

NORTHERN

L I G H T S

September 2022



EV Car Show

Thursday, September 15, 2022

4-7 p.m. | Beltrami Electric | 4111 Technology Dr. NW, Bemidji

Come kick a few tires and find out firsthand how electric vehicles (EVs) are gaining traction. See and hear the latest in EV technology. Check out the EVs on display and talk with the owners about their experiences owning and driving an electric vehicle. Take a spin on an electric bicycle, too.



EV owners will also share their stories/benefits of EVs, overcoming range anxiety, and the best way to charge an EV battery. You'll hear about today's charging technologies, and the programs available for your EV through your local electric provider for home charging off-peak rates and rebates.

4 - 7 p.m.

See EVs up close and visit with EV owners and experts. Refreshments and appetizers are provided.

5:30 p.m.

EV Owner Discussion Panel begins



First 70 attendees receive a free t-shirt!

Check out a variety of EVs: Chevy Bolt, Ford F-150 Lightning, Ford Mustang Mach-E, Volkswagen ID.4, various Tesla models, e-bikes and more!



Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

NORTHERN

L I G H T S

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Monday – Friday

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

www.beltramielectric.com

Board of Directors

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

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Beltrami County

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Cass and Hubbard Counties

Brandon Disselbrett

218-640-0187 - disselbrett@hotmail.com

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

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.



New ways to use electricity

by Jared Echternach, president and CEO

If you listen carefully, you can hear a quiet transformation happening. Electric appliances and equipment are becoming more popular than ever among consumers.

Advancements in technology and battery power coupled with decreasing costs are winning over consumers looking for comparable utility and versatility. A bonus is that use of electric equipment is quieter and better for the environment.



Inside the home, consumers and homebuilders alike are turning to electric appliances to increase energy efficiency and savings. Whether

a traditional electric stove or an induction stove top, both are significantly more efficient than a gas oven. That's because conventional residential cooking tops typically use gas or resistance heating elements to transfer energy with efficiencies of approximately 32% and 75% respectively (according to ENERGY STAR®). Electric induction stoves, which cook food without any flame, will reduce indoor air pollution and can bring water to a boil about twice as fast as a gas stove. Robotic vacuums are also gaining in popularity. Fortune Business Insights attributes the growth and popularity of robotic vacuums like Roomba to a larger market trend of smart home technology and automation (think Alexa directing a Roomba to vacuum).

More tools and equipment with small gas-powered motors are being replaced with electric ones that include plug-in batteries. In the past few years, technology in battery storage has advanced significantly. Handheld tools with plug-in batteries can hold a charge longer and offer the user the same versatility and

similar functionality as gas-powered tools. For DIYers and those in the building trades, national brands such as Makita, Ryobi and Milwaukee offer electric versions of their most popular products like drills, saws, sanders and other tools. In addition to standard offerings, consumers can now purchase a wider array of specialty tools that plug in such as power inverters, air inflators and battery chargers.

Keith Dennis, an energy industry expert and president of the Beneficial Electrification League notes that, "A few years back, the list of new electric product categories that were making their way to the market was limited – electric scooters, lawn mowers, leaf blowers and vehicles."

Today, the number of electric products available is exploding.

"There are electric bikes, school buses, pressure washers, utility terrain vehicles, backhoes – even airplanes and boats," says Dennis. "With the expansion of batteries and advancements in technology, we are seeing almost anything that burns gasoline or diesel as having an electric replacement available on the market."

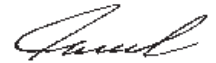
A case in point is the increased use of electric-powered tools and equipment, with more national brands offering a wider selection including lawn mowers, leaf blowers, string trimmers and snow blowers. The quality of zero- or low-emissions lawn equipment is also improving.

Electric equipment also requires less maintenance, and often the biggest task is keeping them charged. In addition, electric equipment is quieter so if you want to listen to music or your favorite podcast while performing outdoor work, you can; something that wouldn't be possible with gas-powered equipment.

Another benefit of using electric appliances or equipment is that by virtue of being plugged into the

grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. In essence, electricity is becoming cleaner through increases renewable energy generation, so equipment that uses electricity will have a diminishing

environmental impact over time. Quite a hat trick – improving efficiency, quality of life and helping the environment.



