

# NORTHERN

# L I G H T S



**Beltrami Electric  
Cooperative Inc.**

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

February 2021

## EMPLOYEE YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYEES WERE RECOGNIZED FOR  
THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE IN 2020 (**270 YEARS**):



**Larry Eichstadt**  
40 years



**Scott Pemberton**  
40 years



**Kay Olson**  
30 years



**Leslie Huot**  
20 years



**Richard Riewer**  
20 years



**Ryan Rogers**  
20 years



**Vonda Johnson**  
15 years



**Terri Lindseth**  
15 years



**Angela Lyseng**  
15 years



**Ken Norenberg**  
15 years



**Chris Thronson**  
15 years



**Becky Trefz**  
15 years



**Lindsey Streiber**  
10 years

***Thank you for your  
service to our members!***

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**Beltrami Electric Scholarships – page 7**

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Monday – Friday

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or 1-800-955-6083

[www.beltramielectric.com](http://www.beltramielectric.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	Judy Honer, DISTRICT 9
Directors:	Charlie Perkins, DISTRICT 2; Charles Parson, DISTRICT 3; Craig Gaasvig, DISTRICT 4; Robert Wallner, DISTRICT 5; Rick Coe, DISTRICT 6 ( <i>Minnkota Director</i> )
President and CEO	Jared Echternach
Editor	Angela Lyseng

#### Minnesota State Electrical Inspectors

*Beltrami County*

**Wade Koons**

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

*Cass and Hubbard Counties*

**Anthony Kohrs**

218-255-1046 - [kohrsinspection@paulbunyan.net](mailto: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](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.

#### 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 balanced approach to providing power

Jared Echternach, *President and CEO*

Every day, we provide our members with safe, reliable, environmentally responsible and affordable power. We're able to provide this essential service because our wholesale power supplier, Minnkota Power, uses many types of resources to generate electricity. Having diversity in our power portfolio helps us keep service reliable and affordable.

You may occasionally hear about baseload and non-baseload power sources. How these resources work together to power our homes and businesses is important, and long-term planning plays a vital role in meeting our members' needs. Generation plants are long-term assets, which last for several decades.

In the Upper Midwest, baseload power plants are most commonly fueled by coal. The plants operate nearly 24 hours a day, seven days a week and provide consistent and steady power. Other common baseload resources in the U.S. include nuclear and natural gas, and in some cases hydro.

Based on our annual and average power use requirements, Minnkota Power plans ahead to know how much power it needs to generate or purchase to meet those needs. Baseload power plants run at fairly consistent levels and are dispatchable, allowing these plants to provide generation when needed by our members.

As part of a balanced approach to providing you with power from a variety of sources, Minnkota Power supplements its baseload power with resources, such as hydro and wind. Several cooperatives in the Minnkota system have constructed community solar gardens, including Beltrami Electric. These are considered non-baseload sources because of their variability. For example, on a sunny day, solar panels can produce maximum

output. Or, when wind speeds are steady and not too high or too low, wind turbines can generate a fairly consistent supply of power. However, during cloudy days or at night, we can't rely on solar power because it isn't generating a significant amount of energy. Because of the unpredictability of non-baseload sources, we use them in tandem with baseload plants to ensure when our members flip the switch, they can count on a reliable and adequate power supply to meet their needs.

Baseload power sources are the backbone of our system for a number of reasons, including the fact that energy cannot yet be effectively or economically stored on a large scale. Advancements in energy storage have come a long way in recent years, but it's still not economically feasible enough – or, in some cases, reliable enough – to meet our members' needs.

Minnkota Power continues to engage in long-term planning and is evaluating a potential carbon capture and storage project – called Project Tundra – at its coal plant near Center, N.D. While a decision has not been made whether to proceed, it's this type of planning that's necessary to ensure a safe, reliable and environmentally responsible power supply.

As a member of Beltrami Electric, you may be thinking, why is this important to me? Having a balanced and diverse energy portfolio is similar to having a diversified personal financial plan. When it comes to savings, it's not prudent to put all of your eggs in one basket. The same is true with sources of power generation. To achieve the best mix of reliability, affordability, environmental responsibility and safety, we rely on multiple sources rather than just one type of power generation – in short, a balanced approach to energy supply.

# Five things you'll LOVE

## about an off-peak water heater

If you're looking for that warm-and-fuzzy feeling during the month of love, look no further – your perfect Valentine's Day match is a large-capacity water heater on off-peak. Electric water heaters offer the consistency and comfort of a soulmate at a price that won't break your heart.



