

FROM THE BOARD ROOM

September 2025 Board Meeting Highlights

Monthly Reports:

The CEO/General Manager gave an overview of the cooperative's current issues, including an update on the 4th solar installation, shop floor repair, a potential new large power rate from Dairyland Power Cooperative, and more.

The CFO report discussed last month's financials, a power cost adjustment from Dairyland Power Cooperative, and how to deal with the federal government settlement funds regarding the expense of operating the decommissioned nuclear site in Genoa, Wis., and more.

The Operations report included a motion to replace truck 12 before the end of 2025, an update on new service installations and service upgrades, and staff trainings.

The Engagement report included an update on the conferences attended and speaking opportunities, as well as an update on the process efficiencies projects.

The Information Technology report discussed new security protocols that will be coming soon and an update on the operating system upgrade.

Energy Services provided an update on metering, load management, and renewable energy installs, as well as an update on the facility maintenance.

The following items were approved:

- Capital credit estate payout for deceased members.
- Audit committee report of all checks, ACH payments, wire transfers, credit card statements, and investment accounts.
- Pass-through power cost adjustment charge
- Replacement of Truck 12
- Nuclear settlement funds
- Adjustment to the CEOs current contract

Other Business:

- Reviewed the monthly report of new Cooperative members.
- Safety Meeting recap

FALL SAFETY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Fall is in full swing, and that means the leaves are changing, the weather is crisp and the holiday season is just around the corner! But the fall season also brings a higher risk of home fires and electrical safety hazards. Read the safety tips below and use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle.

Check your work in the answer key.



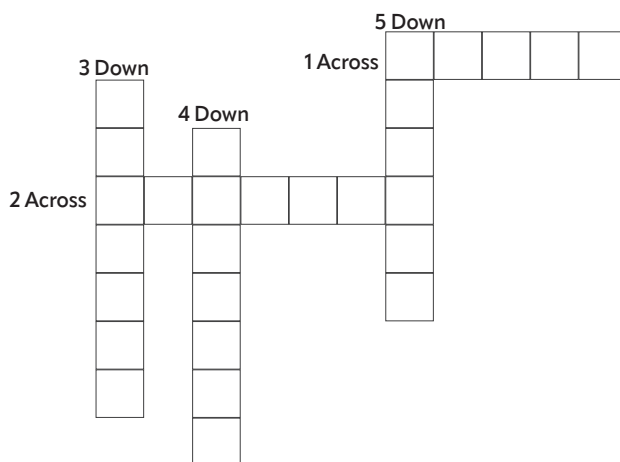
1 Across: An _____ should always be in the kitchen when something is cooking.

2 Across: Keep any items that can burn away from the stove, _____ and other cooking appliances.

3 Down: Candles and _____ should only be used by adults.

4 Down: Make sure all _____ are blown out before leaving a room.

5 Down: Smoke _____ should be tested every month to ensure they are working properly.



STAY TOASTY AND WARM WHILE

TURNING DOWN THE THERMOSTAT



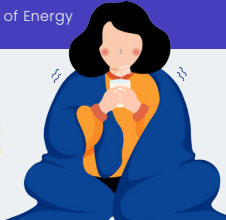
When the winter winds blow, it is tempting to adjust the thermostat up a few degrees to stay toasty and warm. However, turning to other (FREE!) ways to help keep you warm could help reduce your energy bills.



Each degree you reduce your thermostat saves 1% on your heating bill. No one home during the day? Adjust your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting to save up to 10% annually.

Source: Department of Energy

Here are ways to help you stay warm when it is cold outside:



Bundle up by wearing layers and heavy socks

Get your body moving and stay active

Use blankets while sitting still

Caulk windows and door frames that leak air



Replace or update old or ineffective door seals



Make sure your home's heating system is working properly

Keep your furnace clean and change the filter monthly



Let the sun shine in during the day and close window coverings at night



Reduce how long you use ventilation fans (they transfer warm air outside)



Keep a fireplace damper closed when not in use

Humidify your home to make the air feel warmer



If you use a portable space heater, use it safely and for short amounts of time. Using one for extended periods can cause your energy bill to spike since it draws a lot of power.

Learn more at:

Safe
Electricity.org®

Don't let energy slip through the ceiling: A quick guide to insulation

Upgrading your attic insulation is one of the easiest and most effective ways to lower your energy bills, make your home more comfortable, and boost energy efficiency year-round. Older homes can save as much as 15% on energy costs by improving attic insulation.

Step 1: Seal air leaks

Before adding insulation, take care of air leaks. Common trouble spots include:

- Recessed lighting
- Chimneys
- Attic hatches or pull-down stairs
- Pipes, ductwork and wiring

Seal these gaps with caulk, expanding foam, or weather stripping. This helps keep warm air in during winter and hot air out during the summer.

Step 2: Understand R-values

R-value measures how well insulation resists heat flow based on its type, thickness and density — the higher the number, the better. How much you need depends on your climate:

- Mild climates: R-30 to R-38 (10-14 inches)
- Cold climates: R-49 or higher (16-18 inches)

Quick check: If you can see the ceiling joists, you probably need more insulation.

You don't need to remove existing insulation unless it's wet, moldy, or contaminated. Otherwise, it's safe to leave in place and add new insulation on top.

Step 3: Pick the right type

There are two main types of attic insulation:

Batt or roll insulation:

- Easier to install for DIYers.
- Must be cut precisely to avoid gaps, especially around obstructions like pipes and vents.

Blown-in or loose fill insulation:

- Installed with a machine that "blows" insulation into place.
- Fills gaps more evenly; great for hard-to-reach areas.

Blown-in cellulose is the top pick for attics due to its high R-value, good coverage, and air-sealing benefits.

Step 4: Plan for storage

It's tempting to use the attic for storage, especially for those holiday decorations, but if you're looking to maximize efficiency, store them elsewhere.

If you store items in your attic, don't flatten the insulation. Build a raised platform high enough to keep insulation at the recommended depth.

Step 5: Check old wiring

If your home is older, inspect attic wiring before insulating. Cracked or brittle wire insulation can be a fire hazard — have a professional electrician replace it if needed.

Step 6: Insulate the attic hatch

Whether you have an attic hatch or a dropdown ladder, this opening can leak lots of air if it's not sealed properly.

For standard hatches:

- Add insulation to match your attic's R-value.
- Upgrade to a pre-insulated panel or ¾-inch plywood.
- Install weather stripping and a dam to prevent loose-fill from spilling.

For dropdown ladders:

- Add an insulated cover box in the attic.
- Seal the frame with foam or weather stripping.
- Be sure to leave room for the folded ladder.

You'll feel the difference

A well-insulated attic means lower energy bills and a more comfortable home, whether it's blazing hot or freezing cold outside. Start by sealing leaks, checking your R-value needs, and picking the right insulation for your space — your future self (and wallet) will thank you!