



March 2023



## GRASSROOTS EFFORTS HELPED PROVIDE MODIFICATIONS TO ENERGY BILL

At Minnesota's electric cooperatives, our priority is to provide sustainable, reliable and affordable electricity. With that goal in mind, I want to provide an update on a piece of significant legislation that the governor recently signed.

That legislation calls for Minnesota's electric sector to be 100% Carbon Free by 2040. While Minnesota's rural electric cooperatives had significant reservations with the original bill, we are pleased to report that the final package is better than what was first proposed, despite our continued concerns about affordability and reliability.

Our grassroots efforts were successful in getting legislators from both sides of the aisle to work with us to add amendments that addressed some of our major concerns. Thank you to everyone who reached out to your legislators and made your voice heard. It made a difference.

Minnesota's electric cooperatives have long been working and planning toward a sustainable, reliable and affordable energy future. And, we want you, our members, to know that the heat will be on in the dead of winter and the AC available in the dog days of summer. Furthermore, we want the electricity we provide to always be affordable for your family while being good stewards of our planet.

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association successfully secured changes to the legislation that will provide more flexibility in implementing its mandates. As an example, we sought and obtained language providing greater flexibility in the use of

renewable energy credits (RECs) as an option to comply with the carbon reduction mandates. We also received a reduction in the steep timeline, allowing co-ops to reach 60% carbon-free generation by 2030, rather than 80% at that time. All utilities still need to be 100% carbon free by 2040. However, the legislation contains "off-ramps" that allow utilities to ask the Public Utilities Commission to modify the legislation's requirements if needed to protect reliability or affordability.

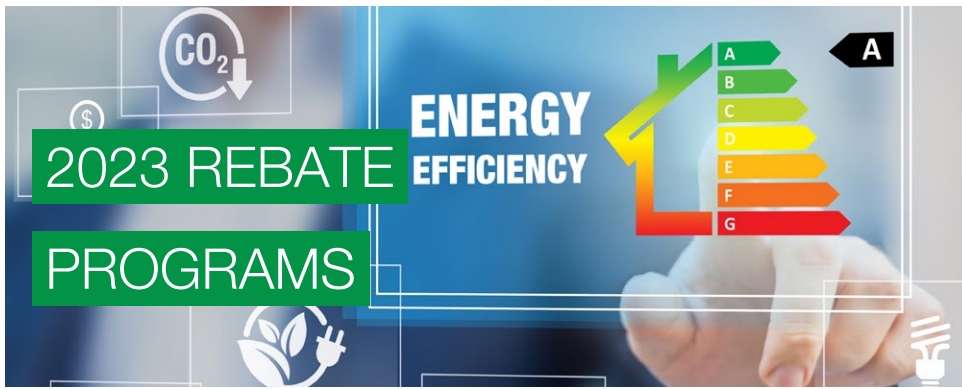
There were other adjustments Minnesota's rural electric providers advocated for to improve reliability and affordability that did not make it into the final bill, but we remain hopeful that additional concerns can be addressed in the future.

In the end, we want you to know that your electric cooperatives are working to provide an environmentally friendly energy future while keeping the reliability and affordability you expect. We ask that you stay engaged as more legislation moves through the process and can sign up for alerts at <https://voicesforcooperativepower.com/minnesota/>.

Darrick Moe

President and CEO of the  
Minnesota Rural Electric Association





# SCEA WATER HEATER PROGRAM

Recipient must be a South Central Electric member. Any checks or credits will be made in the name or account of the member. The program will end when funds are exhausted; additional rebates may be added at a later date. The completed applications will be processed on a first come first served basis as they are received in our office. Rebate applications can be requested by calling the St. James office or available on line at [www.southcentralelectric.com](http://www.southcentralelectric.com).

## APPLIANCE REBATES:



*Must be an Energy Star® appliance to qualify.*

Please see rebate applications for details.

- Dehumidifier** .....\$20      Credit applied to the energy bill
- Air Source Heat Pumps** .....\$350      HSPF rating over 9.5    \$600
- Ductless Heat Pump** .....\$350      HSPF rating over 9.5    \$600
- Ground Source Heat Pump** .....\$350/ton (*Limit 10 tons*)
- Air Conditioner Tune Up** .....\$30
- Managed Electric Heat** .....\$20/kW  
Radio controlled, qualifies for discount of \$.031/kWh on system usage.  
Stored or dual fuel heat. Heat pumps are not eligible for this program.
- LED Yard Light**.....\$25.00/ea. limit 3

## COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL REBATES:

Rebates are available on a custom basis. Rebates will be based on kW reduction on retrofit projects. To be eligible for a rebate the project must have a minimum savings of 1kW. We do not have rebate programs for new construction. Call SCEA for information on these rebates.

SCEA's peak shave water heater program provides members with a Marathon water heater at a discounted price for participating in the load management program.

The cost for water heaters is \$750. This is a great value for members. SCEA pays the cost of the electrician to wire the water heater and radio control. The member would pay any costs incurred by a plumber.



# COGENERATION NOTICE

In compliance with South Central Electric Association's adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, South Central Electric Association is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers, whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility.

South Central Electric is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility.

Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the South Central Electric Board. Interested members should contact South Central Electric Association, P.O. Box 150, 71176 Tiell Dr., St. James, MN 56081 or call (507) 375-3164.



## LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

## CAN APPLY FOR FUNDS

Are you a local organization that helps improve the lives of the residents of Watonwan, Cottonwood and Martin counties? Your organization can apply for funding from the South Central Electric Association Trust.

The South Central Electric Association Trust distributes funds contributed by South Central Electric members through its Operation Round Up® program. The independent Trust Board, which consists of South Central Electric members, evaluates local funding requests and distributes the funds. The South Central Electric Trust has provided over \$100,000 to local organizations and student scholarships since the program began in 2015.

The Trust Board is seeking applications for its spring round of funding. Local organizations that improve the lives of area seniors, educate, provide emergency response, community service and other charitable programs may be eligible for funds. The deadline for submitting applications is Thursday March 30, 2023.

Download your application from South Central Electric's Operation Round Up page on our website: [www.southcentralelectric.com](http://www.southcentralelectric.com) or call South Central Electric at 375-3164 to request an application.

## Protect your home and family with a Briggs & Stratton home standby generator



You can be confident that South Central Electric works hard every day to keep your lights on. For those times when mother nature strikes, we still have you covered with our generator program. You can purchase a whole home Briggs & Stratton Power Protect generator from South Central Electric. If you lose power, the generator automatically takes over. When power is restored, it automatically shuts down. Power when you need it without the hassles of portable or PTO generators.

**Estimated Cost of \$8,000 to \$11,500 includes the following:**

- Briggs & Stratton® Power Protect DX with industry leading 10-year warranty.
- Minnesota winter ready with battery warmer, oil heater & battery charger.
- Automatic transfer switch.
- **Electrician installation.**

Generators run on LP or Natural Gas. Estimate does not include costs of gas installation from your gas provider.



**Call our office to learn more at  
(507) 375-3164**



# ANNUAL MEETING

**THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023**

**Windom Community Center**

**1750 Cottonwood Lake Dr., Windom**

**Dinner 6:00 pm | Official Meeting 7:00 pm**

Join us for South Central Electric Association's annual meeting on Thursday, March 30, 2023. We are excited to be back in person. Director elections will be held via mail-in ballot with results announced during the annual meeting. Drawing for prizes will be done before the annual meeting from the ballots received and winners will be announced at the annual meeting.



Official monthly newsletter

## South Central Electric

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sce@southcentralelectric.com

**Web:**

www.southcentralelectric.com

**Office hours:**

**7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Ron Horman, General Manager

**Board of Directors**

President, Ron Jorgenson

Vice President, Michael Miest

Secretary, Brad Asendorf

Treasurer, Matt Peters

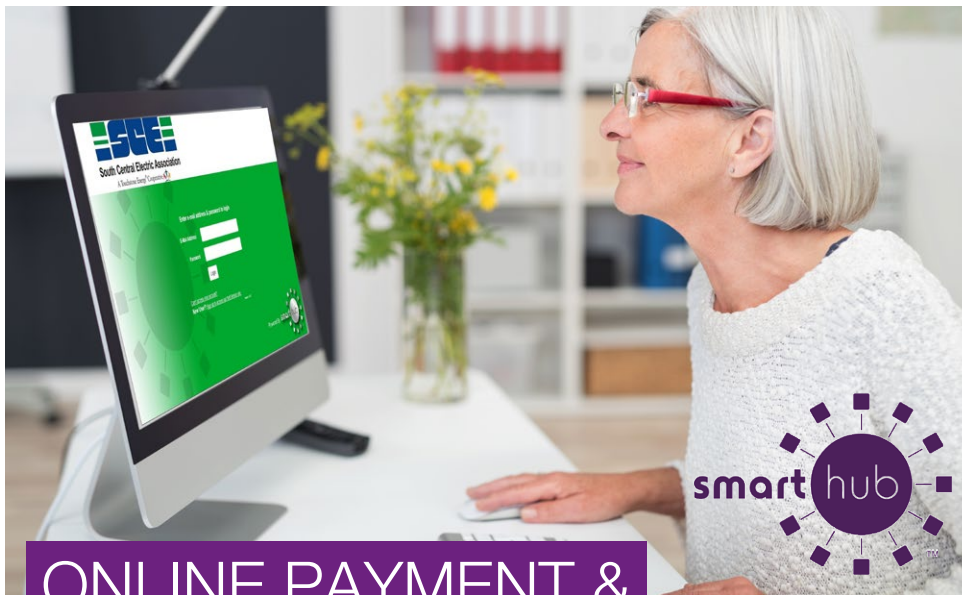
Brent Imker, Director

Mark Sandberg, Director

Bill Kunz, Director

The Board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at South Central Electric's building at 71176 Tiell Dr., St. James, MN.

Please see our website for a summary of the board meetings.



## ONLINE PAYMENT & BILLING WITH SMARTHUB

Pay your bills on-line with South Central Electric's on-line bill payment system, SmartHub. Download the SmartHub app for your mobile device or tablet from the APP Store or Google Play.

To get started visit our web site [southcentralelectric.com](http://southcentralelectric.com) and click on the SmartHub logo. Once you are at the SmartHub site you'll have to sign up as a first time user by clicking the "New User" link and follow the prompts.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

**VISIT  
OUR WEBSITE!**

[www.southcentralelectric.com](http://www.southcentralelectric.com)

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