

Where Coffee Meets Compassion

The Door wins Touchstone Energy® Community Award

Blending Community Support and Life-Changing Services

Restoring more than a home

Beltrami Electric Cooperative has announced The Door as the 2024 Touchstone Energy® Community Award recipient for its remarkable dedication to uplifting the Laporte community. "The Door demonstrates a strong commitment to community that we at Beltrami Electric value highly," said Angela Lyseng, communications specialist.

Located in a beautifully restored 1906 home – one of Laporte's oldest residences – The Door serves as both a welcoming coffee shop and an emergency shelter for those in need. Founded by Joyce and Kevin Day, the space represents a vision of hope where coffee and compassion converge to transform lives.

Coffee with a purpose

What sets The Door apart is its unique dual mission.

While patrons enjoy their coffee, every purchase helps fund essential services for the homeless. With room

Joyce Day, owner of The Door, accepts the 2024 Touchstone Energy® Community Award.

to house up to seven individuals at a time, The Door provides temporary housing, meals, clothing and resources aimed at fostering stability and self-sufficiency.

Guests are welcomed into a warm and inviting atmosphere, where the aroma of freshly brewed coffee is matched by the hum of conversation and connection. "Every cup of coffee enjoyed here

contributes to rebuilding lives," said Joyce Day.



(continued on page 5)



Balancing electricity supply and demand

by Jared Echternach, president and CEO

Electricity is essential for nearly every aspect of daily life – so essential that we rarely think about how it's produced and delivered to our homes. You might be surprised to learn that behind the scenes, a network of experts is working daily (and even by the minute) to anticipate how much electricity you need before you even use it.

We're all connected to the electric grid, so ensuring the right amount of electricity for all involves a complex process of forecasting energy demand, planning for capacity and securing enough supply to meet Americans' needs.

Powerful sources

First, electricity must be generated at a power plant using either traditional sources, such as coal, natural gas or nuclear energy, or from renewable sources, such as solar, wind or hydropower.

At Beltrami Electric Cooperative, we work closely with Minnkota Power Cooperative, our local wholesale power provider, to secure enough electricity for our communities, using a diverse mix of energy sources to generate the power we deliver to your home or business. By maintaining a diverse energy mix – coal, wind and hydropower – Beltrami Electric has options to ensure reliable power at a competitive cost.

On a larger scale, across the country, electricity supply and demand are managed through a market that includes long-term planning agreements, where electricity is bought and sold just like other common goods and services. Because Beltrami Electric works with our wholesale power partner, which is also a cooperative, we are able to pool resources and expertise to deliver affordable power to our local communities.

Electricity supply changes throughout the day because demand fluctuates based on

consumers' needs. For example, Beltrami Electric knows that we need to ensure more electricity in the mornings when you're starting your day, and in the evenings when you're cooking dinner, running appliances and watching TV. Demand also increases when weather patterns change, such as extremely warm or cold temperatures.

Managing supply and demand across the grid

Across the country, other electric utilities are managing the same task of balancing supply and demand, which is why we have a larger network of key players in place to ensure enough power is delivered across the grid.

A Balancing Act: ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Behind the scenes, a network of people and facilities work together to ensure you have electricity when you flip the switch.



Electricity is generated at a power plant, then sent across the grid to homes, schools and businesses.

The amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to where it's needed are typically coordinated and monitored by regional grid operators that essentially act as energy traffic managers.





As electricity demand varies throughout the day, grid operators, power plant operators and electric utilities work to forecast, plan and purchase enough electricity for everyone.

Ensuring communities have the exact amount of electricity they need is a challenging task, but behind the scenes, a network of industry experts make it happen every day.

Factors that Impact Electricity Supply and Demand



- Supply and Dema
 Supply Chain
- Fuel Costs
- Federal and State Regulations

In most cases, the amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to specific areas are coordinated and monitored by regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs). In other areas, individual electric utilities perform these tasks.

RTOs, ISOs and electric utilities act as air traffic controllers for the electric grid. They forecast when you, your neighbors and communities across a large region will need more power. These organizations take measured steps to ensure there's enough supply to meet demand.

