

# Meeker Cooperative PIONEER

March 2016

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## Members: You're Invited to our Annual Meeting April 4 This Year's Theme: "Delivering the Future"

One of the hallmark principles of a cooperative is democratic member control. Unlike for-profit utilities, a cooperative is governed by a member-elected board that has the best interest of members as its mission, vision and values.

Each year, this "Members Only" event gathers members, employees and Directors together to enjoy a meal, hear how the Co-op is doing financially, and to have the opportunity to share concerns and engage with each other. Please reference the schedule for more information and make plans to join us for this important event.

This year's Annual Meeting theme is "Delivering the Future." For the past 81 years, Meeker Cooperative has delivered safe, reliable electricity to our membership and that will not change. What has changed over the years is the way that electricity is generated. From primarily using electricity generated by coal, Meeker now delivers electricity generated from a mix of sources, including coal, natural gas, water, refuse, bio-fuel, nuclear, wind and solar.

Cooperatives have led the way in embracing technologies that deliver reliable electricity, while our National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's various research groups explore ways to make alternative sources of energy more reliable to meet our members' needs and forthcoming environmental mandates, while keeping costs as low as possible.

Our Annual Meeting begins at 5:00 p.m. with a "Thanksgiving in April" turkey dinner.

Beginning at 6 p.m., Robbie Braness from the CEE-VI Drug Task Force will be speaking in our Community/Training Room about the drug problem in our communities; what law enforcement officers are seeing and what they are doing to combat the growing prevalence of drug abuse.

Of course, no Annual Meeting would be complete without Bingo, where members can win valuable prizes purchased from our many Co-op member businesses.

The business portion of the meeting begins at 7:30 and includes reports from the Financial Manager, Meeker Electric

Trust Chair, a Co-op 101 representative, The Qualifications and Election Committee, and more. CEO/General Manager Tim Mergen will also update the members on various Co-op projects.

Children who attend a safety demonstration will receive a FREE DQ Blizzard coupon



The DQ Corporation is helping to support safety and conservation education among our country's youth.

### Annual Meeting Schedule — Monday, April 4

**4:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

Registration in Lobby

**5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

Turkey Dinner in Warehouse

**5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

Bingo in Warehouse

**6:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

*Drug Task Force Presentation*  
by Robbie Braness

**7:30 p.m.**

Business Meeting in Warehouse

### Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association Notice of Annual Meeting

Please take notice that the Annual Meeting of the members of Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 4, 2016, at Meeker Cooperative, 1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100, Litchfield, Minnesota, for the following purposes:

1. Reading of, and acting upon, the unapproved minutes of the 2015 annual meeting;
2. Receiving and acting upon reports of management, directors and committees;
3. Reinstatement of incumbent directors up for election running unopposed, and/or electing a director(s) for any contested director seat(s).
4. Considering any unfinished business and taking up such new business as shall properly come before the meeting and acting on such matters as necessary for the best interest of the Association.

Juanita Olson, Secretary

### NOTE: A candidate originally slated to run for the District 8 Director seat has withdrawn

With this new development, the incumbent director from District 8 is now running unopposed. The Qualification and Election Committee met once again and has summarily elected the incumbent Director, Ben Beckman, to the District 8 seat according to the Bylaws regulating election procedures. Therefore, no ballots will be mailed to members in District 8.

Please make plans to attend your Annual Meeting. This is a great opportunity to visit with fellow members, get updated on how your Cooperative is doing and how we're planning for the future. As a member-owner, your input is crucial. We hope you'll put this important meeting on your calendar!



Official publication of

**Meeker  
Cooperative**  
Light and Power Association

[www.meeker.coop](http://www.meeker.coop)

Meeker Co-op is an  
Equal Opportunity Provider  
and Employer

## Providing cooperative members with the options they want

**D**o you ever think about how quickly the world is changing? New technology is constantly emerging to make banking, shopping, working and even dealing with your Cooperative faster and easier. As your Co-op. We continue to seek new ways to add value and convenience to members' lives.

### Providing information at your fingertips

Cooperative members love the convenience of their smart phones and tablets. Meeker Cooperative regularly provides information and news on our Facebook page and Twitter feed that make it fast and easy for members to find information about outages, cooperative happenings, energy efficiency and conservation tips and more. Previously, the Cooperative had to work through the local media or wait until the monthly newsletter was published to communicate information to members. Technology has provided the ability to more easily share information directly with our members.

### Using smarter technologies to serve you better

We in the process of equipping our members with newer, more advanced technologies that allow electricity and information to flow back and forth between Meeker Cooperative and the member. Technologies such as advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), which the Co-op is beginning to install in our service territory. When available, this metering system will make it possible for members to get real-time data to help monitor their energy bill.

### Payment your way

Meeker Co-op offers members the option to pay their bill in person at our office, or automatically via Auto Pay which deducts the electric bill from a savings or checking account of the members' choice and provides greater convenience for our members. Another option is to use E-Bill online payment. We also offer Budget Billing. Using this option, your monthly billing amount is averaged over 12 months so that the bill amount is more consistent, which makes sticking to a budget easier.

