

NORTHERN

L I G H T S



January 2023

Great River Rescue wins local Touchstone Energy® Community Award

Great River Rescue's mission is to transition dogs and cats to loving homes, serve as a community resource and advocate for kind, responsible pet care.



Accepting the local 2022 Touchstone Energy Community Award from BEC Communications Specialist Angela Lyseng is Brandon Mustful, executive director of Great River Rescue, and Dynamo.

Beltrami Electric Cooperative named Great River Rescue of Bemidji as the winner of the local 2022 Touchstone Energy® Community Award.

"Great River Rescue clearly demonstrates a strong commitment to community that we at Beltrami Electric value highly," Communications Specialist Angela Lyseng said. "We are very pleased to recognize Great River Rescue's contributions to our local communities."

Great River Rescue is a community-funded and supported nonprofit organization that is committed to finding stable homes for animals in northern Minnesota. They are a no-kill animal shelter that operates in Bemidji and provides numerous services in Bemidji and surrounding areas, as well as collaborating with other animal welfare organizations across the state. Great



River Rescue uses its resources to provide care and service to more than 350 stray and surrendered animals each year that are brought to the shelter by members of the public, the city of Bemidji and Beltrami County.

Their Pet Fixers Clinics allow low-income families and others in financial distress a way to spay, neuter and vaccinate their pets at below-market rates. Great River Rescue also partners with other animal welfare agencies such as Red Lake Rosie's Rescue to offer spay/neuter and wellness services to the broader community.

Great River Rescue offers services such as microchipping *(article continued on page 3)*

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

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

www.beltramielectric.com

Board of Directors

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Editor	Angela Lyseng

Minnesota State Electrical Inspectors

Beltrami County

Wade Koons

218-255-3011 - wade@koonsinspections.com

Cass and Hubbard Counties

Brandon Disselbrett

218-640-0187 - disselbrett@hotmail.com

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.



A good year for your cooperative

by Jared Echternach, president and CEO

Rate stability

High inflation, aggressive interest rate hikes, material costs and lead times higher and longer than they've ever been have posed tremendous challenges to businesses within every industry. Yet through hard work, attention to detail, a focus on growth and a sharp pencil, your cooperative and your board of directors continue to manage costs and keep rates stable. Your board of directors approved the 2023 budget in December with no rate increase planned for 2023. This is the FIFTH consecutive year rates have remained stable. How many businesses can make that claim in today's environment? Not many.

Setting the course

Your board and employees undertook an intensive strategic planning process this fall and at its December meeting your board approved a new three-year strategic plan focused on four core areas:

- **Safety** – *Grow our Passion for Safety*
- **Communication** – *Enhance our Ability to Connect with Members*
- **Technology** – *Integrate New and Existing Technology for the Benefit of our Members*
- **Growth** – *Promote Growth that Provides Value to Members*

We will focus on these core areas over the next three years as we continue to serve our members to the best of our ability.

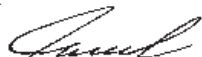
A good year for your cooperative

Your cooperative had another solid year in 2022. We finished the year financially sound with sufficient margins to meet all of our financial obligations and loan covenants. We completed the second year of our four-year construction work plan, including projects near Guthrie and Cass Lake, Wildwood Rd., Hillcrest Dr., Sunny Beach Rd., and Sunset Cove. Line crews also constructed nearly 300 new



services and performed nearly 70 service improvements for our membership.

We avoided major storms in 2022 and our service reliability remains excellent. Our crews did an outstanding job restoring power safely and efficiently when outages did occur. Most importantly we completed all of this work safely.

I'm very proud of our employees for all they accomplished in 2022 and for their dedication to serving our members, safely and efficiently. 



Great River Rescue wins local Touchstone Energy® Community Award (continued)



Great River Rescue teamed up with Northwoods Battered Women's Shelter to provide temporary foster care, ensuring safe housing for the pets of victims of domestic violence.

Since its inception in 1977, Great River Rescue has helped thousands of animals get a second chance at life. They continue to provide a lasting impact on our community, one that reaches far beyond its small size.