82nd Annual Meeting / Night at the Fair

Beltrami Electric Cooperative held its 82nd annual meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022, at the Beltrami County Fairgrounds. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation offered by vice chair Sue Kringen. Board chair John Lund welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the cooperative's board of directors. The meeting agenda included a financial update from Director of Finance and Corporate Services Arlene Hogquist, as well as a cooperative update from President and CEO Jared Echternach. Kay Mack, president for the Beltrami Electric Cooperative Trust board for Operation Round Up[®], presented on the success of the program in our local communities. Beltrami Electric's Youth Tour delegate for 2022, Ashley Pirkl, spoke about her trip to Washington, D.C.

As part of BEC's Night at the Fair, guests were greeted by Touchstone Energy[®] mascots LED Lucy and Solar Sam. Many attendees enjoyed the opportunity to take a ride up in the bucket of a BEC line truck and got a lineworker's view of the fairgrounds. The live high voltage safety demonstration drew a crowd as they witnessed voltage arcs and what could happen when contact is made with high voltage power lines and equipment.

Three directors were elected to the board, which included incumbents Murl Nord (District 1), Bob Wallner, (District 5) and Sue Kringen (District 8). In addition, the 2021 annual meeting minutes were approved by majority vote of the members. Next year's Meeting/Night at the Fair is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 9, 2023.



District 1
Murl Nord



District 5
Bob Wallner



District 8
Sue Kringen

WELCOME BELTRAMI ELECTRIC NEW HIRES



Becky Fellows – recently joined Beltrami Electric in the member accounts department as a member accounts representative. Becky completed the certified nursing assistant program at Northwest Technical College, and previously worked at the dental

office in Blackduck. Becky and her husband, Ben, live in Hines and have a daughter, Ayris, a son, Theron, a dog and a cat. Becky enjoys four-wheeling and camping with family and friends.



Matt McDonough – recently joined Beltrami Electric in the member services department as a member service representative. Matt holds a Bachelor of General Studies with minors in political science and public relations from the University of Idaho. He previously worked for Cass County

Health & Human Services. Matt and his wife, Kelly, live in Walker and have a son, Harrison, a daughter, Scarlett, and two dogs. Matt enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time outdoors.



DRIVE PAST THE PUMP

Refuel while you sleep instead

Mike Birkeland – VP of Electrification
and Member Experience

Pumping gas is painful these days. The impact on our pocketbooks looks endless. We see it with the cost of other fuels as well.

When commodity prices soar – as they often do when the world order gets out of order – it's good to have options, especially when it comes to heating our homes or fueling our cars. That's what off-peak electricity provides – options, plus comfort and convenience to keep you warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

As gas prices continue to skyrocket, off-peak electric programs also give confidence and credibility to recent technologies – like electric vehicles. Yes, that's right, EVs.

SECOND-CAR ALTERNATIVE?

That message sometimes prompts raised eyebrows. And it's usually followed by a statement discounting EVs because, "you can drive further on a tank of gas than you can on a battery, or ... electric cars 'will never work' during cold Minnesota winters."

Well, EVs do work in the winter. And yes, they have limits on range, but if you have the heat blowing full blast and you have a normal range of 250 miles to a charge, you still get at least 150 to 170 miles per day in the dead of winter.

If your daily commute is longer than that, EVs aren't for you. If not – maybe it's time to take a closer look. EVs are ideal, not to mention more efficient and cost effective, as a second vehicle option.

And wouldn't it be nice to skip filling the tank every week or two with gas at \$4-plus per gallon?

That said, if you drive cross-country, I'd recommend staying with tried-and-true internal combustion for now. Fast-charging EV stations and locations are in their infancy and

for busy long-distance road warriors, EV fast-chargers take longer than filling a tank with gas. But crossing the country in an EV is doable – if you plan accordingly.

If most of your daily driving is around town, you can use BEC's off-peak program to charge the battery nightly – just like charging your off-peak water heater or electric thermal storage system overnight, which stores the energy for use the following day.

OFF-PEAK – VALUE

With heating and cooling, and now with cars, you can take advantage of the low-cost, off-peak rate, charge overnight in your garage and gain the benefit of this convenient and cost-saving mode of transportation. Data shows that you can save between \$500-\$3,320 per year on EV maintenance and fuel costs over conventional vehicles.

"Home is the most convenient and affordable place to power your car," says Jukka Kukkonen of Shift2Electric.com. "Eighty-five percent of EV charging happens in the home."

