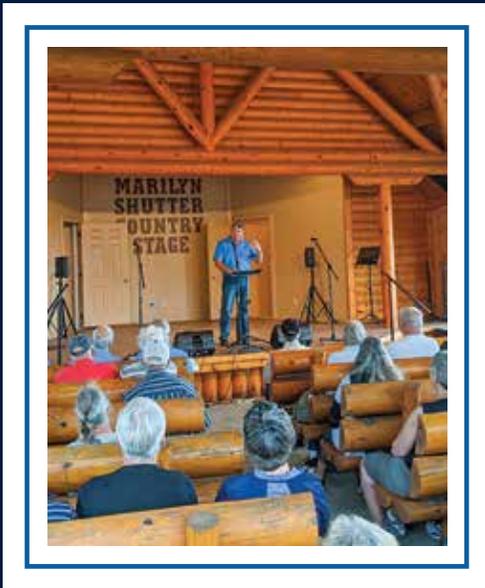


NORTHERN

L I G H T S September 2021

Beltrami Electric's Night at the Fair!



 **Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.**
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Northern Lights (USPS 016488), Vol. 68, No. 9

Northern Lights is published monthly by Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc., 4111 Technology Drive N.W., Bemidji, Minnesota 56601-5128. Subscription rate \$5. Periodicals postage paid at Bemidji, MN 56601.

Postmaster: Please send address corrections to Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc., P.O. Box 488, Bemidji, Minnesota 56619-0488.

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday – Friday

Member Service: 218-444-2540
or 1-800-955-6083

www.beltramielc.com

Board of Directors

Chair	John Lund, DISTRICT 7
Vice Chair	Sue Kringen, DISTRICT 8
Secretary	Murl Nord, DISTRICT 1 (<i>Square Butte Director</i>)
Treasurer	Vacant
Directors:	Charlie Perkins, DISTRICT 2; Michael Monsrud, DISTRICT 3; Craig Gaasvig, DISTRICT 4; Robert Wallner, DISTRICT 5; Rick Coe, DISTRICT 6 (<i>Minnkota Director</i>); Sharon Lembke, DISTRICT 9
President and CEO	Jared Echternach
Editor	Angela Lyseng

Minnesota State Electrical Inspectors

Beltrami County

Wade Koons

218-255-3011 - wade@kooninspections.com

Cass and Hubbard Counties

Anthony Kohrs

218-255-1046 - kohrsinspection@paulbunyan.net

These are the inspectors covering the area served by Beltrami Electric. They can be reached by phone Monday through Friday between 7 and 8:30 a.m. or by email as indicated.

Gopher State One Call 811
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 lines, television cables, pipelines, utility electrical lines, and municipal water and sewer lines can be located to ensure that none will be severed or damaged.

Mission of Beltrami Electric Co-op

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.



THE CEO'S REPORT

Unplug with meaningful community programs

by Jared Echternach, president and CEO

Most adults have a vague memory of a time when “checking for messages” meant listening to an answering machine. We carried on with our days without relying on cellphones and managed just fine. But today, we are more connected than ever through our smartphones and other devices.

Our phones are so much more now – from cameras to calendars to social media connections – and truly disconnecting from them can be tough. But it's even harder for our kids to unplug because they only know life with these tiny screens. It's difficult for them to imagine life without computers, gaming devices, tablets or cellphones.

But there's great value in unplugging for children and adults, even if it's for just a short time. For kids, time away from the screen to be outside with other children allows them to connect with nature and others in a way that a virtual experience simply does not allow. They can experience life in the moment and allow their creativity and energy to break free.

Fortunately, we have access to great community programs and organizations like 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs, Headwaters Science Center, shooting sports and athletics that provide children with a safe place to play, learn and grow, while cultivating new skills and interests.

These types of clubs and programs offer kids an opportunity to explore activities and interests outside of school academics. Children can investigate areas they might not otherwise have access to and discover new interests and passions. They often learn new skills and strengthen existing ones. It's no secret that the broader the range of experiences and activities children are exposed to, the more likely they are to find their own path and possibly a career. Community programs also foster important leadership development and public speaking skills. Through guided and informal play and activities,

children learn problem-solving and interpersonal skills that enable them to resolve conflicts peacefully and improve interpersonal relationships.

