



Battery project now serves members-owners



Cutting the ribbon

Above | Corn Belt Power Cooperative hosted a ribbon cutting at its new battery energy storage system. Employees and directors from across Corn Belt Power's system attended the event where they were also able to tour the Rural Electrification Museum next to the cooperative's Hampton Substation on June 27.

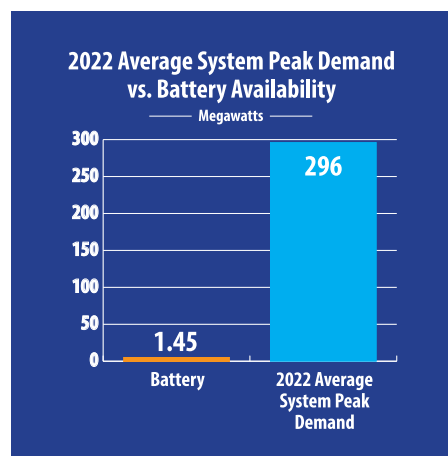
Corn Belt Power Cooperative and its member-cooperatives, cut the ribbon on a new 1.425 mega-watt Tesla MegaPack battery energy storage system at the Hampton Substation on Tuesday, June 27. Close to 70 cooperative employees, directors and managers attended the event, inside the REA Museum, located right next to the cooperative's substation.

The event brought together old and new technology, as one of the original 750-kilowatt diesel generators still resides inside the REA Museum.

Ken Kuyper, general manager and executive vice president, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, spoke of the cooperation among cooperatives that led to this successful project, as well as the project's two-fold goal to offset load during peak demand and learn more about battery technology.

"Each one of our cooperatives played a role in getting this project off the ground," Kuyper said in his speech. "The battery energy storage system is the byproduct of our relationship with our member-

cooperatives. I always say that doing things by consensus and as a team will yield good



Above | Corn Belt Power Cooperative's new battery energy storage system is rated at 1.45 megawatts. The average system load in 2022 per day was 296 megawatts. Corn Belt Power uses an all-of-the-above electric generation approach to sustain safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

results and position Corn Belt Power well into the future.

"Our goal with the project is to learn more about battery technology, the process of procuring and installing batteries, how to operate them, and how a battery can benefit the cooperative," he continued. "On a good day, this battery could power around 150 homes for about six hours. It's far from what we need to serve our entire membership. However, we will see economic benefit to the Corn Belt Power membership by lowering demand charges in times of high use."

During the event, Darwin Meyer, Franklin County Historical Society, shared a brief history about rural electrification across Corn Belt Power's service territory.

Why a battery project?

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which provides power to electric co-ops across the Midwest, introduced a member-owned Trial Battery Rate into its 2019 rate book. The rate allocates up to 150 kilowatts per Class C (distribution cooperatives) member to deploy via battery between a substation and the end user. **Continued on page 4...**

Graduate Spotlight



Ashley Onken

Ashley Onken. Ashley is the daughter of Dave and Betty Onken. Dave is Corn Belt Power Cooperative's board president. Ashley graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in supply chain management. She has started work at World Class Industries in Hiawatha. Congratulations, Ashley!



Izzy Ver Mulm

Izzy Ver Mulm. Izzy is the daughter of Brian, control operator, and Laura Ver Mulm. Izzy graduated from Spencer High School. She took part in Archery and volunteered at People for Pets. She plans to own a dog rescue. Izzy enjoys fishing in her free time. Congratulations, Izzy!



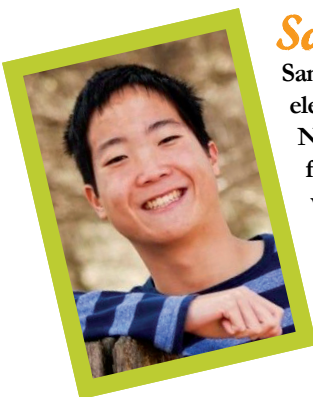
Zack Mertz

Zackary Mertz. Zachary is the son of Kerri Mertz, executive assistant, and Jim Mertz, electrical maintenance foreman. Zackary graduated from Humboldt High School and plans to attend Northwest Iowa Community College to obtain a Powerline degree. During high school, he was a member of the junior pistol and trap shooting teams, FFA and was the iJag chapter president. His hobbies include reading, competition shooting, woodworking and welding. Congratulations, Zackary.



Elias Naber

Elias Naber. Elias is the son of John, electrical and control, and Judy Naber. Elias graduated from Emmetsburg High School where he was involved in choir, band and e-sports. His future plans include attending Iowa Lakes Community College for two years before transferring to a four year school. Elias earned a Methodist Church scholarship where he is a member. His hobbies include music, computers and video games. Elias also plays in the community band.



Sam Naber

Sam Naber. Sam is the son of John, electrical and control, and Judy Naber. Sam earned his diploma from Emmetsburg High School where he was involved in e-sports, band and choir. His future plans include attending Iowa Lakes Community College for two years before transferring to a four year school. Sam was the recipient of a Methodist Church scholarship where he attends church. Sam plays in the community band and enjoys video games, music and computers.