Meeker Co-op was started by members and our members are the first priority. We will continue to evaluate options to enhance the quality of our members' lives. That's part of our Mission Statement (see below) and it is always our goal.

## Think before pulling the plug

**Y**ou may have seen a new marketing initiative by the propane industry that encourages homeowners to dump their electric water heaters in favor of water heaters fueled by propane gas. The multimedia campaign, called "Pull the Plug on Electric Water Heaters," makes its case with brochures, flyers, print advertisements, videos, radio spots, fact sheets, webinars, an e-book and even endorsements by a celebrity home-improvement expert. But make no mistake – the intent of the campaign is simply to sell a lot more propane.

At Meeker Cooperative, we believe electricity is the smart energy choice. It is safe, reliable, clean, predictably priced and adaptable to many uses. Electricity powers everything from cars, cell phones and laptop computers to air conditioners, dishwashers, refrigerators, clothes washers and lighting. More than ever, America runs on electricity. As your trusted energy advisor, Meeker Co-op wants to provide you, our member-owner, with the facts you need to make the best decision. Let's look at the propane marketing campaign. Some of the claims challenge common sense and would be hard to prove, including assertions about efficiency, environmental impacts and cost.

"With a propane water heater, you can use less energy, save money and reduce your carbon footprint," proclaims Danny Lipford, host of the television program "Today's Homeowner," in a campaign video. "They really are that efficient." Really? Apparently Danny neglected to mention that propane is a fossil fuel. Location #04-27-302

Installation of propane water heaters is often a laborious process that requires running propane lines and exhaust vents. Turning reality on its head, the pro-propane campaign would have you believe that replacing an electric water heater "can take days longer, days you'll spend taking icy cold showers," Lipford warns. Actually, in

most cases, installing an electric heater is a snap.

### At Meeker Co-op, we believe electric water heaters are the smart choice for many reasons:

- High-efficiency electric water heaters, including heat pumps, are readily available.
- Electric water heaters are safe. They produce no carbon monoxide, and they pose no threat of combustion or explosion.
- Electric water heaters can run on power generated from a range of energy sources, including solar, wind, hydro and other renewables.
- Electric heaters don't lose energy from exhaust or the replacement air that circulates into and out of a house. Propane heaters require on-site storage tanks.
- Electric water heaters are easy to install. They require no expensive gas lines or exhaust flues.
- The cost of electricity is less volatile than it is for other fuels. The cost of propane tends to fluctuate wildly.

Touchstone Energy has produced three fact sheets on water heating choices, water heater efficiency, and hot water distribution that are part of the Home Efficiency Analysis Tool – see <http://homeefficiency.touchstoneenergy.com/>. To access these fact sheets, enter information about your home and go to the "systems" tab for the water heater sheets.

Source: John Pulley, on behalf of the NRECA.

**Editorial Correction: Last month's Mergen's Message ran with the incorrect title. It should have read: "Metering and Operation Round Up." Apologies for any confusion that may have caused.**

## Board of Directors

### Mark Larson, President — District 6

Harrison, Kandiyohi, Genessee, Fahlun, Lake Elizabeth, E. Lake Lillian in Kandiyohi; Cosmos, Acton, Danielson, Swede Grove in Meeker; Brookfield, Boon Lake in Renville

### K. Bruce Krueger, Vice Pres. — District 7

Collinwood, Cedar Mills in Meeker; Stockholm in Wright; Acoma, Hutchinson in McLeod

### Juanita Olson, Secretary — District 1

Roseville, Irving in Kandiyohi; Paynesville in Stearns; Union Grove in Meeker

### Karen Becker, Treasurer — District 2

Eden Lake in Stearns; Harvey, Manannah in Meeker

### Brad Donny — District 3

Luxemburg, Maine Prairie, South Maine Prairie in Stearns; Forest Prairie in Meeker

### Kevin Issendorf — District 4

Litchfield, Greenleaf in Meeker

### Matt Woetzel — District 5

Fairhaven in Stearns; Cokato, Southside, French Lake in Wright; Dassel in Meeker

### Ben Beckman — District 8

Darwin, Ellsworth in Meeker

### Karl Lundin — District 9

North Kingston, Kingston, Forest City in Meeker

### Kim Keithahn — Attorney

## Meeker Pioneer

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CEO/General Manager: Tim Mergen  
Editor: Becky Sorenson

The Meeker Pioneer is the official member publication of Meeker Cooperative and focuses on our members, programs and events. All member story ideas and comments are welcome. Send to Becky Sorenson at the address above.

### Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### For 24-hour service call

320-693-3231 or 800-232-6257

Fax: 320-693-2980

Web site: [www.meeker.coop](http://www.meeker.coop)

Use the "Contact Us" form on the home page

### Meeker Cooperative Mission Statement

"To enhance the quality of life of the Cooperative's Members and Customers by providing safe, reliable, competitively priced energy and other value-added services, while practicing environmental stewardship."