Adults can also find meaningful opportunities to spend time with the kids when we all unplug. From board games to craft projects to playing in the park, there are many ways we can unplug for some family fun.

While you and your children are disconnecting, take a moment to identify potential energy savings. Unplug electronics that are not in use to avoid “vampire” energy loss. This is the energy that is drained from technology and electronics even when they are not in use. For example, although it is turned off, your TV is waiting to receive a signal from the remote and your DVR is waiting to record the next show or perform an update.

Let's encourage youngsters to step away from the screens and join in – to play and be part of an organization that helps them connect with others and find meaningful interactions and explore new activities and interests.

When you do plug back in, Beltrami Electric Cooperative is here to help you save money and energy by connecting you with our energy saving programs and services. While we'd love to see you in person, we're also just a call or click away.

81st Annual Meeting

Beltrami Electric Cooperative held its 81st Annual Meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 11, at the Beltrami County Fairgrounds. This first-ever “Night at the Fair” featured the business meeting and fun events, including bucket truck rides, a high-voltage safety demonstration and more. We were blown away by the turnout at this year's annual meeting! We'd like to send a heartfelt thank you to our members who attended, and to the Beltrami County Ag Association for a great partnership and for allowing us to conduct our annual meeting at the fair.

Members approved last year's minutes and elected directors Michael Monsrud, John Lund and Sharon Lembke. Congratulations to Mike, John and Sharon. We look forward to seeing you next August at the 2nd Annual Night at the Fair!

Congratulations, Becky

BEC right-of-way agent Becky Trefz retired Aug. 13. I would like to thank Becky for her 16 years of excellent service to our

cooperative and to our members. Her skills as a right-of-way agent have helped our cooperative tremendously with our work plans, new services, service improvements and member communication. Congratulations, Becky, on a wonderful career and thank you for your service to our members. I wish you a long and healthy retirement!



Beltrami's 81st Annual Meeting recap

The annual meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation, offered by board treasurer Judy Honer. 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. Sharon Lembke, president for the Beltrami Electric Cooperative Trust board for Operation Round Up[®], presented on the success of the program in our local communities. The board recognized Judy Honer for her years of service as a director on the BEC board of directors.

Fairgoers were greeted by Touchstone Energy[®] mascots LED Lucy and Solar Sam, and many took advantage of a fun photo op. Many attendees enjoyed the opportunity to take a ride up in the bucket of a BEC line truck and got a lineworker's view of the fairgrounds. The live high-voltage safety demonstration drew a crowd as they witnessed voltage arcs and what could happen when contact is made with high-voltage power lines and equipment.

The election results were as follows: In District 3, candidate Michael Monsrud received 1,094 votes and incumbent director Charles (Charlie) Parson received 766 votes. Incumbent District 6 director John Lund ran unopposed and received 1,729 votes. In District 9, candidate Sharon Lembke ran unopposed and received 1,724 votes. In addition, the 2020 annual meeting minutes were approved by majority vote of the members. Next year's meeting is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 10, 2022.



District 3
Michael Monsrud



District 7
John Lund



District 9
Sharon Lembke

BELTRAMI ELECTRIC EMPLOYEE NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT, BECKY!

We would like to congratulate right-of-way agent Becky Trefz on her retirement. Becky retired on Aug. 13, 2021, after more than 16 years at Beltrami Electric. Becky is looking forward to spending time with family and friends in retirement. Thank you, Becky, for your dedicated service to the cooperative and our members. We wish you the very best for a long, happy, and healthy retirement!



WELCOME NEW HIRE HEATHER WINSKOWSKI!

Beltrami Electric Cooperative welcomes Heather Winskowski to our member services team as a member services representative. Heather previously worked in customer service for Delta Dental. She enjoys hunting, fishing and flower gardening. Heather and her daughter, Addeline, live in Pennington. Welcome, Heather!



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Beltrami Electric Cooperative's board of directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, July 28, 2021. A quorum of directors was present.

