

# NORTHERN

L I G H T S

September 2019



## Seeking nominations for the 2019 Touchstone Energy® Community Award



Touchstone Energy®

impact it brings to the community. Completed applications must be received at Beltrami Electric's office by Oct. 31.

"As an electric cooperative serving this area, we have a high regard for community involvement," Beltrami Electric president and CEO Jared Echernach 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 Nov. 8, 2019, and will then contend for the statewide Touchstone Energy Community Award, which has a cash prize of \$1,000. The statewide award winner will be recognized at the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's annual meeting in March 2020.

The 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.

For more information, a list of past years' winners and to download an application, please visit our website at [www.beltramielctric.com](http://www.beltramielctric.com).



### *2018 award winner – Ruby's Pantry of Bemidji*

**D**o 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, nonprofit and community groups that have shown a strong commitment to the community. Any organization that has helped make its community within the areas served by Beltrami Electric a better place to live and

work is eligible for the \$500 cash award.

Community members may nominate an organization, association or business by completing the application form, available at Beltrami Electric Cooperative, 4111 Technology Dr NW, Bemidji or online at [www.beltramielctric.com](http://www.beltramielctric.com). Questions may be directed to Angela Lyseng at 444-3689. The application will require a description of the project, program or event and the positive

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Monday – Friday

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

[www.beltramielectric.com](http://www.beltramielectric.com)

## Board of Directors

Chair	Rick Coe, DISTRICT 6 (Minnkota Director)
Vice Chair	John Lund, DISTRICT 7
Secretary	Murl Nord, DISTRICT 1 (Square Butte Director)
Treasurer	Judy Honer, DISTRICT 9
Directors:	Charlie Perkins, DISTRICT 2; Charles Parson, DISTRICT 3; Craig Gaasvig, DISTRICT 4; Robert Wallner, DISTRICT 5; Sue Kringen, DISTRICT 8
President and CEO	Jared Echternach
Editor	Angela Lyseng

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## Minnesota State Electrical Inspectors

Beltrami County

Wade Koons

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

Cass and Hubbard Counties

Steve Schauland

218-652-2213 – Fax: 218-333-0451

*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 fax or email as indicated.*

## 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 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.

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## Back to school

*Electric co-ops are continually learning to improve service for members*

Jared Echternach, *President and CEO*

It's a new school year and kids of all ages are getting ready for a fresh year of learning! From kindergarten through college, students attend school to gain knowledge about a broad variety of subjects and learn



new skills that will prepare them for the future. In a similar vein, Beltrami Electric Cooperative is continually learning in order to advance

technology that improves electric service, reliability, safety, and in turn, enhances quality of life for the members we serve in our local communities.

Beltrami Electric Cooperative keeps abreast of industry trends because the energy sector is rapidly changing. Innovations in technology and energy types are fueling demand for more options. On the consumer front, people are looking for more ways to manage their energy use with smart technologies. Consumers expect more convenient payment methods – whether through automatic bill pay, prepay, online or in person. Beltrami Electric's members can visit our office to pay in person, mail a payment or utilize Smart Hub to pay online, set up autopay and more. We also offer a convenient drop box for payments after hours.

We're working to help sift through the options for our members in ways that benefit the greater community. At the same time, we never lose sight of the top priority – providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

## Technology improves operational efficiency

For example, automated meter reading (AMR) is the technology of automatically collecting energy consumption data and transferring it from the electric meter to the co-op. Because this information can be collected remotely, it enhances our system's efficiency, helps control costs and improves work processes.

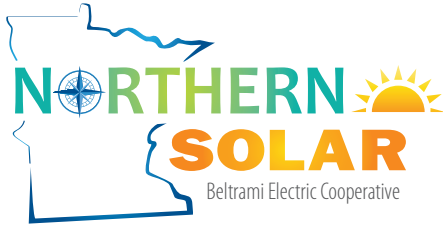
Similar to AMR, there is another technology called advanced metering infrastructure (AMI). This is an integrated system of meters, communications networks and data management systems that enables two-way communication between utilities and consumers. In the event of an outage, AMI helps to distinguish between events that impact a single home or multiple outages. This is critical because resolving either issue is a very different process. The two-way communication is integral to AMI because it provides a means to verify that power has been restored after an outage. However, one of the biggest benefits from improved technologies, especially for outages caused by extreme weather, is pinpointing the outage location, which helps to reduce risk for crews out on the road during severe weather events. This technology does not replace the need for members to contact us during an outage. If you experience an outage, please report it to the cooperative.

