



## This Issue

5 Ways to Save this Summer p2

TEC Receives MN Safety Council Award p3

Board Report p4



## Mark Your Calendar

June 15 . . . . . Electric Bills Due

June 25 . . . . . Board Meeting

July 4 . . . . . Office Closed



## Find Your Account Number & Win!

TEC has hidden an account number in this newsletter. If you find your account number, notify us by April 1st and you will get a **\$10 bill credit**.



## Grow Your Summer Energy Savings

*Traverse Electric can help you save money.*

JEREMY HUHNSTOCK  
General Manager



One of my favorite things about summer is the opportunity for fresh, homegrown food, whether it's shopping at the local farmers' market or sharing the abundance of garden tomatoes with a neighbor. It's amazing how just a few seeds, some fertilizer and water can turn into a bounty, as long as the squirrels, birds, and mice leave them alone!

When I think about energy efficiency, I think about that bounty of food, and how with just a few simple actions, you can use less electricity and reap the rewards of energy savings.

You don't need to be a farmer or botanist to know that plants need water--just like you don't have to be a line worker or engineer to know that adjusting the thermostat or turning off lights can reduce your monthly electric bill. In fact, if you read Traverse Electric's publications regularly and follow us on Facebook, you know there are a lot of things you can do at home to save electricity and money.

Summer months bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. But why? Cooling your home accounts for a large portion of your monthly energy use, and the hotter it gets, the harder (and longer) your air conditioner works to keep you cool.

There are several ways you can manage energy use at home, in the graphic below, we're providing a few tips that can help grow your summer energy savings.

But I'd also like to share a few ways we're here to help you save--not only during the dog days of summer but throughout the year.

One of the great things about being part of Traverse Electric is that we're locally owned by you, our members. So instead of making profits, we can focus on helping our community. That's why we've developed incentives and programs to help you keep your money in your wallet.

Save money with these easy incentives:

- ▶ **Rebates** – Traverse Electric offers many rebates to give you money back for efficient equipment you purchase, like heat pumps and water heaters. Many of our rebates can be claimed by simply filling out a form. Find a list of all our rebates at <https://www.traverseelectric.com/rebates-and-incentives>.
- ▶ **Recycle** – If you have an old refrigerator or freezer that's running but is not used much, it's costing you. Find the nearest appliance recycling center and bring us proof of disposal for a \$50 rebate.
- ▶ **Rates** – Traverse Electric just adopted a Residential Time of Use rate. This rate offers cheaper electricity rates during the off-peak times of day. If you can change your habits, even just a

continued on page 3

## Summer Energy Savings

continued from page 1

little bit, this rate could help you out. If you're interested, please call the office or check out our website to view the rate.

- ▶ **Ways to Pay** – If you're having a difficult time paying the higher bills that come with increased usage in the summer, contact us to learn about our budget billing.

Most people don't know everything about electricity, and that's why we're here to help you. There are no investors making profits here. Just knowledgeable people with local jobs, working for our neighbors to ensure there is electricity available when you need it. Contact us, and we can work with you to find more ways to save energy--and money. ▶

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Ceiling fans create a windchill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning costs.

Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## 5 WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER

When summer temperatures rise, so do our energy bills. Here are a few ways you can reduce energy use and grow your summer savings.

### 1. Raise your thermostat.

The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temp, the more you'll save.

### 2. Install window coverings

like blinds or light-blocking curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the day.

### 3. Seal leaks with caulk and weatherstripping

around windows and exterior doors. Air leaks force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.

### 4. Run ceiling fans

for additional cooling but turn them off when you leave the room.

### 5. Lower your water heater thermostat

to 120 degrees to reduce standby heat loss.



Source: Dept. of Energy



Traverse Electric Cooperative was awarded the Minnesota Safety Council's 2023 Diamond Achievement Award for achieving an incidence rate better than the 97th percentile of both the state and national average.

The award was presented at the 2024 MN Safety & Health Conference held April 30-May 1. Workplace injury and accident prevention is a top priority at Traverse Electric for its employees, members, and the public, and we are proud to accept this award in recognition of this achievement.



# Water Heater Program

# MARATHON<sup>®</sup>

HOT WATER FOR LIFE!

- ▶ Traverse Electric carries 50, 85, & 100 gallon Rheem Marathon Residential Water Heaters in stock
- ▶ Comes with a Lifetime Limited Warranty on tank for leaks for as long as you own it.
- ▶ Parts come with a 6 year warranty.
- ▶ Rebates and a \$4.00 monthly electric bill credit available to Traverse Electric members when placed under load control. Restrictions apply.

Call our office at **800-927-5443** for more information on rebates & load control.



# April 2024 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The April regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 8 AM. Absent: None.

Staff members present were General Manager, Jeremy Huhnstock and Karen Lupkes.

President Diekmann called the meeting to order.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the March regular board meeting and the March 21, 2024 annual meeting were approved.