EVs give you options – especially if you have more than one car. EVs

provide consumers an alternative fuel transportation choice. With fuel costs mounting, it's never a bad idea to look at, and weigh, options.

- www.Shift2Electric.com
- www.PlugShare.com
- www.EVSalesSavvy.com
- www.MNCharging.org
- caranddriver.com – May 14, 2022, *Electric Cars' Turning Point May Be Happening as U.S. Sales Numbers Start Climb*

A little research may save you big bucks – especially if fuel costs continue to escalate. For those reasons – and more – join us for our EV Car Show Sept. 15 at Beltrami Electric (details on page 1). EV owners will be on hand to share their stories firsthand.

If EVs aren't for you, we understand. The technology is new. But it's catching on fast. EV registrations are nearing 5% of the overall new car market.

Either way – stay plugged-in on all fronts and enjoy the fall season! We'll continue to do what we can to keep your coffee hot, your ice cream cold and your batteries charged.

2022 Energy Resources Tour

Co-op members learn about their reliable energy



BEC's 2022 Energy Resources Tour was held July 19-21. Employees Angela Lyseng and Becky (Don) Theis hosted a group of co-op members on a bus trip out 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 energy 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 Communications Manager Ben Fladhammer. Ben spoke to our 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 and operations shop. The real-time digital display showing energy supply and demand provided members a better understanding of how generation needs to meet our demand for energy at any given time.

After a lunch stop in Casselton, N.D., we made our way to Center, N.D. to the Oliver III Wind Energy Center, where Site Manager Chase Dauenhauer hopped on our bus. He spoke about NextEra Energy's wind resources and answered questions about the wind towers that contribute to our 34% wind capacity. After checking into our rooms at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Mandan, we concluded the first day with dinner and a presentation from Scott Hopfauf, environmental superintendent at the Milton R. Young Station. He visited with our group about Minnkota Power and Milton R. Young, including history of our energy generation.

Day two featured a visit to the Milton R. Young Station, the source of baseload electrical generation for Minnkota and its members located near Center, N.D. Scott Hopfauf and Becky Berg, plant administrative supervisor, greeted our group and

explained how the plant operates and answered questions. We then donned hard hats and earbuds and took a guided tour of Young 1 and 2 generating units. After the tour, we headed back to our bus, where we were joined by BNI Coal employee Courtney Harstad. She 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 loaders up close. The highlight of the visit was when we were able to climb up into the Liberty dragline, which is used to strip the overburden from the land, so we could check it out up close.

After lunch, we visited the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center and Fort Mandan, where the visitor center is not only steeped in history; it is a prime example of environmental stewardship. Coal fly ash was used in the concrete, ceiling tiles, exterior walls, carpet, stonework, sidewalks and parking lot.

Our third and final day featured a visit to Garrison Dam and Powerhouse near Riverdale, N.D., where our hydroelectric power is produced. Members learned about the history of the dam, and were able to view the generating units, penstocks, turbine and shaft.

We would like to thank our members who took the time to learn more about where our electricity comes from and what it takes to be able to flip that switch when we need it. We hope everyone had a fun and educational experience. We look forward to hosting another trip next July!



CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the first of the month prior to publication of the next issue.
 - Ads submitted by September 1 will be published in October issue.
 - Ads submitted between September 2 and October 1 will be published in November issue.
- Ads may be submitted via our website at 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.

For Sale:

1972 Plymouth Slant 6 motor, 30,000 miles, \$650. 507-319-1287.

Mixed hard woods and some birch, all cut and split and stack, \$150 cash only per pickup load, you fill your own and haul, call 218-751-5959.

Standard pool table, excellent condition, \$800/obo. 218-209-7911.

20-ft ERCOA Pontoon boat w/30 hp Suzuki 4-stroke engine. Laredo 265 SL fifth wheel camper, by Keystone, 1/2 ton PU edition, sleeps 4. For details and inquiries, 218-854-7453.

Richmond 40-gallon natural gas water heater, \$75/obo. 218-586-2839.

1949 Ford F-1 1/2-ton custom pickup truck. 7,000 miles since the restoration. 76 Ford 302 V-8, C4 transmission, Thunderbird rear end. Volare clip with rack & pinion steering. \$29,000. 218-443-6326.

L.L. Bean firewood tote bag, \$15. Clam portable ice fishing shelter, fair condition, \$50. Call 218-586-2009.

Bulk propane tank, 250-gal, fully functional. \$250/obo. 218-766-6238.

