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Manage your account like never before with the new, improved SmartHub web application. A simplified yet enhanced design is coming your way soon. This new version of SmartHub puts your usage and payment details front and center for fast, easy access and the simplified menu structure makes navigating the site a breeze.

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Reliable power for today – and for tomorrow

by Jared Echternach, president and CEO

Times have changed. Reliability is an afterthought to many in the United States. We pay the bill and the lights come on when we flip the switch. Honestly, many of us don't think much further than that. As consumers, we haven't needed to. As utility planners, it's imperative. Reliability has been so good for so long that we sometimes take for granted the monumental amount of work, planning, coordination and investment that makes up this engineering wonder called the electric grid. But recent headlines have begun to shed light (pun intended) on what is becoming a more fractured network of generation resources, and the importance of baseload generation and a robust transmission system required to keep the lights on. Recent headlines are a grim reminder that we can't take our eye off the ball, even for a moment, when it comes to safety and the reliability of our nation's electric grid.

Your team at BEC is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize innovative technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important, and it's becoming more challenging. We're committed to powering – and empowering – our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

So how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape, legislative mandates, and our members' evolving needs?

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on in the communities we serve. You may not realize it, but with the exception of our community solar array, BEC doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase it from our wholesale energy provider, Minnkota Power Cooperative, and from there, we distribute it to our members.

We're increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, but we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power that's available to our members whenever they need it. Our current energy resource mix is made up of 56% coal, 34% wind, 8% hydro and 2% from other sources.

To help keep the lights on in a carbon-managed world, Minnkota Power Cooperative is exploring a carbon capture

and sequestration project called Project Tundra. Project Tundra would capture 4 million tons of



CO₂ annually and allow our generation and transmission cooperative to continue to provide baseload electricity – so important to maintain a reliable electric grid.

In addition to managing a reliable energy mix, we're using technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions and improve outage response times.

Advanced metering technology, also known as AMI, enables two-way communication between the co-op and consumers. In the event of a power outage, AMI can help our crews respond to outages and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. AMI helps BEC save money with near realtime data and ultimately improves power reliability for our members.

Your cooperative maintains more than 3,500 miles of line, of which 75% is underground, and we're a leader in the state.

For the remaining 900 miles of overhead line, we implement a proactive vegetation management program to increase safety and reduce service disruptions. Overgrown trees and brush can be conductors of electricity, and a good vegetation management program can reduce outages caused by falling trees and limbs, as well as avoid safety hazards for our crews and the general public. We can't prevent bad weather, but we can reduce outages caused by falling limbs and trees.

As we focus on 2024, BEC will continue working to provide the safe, reliable and affordable electricity you expect and deserve – for today and tomorrow.



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS Beltrami Electric Cooperative's board conducted its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024. A quorum of directors was in attendance.

The following reports were given at the meeting:

- President and CEO Echternach and the board discussed recent safety successes and observations.
- NRECA President Tony Anderson presented an update on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the Cooperative Family Fund.
- President and CEO Echternach made his monthly report, including a recap of 2023, legislative priorities and issues affecting the cooperative and meetings attended.
- Arlene Hogquist presented December's preliminary financial report.
- Mike Birkeland and Bob Gregg reviewed the annual net metering and cogeneration report and associated filings.
- President and CEO Echternach presented the succession plan.
- Directors and President and CEO Echternach discussed upcoming meetings and events.

The following actions were taken at the meeting:

- · Approved the consent agenda.
- · Approved the annual net metering and

cogeneration report, associated filings and rates.

- Appointed all eight directors as the Minnkota Power and Square Butte annual meeting voting delegates.
- Approved director and President and CEO expenses.

The next board meeting will be held Wednesday, March 27, 2024.

Voices for **GRID RELIABILITY**

America's electric grid is beginning to face significant reliability risks. As more baseload and dispatchable power plants are retired without adequate replacement, the margin for error is becoming razor thin.

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Beltrami Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider, maintains a diverse resource mix that includes coal, wind and hydro power that contribute to a reliable grid. However, the Minnkota system is connected with other utilities across the central United States – from North Dakota and Minnesota down through Louisiana. Challenges in other parts of the country can contribute to reliability issues in our region.

Regulators, policymakers, utilities and others are voicing their concerns about transitioning too quickly toward intermittent resources – like wind and solar – without retaining the stability provided by coal, nuclear and natural gas power plants. Here's what some of the major entities responsible for reliability are saying.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)



We are heading for potentially very dire consequences, potentially catastrophic consequences in the United States in terms of the reliability of our grid." – MARK CHRISTIE, FERC COMMISSIONER, AT A HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE, ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON JUNE 13, 2023.

