

NORTHERN

L I G H T S

September 2024

ELECTRIFY YOUR RIDE:

*Experience the Latest
in EV Technology*

Curious about the electric vehicle (EV) revolution? There's no better way to understand the surge in EV popularity than by experiencing it for yourself. Whether you're a seasoned enthusiast or just EV-curious, this event offers a hands-on opportunity to explore the latest in electric vehicle technology.



Plus Ride & Drive!



Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024 | Starting at 4 p.m.

Experience the EV difference

The event kicks off at 4 p.m., where you'll have the chance to get up close and personal with a variety of EVs, from cutting-edge models like the Ford F-150 Lightning and Mustang Mach-E to the ever-popular Tesla lineup and more. Want to feel the power and smooth ride of an EV? Take one out for a test drive or hop on an e-bike for a quick spin to see why so many are making the switch to electric.



Electrifying Education: Get a first look at Red Lake School's new electric school bus!

At 5 p.m., don't miss a special presentation by Red Lake School District showcasing one of their new Blue Bird electric school buses. This is a real-world example of how our communities are embracing sustainable solutions.



Ride & Drive Opportunities



- Ford F-150 Lightning
- Chevy Bolt
- Polaris Ranger Kinetic
- Tesla Model 3

Connect with EV experts

Representatives from Beltrami Electric Cooperative and Otter Tail Power will be on hand to share insights into the latest charging technologies and the various programs available to make charging at home both convenient and cost-effective. Discover how you can save with off-peak rates, rebates and tax credits, making EV ownership even more attractive. With cookies and refreshments on hand, this event is as enjoyable as it is informative. Plus, the first 75 attendees will receive a free T-shirt! Whether you're there to see the EVs, learn from experts or simply enjoy the atmosphere, this event promises something for everyone. So, mark your calendar and join us for our EV Car Show/Ride & Drive Event!





The difference between baseload and intermittent power and why it matters

by Jared Echternach, president and CEO

Managing high electricity demand on hot days

On those unbearably hot days, many of us crank up the air conditioning as soon as we get home. This creates a large increase in electricity demand, especially in the late afternoon when everyone is trying to cool down at the same time. The power grid operators are responsible for making sure there's enough electricity to keep everything running smoothly, which can be a tough job since energy needs change throughout the day. While you and your neighbors are asleep, the demand is lower, but as everyone wakes up, turns on the shower and starts the coffeemaker, the demand for power climbs quickly.

How the power grid works

The electricity that powers our homes comes from a mix of different sources, like coal, natural gas, nuclear plants and renewable energy such as wind and solar. These sources are divided into three main categories: baseload, peaking and intermittent power. Baseload power comes from sources that are always running, providing a steady supply of electricity. Examples include nuclear and fossil-fuel plants, along with some hydroelectric and geothermal facilities, which are reliable but not quick to adjust to sudden increases in demand.

Handling sudden spikes in electricity use

When there's a sudden spike in electricity use – like when everyone turns on their air conditioners at the same time – grid operators rely on peaking power plants. These plants are designed to start up quickly and adapt their output to meet the varying demand. While renewable energy sources like solar and wind

are increasingly used to supply electricity, they depend on the weather. If it's cloudy or the wind isn't blowing, these sources can't always provide a steady supply of power.

