

# NORTHERN

L I G H T S

October 2018

## Northern Solar Community Solar Garden 1-year update



It has been one year since our community solar garden came online and started producing local renewable energy for participating cooperative members. This project is the result of cooperative member-owners expressing their desire to have a local renewable energy option and their willingness to enter into subscriptions to support the project. Participating members are seeing solar energy credits on their monthly electric bills.

Solar panel subscriptions are still available at a prorated subscription cost. Real-time production can be viewed on our website by clicking on the Solar e-Gauge link on our home page. There is a small amount of energy produced that is also being used when the system is in standby mode.

Challenges we noted during the first year include snow loading over the winter, hazy skies due to fires out west reducing production and equipment failure. In April, we discovered that six of the eighty-four inverters had failed and needed to be replaced. Fortunately, we were prepared with some extra inverters on hand and were able to quickly rectify the issue.

We do have members participating in the Pay As You Go option as well, so the total panels available to which members can subscribe to could change depending on participation. We encourage interested members to contact us if they would like to purchase local renewable energy from Northern Solar.



### PAYMENT OPTIONS AVAILABLE:

**One-time payment** – price to subscribe as of Oct. 1, 2018:

- Full panel: \$1,224.85
- Half panel: \$612.43

**Easy-pay plan** – select a 12, 24 or 36 month payment plan with no money down at 6 percent interest, payable on the electric bill. (Subject to review of account standing.)

**Pay As You Go option** – \$0.0503 per kWh rate adder. This is a great option for members who don't wish to sign a contract. Simply tell us how many kWh/month you would like to come from Northern Solar and we will add it to your monthly electric bill. With no contract, you can cancel at any time.

### NORTHERN SOLAR STATISTICS

- Number of members participating: 82
- Number of panels subscribed: 101
- Number of panels still available: 79\* (Depending on Pay As You Go participants)
- Production September 2017 through August 2018: 71,190 kWh
- Lowest production month: December 2017 (493 kWh)
- Highest production month: July 2018 (11,083 kWh)
- Projected Annual Average Output per panel: 450 kWh
- Actual Average Output per panel for first year: 396 kWh



**Beltrami Electric  
Cooperative Inc.**

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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L I G H T S

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Monday – Friday

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or 1-800-955-6083

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

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

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218-779-6758 • [rjditsch@gmail.com](mailto:rjditsch@gmail.com)

Cass and Hubbard Counties

Steve Schauland

218-652-2213 or 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.

## STAY CONNECTED!



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## Cooperatives see the future

Jared Echternach, CEO

Changes are transforming all aspects of the energy industry. Interest in renewable energy is at an all-time high, and ultimately members want greater control over their energy use and payment methods. The prevalence of smartphone apps and “smart” technology for the home is increasing, and consumers and businesses are showing greater interest in electric vehicles (EVs). There’s no denying it: electric utilities will have to make changes to the way they provide energy to accommodate these trends. Beltrami Electric Cooperative is well positioned by hard work and thoughtful planning to meet these changing energy needs.

### Co-ops are community-led

October is National Co-op Month, which is the perfect time to highlight the many ways electric cooperatives are unique.

Cooperatives are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of their members.

Electric cooperatives belong to the communities they serve. This heightened community focus allows us to quickly adapt to evolving member expectations. Our closeness to the community ensures a better response to these needs because we are led by the people that we serve.

### Co-ops are a catalyst for good

Electric co-ops, like Beltrami Electric, are a catalyst for good in their communities. Co-ops engage their members to do things that might otherwise be impossible or difficult, like more than 75 years ago when electric co-ops brought power to areas where other utilities did not find it economically feasible. Today, it means bringing EV chargers, community solar, tools like SmartHub and MyMeter, and much more to our members.

Cooperatives exist to meet a need that was previously unmet in the community, and they are ever striving to anticipate and plan for the future needs of their members.

Electric cooperatives often partner with local groups to bring economic opportunity to their local community. It is this facilitation role that is often the most valuable strength of the co-op. Right here in our five-county service territory, we partner with Greater Bemidji, the Northwest Minnesota Foundation and the Blackduck Development Corporation to bring new economic opportunities to our local communities.

The co-op business model is unique. It is pragmatic, mission-oriented and puts people first. Co-ops strive to be a trusted voice in their communities. Co-ops have earned that trust because, while not perfect, they always have their members’ best interest at heart and are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities they serve – now and in the future.