North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)



... one of the important things that these plants provide is the ability for the grid to maintain voltage and maintain frequency and to resist disturbances. Other resources can't do that nearly as well as large spinning mass generation. And that's why the loss of coal plants and natural gas plants and nuclear plants is so concerning from a grid reliability perspective." – JIM ROBB, NERC PRESIDENT AND CEO, AT A SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES HEARING ON JUNE 1, 2023.

Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)



The recent acceleration in the pace of fleet change is increasing risks to system reliability for MISO. Dispatchable generators that we need to ensure reliability are being removed from the system before new resources with the needed reliability attributes are being brought online." – TODD RAMEY, MISO SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF MARKETS AND DIGITAL STRATEGY, AT A HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY, CLIMATE AND GRID SECURITY HEARING ON SEPT. 28, 2023.

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MNPUC)



A major reliability event will set us backwards. The public will absolutely revolt." – JOE SULLIVAN, VICE CHAIRMAN OF MNPUC, AT A CONFERENCE HOSTED BY THE MINNESOTA SOLAR ENERGY INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION, ON OCT. 9, 2023 (COURTESY MINNPOST).

Minnkota Power Cooperative (MPC)



Despite all the regulatory uncertainty, our board and staff have committed to the view that we are going to live in a carbon-managed world and we'll need to develop technologies and strategies to help us navigate this challenge. We want to be part of the solution, but there needs to be an understanding that America's electric grid can't be completely transformed overnight." – MAC MCLENNAN, MINNKOTA PRESIDENT AND CEO, IN AN OCT. 9, 2023, ARTICLE ON PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RULES.

HOW DOES CARBON CAPTURE WORK?

You've likely heard about Project Tundra, a carbon capture and storage initiative being pursued by our wholesale power supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative, and its partners. If successful, this technology would capture approximately 4 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) every year and store it safely and permanently underground – creating a more sustainable power mix for Beltrami Electric.

So how does the "capture" portion of this process work? It's quite simple...

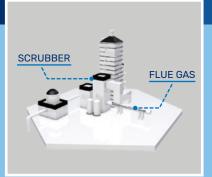




WATCH THE CAPTURE PROCESS

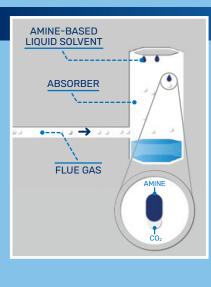


LEARN MORE About project Tundra



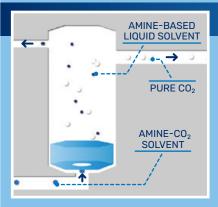
STEP 1

Flue gas from the coal-based power plant is diverted to a scrubber, which cools the gas and removes impurities.



STEP 2

The gas is sent to an absorber unit where the CO₂ capture takes place. As the gas rises through the unit, it comes in contact with an amine-based liquid solvent. The amine bonds with the CO₂ and removes it from the flue gas.



STEP 3

After the amine solvent has absorbed the CO₂, it is sent to a regeneration unit. There, heat is used to break down the CO₂ bonds with the solvent, releasing pure CO₂.



STEP 4

Finally, the CO₂ is sent to a compressor where it is prepared for deep geologic storage.

ASK THE EXPERT!

CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE CHARGES ON MY ELECTRIC BILL? (PART 1 OF 3)



Leslie Huot Member Service Representative

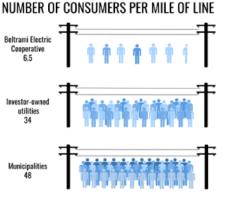
Yes! Simply put, your bill is split into two parts: fixed cost and variable cost. Details about the fixed charge are covered this month and the variable cost will be explained next month.

The monthly Access Charge is a fixed cost and is there to provide access to reliable electric service. It is designed to cover expenses like power lines, transformers, poles, meters, rightof-way clearing, and maintaining and improving the distribution

system for safe and reliable service. It also supports fleet and equipment used to restore your power, facility, administrative responsibilities, and having staff available 24/7 to get your power back on during outages. These costs exist whether or not any

electricity is being used.

Fixed charges vary by utility and are based on density (number of miles of line compared to consumers). Investorowned and municipal utilities in cities and metro areas (like Otter Tail Power Co. or Xcel Energy) have fewer miles of line to maintain and



more consumers to share the fixed costs. Electric co-ops that serve rural areas have more miles of line and fewer consumers to share those fixed costs.

As a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative, BEC only charges what we must to recover the cost of providing the safe and reliable electricity that our members have come to expect. See our April Northern Lights to learn more about the variable costs on your bill.

