

Charge Your Car at REA



REA Energy Services & Business Development Manager Ryan Rooney is pictured with REA member John Rambeck as John tries out the new electric vehicle charger located at REA.

Level 2 charger now available in REA parking lot

Considering an electric vehicle and wondering where you will charge the car? Runestone Electric Association (REA) is pleased to announce the addition of an electric vehicle charging station at the REA headquarters in Alexandria. The new charging station is available to the public 24-hours a day.

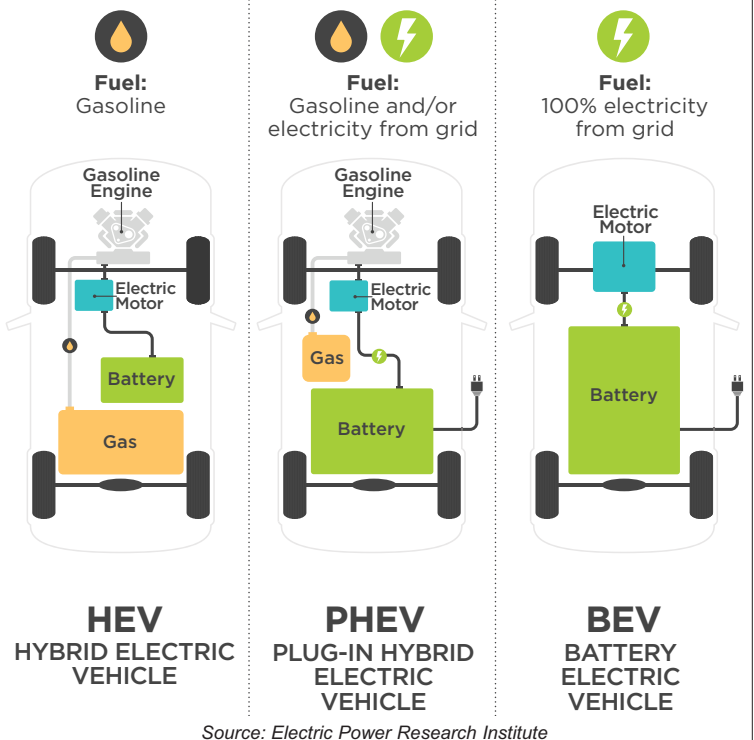
REA member John Rambeck was the first EV (electric vehicle) to plug-in at REA's newly-installed charging station. John purchased the Chrysler Pacifica Limited Hybrid in August at Juettner Motors in Alexandria. A plug-in hybrid uses an electric motor as it's main source of power, but also has a internal combustion engine (gasoline engine) that acts as a generator to kick in and supply power to the electric motor as needed. "Because my Pacifica is a plug-in hybrid EV my electric bill is up, but my gasoline purchases are down," explains Rambeck. A plug-in hybrid is most efficient in stop-and-go traffic and city driving. Driving around town in electric mode, Rambeck saves 10 cents per mile compared to the SUV he replaced. For road trips when using both electric and gasoline, he saves 4 cents per mile. A vehicle averaging 13,000 per year with city and highway miles could save \$1,000 annually.

Most of Rambeck's vehicle charging is done at home, but there are increasing opportunities to use public charging stations. Locally, charging stations are available at several locations in Alexandria, Morris, and Fergus Falls. EV owners will be happy to know there are plans for additional charging stations throughout west-central Minnesota.

"I really enjoy driving my EV. The drive train is very smooth because of the one-speed transmission," Rambeck said. "The vehicle is also very quiet whether in all-electric mode or when the gasoline engine kicks in."

Types of Electric Vehicles

If you're looking to purchase an electric vehicle, use this cheat sheet to help determine the various options. Drivers can choose between three types of electric vehicles (EVs). EVs are classed by the amount of electricity that is used as their energy source.



Source: Electric Power Research Institute

Watch for more information on electric vehicles in future newsletters

Electricity is the BEST option!