The following reports were given:

- Chair Lund presented a Memorial Resolution for former director, Adrian DeVries, who died July 24, 2021.
- Chair Lund presented a Resolution of Appreciation recognizing Judy Honer for her years of service as a director of the Beltrami Electric Cooperative board of directors.
- President and CEO Echternach gave his monthly report, including financial analysis discussion, employee updates, legislative issues affecting the cooperative and the CFC board meeting.
- Sam Mason gave an update on solar interconnections.
- Sam Mason and Angela Lyseng updated the board on the upcoming annual meeting.
- Arlene Hogquist gave the June financial report and presented the second quarter balanced performance scorecard.

- President and CEO Echternach presented the Agreed Upon Procedures report, a new administrative procedure and policy revisions.
- Chair Lund appointed the NRECA and Federated voting delegates.
- President and CEO Echternach and directors shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative and discussed upcoming meetings and educational conferences.

The following actions were taken:

- Approved the consent agenda.
- Adopted Resolutions as presented.
- Accepted Agreed Upon Procedures and administrative procedures reports.
- Approved policy revisions as presented.
- Approved the President/CEO and director expense reports.

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021.



Operation Round Up® Grant Application Deadline Sept. 24, 2021

To be considered at the October 2021 meeting, grant applications must be received by **FRIDAY, SEPT. 24, 2021**. Note: The next application deadline will be March 2022. Community organizations and nonprofit groups may apply for an Operation Round Up® grant by completing and returning an application form. Grant applications and requirements are available at the BEC office or by visiting our website at www.beltramielectric.com.



Beltrami Electric Cooperative's
office will be closed

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6,
in observance of the Labor Day
holiday.

*In case of an outage,
please call 1-800-955-6083.*

4 SAFETY TIPS

TEEN DRIVERS NEED TO KNOW



1 THAT TEXT CAN WAIT

When texting while driving, the shortest amount of time a person takes his or her eyes off the road is five seconds. At 55 mph, that is like driving the length of a football field with your eyes closed.

2 DON'T GET OUT

If you are in a car accident involving a power line or padmount transformer ("green box"), stay inside the vehicle and call 9-1-1. Unless the car is on fire or giving off smoke, do not get out. If there is a fire, make a solid jump from the vehicle without touching it and hop with your feet together as far away as you can.

3 RESPECT WORK ZONES

One work zone crash occurs every 5.4 minutes. Remind teen drivers to consider anyone doing their job in or near the road as someone they know and love. Encourage them to move over and slow down for workers.

4 DON'T DRIVE DISTRACTED

Texting is not the only form of distracted driving. Driving and doing anything else is multitasking. Eight deaths occur EVERY DAY due to drivers who drive distracted.

Learn more: SafeElectricity.org

Statement of Operations Year-to-date: June 2021

	June 2020	June 2021
Operating Revenue.....	\$29,599,425	\$ 29,498,074
Cost of Purchased Power.....	\$19,584,378	\$ 19,272,694
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 7,765,065	\$ 8,097,143
Total Cost.....	\$27,349,443	\$ 27,369,837
Operating Margin	\$ 2,249,982	\$ 2,128,237
Other Margins	\$ (120,440)	\$ 204,012
Total Margins.....	\$ 2,129,542	\$ 2,332,249
kWh Sold	263,097,292	258,355,682
Average Meters Billed	21,416	21,664

Cooperative members enlightened by the power plant tour



BEC's 2021 Energy Resources Tour was held July 20-22. Angela Lyseng and Janice Renner hosted a group of co-op members on a bus trip out to North Dakota to learn about where the energy they rely on every day comes from and what it takes to be able to deliver reliable energy to their homes.

The first stop of the tour was at Minnkota Power Cooperative's headquarters in Grand Forks, N.D., where we were welcomed by communications manager Ben Fladhammer. Ben spoke to our group about Minnkota, as well as Project Tundra, a proposed carbon capture project at the coal-based Milton R. Young Station in Center, N.D. Our group then had the opportunity to tour Minnkota's facility, including the control center and operations shop. The real-time digital display showing energy supply and demand provided members a better understanding of how generation needs to meet our demand for energy at any given time.