If you have additional questions contact our office at **218-444-2540** or email **info@beltramielectric.com**.



BELTRAMI ELECTRIC

Indoor Garage Sale

United Way of Bemidji Area



Saturday, May 4, 2024

Booth reservations for vendors will be open on **Wednesday**, **April 3, 2024**, and will be accepted until all booths have been filled.

If interested, come into our office at 4111 Technology Dr. NW in Bemidji and sign up, or contact Cammie at **218-444-3675** or **cvogel@beltramielectric.com**.

Operation Round Up®



application deadline

Do you know of a nonprofit organization in our service territory that would benefit from a grant from Operation Round Up®? Community organizations and nonprofit groups may apply for an Operation Round Up grant by completing and returning an application form. For more details and a fillable application, visit our website at www. beltramielectric.com/operation-roundup.

Grant applications must be received by **FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024**.

Classifieds

Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the first of the month prior to publication of the next issue.
- o Ads submitted by March 8 will be published in the April issue.
- o Ads submitted between March 9 and April 10 will be published in the May issue.
- Ads may be submitted via our website at www beltramielectric.com/submitad (preferred).
- NO real estate, rental, personal or commercial ads will be accepted.
- All ads must be 50 words or less and typed or printed clearly.
- Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.
- Members may only submit one for sale and one wanted or free ad per issue.
- Ads are published at no charge as space permits on a firstreceived, first-printed basis, with no guarantee your ad will appear.
- Ads are only allowed to be repeated for three consecutive months and must be resubmitted each month.
- Include name and Beltrami Electric account number on all submissions.

For Sale:

2018 Jayco Greyhawk Prestige Motorhome, 32' w/2 slides, like new, 7,000 miles, double fridge, 3 TVs, and many extras, below book, \$89,900. 970-901-2605.

NIB Browning BAR Grade II Safari w/ BOSS .30-06 \$1,500. Benelli R1 .30-06 \$1,000. 218-368-2424. Remington .243 Winchester rifle and scope. Two boxes shells included. \$400. 218-987-2107.

2006 Yamaha VX110 Deluxe 3-person Wave Runner. 4-cylinder 4-stroke engine with reverse. Has about 265 hours on it. Comes with a cover and a ShoreLand'r trailer. Selling to upgrade. Asking \$4,700. 218-820-4234.

Dehumidifier (Home label) is new, \$125; heat tapes, at least 400 ft, \$100; grill guard of 2010 Ram 2500, \$100; Exam table delivery table complete, \$150; antique wall mount fire hose with Glassdoor and brass nozzle. \$200. 218-209-1863.

Two pair of tire chains for 15" or 16" tires. Also, extra cross-links and repair links. \$50/pair. Call 218-760-8266.

Polaris Crew premium roof liner – new in box. Designed to fit 2022-2023 Ranger Crew SP 570 models. \$250. 218-556-0805.

One Guardian Signature rolling walker with basket, like new \$130. One Guardian Envoy 480 rolling walker used but in great shape no basket, \$100. Also, 2 Drive Deluxe two-button folding walkers with 5" wheels, great condition. \$25. Each. 218-556-8698.

Two chocolate brown Flex Steel sofas and matching chair. Sofas and chairs are in excellent condition and recline with power buttons located on the sides. Requires electrical outlets. Purchased as a set for \$4,000, asking \$1,000 per sofa, \$500 for chair, or \$2,000 for set. Tokai upright black walnut piano. Asking \$100. 218-759-9339.

Super clean 2022 Cub Cadet XT1 42" deck 19.5 hp lawn tractor. Under 20 hours of use, showroom condition, stored inside. Paid \$2,200, will sell for \$1,500. Call or text 218-766-8404.

Hay bales, alfalfa grass mix, 4x5, 1st crop. 218-407-2052.

Stihl MS250 chainsaw, used for 1 year. Hard pull. For a young guy. \$250. 218-224-2769.

Wanted:

We have approx. 40 puzzles, varying sizes 500, 1,000, 2,000 pcs. Looking for an avid puzzler willing to swap. Please call 218-556-9350.

OEM Nintendo 64 controller. Polaris 14" take-off wheels. 218-368-2424.

Looking for golf magazines from the 1980's and 1990's. Call 218-214-0836. 308 rifle, prefer Winchester or Henry; 243 bolt action rifle, prefer Winchester

or Henry. 218-209-1863. Looking for a spent roller broom core that you were going to discard. Something

that would get attached to a skid steer. Call or text Matt at 218-368-0737.

Do you have an old chair that needs to be recaned? Call Nate at 218-407-0168.

Will sew memory bear or pillow for loved ones. 218-766-6510.

