



Federated delegates advised state legislators on co-op energy issues

Federated's Board of Directors and General Manager Scott Reimer visited with our state legislators on issues of concern for electric cooperatives and our member-owners to ensure affordable, reliable power. It was a part of the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's Legislative Day March 19.

Topics discussed included:

1. Clarifying a 1939 tax exemption law in rural areas that distribution lines, including street lights, meters and load control receivers, are tax exempt.
2. Transmission line permitting reform.
3. Streamlining energy-efficiency reform allowing fuel switching due to the beneficial electrification push by the state.
4. Reconsider the nuclear moratorium to ensure carbon-free power for a reliable electric grid.

Electric co-ops also support:

1. Retaining local cooperative control by member-elected directors and not state mandates on co-op operations.
2. Avoiding mandates for battery storage technology. Let the market decide what makes sense.
3. Avoid increasing the subsidies for wind and solar net metering since the state has already approved 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2040.



Federated directors and general manager visited with Representative Bjorn Olson. Pictured: Scott Thiesse, Rep. Olson, David A. Hanson, Glenn Dicks, Darv Voss and Scott Reimer.



Federated also visited with Representative Marj Fogelman. Federated delegation: Darv Voss, Glenn Dicks, Bruce Brockmann, David A. Hanson, Rep. Fogelman, Scott Thiesse, Scott Reimer and David Meschke.

"We appreciate the great working relationship we have with our local representatives and senators," stated Scott Reimer, Federated's general manager. "These legislative visits allow us to update them on pending

legislation and answer any questions that they may have before something becomes law. We appreciate their time and hard work on behalf of our rural electric cooperative members."

At A Glance



Apply for the next round of Operation Round Up funds

The next deadline for Operation Round up occurs September 27, 2024. Find the application on Federated's website (www.federatedrea.coop) or call the office to request one (507-847-3520 or 800-321-3520).

See the spring recipients listed on Page 5.



Co-ops promote heat pumps for more than 20 years — still tops for energy efficiency

Many companies and homeowners are placing an increased emphasis on reducing their use of fossil fuels by looking for new ways to use electricity to help them achieve their goals.

This strategy of replacing direct fossil fuel use with electricity in a way that reduces overall emissions and energy costs is called "beneficial electrification." It's made possible as utilities, including your electric cooperative, continue incorporating more carbon-free sources of energy into their power supply portfolios. For more than 20 years your electric cooperative has been rebating heat pumps!

Many opportunities exist for beneficial electrification across the residential and commercial sectors, including making the switch to an electric vehicle or an electric heating system — as long as the end-user and environment both benefit from the change.

One home appliance that provides the opportunity to reduce fossil fuel use and replace it with electricity is the heating system. Heat pumps have become increasingly popular as the technology advances to support heating in colder climates. Plus, over the last three decades the efficiency keeps improving for heat pumps.

Like an air conditioner, a heat pump can cool your home. What makes them unique is that they can also provide

Magical! Ductless air source heat pumps provide energy-efficient heat and cooling without the need for duct work! Perfect for a room addition or older home. Plus, your co-op's rebate makes it even more affordable!



heat. Unlike other electric heating options, air source heat pumps (ASHPs) do not use electricity to create heat, but instead use it to move heat from outdoor air and transfer it indoors. With today's ASHP technology this process of moving heat is extremely energy efficient, even when it's cold outside.

According to Rewiring America, a nonprofit advocacy group, heat pumps can achieve more than 300 percent efficiency, while even the most efficient gas-powered furnaces fall short of 100 percent efficiency. It is common for homeowners who install an ASHP to save hundreds of dollars per year.

Your local electric cooperative provides rebates for ASHPs. Three types of heat pumps with co-op rebates

can fit your home's needs.


1. Building a new home? Go with an ground source heat pump for 400 percent efficient heating system.

2. Want to upgrade your old central air and furnace? Upgrade to an air source heat pump and furnace with a variable speed fan for the highest efficiency — up to 300 percent.

3. Have an addition or home with no ductwork, but would like summer cooling or winter heating? Install a ductless air source heat pump. Near the top of the ceiling the cooling unit goes through the wall with the compressor outside. One outside unit can serve a couple of rooms if it has open

room design.