Beltrami Electric sought candidates for the Touchstone Energy Community Award, which recognizes organizations for outstanding contributions to the local community. "This area is blessed with many organizations that are doing wonderful things to better our communities," Angela Lyseng said.

to any pet owner, which greatly increase the chances of a lost pet being returned. Great River Rescue has teamed up with Northwoods Battered Women's Shelter to provide temporary foster care, ensuring safe housing for the pets of victims of domestic violence.

"We are pleased that as a Minnesota Touchstone Energy cooperative, we have this opportunity to recognize those who impact our communities in a positive way."

Great River Rescue was nominated by Ara Gallo. "Great River Rescue is a community treasure that continues to bring joy to people and animals across Northern Minnesota," said Gallo.

Great River Rescue's award application will be submitted for consideration to the statewide Minnesota Touchstone Energy Community Award committee. The statewide award recipient will be selected from local award winners from around Minnesota. The winning organization will receive \$2,000 to go toward their community cause. The Minnesota Touchstone Energy Community Award will be presented to the award recipient in February, during the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's annual meeting in St. Paul.

BUSINESS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Wells Technology

Wells Technology manufactures precision machined products for customers across the nation - all from its world-class manufacturing facility near Bemidji, Minn. The company began in a small garage as an automation consulting business in 1985. Entrepreneur Andy Wells, his wife, Caroline, and his son, Andrew Jr., soon expanded into inventing, patenting, manufacturing and marketing ergonomic air-powered tools for the food processing industry.



Andy Wells (above right) shares insight on the manufacturing of precision machined parts with the Beltrami Electric Cooperative board of directors during a recent tour of Wells Technology.

Today, Wells Technology is a world-class manufacturing facility with computerized production machines and employs 46 people. Difficult product designs, high temperature metal alloys and precision dimensions have become the specialty in manufacturing. Customers include major corporations from the aerospace, electronics, medical and food industries.

Energy conservation, the environment and alternative energy sources are also important to Wells Technology as its business grows. Therefore, Wells Technology designed and manufactured a unique solar tracking system for solar panels to follow the sun's daily movement, even in the coldest -40°F days. This innovative solar system was installed with the help of electricians, engineers and inspectors. A field of these large 2-axis solar trackers, along with electrical power from the Beltrami Electric grid, provide the additional electrical energy required for annual growth in manufacturing at Wells Technology.

In addition to Wells Technology, Andy Wells also founded Wells Academy, which strives to help Native American people by providing apprenticeship programs in employment-challenged areas. Wells Academy offers Native American students career training and opportunities in computers, machining, engineering, inspecting, packaging and marketing for American industry.

Many Wells Technology employees have learned their skills through training and education at Wells Academy over the years. For more information about Wells Technology, Wells Academy, and the company's contribution to Bemidji, Red Lake and area communities, visit wellstech.com.

A RESOLUTION TO SAVE

Check out these great REBATES for 2023!

New Year's resolutions can be daunting, whether you want to quit a bad habit, exercise more or learn a new skill. But we're going to make positive changes a little easier for you this time around, because Beltrami Electric Cooperative is setting its own New Year's resolutions in 2023.

Resolution 1: Electrify more members' lives | **Resolution 2: Put more money back in members' hands**

How are we going to follow through? We are offering great rebates on the hottest electric technologies: electric heating (including heat pumps) and electric vehicle (EV) charging equipment. All you have to do is enroll in your co-op's money-saving off-peak program. On top of the equipment rebate, you'll receive an exclusive reduced electric rate - nearly half of the standard rate.

2023 is going to be a great year for you. Take a look at all the ways you can save!

Technology (on off-peak)

Electric Heating Equipment Includes:

Air-source heat pump, Mini-split heat pump

Up to \$650 per ton installed

Ground-source heat pump

Up to \$650 per ton installed

Plenum heater, Baseboard heater/cove heater, Forced-air furnace, Hanging/wall unit heater, Radiant underfloor heat

\$25 per kW installed

Electric boiler, Brick storage room unit, Brick storage electric furnace/boiler, Slab storage - electric cable

\$75 per kW installed

EV Charging Equipment – Level 2 or Level 3 chargers

\$100 per kW installed (up to \$1,250)

Start the new year right by learning more about BEC's off-peak program options. Just call our friendly member services team at **218-444-2540** or **800-955-6083** or browse the technology options at ValueOfElectricity.com

STEFFES + **OFF-PEAK RATES** Get Comfortable with Low Cost Electricity!