### Beltrami Electric Touchstone Energy® Open

Last month we held our 14<sup>th</sup> annual Beltrami Electric Touchstone Energy® Open golf tournament and raised \$10,330 for the United Way of the Bemidji Area. Over the past 14 years, we have raised more than \$119,620 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 benefit people in our community.

### Employee retirement

Member Service Representative Theresa McKee retired Sept. 18, having served our members for more than 20 years. I would like to thank Theresa for her dedication to the cooperative and our members, and I wish her a long, healthy and happy retirement. You will be missed.

# OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH



**SAFE,  
RELIABLE,  
AFFORDABLE  
ENERGY.**

**THEN. NOW.  
ALWAYS.**

**We are proud to  
power your life.**

October is National Cooperative Month, and Beltrami Electric Cooperative is excited to celebrate the cooperative difference by offering its member-owners even more savings. **National Co-op Connections Day** will be held on **Friday, Oct. 5, 2018** and is sponsored by Touchstone Energy® cooperatives. This year, members can “Go Beyond the Card” to save in their communities, on-the-go and online.

Help us celebrate three ways to save through the Co-op Connections® program: The One Card That Does It All, the new Co-op Connections App, and the newly enhanced **connections.coop** website. We’re calling it “**The Power of 3!**”

Beltrami Electric invites members to use the “Power of 3” to save money when they use their card, visit the website, or download the app to find deals and coupons at national and local retailers.

Members are encouraged to get involved and visit their favorite participating business on Oct. 5. If you need a new card, simply print one from **connections.coop** or stop in or call Beltrami Electric’s office. You can also download the free Co-op Connection app for Apple or Android devices and start saving!

## National Co-op Connections

**Day is October 5, 2018**



**Go Beyond the Card**  
Find All the Ways to Save in your app.



### Power of 3

Use the app, shop online or use your card  
**www.Connections.coop**



## Happy Retirement

***Congratulations, Theresa McKee!***



*We would like to congratulate Member Service Representative Theresa McKee on her retirement. Theresa retired on Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2018, after more than 20 years with*

*Beltrami Electric. Theresa lives south of Bemidji with her husband Mike, and she is looking forward to doing some traveling and spending more time with their grandkids. We wish her the very best for a long and happy retirement!*

# 14<sup>th</sup> annual Beltrami Electric Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Open raises \$10,330 for United Way of Bemidji

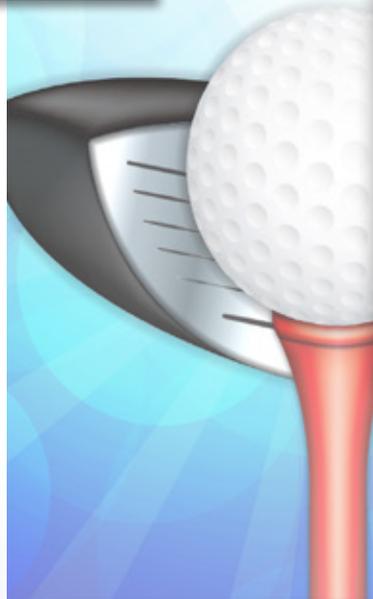
United Way  
of Bemidji Area



The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Beltrami Electric Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Open was held Friday, Aug. 17, at Castle Highlands Golf Course. The event raised \$10,330 for the United Way of the Bemidji Area.

“For the 14<sup>th</sup> straight year, we are thankful for the tremendous support of local and regional businesses,” said Cammie Vogel, Beltrami Electric’s campaign coordinator. “With their help, Beltrami Electric has held this tournament for 14 straight years and raised, cumulatively, more than \$119,620 to support area needs through the United Way of Bemidji and its partner agencies.”

Beltrami Electric Cooperative thanks the numerous sponsors, golfers and the tournament volunteers on behalf of the United Way of Bemidji.



The Beltrami Electric Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Open Golf Tournament Committee presents a check for \$10,330 to the United Way of the Bemidji Area. Pictured left to right: Bob Gregg, Rich Riewer, United Way Director Denae Alamo, Jeff Noren, Angela Lyseng and Cammie Vogel.