In addition to providing essential information during major outages, Beltrami Electric Cooperative analyzes AMI data for anomalies including faults, damaged meters or energy theft. Detecting these problems early helps our cooperative save money and improve reliability for the whole community.



## Energy for the future

On the national level, consumer interest in renewable energy sources has increased. Nationally, the increasing use of solar energy is paving the way for new methods



of generating and using electricity. In our region, community solar programs allow co-op members to share in a remote solar array that generates electricity from the sun. Beltrami Electric Cooperative has availability in Northern Solar for members interested in supporting local renewable solar energy who may not have a location

or means to install a system at their home. In addition, the Infinity Renewable Wind



Energy program provides members an option to purchase renewable wind energy, up to 100% of their usage, for a small adder to their electric bill.

Whether it's examining new energy options or exploring how emerging technologies can better serve our members, the "school year" is never over for Beltrami Electric Cooperative. We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities for the future, and we will continue to study and research the issues so that we can better serve you, now and in the future.

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, July 24, 2019. A quorum of directors was present.

### The following reports were given:

- Willow Damar, BEC Youth Tour representative, reported on her recent trip to Washington, D.C.
- President and CEO Echternach gave his monthly report, including discussion on June financials, local and legislative issues affecting the electric industry, Operation Round Up® grants awarded and upcoming visits with legislators.
- Arlene Hogquist gave the Financial and Statistical report and reviewed work orders for June. The second quarter Balanced Performance Scorecard was also reviewed.
- The board discussed various member issues.
- Directors and the president and CEO shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative and discussed upcoming meetings, educational classes and conferences.

### The following actions were taken:

- Approved the consent agenda.

The next regular board meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019.

## Statement of Operations Year-to-date: June 2019

	June 2018	June 2019
Operating Revenue.....	\$ 29,045,464	\$ 30,455,363
Cost of Purchased Power.....	\$ 20,042,751	\$ 20,218,413
Other Operating Expenses.....	\$ 7,864,874	\$ 7,924,462
Total Cost.....	\$ 27,907,625	\$ 28,142,875
Operating Margin.....	\$ 1,137,839	\$ 2,312,488
Interest Income.....	\$ 146,556	\$ 160,433
Other Margins.....	\$ 39,905	\$ (127,455)
Total Margins.....	\$ 1,324,300	\$ 2,345,466
kWh Sold.....	277,540,594	276,396,356
Meters Billed.....	20,981	21,156



Beltrami Electric Cooperative's office will be closed **Monday, Sept. 2,** in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

## Ride & Drive



Learn about the features, performance and handling of electric vehicles, charger information and EV program details.

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

## Electric Vehicle Event!



Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019 | 4 - 7 p.m. | Beltrami Electric Cooperative

# 2019 Energy Resources Tour

FUN & EDUCATIONAL FOR MEMBERS



*“One of the best tours I’ve been on,” and “I will highly recommend it to other members.”*

BEC’s 2019 Energy Resources Tour was held July 23-25. Angela Lyseng and Festus and Niki Rockensock hosted a group of co-op members on a bus trip 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 power 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 Minnkota staff. Stacey Dahl, senior manager of external affairs for Minnkota, spoke to our



Minnkota Power Cooperative headquarters

group about Minnkota Power as well as Project Tundra, a proposed carbon capture project at the coal-based Milton R. Young Station near Center, N.D. Our group then had the opportunity to tour Minnkota’s facility, including the control center, print shop and operations shops. The real

time digital display showing energy supply and demand was interesting, as members were able to better understand how generation needs to meet our demand for energy at any given time.

After a stop in Casselton for lunch, we continued our journey west to Center, N.D., to visit the Oliver III Wind



Oliver III Wind Energy Center

Energy Center. We were greeted by NextEra Energy’s Site Manager Jeremy Weyrauch. He gave a short presentation about NextEra Energy, the company that owns and operates the wind towers that produce renewable wind energy for Minnkota and its members. He shared details about how the wind turbines work, what kind of maintenance they require and answered questions from our group.

