

Old REA Lobby circa 1970



You won't find appliances in our lobby as in the early days, but we do offer rebates!

Stop by REA or visit our website for more information!

www.runstoneelectric.com

NEWSLINE

June 2025

Be prepared before a power outage pg 3 Before you dig pg 4

REA Programs Offer Good Value to Members

When upgrading appliances or purchasing electric equipment for your home, checking with REA can result in energy bill saving.

This month, we'd like to introduce you to Don McAdoo. Don has been a member of REA since 2008. Don lives on Lake Latoka in Alexandria and serves on the REA Member Advisory Council.

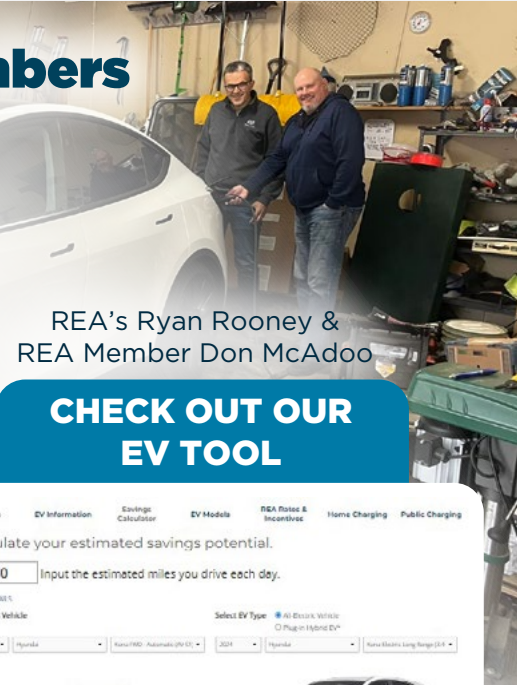
Don participates in several energy management programs offered by REA, including the storage water heating program with a Marathon water heater, and off-peak heating with an electric plenum heater and an electric garage heater. In addition, Don is one of the forty REA members participating in the electric vehicle (EV) charging program with an 11.5 KW charger for his Tesla Model Y Performance.

Water heaters and home heating systems can be hard to get excited about, but Don was happy to tell us about the value he finds in working with REA when it comes to his EV.

"Electric vehicles are really fun to drive," said Don. "Thanks to REA's EV charging rate of 4.7¢, I can go 200 miles on a charge for the same cost as a gallon of \$3.00 gasoline."

REA offers two rates for EV charging - 4.69¢/kWh (Controlled) and 9.69¢/kWh (Uncontrolled). With the controlled rate, an 8-hour charge between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. is available.

"I'm unique in that many people say they'd want an EV to run around town. But I see it differently. I have an EV because I'm always on the go. I run to Fargo or the Twin Cities multiple times during the week to attend my teenagers' sporting events or special activities. I bought my EV last April (2024) and have put over 25,000 miles on it. I have the best of both worlds, saving miles on my truck to pull the fish house and boat with the additional benefit of filling up the truck only a couple times a year! I love my EV and don't ever envision being without an EV!"



REA's Ryan Rooney & REA Member Don McAdoo

CHECK OUT OUR EV TOOL

Calculate your estimated savings potential.

30 Input the estimated miles you drive each day.

MONTHLY COSTS:

Local fuel price per gal	Est. MPG of vehicle	Est. miles/mo	Est. utility kWh cost*
\$ 2.80	31	3,44	\$ 0,0469

Estimated Savings* \$69/mo. \$837/yr.



Scan the QR code to use the EV tool today!

www.runstoneelectric.com/energy-wise-programs/electric-vehicles

For more information on EVs or other REA Energy Management Programs:
Please visit www.runstoneelectric.com or call 800-473-1722

Load Management: A Look into the Future, Appreciating the Past



Guest Columnist:
Ryan Rooney
Manager of Energy
Services & Business
Development

As a cooperative, we have been working on updating our load management control system, replacing legacy radio receiver equipment (gray boxes mounted on outside walls) with new devices that we believe enhance the value of our load management programs, also known as energy management programs. We are nearing the project's halfway point, and you may have

already been contacted regarding access to your home, farm or business to install a new controller.

