

# NORTHERN

L I G H T S October 2023

## Electric Co-ops Grow for the Communities They Serve

October is National Co-op Month, and Beltrami Electric Cooperative is joining cooperatives across the U.S. to celebrate. Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but they each have a common goal: to provide goods or services for the members of the co-op.

Electric co-ops, including BEC, exist to serve their members. Our priority is to provide affordable, reliable energy to our local communities. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs.

This October, as we celebrate Co-op Month, we're focusing on the ways "Co-ops Grow" for their members.

**CO-OPS GROW COMMUNITIES:** Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. "Concern for Community" is one of our core principles - and being community-focused is essential to everything we do.

**CO-OPS GROW TOGETHER:** Co-ops are all about cooperation, not competition. That's why electric co-ops work together to share lessons learned, successful strategies and better ways to serve our members. We're better when we grow together!

**CO-OPS GROW TOMORROW'S LEADERS:** Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for growing tomorrow's leaders through a variety of youth engagement programs. Whether through school demonstrations, community events, college scholarships, or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we're committed to providing opportunities for local youth to learn and thrive in our community and beyond.

**CO-OPS GROW FOR YOU:** At BEC, your satisfaction is a priority. It's why we were formed in 1940 to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We've come a long way since then, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll never stop growing for you!



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

# CO-OPS GROW



# COMMUNITIES

Electric cooperatives are joining co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate National Co-op Month. As your local electric co-op, our services are shaped to meet your specific needs. We love growing with you, the members we are proud to serve.



# Fall rush for new services

by Jared Echternach, president and CEO

## Board reorganizes

Your board of directors conducted its annual reorganizational meeting at its August board meeting. All existing officers were reelected to the executive committee, including John Lund, Chair; Sue Kringen, Vice Chair; Murl Nord, Secretary; Sharon Lembke, Treasurer; and John Lund, Cooperative Development Governor. Congratulations to the executive committee for its leadership and thank you for your service.

## Beltrami Electric Touchstone Energy® Open

Last month we held the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Beltrami Electric Touchstone Energy® Open and raised \$17,500 for the United Way of Bemidji Area. Over the past 19 years we have raised more than \$183,700 at this event to help our communities through the United Way. I'd like to thank those who participated, our sponsors and our team of volunteers who put on another successful event to help people in our community.

## Construction update

Your line crews have been working on

several large projects this summer. The overhead to underground conversion near Moose Lake is complete. This project converted 5.25 miles of single-phase overhead line to underground to improve service reliability and safety. Crews are working on converting 3.5 miles of three-phase overhead line to underground along Adams Avenue. We expect this to be completed this fall. Crews have begun a third overhead-to-underground conversion near Kabekona Lake. This project will convert 2.7 miles of single-phase overhead line to three-phase underground. Your cooperative's distribution system consists of more than 3,500 miles of line and is now more than 75% underground.

While new service construction has been slower this year, things have started to pick up. We typically experience a fall rush for new services. If you are thinking of a new service this year, please contact us as soon as possible. Fall freeze-up is just around the corner and frost charges will apply.

Have a safe and enjoyable fall!



## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*Beltrami Electric Cooperative's board conducted its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023. 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.
- President and CEO Echternach made his monthly report, including an employee update, EV car show, EPA letter, economic development update, MISO maximum generation event, Cooperative Development and an operations update.
- Arlene Hogquist presented the July financial report.
- Mike Birkeland discussed the annual meeting held Aug. 9, 2023.
- Larry Feltner, with The Prime Group, presented the cost-of-service study.
- President and CEO Echternach and the directors shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative and discussed upcoming meetings and events.

### The following actions were taken at the meeting:

- Elected John Lund as Chair, Sue Kringen as Vice Chair, Murl Nord as Secretary and Sharon Lembke as Treasurer.
- Elected John Lund as Governor to Cooperative Development, LLC.
- Approved the consent agenda.
- Adopted a memorial resolution.
- Approved scheduling the 2024 annual meeting on Aug. 7, 2024 at the Beltrami County Fairgrounds.
- Approved President and CEO and director expenses.

*The next board meeting will be held Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023.*

## We are looking for you!

Beltrami Electric Cooperative is looking for **Leonard B. Parks, Jr.** (Cass Lake, Minn.). Please call **218-444-2540** if you have any information.