## Thank you sponsors!



- Arctic Spas of Bemidji
- Bemidji Collision Center
- Bemidji Sports Centre
- Bill Noren
- Border States Electric
- Brady-Martz & Associates
- CoBank
- Coca-Cola Bottling
- Countryside Restaurant
- Dakota Supply Group
- Darrell's Auto Glass
- Dondelinger's Chevrolet-Buick
- Hill's Heating & Cooling
- Irby



- Kraus-Anderson Construction Co.
- Lakes Concrete Plus
- Land O' Lakes Wood Preserving
- Lazy Jacks
- Angela Lyseng-Thirty One
- Marco
- Miller McDonald
- National Information Systems Co-op (NISC)
- Nei Bottling
- Norenberg & Associates Tax & Consulting
- North Central Door Company
- Northern Paving
- Oak Hills Christian College
- Okonite
- Ottertail Power Co.



- Pat Gregg
- Paul Bunyan Broadcasting/HBI
- Paul Bunyan Communications
- Per Mar Security Services
- Pinnacle Marketing Group
- Ray's Sport & Marine
- Rural Electric Supply Co (RESCO)
- Riverwood Bank
- Sanford Health Bemidji
- Sathre Title & Abstract
- Security Bank USA
- Slim's Bar & Grill
- Stittsworth Meats
- The Bunkhouse
- Your QFM



**FIRST PLACE**

The team from Busch Light Express captured first place with a score of 49.7 in the 5-person team scramble tournament. Pictured from left to right: Ross Beltz, Vince Collyard, Wayne Hanschen, Chris Lucia and Darby Shegrud.



**SECOND PLACE**

Taking second place with a score of 51.85 was the Stan Nelson team. Picture from left to right: Dustin Holloway, Stan Nelson, Scott Meyer, Mike Fogelson and Steve Fogelson.



**THIRD PLACE**

Third place went to the Bemidji Collision Center, with a score of 52.5. Pictured from left to right: Lee Pemberton, Rob Pemberton, Jr., Steve Montgomery, Tim Gullickson and Rob Pemberton, Sr.

# Cold Weather Disconnect Rule

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

### **Subdivision 1. Application; notice to residential customer.**

(a) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. A municipal utility or cooperative electric association utility may (i) verify income on forms it provides or (ii) obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the customer receives any form of public assistance, including energy assistance, that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income.

(2) A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.

(3) A customer receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

(b) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must, between August 15 and October 15 each year, notify all residential customers of the provisions of this section.

### **Subdivision 2. Notice to residential customer facing disconnection.**

Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15, a municipal utility or cooperative electric association must provide the following information to a customer:

- (1) a notice of proposed disconnection;
- (2) a statement explaining the customer's rights and responsibilities;
- (3) a list of local energy assistance providers;
- (4) forms on which to declare inability to pay; and
- (5) a statement explaining available time

payment plans and other opportunities to secure continued utility service.

### **Subdivision 3. Restrictions if disconnection necessary.**

(a) If a residential customer must be involuntarily disconnected between October 15 and April 15 for failure to comply with subdivision 1, the disconnection must not occur:

(1) on a Friday, unless the customer declines to enter into a payment agreement offered that day in person or via personal contact by telephone by a municipal utility or cooperative electric association;

(2) on a weekend, holiday, or the day before a holiday;

(3) when utility offices are closed; or

(4) after the close of business on a day when disconnection is permitted, unless a field representative of a municipal utility or cooperative electric association who is authorized to enter into a payment agreement, accept payment, and continue service offers a payment agreement to the customer.

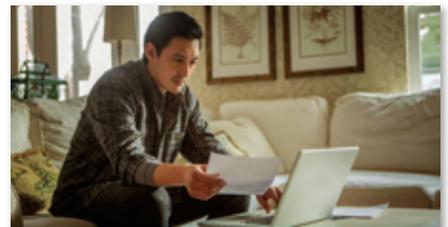
Further, the disconnection must not occur until at least 20 days after the notice required in subdivision 2 has been mailed to the customer or 15 days after the notice has been personally delivered to the customer.

(b) If a customer does not respond to a disconnection notice, the customer must not be disconnected until the utility investigates whether the residential unit is actually occupied. If the unit is found to be occupied, the utility must immediately inform the occupant of the provisions of this section. If the unit is unoccupied, the utility must give seven days' written notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before making a disconnection.

(c) If, prior to disconnection, a customer appeals a notice of involuntary disconnection, as provided by the utility's established appeal procedure, the utility must not disconnect until the appeal is resolved.

### **Subdivision 4. Application to service limiters.**

For the purposes of this section, "disconnection" includes a service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts electric service in any way.



## Need help paying your electric bill?

Energy assistance may be available!