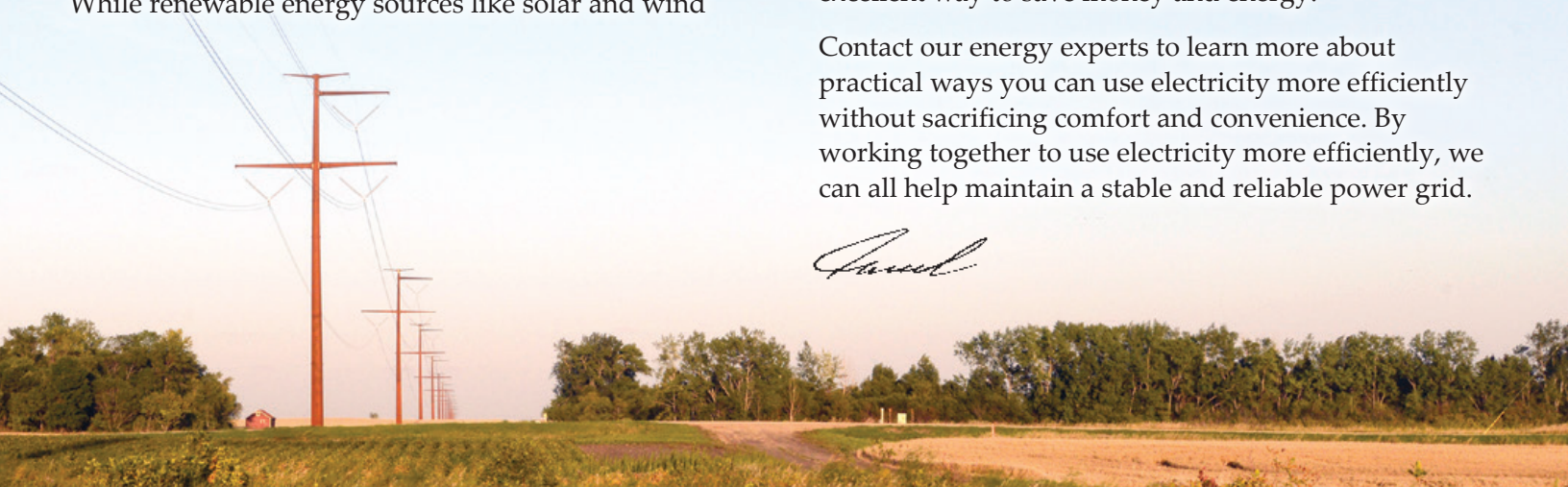
The role of renewable energy and storage

Although renewable energy is becoming more common, we still need traditional baseload power sources to ensure a reliable electricity supply. One promising solution is energy storage, like batteries, which can store excess power generated by wind and solar for use when it's needed. While this technology is advancing, it's still evolving, and large-scale use of such batteries is many years away. Nationally, if co-ops and other electric utilities switched completely to intermittent sources, they wouldn't be able to meet consumers' needs for reliable power.

How you can help

While electric co-ops and grid operators are working hard to incorporate intermittent, renewable energy, the realities of differing power needs are why most electric utilities maintain a diverse mix of energy sources and fuels. Co-op members can help by taking steps to use energy more efficiently. For example, switching to energy-efficient appliances will not only reduce your monthly electric bill, but it can reduce the amount of electricity that's needed. In addition, how you use various appliances can impact your electric bill. For example, spreading your use of major appliances to operate at different times, rather than running them all at the same time can reduce demand placed on the system. Our load management programs are also an excellent way to save money and energy.

Contact our energy experts to learn more about practical ways you can use electricity more efficiently without sacrificing comfort and convenience. By working together to use electricity more efficiently, we can all help maintain a stable and reliable power grid.



84TH ANNUAL MEETING / NIGHT AT THE FAIR RECAP



Beltrami Electric Cooperative held its 84th annual meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024, at the Beltrami County Fairgrounds. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation and national anthem, offered by board member Sharon Lembke. Board Chair John Lund welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the cooperative's board of directors. The meeting agenda included a financial update from Director of Finance and Corporate Services Arlene Hogquist, as well as a cooperative update from President and CEO Jared Echternach. Kay Mack, board president of the Beltrami Electric Cooperative Trust for Operation Round Up[®], presented on the success of the program in our local communities. Beltrami Electric's Youth Tour delegate for 2024, Hunter Wright, spoke about his experience in Washington, D.C.

Despite the rain showers, more than 1,700 members and guests attended Beltrami Electric's Night at the Fair. Many fairgoers enjoyed the free concert in the grandstand,

featuring Figuring It Out, the Abello family acoustics band.