- **Made in the U.S.A.**
- **Receive \$75/kW in rebates** from BEC for any new room unit, hydronic or forced air furnace
- **24-hr Warmth** - efficiently stores heat in bricks for uninterrupted heat during peak periods.
- **Clean & Quiet**



All units available from Beltrami Electric Cooperative, your authorized Steffes dealer. Contact our office to learn how Steffes heaters can keep you comfortable and save you money.

NEW FEDERAL ENERGY INCENTIVES TO ROLL OUT IN 2023

When Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in 2022, it authorized billions of dollars in consumer programs to help install energy efficient technologies, purchase an electric vehicle or electrify other processes in your home. The average homeowner could qualify for more than **\$10,000 in tax credits or other incentives**, which means there's no better time to start planning for energy upgrades.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Most of these programs will not be implemented until sometime in 2023. Once the programs kick in, most will last at least 10 years.

Beltrami Electric Cooperative already offers a robust set of rebates for electric heating systems, water heaters and vehicle chargers. Call our offices or visit our website to learn more!

It's unlikely that you'll qualify for all the tax credits and incentives at once. If you're looking to energy-related purchases or home improvements, come up with a long-term plan that will allow you to take advantage of the incentives over time.

While Beltrami Electric Cooperative knows energy efficiency, heating and cooling systems, and electric vehicles, we'll leave tax advisement to the professionals. Consult with a tax/financial advisor and make sure you know the income limits and other requirements before making any major decisions.

Beltrami Electric has a team of energy experts to provide information and help you make the best decision for your home. Just because a tax credit is in place, doesn't mean a specific system or technology is right for your unique needs. If you have a question, ask us!

6 UPCOMING INCENTIVES TO CONSIDER*

**Incentive levels and availability are dependent on income. Other requirements may be applicable.*



HEAT PUMPS

There are massive incentives for households to install air-source heat pumps. Up to \$8,000 in upfront discounts and up to \$2,000 in tax credits are available. Geothermal heat pumps qualify for a 30% tax credit.



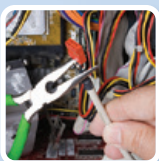
WEATHERIZATION

Weatherization efforts may qualify for up to \$1,600 in upfront discounts and \$1,200 in tax credits depending on income. This includes air sealing, ventilation and upgrades to insulation, doors and windows.



ELECTRIC PANEL

Upgrading your electrical panel (sometimes called breaker box) could qualify for up to \$4,000 in upfront discounts and up to \$600 in tax credits depending on income levels.



ELECTRIC WIRING

Electric wiring upgrades could qualify for up to \$2,500 in upfront discounts depending on income levels.



ELECTRIC VEHICLE

Thinking of purchasing an electric vehicle (EV)? You may qualify for up to \$7,500 in tax credits for a new EV, or up to \$4,000 for a used EV.



ELECTRIC STOVE

Up to \$840 is available for the purchase and installation of an electric stove.

There are many other rebates and tax credits available, including whole home energy reduction efforts, battery storage installation, rooftop solar and more!

Classifieds

Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the first of the month prior to publication of the next issue.
 - Ads submitted by January 1 will be published in February issue.
 - Ads submitted between January 2 and February 1 will be published in March 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.

For Sale:

Plain walker with no wheels, \$10. Folding walker with two 5" wheels, \$20. Folding walker with four 3" wheels and two clamp-on forearm supports and hand grips, \$30. None of these walkers has a seat or hand brakes. 218-760-3614. Leave message.

Large supply of rough cut and finished lumber. Specialty items available also. Red and white pine and red and white oak. 218-766-7748.

Bow and arrow set with hard case for youth ages 4-10 years. Diamond brand bow. Exc. cond., original owner. \$200. Makes a great Christmas or birthday gift for someone special. 218-368-4834.