*If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.*

### **Bi-CAP Energy Assistance**

6603 Bemidji Ave N  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
218-751-4631

### **Mahube Energy Assistance**

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

### **Leech Lake Energy Assistance**

115 6<sup>th</sup> St NW, Suite E  
Cass Lake, MN 56633  
218-335-3783

### **Red Lake Energy Assistance**

15533 Main Ave  
Red Lake, MN 56671  
218-679-1880

### **Kootasca Energy Assistance**

201 NW 4<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 130  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-999-0800

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps are just around the corner! Is your home's heating system ready? Remember to replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended. If you heat your home with warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to increase efficiency.

Source: energy.gov



## ATTENTION: MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL

325E.028 UTILITY PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL. The Minnesota Legislature passed a law concerning disconnection, payment arrangements and appeals for electric service of military personnel who are issued order into active duty, deployment or have a permanent change in duty station. Contact our office for more information.

# Northern Lights CLASSIFIEDS

## Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the fifth of the month prior to publication of the next issue. Example:
  - o Ads submitted by October 5 will be published in November issue.
  - o Ads submitted between October 6 and November 5 will be published in December issue.
- Ads may be submitted via our website at [www.beltramelectric.com](http://www.beltramelectric.com) (preferred).
- Include name and Beltrami Electric account number on all submissions.
- All ads must be **50 words or less** 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.

## For Sale:

1974 Chevrolet 454 engine. Complete from carburetor to oil pan. Running but currently installed in a vehicle. If interested you can hear it run prior to purchase. No idea how many miles are on engine; it was in car when I purchased it. The engine block is a 2-bolt main bearing block, not a 4-bolt. Asking \$650. Questions, call 444-2280, leave message.

1981 Army Jeep, CJ5, hardtop, \$4,300/obo. 224-3251.

2017 Wildwood 28' travel trailer. Master bedroom, bunks, sofa, main slide out, stainless steel appliances.

Lots of storage. Sleeps 7-8. Excellent condition. \$17,800. Text for pictures. 766-9745.

MTD 26" single-stage, 6-horse-power snowblower with electric start. Works great. \$300. Call after 3 p.m., 444-8312.

Amazon Echo (1st generation) with Alexa and far-field voice recognition. \$70—new in box. Asking \$50. Call 612-618-0422.

Boat storage. Long Lake near Concordia Language Village. Reasonable rates. 219-209-7741.

5' x 4' round bales of quality alfalfa hay. Put up dry, no rain. \$35/bale. You haul. Call before 7 p.m. at 751-8191.

Safari topper, gray. Easy access side windows. Have keys for all doors. Fits crew cab GM pickups. 2007-2013. This came off my 2013 Chevy pickup. Asking \$700. 766-7515.

Dry firewood, 2 cords Popple tops \$60, or 2 cords birch \$100, you haul. Call 760-8266.

Earthway garden seeder \$50. Black currant plants \$10 each. 224-3405.

Like new Pack-N-Play \$50. Large fire ring no rust, good condition \$20. Large car top luggage carrier – soft side 3 1/2' x 3' x 20"H, excellent condition, \$50. 987-2785

Self-storing "butterfly" table, when open it seats 8. \$50. Call 751-8191 before 8 p.m.

Four-wheel walker with brakes and seat, like new \$45. 444-1662.

Gray pickup topper Ford/8 ft. \$125, Husqvarna riding mower, snowblower, and grass-catcher \$650, Husky star sewing machine like new \$50, Oak sign sewing machine cabinet \$50, Whirlpool upright freezer 15.2 cubic ft, \$75 wood stove \$175. 547-1032.

Lumber: rough-cut lumber for sale. Thousands of board feet of pine lumber and some oak. Pine: 55 cents per board ft. Oak: 85 cents per board ft. I have some blue stain pine. Blue stain pine is becoming popular for interior as well as exterior for the rustic appearance. 760-7996.

3-pt heavy duty back blade, 8-ft. \$375. 368-2933.

Log quilt rack, \$20. Brush guard, good condition, for 2001 Dodge Ram, \$75. 835-7484.

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

8 hp Johnson outboard motor, runs great. \$475. 444-8414.

Central boiler, model 5036, dual heat (propane/wood) with heat exchanger and pump included, \$4,000. 333-0498.

2005 Arctic Cat Bearcat 660, low miles, \$3,500. Cass Lake 556-2305.

Toro single-stage snowblower. Manual start. Runs good. \$125. 766-7052.