After a lunch stop in Carrington, N.D., we made our way to Washburn, N.D., to visit Fort Mandan. Fort Mandan's visitor center is not only steeped in history; it is a prime example of environmental stewardship. Coal fly ash was used in the concrete, ceiling tiles, exterior walls, carpet, stonework, sidewalks and parking lot.

After checking into our rooms at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Mandan, we concluded the first day with dinner and a visit from Craig Bleth, manager of power production at the Milton R. Young Station. He visited with our group about Minnkota and the Young Station, including history of our energy generation.

Our group's first stop on day two was to the Milton R. Young Station, the primary source of electrical generation for Minnkota and its members, located near Center, N.D. Paul Zimmerman, training services supervisor, greeted our group and explained how the plant operates, provided further details about Project Tundra and previewed what we would see on our tour. We then donned hard hats and earbuds and took a guided tour of the plant, including both the Young 1 and Young 2 generating units.

After the tour, we headed back to our bus, where we were joined by BNI Coal employee Courtney Harstad. She carefully directed our bus driver into one of the open-pit lignite coal mines, where we were able to view the large Kress haulers and front-end loaders up close. The highlight of the visit was when the Liberty dragline operator set the massive 77-cubic-yard bucket down, which is used to strip the overburden from the land, so we could

check it out up close and take a fun group photo.

After a quick lunch at the Square Butte Golf Course, we traveled to the Oliver III Wind Energy Farm, where we were greeted by NextEra Energy's site manager Jeremy Weyrauch. He led our bus out to one of the wind towers, where we had the opportunity to learn more about how the wind turbines work, what kind of maintenance they require and other questions from our group.

Unfortunately, the Garrison Dam and Powerhouse, where our hydroelectric power is produced, is still closed to the public, so we were unable to take a tour this year. We did stop at the dam's overlook, where we were able to view the intake structure and the surge tanks by the powerhouse building. We are hopeful tours of the dam will resume in 2022.

Our third and final day featured a visit to the North Dakota Heritage/History Museum in Bismarck.

Beltrami Electric would like to thank our members who attended the 2021 tour. We hope everyone had a fun and educational experience, and look forward to hosting another trip next July. We encourage all members to take advantage of this tour!

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the first of the month prior to publication of the next issue.
 - o Ads submitted between August 2 and September 1 will be published in October issue.
 - o Ads submitted between September 2 and October 1 will be published in November issue.
- 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.
- **NOTE:** As of April 24, 2021, anyone with a telephone number from the 218 area code will need to dial 10-digits (area code + telephone number) for all local calls.

For Sale:

BELTRAMI ELECTRIC MULTI-VENDOR INDOOR GARAGE SALE TO BENEFIT THE UNITED WAY: Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021. 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Beltrami Electric (in the garage), 4111 Technology Dr NW, Bemidji (near Paul Bunyan Telephone). \$1 entrance fee (12 and under are free). Access to 91 booths, enjoy the comfort of indoor shopping, huge variety of NEW and USED merchandise!

2 Ryobi gas trimmers, \$35. Never used Ryobi 2 hp Peak router, \$50. Hickory woodworking 24-piece carbide set, \$50. Routing table \$20. Outback brown duster, new, XL, \$50. Husky air compressor with 3 different-sized nail guns, \$50. Mike 218-759-4734.

1982 Evinrude outboard motor, 7.5 hp long shaft, good condition, \$350. 218-444-8032.

Youth bow with practice arrows and hard case, excellent cond., \$250. Set of four low-profile Nexen 235/40R19 used tires, good cond., \$80. 218-368-4834.

Yellow Labrador Retriever puppies, ready late August, 3 males, 1 female, includes vet check and first shots, \$600. Call John at 218-209-1215.

Four-wheel farm trailer designed for hay rack use, asking \$100. Also, one 4'x10' used aluminum dock section, sells for \$564.99 at Menards, asking \$225/obo. Call 218-760-8266.

Winchester mod. 63, rifle 22 LR, manufactured 1945, very good condition, \$600. 218-444-9929.