Director election results

The director election results were as follows: In District 3, candidate Kevin Geerdes received 1,438 votes, and candidate Sarah Hokuf received 971 votes. Incumbent District 6 director John Lund ran unopposed and received 2,460 votes. In District 9, candidate Don Evans received 1,134 votes and incumbent director Sharon Lembke received 1,252 votes.



In addition, the 2023 annual meeting minutes were approved by a majority vote of the members. Next year's meeting is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 6, 2025.



Congratulations to BEC member Sue McLaurie on winning the registration slip drawing for a Milwaukee tool kit. We'd like to thank Acme Tools for donating this amazing prize, a \$719 value!



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Beltrami Electric board of directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, July 31, 2024. A quorum of directors was in attendance.

The following reports were given at the meeting:

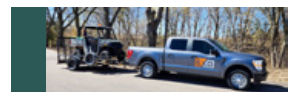
- President and CEO Echternach presented his monthly report, including a market update, June financials, annual meeting, second floor leases, facilities updates and Grid Resiliency grants.
- President and CEO Echternach presented the June financial report.
- President and CEO Echternach presented the cooperative's Balanced Performance Scorecard.
- Mike Birkeland and Angela Lyseng updated the board on the upcoming annual meeting.
- Youth tour delegate Hunter Wright spoke about his recent trip to Washington, D.C.
- Mike Birkeland and Angela Lyseng presented a rate communications strategy.
- Directors and the President and CEO shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative and discussed upcoming meetings, educational classes and conferences.

The following actions were taken at the meeting:

- Approved the consent agenda.
- Approved director and President and CEO expenses.

The next board meeting will be held Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024.

POLE INSPECTIONS THIS FALL



Beginning in September, Beltrami Electric's contractor, EXO, will conduct utility pole testing in the following townships: Alaska (East & West), Nebish, Taylor, Leech Lake, Steamboat River, Shingobee-North and unorganized T143N R30W. EXO has their pickups marked with their logo and will be utilizing a UTV to travel from pole to pole. This inspection involves the crews digging around each pole to inspect the pole's condition. This allows us to identify poles that need to be replaced and is part of our ongoing efforts to maintain a safe and reliable distribution system. If you have questions or concerns, please contact our office at 1-800-955-6083.

MY TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C. Hunter Wright

I was honored to be awarded the Beltrami Electric Cooperative Youth Tour 2024 Delegate spot and to represent Minnesota on this trip. I was the second student from Laporte Community School District to be selected since this program started. We left on June 18, 2024, and returned on Sunday, June 23, 2024. I met teens from other cooperatives in Minnesota and teens from across the United States.

My favorite part of the trip was when we visited the Holocaust Museum. One of the pictures I would like to share is of a collection of photos spanning two stories of the museum as you walked through the second story of the museum and down to the main floor. The images and objects displayed told the story of the victims of the Holocaust and the museum showcased preserved objects and historical pieces including an actual railroad car, clothes belonging to a soldier from the Axis Powers and the Remembrance Hall.

We also visited the Smithsonian Museums. There was so much to see in each of the buildings that we were not able to see everything, and our time flew by quickly. Some of my favorite exhibits and items included: a signed paper from Public Enemy featured in the African History Museum alongside memorable musicians and producers including Prince and the Ink Spots, too. There was also a Neanderthal with an iPhone 6 in the Museum of Natural History. The Hope Diamond (the biggest known cut diamond to exist) was also amazing to see in the Gemstones Exhibit.

Lastly, it was interesting to see how each of the political parties was able to interact with each other for the betterment of the U.S. The politicians who met with us included Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, along with our delegate group, to share their perspectives on both rural and regional affairs.



THANK YOU AGAIN FOR SUPPORTING ME AND AFFORDING ME THIS AMAZING OPPORTUNITY.

EMPLOYEE UPDATES



CONGRATULATIONS, KEN NORENBURG!