Sugarbeet truck drivers, Oct. 1 until end of harvest. CDL license not required, motel room provided. Egeland Farms, Fisher, Minn. Call 779-8252 or (701) 739-1783.

60" Cycle Country 4-wheeler snow plow. \$50. 209-0897.

Almost new Toro Power Max 7260E snowblower with electric start. Jonsered Turbo gas powered chainsaw-used; Power Mate 3000 3750 OHV gas engine portable generator-almost new; Ryobi 740r 31cc 16" gas powered trimmer-used; electric 5500 SKIL saw-almost new. 444-8210.

Mixed firewood. Cut, split and dried. \$55 standard pickup load. You haul. Kelliher area. 647-9003 or 320-256-7255.

1973 Ford grain truck, steel box and hoist rol tarp. 46,000 miles, \$2,500/obo. 1955 I.H.C. grain truck, steel box and hoist. \$1,500/obo. 751-5667.

25' Layton Skyline fifth-wheel camper for sale. Nice! Stiletto cowgirl boots, size 7. new, \$50. Men's bicycle, still in the box. Call for info. 751-1522.

Vintage Fenwick 7 1/2 ft. glass 2-pc fly rod, model FF756, w/hard case and bag. Two single-action fly reels, Pflueger and Sears. Three Orvis dry-fly wallets w/supply of flies. All in new cond. \$175 takes all. Will

not separate. Grandma's circa 1920 Singer treadle sewing machine. In family since new, excellent working condition. Unique wood dovetailed box w/all attachments and manual. \$150. 759-1919.

Log-splitter, 24 hp Kohler engine, can handle up to 22" logs. Good working condition. \$700. 243-2148.

Heavy-duty portable sewing machine. Tuffsew Deluxe, Super model with walking foot, zipper foot for canvas, leather, heavy denim, etc. \$295. 547-1744.

Smoker, \$50. Deer stand, \$100. Antlers, stained and varnished, \$10/pair. Tabletop ice maker (red), new, \$40. Several hunting coats, vests, coveralls (size med), (Cabela's) bags, boots (size 8). Vexilar FL-18 Flasher, \$525. 335-0173.

LT 245/75 R16 tire, like new, \$30. 647-8479.

**Wanted:**  
Large round bales of oat straw. Please call 224-3405.

For recycling: E scrap, pianos, appliances, etc. \*Picked up free of charge (may change). Can move heavier items on %basis also. Within 75-mile radius of Bemidji. 712-369-3291

Arctic Cat 250 or 350 rear axle or parts machine. 835-6449.

Large propane tank (500 gallon+). 760-3298.

12.4/5 x 28" trailer tires, good condition. 647-8479.

**Free:**  
DOWNSIZING: Would like to find a home for HP Photosmart C5580 all-in-one printer/scanner/copier with stand, 2' w x 2' 3" tall. Like new. Please call 556-0653.

Garage-a-Palooza! FREE Coleman 15 x 15 screen shelter with 92-inch center height and also letting go a 3-burner gas grill which was only used three times last summer. Some handyman work required on the lighting mechanism. 701-799-6102.

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h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	<b>17424</b>	<b>1 7426</b>
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	<b>99</b>	<b>99</b>

\* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

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16. Electronic Copy Circulation

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies		
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		
c. Total Paid Distribution (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		
d. Percent Paid (Sum Print & Electronic Copies) (15b divided by 15c x 100)		

I certify that 99% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership  
 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed on **October 2018** issue of this publication.  Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner  
**Angela Lyseng** Marketing Communications Specialist 9/7/2018

(Certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).)

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 3 of 4) PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

# ELECTRIC HEATING SALES TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

**Please complete and return to:**  
 Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.  
 PO Box 488  
 Bemidji, MN 56619-0488

This is to certify that the main source of heat for my home (more than 50 percent) is furnished by **permanently** installed electric heating equipment (not portable) and I, therefore, am eligible for the electric heating sales tax exemption as provided by Minnesota State Tax Fact Sheet 157. This exemption is for the billing months of November through April only. *\*Exemption forms should be resubmitted every 3-4 years. Please notify us if you change from electric heat to a different primary heating source.*

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Location # \_\_\_\_\_

Meter # \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Tax ID#/FEIN/Driver's License# or State Issued ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_ Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Electricity sold for residential use is not taxable for the billing months of November through April when sold to metered members who use electric heat as their primary source of residential heat. If more than one type of heat is used, electricity is not taxable if electric is the primary source of heat. Primary source of residential heat is the source that supplied more heat than any other source for the largest period of time during the heating season. Members with an off-peak meter are only exempted sales tax on the electricity that is recorded on the off-peak meter.

