NORTHERN

L I G H T S

April 2021



They are there through all seasons.

Minnesota lineworkers face the coldest, most dangerous winters in the country.

Minnesota lineworkers sweat through humidity-soaked Midwest summers.

Minnesota lineworkers rise high into winds with gusts that just don't quit.

Minnesota lineworkers trudge through water, mud and snow – in the same week.



National Lineworker Appreciation Day April 12, 2021

#ThankALineworker

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

Member Service: 218-444-2540 or 1-800-955-6083 www.beltramielectric.com

Board of Directors

John Lund, DISTRICT 7 Chair Vice Chair Sue Kringen, DISTRICT 8 Murl Nord. DISTRICT 1 Secretary

(Square Butte Director)

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(Minnkota Director)

President and CEO Jared Echternach Editor Angela Lyseng

Minnesota State Electrical Inspectors

Beltrami County

Wade Koons

218-255-3011 - wade@koonsinspections.com

Cass and Hubbard Counties

Anthony Kohrs

218-255-1046 - 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 🔀 1-800-252-1166 or 811 www.gopherstateonecall.org

Anyone who plans to dig is required by law to notify the state of their intentions at least 48 hours in

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.



Thank a Lineworker on Monday, April 12

Jared Echternach, President and CEO

f you were asked to associate an image or a person with Beltrami Electric Cooperative, I bet many of you would picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our communities receive safe, reliable power.



Lineworker is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers work selflessly on behalf of our members to get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, a sense of service and commitment and most important a commitment to safety. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That's why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at Beltrami Electric, it's important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineering department employees provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives are always standing by to take your calls and questions. Our information technology experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. There are also our electricians, member account representatives, mechanics, accountants, human resources and communications employees who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them,



our lineworkers wouldn't be able to power our communities.

Our dedicated lineworkers are proud to represent your cooperative, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 12, and any time you see a lineworker, I hope you'll join me in thanking them for their exceptional service. I also hope you'll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep.

LUND AND KRINGEN RECEIVE THE DIRECTOR GOLD CERTIFICATE



Beltrami Electric board chair John Lund (left) and vice chair Sue Kringen (right) both recently earned the Director Gold certificate. The Director Gold credential is issued by National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and recognizes directors committed to continuing their education beyond NRECA's Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate and Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) and signifies their ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability. Congratulations to John and Sue for earning the Director Gold certificate.





WALLNER COMPLETES THE CREDENTIALED **COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR PROGRAM (CCD)**

BEC board member Bob Wallner recently received a certificate for completing the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) program. The CCD program consists of courses that focus on basic governance knowledge and the essential skills required of cooperative directors. The CCD prepares directors to fulfill their fiduciary duty as elected officials serving on behalf of their membership. Congratulations to Bob on completing the CCD program.

HOPEHOUSE 6

RECEIVES MINNESOTA TOUCHSTONE ENERGY® COMMUNITY AWARD



ope House of Bemidji was named one of two winners of the 2021 Minnesota's Touchstone Energy Community Award. Due to the circumstances and impact of COVID-19, this year Minnesota's Touchstone Energy cooperatives decided to recognize two community organizations that are doing outstanding work in their areas. This year's winners were Hope House, from Beltrami Electric Cooperative, and Tusen Tack, from East Central Energy.

"This annual award was established to help recognize organizations with a strong commitment to the local community, similar values to those of Minnesota's Touchstone Energy cooperatives," Joe Miller, a Minnesota Touchstone Energy representative said. "There were many good applications, and due to COVID-19, our judges wanted to recognize more than one organization."

Both organizations received an award and \$1,000 for their efforts. Hope House provides comprehensive support

for people with long-term mental illness and their families. Through one-to-one assistance, hospitalizations are reduced, stable housing is maintained and recipients regain meaningful daily lives. Skills training, a drop-in center, nurse visits, family group, outreach, diagnostic assessments and links to employment and medication are offered.

Last fall, Touchstone Energy cooperatives throughout the state accepted nominations of organizations for outstanding contributions to their communities. Local award recipients were automatically entered for the statewide recognition.

"Minnesota is definitely blessed with many individual, group and corporate citizens willing to donate time and effort to better our communities," said Angela Lyseng, marketing and communications specialist at Beltrami Electric Cooperative. "As Touchstone Energy cooperatives, we are pleased to pay special tribute to those who impact our communities in so many positive ways."