We would like to congratulate Lead Custodian Ken Norenberg on his retirement. Ken retired on Aug. 30, after more than 19 years with Beltrami Electric Cooperative. Ken started his career with Beltrami Electric in January 2005 and has kept our facility clean and running smoothly. Ken lives in Bemidji with his wife, Carmen. In retirement, Ken is looking forward to working on projects around his home, spending more time with family and friends, and hopes to take more time for fishing. Thank you, Ken, for your dedicated service to our employees and cooperative members. We wish you a happy retirement!



WELCOME JEREMY STAY

Jeremy Stay recently joined Beltrami Electric as facilities lead. Jeremy has a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Industrial Technology from Bemidji State University. His previous work experience includes Sanford Health in Bemidji, Minnesota, and Potlatch/Ainsworth. Jeremy lives in Bemidji with his wife, Lisa, and children, Jessa, Emma and Grant. He enjoys fishing, hunting and golfing, as well as spending time at the baseball fields or the hockey rink. Welcome, Jeremy!

BEC'S 2024 ENERGY RESOURCE TOUR

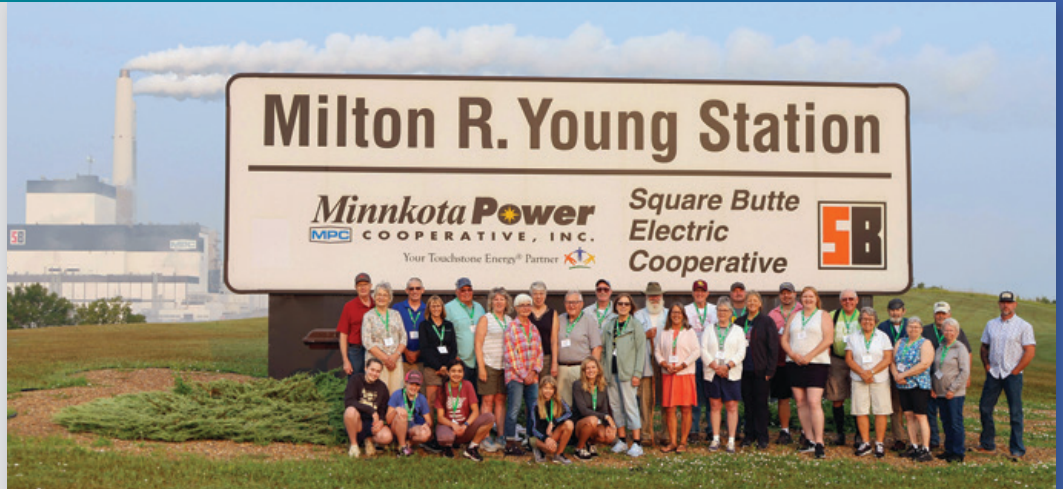
A Journey Behind the Power

From July 23-25, Beltrami Electric Cooperative (BEC) hosted a three-day Energy Resources Tour, providing members with an inside look at where their electricity comes from. Led by BEC employees Angela Lyseng and Trevor Gwiazdon, the tour was both educational and engaging. The tour included the following steps:

- **Minnkota Power Cooperative's headquarters** - Members learned about the history and mission of Minnkota.
- **Oliver III Wind Energy Center** - Members received an overview of wind resources, which contribute to BEC's 34% wind capacity.
- **Milton R. Young Station** - A key source of baseload power for Minnkota and its members, followed by a tour of BNI Coal's nearby lignite coal mine.
- **Garrison Dam** - Members learned about the dam's history and got a close-up view of the hydroelectric power generation process.

The tour was a great success, offering valuable insights into the effort behind reliable electricity. BEC looks forward to hosting another tour next July!

Members got an up-close look at the bucket of the Liberty dragline, which is used to strip the overburden from land in the mining process.



2024 FALL COLORS FESTIVAL



SATURDAY-SUNDAY, SEPT. 21-22, 11 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

- Family fun
- Food and crafts for sale
- Wagon rides with Go & Whoa Club
- Music
- Sat: Figuring it Out, 12-3 p.m.
- Sun: Muffy Dickinson
- Children's activities
- Historical painting display
- Blacksmithing, woodcarving & spinning demonstrations
- Much more!

