

South Central Electric Association wishes everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and joyful Holiday Season!

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South Central Electric
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

SCEA
South Central Electric Association
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

December 2023

Attention Students and Parents! ★ Sophomores and Juniors Win a FREE Trip to Washington D.C.

Area sophomores and juniors have an opportunity to win an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. Students will travel with others from around Minnesota and the country as they visit the sites in and around our nation's capital. Over 1,500 delegates from electric cooperatives around the country visited Washington D.C. in 2023. The students visited with their congressional representatives, toured famous museums and made memories and friends that will last a lifetime.

Don't miss this opportunity to make lifetime memories. ★

1. To enter the contest the student must live within the South Central Electric service area or attend one of the following schools: Butterfield/Odin, Comfrey, Madelia, Martin County West, Mt. Lake, Red Rock Central, St. James, Truman, Windom Area or Westbrook. ★
2. Each contestant must submit a contest application form and an essay on the following topic: **"How do you and your family benefit from electricity?"** ★
3. Applications are due at our St. James office by February 29, 2024 and the applicant must complete a personal interview on March 13, 2024. Interview times are between 4pm and 6pm. ★

Prizes

1st All-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. June 18-23, 2024

(No substitute prize if unable to make the trip.)

2nd \$150 cash award and will serve as first alternate.

3rd \$100 cash award and will serve as second alternate.

Contest rules and application forms are available at our St. James office, on our website (www.southcentralelectric.com) or by calling 507-375-3164.

Learn more at the national Youth Tour website: youthtour.coop or check out the Minnesota Youth Tour Facebook page *Minnesota Rural Electric Association Washington D.C. Youth Tour*.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Seniors and College Students
\$1,000 Scholarship Available
to SCEA Member Dependents
APPLICATION DEADLINE
FEBRUARY 24, 2024

South Central Electric is honored to partner with Basin Electric to award a \$1,000 scholarship to a dependent of a South Central Electric member. The scholarship is available to high school seniors and college students enrolled full-time in an accredited two or four year college, university or vocational/technical school working on an undergraduate or master's degree. **These applicants are also eligible for scholarships through South Central Electric's Operation Round Up® program.**

The scholarship deadline is February 24, 2024. Applications can be obtained at our St. James office, on our website (www.southcentralelectric.com) or by calling 507-375-3164.

Holiday Hours: Our offices will be closed at 11:00am on Dec. 22nd and all day on Dec. 25th & Jan. 1st.

CTV offers 60 channels for only \$8 a month, which requires UHF antenna


Looking for low cost TV? Want to ditch the satellite dish? Try out CTV, which is owned by four local electric cooperatives, including yours.

What you need is a UHF antenna. Buy one from Walmart or online and install it yourself. Otherwise, reach out to a local TV antenna installer so they can climb the roof and add a booster, splitter and run the cable; find a list of installers at www.ctv.coop.

CTV operates three towers at Godahl, Jackson and Frost. The Godahl tower has about a 45-mile radius coverage area due to the tower height. Meanwhile, the Jackson and Frost towers have about a 30-mile radius coverage. A UHF antenna needs to be pointed toward the tower. Line-of-sight can be an issue, along with the summer heat and humidity, affecting CTV reception.

"If you are looking for a low-cost TV viewing option, consider CTV," stated Dave Sunderman, CTV general manager. "As an electric co-op member, the CTV charge can be added as a line on your electric bill. Just call or e-mail your co-op to do so. Your \$8 a month helps pay for the tower operations, the maintenance technician and licensing."

CTV viewers on the Jackson tower can now receive additional channels by doing a rescan with each TV. Additional channels were added for the channel 2s and 9s in late September.

For the latest channel updates or when a channel is down refer to channel 16.1. 

CTV channel Listing — Clip & set by your TV remote

2.1 TPT - Twin Cities PBS	16.1 CTV local access channel
2.2 TPT MN	16.2 LAFF
2.3 TPT Life	16.3 NASA
2.4 TPT Kids	16.4 to be determined
2.5 TPT NOW	16.5 CowGirl Channel
2.6 TPT MN	19.1 Laff (Godahl Tower)
4.1 WCCO 4 - Minneapolis CBS (not on Godahl tower)	23.1 WUCW 23 - The CW Twin Cities
4.2 Start TV	23.2 Comet
4.3 abl	23.3 Charge Network (not on Godahl)
4.4 FaveTV	23.4 TBD Network
5.1 KSTP - Minneapolis ABC	23.5 Rewind
5.2 Channel 45	23.5 GRIT (Godahl tower)
5.3 MeTV - Television Classics	23.6 Antenna TV
5.4 GetTV - Television Classics	24.1 (Not finalized)
5.5 Defy TV	25.1 Telemundo - Spanish Channel
5.6 ThisTV - MGM Movies	25.2 SonLife Christian TV Channel
5.7 H&I	25.3 COZI TV
9.1 & 9.9 FOX 9 - Minneapolis FOX	25.4 LX Lifestyle & Entertainment
9.2 FOX9+ - Minneapolis	25.5 Bein Sports
9.3 Movies TV - Classic movies	25.6 GetTV Classic Movies and TV
9.4 Buzzer - Old game shows	41.1 ION TV - TV shows and movies
9.5 The Grio	41.2 BOUNCE
9.6 Catchy Comedy	41.3 GRIT
9.7 Fox Weather	41.4 Mystery
9.8 Stories	41.5 Laff
9.10 9+ (repeat not at Godahl)	41.6 Scripps
9.9 Fox 9	41.7 Jewelry
11.1 KARE - Twin Cities NBC	41.8 QVC (shopping) (not on Godahl)
11.2 Court TV	45.1 Trinity Broadcasting - religious (Godahl Tower)
11.3 True Crime Network	45.2 TBN Inspire (Godahl Tower)
11.4 Quest	45.3 Smile (Godahl Tower)
11.5 Circle	45.4 Positiv (Godahl Tower)
11.7 Twist	45.5 Enlace TV - Spanish (Godahl Tower)
11.8 Home Shopping Network	

Yes, add the CTV \$8 a month payment to my electric bill. I want to pay my fair share.