We then had the opportunity to go into the base of one



of the turbines. We proceeded to the Comfort Inn & Suites in Mandan, N.D., and concluded the first day with dinner and a short program by Craig Bleth, manager of power production at the Milton R. Young Station. He visited with our group about Minnkota Power and Milton R. Young, including the 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. Becky Dollinger, plant administrative supervisor, and her team greeted our group and explained how the plant operates and what we would see on our tour. We then donned hard hats and earbuds, split into two smaller



Guided tour of the Milton R. Young Station

groups and Ted Hoepfner, plant engineer II, and Becky each took a group on a guided tour of the plant, including both the Young 1 and Young 2 generating units.

After the tour, we had a quick lunch and headed back to our bus, where we were joined by BNI Coal employee Courtney Harstad. She then 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



Group photo at the Liberty dragline bucket

loaders up close. The highlight of the visit was a chance to board the dragline, Liberty, which uses a massive 77-cubic-yard bucket to strip the overburden from the land. Our group took turns joining the operator in the cab to watch

him work. He then set the bucket down so we could check out the bucket up close and take a fun group photo.

The final stop of the day was Garrison Dam and Powerhouse near Riverdale, N.D., where our hydroelectric power is produced. Members learned about the history and



Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center



Garrison Dam

operation of the dam and were able to view the generating units, penstocks, turbine and shaft.

Our third and final day featured a visit to the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center and Fort Mandan in Washburn, N.D. Fort Mandan's visitor center is a prime example of environmental stewardship.



Fort Mandan's visitor center

Coal fly ash from nearby Coal Creek Station, operated by Great River Energy, was used in the concrete, ceiling tiles, exterior walls, carpet, stonework, sidewalks and parking lot. Fly ash makes concrete stronger and is found in nearly all concrete poured in North Dakota, but it is also found in the rebuilt I-35W Bridge, U.S. Bank Stadium and Target Field, all in Minneapolis.

The group stopped at the rest stop in Erskine before arriving back at BEC and took a picture with Bemidji Bus Line's driver Pete Hill, who has driven BEC's group for a number of years.

Beltrami Electric would like to thank our members who attended the 2019 tour. We hope everyone had a fun and educational experience, and we look forward to hosting another trip next July. We encourage all members to go on this tour!



Thank you to our bus driver, Pete Hill!



# CLASSIFIEDS

## Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the first of the month prior to publication of the next issue. Example:
  - o Ads submitted by September 1 will be published in the October issue.
  - o Ads submitted between September 2 and October 1 will be published in the November issue.
- Ads may be submitted via our website at [www.beltramelectric.com](http://www.beltramelectric.com) (preferred).
- Include your name and Beltrami Electric account number on all submissions.
- All ads must be **50 words or fewer** and typed or printed clearly.
- Members may only submit one for sale and one wanted or free ad per issue.
- No real estate, rental, personal or commercial ads will be accepted.
- 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.
- Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.
- All telephone numbers are presumed to have a 218 area code unless otherwise noted.
- Mail ads to: Beltrami Electric Cooperative, P.O. BOX 488, Bemidji, MN 56619.

## For Sale:

Hay for sale: small square bales, stored inside, no rain. 407-0278.

2004 Nissan 350z Roadster, 6sp manual transmission, pewter exterior, black leather interior, black automatic convertible top. This car is in immaculate condition, stored for many years, some slight scratches on back lower clip. Completely stock with the exception of custom wheels. Second owner, 22K original miles. Serious inquires only. \$13,000. 612-868-3807

Glue laminated beam. 6 x 16 x 24 ft. Made of 3 individual beams 1-7/8 x 16 nailed together. \$350. Bob 218-443 0426.

Toulouse geese trio (2 laying hens and gander) as well as 5 of this year's geese and 1 tom turkey. Trio \$30, 5 geese at \$10 ea. or 2/\$15, 3/\$20. Turkey for \$10. Will only sell to responsible buyer(s) w/ adequate shelter. 751-3440.

Olive green 1997 lower miles Ford V10 E350 Club Wagon XLT 15-passenger van and single owner black 2001 5-speed lower miles 4-cylinder, 4-door Honda Civic LX Sedan with fairly new tires. Please call 218-553-1110 for more information if interested.

Richmond 40-gal natural gas water heater. \$60/obo. 586-2839.