Fusion Crew Dome toy made by Fisher Price/ Mattel in 2005. 218-556-3245.

Corn Cob elevator, about 32-ft – in good to fair condition. Contact Duane at 320-290-9488.

Free:

Good electric organ. 218-751-7792.

We are looking for you!

Beltrami Electric Cooperative is looking for Franz Plattner, DBA Lakeside Storage (Walker, Minn.). Please call 218-444-2540 if you have any information.

NOTICE TO CONGENERATORS



In compliance with Beltrami Electric Cooperative adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, Beltrami Electric Cooperative is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers who satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. Beltrami Electric

Cooperative is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rate and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility.

Any dispute over interconnections, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Beltrami Electric Cooperative board. Interested members should contact **Beltrami Electric Cooperative**, **4111 Technology Dr. NW, P.O. Box 488, Bemidji, MN 56601**, or call **218-444-2540**.

NEED HELP PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

Energy assistance may be available!

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) helps pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs for incomequalified households. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid. (Eligibility is based on energy costs, household size and the most recent month of income.)



BI-CAP IN BEMIDJI 6603 Bemidji Ave N Bemidji, MN 56601 218-751-4631

BI-CAP IN WALKER 8245 Industrial Park Rd NW Walker, MN 56484 218-547-3438

KOOTASCA

201 4th Street NW, Suite 130 Grand Rapids, MN 55744 218-999-0824

LEECH LAKE

115 6th St Cass Lake, MN 56633 218-335-3783

MAHUBE-OTWA

120 North Central Ave Park Rapids, MN 56470 218-732-7204

RED LAKE 15809 High School Dr Red Lake, MN 56671 218-679-3350



Visit **energy-assistance. web.commerce.state. mn.us** for EAP income guidelines and program information.

OR APPLY ONLINE

6

Co-op Connections® Program

Participating local business discounts/offers



A Stitch in Time \$5 off any sewing or vacuum service 200 Paul Bunyan Dr S, Suite #2, Bemidji sewbemidji.com

Beltrami County Historical Society

\$1.00 off adult admission, up to 4 adults (single visit only, not valid with other offers) 130 Minnesota Ave SW, Bemidji beltramihistory.org

Bemidji Communications 20% off labor

211 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji emcom.con

Bemidji Sports Centre 5% off apparel (hats, jackets, soft lines) 1826 Anne St NW, Bemidji bemidjisportscentre.con

Bemidji Woolen Mills 10% off total purchase 301 Irvine Ave NW, Bemidji bemidiiwoolenmills.co

Big Apple Bagels-Bemidji 10% off regularly priced menu items 1710 Paul Bunyan Dr NW, Bemidji bigapplebagels.com/bemidjimn

Buena Vista Ski Area (Seasonal) 10% off regular price ski lift ticket (excludes Friday nights) 19600 Irvine Ave NW, Bemidji byskiarea.com

Compass Rose 10% off regular priced items (not valid with other discounts or on sale items) 108 3rd St NW, Bemidji compass-rose.cor

Country Kitchen of Bemidji 10% off ticket 728 Paul Bunyan Dr NW, Bemidji countrykitchenrestaurants.com

Darrell's Auto Glass 10% off complete windshield replacement 2035 Adams Ave NW, Bemidji darrellsautoglass.com

Garden Grill & Pub Free side order of fries with order 111 Central Ave SE, Bemidji thegardenbemidii.com

Headwaters Realty Services No real estate transaction fees (\$350 value) Free consultation and home staging tips 802 Paul Bunyan Dr S #15, Bemidji headwatersrealtymn.com

Headwaters Science Center Receive 1 free child admission with the purchase of 1 adult admission. 413 Beltrami Ave NW, Bemidji hscbemidii.org

Hill's Country Greenhouse (Seasonal) 10% off regular price purchase (Excludes special orders and gift certificates) 49274 US 71, Bemidji hillscountrygreenhouse.com

Image Photography and Framing 10% off in-studio portrait sessions for family or high school seniors, Free duplicate DVD of any video tape transfer (limit 10) 1305 Bémidji Ave N, Bemidji imagebji.com

Jackson Hewitt Tax Service 30% off tax preparation new customers (Code: ZCJQJ) 1008 Paul Bunyan Dr NW #3, Bemidii iacksonhewitt.com

Keith's Pizza, Inc. \$2.00 off any large or extra large pizza. (Not valid with other discounts, offers or unbaked pizzas) South: 110 Paul Bunyan Dr S, Bemidji North: 1425 Paul Bunyan Dr NW, Bemidji