Kristin Dolan, CEO, Runestone Electric Association



Kristin Dolan, CEO

The article on the front page of this month's *Newsline* discusses new opportunities available to consumers in the emerging electric vehicle market. The increasing range of the all-electric vehicle has been fascinating to watch grow. For example, a 2019 Chevy Bolt has a range of 238 miles when fully charged. The newly available and affordable Tesla Model 3 has a range of 310 miles when fully charged. The plug-in hybrid electric vehicle, such as

John's Chrysler Pacifica, is a nice solution when wanting choice of fuel or electricity to run the vehicle. You can save on your fuel bill by maximizing use of the battery, but have peace of mind when it comes to range with fuel as your backup source. It is exciting to watch the buildout of public charging stations and the increasing availability of them to help diminish range anxiety. To see where charging stations are located, including REA's, please visit www.plugshare.com. PlugShare is one of many services available to identify electric vehicle charging stations.

It is fun to talk about emerging options and solutions available for our consumer members. It's equally exciting to provide you with a cleaner energy resource in electricity. Our power supplier Great River Energy has set a renewable energy goal of 50% by the year 2030. Today their generation portfolio includes 25% of renewable energy. REA has a second power supplier, Western Area Power Administration. This is a clean hydro-electric energy resource and provides 20% of our power supply needs.

What is even more fun is the suite of options and available solutions we have for you today! When it comes to choosing your space or water heating solutions, electricity is THE option! The electric space heating equipment or water heater you purchase maintains its efficiency better than its competitors. This advantage leads to a greater use of your dollar, none goes to waste.

Replacement of your appliance when it reaches end of life is an important consideration. Electric appliances have a much longer life than alternative fuel source appliances. Make sure to look at our worry-

free water heater program. Storage water heaters sold by REA and enrolled in an off-peak program come with a limited lifetime warranty against leaking. In addition, the elements and thermostats are warranted for six years. REA stands behind these warranties with a labor reimbursement that makes the water heater a truly worry-free decision.

There is no smell or mess with electricity and you don't need holes in the house to exhaust gasses. You don't have to make large payments all at once to fill up your fuel oil or liquid propane tank. Supply or price volatility is not a worry with electricity; you don't have to worry about your tank running out.

Comfort is another important element. With a heat pump, the home is healthier with increased airflow. Your whole body is warmed with the higher airflow, rather than heat rising in the room with other forms of heating.

REA has energy experts on hand to guide you through your energy options. We are here to help you select the best choice for your energy needs.



Think electric when considering a water heater or home heating system. Electricity is clean, efficient and worry-free!



REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - September 2018

- Mrs. Nelson reviewed the Financial Report for August 2018 and reported energy sales for August were significantly over last August; year-to-date energy sales are 6.5% ahead of budget. The REA margin is higher than budgeted year-to-date, largely due to a delay in the incurrence of expenses. At least half of the operating expense variance is expected to be incurred in the remaining months of 2018.
- CEO Dolan reported work has begun on revising REA's Bylaws. Directors Johnson, Pederson and Loken volunteered to serve on the Bylaw Committee.
- Mrs. Lundeen gave the Member Services Report informing the Board of the

change of date for the upcoming Annual Meeting to April 22, 2019.

- REA Billing and IT Supervisory Scott Krueger provided an update on REA's cybersecurity including efforts made to protect our network from external threats, and employee training efforts to prevent security breaches.
- CEO Dolan requested the reinstatement of additional funds for right-of-way tree clearing, pole testing and headquarters landscaping.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be on November 26, 2018.

REA Supports Local Businesses **FREE!**

Looking for new ways to promote your business? Here's a FREE opportunity!

Let the Co-op Connections Card program help you reach more than **11,000** homes and businesses in REA's service territory

BUSINESSES: Sign up by November 20 to be included in a special insert listing businesses participating in the **Co-op Connections Card** program to be mailed in December

Visit www.RunestoneElectric.com or call REA (320) 762-1121 to learn more



Winter is coming!

Is your dual fuel system ready?