Touchstone Energy is a nationwide alliance of 700 local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives in 46 states dedicated to the values of integrity, accountability, innovation, and commitment to community. Nearly all of the 44 distribution cooperatives in Minnesota are part of the national brand, Touchstone Energy.



2014 - 7th Street SE

Welcome to Hope House

Miigwech gii-pi-dagoshinan

BUILDING A NEW HOME?

LET BELTRAMI ELECTRIC HELP YOU SELECT A HEATING SYSTEM THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU!



One of the many decisions you will make when building a new home includes your heating system. It's easy to budget your mortgage when building, but it can be difficult to predict your utility costs.

Bring your detailed plans to Beltrami Electric and let our Energy Experts complete a comprehensive heat loss calculation of your new home. This heat loss calculation will provide several options for heating systems, as well as an annual estimate of what it will cost to heat your home based on various systems and

A good heating system should provide comfort, be reliable and have low operating costs. Let your local electric cooperative assist you in deciding what type of heating system is right for you, so you have a system you will be happy with for years to come! Contact our Energy Services Department at (218) 444-2540 or (800) 955-6083 to learn more!

KNOW WHAT'S BELOW: STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Spring is just around the corner, and there's never been a better time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. Perhaps you're making plans for a new garden or a lawn makeover. However you're planning to revamp your backyard oasis, remember to keep safety in mind for all projects – especially those that require digging near underground utility lines.

Most of us never think about the electric, gas, water and other utility lines buried below the ground, but hitting one of these lines while digging is not the reminder you'll want - trust us! Beltrami Electric Cooperative reminds all members who are planning a digging project to call 811 at least three business days before you start. Or you can submit a request online by visiting www.call811.com/811-In-Your-State. For Minnesota, visit www.gopherstateonecall.org.

Here's how the process works:

After you call 811 or submit your request online, all affected utilities will be notified of your intent to dig. It may take the utilities a few days to get to your request, so please be patient. The affected utilities will send someone out to mark the buried lines with paint or flags. Before you break ground, confirm that all the utilities have responded to your request. If you placed your request by phone, use the process explained by your 811 call center representative. If you submitted your request online, refer to your 811 center ticket to confirm everything.

By taking this important step before you break ground on your project. you can help protect not only yourself but our community. Disrupting an underground utility line can interrupt service, cause injuries and cost money to repair, so remember to call 811 first and know what's below.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.

5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Source: call811.com

YOUR COOPERATIVE & ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Electric cooperatives have a history of environmental stewardship. Our co-op delivers power generated by the earth's resources – like wind, water and coal – so it's important that we do everything we can to take care of our natural environment. This Earth Day, we're celebrating all of the steps our cooperative system is taking to keep the air clean, preserve our green spaces and promote conservation.

Carbon-free energy – Approximately 42% of our electricity generation capacity is derived from carbon-free sources in North Dakota. Our wholesale power supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative, understands the need for a diverse energy mix that includes generation such as wind and hydro power. Members may subscribe to locally produced solar energy through Northern Solar, Beltrami Electric's community solar garden. See more on page 8.

Project Tundra initiative – Additionally, Minnkota is evaluating the construction of the world's largest power-plant focused carbon capture and storage facility – Project Tundra – at its coal-based Young Station near Center, N.D. The goal of the project is to remove 90% of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) from either of the plant's two generation units, and then store that CO₂ safely and permanently thousands of feet underground. Learn more at **ProjectTundraND.com**.

Infinity Renewable Energy Program – Members of Beltrami Electric Cooperative can take part in the Infinity Renewable Energy program to integrate more wind power into their electricity. By enrolling in the program, you choose the kilowatt-hours or percentage of electricity you would like to be derived from renewable resources. See page 8 for more information.

Incentives for driving electric – Beltrami Electric Cooperative is promoting electric vehicle (EV) use in our region to help lower transportation emissions, strengthen our electric grid and save our members money. You can drive a little greener by taking advantage of our EV charging station rebate (up to \$500) and our low off-peak charging rate. Contact us for more information.

Rebates for energy efficiency – For years, Beltrami Electric Cooperative has been your source for expertise on using electricity wisely. On top of sharing energy-saving tips with our members, we offer impressive rebates on energy-efficient systems and technology for your home, farm or business. Check out our website for details on how you can save energy – and money.