Age 13 & over - \$10
Age 5-12 - \$5
Under 5 - FREE!

Located 12 miles north of Bemidji on County Road 15

bvskiaarea.com
218-243-2231



Minnkota Power Cooperative transmission line inspections scheduled for fall

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Beltrami Electric's wholesale power provider, will be inspecting transmission line structures that cross your property twice during the fall of 2024.

1. Vegetation management inspection will be in preparation for vegetation maintenance activities in 2025. This inspection will allow Minnkota to evaluate vegetation growth around electrical infrastructure and within the right of way. Davey Resource Group will be assisting Minnkota personnel in the patrols.
2. Pole inspections/testing are completed to properly evaluate our transmission system to plan for upcoming project work. EXO will be conducting the testing on the poles.

All inspections are done using ATV/UTVs. Minimum land disturbance is anticipated. The purpose of these inspections is to ensure that electricity can be delivered safely and reliably to your area, as well as prioritize project work. If you have questions, please visit Minnkota.com or call 701-795-4000.



Classifieds

Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the following dates:
 - **OCTOBER ISSUE:** Submit by September 4.
 - **NOVEMBER ISSUE:** Submit between September 5 and October 4.
- Ads may be submitted via our website at www.beltramelectric.com. (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 first-received, 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:

Boat: 2023 Lund Fury, 14.5 feet with 25 hp Mercury 4-stroke. Live well, console, cover and trailer. Only three hours on the water. \$16,500. Ph. 218-368-9320.

Concrete mixer, \$70; Kohler self-propelled trimmer XT-7, \$70; many sprayers: 1 gallon, 3 gallon, one for back of 4-wheeler, one on wheels; wood doors: 30x76 (1), 24 x 71½ (3), 24 x 71½. With glass middle, \$50 each; Honda trimmer 4sx35, \$50; extension ladder 24 ft \$70. Text 218-209-8230.

Older impact wrenches, \$20 for all; 3 sm. battery chargers 12 volt, \$30 for all; Dremel-many pieces, \$20; 1 gas battery charger, \$70; ice auger Eskimo 6" \$40; JD 630, \$10,000 or reasonable offer. Many used and new 16-inch chainsaw chains: used for \$2 each, new for \$7 each. Many other items. Text 218-209-1863.

5' x 5' double casement window, new-never installed, beige, aluminum clad, Kolbe & Kolbe, 4-9/16" wood jams, \$250. 218-766-8813.

1999 29' Jayco 5th wheel camper with both hitches. New roof, new tires, slide out, awning, AC, gas/electric fridge, oak cabinets, queen bed, clean and in excellent condition. \$8,000/obo. 14" Reichert roping saddle w/ breast collar \$650. Call or text evenings. 218-766-6638.

West Elm queen platform bed - two one-drawer bedside tables, \$150. West Elm double platform bed - single one-drawer bedside table, \$100. Three 40" x 18" x 10" raised (30") cedar planters, \$15 each. Yamaha Clavinova CL-P130 with bench and manual, \$600. Two 30" brass Stiffel table lamps w/shades, \$100. 218-760-5071.

2018 Jayco Greyhawk Prestige Motorhome. Only 15K miles, like new, below book at \$83,500. 970-901-2605.

Ice fishing gear: Vexilar fish/depth finder, Strikemaster power auger, hand auger, 2 fish house heaters, poles, reels, tip-ups, misc. lures and other gear. \$300. Havahart live trap, 7" x 7" x 30", perfect for squirrels, woodchucks, etc. \$25. 14-foot steel towing chain, excellent condition. \$25. 218-368-9320.

Beautiful, indoor free-standing electric fireplace mantel in oak with heater 42L x 14.5W x 42H, great condition: \$150; interior sliding barn door, white. 26"W x 85"L, complete with hardware kit. Brand new. \$250. Call 218-759-9534.