Extension mirrors, 8"x10" clip-on for a Ford pickup. Retail \$75, sell for \$40. Cabela's internal frame pack, built in hip-belt, 5,000 cu. in. capacity, Mossy Oak, break-up hydration system, lots of pockets. Perfect for western hunting trip. \$75 - exc. condition. Call 766-0478.

48x48 dining room table with 22" leaf, also 4 chairs, great condition! \$100. Dog kennel, \$25. 952-334-0460.

Duck hunting equipment: Remington 3.5-in. camo pump shotgun, 13-ft. boat w/trailer, 8-ft. Beavertail Phantom kayak, 9.9 hp motor, 3 hp motor, XL tall camo jacket, decoys, shells, calls. Lots of misc.

Cash. Leave message. 751-6870.

2003 Old Town Otter kayak. Dark green. 9-ft, 6-in long. Stable, light weight, great condition! Includes \$50 Carlisle paddle. \$200. 444-6165.

Diamond youth bow and practice arrows package, includes hard case, exc. cond., \$280. Youth hockey helmet/face protector sets, new cond., \$20 per set. Vintage Kodak movie camera, original box and instruction manual. \$25. 368-4834.

1997 Polaris 600 XLT SKS snowmobile, 1998 Polaris 488 Indy Trail snowmobile, Bear Cat Lite 8x10 tilt aluminum trailer. Trailer jack and lights work as they should. Rarely used last 10 years. Both ran last year. Due for tune-ups. Asking \$1,800/obo for all. (Laporte) 612-366-5091.

Round wooden kitchen table w/one leaf and four chairs in good condition, have to pick up, \$150. 320-248-5795.

2006 16' Smoker Craft Stinger, 50 hp 4-stroke Yamaha, Shoreland'r trailer, console steering, bow mount trolling motor, live well, rod storage. 444-9503.

1966 Chevrolet Impala SS convertible, rust free, straight car, excellent chrome, clear title, all numbers match. An excellent car to restore. Call for pictures. \$10,000/obo. 760-1095.

Bemidji Stove Works wood stove. Model # BS500 forced draft, blower fan and plenum ductwork, \$100. Call 444-6522 or 368-7031.

4' x 5' round GOOD alfalfa bales. No rain. \$40. You haul. Call Dave at 751-8191 before 7 p.m.

PSE compound bow (Bow Madness Plus XS), \$250. Hardly used. Also 25x25x10-inch target, \$10. 444-8210.

2001 Dodge Ram 1500 Laramie SLT Quad Cab 4x4 w/off-road package, patriot blue, very clean truck, 5.9L, auto, loaded, power leather seats, heated mirrors, cruise, tonneau cover, bed mat, grill guard, tube steps, bed rails, etc. 168,500 miles. \$5,000/obo. Call or text 368-3497.

Remington 770 300-WIN, 3-9x40 scope, \$150. Toro mower, self-propelled, mulch or bag, good condition, \$125. 243-2898.

Used propane refrigerator/freezer combination and propane all-freezer. Great condition, efficient, modern style. 556-9440.

Atlas drill press, floor model, \$125; Rockwell scroll saw, 24", model 62-110, with floor stand, \$150; Jotul Castine F400 wood stove, exc. condition, \$1,700. 444-4140.

14-foot aluminum Northwoods boat, with trailer and 9.9 hp Evinrude motor. Great condition! Also three other aluminum boats will sell. Call 760-8266.

Male and female Fox-Red shade AKC and UKC registered hunting and family dogs. 100% trained and vetted. Also AKC registered starter dogs available, 100% ready to go to forever homes. For more information text or call 244-7605.

WeatherMax pontoon lift canopy, 25'x120", exc. cond., dark beige, \$600. Early 20's 6-ft oak oval pedestal table, excellent! Very old rocking chair, came from Norway in late 1800s. Very old grandfather clock, folk-art era, works, handmade. \$600 for all three, but will sell separately. 701-317-5011.

4-5-6 inch Block, Crazy, Star quilts: twin, \$35; full, \$40; queen, \$55; king, \$60. Sewing machines, \$15 each. 243-2702.

Round table and four chairs, \$40. Black & Decker Leaf Hog, \$45. 78 records, \$1 each. 751-1907, evening.