GreenTouch state park cleanup – Several cooperatives in Minnesota take part in Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' annual GreenTouch event, in which co-op employees and members, family and friends volunteer to clean up and beautify local state parks. GreenTouch volunteers have given more than 35,800 hours of service over the past two decades of the program! Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Beltrami Electric's event at Lake Bemidji State Park is yet to be determined.

Earth Day is April 22, so join us in marking the occasion by picking up trash in your neighborhood, finding ways to use energy wisely in your home or planting a new tree in your yard – away from power lines, of course!

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads rules

- · Ads are due by the first of the month prior to publication of the next issue. Example:
- o Ads submitted between March 1 and April 1 - will be published in the May issue.
- o Ads submitted between April 2 and May 1 – will be published in the June issue.
- · Ads may be submitted via our website at www.beltramielectric. 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
- · Ads are published at no charge as space permits on a firstreceived, 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:

Electric lift chair, blue. Bought August 2020 for \$900, used until December. Asking \$250. Call

Collectible plates-perfect condition, numbered, and certificates. Federal Duck Stamp, Stately Owls-Jim Beaudoin, Field Trips-Lynn Kaatz, Garden Blessings-Dona Gelsinger, Heaven's Little Sweethearts-Donna Brooks, Porcelain Dolls-Yolanda Bello. Make an offer. Call or text at 218-308-3441

2018 Polaris Ranger 500 Red. Winch, windshield, roof, 80 miles, \$8,900, 1998 Crestliner 2360 Eagle. 150 hp Evinrude, 2016 15 hp E tech kicker, trailer. All in good condition. \$9,900. Call 586-2740.

Dpms Panther AR 7.62x39mm, adjustable stock, adjustable bi-pod, carry handle with adjustable rear turret sight and scope mount hardware. Bayo lug, polymer grip, sling swivels, flash suppressor and three mags. Only fired about 10 rounds. Moving and just don't need it anymore. \$675. Call 586-5599, please leave message if no answer.

2004 Forester pontoon, model FP19FI, 1996 40 hp Mercury Force with tilt, 2004 Roll-on trailer with new tires. All in excellent condition. Two anchors, ropes, fuel tank, custom cover, fish finder, live well air supply. Used less than 100 hrs. \$5,000. Call 444-3393

Custom made AR .223 Wylde caliber, 18" barrel. Walther PPS 9mm. Extra clips, etc. Keith 766-1958.

IH 460 utility tractor with cab, bucket, pto, 3pt hitch, blade, chains, with 200-gal gas tank and stand. \$3,000. Contact Mike at 651-247-1478. If no answer, please leave phone number and I will call you back

1996 Carolina skiff, flat bottom boat, in nice condition. Canopy included along with an older utility trailer. \$1,200. 751-6210.

CB equipment; Royce Base Station, \$75, Midland mobile unit, \$35. Richmond mobile unit, \$30, and misc. parts. Or all for \$125, 22 Vintage Walt Disney story books, \$3 each, 4 book set \$25. 556-7997 Leave message.

18" Lund Alaskan w/40 hp Honda tiller steering and trailer, \$5,000 firm. 335-2075.

Beautiful solid oak corner hutch. 766-8781

Ashley Ballister power lift recliner, like new. From bed to standing up, \$600. Swisher log splitter, mod# LS11528HP, used very little, \$1,800. Four pair skates, two each roller and ice, men's and women's, sz 8, \$5 each. Canning jars, \$3/dozen. One Gazelle, one Ab Excerciser, \$25 ea. 586-2860.

Cargo/bike rack for a 2" hitch receiver, 20" x 60" with a 2" ball extender, holds up to 3 bikes. \$75/ obo. Call 760-8266.

Ducks Unlimited prints, decoys and other items. Best offer. 556-8988.

Pontoon Lift, Newmans #3000-lb, 120-inch wide, cantilever, manual winch, quick manual adjust legs, 4 wheel kit and canopy included. \$3,100/obo. Call Joe at 368-8181

Self Supporting Tower, 50+ feet with antennas. Perfect for ham radio operators, dish or other tv receptors. \$950. Buyer to remove. 759-1576.