At times, planning the future requires looking at the past. We recently found an REA newsletter article from June 1980 in our archives titled "Load Management: A Look into the Future." The article goes into the importance of load management in reaction to the energy crisis of the late 70's. The article was written to encourage energy efficiency and introduced a residential load management program, a partnership with our members. The vision at the time was a partnership that saved costs for the coop that could be shared with members through lower rates.

In the years since, we have introduced energy management programs for water heaters, home space heating, cycled air conditioners, heat pumps, electric vehicles, agricultural irrigation, commercial generators, and more. From this initial call to action, REA energy management programs have grown over the years, resulting in over \$3 million in savings for our members in 2024 alone!

With the 1970s energy crisis in the rear-view mirror, and homes and the appliances within them more efficient today, do these programs continue to have value? The short answer is "YES!" Conversations within utility circles and in the news focus on adapting to new technologies, electrification, efficiency, and new energy sources. One of the best tools we have for responding to this change is, you guessed it - load control (energy management). As we continue to see more electrification, like electric vehicles, air source heat pumps, or lawn equipment, we believe we are well-positioned to work with our membership to take collective action to make the most efficient use of your energy dollar.

For more information on REA's energy management programs, please visit www.runestoneelectric.com or call us at 800-473-1722.



REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - April 2025

- » Reviewed the Financial Report for April 2024. Both sales and expenses are within reasonable variances from expectations for the year. REA equity will drop in April as we took a draw on our AV45 loan, and we paid out general retirement capital credits.
- » Selected Director Anderson as REA's representative on the Great River Energy Board of Directors.
- » Selected Director Staples as REA's representative on the STAR Energy Services Board of Governors.
- » Approved a new Member Advisory Council Member in District 2 - Reilly McCormick, Miliona.
- » CEO Haman reviewed the Wildfire Mitigation Plan and answered questions from the Board.
- » Reviewed the Aclara DRU (demand response unit) and Aquanta water heater controller installation progress.
- » Director Staples and CEO Haman reviewed the recent STAR Energy Services Board meeting. STAR is a subsidiary of REA.
- » Approved changes to the Schedule of Charges for the price increase in storage water heaters sold by REA.
- » **The regular May Board Meeting will be Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.**

Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:

1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines:

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2. Distribution Substation:

A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist further down the line.

3. Main Distribution Lines:

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

4. Tap Lines:

If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.

5. Individual Homes:

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issue.

Be Prepared for Power Outages

BE INFORMED



- » Call us at 800-473-1722 for 24-hour service.
- » Never assume we know you are without power.
- » Be sure to have a corded phone or a charged cell phone in the house, because cordless phones won't work when the power is out.

BE PREPARED



- » Our automated phone reporting system uses the phone number(s) associated with your account(s) during an outage. Update your number(s) by calling us at 800-473-1722, emailing rea@runestoneelectric.com, or through your SmartHub account under contact information. Please do this before an outage occurs.
- » Prepare an emergency kit that includes non-perishable food items, bottled water, first aid kit, battery-powered weather radio and extra batteries.

BE SAFE



- » Always stay away from downed power lines and/or trees and branches that are caught in a power line. A downed power line may still be energized.

BE PATIENT



- » We understand that power outages are an inconvenience to our members. Our number one goal is keeping the lights on, and to restore your power as safely and efficiently as possible.
- » We appreciate your patience!

Is Your Electric Heat Still On?

REA recommends checking boiler and baseboard heating systems to ensure they are turned off. This easy step can prevent a battle between your cooling and heating system, especially in basements.

Save money and energy this summer by turning off the heat!

Dehumidifier Basics

Using a dehumidifier to suck moisture out of the air can cost more than \$100 a year on electric bills. Consider replacing a standard dehumidifier with an energy efficient Energy Star® model. Replace your old dehumidifier with an Energy Star unit and receive a \$25 rebate from REA.

Contact REA at 800-473-1722 for a rebate form or visit www.RunestoneElectric.com.

What to Know Before You Dig

As the frost leaves the ground and we gear up for spring digging projects, keep this in mind:

Always call 811 before you dig to have a professional come to your home and locate buried PUBLIC utility lines free of charge. No matter the size of a digging project, if you come into contact with a buried power line, you could be electrocuted or seriously injured.

