



Wright-Hennepin
Cooperative Electric Association
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

HOTLINE UPDATE

Wright-Hennepin members' power restored after severe storms cause outage

All of the almost 7,000 Wright-Hennepin members who lost power as a result of severe storms on July 1 had their power restored no later than the afternoon of July 3.

The lengthy duration of the outage was caused by extensive tree damage in western Wright County, resulting in significant line damage and time-consuming repairs.

WH kept restoration times as brief as possible, as all available line crews worked around the clock from July 1 through July 3 until restoral. WH also enlisted the help of other utilities' line crews and tree contractors to help keep restoration times to a minimum.


WH keeps its customers informed about outages through a real-time power outage map at whe.org, and by posting updates on its Facebook page at facebook.com/WrightHennepin, and its Twitter profile at twitter.com/Wright_Hennepin.

"I'd like to thank all of our members



Line crews worked around the clock from July 1-3 to restore power. A number of downed trees slowed their progress.

who were affected by this storm for their patience during our restoration efforts," said WH President and CEO Mark Vogt. "Limiting and keeping outage times

to a minimum is our highest priority, and we're constantly making improvements to our system to better serve our members." 

Bry and Pribyl families work to make energy conservation a habit

The Bry and Pribyl families agree that conserving energy isn't an extreme challenge, but it does require making some changes in their routines.

"It can be an inconvenience at times, but it's not hard," said Angie Pribyl.

The Pribyls and the Brys are participating in The Littlest User Contest, which runs from April 1 to July 31. This contest was developed by Wright-Hennepin (WH) and Lake Region Electric Cooperative to help raise member awareness about electricity usage and energy conservation.

Each cooperative's team consists of six member-households that are working to reduce their energy use as compared to the same time frame last year.

As a result of the contest, both families have made changes to their routines and have gained awareness about the amount of electricity they're using.

The Bry family has cut back on the amount of TV they watch by replacing that activity with playing board games.

"We always knew that we were big on

board games," said Shannon Bry. "Since the contest started, we've been playing them a lot more."

The Pribyl family has been keeping their home a bit darker than they have in the past to cut down on their energy use.

"I like a lot of light," said Ted Pribyl. "Before the contest, we had 300-watt light bulbs in the garage. Those have now all been replaced with CFLs (compact fluorescent light bulbs)."



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The Bry kids – (left to right) Riley, Payton, Caden and Maisie – have been watching less TV and playing more board games since the contest started.

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Bry and Pribyl families work to make conservation a habit

Littlest User cont. from Pg. 1

The Pribyls said that this summer's cooler temperatures have been helpful with reducing their energy use.

"We've been lucky with the weather," said Angie. "We haven't really needed the air conditioning much, and there's been plenty of rain to water the lawn."

The Bry family has taken advantage of the cooler temperatures by opening windows in the morning and closing blinds in the afternoon to keep their home comfortable and minimize their air conditioner use.



The Bry family – (back row, left to right) Maisie, Shannon, Jeff, Payton, (front row, left to right) Caden and Riley – plan to continue their energy-saving efforts after the contest.

The contest has also been a learning experience for both families, as they've tracked the activities that cause their energy use to jump. The Pribyls noticed that their dryer has been a significant source of energy use in their home.

Angie said that she'd also learned quite a bit about conservation from the initial walk through that WH performed on all contestants' homes. This gave the contestants an assessment of their energy use and advice on how to cut back.

The Brys believe that this contest has been a helpful tool for teaching their kids about energy conservation.

"It's a great opportunity to explain conservation to your kids," said Jeff Bry. "This contest is helping them develop good habits."

Additionally, the contest has brought out the competitive side of the Brys. Even Payton – the youngest member of the family – has learned to shut off her closet light in the morning and turn off her humidifier.

"The kids have been great about reducing," said Shannon.

The Pribyls are pleased with the progress they've made throughout the competition.

"At the beginning of the contest, we set a goal to reduce our use by 25 percent, and we've reached that," said Angie.

The Brys' and Pribyls' progress – as well as the progress of the other contestants – is being tracked at www.whe.org, under the "Quick Links" section where participants and the general public can view the status of the competition between Wright-Hennepin's Watt Watchers and Lake Region's MiniMizers, each individual household's energy savings, and blog postings from the participating households about their experiences.

The households in the contest are tracking their daily energy-conserving efforts by using MyMeter. MyMeter is an energy-use monitoring software that allows its users to view complex energy-use data in a simple graphic format. This allows the participants, as well as other members in both cooperatives, to view how changes they've made around their homes directly affect their energy use.

"MyMeter has been extremely helpful for tracking our progress," said Jeff.


As of this writing, the WH Watt Watchers are leading the competition



The Pribyls – Angie and Ted, pictured with Willie Wirehand (a rural co-op mascot created in the 1950s) between them – have been surprised by how much they've been able to reduce their energy use.

with an overall reduction of 43.80 percent. The Lake Region MiniMizers are trailing behind the Watt Watcher with an overall reduction of 11.36 percent.

Both families have noticed savings on their electric bills and plan to keep many of their energy-saving habits after the conclusion of the contest.

"It's not that hard," said Ted. "It's just about breaking old habits." 

Prescription discounts available through Co-op Connections

The Co-op Connections card can save you money on a variety of items and services – even prescriptions.

The prescription discount feature of the card allows you to save between 10 and 60 percent on prescription drugs at more than 60,000 national and regional


pharmacy chain stores – including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart and Target.

To receive this discount, simply present your Co-op Connections Card along with your prescriptions to the pharmacist. The pharmacy's computer system will compare the Co-op Connections'

contracted discount price with the pharmacy's retail price when the prescription is processed. You pay the lower of the two prices directly to the pharmacy at the point of sale.

This discount can be used in place of insurance for prescriptions that are not

covered under your plan, but cannot be used in conjunction with insurance.

To find a participating pharmacy near you, call 800-800-7616 or to get a price quote for your prescription, enter the strength, quantity and dose at www.rxpricequotes.com. 

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Join Wright-Hennepin's "Cool Cash" energy saving central air conditioning program today and receive a **15% discount*** on your summer electric bills.

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763-477-3000 or 800-943-2667 www.whe.org

*Certain restrictions apply. 15% discount is based on the general service rate after the power cost adjustment for your energy use during June, July and August and does not include other monthly charges.

June board meeting highlights:

June highlights cont. from Pg. 2

- Held regular quarterly executive session.
- Guests included:
 - Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange's Account Executive Randy James who presented a summary of WH's various insurance coverages.
 - Interlogix's Regional Director of Sales Thomas Meyer and Sales Representative Jeff Carlson, who presented WH Security with the North Central Security Pro Dealer of the Year Award. Meyer's provided a presentation on emerging trends in the home-security marketplace.
 - Basin's VP of Generation Wayne Backman addressed the board and employees during the annual legislative luncheon.

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