Ken K. Thompson Jewelry 20% discount on all regular price jewelry (not valid on repairs or prior layaways) 1080 Paul Bunyan Dr NW, Bemidji kenkthompsonjewelry.com

Lakes Area Powersports Additional 10% off in-stock parts, accessories & clothing 8322 State 371 NW. Walker lakesareapowersports.com

NEW! LePier Shoreline & Outdoors 10% off marine product purchase & trailers 307 Convenience Lane SW, Bemidji shoreline.com

> **McKenzie Place** 10% off regular price merchandise (Excludes consignment vendors. See store for details) 802 Paul Bunyan Dr S, Bemidji

Midnight Sun Pools n' Spas 10% off chemicals 3411 Hannah Ave NW, Bemidji mnspas.com

MJB Home Center Free hoses or cords with purchase of new washer, dryer or range 418 Beltrami Ave NW, Bemidji mibhomecenter.com

Mommykins Creations 5% off total purchase 23654 398th St, Laporte mommykinscreations.com

Netzer's Floral 10% off plants or fresh flowers 2401 Hannah Ave NW, Bemidji bemidjifloral.net

Northern Event Rentals

10% discount on any table or chair rental 3859 Cornflower Ct SE, Bemidji northerneventrentals.com

Northwest Tire

\$5 off oil change, \$20 off brake service, \$25 off 4-tire purchase 402 Paul Bunyan Dr SE, Bemidji nwtire.con

Orton's Station Stores: Bemidji Orton's, Cass Lake Orton's, Walker Orton's, Walker Y-Mart 5¢ off per gallon of gasoline ortonoilco.com

Papa Murphy's \$3 off any pizza, any size (not valid with other offers) 512 Paul Bunyan Dr NW, Bemidji papamurphysbemidji.com

Pete's Place South 5¢ off per gallon of gasoline 179 Convenience Ln SW, Bemidji

Red Lake Fish Houses (Seasonal) 10% off Tuesdays and Wednesdays 35241 Hwy 72 NE, Northome redlakefishhouses.com

Royal Shooks Motel 10% Discount Tuesdays and Wednesdays 35241 Hwy 72 NE, Northome

SND Appliances 2% off purchase 3481 Laurel Dr NW, Bemidji bemidjisnd.com

Snap Fitness of Bemidji 15% off regular price membership 3835 Supreme Ct NW, Suite 1, Bemidji snapfitness.com/us/gyms/bemidji-mn/

Stittsworth Meats 5% off total order 722 Paul Bunyan Dr NW, Bemidji worthmeats.con

Timberline Sports 'n' Convenience Save 10% on select gun accessories with purchase of a firearm 209 Summit Ave W, Blackduck

Go Beyond the Card



Hotels, Car Rentals, Sports & Concerts, Amusement Parks, **Prescriptions, and More!**



Visit: connections.coop to view local and national deals or download the free Co-op Connections mobile app!

Offers subject to change.

Undated: 2/13/24



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	Monday – Friday					
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	1-800-955-6083					

Website:www.beltramielectric.comEmail:info@beltramielectric.com

MN STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit www. dli.mn.org for more information. Inspectors can be reached weekday mornings between 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

BELTRAMI COUNTY:

Wade Koons | 218-255-3011 wade@koonsinspections.com

CASS & HUBBARD COUNTIES: Tony Kohrs | 218-616-1554 kohrsinspection@paulbunyan.net

GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

1-800-252-1166 or 811 www.gopherstateonecall.org

Anyone who plans to dig is



required by law to notify the state of their intentions at least 48 hours in advance. All digging requires the 48-hour notification so that buried telephone line, television cable, pipelines, utility electric lines, municipal water and sewer lines can be located to ensure that none will be severed or damaged.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To provide excellent value to our members through the safe delivery of reliable electric service, excellent member service and innovative energy solutions at fair and reasonable prices.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Connecting Communities. Powering Life.



LEARN, EARN, AND SHARE, IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

JOIN US FOR A FREE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY EXPO!

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024 OPEN HOUSE 4 - 6 P.M. (INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION 5-5:30 P.M.)

BELTRAMI ELECTRIC'S COMMUNITY ROOM

} LEARN ⁾⁻ EARN

SHARE

FIND OUT MORE

How the Inflation Reduction Act tax credits and rebates can help you with home energy efficiency and electrification measures.

Incentives by participating in your power provider's rebates and programs. Visit with the energy experts from Beltrami Electric Cooperative and Otter Tail Power Company to learn how to capitalize on these available funds and lower your bill.

And learn from homeowners who've "been there, done that" with energy-efficiency improvements that have improved their homes.

> About heat pump technologies from the experts and how they can save you money and improve your home's comfort.





Citizens' Climate Lobby