Member-Owned Powerlines

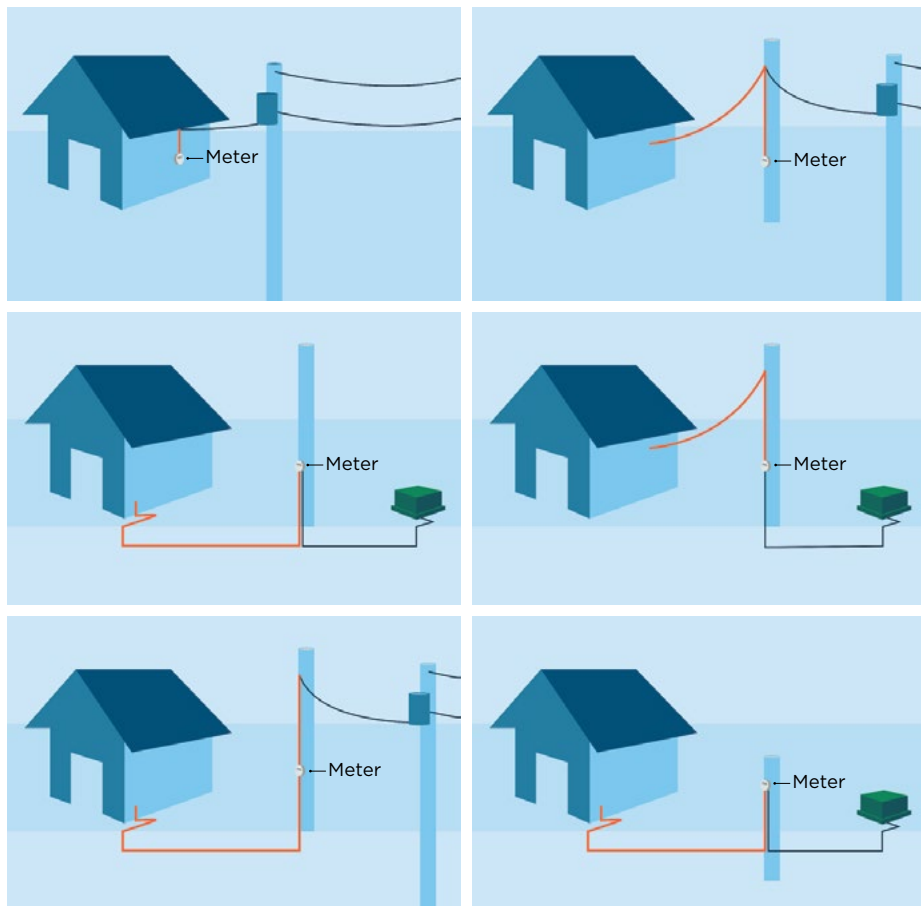
Remember that utility power lines will be marked for free, up to your main meter. Underground powerlines from your main meter inward, however, are the **responsibility of the member**. Property owners need to call an electrician or a powerline locating company to have their private lines marked. A list of private powerline locators can be found on Gopher State One Call's website.

Check out the graphics below to see who owns what. **Member-owned powerlines are marked in orange in the graphics.**

Member's Wire



REA's Wire



If you are planning a digging project more than one foot in depth, it is YOUR responsibility to notify Gopher State One Call who will notify all parties that may have underground facilities in the area.

When you call, please have the following information ready:

- » Who is doing the digging and their phone number?
- » Type of work being done?
- » For whom the work is being done?
- » Street address or township, section and quarter where work will be done?

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6839 Power Lane SW
Alexandria, MN 56308

320-762-1121

Fax: 320-763-4149

rea@runestoneelectric.com
www.runestoneelectric.com

24/7: 800-473-1722

Office Hours:

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon- Fri.

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Al Haman, CEO
Sue Lundeen, Editor
Ally Koudela, Communications Specialist

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 a corded phone or a charged cell 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.

REA will use reasonable diligence to furnish adequate and dependable electric service, but it cannot and does not guaranty continuous and uninterrupted service

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



Call 811 or
visit gopherstateonecall.org
before you dig