Older 12-foot Alumacraft boat, oars included. Camo color. Available on weekends for viewing. \$100 cash. 218-821-1758.

1973 Ford F-100 pickup truck. Running when parked but been sitting a couple of years. A little rust but overall good. \$700. 218 760-4302.

Traps for sale: 4-8" conibear, 3-5" conibear. 4 legholds, 1 tool. \$45. Call Mike at 218-444-4767.

For sale: Chain-link outdoor dog kennel. 10x10x6 feet. \$60. 218-556-5085.

1973 Ford F100 XLT, not running, nice front clip and trim, \$13,000. 1978 Ford F150, running, many new parts, \$5,000. Call Larry 218-368-4923.

2004 Chrysler Concorde, 3.5 engine, new resistor for fan motor, heat will cook you out on a cold day, not an oil-eater, 167-k, clean title - have in hand - asking \$1,600/obo or will trade for a pickup truck 4x4 of equal value or a suburban. NO JUNK! 218-444-9422.

14' Lund boat w/9.9 hp Honda motor, tilt trailer, boat cover, fish finder & oars \$1,500. 1950 Johnson outboard needs work \$50. Yamaha electric acoustic guitar w/ case and tuner, \$160. Local: Call 574-286-9807.

Weatherby MarkV synthetic with stainless 300 Weatherby mag, 2x7 Burris Scope, with ammo. \$1,300. 218-766-4210.

Microwave oven 0.7 cu ft \$25, picnic table \$65, Browning compound bow, hard case, arrows, and lots of accessories, \$255. 352-270-0998.

Grey New Vision aluminum topper, 58" x 58". Like new. Purchased new in 2003 for Nissan Frontier for \$509. Removed from pickup and stored indoors from 2004 to present. Sale price \$250. 218-443-6326.

Used Mathews Outback left-hand compound bow. Wrist loop release. 24 brand new carbon arrows, 11 used carbon arrows. Fixed broadheads with extra blades. 12 field points. Hard carry case. \$1,400 new, \$450/obo. Call or text 218-766-6376.

Mixed firewood, high % ash. Cut, split, seasoned. \$75 standard pickup load. You haul. Kelliher area. Phone 320-557-8080.

Crossbow, Excalibur 330, scope, arrows, large foam target, extra strings. 651-491-1466.

Hay for sale. Small square bales, \$2.50/bale. 218-224-2523.

Compact Centry Tractor 2004 with PTO, works well, \$6,000. Hawk line 5ft brush cutter, \$2,500. Please contact Lisa at 218-835-7484.

Propane refrigerators: 15 and 19 cu.ft.; double stack commercial convection oven; couch; Queen/double headboard and bed frame. Call for more info/pics. 218-556-9440.

2007 EZ-GO TXT golf cart. Gas engine, 2 seats, always garaged, \$2,500/obo. Located in Turtle River area. 763-360-6971.

Compound hunting bow, Impact or Darton Maverick, quiver, arrows, \$70. Hard side bow case, \$35. Ethafoam target, \$15. Tree stand, \$40. Dehydrator (new), \$20. Totes, \$3. Backpacks, \$5. Set of 30 duck decoys with weights, mesh storage bag, men's tan and camo gear, duck call, \$90. 218-586-2884.

ShoreStation vertical boat lift. 3600# capacity. New AeroPilates 5-cord Performer delivers a total body workout to meet fitness goals without trip to gym, best offer. Soda Stream bottles and 48+oz. flavors \$45. 320-583-0471.

2003 Honda Accord, 209,000 miles, \$1,500/obo. 218-766-8813, dependable.

Browning over/under 12 ga., fitted Browning hard case with choke tubes and wrench, \$2,400 new, will sell for \$1,800. S&W model 58 41mag with dies, ammo, brass, rare, \$1,300. Call Vince 218-255-4101.

1973 Jeep CJ5. 6 cyl., 3 spd, one owner, original bill of sale, owners and shop manual, no rust, rag top, 100K miles, \$10,000 cash. 218-854-7444. No calls after 8 p.m.