# Meeker Cooperative's 81st Annual Meeting

## Get to Know Your Elected Directors

*Pursuant to Bylaw Article III, Sections 8 and 9, which was passed by member vote during the 78th Annual Meeting held April 8, 2013, candidates for the board of directors must submit an Application for Director Form at least 120 days prior to the meeting. The Board of Directors will appoint a Qualifications and Election (Q & E) Committee for the purpose of qualifying the candidates for the Board of Directors. The Q & E Committee will "have the authority to place qualified*

*candidates on the ballot for election, and for any district in which there is only one candidate, waive the ballot process and declare the candidate elected." For this election, only one candidate filed in each district (see page 1) and was declared eligible. Therefore no mail ballot will be sent out to members in the districts whose directors were up for election. The following were summarily elected to the Board effective April 4, 2016.*

### District 3

Luxemburg, Maine Prairie, South Maine Prairie in Stearns County; Forest Prairie in Meeker County

#### Brad Donnay

11310 155th Street  
Kimball, MN 55353



**B**rad has been a member of the Cooperative for 18 years and is self-employed as a dairy farmer. He has been a Meeker Co-op

Director for three years. In addition to his work on the Co-op Board, Brad also is involved in leadership positions with the Kimball Fire Department Relief Association, the Kimball Wrestling Booster Club and Holy Cross Church.

Brad feels the strengths he brings to the Co-op Board include an open-minded attitude, an ability to collaborate well with others and a willingness to listen to new ideas.

Brad would like the Co-op's short-term goals to include continued distribution of safe, reliable and competitively priced electricity to its membership. Long-term, Brad would like to the Co-op to position itself as the "go-to" organization for all members' energy needs and resource for new technologies.

While it's important to work together with elected officials to come up with long-term solutions to research and offer renewable sources of energy, it's crucial that we not forget how important coal is. It's important to keep costs down and power plants more efficient. EPA regulations can keep driving up energy costs, so we need keep talking with our government officials to change some of these regulations to keep costs down.

Infrastructure maintenance is very important for the Co-op to continue to keep power reliable and repair costs down.

The greatest concern facing the Co-op currently are the consequences and costs of EPA regulations.

### District 5

Fairhaven in Stearns County; Cokato, Southside, French Lake in Wright County; Dassel in Meeker County

#### Matt Woetzel

69700 250th St.  
Dassel, MN 55325



**M**att has been a Cooperative member for more than 15 years has been a Meeker Co-op Director for just under two years having been elected to complete the term of a director that resigned his seat. Matt and his wife Joelle farm near Dassel. Matt also is a seed salesman for Peterson Farm Seeds and a full-time bus driver for Dassel-Cokato Schools.

Experience in business financial management, good people and listening skills, and an open mind to changes if needed, are qualities that Matt believes bring value to the board. He also has leadership experience as a member of the Meeker County Fair Board and with the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Keeping in tune with changes and new technologies while continuing to provide reliable power at the most reasonable rate are the goals Matt sees as most important. Although Matt sees the value of renewables, he feels there is a higher cost to be paid for their use.

Keeping costs spread fairly throughout the entire membership is important as more people use distributed generation. Having a fee for net metering is important to make this happen. One of the Co-op's biggest challenges is loss of sales due to reduced energy use, renewable energy and fewer members.

### District 8

Darwin, Ellsworth in Meeker County

#### Benjamin Beckman

19786 CSAH 9  
Darwin, MN 55324



**B**en has been a Meeker Cooperative member for six years and a Director on the Meeker Co-op Board for three years. He is employed as a banker with First Minnesota Bank.

As a Director, Ben brings strengths that include: respect for others' beliefs and perspectives, education, work and volunteer experiences, and a willingness to make decisions for the betterment of the Co-op as a whole, even if it may negatively impact himself. In addition to being on the Board, he has leadership experience with the Darwin Lion's Club, the Dassel Development Corporation, and the Evangelical Covenant Church of Dassel Property and Maintenance Commission.

Continuing the Meeker Mission of providing safe, reliable, competitively priced electricity to members while being good environmental stewards is paramount. In addition, Ben would like the Co-op to be the strongest, lowest-cost and safest energy provider in the nation, along with becoming the preferred energy provider to its member-owners.

While meeting legislative mandates is not optional, it must be done as cost-effectively as possible to keep rates low. A mix of many generation sources and utilization of new technologies can help to maximize output and efficiency and minimize cost. We must keep communicating with lawmakers on these issues.

# Electricity is the best choice for cost-savings and the environment

*Analysis says that national policy and everyday conventional wisdom miss the mark on the benefits of electricity*

By Paul Wesslund

**K**eith Dennis says electricity is a good energy choice for the environment. He cites a thought-provoking list of reasons in his peer-reviewed article published in *The Electricity Journal* in November, titled “Environmentally Beneficial Electrification: Electricity as the End-Use Option.”

