



**Wright-Hennepin**  
Cooperative Electric Association

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# Hotline Update

NEWS FOR WRIGHT-HENNEPIN MEMBERS

May 2023

## Wright-Hennepin celebrates 86 years

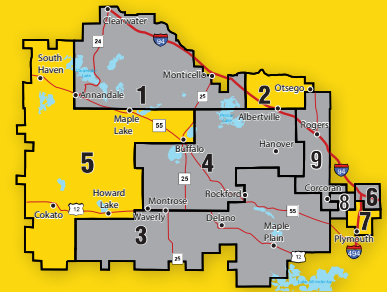
WH's 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was held on April 20. Over 830 members attended. The meeting returned at full size this year for the first time since 2019, and was also livestreamed for members to watch at home. Attendees enjoyed a free pork chop dinner, informational booths, prizes, bingo, and children's activities for kids ages 2 – 10. The business meeting included a financial report, WH and WH Holding leadership reports, and results of the director election from Districts 2, 5 and 7.

Members who stayed through the end of the business meeting received a free pound of butter, and Jeff Kanwischer, Maple Grove won a 2013 Ford Fusion retired from WH's fleet.



## WH Board welcomes new director

WH welcomes Audrey Britton, representing District 7. She replaces Ken Hiebel, who did not run for reelection and retired after 11 years on the WH Board of Directors. Butch Lindenfelser and Chris Lantto were re-elected to represent Districts 2 and 5.



**Butch Lindenfelser**  
DISTRICT 2



**Chris Lantto**  
DISTRICT 5



**Audrey Britton**  
DISTRICT 7

Read more about Audrey Britton of District 7 in next month's Hotline Update.

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**Stay safe around electricity**

NATIONAL ELECTRIC SAFETY MONTH



# CEO's Memo

TIM SULLIVAN  
WH PRESIDENT AND CEO

## May means spring updates to your bill

Ah, the beautiful month of May in Minnesota: Mother's Day, high school graduations, the fishing opener and spring flowers. But at Wright-Hennepin (WH), May also means the month when annual rate changes are reflected on your bill. So, let's walk through what is new — and what remains the same — for 2023.

First, some fundamentals. Your residential electric bill consists of:

- **The Basic Charge:** The basic charge is designed to help WH recoup the costs of installing and maintaining our distribution grid. This charge helps pay for things like poles, wires and transformers — all of the essential elements required to deliver even a single electron. In 2023, the residential basic charge will remain the same at \$19.90.
- **The Energy Rate(s):** On your bill, you will see both your total monthly usage and the energy rate you pay broken out by kilowatt hours purchased. The general service rate will increase in 2023 from \$0.09800 to \$0.09948 or less than two percent. If you're like most members, you also participate in one or more Energy-Saving Programs (ESP). If so, you pay a much lower rate for energy used during low demand periods, identified on your bill as "Off-Peak Energy."
- **The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA):** The PCA is designed to help WH recover power costs. As a distribution company, WH purchases most of our energy from wholesalers, including Generation and Transmission (G&T) cooperatives like Great River Energy and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, or the market. As you can imagine, power costs move significantly over the course of the year, reflecting changes in weather and demand. This is why the PCA charge on your bill is higher in the winter and summer but lower in the spring and fall.
- **Sales taxes, franchise fees, and special assessments:** Like most retail products and services, electricity is taxed by the State of Minnesota at 6.875%. In addition, if you live in one of seven communities with a municipal franchise fee, you will see this identified on your bill. Remember: franchise fees are imposed by local municipalities, not by WH. Our sole role is to collect and remit this money to Cities requiring it. WH retains none of the funds and derives no direct benefit. Finally, if you live in Wright County, you will see a "Wright Transit Tax" of .50%. If you live in Hennepin County, you will see a Hennepin County Tax of 0.15% plus a "Hennepin Transit Tax" of .50%. All these funds are remitted to local units of government.
- **Operation Round Up:** Finally, the vast majority of our members contribute to Operation Round Up, which rounds your bill up to the next dollar. In turn, this money is dispensed to the WH Trust, which uses it to fund charitable organizations and worthy causes in our area. Thanks to your generosity — and that of your friends and neighbors — nearly \$230,000 was dispensed in 2022; \$4.8 million since inception.

But more than any single line item, what perhaps matters most is the overall competitiveness and value proposition of your bill. We estimate that the typical residential bill will be almost 10% cheaper than Xcel in 2023, a competitive advantage that swells to 13% with capital credit refunds.

So, we hope you enjoy all your May activities — along with the energy from your local electric cooperative that makes many of them possible.

As always, thank you for your business.

## Rate changes for 2023

Based on the typical residential monthly bill of 1,000 kWh, the average bill will increase from \$145.14 in 2022 to \$150.90 in 2023. We anticipate beating Xcel on a typical monthly residential bill by 9.99% by the end of 2023.

	FROM	TO
Average PCA*	\$0.02824	\$0.03202
Basic charge	\$19.90	\$19.90
Average residential bill	\$145.14	\$150.90
2022 and 2023 Energy Rates	9.8 cents	9.9948 cents

\*Power Cost Adjustment

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763.477.3664  
info@wh-security.com  
wh-security.com

**WH**SECURITY

# Solar Winners

## tenKsolar Winner



**ALEXANDER VICINO** of Rockford wins a credit for 51 kWh, January's output from WH's tenKsolar panel array.

**DAVE VANDENEINDE** of Maple Plain wins a credit for 113 kWh, February's output from WH's tenKsolar panel array.

## Solar Winner



**PERRY PETERSON** of Plymouth wins a credit for 112 kWh, January's output from WH's solar panels.

**THOMAS DANIELSON** of Maple Grove wins a credit for 214 kWh, February's output from WH's solar panels.

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/2re3mGN>

# Keep in touch with your cooperative!

## Member call center:

(763) 477-3000 or (800) 943-2667  
Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Monday – Friday