Harley Road King 1996, 24,000 miles, fuel injection, lots of extras \$8,600. 1937 Jaguar Kit car VW motor \$4,000.

Wanted:

Help needed cutting dead trees for firewood. Must have own chainsaw and truck. 218-751-7693.

Looking for a dump truckload of well-rotted sheep manure or cow manure for garden application. 218-343-9521.

Boat trailer, bunk style preferred for 16 / 17' Lund Alaskan. 218-556-9440.

Retired teacher will care for your pets. Your house or mine while you're gone. Call or text 218-766-6510.

John Deere 318 garden tractor. Call Dave 218-586-2599, leave message.

Looking for a mountain bike, text Luke at 218-556-0553.

Free:

Mac 10 chain saw for parts; antique clinical exam table; antique 12 lead EKG machine. Text 218-209-1863.

3-ring binders, black baseball caps: med, lg. - never worn. Hunting clothes (camo, tan, white, red, blaze orange). Small jars (4-6-oz) for storing buttons, screws, freezer jam. 218-586-2884.

BY THE NUMBERS | Q2 2024

Beltrami Electric Cooperative's leadership spends substantial time managing and providing oversight of the co-op's operations, including ensuring that the organization remains in a strong and stable financial condition. Below is an overview of our Second Quarter Unaudited Financial Report.



	2024	2023
Cost of Purchased Power	\$21,955,545	\$22,131,147
Other Operating Expenses	\$9,419,976	\$8,758,745
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$31,375,521	\$30,889,892



kWh SOLD
294,429,579
2023 Comparison: 311,063,965

TOTAL MARGINS
\$444,056
2023 Comparison: \$1,558,047

	2024	2023
Operating Margins	\$373,877	\$1,850,678
Non-Operating Margins	\$70,179	\$(292,631)

22,295
MEMBER SERVICES
BILLED
2023 Comparison: 22,120

AVERAGE kWh used by residential members
1,216
PER MONTH
2023 Comparison: 1,340

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, please visit our website at beltramelectric.com/operation-roundup



Grant applications must be received by **FRIDAY, SEPT. 20.**

Happy LABOR DAY

Beltrami Electric offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 2, for Labor Day

In case of outages, call toll-free 1-800-955-6083

COLD WEATHER DISCONNECT RULE

216B.097 COLD WEATHER RULE; COOPERATIVE OR MUNICIPAL UTILITY

Subd. 1. Application; notice to residential customer.

(a) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a residential customer during the period between October 1 and April 30 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. A municipal utility or cooperative electric association utility may (i) verify income on forms it provides or (ii) obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the customer receives any form of public assistance, including energy assistance, that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income.

(2) A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.

(3) A customer receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

(b) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must, between August 15 and October 1 each year, notify all residential customers of the provisions of this section.

Subd. 2. Notice to residential customer facing disconnection.

(a) Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the period between October 1 and April 30, a municipal utility or cooperative electric association must provide the following information to a customer:

- (1) a notice of proposed disconnection;
- (2) a statement explaining the customer's rights and responsibilities;
- (3) a list of local energy assistance providers;
- (4) forms on which to declare inability to pay; and
- (5) a statement explaining available time payment plans and other opportunities to secure continued utility service.

(b) At the same time that notice is given under paragraph (a), the utility must also give written or electronic notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider and the department.

Subd. 3. Restrictions if disconnection necessary.

(a) If a residential customer must be involuntarily disconnected remotely using advanced metering infrastructure or physically at the property being disconnected between October 1 and April 30 for failure to comply with subdivision 1, the

disconnection must not occur:

(1) on a Friday, unless the customer declines to enter into a payment agreement offered that day in person or via personal contact by telephone by a municipal utility or cooperative electric association;

(2) on a weekend, holiday, or the day before a holiday;

(3) when utility offices are closed; or

(4) after the close of business on a day when disconnection is permitted, unless a field representative of a municipal utility or cooperative electric association who is authorized to enter into a payment agreement, accept payment, and continue service, offers a payment agreement to the customer.