WoodMaster outdoor wood boiler, Model 5500, super duty furnace, ideal for farm, providing heat for a home and large shop or mid-sized commercial building-up to 10,000 sq ft. More details at www. woodmaster.com/product/woodmaster-5500. Approx. 10-yrs in service. Good condition. Asking \$4,500, less than 1/2 of new price. 766-1586.

LG front load washer and dryer, gray colored. Approx 12-yrs old. Clean and in fair condition. \$475 for the pair. Call: 467-3438.

Haier combination ventless washer/dryer. Apartment size. 24" x 21" x 34". Was working well but has been in storage for 4 years. \$150. Call 759-9534.

17-ft aluminum Lund boat: steering wheel, 2 seats, 1982, Ser # Lunmo350m81j, motor 90 hp. Johnson tilt and trim bunk trailer \$3,900/obo. ALSO: Camper for truck pickup, fits 61/2-ft box with endgame, expandable top, stove burner, furnace, ice refrigerator, Northgate \$1,300/obo. Near Pennington 763-232-2189.

Youth bow with practice arrows and hard case. Excellent cond. \$275. Low profile tires Nexen 235/40R19. Complete set of four tires \$80.

Aluminum boat lift with canopy and removable wheels. \$1,000. 751-4929.

1995 Lund Laker, (camo) 16-ft, Shoreland'r trailer, no motor. \$1,500. 497-0356.

Lease for season: 24' boat slip with electric on site, protected harbor on Kabekona Bay of Leech near Erickson's Landing. \$1,000, if paid at time of rental \$100 discount. Call Gary 970-901-2605 for info.

Delta 10-inch compound miter saw, exc. cond. \$125. Senco model #SFN40 nail gun, \$120. Air chisel w/10 bits, \$40. 586-2534.

Wanted:

Donations of yarn to knit slippers for the troops in Afghanistan. Please call 766-4862 if you are willing to donate to this cause. Four-ply, washable yarn is preferred.

Wood splitter and a driving cart for a Mini Horse. 218-745-4800.

Pet sitting, will watch your pet at your house or at mine. 766-6510.

FENCING: Looking to get a bunch of wire mesh fencing to protect several tree plantings. Hoping someone has a bunch laying around taking up space they'd like to turn around for some cash. Old or new, it doesn't really matter. Give Keith a call at 218-841-3755

Ammo, types 30-30, 243, and .22 shells. 751-6210.

Looking for both an otter sled as well as a hub style fish house. I would buy either one individually. Call or text Matt at 218-368-0737.

Roll-in style dock. Please call/text 218-368-9492.

Ruger 1022 in a 22 mag. 340-9010.

Wiring harness and cab. control complete system to operate a Western Uni-mount straight blade Pro plow. Also truck bracket for S-10 or ½ ton GM truck. Call or text 218-214-0915.

Someone to repaint the hood on my 2001 Rav4. Possibly the roof also, depending on the cost. Not looking for perfection. Good learning experience for a novice or someone wanting some practice. Leave a message at 556-7335.

Looking for person who purchased our Wilkening fireplace in January. Don Olson 444-2893.

Looking for the stud services of AKC registered German Shepherd Male. We have a registered female ready in May (she's a great mom). And we would love to have some puppies. Please call 835-6434, no Sunday business.

What can you get for \$1?



600 hours of electric drill use

Electricity helps power your project for just pennies. Did you know you can use an electric drill for about 600 hours with just \$1 worth of kilowatts? Imagine all the shelves you can hang, the furniture you can fix and the sheds you can build. That's costeffective home improvement!



Beltrami Electric Cooperative will be closed

Friday, April 2, 2021,

in observance of Good Friday.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021. A quorum of directors was in

The following reports were given:

- · Line superintendent Lee Pemberton discussed recent outages.
- · President and CEO Echternach gave his monthly report, including discussion on January financials and legislative issues. He also reviewed the current Succession Plan.
- · Arlene Hogquist reviewed the January financial report and the cooperative's Balanced Performance Scorecard.
- President and CEO Echternach and Arlene Hogquist reported on the 2020 margins and capital credit allocation.