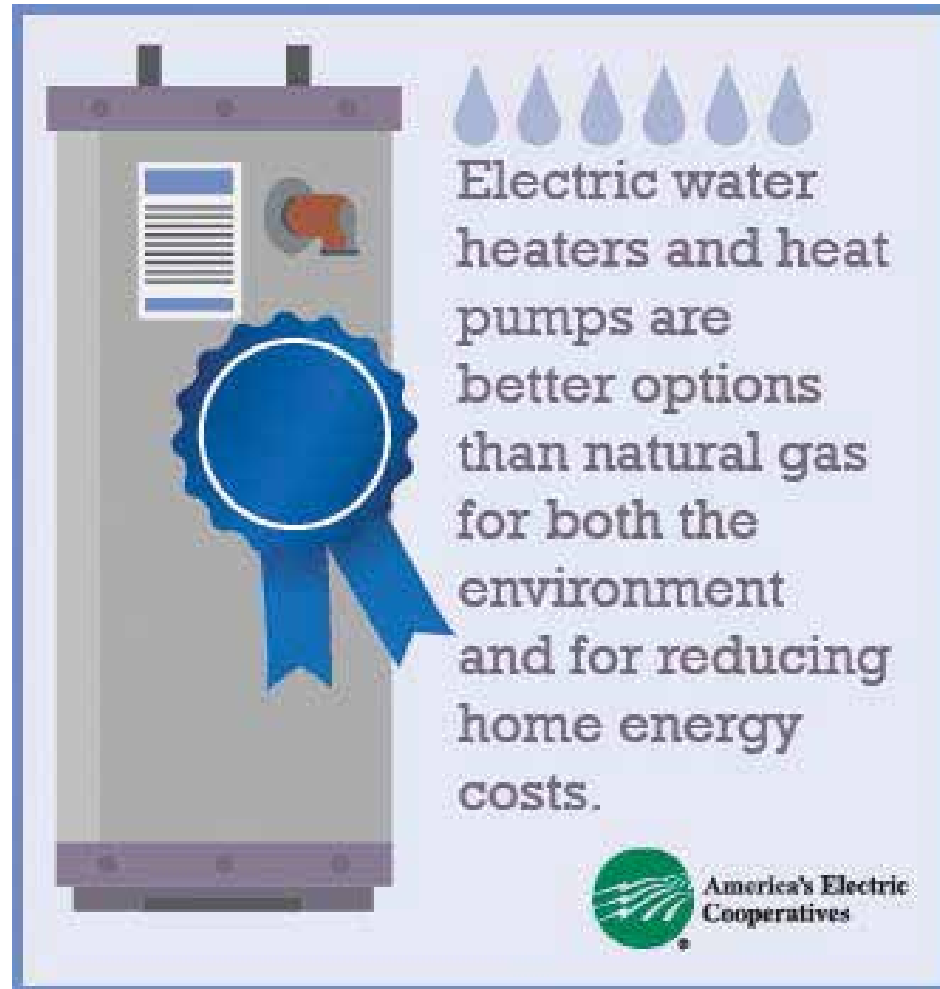
Dennis is the senior principal of end-use solutions and standards at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). His article challenges basic assumptions about electricity and the environment that make a difference for top-level policy makers, as well as for co-op members. His focus on water heaters and heat pumps is especially significant since heating water and air account for more than half of a home’s energy use. Here are answers Dennis gave to questions about the research behind his article:

**A central claim in your article is that an electric water heater has less environmental impact than a gas water heater. How can this be true, when burning gas emits less greenhouse gas than burning coal, which generates about a third of our nation’s electricity?**

Technologies have gotten so advanced that a water heater in your home can be 200 percent or more efficient at converting electricity into heat. It does this by taking some of the energy out of the surrounding air in what’s called a heat pump.

- Heat pumps are being used more and more for space heating, and more recently, heat pump technology is being used in water heaters.
- And a gas water heater actually burns the gas in your home. So you need to vent that air out of your home through a flue. To do that, you are essentially making large holes in your home and pumping air in and out, reducing energy efficiency.

**Explain the contention in your article that buying a gas water heater locks you out of future**



**improvements in efficiency.**

- Once you install a gas appliance in your home, you are stuck with that technology for its 10- to 20-year life. During that time, solar panels and wind turbines will be generating a bigger share of the nation’s electricity. Coal power plant efficiency will be improving. The only way to benefit from those trends would be to have an electric appliance.

**You make a point that using an electric appliance can make you part of a broad, national solution to improving energy efficiency.**

- In addition to the high efficiency of the electric appliance itself, there are electric system efficiencies that can be achieved through the ability to choose the time when you use the electricity. For example, your water heater is able to operate as a type of battery, and better batteries are part of what’s needed to make renewable energy more useful. Solar panels only make electricity when the sun shines, and wind turbines only make electricity when the wind blows. A hidden value of water heaters is that they can serve as a storage

technology — the water they heat stays hot for a long time because they are well insulated. An electric car can work the same way — once it’s charged, it stores energy for when it’s going to be driven. By storing energy when it is available and then using it when it is needed, these technologies are increasing the overall efficiency of our energy resources.

