



New Ways to Use Electricity

Joel Janorschke | General Manager

If you listen carefully, you can hear a quiet transformation happening. Electric appliances and equipment are becoming more popular than ever among consumers.

Advancements in technology and battery power coupled with decreasing costs are winning over consumers looking for comparable utility and versatility. A bonus is that use of electric equipment is quieter and better for the environment.

Inside the home, consumers and homebuilders alike are turning to electric appliances to increase energy efficiency and savings. Whether a traditional electric stove or an induction stove top, both are significantly more efficient than a gas oven. That's because conventional residential cooking tops typically use gas or resistance heating elements to transfer energy with efficiencies of approximately 32% and 75% respectively (according to ENERGY STAR®). Electric induction stoves, which cook food without any flame, will reduce indoor air pollution and can bring water to a boil about twice as fast as a gas stove. Robotic vacuums are also gaining in popularity. Fortune Business Insights attributes the growth and popularity of robotic vacuums like Roomba to a larger market trend of smart home technology and automation (think Alexa directing a Roomba to vacuum).

More tools and equipment with small gas-powered motors are being replaced with electric ones that include plug-in batteries. In the past few years, technology in battery storage has advanced significantly. Hand-held tools with plug-in batteries can hold a charge longer and offer the user the same versatility and similar functionality as gas-powered tools. For DIYers and those in the building trades, national brands such as Makita, Ryobi and Milwaukee offer electric versions of their most popular products like drills, saws, sanders and other tools. In

addition to standard offerings, consumers can now purchase a wider array of specialty tools that plug-in such as power inverters, air inflaters and battery chargers.

Keith Dennis, an energy industry expert and president of the Beneficial Electrification League notes that, "A few years back, the list of new electric product categories that were making their way to the market was limited--electric scooters, lawn mowers, leaf blowers and vehicles."

Today, the number of electric products available is exploding.

"There are electric bikes, school buses, pressure washers, utility terrain vehicles, backhoes--even airplanes and boats," says Dennis. "With the expansion of batteries and advancements in technology, we are seeing almost anything that burns gasoline or diesel as having an electric replacement available on the market."

A case in point is the increased use of electric-powered tools and equipment, with more national brands offering a wider selection including lawn mowers, leaf blowers, string trimmers and snow blowers. The quality of zero- or low-emissions lawn equipment is also improving.

Electric equipment also requires less maintenance, and often the biggest task is keeping them charged. In addition, electric equipment is quieter so if you want to listen to music or your favorite podcast while performing outdoor work, you can; something that wouldn't be possible with gas-powered equipment. On the horizon, autonomous lawn mowers (similar to the robotic vacuum cleaners) will be seen dotting outdoor spaces.

Another benefit of using electric appliances or equipment is that by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. In essence, electricity is becoming cleaner through increases renewable energy generation, so equipment that uses electricity will have a diminishing environmental impact over time. Quite a hat trick--improving efficiency, quality of life and helping the environment. ▀

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Energy Saving Tip

Spring is here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned for optimal efficiency.

Source: energy.gov



Mark Your Calendar

May 15.... April 30th Electric Bill due

May 30 Memorial Day-
Office Closed

June 1 Board Meeting



Find Your Account Number & Win!

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

We have not received a winner for March's newsletter yet.

TEC March Financials

	March 2021	March 2022	YTD 2022
Total Revenue	\$939,890.88	\$1,021,951.45	\$3,336,488.47
Cost of Power	\$626,630.95	\$649,447.81	\$1,809,165.58
Total Cost of Service	\$936,511.44	\$988,360.25	\$2,811,146.09
Operating Margins	\$3,379.44	\$33,591.20	\$525,342.38
Total Margins	\$16,261.99	\$43,463.98	\$529,095.84
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	10,685,395	11,673,235	37,673,245
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales	10,204,881	11,130,986	35,986,811
Line Loss	4%	4%	4%

Stacy Ehlers Elected Director

Stacy Ehlers replaced Russell Armstrong on Traverse Electric's board of directors to represent District 6 for a three year term at our annual meeting on March 24 after receiving the most votes. Over 300 members registered for the drive-thru annual meeting.