If you have a dual fuel heating system, also known as an off-peak system, now is the time to be sure your off-peak controls are functioning and your back-up system is prepared. Your fuel supply should be checked and chimneys cleaned.

Summer storms can damage equipment controls within off-peak heating systems. It is the member's responsibility to contact an electrical contractor should the system not be functioning correctly.

When will my dual fuel heating system be controlled?

- Usually on the coldest winter evenings during periods of the highest demand for electricity. But other factors can lead to load control as well.
- Between 100 and 120 hours and will not exceed 12 hours on a single day.
- Any time of the day, but typically in the early evening (4:30 - 9:30 p.m.) and occasionally in the morning.

Check on the likelihood of control by visiting Runestone Electric's website: www.RunestoneElectric.com and select "Today's Load Control"

If you have electric heat, but are not sure if you are on the dual fuel program, please call REA at (320) 762-1121 or (800) 473-1722.



Stop and read **BEFORE** turning off your water heater!



If you plan to shut off your electric water heater using the breaker in the panel you may inadvertently shut off the power to the off-peak meter. This will cause the electric heat to be billed at the general service rate, instead of the off-peak rate.

We strongly encourage you to have an electrician install a separate disconnect switch for your water heater. This would enable you to shut off your water heater at your convenience, while maintaining power to the off-peak meter.

Feel free to contact REA with questions regarding turning off your water heater.



REA wishes you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving! **REA will be closed November 22 and 23.** To report a power outage or an emergency, call (800) 473-1722. We have a 24-hour dispatch service to take your call.

During this time when we have so much for which to be thankful, we want to thank you for your business!

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24-hour outage & emergency service: (800) 473-1722

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Kristin Dolan, CEO
Sue Lundeen, Editor

- In case of a power outage**
- Please call (800) 473-1722 for 24-hour service. Please report any tree branches in lines, twisted wires, broken poles and if your neighbors are also out of power.
 - Be sure to have one corded phone in the house, because cordless phones won't work when the power is out.
 - Program the number above into your cell phone for easy access.
 - Never assume we know you are without power. Always call to report an outage.

Help us update our Critical Load List

Electricity is a lifeline for members with medical equipment and farmers with confined animals. It is good to notify REA if you have confined animals or if you use medical equipment, such as:

- respirators
- oxygen concentrators
- home dialysis
- bi-pac/c-pap machines
- other human life-threatening medical conditions

REA maintains this list so that we may attempt to notify members prior to a planned outage.

Having your name on REA's Critical Load List does not necessarily mean we will restore power to your location first. During an outage, we restore power to the largest group of members first. This strategy provides the highest probability that Critical Load members are restored quickly.

When possible, Critical Load members will receive advance notice of planned power outages. The notification allows members to make alternate arrangements during the outage, if necessary. We encourage members to be prepared with back-up plans in case of an outage.

If you haven't notified REA, please complete this coupon and return it to us with your next bill payment, give us a call or email us at rea@runestoneelectric.com.

In addition, please notify REA if the person with the medical condition moves off the REA system, no longer needs life support or has passed away, so that we can keep our list current.

REA Critical Load List

_____ **Yes, medical equipment in use**
Type of medical equipment or medical condition _____

Battery backup? Yes _____ No _____

_____ **Yes, confined farm animals - type:**

Is there a **generator** on-site for backup electricity? Yes _____ No _____

Acct # _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/state/zip _____

Home Phone # _____

Cell Phone # _____

Cell Phone # _____

Email: _____

Please return to:
Runestone Electric Association
6839 Power Lane SW
Alexandria, MN 56308
rea@runestoneelectric.com

▶ (651)454-0002 ▶ (800)252-1166

Click or Call Before You Dig!

www.gopherstateonecall.org

Know what's below. Call before you dig.

Gopher State locates utility-owned underground facilities. REA will locate wires to the main meter. Wires from the meter to home and out buildings are private property and need to be located by a private contractor. **Private locators list:** <http://www.gopherstateonecall.org/private-facility-locators>

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