## ELECTRIC VALUE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

**SAVE MORE** during the chilly season with off-peak heating, rebates and efficiency tips. You can find it all in one place at [ValueOfElectricity.com!](http://ValueOfElectricity.com)

The Value of Electricity website is your home base for:

- Electric heating system **REBATES**
- Electric water heater **REBATES**
- Off-peak program **SAVINGS**
- Ideas for extra **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**
- Testimonials from your **THRIFTY NEIGHBORS**

**VALUE OF ELECTRICITY**

Scan the code and tap your utility to start **saving today!**

# BELTRAMI ELECTRIC'S TOUCHSTONE ENERGY® OPEN RAISES \$17,500 FOR UNITED WAY OF BEMIDJI AREA



The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Beltrami Electric Touchstone Energy® Open was held Friday, Aug. 18, 2023, at Castle Highlands Golf Course, and raised \$17,500 for the United Way of Bemidji Area. The event saw 27 teams compete in the four-person scramble.



“Beltrami Electric's Touchstone Energy Open golf tournament has been a staple event for the United Way of Bemidji Area. Not only has the tournament given hundreds of participants the opportunity to support their community, it's also helped thousands of people in our community to thrive,” said Denae Alamano, executive director for the United Way of Bemidji Area. “We can't thank Beltrami Electric and their staff enough for the impact their event makes year after year!”

Beltrami Electric would like to give a sincere thank-you to the business sponsors, the 108 golfers and the tournament volunteers on behalf of the United Way of Bemidji Area. We are extremely grateful, as this event wouldn't be possible without their continued support!



**FIRST PLACE** went to the team of Bemidji Collision Center. Pictured from left: Dave Evenson, Gary Cartwright, Lee Pemberton and Tim Gullickson.



**SECOND PLACE** went to the team of Paul Bunyan Communications. Pictured from left: Brian Bissonette, Don Dale, Dane Jones and Bob Lindberg.



**THIRD PLACE** went to the team of Northwoods Lumber Company. Pictured from left: Dakota Provencher, Dewy Nissen, Orlando Alamano and Todd Guntzel.

## Thank you to the following sponsors!

### PRESENTING SPONSOR



### GREEN SPONSORS



### HOLE-IN-ONE SPONSORS



- Ace on the Lake
- ACME Tools
- Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union
- Auer Steel & Heating Supply
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- BEC Board of Directors
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- Bemidji Collision Center
- Bemidji Sports Centre
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- Karvacko
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- L&M Fleet Supply
- Land O' Lakes Wood Preserving
- LePier Shoreline & Outdoors
- Liquor Lodge
- Lyseng Logging, Inc.

- Marco
- Marketplace Foods
- Miller-McDonald
- National Information Systems Co-op
- Nei Bottling/Northern Lakes Vending
- Norenberg & Associates
- North Central Door Company
- Northern Paving
- Northwoods Bait & Tackle
- Northwoods Lumber Company
- Oak Hills Christian College
- Okonite
- Paul Bunyan Broadcasting/HBI

- Paul Bunyan Communications
- Pets Plus
- Pinnacle Marketing Group
- Raphael's Bakery
- Renew PowerClean
- RESCO
- Riverwood Bank/Riverwood Financial
- Sanford Health-Bemidji
- Sara Berglund
- Slim's Bar & Grill
- T & K Outdoors
- WITS Financial
- Your QFM

# VEGETATION MANAGEMENT



## Crucial to maintaining safe, reliable electricity

Vegetation management is essential for ensuring reliable electricity and preventing potential hazards. It involves monitoring and maintaining growth around power lines, trimming hazardous trees, and clearing out brush and weeds to ensure they do not pose a safety or security risk.

Beltrami Electric Cooperative employs trained contractors to trim any hazardous trees within and near the right of way, which is the land under and to either side of the power line. Biodegradable herbicide is also used to clear brush and noxious weeds that could interfere with service.

Proper vegetation management is important as trees and plants that grow into the right of way can cause fires, power outages and delays in repairs.