The March check register was approved.

Discussed the East River and Basin Electric video reports, and the NRECA training video: The Board's role in Cybersecurity.

Diekmann gave an East River Board Report.

Huhnstock presented the General Manager's Report, which included:

- ▶ Provided a Basin Electric update.
- ▶ Provided an East River update.
- ▶ REED Fund review.
- ▶ NRECA update.
- ▶ MREA and MN legislative update.
- ▶ SDREA and SD legislative update.

Lupkes gave the Office Manager's Report, which included:

- ▶ March 31, 2024 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
- ▶ A list of new members was reviewed.

- ▶ Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
- ▶ East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.
- ▶ Annual audit is scheduled for the week of May 13.
- ▶ Summer office hours begin May 1-Sept 30: 7 AM-3:30 PM.

Reviewed and approved the March 2024 Financial Report.

The Operations Report was presented per written report. Items included:

- ▶ Provided a crew update.
- ▶ Reviewed upcoming and completed projects.
- ▶ Utility Inspection Services is doing pole inspections.
- ▶ Carr's Tree Service began trimming trees in SD.
- ▶ Annual boom and truck inspections were completed.
- ▶ Annual DOT inspections of trucks and trailers were completed.
- ▶ A new collector was installed in the Beardsley Sub.
- ▶ Reviewed our Safety Program.
- ▶ Outages were reviewed.

Received an update on the new facility.

Received an update on the old properties for sale.

Reviewed Policy 106 revisions.

Reviewed Policy 109 revisions.

Reviewed upcoming meetings and attendees.

Meeting adjourned. ▶

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Doug Diekmann, Beardsley, MN  
 Vice-President: Tom Frisch, Dumont, MN  
 Secretary: Matthew Glynn, Sisseton, SD  
 Treasurer: Michael Marks, Norcross, MN  
 Stacy Ehlers, Wheaton, MN  
 Michael Gaulrapp, Breckenridge, MN  
 Jared Hamling, Rosholt, SD  
 Terry Monson, Veblen, SD  
 Bradley Rudolph, Dumont, MN

## OFFICE PERSONNEL

Jeremy Huhnstock – General Manager  
 Karen Lupkes – Office Manager  
 Dale Schwagel – Operations Manager  
 Melissa Przymus – Accountant  
 Stacie Johannsen – Billing Clerk

## OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

Richard Davis – Foreman  
 Lonnie Tekrony – Journeyman Lineworker  
 Joe Gahlon – Journeyman Lineworker  
 Austin Reinke – Journeyman Lineworker  
 Justin Lundblad – Apprentice Lineworker  
 Isaac Callens – Apprentice Lineworker  
 Tayden George – Apprentice Lineworker  
 Chris Falk – Facility/Staking Technician  
 Robert Groebner – Facility Technician

## GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Jeremy Huhnstock  
 Cell: 320-349-9901 | Direct: 320-563-1055  
 jhuhnstock@traverseelectric.com

## MEMBER SERVICE REP/ MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Steve Powers 320-808-9104  
 Connor Bartz  
 – Journeyman Electrician 320-287-0009

## ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS MINNESOTA

Brandon Lennox 320-808-5309  
 Big Stone County Grant County  
 Stevens County Traverse County  
 Rodney Schaffer 701-235-2840  
 Wilkin County

## NORTH DAKOTA

Mark Moderow 701-226-3779  
 Richland County

## SOUTH DAKOTA

Seth Warner 605-500-9020  
 Marshall County Roberts County

In case of a power outage, call  
**(800) 927-5443**

6590 State Highway 27  
 P.O. Box 66

Wheaton, MN 56296 USA

Toll-free phone: (800) 927-5443

Local phone: (320) 563-8616

## Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.–3:30 p.m.  
 May 1-Sept 30

Web site: [www.traverseelectric.com](http://www.traverseelectric.com)

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

**Our Mission:** To provide dependable service at the lowest possible rates, consistent with sound business principles.

## TEC April 2024 Financials

	Apr 2023	Apr 2024	YTD 2024
Total Revenue . . . . .	\$971,649.48 . . .	\$1,024,979.47 . .	\$4,403,158.84
Cost of Power . . . . .	\$585,725.64 . . .	\$618,922.16 . . .	\$2,683,359.29
Total Cost of Service . . . . .	\$966,824.33 . . .	\$1,096,938.10 . .	\$4,359,054.27
Operating Margins . . . . .	\$4,825.15 . . . . .	\$(71,958.63) . . .	\$44,104.57
Total Margins . . . . .	\$59,252.01 . . . . .	\$(15,389.48) . . .	\$146,436.33
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased . . . . .	10,685,544 . . . . .	10,723,896 . . . . .	46,704,234
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales . . . . .	10,213,592 . . . . .	10,241,126 . . . . .	44,540,551
Line Loss . . . . .	4% . . . . .	4% . . . . .	4%