

GREAT RIVER ENERGY POWER SUPPLY TRANSFORMATION CONTINUES

New ownership group for Coal Creek Station plans carbon capture and renewables.



Great River Energy, Arrowhead Cooperative's wholesale power provider, reached an agreement to sell the Coal Creek Station power plant to Rainbow Energy Center, LLC.

The sale of Coal Creek Station averts the plant's closure, which was scheduled for the second half of 2022 unless a buyer was found. Rainbow Energy Center will continue to operate the 1,151-megawatt (MW) power plant using current plant employees they hire. Rainbow Energy Center also plans to develop carbon capture and storage at Coal Creek Station.

"We are excited for what the future holds for our North Dakota employees and the communities surrounding Coal Creek Station," said Great River Energy President and Chief Executive Officer David Saggau. Selling the plant also offers additional benefits for Great River Energy's member-owners compared to shutting it down.

Nexus Line, LLC has reached an agreement to purchase from Great River Energy the high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission system that extends between central North Dakota and Minnesota. Great River Energy will operate and maintain the HVDC system under a 10-year contract.

"Great River Energy's power supply changes deliver what our members want today and set us up for success for a very long time," said Arrowhead Cooperative's CEO John Twiest.

Rainbow Energy Center and Nexus Line are affiliates of Rainbow Energy Marketing Corp. of Bismarck, North Dakota.

"The successful implementation of carbon capture and storage is central to our plans at Coal Creek Station," said Rainbow Energy Marketing Corp. President Stacy L. Tschider. "As a privately held company, we are uniquely positioned to continue the successful legacy that Great River Energy and its employees have established in North Dakota."

Rainbow Energy Center plans to add incremental generation from renewables to fully utilize the capacity of the HVDC transmission system.

Great River Energy will also enter into a power purchase agreement with Rainbow Energy Center, LLC.

These transactions will help ensure Great River Energy continues to provide its member-owners with reliable and affordable electricity as the cooperative builds its future power supply portfolio.

"We are building a power supply portfolio that will serve our member-owner cooperatives with clean, affordable, and reliable energy for decades," said Saggau. The cooperative will add 900 MW of wind energy by 2023 and remains on track to meet Minnesota's 80% carbon dioxide reduction goal ahead of schedule.

The sale of Coal Creek Station and the HVDC system is expected to close later this year after required approvals are obtained.

OPERATION ROUND UP SUPPORTS YOUTH SAFETY IN THE COMMUNITY

Grand Marais Safe Routes to School provides bike maintenance and helmets to local youth with the support of a grant from Arrowhead Cooperative.

Through the Operation Round Up® program, Arrowhead Cooperative allows our member-owners and subscribers to give back to the community by rounding up their bills to the nearest dollar. Each month the rounded-up funds (between 1¢ and 99¢) are placed in a trust fund and administered by the Cooperative’s Board of Directors. In June, the Grand Marais Safe Routes to School (SRTS) committee was one of seven local organizations to benefit from this grant program.

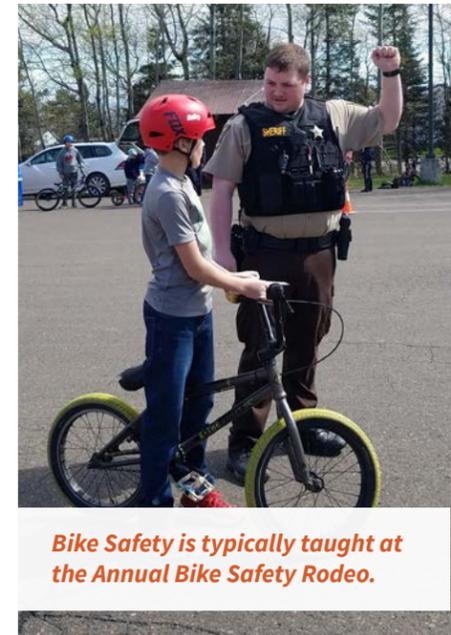
The SRTS committee was formed in 2009 when the Cook County School District ISD 166 partnered with Great Expectations School, Cook County Highway Department, Public Health and Human Services, Law Enforcement, and the City of Grand Marais to create a plan addressing safety in the school zone for students who are walking, biking, or riding to school.



Bike helmets are distributed to local youth.

“The SRTS committee supports efforts like school zone speed enforcement, Walk/Bike to School Days, in-school bike education, coordination of snow removal, and the highly anticipated annual Bike Safety Rodeo,” shared Andrea Orest, Statewide Health Improvement Partnership Coordinator at the Sawtooth Mountain Clinic.

The SRTS committee has hosted the Bike Safety Rodeo each year in Grand Marais since 2014 as an opportunity for local youth to get their bikes maintained, learn bike safety through courses that involve stopping, signaling, changing lanes, etc. Not only is the event great for kids, but it also provides an opportunity for community members to gather around fun, food, and activities.