Two riding lawnmowers, 42", new batteries, complete service, filters, blades, etc. Old Cub Cadet, no deck, has self-propelled tiller. 9' I.H. field cultivator. Rear-tine rotor tiller, MTD. 14.9 x 38" rear

tractor tires on rims, 75% tread left. 647-8774.

310 Bobcat skid steer with 3 buckets, \$1,500/obo. 10" Craftsman portable table saw, 12" Craftsman band saw, 4,000-watt Coleman generator. Call 368-1942.

1955 Model 50 John Deere gas tractor with loader and 3-point, one owner. 3-point hitch carry-all. Misc. farm items, tools, etc. 32" Vizio color TV. 751-5672.

2002 Kawasaki RS motorcycle, new battery, new license tabs, third owner, only ridden once, \$1,200. Cash only. (Selling for new furnace for this winter). 444-9690.

Hunter's Delight, 1989 RV Regatta, newer awning, tires, refrigerator. As-is. \$3,700. 444-4493 or 904-798-0260.

Dimension lumber, mostly 2x's and rough sawn, various lengths. 16 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine, horizontal shaft, electric start. 5 hp industrial electrical motor. 12-volt gas generator. Flat iron 1 1/8" x 3/16" x 30". 751-0408.

5-gallon square buckets with tight-fitting hinged lids. Stackable-perfect for storing seeds for bird-feeding. 586-2884.

29 - 5 ft T12 fluorescent light bulbs, \$3 each or \$50 for all. 444-3424.

2016 Ice Castle 8x16 fish house/camper: hyd. lift, cedar inter., air, fridge, arctic pkg., built-in live well, new cond., must see! 2005 Cadillac Deville, 103K, no rust, runs and rides like a dream. 2012 16-ft Smoker Craft boat, 60 hp Mercury 4-stroke, console-swivel chairs, trolling motor, new cond., used very little. For more details, call Jerry at 320-355-7061.

## Wanted:

Low mileage SUV with AWD or 4WD in good condition. Price range under \$10,000. 751-7693.

Used Scamp camping trailer, any condition. 444-6165.

Sugar beet truck drivers. Oct. 1 until end of harvest. CDL license not required. Egeland Farms, Fisher, Minn. (218) 779-8252 or (701) 739-1783.

## Free:

Wikipedia in print! Set of World Book Encyclopedias, includes Child Craft series. 556-8089.



## Grant Application Deadline Sept. 30, 2019

To be considered at the October 2019 meeting, grant applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. on **Sept. 30, 2019**. Community organizations and groups may apply for an Operation Round Up® grant by completing and returning an application form. Grant applications are available at the BEC office or by visiting our website at [www.beltramelectric.com](http://www.beltramelectric.com).

## 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



utility 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](http://www.beltramelectric.com).*

# Keeping the lines open

## Right-of-way maintenance program

Beltrami Electric has more than 3,496 miles of overhead and underground power lines that are operated and maintained by the cooperative. We are dedicated to providing our members with safe and reliable electric service. As you will notice after any severe thunderstorms with high winds, trees growing around overhead power lines can cause electric faults and outages and can create a safety hazard for our crews and the general public.



### RELIABLE AND SAFE POWER FOR MEMBERS

Beltrami Electric Cooperative strives to maintain and improve the safety and reliability of your electric service. To accomplish this, Beltrami Electric maintains a three-step right-of-way corridor maintenance cycle. Proper vegetation management consists of removing trees, mowing underbrush, controlling vegetation growth, trimming limbs that extend into the right of way and cutting what is classified as danger trees. A danger tree is a tree that, if it fell, would hit the main power line.

### WHAT IS THE RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) CORRIDOR FOR AN ELECTRIC LINE?



A right-of-way (ROW) corridor for an electric line is a strip of land that an electric utility uses to construct, maintain, repair or replace an overhead or underground power line. The corridor allows the utility to provide clearance from trees, buildings and other structures that could interfere with

line installation, maintenance and operation. Beltrami Electric Cooperative requires a 30-foot clearance on each side of the poles and a 15-foot minimum on each side of the poles when approaching a residence.

### TREES AND POWER LINES DON'T MIX

Larger trees that are planted in utility right of ways create a dangerous safety hazard by providing children an opportunity to play near power lines. When a tree limb comes in contact with a power line, there is a definite possibility of shock injury or fatal electrocution to a child or adult touching or climbing the tree.

