

SUMMER CONSTRUCTION PLANS TAKE SHAPE

Chances are you don't think about how we build, repair, and maintain our power lines, you only think about the peace of mind that comes from having power when you need it. But a lot goes into making that happen.



Electricity is a critical, 24/7 component of your everyday life. But chances are you don't give much thought to the power lines traversing your neighborhood, the equipment on the corner, or the fenced-off substations.

The reality is that Arrowhead Cooperative's electric grid is made up of hundreds of thousands of parts and pieces - from tiny bolts to 4,000-pound transformers. Part of our job is to keep all these parts and pieces in good working order so that you have reliable electricity.

How do we do that? We have to be forward-thinking. From repairing a down line in the middle of a storm, load controlling, to exploring new technologies, we work hard to anticipate the needs of our system.

Every year, Arrowhead Cooperative spends countless hours and considerable dollars working to maintain the grid that brings electricity to our local homes and businesses - all to ensure your power is flowing 24 hours a day, 365 days a year!

In 2022, the Cooperative has a wide variety of construction activities in our work plan. This summer specifically, Arrowhead Cooperative crews will be:

- Working on relocating and adjusting poles on County Road 45 and Pike Lake Road to accommodate the County road reconstruction project

- Replacing old underground cable at Bluefin Bay, Lutsen Ski Hill, and Grand Portage National Monument to improve reliability
- Clearing right-of-way from Hovland to County Road 7

Mechanical right-of-way maintenance planning is currently underway between East County Road 14 and through the Hovland area. Planning crews will also be active in the Grand Marais zone heading east to County Road 14. Mechanical clearing activities will be starting between June and July. Members will be receiving door hangers and/or site visits if requested to discuss the work to be performed on their properties. If you have any questions, please call (218) 663-7239.

In addition to these power line improvements, the Cooperative intends to expand our broadband footprint this summer. As we've previously reported, the Cooperative has received Rural Digital Opportunity funding to make this possible. At this time, supply chain issues are slowing our progress, but if materials arrive we hope to add approximately 16 miles of new underground fiber on The Grade this summer. Since we're already doing the work to bury fiber, we will also install underground electric cable alongside it.

Delivering quality service to our members can only be done with significant investment, proper planning, and system maintenance. Our 2022 work plan will strengthen our ability to serve you, and provide reliable, affordable electricity and high-speed broadband.

HELP US HELP YOU DURING A POWER OUTAGE

Keeping your power on is Arrowhead Cooperative's number one priority. Despite our best efforts, power outages do occur for a variety of reasons including strong seasonal storms, trees, squirrels, downed power lines, equipment failure, and accidents. By being prepared and informed, you can help us restore your power as quickly as possible.

WHEN AN OUTAGE OCCURS FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

1. Check the fuses and circuit breakers in your home and on the meter pole to determine if the loss of power was caused by your system. The problem may be with your wiring and may require the services of an electrician.
2. Check with your neighbors to determine if they have electricity. This helps pinpoint the extent of the outage.
3. If the cause of the outage is not in your wiring, please call (800) 864-3744, 24 hours a day to report your outage. The following information will be helpful:
 - Name
 - Account number
 - Location number
 - Telephone number
 - Any other information that may help us locate the cause of the outage (for example, a downed tree, lightning strike, branch across a wire, etc.).

AFTER AN OUTAGE IS REPORTED, WE WORK HARD TO RESTORE POWER QUICKLY AND SAFELY

Arrowhead Cooperative's first priority is public safety. Crews are sent to remove damaged power lines from roadways first. After that, substation power is restored.



Sometimes, service to hundreds or several thousand customers can be restored immediately by replacing a fuse on a substation transformer.

Next, the major distribution feeders are repaired. These are the lines that come out of a substation that have three wires resting on a cross arm. If energy cannot be distributed over these lines, your home cannot receive power. Tap lines are repaired next. Tap lines carry power to groups of homes from the distribution feeders. You may see your neighbors' lights come on while your lights remain out. If a tap line is repaired, but there is still damage to your individual line, you may have to wait a while longer for restoration. Finally, individual service lines are repaired.

Arrowhead Cooperative's phones are answered 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. When the office is closed, a dispatch system will handle your call and forward reports concerning the outage to appropriate crews.