Looking ahead

As the energy sector undergoes rapid change, it's important for all consumers to understand the basics of electricity supply and demand.

Electricity use in the U.S. is expected to rise to record highs this year and next. At the same time, energy policies are pushing the early retirement of always-available generation sources, which will undoubtedly compromise reliable electricity.

Beltrami Electric remains committed to providing affordable, reliable energy to the members we serve. That's why we are preparing now for increased demand and other challenges that could compromise our local electric supply.

For decades, your cooperative and the other Minnkota members have managed demand through our load management program. This program has provided low rates for participating members and more efficiently utilizes generation, transmission and distribution resources. If you participate in your cooperative's load management programs, thank you! Your participation helps all cooperative members by managing our peak demand.

Managing the balancing act of electricity supply and demand is a complex job, which is why we have a network of utilities, power plant operators and energy traffic managers in place to direct the electricity we need and keep the electric grid balanced.

Congratulations, Glenn

I'd like to take a moment to recognize and congratulate Beltrami Electric Cooperative line foreman Glenn Grundmeier. Glenn retires this month after 38 years of service to your cooperative. Glenn served our members faithfully for nearly four decades and he did so safely and diligently. Thank you, Glenn, for keeping the lights on and for the excellent service to our members all these years. We

wish you a safe and healthy retirement!



2025 RATE FORECAST

MANAGING MEMBER RESOURCES

We've worked hard to keep rates steady. Our last indicated that we will need to implement a rate change to maintain reliability and financial stability going forward.

PROVIDING VALUE TO MEMBERS

members we serve, we only change rates when necessary to keep our service reliable, pay our loans, and stay financially stable.

WHOLESALE POWER COSTS

Minnkota Power Cooperative has announced that they will have a rate increase in 2025, their first since 2017. Approximately 70% of our costs are tied to purchasing wholesale power.

RISING COSTS

Inflation, increased interest rates, rising wholesale power prices, and a changing electric grid mean more revenue is needed to maintain the safety and equipment we use to build and maintain our system have increased from 35-140% since 2018.

ADAPTING TO GRID CHANGE

BEC pays more for power when members use a lot of electricity at the same time (electrical demand) and when there is a tight supply of power generation. As demand for electricity goes up, so does our cost for wholesale power. To better match what members pay with what it costs for wholesale power during peak use conditions, a demand charge (currently at \$0.00 on electric bills) will be

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RATES, VISIT WWW.BELTRAMIELECTRIC.COM/RATES.

2025 BEC SCHOLARSHIPS

This year, Beltrami Electric Cooperative is offering seven \$1,000 high school scholarships and one \$1,000 at-large scholarship to graduating high school seniors. Students must be graduating in 2025, and their parent/guardian must be a current BEC member.

Scholarships are made available from unclaimed capital credits. After a period of seven years, Minnesota law allows cooperatives to use unclaimed capital credits for charitable purposes.

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Students attending one of the following schools may apply: Kelliher, Blackduck, Red Lake, Bemidji, Cass Lake, Laporte and Walker-Hackensack-Akeley. Scholarships are administered by each school, so students should contact their school's designated guidance office or scholarship committee for applications and deadlines.

AT-LARGE SCHOLARSHIP

The at-large scholarship is for a student not attending one of the seven schools listed under the high school scholarship program. The at-large scholarship application deadline is **Apr. 1, 2025**.

BEC will be offering \$1,000 in scholarship money

Visit www.beltramielectric.com/scholarships for more information.

2025 NRECA YOUTH TOUR Scheduled for June 16-21, 2025



Beltrami Electric Cooperative holds a contest each year to select one local high school junior to attend the NRECA Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The 2025 Youth Tour is scheduled for June 16-21, 2025.

The trip to Washington, D.C., is an all-expenses-paid trip to see our nation's capital. The winner will travel with approximately 40 other Minnesota teens and join 1,400 students from across the nation during the Youth Tour. Participants will learn about cooperatives, visit with legislators at the Capitol, see the national monuments and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Learn more about this opportunity, including how to apply at www.beltramielectric.com/youth-tour.

Application deadline is Monday, Feb. 3, 2025.

Congratulations, Glenn Grundmeier!