Many co-ops have load-control programs that take advantage of that energy storage ability to more effectively manage the flow of power. Those load control programs return that value to the Co-op member by helping pay some of the up-front costs for these more efficient appliances through rebates or other incentives.

**You claim there’s a huge flaw in the way we calculate a lot of the leading energy efficiency standards, from Energy Star ratings to construction standards. How do they miss the mark?**

- The formulas being used to calculate energy efficiency for these major programs don’t take into account several realities. Those include the

increases in renewable energy and natural gas to generate electricity, power plant efficiencies, load management programs and other advantages of electricity we’ve talked about in this interview. Those metrics for calculating energy efficiency were designed before a lot of these trends. Despite these trends, the metrics still treat all electricity as coming from inefficient coal plants. That’s just clearly wrong. These incorrect efficiency metrics lead to bad energy decisions. In my article, I quote the Natural Resources Defense Council as saying that these metrics “have serious deficiencies for the purpose of setting a product standard; they are simply not the right numbers to inform good standards decisions.”

**NRECA and others have been working with policy makers to change those metrics. What is the status?**

Very positive. It’s a long bureaucratic process, but we are hoping that the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency will work with us to address these issues. Along with the environmental community, the renewable energy community and other energy stakeholders, we have begun that process.

**You conclude your article with the bold statement that “incentivizing beneficial electrification with appliances available today would immediately reduce carbon dioxide emissions.”**

For policy makers and co-op members, more and more you are going to see the ability to achieve end-use emissions reductions and energy efficiency improvements by choosing electric end-use options over direct fossil fuel use like oil, gas and diesel. This will achieve energy efficiency, cost savings and environmental benefits.

*Paul Wesslund writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*



# HOW TO CLEAN REFRIGERATOR COILS

## ... AND WHY IT MATTERS!

Your refrigerator is one of the largest, most-used appliances in your home. It requires only minimal maintenance - just simple cleaning of the condenser coils, which disperse heat. If the coils are covered with dust, gunk or pet hair, they cannot diffuse the heat properly and will not run efficiently. A bigger problem can result if the compressor burns out from having to run constantly because of the grimy coating. This can be an expensive problem. The bottom line? A minor investment in time once a year can save you cold cash down the line.



**MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED**

- Vacuum cleaner with hose
- Damp cloth

1. Locate the refrigerator's coil, a grid-like structure, or fan that will likely have a covering or grate protecting it. The coil is usually concealed behind the front toe kick or in the back. Some newer models have internal coils, so if you don't find them in the front or back, this may be the case with your fridge.
2. If the coil is in the back, slide the refrigerator away from the wall, removing the plug from the electrical outlet when possible. You may also need to disconnect the line to the water dispenser or icemaker to allow enough room to work.
3. Gently vacuum and clean the coil. Using the brush or crevice attachment, carefully vacuum the dust and dirt wherever you see it. If you have pulled the fridge out, vacuum and wipe down the sides and back of the fridge and the floor.
4. Once the floor is dry, plug in the refrigerator and rearrange the power cord and supply lines so they don't get a kink or stuck under the weight of the refrigerator. Slide the refrigerator back into place. Be sure to replace the toe kick panel if this was removed.

# Industry News

## CEO says Clean Power Plan puts coal industry in 'mortal danger.'

Some of North Dakota's seven coal-fired power plants will be forced to shut down unless the Obama administration's new rule to curb carbon dioxide emissions undergoes significant changes, an industry official said just hours before the U.S. Supreme Court temporarily blocked the rule. Justices voted 5-4 to grant a request made by North Dakota and 26 other states and various energy and business interests to put the Clean Power Plan on hold while a federal appeals court hears their lawsuit against it.

Lignite Energy Council President and CEO Jason Bohrer said the state's lignite coal industry has a \$4 billion annual economic impact and contributes \$100 million in tax revenue per year. But the Clean Power Plan, which seeks to cut carbon dioxide emissions from the nation's power sector by 32 percent by 2030, puts the industry in "mortal danger," he said. "I believe what is at stake is the continued prosperity of North Dakota," he told the Legislature's interim Taxation Committee.

Gov. Jack Dalrymple has said it was "a shocker" when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released its final rule in August ordering a 45 percent cut in the rate of carbon emissions from North Dakota's existing power plants by 2030, after a draft rule had proposed a smaller cut. State officials argue the EPA is overstepping its authority and violating the state's constitutional rights, and that the rule will cause "irreparable harm" through lost tax revenue and jobs, a less reliable power grid and higher costs for consumers.

-Jamestown Sun

## Community storage gives co-ops flexibility

Energy storage—the holy grail of the electric power industry—that will save consumers money and give electric cooperatives new flexibility might be as close as your water heater. So says new research from The Brattle Group, a global economic consulting firm. NRECA, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Great River Energy, and the Peak Load Management Alliance commissioned the study, "The Hidden Battery," to launch a "community storage" initiative to aggregate battery-like features of appliances.