Men's brown leather cycle jacket with zip-in liner, size 46. Women's wine leather cycle jacket, size S/M. TEAC A-1200 reel to reel tape player, Singer Golden Touch & Sew sewing machine with manual and attachments, hobbylock 3-thread serger, Olympia manual typewriter D.L. 13" carriage, Zenith high fidelity AM-FM tabletop radio. 218-547-1836.

Big Sky Bears, bears are hewn western wood, hand-detailed, painted, and finished. 17-30" tall, ten different bears, \$20-\$45. Large live trap 46 x 17 x 16, \$25. Ornamental hand decorated bird houses, 10 choices, \$10-\$25. Call Mark 218-224-2457.

Allis Chalmers model 'C' tractor, serial #c47655, narrow front, \$475. Weight bench with leg lift and bar with 101 lbs. of weights, \$20. Ladies Panasonic 10-speed bicycle, \$20. Heavy-duty base cabinet with 3 drawers and 2 doors, perfect for workshop or shed, \$15. 218-586-2544.

Drill press, Craftsman band saw, radial saw and other older woodworking equipment. Antique hand tools for horse shoeing, fencing, logging. Iron that could be forged into something else, cans of nails and other shop items, too numerous to list. 218-760-5202 for viewing.

Apple iPad Air Retina Display Tablet, Wi-Fi, 32GB, IOS 7, refurbished, reset tablet after limited use. Have cover on it, power supply, \$170. Contact via email: kmzy21@paulbunyan.net.

Stampin' Up Wood, MULTIPLE SETS. Over 160 stamps! Christmas. Hearts. Thanks. Floral. Bears. Greetings. Birthday. Frames. Paper Dolls. Mice. Some new, most gently used. \$150/obo. Less than \$1/stamp! Call or text. I have pictures. Selling as lot only. 218-368-8593.

Two canoes: one 16' Corecraft hunting/racing canoe, one Redwood strip 18' canoe. \$300/each, firm. Call 218-444-6223 or 218-766-5570.

MinnKota Powerdrive 24V trolling motor with foot pedal compass steering, \$500. Marine battery, \$75 and char-

ger, \$100. Twin window fan, \$15. 36 Qt. Thermolectric car travel cooler/warmer, \$50. Large car top soft side luggage carrier, \$50. Flat iron steam press, \$60. Wayne portable lawn sprinkler pump, 1 hp, \$100. 931-209-3260.

Serta office chair, new was \$300, selling for \$75. Antique oak table, 42x42, \$125. 9-ft artificial Christmas tree, \$25. Little Tikes folding picnic table (toddler sized), \$5. 218-586-2426.

Walk behind parking lot blower. Less than one tank of gas through it. Owner installed front wheel. Some like it over \$1,000 on eBay. \$350/obo. Call 218-766-5726.

Winchester model 70 synthetic stock. 300 magnum with scope, \$450. 218-556-3852.

Fish tank 2'H x 4'L x18"W, 90-gal, metal stand, \$150. 26" girls Upland Beach Cruiser bike, 1 speed, like new, \$125. Bostitch industrial coil roof nailer RN46-1, used on 2 roofs, \$125. DeWalt 14" chop saw, \$130. Warner folding 4-section 16' aluminum ladder, \$80. 16' aluminum fishing boat, \$300. 218-556-5950.

Six-foot treated wood fence posts, \$20 about 50. 1969 Alumacraft 14' boat with sprint trailer, \$375. Two Jerry Faber chain saw carvings. One is a four-foot police figure. The second is a seven-foot wizard. The policeman \$50, wizard \$75. Frank at 218-224-2483.

Bundle and a half of 4" drain tile with sleeve, \$150 for all. 32" Samsung flat screen TV, good condition, \$50. Large round oak table with 3 leaves, \$150. 9 ft. old church pew, \$25. Call 218-835-4048.

4 travel trailer tires, almost new condition. ST225/75R15, load range D (2540-lbs) in Blackduck area. \$100 for all. 352-270-0998. Leave a message if you get a Robokiller recording.