Further, the disconnection must not occur until at least 30 days after the notice required in subdivision 2 has been mailed to the customer or 15 days after the notice has been personally delivered to the customer.

(b) The customer must not be disconnected until the utility attempts to confirm whether the residential unit is actually occupied, which the utility may accomplish by:

(1) visiting the residential unit; or

(2) examining energy usage data obtained through advanced metering infrastructure to determine whether there is energy usage over at least a 24-hour period that indicates occupancy.

(c) A utility may not disconnect a residential customer who is in compliance with section 216B.098, subdivision 5.

(d) If, prior to disconnection, a customer appeals a notice of involuntary disconnection, as provided by the utility's established appeal procedure, the utility must not disconnect until the appeal is resolved.

(e) For the purposes of this section, "advanced metering infrastructure" means an integrated system of smart meters, communication networks, and data management systems that enables two-way communication between a utility and its customers.

Subd. 4. Application to service limiters.

For the purposes of this section, "disconnection" includes a service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts electric service in any way.

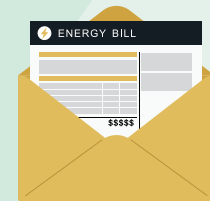
Subd. 5. Cost recovery.

A municipal utility or cooperative electric association may recover the reasonable costs of disconnecting and reconnecting a residential customer, based on the costs of providing notice to the customer and other entities and whether the process was accomplished physically at the property being disconnected or reconnected or remotely using advanced metering infrastructure.

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 income-qualified 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

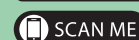
MAHUBE-OTWA
120 North Central Ave
Park Rapids, MN 56470
218-847-1385

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



OR APPLY ONLINE

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



NORTHERN

L I G H T S

SEPT 2024 | VOL. 71 | NO. 9

Northern Lights (USPS 016488)

Published monthly by Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc., 4111 Technology Drive NW, Bemidji, Minnesota 56601-5128. Subscription rate is \$5. Periodicals postage paid at Bemidji, MN 56601.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc., P.O. Box 488, Bemidji, Minnesota 56619-0488.

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President and CEO Jared Echternach

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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. Inspectors can be reached weekday mornings between 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Find service territories for electrical inspectors here: <https://workplace.doli.state.mn.us/jurisdiction/>

BELTRAMI & HUBBARD COUNTIES:

Wade Koons | 218-580-8589
wade.koons@state.mn.us

CASS & HUBBARD COUNTIES:

Tony Kohrs | 218-616-1554
tony.kohrs@state.mn.us

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 a 48-hour notification so that buried telephone lines, TV cable, pipelines, and utility electric 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.



Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Connecting Communities.
Powering Life.

ASK THE EXPERT!



WHAT IS DEMAND AND HOW WILL IT AFFECT MY BILL?



Bob Gregg
Business Development Manager

Starting this month, you'll see a new line on your bill labeled "demand." Right now, there's no charge, but this line is there to help you understand how much demand your home is creating. While our commercial members have been familiar with demand charges for years, it's important for residential members to understand demand and related costs due to changes in the electrical grid.

You might have heard me talk about the "demand response program" and the importance of off-peak load management. But what exactly is "demand" when it comes to electricity?

Simply put, demand is like a speedometer. Get in the driver's seat of your car for a moment. Energy (kWh) would be what is recorded on your car's odometer – a measurement of total miles. Demand (kW) is like your speedometer – measuring the speed at which the energy flows. The demand reading is like the highest recorded "miles-per-hour" speed for that month.



Think of the electrical grid like a freeway. It has to be built to accommodate the largest amount of traffic it could see at one time even if there is only a few cars using it most of the time. During "high-traffic" or high demand times, energy is more expensive. By spreading out your electricity use throughout the day and evenings, you can help the cooperative save on high-demand charges. That savings is passed onto members and ensures a more reliable and balanced grid for everyone.