**Bargain off-peak rate:** When you set up your electric water heater on the off-peak program (*heating the water during lower-demand times of day*), you can cut that electricity rate in half – and the savings add up fast.

**Lower purchase price:** Electric water heaters are simpler with fewer parts, so the equipment is often less expensive than other water heater technologies.

**Easy setup:** Every home is already wired with electricity, so you don't have to worry about the expensive and complicated piping and venting setup that comes with fuels like propane.

**More efficient:** Electric water heaters are more efficient, because they don't lose any heat in a venting process like gas water heaters do – all the energy goes directly to heating water.

**Safe and clean:** An electric water heater allows you to use the safe and clean power of electricity. Gas heater lines need to be inspected regularly to avoid gas leaks.

*The cherry on top of these benefits is that you can get **HUGE REBATES** for installing a new electric water heater on off-peak. Contact the energy pros at Beltrami Electric Cooperative to find out how.*

### Electric Water Heater Rebates

*Must be on off-peak*

100 gallon or greater

**\$800 rebate**

56-99 gallon

**\$500 rebate**

55 gallon or less

**\$250 rebate**

#### Bonus rebates:

**Add \$250** if converting from natural gas or propane.

**Add \$100** for new building construction.

Larger than 55-gallon sizes must be on category 2 daily-cycled storage control.



# ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE



## All-of-the-above strategy ensures the best energy value

“Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.”

It’s a familiar saying, and believe it or not, that age-old piece of wisdom is used by electric cooperatives to make sure you receive a reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible supply of electricity. Each of the primary generation resource options across the country has both advantages and disadvantages. This is why an all-of-the-above energy strategy is so crucial. If a utility ties itself to one resource, it is exposed to all the risks associated with that resource. By diversifying, utilities are able to take advantage of the pros and limit their exposure to the cons.

Through its membership in Minnkota Power Cooperative, Beltrami Electric Cooperative

uses a diverse mix of coal, wind and hydro to meet your 24/7 electricity needs. Future power supply decisions take into account numerous factors, including permitting; capital, operating and maintenance costs; existing generation mix; reliability and resiliency; and projected consumer demand for electricity.

Decisions to build or purchase from new generation resources are carefully considered. Building any new generation resource at grid scale can cost hundreds of millions of dollars and require decades of investment and commitment. That makes it uneconomic to switch back and forth between power supply options over short periods of time.



# PROS AND CONS OF GENERATION RESOURCES

## DISPATCHABLE/BASELOAD

### + LIGNITE COAL -

Abundant, domestic fuel source	Currently, almost impossible to permit
Can reliably run 24 hours per day	Can be difficult to ramp up and down to accommodate renewable production
Cost-competitive with other resources	Higher CO <sub>2</sub> intensity than natural gas, although CO <sub>2</sub> capture technology is advancing

### + NATURAL GAS -

Lower CO <sub>2</sub> emission levels than coal	Fuel costs have been historically volatile
Currently, natural gas is low-priced	Pipeline infrastructure not adequate for projected demand
Can be run 24/7 or used during peak events	Potentially more expensive to install CO <sub>2</sub> capture technology
Flexible operation	

### + HYDRO -

No fuel cost	Currently, almost impossible to permit
Low-cost energy to consumer	Affects fish and wildlife habitat
No air emissions	Alters the natural flow of rivers
Flexible operation	Virtually no resources in development (some dams being removed)

### + NUCLEAR -

No air emissions	High capital cost and increasingly expensive fuel
Can reliably run 24 hours per day	Radioactive waste must be properly disposed of and monitored
	Nearly impossible to permit
	Cannot ramp up and down to accommodate renewable production