Ben Saxton

Ben Saxton. Ben is the son of Mark, lineman, Emmetsburg, and Darca Saxton. Ben graduated from Emmetsburg High School where he was involved in football, wrestling, golf, choir and National Honors Society. He was a three-time academic

letter winner, two-year member of the National Honor Society, Academic Honor Cord recipient, Volunteer Honor Cord recipient, Emmetsburg High School American Citizenship Award, National Wrestling Coaches and Marines Character and Leadership All-American Award, National Wrestling Coaches and Marines High School All-American wrestler. He received the Arthur and Audrey F. Smith Scholarship, Louscher Family Dentistry Scholarship, Bethany Lutheran Church Scholarship, Marvin E. Simonsen Scholarship and Farmer-Sweeney Scholarship. Ben plans to attend Northwest Iowa Community College.

Former Vice President Mike Pence visits Midland Power

Corn Belt Power Cooperative helped welcome current presidential candidate and former U.S. Vice President Mike Pence to Midland Power Cooperative Tuesday, July 4. Cooperative leaders from across the state made the trek to the cooperative's Boone headquarters to take part in the event.

Pence spoke to a group of close to 75 for about economic issues, rural electrification, supply chain, commerce, and regulatory burdens.

Following his brief remarks, Pence took

questions from attendees, including Ken Kuyper, executive vice president, Corn Belt Power Cooperative.

"It was great to see a former vice president at one of our cooperatives," Kuyper said. "We do not endorse or recommend any candidates for election; however, we welcome the opportunity to engage with all political candidates, regardless of party affiliation. Speaking with candidates and sharing the electric cooperative story is an important part of our democratic process." ■



Pence visits Midland Power

Above | Ken Kuyper, executive vice president and general manager, Corn Belt Power speaks with former vice president Mike Pence following his event at Midland Power's headquarters on July 4.

2023 Energy Trail Tours hit the road

Electricity must be generated at the exact same time as you flip the switch to use it. One could compare energy use to ordering food at a fast-food restaurant. "You place your order at the kiosk and expect it to be ready the moment you pull up to the drive-through window. You 'order' electricity, expecting it to be there. On-time. Every time."



Antelope Valley Station

Above | Tyler Herrig, electronics technician, Corn Belt Power, center, visits Antelope Valley Station coal plant in Beluah, N.D. He was joined by Anne Gardiner, left, and Katie LaBree, right, from Butler County REC.

Behind this "simple" ordering process is a complex network of people, power plants, and transmission lines that work around the clock. Their mission: to ensure safe, affordable, reliable electricity is delivered to member homes, farms, and businesses the moment it is needed.

Corn Belt Power is a member of Basin

Electric Power Cooperative's power supply system. Basin Electric has over 7,000 megawatts of generating capacity and 2,500 miles of high-voltage transmission lines - all managed with the member-owner at the end of the line in mind.

This summer, members, directors and employees of Corn Belt Power's member-cooperatives went on a three-day excursion through the Dakotas to learn about where their electricity comes from and have some fun along the journey.

The trip included stops at the following:

Oahe Power Plant and Dam

The first electric-generation stop on the three-day journey brought tour guests to Pierre, South Dakota, to understand the process of hydroelectric generation and the innovation of the rolled-earth dam that created Lake Oahe, the fourth largest reservoir in the United States.

Antelope Valley Station

The tour included an overview of the model room and a guided walking tour of the power plant. The walking tour included stops at the turbine deck, control room, boiler, and observation deck on the 17th floor.

Coteau Properties Company Freedom Mine

Tour guests learned how lignite coal is produced at a surface mine and how the land is returned to its original state. A guided drive-through tour took members through active mining areas where they witnessed giant earthmoving equipment in action.

The trip also offered insight into operations at **Great Plains Synfuels Plant**

and how coal can be refined into natural gas and a variety of other products.

Energy Trail Tour participants also learn about wind generation and renewable energy resources in America's overall energy mix. The tour provides a "mobile classroom" on the process of wind generation and how a turbine works.

Over three educational and fun-filled days, members gain a deeper understanding of the cooperative difference, the history of rural electric cooperatives, the Seven Cooperative Principles that guide all cooperatives, and the Touchstone Energy® brand's four foundations of service: Integrity, Accountability, Innovation, and Commitment to Community. ■



Redlin museum stop

Above | Matt Donald, left, electrical maintenance foreman, and Eric Hankey, SCADA technician, Corn Belt Power, visit the Terry Redlin art museum as part of the Energy Trails Tour.

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Attendees from Corn Belt Power's battery storage ribbon-cutting tour the REA Museum at the cooperative's Hampton Substation on June 27. The museum is home to one of Corn Belt Power's original generators.



June Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Aaron Ruschy, vice president of operations and engineering, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, donated his \$100 prize to the Estherville Lincoln Central Girls Volleyball program.

Battery project ribbon cutting

Continued from page 1 Instead of having several 150-kilowatt batteries across its system, Corn Belt Power, a member of Basin Electric, collaborated with its membership to develop a plan that allowed each member to pool its individual allocation, to then integrate a 1.425 megawatt Tesla® Megapack battery energy storage system into the Hampton Substation.

Total project cost is near \$3.5 million, which includes the battery pack, engineering, site preparation and labor. The stored power from the battery will allow Corn Belt Power to avoid purchasing up to 1.425 megawatts of power during peak use times for up to six hours. This will help shave cost for both Corn Belt Power and its member-cooperatives.

Once the battery's energy is depleted, it will recharge during off-peak times in preparation for its next discharge.

For more photos of the event, visit Corn Belt Power's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CornBeltPower ■



Kuyper speaks on battery storage

Above | Ken Kuyper, executive vice president and general manager, Corn Belt Power, thanks member-cooperatives June 27 at the REA Museum in Hampton for coming together to make the new battery storage system possible.

Corn Belt Power Cooperative Watts Watt

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