Boat, motor and trailer - 1980 16' Alumacraft Lunken, 1989 Evinrude 40 VRO. Motor has weak compression upper cylinder - runs rough, \$1,400/obo. 612-366-5091. Call or text - pictures available.

Orion SkyQuest XT 10i IntelliScope Dobsonian Reflector telescope - \$800 firm, like NEW, still have box for transporting, sun Jupiter and Saturn very clear. It has a computer locating system to find your way to planets and stars. Educational, I'm upgrading, you save \$400. 218-224-2959 leave message.

Antique range burns both wood and LP, \$200. 218-766-0915.

Purebred German Shepherd puppies. Not registered. Have both parents. Born 7-27-21. 218-760-9320.

2012 Harley Davidson Superglide FXDC. Fantastic bike,

new seat w/operator backrest. New quick detach sissy bar. Saddle bags, windshield, highway pegs, mustache bar, phone holder, 22,000 miles. I'm a MSF instructor. Bike well cared for. \$9,000. 218-255-1359.

Mixed firewood: cut, split, seasoned. Near Kelliher. \$55 standard pickup load; you hauling. Can deliver. Call Mike 320-256-7255 or 320-557-8080.

Wheel fish house, 4-hole, cookstove, propane heat, 2 bunks, \$2,000. Call Stan 218-407-5827.

Large storage ottoman, used very little, too big for my space, mushroom color. 218-766-8781.

Recurve and compound bows, hard bow cases. Crossbow with scope, bolts and padded fabric case. Ethafoam target. Target and broadhead arrows. Tree stand. Folding camp stools. 3 leg stool. Hunting knife. Assortment of duck decoys, sets in mesh bags. Collection of muskie baits, \$3 and \$5 apiece. 218-586-2884.

Sears 17-ft square stern canoe, \$175/obo. 218-255-4101.

83" x 20' flatbed imp. trailer with rear support stands, 10K jack, diamond plate fenders, 4-O-rings, 750-16 upgrade tires and (2) 5,200-lb electric brake axles. Very good condition, \$4,400. Call 218-308-4025.

McKesson wheelchair, \$90. 2 boxes of clay targets, \$25. Fixed position deer stand, \$70. New metal fish spear, never used, \$35. Older fish spear, \$20. Various types of ammo, call for information. 218-586-2617.

Wanted:

Looking for OLD issues of Beltrami Electric Cooperative's Northern Lights newsletter, between the 1940s-1960s. Please contact Angela at Beltrami Electric or call 218-444-3689.

Will do pet sitting for you in your home or mine. 218-766-6510.

Looking for a working 8mm (canister films) movie projector or someone who can fix my 1950's Paillard-Bolex 18-5 movie projector. 218-206-1091.

Used rod iron deck railing, 30 feet needed. 218-835-7484.

Queen-size metal bed frame base and queen-size box spring for my memory foam mattress. Non-smoking home. Call or text 218-368-8593.

Free:

Four 35" x 77 1/2" wood-framed thermo-paned patio door sashes. Perfect for greenhouse or outbuilding windows. Will help you load, you haul. Near Becida. 218-854-7483.

ARE YOU A "SNOWBIRD"?

Ensure you receive your Northern Lights!

Do you close your home or cabin for the season and head to warmer regions? Do you have the post office forward your mail? Did you know that the USPS will forward your electric bills to your new location, but they will not forward your monthly Northern Lights newsletter? They send them back to the cooperative and, in turn, charge us a return fee for each issue.

A great solution for both you and your cooperative is to notify our member service department of your new address so we can set up a seasonal address for you. You can choose the date to start and stop forwarding, and you can even set up a recurring forwarding address to start and stop the same time each year. By notifying us, you can ensure that you receive your Northern Lights member newsletter and also help the cooperative save by alleviating return postage fees every month. Contact our office at 218-444-2540 or toll free at 800-955-6083.

You also have the option to not receive a paper copy of the newsletter if you prefer to view it on our website at www.beltramelectric.com.

ITEMS FOR SALE BY BID

Pickup toolboxes. Items are available for viewing at Beltrami Electric Sept. 9-10, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Bids will be accepted during this time as well. Items sold "as-is." Cash only.