KitchenAid compactor, biscuit color, super condition, \$200. 218-547-1503.

Plano, 1 small with 40 bass lures, \$35. 2 large empty, \$15 each. 218-444-2280.

Guineas, 3 colors to choose from. 218-586-2839.

Red Oak firewood and mixed campfire wood for sale. Call 218-368-3107 for prices and more information.

1931 porcelain pedestal sink with original fixtures; \$55. 10-gal red plastic boat gas tank with hose and connectors; \$10. Tilt trailer for small boat, lights not functioning; \$5. Call 218-368-1438.

30-06 Remington ADL model 700, new condition, fired 8 times. \$600. Zeke 218-760-4700.

'02 Dodge Dakota 4x4, 99,000 miles, \$6,500. '04 Jeep Grand Cherokee Overland AWD, 192,300 miles, \$1,500. 218-760-0755.

Jotul 201 wood burning stove, matte black finish; Spektrum DX5e 5-channel radio system for RC airplane. MN treadle sewing machine in wood cabinet; antique round top trunk, wood and embossed metal 32" L x 18" W x 21" H; black flat top trunk with brass hardware 36" L x 21" W x 23" H. 218-547-1836.

1890 slate pool table w/new balls/pockets. Good condition. \$500/obo. Call Jeff at 218-586-2485 or 218-556-1136.

2 mounted tires, \$15. 16x5.5-8 no mounting holes on rims, needs a .75" shaft. 24-in LH door and frame/no hardware or trim \$10. Used golf equipment - 2 bags, 1 cart, clubs, tees, balls, make an offer. Cash only, 218-759-1433.

'55 Ford Sunliner convertible, excellent condition, power windows, top, seats, steering, brakes. Continental kit. \$35,000. '50 Chevrolet Deluxe convertible, all original, believed to be 52K original miles, original spare tire still in trunk, has all available accessories. \$35,000. Cash only. Pictures available. 218-760-1095.

'90 Toyota truck, crew cab, 6-foot cargo, four-wheel drive. \$1,800. 218-368-2933.

Echo system 2 hp chipper, shredder and vacuum, ideal for lawn care with leaves and branches, used handful of times \$500/obo. 320-583-0471.

14-ft Charger sailboat with sails. \$200. 813-786-9026.

17-ft Alumacraft lightweight double-ender canoe, \$450. 17' fiberglass double-ender canoe, \$500. Strikemaster Lazer XL-3000, 8" ice-auger, excellent condition, \$200. 218-766-0478.

Children's playhouse, \$75. New roll barbed wire, heavy gauge, \$40. Fiberglass canoe, \$300. 2000 Wanderer Guidelite, one pushout, excellent condition, \$9,000/obo. 218-224-3110 or 218-407-4791.

1986 31-ft Yellowstone camper, sleeps 5, A/C, furnace, lots of storage, fair condition, some water damage, \$2,500. Lots of life left. Cass Lake area. 320-583-6862 or 320-328-5526.

16-ft Lund boat, 25 hp Johnson motor, 2 extra gas tanks, \$2,500. Wheelhouse fish house, 2 wheels, 2 bunks, 4 holes, 4-burner cook stove, propane heater, \$1,500. Yardman 2-stage snowblower, 14 hp Briggs & Stratton, \$300. Call Stan 218-407-3639 or Deanna 218-407-4414.

Mixed firewood, cut, split, seasoned, near Kelliher. \$60 standard pickup load, you haul. 320-557-8080.

Compound bows, Polar LTD X1 Impact, Darton maverick, quiver with arrows, \$90 each. Hardside bow cases field locker by Woodstream, \$40 (25 w/ bow purchase). Ten-point Titan crossbow-realistic stock (no tubes), Bushnell wide angle scope, cocking device, quiver w/bolts, padded case, Ethafoam target, \$500. Tree stand, \$50. Padded bow case, \$50. Clean 5-gal plastic pails, \$1. 218-586-2884.

3-drawer dresser, 44" L x 19 1/2" D, 1 drawer 4" D, 2 drawers 8" D, been restored, \$75. Homemade quilts: 4.5-6 Block, Crazy, Star, Twin, \$40. Full, \$45. Queen, \$65. King, \$70. New super all-grip 700-15 LT tubeless tire, \$40. Sewing machines. \$15 each. 218-243-2702.

(4) 17-inch chrome wheels (fit Chevy Malibu, etc.). New lantern sail for sailboat. 218-760-3298.

