



## Find your account number and win a \$100 credit!

If your account number (as it appears on your monthly electric bill) is one of the [four account numbers](#) hidden in this issue, give our office a call by the end of the month and you will receive a \$100 bill credit. If more than one member finds their account number in a single issue, \$100 will be split equally amongst them.

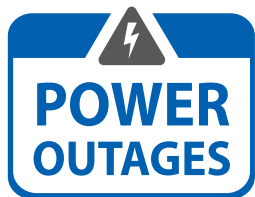
### Energy Saving Tip:



During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler.

This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.

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



Call Day or Night  
1.888.884.3887

[Do not call the office for outages](#)

June Energy Payment  
is due July 20.\*

\*We accept Visa, Discover & Mastercard.

"I am proud to sign this important energy legislation into Minnesota law," Walz said in a press release. "We know that investing in energy conservation and beneficial fuel switching means that Minnesota's homes and businesses run more efficiently and have a lower impact on our environment. The ECO Act will help Minnesota families and small businesses save money, create good-paying jobs, and, most importantly, protect Minnesota's environment for generations to come."

Another component of the bill removes the 1.5% spending requirement, unless the reduction in electricity use is not met, which will reduce consumers' total energy bills. These updates will not only benefit the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but they will foster a more resilient grid as well.

"Not only will the ECO Act benefit consumers' pocketbooks while contributing to Minnesota's conservation goals, but it also will increase and expand workforce opportunities all over the state," said Darrick Moe, president and CEO of the Minnesota Rural Electric Association, which represents electric cooperatives. "This is a win-win-win for consumers, energy providers and all sectors of Minnesota."

### Manager's Article by Kory Johnson, General Manager

This past month, the cooperative held the annual meeting of the membership. Thankfully, Agralite was able to hold an in-person meeting along with a delicious meal prepared by the West Central Cattlemen's Association and entertainment! It was good to see so many come out for the meeting.

The cooperative had a very successful 2020 with strong margins, over \$800,000 paid out in capital credits, a \$350,000 bill credit in December, and an additional \$250,000 put into the deferred revenue account to be used to offset future increases in wholesale power costs. During the annual meeting, the membership accepted the financials for both 2019 and 2020 as the cooperative did not have a quorum at the drive-in annual meeting in 2020. 1672700 The membership also accepted the director election results for both years.

In my manager's report, I discussed the strategic planning process and result of the 2017 plan the board and staff developed. I did talk specifically about the possible expansion that is being studied for the cooperative headquarters. I have included some of my comments from the meeting to help better inform our members about the study that is being done.

In 2017, the board and staff of Agralite participated in a strategic planning process. One item that was recognized was the need for some upgrades in the headquarter facilities of the cooperative. After much discussion, Agralite has decided to secure the services of an architectural firm and a construction company to do an evaluation of the existing facility and determine if an addition to the existing building will meet the needs of the cooperative today and into the future. The cooperative has larger equipment to handle the construction needs of today. We are struggling to fit today's equipment into a 1966 building, just as one would struggle fitting today's farm equipment into a 1966 farm shop.

Planning for our existing facility began in 1958 and Agralite moved into the new facility in 1966. The board and staff will take time and do a study on whether an addition to our existing facility will meet our needs or if an entire new facility is in the best interest of the cooperative. The first step in this process is to begin communicating with you, our members, about the future space needs of the cooperative. More information will be coming on this issue as the board reviews what our future needs are.

Agralite Electric has been in existence since 1940. We have seen changes in the industry and our service area that could not have been imagined in 1940 or 1966 when we dedicated the existing headquarters. Who would have guessed then, that this cooperative would serve nearly 600 center pivot irrigation systems and a carrot processing plant, farms and homes have fiber optic services available to the house, electric cars and now electric pickups, not to mention computers, smart phones and all the other technologies we use on a daily basis without giving them a second thought!