## To report an outage:

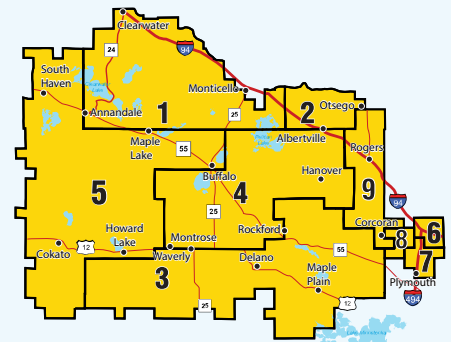
Dispatchers are available 24/7  
**Call:** (763) 477-3100 or (888) 399-1845

## WH Security monitoring:

Security dispatchers are available 24/7  
**Call:** (763) 477-4275 or (800) 858-7811

**Website:** [whe.org](http://whe.org)

**Email:** [info@whe.org](mailto:info@whe.org)



## Board of Directors:

District 1: Timothy Young, Annandale  
District 2: "Butch" Lindenfelser, Monticello  
District 3: Pat Bakeberg, Waverly  
District 4: John Reynolds, Buffalo  
District 5: Chris Lantto, South Haven  
District 6: Mike Tieva, Maple Grove  
District 7: Audrey Britton, Plymouth  
District 8: Mark Skinner, Maple Grove  
District 9: Erick Heinz, Corcoran

**WH President and CEO:** Tim Sullivan

**WH CFO:** Brian Swanson

**WH Holding COO:** Wendy Youngren

*This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

# Board Report: Meeting highlights

## FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

The Wright-Hennepin and WH Holding monthly Board of Director meetings were conducted February 14, 2023. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Conducted CEO's 2022 performance review.
- Approved early procurement authority for any materials requiring a six month or greater lead time.
- Approved allocating 2022 margins to the membership for future capital credit retirements.
- Approved \$4 million Special Capital Credit refund.
- Approved updated rate and tariff policies.
- Approved resolution accepting annual Cogeneration reports and filings.
- Approved updated Small Power Production Rider.
- Approved notice of the 2023 Annual Meeting, draft agenda, director ballots and pork chop letters.
- Approved rescheduling March's special board meeting from March 3 to March 2, 2023.
- Selected director to attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Legislative Conference.
- Heard year-end reports and business accomplishments.
- Heard update on the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project.
- Directors reported on industry meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.
- Reviewed and filed the monthly CEO, legal, financial, and operations reports.

## MARCH BOARD MEETING

The Wright-Hennepin and WH Holding monthly Board of Director meetings were conducted March 14, 2023. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Accepted auditor's report on an unqualified ("clean") opinion for fiscal year 2022.
- Approved updated employee policies.
- Approved rescheduling the June Strategic Planning Session, July, August and December Board Meetings.
- Selected directors to attend the Wright County Dairy Princess Luncheon.
- Selected directors to attend area school scholarship banquets.
- Heard the annual safety and Conservation Improvement Plan reports.
- Heard recap on WH's grant proposal of federal funds to build out WH's grid.
- Directors reported on industry meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.
- Reviewed and filed the monthly CEO, legal, financial, and operations reports.



Learn more about the different parts of your bill

<https://bit.ly/read-WH-electric-bill> or scan the qr code

## Distributed generation and small power production notice

In compliance with WH adopted rules relating to small power production, WH is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from small power producers who satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. WH 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 WH. Interested members should contact Wright-Hennepin or call (763) 477-3000.



6800 Electric Drive  
Rockford, MN 55373

# Hotline Update

MAY NEWS FOR WRIGHT-HENNEPIN MEMBERS

## Lineworker Appreciation Day

April 10 marked Lineworker Appreciation Day. WH's line crews work hard to ensure more than 58,000 WH consumers have power 24/7/365 no matter the weather! In 2022, WH members averaged only 29 minutes without power thanks to the hard work and preventative maintenance that our crews do on a daily basis. We appreciate their amazing work!



*On truck: Jake Wurm, Vince Hofford, Steve Logeais, Alex Becker, Mitch Allbee. Middle: Jon Lee, Ben Sillerud, Coleton Riehle, Chad Pillatzki, Charlie Malachek, Dave Mundahl, Reid Nelson, Lars Erickson, Matt Bogart, Troy Driscoll, Dale Walcheski, Trevor Skluzacek, Nick Mattson, Sam Hedtke, Dan Morris, Keith Burandt. Front: Scott Gearey, Dan Neutz, Kyle Kreuger. Not pictured: Sheldon Moe, Tony Jude, Tony Ross, Mitch Zehringer, Jim Rohlin, Mike Kronquist, John Stueven, Noah Haaland, Steve Schallock.*

## Off-Peak Programs

### SUMMER SCHEDULE

WH reminds members enrolled in Off-Peak Energy-Saving Programs that the switch to summer load management took place on April 26. The summer period runs through September.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

(763) 477-3000

<http://bit.ly/WH-rebates>

## May is National Electrical Safety Month

Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) reports each year that thousands of people in the United States experience critical injuries from accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Keep you and your family safe from electrical hazards with these tips!



- Inspect all extension cords before use. Look for cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, or loose connections. Be sure they are properly rated for their intended use. Do not use indoor extension cords outside.
- Take note of power line and electrical equipment locations around your house and keep yourself and your plants at least ten feet away from them. Consider WH Tree Services if you need trees safely trimmed away from power lines.
- Hire a licensed electrician to perform electrical work in your home.
- Clearly label your circuit breakers and know what each switch is connected to.