A special thank you to Russ Armstrong for your service and dedication to the members of Traverse Electric! Russ served on the board from District 6 from 2015-2022. ▶



"I sincerely thank everyone who put their confidence in me and voted for me to represent you as your District 6 board member. Thank you."



#2987

Traverse Electric Welcomes Two New Apprentice Linemen



Tony Bruns started at Traverse Electric on April 4 as an apprentice lineman. Tony is originally from Morris, MN. He graduated from the Power Line Construction and Maintenance Program at Mitchell Tech in Mitchell, SD. Welcome to Traverse Electric, Tony!



Justin Lundblad started at Traverse Electric on April 4 as an apprentice lineman. Justin is from Lowry, MN. He graduated from the Electrical Line Worker Program at the Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Wadena, MN. Welcome to Traverse Electric, Justin!

BILL CREDIT WINNERS

Below are the winners from the bill credit drawing at our annual meeting. Congratulations to those who won a bill credit! ▶

\$100 Credit Winner
Randy & Janet Ostby,
New Effington

\$50 Credit Winners
Barbara Johnson, Rosholt
Craig Ehlers, Wheaton
Maxene Johnson, Wheaton
John Tritz, Dumont

\$25 Credit Winners
Robert & Sherry Marts,
Wheaton
Mary Hellwig, Sisseton
John & Arlyn Lampert, Chokio
Shane & Lacie Thomas, Rosholt
Wayne Braaten, Rosholt
Michael Hormann, Wheaton
Erin Braun, Rosholt
Donald Thorson, Browns Valley

Dennis Koch Retired After 27 Years

800 miles or more every month. Then we installed a new meter system and we could read the meters from the office.”

Electric everyday”. We all wish Dennis the very best in retirement and he will be missed by everyone at Traverse Electric too. ▶

Dennis plans to take it easy during retirement and go for rides in his 1967 Plymouth Sport Fury Convertible, building a garage, and going out to his camper at the lake to relax. He’s “excited to be able to do things on his own time and not having to get up every morning to punch the time clock”.

When asked what he would miss the most? Dennis replied, “not being around all the employees of Traverse



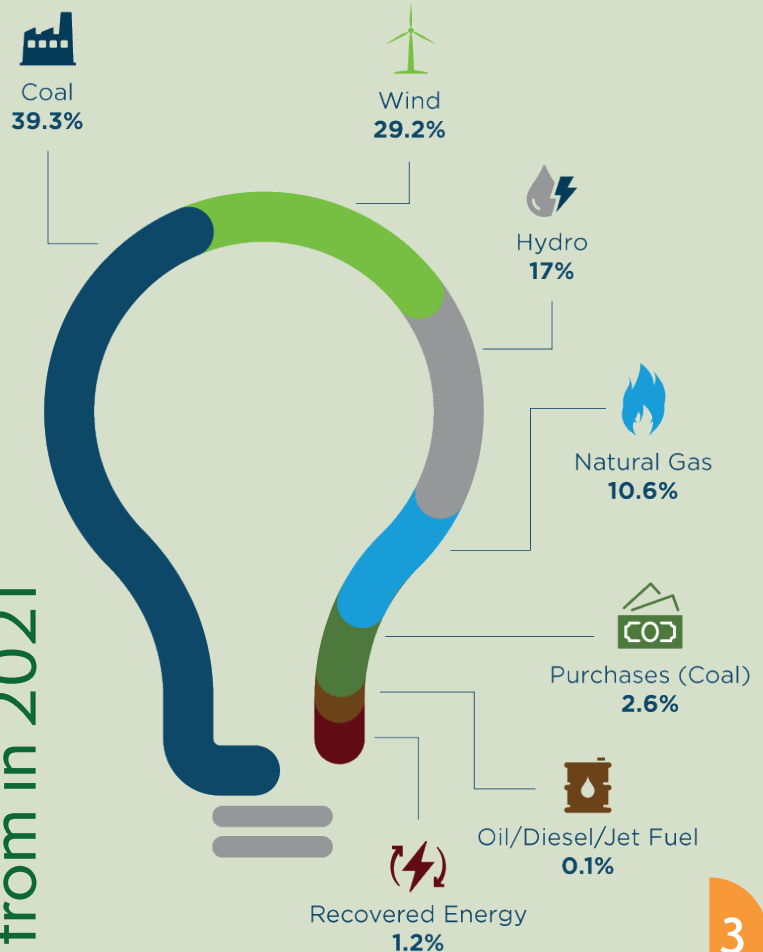
Many of our members had the chance to get to know Dennis Koch over the years, which was evident when working with him while he registered members for our recent annual meeting by the number of people he greeted by name. Some of you even know him by his nickname, “Hoover”, which we heard he earned when he played softball years ago because he wouldn’t miss many ground balls and scooped them up into his glove like a vacuum cleaner.