**LANDOWNERS SHOULD NEVER TRY TO TRIM OR REMOVE TREE LIMBS NEAR POWER LINES AND SHOULD CONTACT THEIR CO-OP IF THEY NOTICE A HAZARD OR DISEASED TREE.**

Additionally, when planting trees, shrubs and other plants, consider their potential growth and proximity to power lines. Lines can sag on hot days and sway in the wind, so it's important to consider the clearance distance required for power lines of varying voltages. If you have a padmount transformer in your yard (green box), keep it clear of obstructions. Lineworkers need access to the transformer box in case of outages and to perform routine maintenance. See the graphic below for required clearance distances. If you have any questions about vegetation management, do not hesitate to reach out to BEC for information and assistance.



## Plant Trees Safely

Before you dig, call 811 to locate buried utility lines.

### LOW TREE ZONE

Avoid planting within **30 ft.** of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

### MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) **at least 40 ft.** away from power lines.

### LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) **at least 50 ft.** away from power lines.

Over 40 ft.



# 5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT OFF-PEAK HEATING



You often hear Beltrami Electric mention the off-peak heating program. Very often. That's because we get really excited about programs that offer benefits to everyone involved. Integrating off-peak heating into your home or business benefits you (the member), the cooperative and the entire regional electric grid. Here's why we think the off-peak heating program is top-notch.



## There are many off-peak heating technology options to choose from

Air-source heat pumps, mini-split heat pumps, plenums, thermal storage heating, underfloor heating – you name it! We can suggest an off-peak-qualified heating system that will fit any size home or budget.



## You receive a reduced electric rate when you enroll in off-peak heating

Off-peak participants are thanked for their flexibility with an electric heating rate that is nearly 50% lower than the standard electric rate. You could save hundreds on your electric bill over the course of a year!



## Off-peak heating helps keep the regional grid reliable in the winter

In the coldest months like January and February, people are turning on their heat everywhere in the country. The national grid needs a lot of energy to meet that demand, and by temporarily reducing our co-op's energy use, we help keep the grid energized and reliable for everyone.



## Off-peak heating allows the co-op to keep electricity affordable

The off-peak program allows us to lower demand when regional electric need gets higher than average. This flexibility means we can avoid expensive purchases from the energy market AND avoid building expensive new generation sources that would only be used for peak demand. That savings is passed to you in the form of stable rates.



## You can receive hundreds of dollars in co-op rebates on new off-peak equipment

Talk to your co-op energy pros about the rebates that we offer when you (or your contractor) install off-peak heating equipment. Check out Beltrami Electric Cooperative's great rebates at [beltramielectric.com](http://beltramielectric.com).

## OFF-PEAK HEATING PROGRAM? WHAT'S THAT?

Members voluntarily sign up for the program, which allows the co-op to temporarily turn off electric heating during times of high electric demand. During these "control periods," consumers are automatically switched to a backup heating system (like fuel oil or propane). The off-peak program can also be utilized in storage heat technologies, in which heat is collected and stored during lower-demand times of day and deployed when needed.



Learn more about the value of off-peak electricity at [ValueOfElectricity.com](http://ValueOfElectricity.com).

## DUAL FUEL MEMBERS: PLEASE CHECK YOUR BACK-UP SYSTEM NOW

If you have a dual fuel heating system, NOW is the time to be sure your back-up heating system is prepared and that you have adequate fuel supply. Dual fuel heating systems are usually controlled during periods of high demand (such as frigid winter evenings), but other factors such as the generation system, maintenance and high market costs can lead to load control as well. There can be unlimited hours of control during the heating season. However, most winters the control has averaged 150-200 hours.



# Classifieds

## Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the first of the month prior to publication of the next issue.
  - o Ads submitted between September 5-October 5 will be published in the November issue. Ads submitted after October 5 will be published in the December issue.
- Ads may be submitted via our website at [www.beltramelectric.com/submit-ad](http://www.beltramelectric.com/submit-ad).
- 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:

2023 Forest River travel trailer. 23' includes separate bedroom and bath, used once. \$22,000/obo. 218-760-3180.

For sale 2000 Jeep Cherokee classic 4wd, 188,900 miles, great running car. New tires, new tabs, new rear shocks and springs, updated wiring, brakes, many other updates. \$4,495/obo 218-444-2958.

MOW-N-VAC lawn/leaf vacuum w/deck adapter. Agri-Fab Inc. Tow Behind, like new. \$795 (\$1,200 new). 2 new JELD-WEN

casement windows. Energy Star/Low-E, fiberglass 20.5"x37.5", \$400/pair (half price). Call/text 218-766-8410.