## INTERMITTENT

### + WIND -

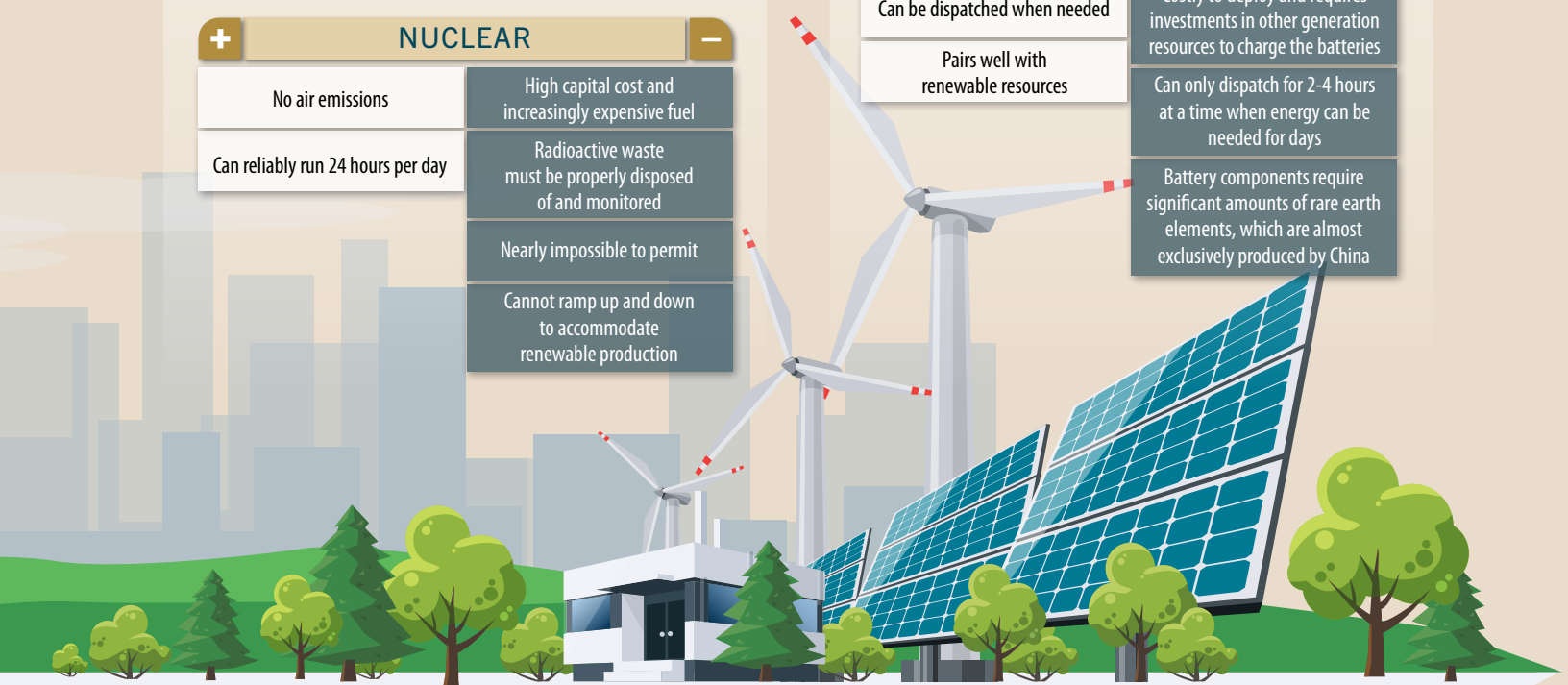
No fuel cost	Has intermittent production (produces about 45% of its potential on an annual basis)
No air emissions	Requires investment in backup generation resources
Cost-competitive with other resources	Turbines take a larger footprint to produce the same energy as other resources
	Wind farms can impact bird and wildlife populations
	Cannot operate in extreme cold or wind conditions

### + SOLAR -

No fuel cost	Has intermittent production (produces about 15-18% of its potential on an annual basis)
No air emissions	Requires investment in backup generation resources
Costs are higher than other resources, but are trending downward	Solar panels take a larger footprint to produce the same energy as other resources
	Production affected by clouds, snow and extreme cold temperatures

### + BATTERY TECHNOLOGY -

No air emissions	Technology is in its infancy at grid scale
Can be dispatched when needed	Costly to deploy and requires investments in other generation resources to charge the batteries
Pairs well with renewable resources	Can only dispatch for 2-4 hours at a time when energy can be needed for days
	Battery components require significant amounts of rare earth elements, which are almost exclusively produced by China



# 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 February 1 will be published in the March issue.
  - o Ads submitted between February 2 and March 1 will be published in the April issue.
- Ads may be submitted via our website at [www.beltramelectric.com](http://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.
- All telephone numbers are presumed to have a 218 area code unless otherwise noted. You may need to dial the 2-1-8 prefix, depending on where you live.

## For Sale:

3 boxes 30-30, \$60; 38 spec 50 rounds, \$75; 223 200 rounds, \$300; Lift chair, like new condition, brown color fabric \$500; Winchester two-gun hard case with combination locks, 52" L x 14" deep, excellent condition \$150. Text 218-209-1863 or 209-8230.

2013 Palm Island Spa (hot tub) seats seven. LED lighting, AM/FM audio, bought NEW in 2013, used for two years, in storage for years. \$2,800 as-is. For more info. go to bahamaspas.net, choose Palm Island. 556-0267.