EU2000 Watt Honda Companion generator, needs work, asking \$150. Universal fit camo ATV cover, \$40, one set of new mesh doors for Polaris Ranger XP, \$100. Call 218-760-8266.

Men's black insulated Carhartt bibs 46x32. Worn once. New \$139, asking \$75 firm. Two antique wooden rocking chairs \$75 each or \$125 for the pair, very nice condition. Cash only. 218-444-7308.

4' x 5' round bales of good quality mixed alfalfa and grass hay for sale. We load, you haul. Call 218-751-8191 before 7 p.m. and ask for Dave.

Stain glass tools – Weller soldering iron, Knipex pliers, Don Carlos lead knife. All for \$75. 218-835-7484.

'99 GMC Suburban 1500 SLT 4WD \$3,500. Frabill Hideout \$200. 218-820-4234.

3rd crop alfalfa bales, large round. 1,300-1,400-lbs each. 218-751-0408.

12-gauge O/U shotgun. 2½-in, fine upland game gun. No case. \$350. 701-317-5011.

Remington Model Five .22LR bolt action rifle in mint condition with extra clips. Laminated wood stock. This would make a great starter

rifle or just another fun gun to add to a collection. \$350. 218-444-6014.

Enjoy cold winter hobbies: Brother knitting machine, table, ribbing attachment. Spooled machine yarn and spooler, \$150. Guitar case (black), \$20. Five porcelain dolls, \$20 ea. Shop vacuum, \$10. Winter fishing equipment, including baits. Clean 5-gal pails, \$1. Cast your own fishing baits: four panfish jig molds, melting kettle with pouring spout, Coleman stove, supplies, hooks, paint, etc. 218-586-2884.

HQ 16 Quilting machine, 18" throat with frame \$3,000. Text 218-209-8230.

Lowrey Magic Genie 44 organ with music and bench. \$75. Call 218-444-2025 or 218-760-5926.

Twin size white down comforter used very little. \$50. 218-766-8781.

Beautiful custom gun cabinet. Furniture quality with 4 drawers and locking glass doors. Holds 10 guns. Perfect condition. \$350. 218-759-1919.

New unopened HP ink cartridges. Selling because our printer died. HP 564 3-pack of colored ink cartridges. Amazon price is \$49.99. Selling for \$37. And HP 564XL black ink cartridge. Amazon price is \$33.89. Selling for \$25. 218-766-4862.

Wheel rim 17" 300. Antique EXG machine and delivery exam table, \$250. Text 218-209-1863.

Homemade quilts: 4-5-6-inch Block, Crazy, Star: Twin: 40; full, \$45; Queen, \$65; King, \$70. 3-drawer dresser, restored. 44" L x 19½" D. Has one 4-in deep drawer, two 8-in deep drawers, \$75. Sewing machines, \$15 each. 218-243-2702.

Wanted:

Wanted! Living kidney donor blood type O. My sister Tammy (Steele) Collins has been on the kidney transplant list for 2 years (PKD). She started dialysis in May. Her doctor said being she is also a diabetic she needs one as soon as possible. If interested, please call Fargo transplant 701-234-6715.

Pet sitting, retired teacher, will care and love your pet while you are gone. Your house or mine, Blackduck/Bemidji area, 218-766-6510.

Do you want that old chair re-caned? Call Nate at 218-407-0168.

Singer featherweight sewing machine. 218-340-9010.

UL listed wood stove. 218-407-0293.

We are looking for you!

Beltrami Electric Cooperative is looking for **Desiree R. Finn** (Cass Lake, Minn.). Please call **218-444-2540** if you have any information.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Beltrami's board conducted its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022. A quorum of directors was in attendance.

The following reports were given:

- President and CEO Echternach and the board discussed recent safety successes and observations.
- President and CEO Echternach made his monthly report, including October financials, legislative issues affecting our cooperative, area legislators, large loads, energy assistant vendor payments and Cooperative Development.
- Arlene Hogquist presented the financial report for October and discussed unclaimed capital credits.
- President and CEO Echternach presented the Preliminary Balanced Performance Scorecard.
- President and CEO Echternach and the Management team presented the 2023 Preliminary Budget.
- President and CEO Echternach and Arlene Hogquist presented RUS loan documents.
- Mike Birkeland presented the 2023 Preliminary Marketing and Communications Plan.
- Directors and President and CEO Echternach discussed upcoming meetings and events.