Teeter Inversion table w/acupressure nodes and heated massage pad. Text 218-766-8503.

Never used camper sewer pipe and stand. 2 tools for scissor jack. \$50 cash. Call 218-854-7276.

3-year-old proven, titled, genetically cleared, and OFA certified AKC Registered black Labrador Retriever male \$6,000. Retired, titled, and spayed 8-year-old AKC Registered fox-red Labrador Retriever female \$800/obo. Text, message or call 218-244-7605 for more details.

Vintage arcade cast iron Allis-Chalmers tractor and dump-trailer farm truck \$50. Please call 218-835-7484.

Small pine roll top desk, \$135. 2 corner china/curio cabinets, 1 drawer and glass doors on top, \$135 each. Old wood storage shelves and cabinets. Bookshelf cabinet with doors on bottom, \$25. 218-839-4641.

5 prom gowns, \$20; crystal goblets, desserts, plus several matching serving pieces, \$350; girls ski pants and jacket, \$150; microwave, \$10; TV, \$50. Call 218-751-9357.

Older dehumidifier, works well, \$200. Two bedroom lamps, \$30/both. 218-766-8781.

Hay for sale – small square: \$2.50 per bale. Laporte. 218-224-2523.

1996 18' Forester pontoon w/trailer, 28 hp 2-stroke Johnson long shaft, Minn Kota trolling motor. No leaks. \$3,500. 12'x25' concrete blanket, great for covering septic lines, new \$75. 218-556-0892.

Polka lovers! 1950s Frankie Yankovic Decca album. Six 78 rpm two-sided records. Twelve songs in commemorative case. One owner bought new. \$50. Matched set: 7-ft sofa and 6-ft loveseat. Flexsteel brand. Green and beige plaid. Three matching pillows. All in excellent condition. \$250. 218-759-1919.

Fall hunting: jackets, pants, vests, caps,

lg-med, tan, camo, white, red, blaze orange. Ice fishing: warm winterwear. Quality hunting knives, \$25-\$50. Duck, goose, crow calls, \$10. Handheld radio set (walkie-talkies), \$15. Shop vac, \$15. "Waiting for the school bus" wood shelter, 3.5' x 6', picture window, bench, \$80. 218-586-2884.

2, 3-year-old male Guinea pigs, 2 cages, feeding items, toys and bedding supplies. \$80/obo. 218-556-5163.

4 tubeless snow tires, General Alt Max Artic Radial 194/65 R.15 91Q mounted on iron rims. Were on VW Jetta for only 2 winters. Asking \$550, or best offer, free hub caps. 218-751-8746.

Stihl leaf blower BG 55. \$100. Tri Tronics Sport G3 E collar. Two collars w/beepers (never used) and controller. \$100. Call 218-556-9566.

Used jeans for quilt making/crafting. \$1/pair. 218-368-9141.

Recliner lift chair. Brand new. Golden MaxiComfort. Denim blue cloth. Purchased from Bemidji Medical Equipment for \$2,000 in 2021. Will sell for \$850. 218-333-3608.

Beretta 20 GA. O/U Model Whitewing, exc. cond. \$900. Call 218-368-9193.

Ashford spinning wheel w/accessories, \$300. Da-Lite projector screen, 40x40, \$40. Yamaha P-95 88-key digital piano, w/stand and bench, \$400. A locking 4 bike carrier w/2-inch hitch mount, \$55. Electric Haan floor disinfectant, \$30. All in very good condition, used very little. 218-553-0272.

### Wanted:

Looking for free soap molds and silicone molds. 218-556-2743.

Gently-used boys attire – all seasons from undergarments through outerwear, shoes and boots, sizes 5T – 9 years old. 206-552-1399.

### Free:

Loveseat/small couch, old set of golf clubs and bag. 218-751-7693.



## 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 three most recent months 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 4<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 130,  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-999-0824

#### Leech Lake

115 6<sup>th</sup> 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

- OR APPLY ONLINE -



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



## Beltrami Electric items for sale by bid:

Items are available for viewing at Beltrami Electric's office, 4111 Technology Dr NW, Bemidji, on the east side of the building, in front of BEC's garage area from Oct. 11-18, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Bids will be accepted during this time as well. BEC does not offer any written or implied warranties and reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Items sold "as-is." Cash only. Successful bidder is responsible for all taxes, license, and transfer fees.