Some buildings have both residential quarters and commercial operations. If there is one meter for the entire building, the exemption applies if more than 50 percent of the square footage of the building is residential.

Complete and submit the following form only if you are eligible for the exemption. If you have more than one account, an exemption form must be filed with each location.

The State of Minnesota recommends the exemption forms should be updated and resubmitted

every 3-4 years to be eligible for the exemption. Members who receive a tax exemption when electric heat is not their primary source of heat are in violation of the sales tax law.

Commercial Accounts must use an ST3 form, which is available on our website.

\*Please note that this form can also be submitted online at <https://www.beltramielc.com/content/electric-heating-sales-tax-exempt>.

## Board Meeting Highlights

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2018. A quorum of directors was present.

### The following reports were given:

- CEO Echternach made his monthly report, including discussion on the July financials, June and July storm statistics for Beltrami Electric and Minnkota Power, pole testing results, meter tampering statistics, legislative issues affecting the electric industry and an upcoming employee retirement.
- Arlene Hogquist gave the financial report and presented the IRS Form 990.
- CEO Echternach presented updates to the Vulnerability Risk Assessment and Emergency Restoration Plan.
- CEO Echternach discussed the Electric Cooperative Governance Task Force Report.
- Vice President Lund appointed CEO Echternach as the voting delegate to CFC and CoBank.
- Vice President Lund appointed Craig Gaasvig, Charlie Perkins and Judy Honer to the Board Policy Committee.
- Vice President Lund appointed Charlie Parson and Sue Kringen to the Board Bylaw Review Committee.
- Directors and the CEO shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative and discussed upcoming meetings and educational conferences.

### The following actions were taken:

- Approved the consent agenda and work order inventories.
- Approved IRS Form 990.
- Approved the updated Vulnerability Risk Assessment and Emergency Restoration Plan.

The next regular board meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018.

## October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

### Cybersecurity Tip

Create long passwords that only you will remember and change them every six months. Remember, a strong password is at least 12 characters long.

Take control of your account and never miss a payment again. With SmartHub, a web and mobile tool that helps you manage your account information, you can store payment information and set up automatic payments that are secure and simple. Take the worry out of paying your bill and set up auto pay with SmartHub.



Take control of your account with SmartHub. Available on Apple and Android devices and on the Web. Visit [www.beltramielc.com](http://www.beltramielc.com) to sign up today!



# Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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PO Box 488  
Bemidji, MN 56619-0488  
218-444-2540 • 800-955-6083  
www.beltramielctric.com

## Seeking nominations for the 2018 Touchstone Energy® Community Award



**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 our community. Any organization that has helped make their community within the area 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 Touchstone Energy® Community Award 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 impact it made on 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 CEO Jared Echternach said. "This award allows us to highlight and encourage those individuals or organizations that have shown an outstanding commitment to our community."

The award recipient will be announced Nov. 5, 2018, 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 February 2019.

The Minnesota Touchstone Energy® cooperatives are part of a national alliance of more than 700 rural electric cooperatives that adhere to the values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

For more information and to download an application, please visit our website at [www.beltramielctric.com](http://www.beltramielctric.com).



**2017 award winner: Bemidji Area Cross Country Ski Club**

### Past years' winners

- 2004** - Blackduck Tri Sigma General Federated Women's Club
- 2005** - Bemidji Area Task Force on Underage Drinking, Drugs and Gang Activity
- 2006** - Healthy Community Healthy Kids
- 2007** - The Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass and Hubbard Counties
- 2008** - The Radiothon to End Child Abuse
- 2009** - Bemidji Garden Club (Formerly Northwoods Garden Club of the Bemidji Area)
- 2010** - Bemidji Skate and Bike Association
- 2011** - Kelliher Resource Center Committee
- 2012** - Bemidji Area Take a Kid Fishing\* **(\*Awarded statewide award)**
- 2013** - Blackduck Area Toys for Kids **(\*Awarded statewide award)**
- 2014** - Bemidji Area Reading Canines (BARC)\*
- 2015** - Jack Pine Stables
- 2016** - Northland Composite Squadron - Civil Air Patrol
- 2017** - Bemidji Area Cross Country Ski Club