Be sure to check with your cooperative to explore your options and to ask any additional questions. Visit the cooperative's website for details on the heat pump rebate forms or call the co-op to request the form. If you have questions, call your co-op and visit with our energy expert or talk to your local heating/cooling contractor.


As a reminder, air source heat pumps, ground source heat pumps and ductless mini split air source heat pumps all qualify for a 30 percent federal tax incentive on your 2024 taxes up to \$2,000. It's Form 5695. That's another way that heat pumps are good for the environment and your wallet! 

Rest the wrists! Go with electric pruners

If pruning branches one day means a chiropractor visit the next day for your shoulders, hands and wrists, go electric! Upgrade your tree branch trimming with an electric pruning shears to save time and cut your aches and pains.

The DeWalt 20-volt MAX pruning shears gardening tool uses the same battery as your other DeWalt power tools. It costs about \$120 for the tool only (battery not included). This tool weighs about three pounds without the battery. According to DeWalt, it can do up to 1,000 cuts on a charged rechargeable battery.

Cut branches up to an 1½ inches thick on the first try. Branches thicker than that may take a second powerful snip. Enlighten your cut with the unit's LED light. Blades can even be changed out with a change tool. This brand comes with a three-year limited warranty to make pruning safer and faster than your old, rusty manual lopping shears and hand pruner.

If your battery tools are powered by another brand, explore if they have a battery-powered pruning shears so you can work smarter and not harder. The DeWalt model is available from Home Depot, Amazon and Ace Hardware. 



Cut the time it takes for pruning with an electric pruning shears this spring. You'll also cut your aches and pains, thanks to this rechargeable electric power tool. — Photo courtesy of DeWalt

Safety

Ditch burning near poles requires caution

If Smokey the Bear warns about forest fire dangers, then Festus the Pheasant warns about burning ditches.


Only you can prevent your electric poles from catching fire, stated Festus the Pheasant. It's tempting to burn off the weeds in the ditches. Yet, you are burning off the pheasant habitat and also endangering the electric poles in the ditches that provide your electric service.

A pole typically has a life of 50 years to provide you reliable electric service. However, if the pole catches fire during ditch burning, you have just shortened that pole's lifespan and the reliability for electric service. Sometimes the pole ends up smoldering and looks fine on the ditch side, but has burned away on the other side. Now weakened by fire, the pole



could snap under an ice storm's added weight on the lines and heavy winds.

A pole damaged by fire will be billed to the landowner. Replacing a single-phase pole costs about \$1,500 with labor, truck, the pole and hardware. Meanwhile, a three-phase pole costs about \$2,500. Burning off a whole ditch and the several poles per mile could really add up.

Never leave a ditch fire unattended. Festus the Pheasant, along with your electric cooperative, thank you for being cautious in the ditches. If a fire does get away from you and may have damaged a pole, please let us know. 

Don't get burned! Fire reduces the lifespan of an electric pole. You don't want a fire-weakened pole to snap when you need electricity the most, like during a blizzard.

Federated Focus

Muller retires after 14 years



The friendly, helpful voice behind Federated's phones has retired. Janet Muller, executive secretary,

retired after nearly 14 years at Federated. She started May 3, 2010 and retired March 8, 2024.

"I am looking forward to more time with my retired husband Jay, my daughter Katy, and son-in-law Nick, along with my four grandchildren; they will keep me busy and young at heart," she said.

"I so enjoyed my coworkers and serving the members directing their phone calls," Muller added. "I learned a lot about the cooperative preparing items for the Board, general manager and department heads. I learned bits of every area. I felt challenged and valued at Federated. I'm appreciative of the opportunities and will miss the work and the people.

"I saw a lot of changes during my time here," she stated. "At first I answered all phone calls directing callers to the right department and taking meter readings. Outage management and COVID-phone automation changed the volume. Other big events were the Alliant acquisition, two major ice storms, retirement leadership changes and the Broadband addition."

"My time working with Janet was an absolute joy," said Scott Reimer, Federated's general manager. "She is the most welcoming person I know and will be missed. I wish Janet all the best and cherish the kindness she brought to work every day." 🙏

Elsa Thompson wins co-op's Youth Tour Contest & free trip to Washington, D.C.