- Chair Lund appointed Jared Echternach as the NISC voting delegate and the CRC voting delegate.
- · 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.
- · Approved to allocate the 2020 operating margin and G&T capital credit allocation, and to retain nonoperating margins as permanent, non-allocated equity as allowed by our bylaws and capital credit policy.
- · Nominated Rick Coe as the Minnkota Power director and Murl Nord as the Square Butte director

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

Co-op Connections Participating Business Deal



5% off total purchase

23654 398th St., Laporte (218) 224-2471 www.mommykinscreations.com





Safely connect your portable generator to your home with





When you have lost power, a portable generator can temporarily provide needed electricity. However, it may also present serious safety hazards if not used properly.

NEVER plug a portable generator directly into your home. This can cause electricity to feed back through your home onto the utility lines. This "backfeed" can be deadly for lineworkers or anyone working near downed power lines.

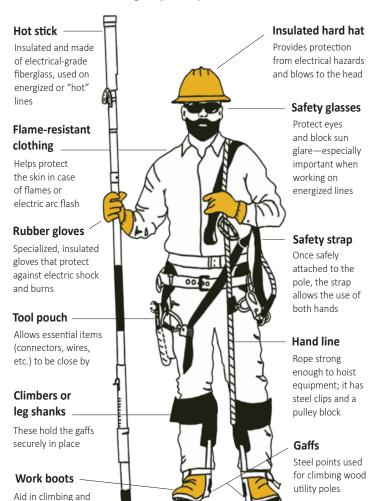
A Generlink UL-listed transfer switch allows you to **SAFELY** connect a generator to your home and allows you the flexibility and control to select what you want to run using your home's energy circuit panel.

Contact our energy services department at (218) 444-3622 or stop into our office for pricing and information on installation.

Lineworkers install and maintain overhead and underground electrical systems. We rely on their expertise to power our world.

They must commit to safety above all else for the benefit of those they serve (you!), fellow crew members and themselves.

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Gear can vary depending on pole structure (wood or steel) and weighs up to 45 pounds.



Electricity.org®

protect the leg and foot



4111 Technology DR NW PO Box 488 Bemidji, MN 56619-0488 218-444-2540 • 800-955-6083 www.beltramielectric.com



Your energy. Your choice.

Approximately 42% of our electric generation capacity is currently derived from carbon-free sources. If you would like to further support renewable energy, consider participating in the Infinity Renewable Energy program. With about 650 individual consumers participating, the Infinity program ensures your energy dollar is advancing renewable energy efforts in the local communities where you live, work and play.

By enrolling in the Infinity program, cooperative members can choose a designated number of kilowatthours of electricity used that they would like to be derived from renewable resources. While it is not possible to direct where electrons are specifically delivered on the electric grid, it is possible to ensure that the renewable energy purchased is from a resource connected to the Minnkota transmission system. The record of that purchase and the proof that it was reserved for a specific consumer is done through a renewable energy credit.

No equipment, contracts or hassle

Signing up takes a matter of minutes and all information is automatically incorporated into your billing statement. Members may contact us at (218) 444-2540 or (800) 955-6083 or sign up at www.beltramielectric.com/infinity-renewable-energy.

Renewable wind energy is available at two levels:

- 1.) You may purchase in 100-kilowatt-hour (100-kWh) blocks. For each 100-kWh block you purchase, there is an additional charge of \$0.30 on your bill for renewable wind energy.
- 2.) You may select the 100% option and pay an additional \$0.003 per kWh on your bill for renewable wind energy.

Example: If you use 1,500 kWh per month, it will only cost an additional \$4.50/month for 100% renewable wind energy.

SUBSCRIBE TO LOCALLY PRODUCED SOLAR ENERGY TODAY!



Northern Solar is an 80-kW DC community solar garden at BEC headquarters for members who would like to support local solar energy, but don't have a good location or want the hassle of permitting, installing, maintaining and insuring their own array.

Subscriptions are available – members may subscribe to as little as a half panel or as many panels as they choose, up to their average annual usage. Each panel has produced an average of 400 kWh/year.

Options available:

- Option 1 One-time Payment (One-time upfront cost receive credit on your electric bill through 2036, based on current electric rates) Contact the BEC office for current pricing.
- *Option 2 Easy Pay* (12-, 24- or 36-month payment plans available subject to review of account standing)
- *Option 3 Pay As You Go* (NO CONTRACT simply tell us how many kWh you want to receive from Northern Solar and pay an additional fee on your electric bill)