Pickup toolboxes. Minimum bid: \$50 each.

Cold Weather Disconnect Rule

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

Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.097, was amended in the 2021 1st Special Session to read:

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% 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% 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 a 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. 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?

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 three most recent months of income.)

Are you a senior living on a fixed income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall? Then the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill.

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 St. NW, Suite 130,
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-999-0824

Leech Lake

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

MAHUBE-OTWA

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

Red Lake

15525 Mendota Ave, Redby, MN 56670
218-679-3350

EAP services may include: payment of energy bills, help with utility disconnections or fuel deliveries, repair or replacement of homeowner's broken heating systems, energy efficiency and more.

2022 Maximum EAP Income Guidelines

Household Size	3-month Maximum	Household Size	3-month Maximum
1	\$8,809	5	\$19,651
2	\$11,520	6	\$22,362
3	\$14,230	7	\$22,870
4	\$16,941	8	\$23,378

Visit <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/> for more EAP income guidelines and program information.



Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

4111 Technology DR NW
PO Box 488
Bemidji, MN 56619-0488
218-444-2540 • 800-955-6083
www.beltramielectric.com

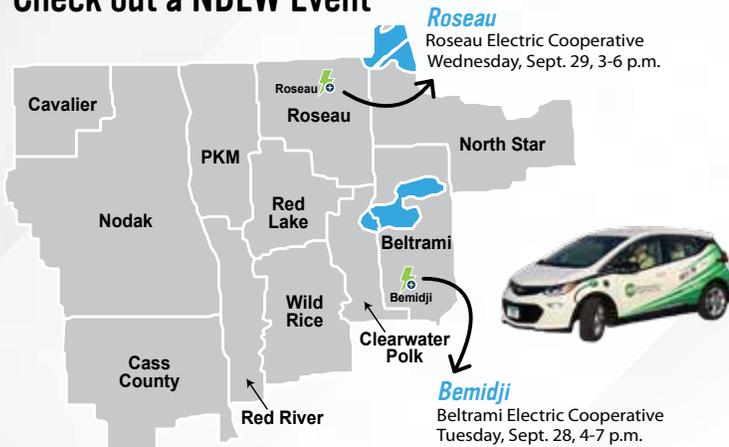
Celebrate National Drive Electric Week

 September 25 - October 3

Join Beltrami Electric Cooperative and electric vehicle (EV) enthusiasts around the country as we mark **National Drive Electric Week (NDEW)** this September! If you've been curious about the power and promise of EVs in our region, now's the time to take the drive.

Owning an EV is easy – **85% of charging** happens at home. Plus, more public stations are installed along North Dakota and Minnesota travel corridors every year for longer trips. Automakers are making it even easier to drive electric. If companies follow through with announced plans, nearly **100 new EV models** will debut between 2021 and the end of 2024.

Check out a NDEW Event



Roseau
Roseau Electric Cooperative
Wednesday, Sept. 29, 3-6 p.m.

Bemidji
Beltrami Electric Cooperative
Tuesday, Sept. 28, 4-7 p.m.

Beltrami Ride & Drive Electric Vehicle Event

Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021 | 4-7 p.m. | Beltrami Electric Cooperative

Learn about the features, performance and handling of electric vehicles, charger information and details about rebate programs.

Come out and test drive BEC's Chevy Bolt and enjoy refreshments and snacks while you learn more about the features and benefits of owning an electric vehicle from electric vehicle owners!

ALL EV owners are invited to join us!

Save More, Fuel Less



Beltrami offers a **\$500 rebate** for installing a 240-volt home charging station on its off-peak program, which allows you to plug in for around **half the standard electricity rate**.



Because EVs don't require regular oil changes, part replacements or tune-ups, you'll **save hundreds on maintenance**.



Base prices for EVs are dropping fast, and many still qualify for up to **\$7,500 in federal tax credits**.

To-Do List for NDEW

Ask your friend or family member for a test drive in their EV.

Attend the National Drive Electric Week event nearest you.

Check out **EnergizeYourDrive.com** to answer your questions about EV ownership!