2006 GMC SLE 2500 4x4, strobe light and toolbox, 152,692 miles. **Minimum bid: \$7,000.**



1995 International Flatbed, 2WD, 157,792 miles, 3,728 hours. **Minimum bid: \$5,000.**

Available for viewing Oct. 11-18, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

# BUSINESS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## LaValley Industries and its diverse portfolio - a closer look at success and innovation

Beltrami Electric's Business Development Team recently visited LaValley Industries. Established in 2006, it is a multifaceted company that serves various industries, including pipelines, utilities, horizontal directional drilling, mining and custom solutions.

### LaValley Industries' product portfolio

LaValley Industries' product offerings cater to a wide range of industrial needs. Their flagship products include the Deckhand, Tonghand, Pitpump, Empower Generators and the PM 1000. These solutions have garnered recognition in many industries for their innovation and efficiency.

### LVI Supply: expanding accessibility and services

LVI Supply, a subsidiary of LaValley Industries, has been providing OEM parts and services related to hydraulic hose and fittings, adaptors and couplers, industrial hoses, lifting and rigging equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), hand and power tools, and more for the past eight years.

Located in the Bemidji Industrial Park, they are actively working on creating a more easily accessible storefront. This move will enhance convenience for customers and open opportunities for expansion.

### ASV track loaders: a unique dealership

LaValley Industries also serves as a Yanmar dealer for ASV track loaders, making them the exclusive dealer between Brainerd and Roseau. They have established a weekly route that spans from Rice to International Falls, ensuring timely service for their clients in this region.

This venture underscores their commitment to providing comprehensive solutions in the construction and heavy equipment industry.

LaValley Industries is a homegrown business that continues to grow and expand while serving multiple industries, driving progress and innovation along the way.



President and CEO Jason LaValley and Bob Gregg, business development manager for Beltrami Electric, stand in front of the PM 1000, an innovative pipe and pole grapple for infrastructure projects.



LaValley Industries President and CEO Jason LaValley stands by an ASV track loader and a couple CarbonBite CBM 3000 mulcher heads.

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### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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**President and CEO** .....Jared Echternach

**Editor** .....Angela Lyseng

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**Email:** [info@beltramielectric.com](mailto:info@beltramielectric.com)

### MIN STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

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

#### BELTRAMI COUNTY:

Wade Koons | 218-255-3011  
[wade@koonsinspections.com](mailto:wade@koonsinspections.com)

#### CASS & HUBBARD COUNTIES:

Tony Kohrs | 218-616-1554  
[kohrsinspection@paulbunyan.net](mailto:kohrsinspection@paulbunyan.net)

### GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

1-800-252-1166 or 811

[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)



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

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.**

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Connecting Communities.  
Powering Life.

## Beltrami Electric Cooperative seeking nominations for the 2023 Touchstone Energy® Community Award

*Do you know an organization that has made outstanding contributions to our local community?*

Beltrami Electric is seeking applications for the Touchstone Energy® Community Award, which recognizes businesses, nonprofits and community groups that have shown a strong commitment to their community. Any organization that has helped make their community within the areas served by Beltrami Electric a better place to live and work is eligible for the \$1,000 cash award.

Community members may nominate an organization, association or business by completing the application form, available online at [www.beltramielectric.com](http://www.beltramielectric.com) or at Beltrami Electric’s office. Questions may be directed to Angela Lyseng at **218-444-3689**. The application will require a description of the project, program or event and the positive impact it brought to the community. Completed applications must be received at Beltrami Electric’s office by **Oct. 29, 2023**.

“As an electric cooperative serving this area, we have a high regard for community involvement,” President and CEO of Beltrami Electric Jared Echternach said. “This award allows us to highlight and encourage those organizations that have shown an outstanding commitment to our community.”

The award recipient will be announced in November and will then contend for the statewide Touchstone Energy Community Award, which has a cash prize of \$2,000. Minnesota Touchstone Energy cooperatives are part of a national alliance of more than 750 rural electric cooperatives in 46 states that adhere to the values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Minnesota

\* For applications or to see the complete list of past winners, visit [www.beltramielectric.com/touchstone-energy-community-award](http://www.beltramielectric.com/touchstone-energy-community-award).