60's 14-ft Alumacraft Queen of the Waterways and trailer, \$600. Old speedboat (50s/60s), 50 hp Johnson Seahorse and trailer, \$500. '77 Ouachita 14' Jon boat, \$400. 218-760-0755.

16-ft M-scow sailboat with multiple sails, trailer and boatlift. \$900 firm. 218-586-2856.

Weber grill with side burner in good condition. This grill hooks up to natural gas. It doesn't need a propane tank to work. You never have to worry about your tank running out of propane. New house doesn't have natural gas. \$200/obo. Please call 218-766-1837 if interested.

John Deere Combine header 212 6-belt pickup head, great shape, \$1,000. 18.4-38 Goodyear tractor tire, \$100. (2) 24.5-32 tires, \$75 each. (2) 16.9-24 tires, \$50 each. Tires are used but in good shape. 218-239-0764.

Wanted:

Retired teacher would love and care for your dog while you are away. Blackduck, Bemidji area. Will make stuffed memory animal with loved one's piece of clothing. 218-766-6510.

Looking for a 14-ft or 16-ft aluminum boat. Any condition. Call or text Matt, 218-368-0737.

Minibike 50-100cc, old is okay, 4 grandkids getting that age. Call or text 218-766-6238.

Looking for 1+ year old layer hens and beekeeping supplies for beginner. 218-368-9492.

Telescopes and parts to repair / donate to local kids through the Food Shelf, probably tax deductible. If it's collecting dust, it would be educational in a kid's hands. Mike 218-224-2959.

Looking for free candles, or empty candle jars. 218-556-2743.

Free:

2 motorized wheelchairs with chargers. Antique Singer treadle sole sewing machine. 218-760-2254.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Beltrami's board conducted its regular monthly meeting Monday, July 25, 2022. A quorum of directors was present.

The following reports were given:

- President and CEO Echternach and the board discussed recent safety successes and observations.
- President and CEO Echternach made his monthly report, including large loads, plant tours, MISO market, meetings attended and an employee update.
- Arlene Hogquist presented the June financial report and the second quarter balanced performance scorecard.
- Mike Monsrud was nominated for the Cooperative Network board of directors.
- President and CEO Echternach and the directors reported on meetings attended.

The following actions were taken:

- Approved the consent agenda.
- Approved a donation to the NRECA International Program.
- Approved director and president and CEO expenses.

The next board meeting will be held Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022.

Statement of Operations Year-to-date: June 2022

	June 2021	June 2022
Operating Revenue	\$ 29,498,074	\$ 30,682,183
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 19,272,694	\$ 20,000,308
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 8,097,143	\$ 8,380,577
Total Cost	\$ 27,369,837	\$ 28,380,885
Operating Margin	\$ 2,128,237	\$ 2,301,298
Other Margins	\$ 204,012	\$ (467,434)
Total Margins	\$ 2,332,249	\$ 1,833,864
kWh Sold	258,355,682	271,524,440
Meters Billed	21,664	21,938

Grant application deadline Sept. 23



To be considered at the October 2021 meeting, grant applications must be received by **Friday, Sept. 23, 2022**. Note: The next application deadline will be March 2023.

Community organizations and nonprofit groups may apply for an Operation Round Up® grant by completing and returning an application form. Grant applications and requirements are available at the Beltrami Electric office or by visiting our website at www.beltramelectric.com.

HAPPY Labor Day

Beltrami Electric Cooperative's office will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

In case of outages, call toll-free 1-800-955-6083

Cold Weather Disconnect Rule

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

Subd. 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 1 and April 30 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 1 each year, notify all residential customers of the provisions of this section.

Subd. 2. Notice to residential customer facing disconnection.

(a) Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the period between October 1 and April 30, 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.

(b) At the same time that notice is given under paragraph (a), the utility must also give written or electronic notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider and the department.

Subd. 3. Restrictions if disconnection necessary.

(a) If a residential customer must be involuntarily disconnected remotely using advanced metering infrastructure or physically at the property being disconnected between October 1 and April 30 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 30 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) The customer must not be disconnected until the utility attempts to confirm whether the residential unit is actually occupied, which the utility may accomplish by:

(1) visiting the residential unit; or

(2) examining energy usage data obtained through advanced metering infrastructure to determine whether there is energy usage over at least a 24-hour period that indicates occupancy.