Dennis wore many hats at Traverse Electric over the years from reading meters, changing meters, locating underground buried lines, cooking the lunch for district meetings, and helping register members for our annual meetings. He also took care of our facility and grounds. We in the office always knew when Dennis was outside by the honking of horns when people drove by our office. Dennis returned the honk with a big wave, oftentimes from the lawnmower. Dennis said that what he enjoyed most at Traverse Electric was “being able to meet and visit with many people over the years”.

When asked how his job has changed over the years? He said that “when I started working at Traverse Electric I had to go and read meters every month. I would put on about



Where our Energy Came from in 2021





Spring/Summer Office Hours

Our spring and summer office hours will run from May 1st to Sept. 30th, M–F, 7:00 AM – 3:30 PM.

BOARD REPORT

March 2022 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The March regular board meeting was held on Monday, March 28, 2022 at 9 AM. Absent: Gaulrapp.

Staff members present were General Manager, Joel Janorschke, Dale Schwagel, and Karen Lupkes.

General Manager Janorschke called the meeting to order.

The board reorganized and elected officers: President Doug Diekmann, Vice President Tom Frisch, Secretary Mark Pearson, and Treasurer Michael Marks

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the February board meeting were approved.

The February check register was approved.

CBS presented the 40% bids and updated 60% budget costs for a new facility.

Approved moving forward with releasing all work bids for a new facility.

Janorschke reported on the MREA Annual Meeting.

Diekmann and Rudolph reported on the NRECA PowerXchange.

Discussed the East River & Basin video reports.

Diekmann gave an East River Board Report.

Janorschke presented the 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:

- February 28, 2022 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
- A list of new members was reviewed.

- COVID update.
- Audit is scheduled for the week of May 16.
- Two solar sites were commissioned recently.
- Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
- East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.
- ERC loan program reviewed.

Reviewed and approved the February 2022 Financial Report.

Schwagel gave the Operations Report.

Items discussed included:

- Crews are doing pole changes, maintenance, and OCR maintenance.
- Materials for new planned services are being ordered that have long lead times.
- Reviewed upcoming projects.
- Truck repairs were discussed.
- Dennis Koch is retiring.
- Two new apprentice linemen start on April 4.
- Reviewed our Safety Program.
- Outages were reviewed.

Discussed the Class Cost of Service Study process that will be presented at the April and June board meetings.

Over 300 members registered for our annual meeting.

Accepted the annual Cogeneration Filing and Report and Schedule Q Cogeneration and Small Power Production.

Reviewed the strategic planning session and strategic goals.

Janorschke plans to meet with key accounts.

A list of upcoming meetings and attendees was reviewed.

Meeting adjourned. ■

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Joel Janorschke – General Manager
 Karen Lupkes – Office Manager
 Dale Schwagel – Operations Manager
 Melissa Przymus – Accountant
 Susan Wilts – Billing Clerk

OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

Richard Davis – Foreman
 Lonnie Tekrony – Journeyman Lineworker
 Joe Gahlon – Journeyman Lineworker
 Austin Reinke – Journeyman Lineworker
 Golden Helberg – Journeyman Lineworker
 Tony Bruns – Apprentice Lineworker
 Justin Lundblad – Apprentice Lineworker
 Chris Falk – Facility/Staking Technician

GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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 Connor Bartz
 -Apprentice 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

Dan Urban 605-222-0143
 Marshall County Roberts County

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

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 Toll-free phone: 800.927.5443
 Local phone: 320.563.8616

Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Web site: www.traverseelectric.com

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