36" round solid oak table with two 12" leaves, asking \$150/obo. Pool table, "Elite Billiards" brand. 4' x 8' solid oak, wine colored cloth, excellent condition, asking \$1,150/obo. Call 760-8266.

Hoyt Raider bow with quiver, 1 arrow and case, like new, only used a couple of times for target practice. \$100. IBM Selectric typewriter. \$25. 556-8507.

2020 oats, \$2/bushel. Call 766-8167.

1988 Suzuki Samurai, a project that needs to be finished. 1961 Chevy parts. 1969 Roadrunner tail light lenses and bezels. Call or text 218-214-0915.

Armoire, nightstand and headboard \$200/obo. Queen-sized bed \$200. Contact Linda at 766-8781.

2005 F-550 Super Duty, Cab & Chassis diesel, \$3,500. 547-1671.

Coleman EVCOM heat/AC furnace unit, 70000 BTU natural gas/propane. \$150/obo. 368-8891.

Dining room table, 5 ft x 3 ft, 6 heavy duty chairs. Solid oak, natural light oak finish. Special feature - has drawer in the table for silverware. Never used. Really nice set. 224-3438.

Books: "These Old Boots from Farm to Forest" by James Lowmaster; "Growing up on a Farm in the Great Depression"; "WWII Radio News of hat Time"; "What a Forester Really Does"; "His Hitch in the U.S. Marine Corps". If interested, please call 586-2492.

Homemade quilts: 4-5-6-inch Block, Crazy, Star. Twin, \$35; Full, \$40; Queen, \$55; King, \$60. Sewing machines, \$15 each. 243-2702.

Large round weather-proof tent, 10-ft diameter, blue, no floor, perfect for group fishing, \$60. Manual ice auger, \$20. Folding camp stools for ice fishing, \$5. Rustic driftwood coat/hat rack, w/deer antler hooks, perfect for North woods home or cabin, \$90. 586-2884.

## Wanted:

Looking for someone with Brittany puppies available next spring or summer. 751-7693.

Walmart brand Faded Glory denim flannel lined shirt with breast pockets in size 2X or 3X. 10 or 12-gun locker, metal. S-10 or GM half ton 4x4 pickup. Call or text 218-214-0915.

Looking for a Coin Pushing Game that takes quarters. Going to be used for fun only. Not a gambling thing. Would prefer a full standing model but any type would do. If you know anyone that has one laying around, please contact me. Will pay top dollar. 218-513-7162 or 760-1614.

1/2 or 3/4 size anvil, prefer blacksmith style. 766-8410.

2-wheel drive pickup truck. Manual transmission. 224-2739.

## Free:

HP920 inkjet cartridges. Purchased and installed and then the printer broke, so they have not been used. 444-7258.

Pigeons, racing homers. 407-7247.

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020. A quorum of directors was in attendance.

### The following reports were given:

- President and CEO Echnernach gave his monthly report, including 2021 membership to ACRE and REPAC, legislative issues affecting the cooperative, the cooperative's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and review of the 2020 employee years-of-service awards.

- Sam Mason presented the 2021 Marketing Plan.

- CEO Echnernach presented the 2021 Budget and Work Plan.

- Chair Lund appointed Murl Nord as the NRECA voting delegate and Robert Wallner as the alternate.

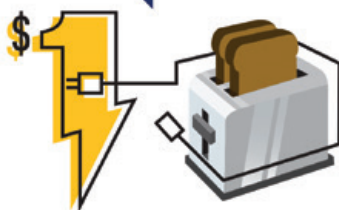
- Directors and President and CEO Echnernach shared highlights of educational classes and meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative.

### The following actions were taken:

- Approved the consent agenda.
- Approved the non-union compensation and benefits plan.
- Approved the 2021 Budget and Marketing Plan.

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021.

## What can you get for \$1?



8 hours of toasting bread

Your electricity is a bargain. Did you know you can use your toaster for eight hours for just \$1 of electrical power? That's about 320 slices of bread, or 160 full sandwiches! With that inexpensive meal prep, you can spend more on gourmet mustard, mayo and jam.

## PLEASE MOVE OVER FOR ROADSIDE CREWS

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible.

**Together, we can keep our crews safe.**





# ATTENTION: Class of 2021

Beltrami Electric  
Cooperative  
scholarships available

## Good for technical school, college or university

Beltrami Electric Cooperative will be offering \$1,000 in scholarship money to deserving students of BEC members attending seven area high schools. If you are a high school senior and are interested in applying for a scholarship from BEC, please contact your high school's designated guidance office or scholarship committee for additional information and applications. The scholarship selection process is handled through each school's designated career guidance office or scholarship committee.