(c) A utility may not disconnect a residential customer who is in compliance with section 216B.098, subdivision 5.

(d) 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.

(e) For the purposes of this section, "advanced metering infrastructure" means an integrated system of smart meters, communication networks, and data management systems that enables two-way communication between a utility and its customers.

Subd. 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.

Subd. 5. Cost recovery.

A municipal utility or cooperative electric association may recover the reasonable costs of disconnecting and reconnecting a residential customer, based on the costs of providing notice to the customer and other entities and whether the process was accomplished physically at the property being disconnected or reconnected or remotely using advanced metering infrastructure.



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 4th St. NW, Suite 130,
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-999-0824

Leech Lake

115 6th St. NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633
218-335-3783

MAHUBE-OTWA

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

Red Lake

15809 High School Dr, Red Lake, MN 56671
218-679-3350

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.

2022-23 Maximum EAP Income Guidelines

Program year is Oct. 1, 2022 through Sept. 30, 2023

Household Size	3-month Maximum	Household Size	3-month Maximum
1	\$7,643	5	\$17,050
2	\$9,994	6	\$19,401
3	\$12,346	7	\$19,842
4	\$14,698	8	\$20,283

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



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IN HER OWN WORDS: ASHLEY PIRKL 2022 Youth Tour | June 14-19



Earlier this year, my mother gave me a pamphlet about this trip to Washington, D.C., that Beltrami Electric was sponsoring. I thought that there was no way I could win, but I gave it a shot. It was one of the best decisions that I have ever made and I am so glad that my parents pushed me to do it. In late March I received an email that I was the selected applicant; I was in utter disbelief! I told myself that I'll believe it when I'm there. Soon enough June 14 rolled around and I was on a plane to Washington, D.C.

The first night we were there, we had a big "welcome party" with the other states that arrived that day (Texas, Florida, Arizona, Nevada and Utah). It was really cool getting to meet kids my age from all over the country (except they said I had a "Minnesota" accent, which I seriously cannot hear). On Wednesday in the morning we had a guided tour of the Vietnam War, Vietnam War Women's, Korean War, World War II, Lincoln, Martin Luther King and FDR memorials. We then went to Arlington National Cemetery, where we had a guided trolley tour, and watched the changing of the guard. Afterwards, we had a picnic lunch near the Iwo Jima Memorial. That afternoon we went to Georgetown where we got ice cream and went on a sightseeing cruise on the Potomac River, and then on to the International Spy Museum. Thursday was the day that we were going to Capitol Hill. We had a few hours to kill beforehand, so we went to the White House and Lafayette Square. Because Congress was in session, we were only able to meet three out of our eight representatives. I was honored to meet Reps. Angie Craig, Dean Phillips and Pete Stauber, and ask them questions. Since we were outside when the session was done, we got to see all of the representatives leave once done voting. I got to meet a few, including the rather famous Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a representative from New York and the youngest person ever

elected to Congress. We then got to go into the basement of the Capitol to meet Sen. Amy Klobuchar, where we discussed our many concerns in modern-day society. We then got to visit the Library of Congress. That night we toured the Jefferson and 911 Pentagon Memorials. On Friday morning, we headed up to Mount Vernon (President George Washington's estate), where we took a detailed tour of our first President's home. We had lunch on the lawn of the National Cathedral, and then received a tour. The Smithsonian Zoo was our next stop and that afternoon the temperature reached 102°. Later we visited the Holocaust Museum, which was a chilling, but educational experience. That night, we went to a Washington Nationals baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies. Saturday, which was sadly my last day, was also museum



day. My friends and I chose to visit the National Archives, where we saw the original copies of the Constitution, Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. We then decided on the Smithsonian Natural History Museum and the National Gallery of Art and Culture. We then ate dinner in Old Town Alexandria at the fish market. Back at the hotel we had our farewell gathering and dessert, and prepared for our morning flight. Leaving on Sunday was the hardest part. The

whole way back I was dreading the part where we would have to say goodbye and go our separate ways.

This trip was truly an amazing experience that really is once in a lifetime. The memories and friendships made will last forever. I cannot thank Beltrami Electric enough for sending me as their delegate. If you are an (incoming) junior in high school, I highly recommend applying for this opportunity. Many co-ops do not send anybody because they don't receive any applicants. I think it is worth the shot and you might end up like me and surprise yourself. Thank you for having me as your 2022 Beltrami Electric Youth Tour Delegate.