Federated congratulates the students entering Federated's Youth Tour Contest. (Seated) Elsa Thompson, Elmore, won the Washington, D.C. trip. Annie Reyelts, Fairmont, was third place. (Standing) Timothy Foster, Winnebago, was a finalist. Hayden O'Connor, Sherburn, earned second place. (Not pictured) Lillyanna Meyer, Windom, was also a finalist.

a theater performance, while learning about cooperatives.

Second and third place awards of \$300 and \$200 were awarded to Hayden O'Connor, Sherburn; and Annie Reyelts, Fairmont. Sophomore O'Connor attends Martin County West High School. He is the son of Chris and Alice. Freshman Reyelts is homeschooled in Fairmont. She is the daughter of Nathan and Kellie.

Each applicant completed an application and an essay on an energy-related topic. The five finalists were called back for personal interviews March 12.

The other two finalists receiving cash awards of \$100 and \$50 were Timothy Foster, Winnebago; and Lillyanna Meyer, Windom. Foster is a sophomore at Martin Luther High School; he is the son of Warren and Alynda. Meyer is a sophomore at Windom Area High School; she is the daughter of Chad Meyer and Tammy Ober-Meyer. 🙏

Writing an essay about ethanol powered Elsa Thompson, Elmore, to win Federated's Youth Tour Contest.

Thompson won Federated's free trip to Washington, D.C. June 18-23. Thompson is the daughter of Todd and Malorie. She is a junior at Granada Huntley East Chain High School. She will be among 1,500 teenagers from across the country participating in Youth Tour, which is sponsored by electric cooperatives. She will tour the D.C. memorials and museums, witness Congress in session, visit with legislators and enjoy



Lend your GreenTouch to Kilen Wood State Park May 4 • 9 a.m. to noon



Rake, clean, pick up litter on trails, paint and more! All ages welcome at Kilen Woods State Park, Lakefield. RSVP to Federated by May 2 (info@federatedrea.coop or call 847-3520 or 800-321-3520, extension 2224) so we have plenty of hot dogs and chips. 🙏

Applause for \$1,000 Basin Scholarship winners!

Federated congratulates the two students receiving the 17th annual \$1,000 Federated/Basin Scholarships.

Katie Hartke, Sherburn, receives a \$1,000 Basin/Federated scholarship. Hartke is a senior at Martin County West High School. She plans to attend the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota. She plans to major in exercise science as an undergraduate and then



Katie Hartke, Sherburn

pursue a degree in physical therapy. Hartke is the daughter of Douglas and Lisa.

Elese Paplow, Lakefield, receives the \$1,000 Federated/L&O/Basin Scholarship. Paplow is a senior at Jackson County Central High School; she will attend the University of Northwestern in St. Paul to major in nursing and minor




Elese Paplow, Lakefield

in psychology. Paplow is the daughter of Cory and Lisa.


“These scholarships come from two of our power suppliers, Basin Electric Power Cooperative based in Bismarck, North Dakota; and L&O Power Cooperative in Rock Rapids, Iowa,” stated Scott Reimer, Federated’s general manager. “We are members of both

cooperatives since 2008. Basin awards 136 scholarships to local electric co-ops. Federated is excited to award these \$1,000 scholarships to Katie and Elese.”


The Basin scholarships are available to Federated members with high school seniors and college students enrolled full-time in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. Federated received 11 applications. Each student completed the application, wrote an essay, submitted grades, a reference checklist, work history and involvement.

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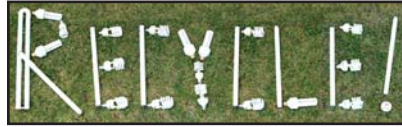
These scholarship applications were judged by retired education personnel: Pam Grussing, Lakefield; and Darrell Ziegler, Welcome. 