Yes, I want to pay my fair share, but this is a cabin so please bill me \$48 (for six months).

Yes, I want to pay my fair share, but bill me once a year \$96.

Name _____ Address _____

City/state/zip _____ Account number _____

Return this coupon with your next electric bill payment, call or e-mail this information to your electric cooperative.



Use Space Heaters and Electric Blankets Safely This Winter



Nothing can put chills down your spine quite like winter weather creeping its way through every crack of your home. In order to save money and stay warm, many chose to turn down the heat and plug in space heaters or electric blankets. While these products may be a simple solution from the cold, the Safe Electricity program warns that they can also cause fires if caution is not used.

Safe Electricity offers the following tips for safely using space heaters and electric blankets:

- Read and follow all space heater and electric blanket instructions.
- Check space heaters and electric blankets before use. Cords should not be frayed, brittle, or cracked. The blanket should not have any charred or dark areas.
- One of the biggest causes of fires is one of the most easily avoidable. Many fires start when flammable products are placed too close to heating devices, such as space heaters. Space heaters should be kept at least 3 feet from blankets, clothing, paper, and other flammables.
- Place space heaters out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard, non-flammable floor surface—NOT on carpets, furniture, or countertops.
- Look for a space heater that has guards from heating elements and automatically shuts off if it is tipped over or overheating.

- Do not attempt to warm your entire home using space heaters. Space heaters are useful in small areas, such as a study or living room. However, if you need to keep large areas warm, your home heating system will do the job more efficiently.
- Plug space heaters directly to the outlet, and never use an extension cord.
- Only use electric blankets with an automatic shut off designed to prevent the blanket from overheating.
- Pets should never be allowed to sleep on top of electric blankets.
- Electric blanket wires should never be bent or tucked under a mattress.
- Replace old or damaged electric blankets.
- Choose a space heater or electric blanket with a safety certification. You should look for the UL, ETL, or CSA mark on the device. These verify that the product has been tested and is safe to use.

Always remember to turn off space heaters and electric blankets when not in use. Never leave one of these devices on unattended or after going to bed.

To learn more on how to avoid electrical hazards, visit SafeElectricity.org.

SCEA WATER HEATER PROGRAM

SCEA's peak shave water heater program provides members with a Marathon water heater at a discounted price for participating in the load management program.

The cost for water heaters is **\$750**. This is a great value for members. SCEA pays the cost of the electrician to wire the water heater and radio control. The member would pay any costs incurred by a plumber.



Do you need assistance paying your utility bills?

If you are having trouble paying your utility bills, you may qualify for the Energy Assistance Program. Contact your area Energy Assistance Program provider.

Residents in Cottonwood, Jackson and Redwood counties contact United Community Action Partnership at 800-829-5902.

Residents in Brown, Martin, Watonwan and Blue Earth counties contact Minnesota Valley Action Council at 800-767-7139 extension 2433.

Operations Report

Jeff Benson, Operations Manager

Line patrol will be starting soon, you will see the line crew out driving both the overhead and underground lines looking for any damage, loose or missing hardware. If you see them drive into your yard and leave without doing any work, they are inspecting our equipment.

If you are thinking of doing upgrades next year, you need to be talking to us and your electrician. We are still seeing supply chain issues. It is a year out to get our high voltage cable and 3-phase transformers.

I hope everyone had a safe and bountiful harvest.

ELECTRIC MOTOR REQUIREMENTS

South Central Electric has requirements in place for electric motors connected to our system. These requirements are in place to eliminate flicker and voltage sag problems caused by member's equipment on our lines. Members need to take these requirements into account when purchasing new motors, grain drying systems or upsizing motors. The requirements are not restricted to new motors. There may be issues with currently installed equipment that exceed these limits.



MOTOR STARTING CURRENT LIMITS

1. The Cooperatives' limits allow single-phase motors up to 10HP and three-phase motors up to 30HP to be started without reducing the starting current (soft start), provided the motor design is NEMA "G" or better. Assuming NEMA Code "G" of 5.29 amps/HP and a power factor of 90% or greater.
2. Maximum Starting Current Limits
 - Single-phase 240 volt: 260 amps
 - Three-phase 208 volt: 520 amps
 - Three-phase 480 volt: 225 amps

The starting current limitations are applied to the sum of motor starting currents if multiple motors are started simultaneously.

It is the member's responsibility to know whether a "soft start" motor may be required. Motor installations outside the parameters which cause unacceptable voltage flicker or sag problems must be remedied at the expense of the member.

Harmonic Distortion from Variable Frequency Drives (VFD's)

Variable frequency drives (VFD) may cause harmonic distortion. It is the responsibility of the member to correct harmonic distortion created by on site equipment. Harmonic distortion may also occur with member owned renewable energy systems.

These requirements are in place to assure reliable and safe delivery of electricity to all our members. If you have questions please contact our office.



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Mark Sandberg, Director
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The Board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at South Central Electric's building at 71176 Tiell Dr., St. James, MN.

Please see our website for a summary of the board meetings.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

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