Trees located in a utility right of way increase the chance of an outage (or blinking lights). They will also

Beltrami Electric will be removing trees and brush within the overhead corridor during the upcoming year in the following townships: Hart Lake, Schoolcraft, Roosevelt, Alaska (East & West), Red Lake and Ponemah, Lake Hattie, Hendrickson. Some of this work was scheduled for last winter, but due to the amount of snow, crews were not able to complete clearing work.

increase the time it takes to restore power after any major storm that may have damaged power lines and poles from high winds or lightning.

### Beltrami's three-step right-of-way corridor maintenance cycle

**STEP 1:** Trees and brush are removed from the corridor.

**STEP 2:** Selective spot treatment of an EPA-approved biodegradable herbicide where there are unwanted trees, brush and noxious weeds. This includes poison ivy around the utility poles and trees and brush that will eventually interfere with electrical service, reliability or accessibility. This does not include areas near gardens or mowed areas.

**STEP 3:** A review of any areas that may have been missed in prior herbicide treatments will follow 1-2 years after step two. Subsequent maintenance cycles follow in 8-10 year increments, which will be less intensive due to the decreased amount of trees and brush.

### WHAT CAN I PLANT AND WHERE?

The cooperative believes trees are an important part of our environment and community. To avoid dangerous situations and threats to its system, Beltrami Electric supports

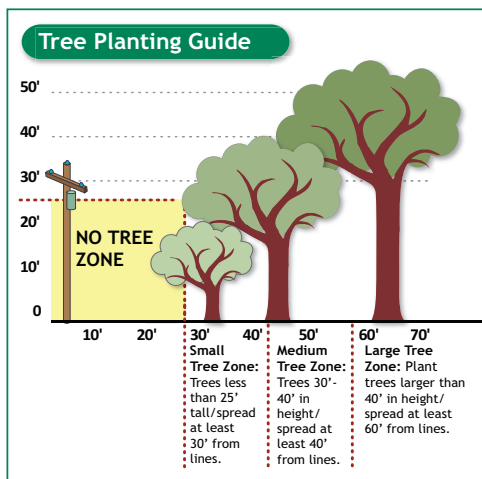
the philosophy of "the right tree in the right place."

As you landscape your property, remember to "look up," and use this guide for planting near overhead power lines.

For underground lines on

your property, maintain a clearance of 10' of either side of the line. This provides room for utility maintenance equipment to access and repair lines when necessary.

Maintaining proper clearances in the right of ways is a requirement of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the National Electrical Safety Code. Clearing trees can be inconvenient for our members. However, the work we do to keep the lines clear of vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our members.







# Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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PO Box 488  
Bemidji, MN 56619-0488  
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www.beltramielctric.com

## TRACK AND ACCESS YOUR ENERGY USAGE



Beltrami Electric Cooperative offers a free resource for members to help them track their energy usage called MyMeter™. Spot trends, track your usage, receive energy-related alerts and more.



Track and compare your usage against weather conditions or your own usage from previous years.

Alerts and meter data are accessible across different devices and the mobile alert system keeps you up to date even when you are away from home.

Need assistance or have questions? Contact member services at 444-2540 or 800-955-6083.



### GET STARTED TODAY!

Visit [mymeter.beltramielctric.com](http://mymeter.beltramielctric.com) or download the free app to your mobile device.

## Keep your contact information up to date

Has your address changed? Do you have a new cell phone number? Dropped your landline? Then it is time to contact your electric cooperative to verify and/or update the information we have on your account. By keeping your contact information up to date, you can ensure your cooperative is able to reach you regarding billing and account information, outage notifications, capital credits and more.

If we don't have the correct phone number linked to your home address, it makes it more difficult for you to report an outage or for the co-op to notify you, when possible, of a prearranged outage. At Beltrami Electric we use the phone number you provide to link your service address to our outage management system. For example, if you call us to report an outage, our automated system

instantly recognizes your phone number and can determine the particular service address from which you are reporting an outage.

Once you give our system a response, your outage is reported. It's that simple! But remember – this only works if your current phone number is linked to your service address.

Visit [www.beltramielctric.com](http://www.beltramielctric.com) or call our Member Services department at 218-444-2540 or 800-955-6083 and make sure you're up to date.