As a co-op, Beltrami Electric returns excess revenue to members as capital credits. When capital credits are *unclaimed*, they are deposited into a separate fund for education and are used to offer scholarships for the children of co-op members.

### Eligibility – Who can apply?

Students graduating from high school in 2021 are eligible to apply. You must be:

- A dependent of a Beltrami Electric Cooperative member. A *parent/guardian must be named on account*.
- A high school senior who plans to enroll as a full-time student at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.
- Graduating from one of the seven schools listed below.

*Beltrami High School*

*Laporte High School*

*Blackduck High School*

*Red Lake High School*

*Cass Lake High School*

*Walker-Hackensack-Akeley High School*

*Kelliher High School*

## Beltrami Electric Cooperative At-Large Scholarship

Beltrami Electric will award one \$1,000 at-large scholarship to a Beltrami Electric Cooperative member or a dependent of a Beltrami Electric member who plans to enroll as a full-time student in their first year at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

- The At-Large Scholarship Program is for students who do not attend one of the seven schools listed under Beltrami Electric's High School Scholarship Program. At-large scholarships will not be awarded to Beltrami Electric Cooperative employees or dependents of employees, board of directors or the Beltrami Electric Trust Board. Information and applications can be found at [www.beltramielectric.com](http://www.beltramielectric.com). Applications must be received by **April 1, 2021**, for consideration.



## 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 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

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.

### 2021 Maximum EAP Income Guidelines

Household Size	3-month Maximum	Household Size	3-month Maximum
1	\$7,066	5	\$15,763
2	\$9,240	6	\$17,937
3	\$11,415	7	\$18,345
4	\$13,589	8	\$18,753

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



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www.beltramielectric.com

## Beltrami Electric Cooperative sees record donations for Mitten Tree



Students at Kelliher's Early Child Family Education program were very excited to receive donated items from Beltrami Electric Cooperative's annual Mitten Tree.

In December, Beltrami Electric Cooperative (BEC) delivered donated mittens, gloves, hats and scarves to seven area Head Start and Early Child Family Education (EFCE) programs, as well as St. Mary's Mission School in Red Lake, as part of its 21<sup>st</sup> annual Mitten Tree campaign.

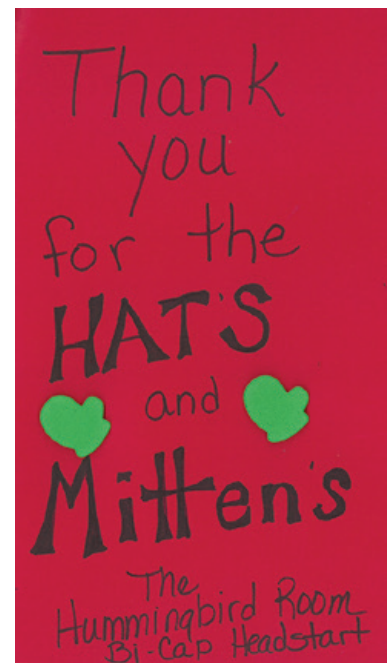
BEC saw a record number of items donated this year, with more than 1,200 items collected. "The support from our members and communities has been overwhelming," said Angela Lyseng, marketing/communications specialist at BEC. "In previous years, our goal was to provide one item to each student. This year however, we were able to deliver multiple items, such as a hat and mittens, for each student. We received some wonderful homemade hats, mittens and scarves." With some schools in distance-learning, the teachers will be completing the distribution to the students.

As some of you might know, cooperatives around the world adhere to the same Seven Cooperative Principles that guide all our decisions – from how we run the co-op, to how we engage with our local communities. Concern for community is the seventh principle and it is one that seems especially important. No matter how great or small the act, every time we give back, we strengthen our community.

Whether you dropped off your items or shipped them to us, we were so excited to see the items that were selected or made with love for our area children. By working together, we can make a big impact in our local communities, keeping children warm for yet another winter season.



Thank you for knitting  
all of the mittens.  
We know that the gloves  
were created with love.  
We won't forget that  
you made us all hats.  
You are the reason  
we're warmer this season.  
♥ Thank You From The Frog Room  
Teacher Anna, Amara & Bradi  
\*The children love getting new warm  
winter hats, scarves, mittens & gloves.\*  
\*Thank you for doing this every year!\*



Thank  
you  
for the  
**HAT'S**  
and  
**Mitten's**  
The  
Hummingbird Room  
Bi-Cap Headstart

**Thank you to everyone who helped with a donation to the Mitten Tree this year. A special thank you to Esther Homister-Kingbird, who knitted and donated over 300 colorful hats.**