Electric water heaters rank third largest in residential electricity consumption, behind space conditioning and lighting, according to the research released Feb. 10. "The magnitude of this relatively untapped resource is significant."

Great River Energy controls more than 110,000 residential water heaters that can store over 1 gigawatt of electricity. Between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., 65,000 electric thermal water heaters mass enough hot water for an entire day; 45,000 water heaters are used to shave peak demand.

"We believe there's a battery hidden in basements all across our service territory," said Gary Connett, director of member services at the Maple Grove, Minn., G&T. Community storage also is an important tool for meeting Minnesota's 25 percent by 2025 renewable energy standard that is resulting in more variable generation resources. "When the wind is blowing or the sun is shining, large capacity water heaters can be enabled to make immediate use of that energy to heat water to high temperatures," said Connett. "Water heaters can be shut down when renewables are scarce and wholesale costs are high."

-Electric Co-op Today



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## Honey-Mustard Turkey Meatballs

Linda Riederer of Darwin submitted this month's winner for Favorite Meatball Recipe:

She will receive a \$10 credit on her electric bill.

1 lb. ground turkey	6 Tbsp. Dijon mustard, divided
1 egg, lightly beaten	1-1/4 cups unsweetened pineapple juice
3/4 cup crushed butter-flavor crackers	1/4 cup chopped green pepper
1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese	2 Tbsp. honey
1/4 cup chopped onion	1 Tbsp. cornstarch
1/2 tsp. ground ginger	1/4 tsp. onion powder

Combine first six ingredients with 3 Tbsp. Dijon mustard and form into 30 balls. Bake uncovered at 350° 20-25 minutes. In saucepan, combine next five ingredients and bring to a boil, cooking and stirring constantly two minutes. Reduce heat and stir in remaining 3 Tbsp. mustard. Brush meatballs with sauce and return to oven for 10 minutes. Serve with remaining sauce as a dip for meatballs. Location #30-14-229

**For April, submit your favorite Italian Recipe by March 31 to:**

Meeker Cooperative, ATTN: Becky Sorenson,  
1725 US Hwy 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355

**Minnesota Twins  
vs. New York  
Yankees at  
Target Field!**

**Thursday, June 16, 2016**

**7:10 p.m. game.**

**Leave Meeker Co-op at 4:30 p.m.**

Enjoy an action-packed evening at the ballpark and leave the driving to us! See the Minnesota Twins battle the New York Yankees. Game time is 7:10 p.m. We plan to leave the Meeker Cooperative parking lot at 4:30 p.m. to enjoy a leisurely drive to the stadium and still have some time to shop for souvenirs, grab some food or stretch your legs before the first pitch.

Reserve your spot on the bus by calling or sending in the sign-up slip (below) by Friday, May 20, along with your check for the amount due.

**Cost: \$47 per person.**

Price includes a light snack and beverage on the bus. Concessions at the game will be on your own.

We hope you'll join us!

**Meeker Cooperative Bus Trip Twins vs. New York Yankees at Target Field! — 7:10 p.m., Thursday, June 16.**

Bus departs from Meeker Co-op at 4:30 p.m.

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

# of reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$47 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Meeker Cooperative. Clip and send this form to:  
**Meeker Cooperative**  
1725 US Hwy. 12, Litchfield, MN 55355  
Attn: Becky Sorenson before May 20.

# Join us for our 2016 Energy Tour July 19-21!



Enjoy a three-day luxury coach tour to North Dakota's coal country July 19-21, 2016 to see how lignite coal is mined and turned into the electricity we use every day!

This fun and educational trip includes the following highlights:

- Tour the Falkirk Mine and see the gigantic equipment used to supply 8 million tons of lignite each year.
- Tour Coal Creek Station, the largest power plant in North Dakota and learn why this plant is vitally important our generation needs.
- Tour the Garrison Dam, the fifth largest earthen dam in the world.
- Tour the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site
- Visit North Dakota Historical

Center Museum, which has been newly remodeled and expanded.

- Two-night stay at the spacious and elegant StayBridge Suites Hotel in Bismarck.
- Games and prizes on the bus!

Most meals are included in this trip, with the exception of fast food/coffee stops during the bus trip to and back from North Dakota and any restaurants you may visit during your free time.

Children 10 and older are welcome when accompanied by an adult.

**Cost: \$175 per person single or double**

**Deadline: June 20 or when seats are filled!**

We'll send a letter two weeks before we go with the schedule and trip details.

## Energy Tour Reservation

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for the Energy Tour on July 19-21, 2016.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Cost: \$175 each    Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to: Meeker Cooperative, ATTN: Becky Sorenson, 1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355. Persons listed above will share a room.**

## Maximize your time with Auto Pay, Earn \$15!

If you're still spending time paying bills the old-fashioned way, consider saving the time, energy and money by using our safe, efficient Auto Pay option! With the price of stamps, it makes more sense than ever to use this popular program. Plus, it saves time, paper and earns you a \$15 credit on your electric bill for signing up.