Glenn Grundmeier retired on Jan. 3, 2025, after 38 years with Beltrami Electric Cooperative. Starting as an apprentice lineman in May 1986, Glenn served at the Blackduck office until its closure in 2009, when he was promoted to line foreman. His dedication and leadership have left a lasting impact on the cooperative and its members. As he moves into retirement, we want to say a heartfelt thank you for all the hard work, late nights and years of service. Glenn, we wish you nothing but happiness and relaxation in this next chapter – you've more than earned it!



Where Coffee Meets Compassion



Expanding impact – a new chapter

The Door's journey doesn't stop there. Recently, the organization acquired Laporte's old town hall across the street, setting the stage for further expansion. The planned renovations will create separate spaces for families and individuals, enhancing privacy and safety. The basement, with its own entrance, will serve as an activity center for local youth – a place to nurture community

Recognition and support The Touchstone Energy[®]

connections and growth.

Community Award comes with a \$1,000 donation and an engraved plaque. The Door's nomination will now advance to the statewide Minnesota Touchstone Energy[®] Community Award competition, where the winning organization will receive an additional \$2,000 to continue their impactful work.

Transforming lives, one step at a time

The Door's success is measured in the lives it has touched. From individuals overcoming homelessness to securing employment and stability, its mission is a testament to the power of community. "The stories we witness inspire us to keep growing and finding new ways to address the housing shortage," said Kevin Day.

The Door isn't just a place to grab coffee – it's a movement of hope and transformation, one cup at

a time.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Beltrami Electric Cooperative board of directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, Nov. 27, 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.
- MREA President and CEO Darrick Moe gave an update on the Minnesota Rural Electric Association.
- President and CEO Echternach made his monthly report, including Cooperative Network, Red Lake business activity fee, an NRECA town hall meeting, employee updates, solar, net metering, large loads and Lakeland Currents.
- · Arlene Hogquist presented the October financial report.
- President and CEO Echternach and the Management Team presented the 2025 Preliminary Budget.

- Mike Birkeland presented the 2025 Preliminary Marketing and Communications Plan.
- President and CEO Echternach presented a rate analysis and scenarios.
- Directors and President and CEO Echternach discussed upcoming meetings and education conferences.

The following actions were taken at the meeting:

- · Approved the consent agenda.
- Approved to discontinue membership in Cooperative Network.
- · Approved scholarships paid out of unclaimed capital credits.



- · Approved a year-end employee bonus.
- Approved holding February's board meeting on Feb. 28, 2025.
- Approved holding April's board meeting on April 23, 2025.
- Approved holding July's board meeting on July 23, 2025.
- Appointed Charlie Perkins as the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) voting delegate, Sharon Lembke as the first alternate and Kevin Geerdes as the second alternate.
- Appointed Murl Nord as the CRC annual meeting voting delegate and John Lund as the alternate.
- · Approved the director and president and CEO expenses.
- The next board meeting will be held Friday, Jan. 31, 2025.

Classifieds

Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the following dates:
 FEBRUARY ISSUE: Submit by January 3.
- o MARCH ISSUE: Submit between January 4 and February 3.
- Ads may be submitted via our website at www beltramielectric. 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:

1998 Serco 7000 loader. Center mount includes all hoses, good loader, \$5,000. Call 218-766-0320 or 218-243-2730.

Trius 1-step clay pigeon launcher, \$50; Havahart live trap \$15; heavy-duty 17 ft. towing chain, \$15. 218-368-9320.

Firewood, seasoned oak, split, 20-22" pieces. 10 cords – ready to go. \$275/cord/ obo. 218-368-6522.

Cut and split firewood. Soft wood, \$50 per standard pickup load. You haul. 218-586-2839

All new items: Red wool coat, size 10 \$215/\$60; black wool coat S \$220/\$60; Pfaltzgraff winterberry 12-piece setting \$420/\$160; Coach boots size 8 \$267/\$125; Frye boots size 8 5 \$198/\$80; Emu winter boots size 8 \$199/\$90; Earth Origin shoes sizes 7.5 and 8 \$130/\$60 each. Call 218-368-4973, leave message.