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We as an electric utility and a society are in a constant state of change. We have seen our electricity needs met by different resources over time, from Delco DC battery plants and wind mills, to diesel generators serving much of our needs, to large scale coal generation in the 60's and 70's, to more renewable generation sources combined with natural gas turbines today. What will tomorrow bring? Stay tuned and we will find the answer to that together.

## LED: A Rising Star In Energy Savings

Many of us might recall that way back in 2007, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) passed the Energy and Independence Act. Well, actually, you probably don't remember that at all. What you probably remember is watching the news a few years later and realizing the future of incandescent light bulbs was quite dim.

While this legislation included a wide range of recommendations for the energy industry, the main and probably most memorable requirement was that new light bulbs use 25% less energy. As a result, there was a huge push between 2012 and 2014 to replace older incandescent light bulbs with newer, more energy-efficient versions. Often times, regulations come and go without much fanfare. However, when incandescent light bulbs were phased out, it directly impacted light bulb choices and left many of us wondering what all the fuss was about.

Traditional incandescent bulbs produce light by heating a wire filament to a temperature that results in the generation of light. Incandescent bulbs were popular because they were inexpensive and available in a wide range of colors. However, much of their energy went into heat production and very little toward emitting light.

Incandescent light bulbs also have a very short lifespan, lasting only about one year on average. Although they are no longer available in U.S. stores, the energy costs associated with the once-popular bulb, along with its stunted lifespan, far outweigh the initial savings at the cash register. Since incandescent bulbs produce a lot of heat, they may cause burn injuries and pose a fire risk.

Nowadays, the three most popular light bulbs are the light-emitting diode (LED), the halogen incandescent and the compact fluorescent light (CFL). According to the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, in the third quarter of 2018, light bulb orders were broken down as follows: LEDs accounted for 65%, halogens made up 28% and CFLs were 7%.

What makes LEDs different? LED light bulbs work when an electrical current passes through a microchip, which illuminates the tiny light sources we call LEDs, and the result is visible light. LED light bulbs produce light up to 90% more efficiently than traditional incandescent light bulbs. They also include features that keep the bulb cooler to the touch, which avoids potential injuries and fire risks.

LEDs are also safer than their closest competitors: CFL and halogen bulbs. CFLs contain a small amount of mercury, which is dangerous if ingested. In addition, this type of bulb should not be thrown in the trash. Halogen bulbs operate at very high temperatures, which means they can cause burns to the skin if touched. They can also, in some cases, cause a fire: when they are knocked over or come in contact with something flammable, for example.

Moreover, many LEDs are rated with a lifespan of 50,000 hours. That means if one is used 8 hours a day, it is projected to last 17 years! Residential LEDs, especially those that are designated with the ENERGY STAR logo, use at least 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lighting, according to the DOE.

In comparison, halogen light bulbs last about a year and CFL bulbs about 3 years (both based on 8-hour-a-day usage).

LEDs help the environment while reducing energy costs. According to the DOE, their widespread use is on track to save the equivalent annual electrical output of 44 large electric power plants, with a total savings of more than \$30 billion, by the year 2027!

## MAKE THE SWITCH

**SAVE MONEY and  
REDUCE ENERGY USE  
by replacing  
outdated lightbulbs  
with newer, more  
efficient LED lights.**



Safe  
Electricity.org®

## 2021 Construction Outlook



Construction season in Minnesota is a window of time that does not include all 12 months. Agralite crews are diligently working on line replacement projects, service upgrades, and new services with overhead and underground facilities. 1010001 With underground construction, we only have about 6 months when the ground is not frozen. Another challenge we face this year, like other industries, is the delivery of materials. With labor and transportation issues, we are seeing longer lead times to receive material, such as underground cable, that we ordered in December.

If you are planning a project this fall, such as a bin-site upgrade or a new house or building, contact Agralite (1-800-950-8375) as soon as possible to discuss your project's electrical needs. This will help us plan and acquire material to accommodate your service.