Bike Safety is typically taught at the Annual Bike Safety Rodeo.

“Unfortunately, in 2020, the Bike Safety Rodeo was canceled due to the pandemic. So, as we were planning for this year amidst uncertainty the committee decided to host a series of bike maintenance and helmet fitting events instead,” said Orest. “The money provided by Operation Round Up® paid for new helmets to distribute to local youth and a stipend for a mechanic to dedicate time to bike tune up on four separate days within the county.”

So far this year a total of 30 local youth had their bikes maintained over the events held in Grand Marais and Grand Portage. Seven helmets were given out at these events, and the remaining helmets were given out as requested by local families. In addition, as restrictions have lifted, and vaccination rates have improved SRTS is also planning on hosting a mini-Bike Rodeo event in collaboration with a Public Health vaccination event in August. For more information visit www.facebook.com/cookcountyshipsaferroutestoschool.

“The outpouring of generosity from our members has stretched to the far ends of our communities and touched many lives,” said Arrowhead Cooperative Member Services Manager Sara McManus. “The grants we have distributed improve the quality of life for residents in the counties we serve. It’s members helping members.”

Orest shared her appreciation, “The SRTS Committee work, including the annual Bike Safety Rodeo, relies on the wonderful collaborative spirit in Cook County. We send a huge thank you for helping us provide bike safety and education to local youth in Cook County. You really do make a difference!”

Arrowhead Cooperative’s Operation Round Up® program has awarded over \$400 thousand to more than 100 local non-profit and community service programs since the program’s inception in 2003. In June 2021, the Cooperative and Operation Round Up® contributed \$20,000 to seven area organizations.

Operation Round Up funds are given to local civic organizations and worthy causes through an application and selection process. For further information or to obtain an application form, visit www.arrowheadcoop.com or call (800) 864-3744.



Bike safety is also provided in the school by SRTS.

CO-OP NEWS

KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION UP TO DATE

Updating all your contact information is helpful because it allows the Cooperative to contact you regarding your account if there is a need. Updating your contact information is also helpful because it speeds up the power restoration process. At Arrowhead Cooperative we also use member contact information to let members know about scheduled outages and any issues with their account, to send the annual calendar, monthly newsletter, the annual report, and capital credit checks.

By having an e-mail address on file, you can sign up for online account access through SmartHub. There you can sign up for our alerts, bill pay reminders, and access your usage information.

Your privacy is important to us. We will not share any provided information with others. Communication in our busy world is changing and we want to know the best ways to let you know about planned outages, large emergency outages, upcoming events and programs, and your account.

OFFICE CLOSED

Arrowhead Cooperative will be closed on Monday, September 6, 2021 in observance of Labor Day. Please call (800) 864-3744 in the event of an outage or emergency.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

August 26, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.



SEND US YOUR BEST SHOTS

We invite our members to share your most beautiful, engaging, and fun photos for the 2022 calendar!

Watch for more details on how to submit your best shots in the September edition of the Highline Newsletter.

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HOT WATER SAVINGS!

If your monthly utility bills have got you in hot water, Arrowhead Cooperative can save members money on monthly electrical bills with Off-Peak Water Heating and Peak Shave Water Heating.

By finding ways for members to use inexpensive off-peak electricity, you save money on your bills and we lower our wholesale power costs.

OFF-PEAK WATER HEATING

The Off-Peak Water Heating program conserves energy by heating water on weekdays during off-peak hours when electric costs are the lowest. Your water heater will heat overnight and then distribute hot water throughout the day. (No control on weekends or holidays.)

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND BENEFITS

- Participants must have a 90% efficient, 80 gallon or larger water heater.
- Participants receive electricity used for water heating at a discounted rate of 5.52 cents per kWh.

PEAK SHAVE WATER HEATING

The Peak Shave Water Heating program is designed to reduce demand on the electrical system on days of high demand and peak pricing. These are typically the hottest or coldest days of the season. This program also reduces demand for electricity during system emergencies. By allowing Arrowhead Electric to control your water heater during these peak periods, you ultimately help keep our retail energy rates low.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND BENEFITS

- Participants must have a 90% efficient, 50 gallon or larger water heater to ensure sufficient storage capacity to supply hot water over a peak period.
- Water heaters enrolled on this program are only controlled for up to 8 hours on peak days.
- Participants receive electricity used for water heating at discounted a rate of 6.8 cents per kWh.

In addition, rebates are available for new water heaters when you enroll in one of these programs. Visit www.arrowheadcoop.com or call us at (800) 864-3744 to talk to one of our energy management specialists to learn about programs and rebates available through Arrowhead Electric for energy efficiency improvements.



AUGUST CALENDAR WINNER

Submitted by: Heather Musich



SAFETY TIP

When purchasing your outdoor extension cords, always make sure they are marked "for outdoor use." These devices may be more expensive, but they are thicker, weather resistant, and designed to withstand more wear and tear.

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