You still receive a bill, but instead of taking the time to pay the bill, it automatically pays the bill for you out of the account of your choice. Your bill will always be on time, always right, and it's so easy! Location #25-09-403

By completing the following authorization and mailing it in or dropping it off, you'll earn the \$15 credit. If you have questions, please let us know. We'd be happy to address any concerns or add you to our list of members saving with Auto Pay.

### AUTHORIZATION FOR AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

I authorize Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Assn. and my financial institution to initiate withdrawals from my checking/savings account. This authorization will remain in effect until I contact Meeker Cooperative to cancel it. I may stop payment of any bill by notifying my financial institution at least three (3) business days before my account is charged. I acknowledge that the origination of Auto Pay transactions to my account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

Electric Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Checking Acct. No. \_\_\_\_\_

OR Savings Acct. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a voided check blank with this form and mail to:  
Meeker Cooperative, 1725 US Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355



## DANGER! Outlet Overload

Every year, U.S. fire departments respond to an estimated **25,900 home electrical fires**. These fires cause an estimated **280 deaths, 1,125 injuries** and **\$1.1 billion in property loss**.

Thirty-nine percent of home electrical fires involve outlets and receptacles, and other electrical wiring.

To ensure safety, you should only use about 80 percent of the available current for each electrical outlet in your home.

**Are you overloading outlets? Use this formula to find out:**

**WATTAGE/VOLTS=AMPS**

### Example:

Let's say you are using 2,000 watts of power (for one outlet). Divide the watts by the volts in your home (typically 120), and you come up with 16.6 amps of current being used. With a 20 amp electrical outlet, you are using about 80 percent of available current.

*Source: U. S. Fire Administration, Home & Garden*



**Pioneer Ads** — Free want ad service for members. Please limit your ad to nine words. Use the coupon printed below or available at Meeker Cooperative's front desk to submit your ad. Ads will be printed for one month only. Please submit a new ad if you want it published more than one month. Include your name and address, which will be used for identification purposes only. Ads must be received by **March 31** to be included in the April issue. Location #04-27-302 **We no longer accept "Service" or "For Rent" ads.**

## Please run this ad in the next Pioneer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check ad category**

\_\_\_\_ For Sale, Misc.

\_\_\_\_ Agricultural

\_\_\_\_ Automotive

\_\_\_\_ Wanted

\_\_\_\_ Giveaway

### Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_

7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and Send to: Meeker Cooperative, 1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355 Attn: Becky Sorenson or email rsorenson@meeker.coop

### For Sale - Miscellaneous

- Porta Dock boat/pontoon lift, 114" wide, 1,800 lbs. \$1,200. 320-398-7428.
- Elliptical exercise machine, gd. shape. \$300. 320-693-4246.
- Mobile on Clear Lk., Watkins; 2BR, 3/4BA, 3-seas. porch. \$115,000, poss. CD. 612-212-7693.
- Military GoreTex boots, 9-1/2 N, new. Old comic books. 320-296-1209.
- Callaway left-hand golf set (irons, woods, extras). \$350. 320-857-2886.
- Australian shepherd pups, awesome for families/livestock. Red Merles. 320-420-8529.
- 14-ft. aluminum boat, gd. cond. \$350. 320-693-4118.

- Dog kennel; truck bed cover, 80"L x 64"W; microwave, dehumidifier; FraBill 2-man fishhouse. 320-243-8013.
- Firewood \$150/cord split, bulk disct. Unsplit disct. 320-894-7013.
- Solid cherry china cabt. & Amish dining table, oak. 320-296-6159.
- Sho-Me strobe light kit for snowplow/service trucks. \$100/obo. 320-699-0082.
- House; 5BR, 3BA, walkout, decks, outbldgs., 1.9 acres, Kingston. 612-309-8410.
- 14-ft. fishing boat, 5-1/2 hp Johnson, runs great. \$400. 320-296-5874.
- Sol-Tech 20 bulb tanning bed w/facial bulbs, exc. cond. \$900/obo. 320-212-5939.

- Dassel, two lots, 1 has 30 x 40 shed, 1 is ready build. 320-275-9116.
- 14" DeWalt radial arm saw on metal stand. 320-267-9186.
- New ice auger, 8" Polar Fire, \$250. Never used. 320-764-5071.
- 48-ft. Roll-A-Dock with L & Bench; Boat lift Hewitt. \$1,500/ea. or \$2,800/both. 320-221-1779.
- Truck cabin A-frame pickup camper w/ATV trailer. \$4,000. 320-373-5051.
- Deacon's bench, 37-1/2"W, 17-1/2"D, 39-1/2"H, dark stain. \$30. 320-373-5051.
- 7 X 14 H.D. trailer, \$900. Antique desk/secretary, \$200. 320-220-0969.
- GE refrig., works. Pictures available. Early 1980's. \$30. 612-867-5869.
- Tasco spotting scope, 20X-60X w/tripod. 320-693-8492.
- Fenwick rods w/reels/assorted styles/models. 320-693-8492.
- 12" Swing wood bed lathe, \$175. Older platform scale, \$45. 320-398-7272.
- Fischer Price lounge chair. 320-583-3749.