The following actions were taken:

- Approved the consent agenda.
- Adopted a resolution for loan documents.
- Approved scholarships paid out of unclaimed capital credits.
- Approved a year-end employee bonus.
- Approved holding February's board meeting on Feb. 28, 2023.
- Approved director and President and CEO expenses.

The next board meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023.



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

15809 High School Dr, Red Lake, MN 56671
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.

2022-23 Maximum EAP Income Guidelines

Program year is Oct. 1, 2022 through Sept. 30, 2023

Household Size	3-month Maximum	Household Size	3-month Maximum
1	\$7,643	5	\$17,050
2	\$9,994	6	\$19,401
3	\$12,346	7	\$19,842
4	\$14,698	8	\$20,283

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

The average home in our area can be powered for **\$5 per day** – the price of your favorite winter drink.



VALUING EVERYTHING THAT POWERS YOUR DAY.

THAT'S THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY.



Beltrami Electric Cooperative will be closed on

Monday, Jan. 16, 2023.

ATTENTION: CLASS OF 2023

BELTRAMI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



BEC will be offering \$2,000 in scholarship money to deserving students of BEC members attending seven area high schools.

WHO CAN APPLY?

- ⑤ Students graduating from high school in 2023
- ⑤ Applicant's parent or guardian must be a member of BEC
- ⑤ Must be graduating from one of the seven schools below:
 - Bemidji High School
 - Blackduck High School
 - Cass Lake High School
 - Kelliher High School
 - Laporte High School
 - Red Lake High School
 - Walker-Hackensack-Akeley High School

WHERE DO I APPLY?

Contact your high school's designated guidance office or scholarship committee for applications and deadlines.

BELTRAMI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE \$2,000 AT-LARGE SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The At-Large scholarship is for students who do not attend one of the seven schools listed above. Information and applications can be found at www.beltramielectric.com. Applicant's parent or guardian must be a member of BEC. At-Large Scholarship deadline: April 1, 2023

Visit beltramielectric.com to learn more about BEC scholarships.



HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS...
WIN A WEEK IN WASHINGTON, D.C.!

The **ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**

Deadline to Apply
February 24, 2023

YOUTH TOUR

June 12-18, 2023

- ★ Visit historic monuments and museums
- ★ Build lifelong friendships with other young leaders from across the country
- ★ Boost your community service and engagement
- ★ Meet with your U.S. Representatives and Senators



WHO CAN APPLY?

★ Current high school juniors

★ Applicant's parent or guardian must be a member of Beltrami Electric Cooperative

For more details or to submit an application, visit www.beltramielectric.com/youth-tour-washington-dc



Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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www.beltramielctric.com

What does it cost? IT ALL ADDS UP!



Investing in a reliable electric system

The electric co-op industry is capital intensive. We will be featuring this new series to help put into perspective some of the costs that go into providing reliable electric service for our members.

On average, how much do padmount transformers* cost?

a. \$500

b. \$850

c. \$2,500

d. \$1,275



* BEC has 16,903 padmount transformers on its system. It's a device that's used to raise or lower voltage along electric distribution lines to safely provide electric service to homes and businesses.

ASK THE EXPERT!



WHAT DOES OFF-PEAK MEAN? Let's Ask Bob!



Bob Gregg
Business Development Manager

Technically, it means the cost of electricity is at its lowest when the use of electricity is at its lowest – an example would be nighttime hours when you've turned down the heat, most of the lights are off and very few appliances are operating – or at least not as many as you might use around supptime.

Practically speaking, off-peak is a great way for members to save money on electric bills. Our off-peak winter rate is 6.7 cents per kWh. That's about half the general service electric rate, and about two-thirds the cost of other heating fuels right now. Off-peak is good for your pocketbook and for keeping your home warm and comfortable.

Said another way: Off-peak = value, comfort, convenience and the benefits of choice so that members can choose the lowest-cost heating option each winter. With fuel prices the way they are right now – it's hard to beat off-peak.