TREE GIVEAWAY SUCCESS

Thank you to all the members that attended our tree giveaway events. Despite having to reschedule due to shipment delays, we are proud to announce that we gave away over 500 trees to be planted in our service territory. We had great weather and good conversations about right-of-way maintenance with our members.

SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE

ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Arrowhead Cooperative is proud to award two \$500 scholarships to Cook County High School seniors who wish to continue their education and attend a college or technical school. Helping today's students achieve their academic goals is a great investment in our collective future, and a tremendous opportunity for the cooperative to live out our commitment to community; a foundational cooperative principle.

Each year we review applications and are inspired by students' plans for their studies and careers. Recognizing the youth of our community for their achievements is a reminder of the great gifts within our service territory and an encouragement to plan for our future serving these students who will one day be member-owners of the cooperative themselves.

It is always a difficult decision to make with so many impressive applicants for the Arrowhead Cooperative scholarship. Congratulations to this year's recipients of the \$500 award, RaeAnne Silence and Paul Schulberg. We wish you both success in your studies and look forward to following your progress and future impact.



Photo credit: Rhonda Silence

Arrowhead Cooperative congratulates the Class of 2022 and wishes them all the best in their future endeavors.

This scholarship program is supported by unclaimed and donated capital credits.

CO-OP NEWS

ANNUAL MEETING/BYLAW VOTE

The Annual Meeting takes place on June 4, 2022. Learn more about the event, director elections, and the cooperative's bylaw vote online at www.arrowheadcoop.com.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Arrowhead Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer. The Cooperative prohibits discrimination against its members, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Cooperative. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at <https://www.ascr.usda.gov/ad-3027-usda-program-discrimination-complaint-form>, or at a USDA office, or by calling 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 by mail to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Center for Civil Rights Enforcement, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

OFFICE CLOSED

Arrowhead Cooperative will be closed on Monday, July 4, 2022, in observance of Independence Day. Please call (800) 864-3744 in the event of an outage or emergency.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

June 30, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

ELECTRIFY YOUR LAWN CARE

Summer is just around the corner, and you can practically smell the freshly cut grass. If you're in the market to upgrade your lawn care equipment, you may want to consider electric (or battery-powered) options.

Gas-powered lawn mowers and trimmers may be your go-to, but times are changing. Electric lawn care equipment options are becoming more popular than ever, offering consumers faster charging times, longer battery life, and quieter, greener products compared to their gas-powered counterparts. Here are two ways you can electrify your lawn care this spring.

ELECTRIC LAWN MOWERS

Electric lawnmowers have come a long way over the last few years. Early models required corded connections, which were tricky to manage—but the cord has been cut. Newer cordless electric mowers are certainly more expensive than gas-powered mowers, but much of the upfront cost can be recovered since electricity is a less expensive fuel than gas, and electric engines generally require less maintenance than gas engines. Cordless electric mowers typically range from \$200 to \$500.

Electric mowers are suitable for most lawn care needs, with batteries that typically require about one to two hours to fully charge, and most batteries can run for a full hour. That said, if you have a large yard (half an acre or larger), a gas-powered option may be best to suit your needs.

ELECTRIC TRIMMERS

Cordless electric string trimmers are a great option for most lawns. Traditionally, like lawnmowers, string trimmers have typically been powered by gas. But new versions of electric trimmers are improving and are now considered worthy competitors of gas-powered models.

Cordless electric trimmers are much quieter and easier to use, but most batteries last about 30 to 45 minutes. So, if you have a lot of space to trim, you may want to consider a backup battery or plan to work in short bursts. If you're interested in purchasing an electric trimmer, the main factors to consider are the battery's life, charge time, and power. Costs can vary depending on your needs, but you can find a quality version for about \$100.

If you're looking to electrify your lawn care equipment, be sure to do your homework. Search online for the latest reviews, and check trusted websites like ConsumerReports.org. With a little research, you'll be well on your way to Lawn of the Month – with less maintenance, hassle, and noise. (These would also make great Father's Day Gifts).



JUNE CALENDAR WINNER
Submitted by: Steve Ortmann



SAFETY TIP

If you plan on getting on your ladder to clean out gutters, inspect your roof, or trim trees, don't forget to keep it away from power lines. Any ladder that touches or even comes near an overhead power line could be fatal. Keep ladders at least 10 feet away from power lines and their connecting points.

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