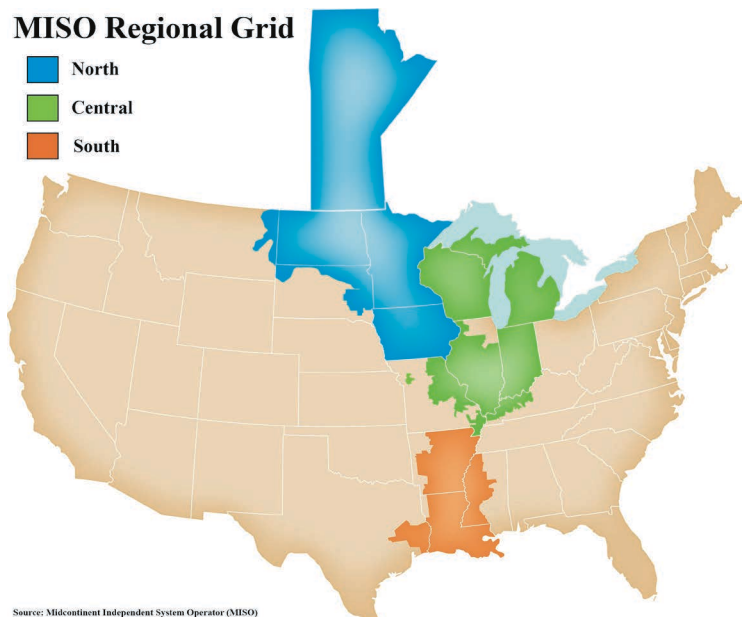
"The system is evolving and will continue to evolve toward a more complex, less predictable future for the region," said Anna Foglesong, director of strategy and policy coordination at MISO. "We continue to work with our stakeholders to address our reliability imperative and focus on the changes needed in planning, markets, operations and systems as the system continues to evolve."

For its part in maintaining reliability, Great River Energy has access to a diverse portfolio of power supply resources, including peaking resources with dual fuel capability, which means they can operate on fuel oil when natural gas supply is constrained. This fuel flexibility is an important characteristic for system reliability and as a hedge against market and natural gas prices. The cooperative also focuses on the weatherization of these plants to support resilient and reliable operation during extreme weather events.

"Combined, these resources will provide our membership with the security of knowing they have the reliability needed to get them through the coldest nights this winter," said Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke. "We are also adding another 300 megawatts of wind before January that will further diversify Great River Energy's power supply portfolio and help provide a hedge in MISO's daily markets."

Great River Energy, in partnership with its member-owner cooperatives, also has the largest demand response program for a utility of its size in the country according to data collected by the Energy Information Administration. This means Great River Energy system operators can dispatch up to 370,000-plus appliances enrolled in demand response programs when needed to manage reliability.

In addition to reducing sometimes hundreds of megawatts of electricity demand, this strategy helps Great River Energy avoid making purchases from the energy market during the periods of high pricing that often coincide with high demand and unusual weather events, which saves members money.



Source material derived from: Great River Energy

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.



Source: energy.gov

Team Member News

In January, Jaryd Soukkala joined Itasca-Mantrap as an apprentice lineman. Jaryd worked for Itasca-Mantrap over the 2022 summer as a temporary seasonal lineman. He is a recent graduate of the Electrical Lineworker program at Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Wadena. We are thrilled to welcome Jaryd back to Itasca-Mantrap!



Your continued support of the Operation Round Up® program to help local civic and charitable organizations is appreciated.

Thank you!

ITASCA-MANTRAP COOPERATIVE

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Park Rapids, MN 56470

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Phone: 218-732-3377 or 888-713-3377
Fax: 218-732-5890
E-mail: itasca@itasca-mantrap.com
www.itasca-mantrap.com



GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

1-800-252-1166
www.gopherstateonecall.org

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Dist. 1 – Brian Behrens, Chair
Dist. 2 – Patricia Roehl, Director
Dist. 3 – Terrence Cook, Treasurer
Dist. 4 – Al Czczok, Asst Sec-Treas
Dist. 5 – Nancy M. Utke, Director*
Dist. 6 – Tim Kivi, Secretary
Dist. 7 – Dan Breitbach, Vice Chair
President-CEO – Christine Fox
*GRE Director Representative

Itasca-Mantrap is an equal opportunity provider and employer.