Operation Round Up funds \$27,835 to 28 groups

JCC High School Science Classes	\$240	Buy eight digital scales for chemistry & earth science classes
Martin County Master Gardeners Class	\$300	Supplies for planning, planting & preserving classes
HLO FFA Chapter	\$300	Buy new color printer for color copies for contests & applications
JCC High School Science Class	\$325	Buy 30 scientific calculators for one classroom
MCW Sherburn Elementary	\$380	Laminating rolls for new math curriculum
Fairmont Hot Meals on Wheels	\$437	PO box rent, stamps & envelopes for billing clients
JCC Community Ed	\$500	Reuseable jerseys for basketball youth
JCC Post Prom	\$500	Toward laser tag and ax throwing for post prom
HLO Ag Department	\$525	For aquaponics curriculum, tank, light bar and pump
Heritage Acres, Fairmont	\$600	Toward blacksmith for Threshing Day and Harvest Festival
JCC Elementary	\$600	Buy 368 toothbrushes & mini toothpastes for health education
Rhythm of the River, Jackson	\$675	Safety cones, vests, walkie talkies & flashlights for safer parking
Minnesota West Scholarship, Jackson	\$700	For Jackson or Martin County line worker or electrician student
JCC Robotics Class	\$879	Buy VEX robotics kit & controller for new class
HLO Elementary School Library	\$900	Buy decodable reader books for phonics learning
Jackson Co. Historical Society, Lakefield	\$900	Update exhibit space with new display graphics
Jackson County Library System	\$975	For Zoo Man summer reading program at three county libraries
MCW Community Ed & Recreation	\$1,000	Scholarships for eligible students to do community ed
MCW Early Childhood Family Ed.	\$1,000	Celebrate 50 years of ECFE with bouncy house & craft supplies
HLO Positive Behavior Interventions	\$1,000	Reward good behavior with end of the school year event
Des Moines Valley Health & Human Svcs.	\$1,000	Emergency energy-assistance for Federated members
SWWC Foundation for Innovation in Ed.	\$1,000	Registration fees for students in knowledge bowl & spelling bee
JCC Supplies for Kids	\$1,500	Buy school supplies & hygiene items for kids PreK-8th grade
Jackson Food Shelf	\$1,600	New laptop & software for tracking food-shelf statistics
Jackson Ag Department	\$1,999	Buy new MIG welder replacing older equipment
Rebuilding Together Minnesota	\$2,000	Help up to four low-income homes with repairs in Jackson County
Healing Hearts Recovery, Sherburn	\$3,000	Transportation, clothing & rent gap for sober recovery home
Dunnell Lake Fremont Fire Department	\$3,000	New nozzles replacing outdated/broken ones for fire trucks 
Total	\$27,835	

Recycle fluorescent bulbs as part of your spring cleaning

State law requires the recycling of fluorescents and compact fluorescent bulbs due to the mercury. Check out these recycling options this spring.



and stereos: \$10. Computer monitors and TVs: \$25. RV appliances: \$75.

Jackson County

Residents of Jackson County can recycle their fluorescent bulbs at the Lakefield

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility (605 S Hwy 86), which is typically open June through October. A fee applies for bulbs (50 cents each) and ballast recycling (\$3.50 each).

Other electronics are not accepted at the HHW. An E-Waste Collection for residents and businesses will be held September 13-14 at the Jackson County Fairgrounds. You can find more information about the HHW Facility and E-Waste Collection advertised in the Livewire; on the Land Management website: www.co.jackson.mn.us/land; or you may call the Land Management Office at 507-662-6682, extension 4.

Martin County

Recycle fluorescent bulbs Thursday, May 2, at the Tractor Supply (1215 N State St., Fairmont) parking lot from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The other date is Thursday, October 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fairmont's Tractor Supply lot. Bulbs are accepted from the homes and businesses in the county. A fee applies for recycling bulbs. Call the Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce at 507-235-5547. ☎

Brown County

The dates are set for May 1-2. A fee applies for recycling bulbs. Recycling occurs at:

- Springfield Market, 101 W. Central St., Springfield, May 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Brown County Fairgrounds in New Ulm, May 2 from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- Sleepy Eye Hardware, 1200 Main St. E., Sleepy Eye, accepts fluorescent bulbs for recycling year-round and will dispose for a fee. Call 507-794-3611 or stop by the store for pricing. The store also recycles high-pressure-sodium, mercury-vapor and metal-halide lamps for a fee.