Black 2021 Toyota Tacoma TRD Offroad, V6. 35,800 miles. New tires. 218-751-4929.

Passenger side view mirror for 2008-2013 Ford Super Duty, used but like new, power heated, no directional \$25. Call Mike 218-444-4767, land line no text.

Beautiful handmade hardwood cribbage boards. \$40. 218-586-2544.

Set of used Bridgestone tires, \$40, off Honda CRV w/25K miles. 235/65/17. 218-835-7484.

Double snowmobile trailer, \$1,500. Please call 218-556-8155.

Cabbage Patch Dolls: Vintage highly sought-after redhead, "Hilda Jeanetta" 1985, signed by Xavier. Vintage blue-eyed curly brown hair, dimples and freckles, "Ryan Gerard," smiling showing off his two front teeth. Also, very old (over 100 years) irons. Call 218-536-0102, leave message, can send pictures.

1978 Ford F-150, runs and drives, \$2,500. 1957 Chevy pickup, big back window, and short box, needs restoration, \$5,500. Call 218-368-4923.

Aeropilates 5-cord Reformer with Rebounder. Includes 4 DVDs. Low impact, total body fitness for stronger muscles, increased flexibility, cardiovascular fitness, and better mobility at any fitness level. Foldable and portable, boxed and never used. Make offer. Snow roof rake with extensions, \$40. 320-583-0471.

Estate items: Clean quality bedding-sheets (Full and Queen), pillowcases, blankets, rugs. Electronics: SV2000 DVD/CD player w/video cassette recorder; Seiko quality international display clock; FinePix A500 digital camera; Magellan Trailblazer locator (GPS); Duraband boom box/AM/FM/CD stereo w/cassette recorder. 218-586-2884. Electric fireplace heater, \$20. 218-760-3298.

Sawdust (Screened) and wood shavings in 3, 4, and 36-cubic-foot containers. Refundable deposit on containers. 10% discount for 4-H groups. Can custom cut logs, and have rough-cut lumber (oak, ash, pine, poplar and birch). Also, live edge materials. Call 218-751-7146 or 218-686-6448.

Gone With the Wind lamp. \$50. 218-444-2827.

Large cattle feeder ring. Heavy duty. Call 218-759-4734 Mike. Get it before the big snowstorms hit. \$275. 218-759-4734.

Men's motorcycle jacket, size 46, with zip-out liner. \$100 firm. 218-547-0151. If no answer, leave message.

Wanted:

I would be glad to take houseplants that are no longer wanted or needed or that need a little care. 218-556-4505.

Free:

EX-55 Elliptical – good condition, works well. 218-243-7202.

3-ring binders. Sunglasses. 218-586-2884.



Beltrami Electric Cooperative will be closed on

Monday, Jan. 20, 2025

for an all-employee meeting.

JANUARY READER'S CONTEST (NEW!)

For your chance to be entered in a drawing to **win a \$10 credit** on your bill, correctly answer the questions and include with your payment or mail to: BEC, P.O. Box 488, Bemidji, MN 56619. Or email answers to **info@beltramielectric.com** with the subject line "Reader's Contest." Be sure to include your name and BEC account number. **Entries must be received by Jan. 25**.

1.	The recipient of the 2025 Touchstor is from Laporte, Minr	6 , , ,	
2.	Beltrami Electric is offering graduating in 2025.		Ň
3.	The Bemidji Community Arena has first in the state of Minnesota.	a, one of the	i L
Mem	ber Name:	BEC Account Number:	н.
			5

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

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.

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BUSINESS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT BEMIDJI COMMUNITY ARENA

The Bemidji Community Arena has become more than just a place to lace up skates – it's now a buzzing hub for all kinds of community activities. With its blend of traditional ice sports, creative uses and a focus on keeping everyone involved, this rink is a perfect example of how one space can bring people together.

A place for everyone

Sure, hockey is a big deal here, but there's way more to do than skate. The arena hosts everything from ice skating shows and curling tournaments to fitness classes like Silver Sneakers. When the ice is out, the fun doesn't stop wrestling practice, golf training sessions, baseball practice and even tradeshows have utilized the facility. It's also a favorite spot for birthday parties, church meetings and community get-togethers. Whatever the event, the arena has become a place where people of all ages feel welcome.