- Fischer Price jumper 320-583-3749.
- Eddie Bauer infant car seat. 320-583-3749.
- 32' dock on wheels w/2 supports. New deck. 320-275-2421.
- 5-pc. Black Pearl drum set w/3 symbols. \$650. 320-398-5230.
- Kenmore Elite front load clothes elec. dryer (steam), 6 yrs. old. \$400. 320-877-7317 or 320-583-1444.
- New China 12-place setting plus extras. Make offer. 320-583-4490.
- Nearly new twin pillow top complete bed with frame. Exc. cond. \$150. 320-583-2955.
- New motorcycle seat w/backrest, Mustang stock #79447. \$400. 320-275-9951.
- 4 lots w/mobile home, garage, storage sheds, lake access. 651-451-1934.
- 1900 Royal Easy Chair, refinished, reglued, new custions. \$400. 320-593-2573.
- Clear Lk., Watkins, 2BR, 2BA, yr-rnd Lk. prop. w/2.5-acre island. \$80,000. 952-240-2107.
- Dry firewood and downed trees to cut. \$30 offer. 320-693-2766.
- Women's Brunswick bowling shoes, white, size 7-1/2, never worn. 218-232-5523.
- Adirondack chairs, \$75. 320-282-2241.
- 80-acre farm/home site, priv., very nice, close to Litchfield. 320-434-0752.
- Range Buster log splitter. \$500/obo. 320-764-2584.
- Mini horse mare, 4 yrs. old. \$300. 320-275-9285.
- Quikee wheelchair w/Roho cushion and standard transfer wheelchair. 320-905-0688.
- Hoyer Lift, new, never used. 320-905-0688.

- Elect. Superwinch w/hardware to fit vehicle hitch. 320-587-3390.
- Oak entertain. center, \$250. Curio cabt. w/glass shelves, \$75. 320-693-3494.
- Roto Tiller, like new. \$175. 320-275-3963.
- Foley 307 chain saw sharpener w/reverse & light. \$275. 320-275-3963.
- L.G. refrig./freezer side-by-side, white. \$500. 320-275-3963.
- Firewood, freshly cut, \$40 per pickup load. Watkins. 320-221-1954.

### For Sale - Automotive

- 4-Door Lincoln Continental, 2002. \$1,400. 320-243-4381.
- 1999 Ford Ranger 4.0 V6 SLT, 207,000 mi., White. \$1,000/obo. 320-693-2708.
- 2008 Ford Taurus 4-Dr. Limited, 12,000 mi., clean. \$4,500. 320-693-3890.
- 2010 SXT Dodge Avener, blue, clean, 100,000 mi. \$5,500. 320-693-3890.
- Two '63 Chrys 300s, body shells, Calif., Idaho. Dave 651-343-2177.
- 2003 Ford F350 Diesel, 60,000 mil., comes w/Boss V plow. 320-373-5105.
- Four 17" tires. Best offer. 320-224-7060.
- 1992 Buick Lasabre, 185,175 mil., gd. tires/runner. \$425. 320-980-1315.
- 2014 Chev. Traverse AWD-1LT, White, 49,826 mi., exc. cond. \$24,000. 320-693-5884.

### For Sale - Agricultural

- Mixed grass/alfalfa grass hay, sm. sq., no rain. \$2.75 - \$3.75/bale, Watkins. 320-221-1954.
- 2-400 bu. gravity boxes, 14-ton gear. \$6,900/ea. Very nice. 1-600 bu. w/brakes, \$7,900. 320-453-3007.

- 1500# round bales, grass mix hay, no rain, net wrap. 320-221-0337.
- Small square wheat straw, no rain, no weeds. \$2.85/bale. 320-583-3651.
- John Deere diesel engine, will fit a 4030. 320-221-1984.
- WD 45 3-pt. wide front, some new parts, 14-9-28 rubber. \$2,800 as is. 320-453-3007.
- Pair white Muscovy ducks for raising/butchering. 320-693-2766.
- Cornstalk & grass hay bales & alfalfa-mix bales. \$3 - \$4.25/bale. 320-693-2766.

### Wanted

- Winter 1998 issue of "The Needleworker" magazine. 320-345-0534.
- License plates, new or old, paying \$1/each. 320-221-0464.
- John Deere G. 320-243-4381.
- 5 acres of wooded land. 320-693-4118.
- Female donkey; 2-horse trailer. 320-220-0969.
- Used dolly for hauling tables/chairs. 320-974-3078.
- Pull-behind lawn dethatcher/sweeper. 320-693-3944.
- Contractor to install domed roof on 14 x 60 mobile home. 507-317-7028.

### Give-Away

- Complete Encyclopedia Brittanica, 1990. Barely used. You pick up. 320-276-8747.
- 13 tall poplars for firewood, you cut. 320-857-2883.

### Find your location number

Four location numbers have been hidden within this *Pioneer*. If you find your number and claim it by calling Meeker Cooperative by March 31 you will have \$10 credited to your account!



Good Luck!