- River View Sanitation will sponsor an *Electronics & Appliance Recycling Day*, which will include fluorescent bulb recycling, May 15, from noon to 6 p.m. at the Sleepy Eye Hockey Arena parking lot. Fluorescent lamps 8' and under: \$1, ballast — PCB: \$7.50/lb. and PCB capacitors: \$7.50/lb. Most household appliances, including water heaters, refrigerators and freezers, computer CPUs, phones, keyboards, etc. and car batteries are free. Battery backups, printers, DVD/VCRs, copiers/scanners

3 Ways to Help Limit Tree Trimming

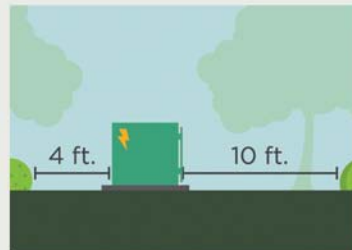
Did you know electric utilities are required to trim trees and other types of vegetation that grow too close to overhead power lines? We know you love your trees, and we will do everything we can to avoid trimming them.

Here's how you can help:

1. Plant trees in the right place. Trees that will be <40 ft. should be planted at least 25 ft. away from power lines (>40ft. should be at least 50 ft. away).



2. Don't block pad-mounted transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. from transformer sides.



3. Report dangerous branches. If you spot a tree or branch that is dangerously close to power lines, please let us know.



Trimming improves safety for all.

Let's work together to enjoy the beauty of trees and reliable electricity.

'Lettuce' see your family's favorite salad recipes! Scoop up & share!

Savor the flavor of salads! Share your favorite salad recipes with us, whether it's for lettuce, taco, fruit or veggie salads. Have a favorite homemade salad dressing? Share that recipe too! Send your favorite salad recipes to Editor, Federated Rural Electric, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069 or e-mail to christoffer@federatedrea.coop by April 26. Add your name and phone number. Thanks for sharing with us! 📧

Water heaters from your co-op proudly provide the HOT when needed

Turn to us for your next American-made, insulated water heater



Oven Baked Caramel Corn
by Barbara Sellner, New Ulm

- 2 c. brown sugar
- 1½ sticks butter
- 1½ c. white corn syrup
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ½ tsp. salt

Boil these ingredients together for five minutes. Remove from heat. Add ½ tsp. baking soda. Stir and pour over 8 quarts of popped popcorn. Mix and put in a large roaster. Bake at 250° for one hour. Stir every 15 minutes.

I put the popped popcorn in a large roaster and mix it all in the same roaster that I use to bake it. 📧

Save a tree!

Sign up for paperless bills!



Just make the call before digging:

1-800-252-1166



Call Gopher State One Call before doing any digging more than 12" deep — 48 hours before digging for foundations, trees and tiling.

Register at www.gopherstate-onecall.org or call 811. Call a licensed electrician to locate the underground lines on your side of the meter. 📧



This month get:
THREE MONTHS FREE SERVICE PLAN

with three year agreement

888.264.6380 | heartlandss.com

A subsidiary of your local electric co-op





Play ball! Be ready for the Twins games with TV streaming from Federated Broadband. It's a home run deal to watch from the comfort of your recliner or anywhere you might be! This April Federated Broadband offers a special sign-on bonus for new customers. **Sign up in the month of April for Broadband internet and receive a FREE install (up to \$150 value)!** Don't miss this opportunity to save money and enjoy the best local internet service in our rural area from Federated Broadband. Switch now for a smoother, easier transition when Broadband's fiber service reaches your area.

Federated Broadband's SW Stream includes Bally Sports North so you never miss the Twins games! Drop the super-spendy satellite dish service. TV packages include Sioux Falls or Minneapolis local news channels, super stations, popular sports, information and family programming.



info@federatedbroadband.coop • www.federatedbroadband.coop

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Scott Thiesse — 507-399-6427

The Board of Directors generally meets the last business day of the month at 8 a.m. at the Jackson office. Regular board meetings are open to the membership. Members interested in discussing business items should contact the general manager or president three days before the meeting.

Federated Broadband's Residential packages:

6MB down/2MB up

• \$50/month

15MB down/2MB up

• \$70/month

25MB down/3MB up

• \$80/month

40MB down/3MB up

• \$90/month

Basic installation fee FREE!

TV & internet package starts at \$140/month for 100 channels.

All you need is a Roku Ultra or Roku Ultra LT.

Call the office, e-mail or see our website for details.

Remember to submit Construction Consent forms for the Jackson County Border-to-Border Project, if you live within the grant area. See our website to fill out the online form and learn more.