Behind-the-scenes magic

Keeping an ice rink running isn't just about turning on the lights and sharpening some skates. The team behind the scenes works hard to keep the ice perfect and the facility running smoothly. Recently, new management has made things even better with streamlined systems like easier invoicing and improved organization. The arena also



Isaiah Bitter, arena manager, runs an electric Zamboni, one of the first in the state to maintain the ice in the Sanford Power Rink.



features a gym run by Sanford, where athletes train and recover, showing just how versatile the space is.

Keeping the lights on

Running such a big facility takes a lot of money, and that's where creative thinking comes in. The arena relies heavily on donations and sponsorships, with big supporters like Sanford and First National Bank chipping in. Fundraisers like banner ads and sponsorship programs help keep things going strong. By staying smart about finances – like adjusting rental fees and preparing for utility rate changes – the team ensures the rink stays open and affordable for everyone.

A home for hockey – and more

Of course, hockey is a big draw. The arena is home to the Bemidji High School Lumberjacks, as well as youth programs that give kids a chance to hit the ice. With its ties to local history and the charm of neighboring rinks like Nymore, the arena isn't just a sports venue – it's part of the community's story.

www.bemidjicommunityarena.com

Eyes on the future

There's no slowing down for this rink. Plans are in the works to bring in more non-traditional events, handle rising costs, and make even more upgrades to the facility. The team is dedicated to keeping the arena a welcoming, affordable and exciting place for everyone.

The local ice arena isn't just about ice; it's about connection, community and creativity. With its mix of activities, smart planning and big dreams, it's clear this rink is more than just a building – it's a place where the community comes together to have fun, stay active and make memories.





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President and	CEOJared Echternach
Editor	Angela Lyseng
Office Hours:	8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
	Monday – Friday
Telephone:	218-444-2540 or
	1-800-955-6083
Website:	www.beltramielectric.com
Email:	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. 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.





Connecting Communities. Powering Life.

SAVE MONEY AND ENERGY IN 2025 WITH RESIDENTIAL ENERGY REBATES!

Get ready to electrify your life in 2025 with Beltrami Electric Cooperative! Start the year off right by taking advantage of our exciting rebate programs designed to help you save money. Whether it's part of your New Year's resolutions or a step toward energy efficiency, we've got you covered. Visit **www.beltramielectric.com** for rebate applications and details!

SAMPLE 2025 ELECTRIC REBATES FOR MEMBERS

EQUIPMENT	REBATES
THERMOSTATS * <i>Maximum rebate up to 50% of purchase price</i> Programmable thermostat Smart thermostat	\$25 \$50
ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING EQUIPMENT * Charging equipment must be connected to the load management program to qualify for rebates. Maximums may apply on EV charging rebates Light-duty (charger for sedans, SUVs, <3/4-ton vehicles) Medium-duty (charger for 1- to 2-ton trucks, vans, buses, etc.) Heavy-duty (charger for >2-ton trucks, vans, buses, etc.)	\$100 per kW \$100 per kW \$100 per kW
ELECTRIC HEATING EQUIPMENT Air-source heat pump or mini-split heat pump* Ground-source heat pump * The following must be connected to the load management program to qualify for rebates: Plenum heater Baseboard heater/cove heater Forced-air furnace Hanging/wall unit heater Radiant underfloor heat Electric boiler Brick storage room unit or furnace/boiler Slab storage - electric cable	RECEIVE UP TO: \$750 per ton \$650 per ton \$25 per kW \$75 per kW
 WATER HEATING EQUIPMENT * Water heaters must be connected to the load management program to qualify for rebates 55 gallons or less 56-99 gallons 100 gallons or greater • BONUS rebate of \$100 for new building construction • \$250 available for conversion from existing natural gas or propane to electric water heater 	\$250 \$500 \$800

Every install must be new equipment and provide proof of purchase. (A site verification may be required.) * Some rebates may have a maximum, so contact our office for details.

All incentives, criteria and guidelines for residential and business members can be found at **beltramielectric.com** or by calling **218-444-2540**. *All criteria are listed on the rebate form.*