

NORTHERN

L I G H T S April 2023

NATIONAL LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

APRIL 10, 2023 | #ThankALineworker

When the storm hits and the lights go out, they work until the power is restored. They dedicate their lives to serving our communities on the hottest days of summer and the darkest days of winter. Every day, moments of our lives are powered by their hard work and determination to provide the most reliable energy possible. On April 10, thank a lineworker for their vital service to our region and our homes. Keeping the lights on is just what they do.



**Beltrami Electric
Cooperative Inc.**

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Affordable electricity powers quality of life

by Jared Echternach, president and CEO

Most of us use electricity, either directly or indirectly, at almost all times. Because electricity is so abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch, it's easy to take it for granted.

According to the Energy Information Agency (EIA), the typical U.S. household now uses more air conditioning, appliances and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But keep in mind, it's no longer just the "light bill."

Electricity powers quality of life

Electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (appliances, water heater and HVAC system) to charging your smartphones, computers, TV and Wi-Fi router, your

energy bill covers so much more than lighting.

Today, there is more demand for electricity than ever before. At home, in schools and businesses, and in commercial sectors such as transportation, the need for electricity is increasing.

Typically when demand goes up, so too does the price, as is the case with most goods or services, like cable or even your favorite specialty coffee. However, that's not true with electricity. Let's take a look at how the value of electricity compares to other common expenses.

Over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.3%, medical care increased 2.5%, and cable and satellite TV increased 3.3%. But the cost of electricity only increased 2.1%. Energy costs have risen more in the last year – however, considering all the ways we depend on electricity, it still remains a great value.

As costs for materials, equipment, fuel and more have seen steady increases, your cooperative and your board of directors continue to manage costs and keep rates stable. As a result, your cooperative's rates have not changed since 2018!

So, the next time you're enjoying your favorite podcast, TV series or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life.

We care about you, the members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity—it's a necessity. That's why Beltrami Electric Cooperative will continue working hard to power your life, reliably and affordably.



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Beltrami Electric Cooperative's board conducted its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023. A quorum of directors was in attendance.

The following reports were given at the meeting:

- President and CEO Echternach and the board discussed recent safety successes, shared observations and viewed a safety video from the Gene Dillion Elementary LEGO League Robotics Team.
- Rich Riewer and Lee Pemberton reported on January's outage report.
- Arlene Hogquist presented January's financial report.
- Arlene Hogquist presented the cooperative's Balanced Performance Scorecard.
- President and CEO Echternach made his monthly report, including the legislative issues affecting the cooperative, REPAC, NCSC election, CoBank No Barriers program, Minnkota's GridEx program, John and Sue's NRECA Director Gold Certification and the NRECA International program.
- President and CEO Echternach reviewed the cooperative's Political Action Plan.
- Directors and President and CEO Echternach discussed meetings attended, upcoming meetings and educational conferences.

The following actions were taken at the meeting:

- Approved the consent agenda.
- Declined a Wellness Center donation request.
- Nominated Rick Coe as the Minnkota Power director.
- Nominated Murl Nord as the Square Butte director.
- Approved the director and President and CEO expenses.

The next board meeting will be held Friday, April 21, 2023.

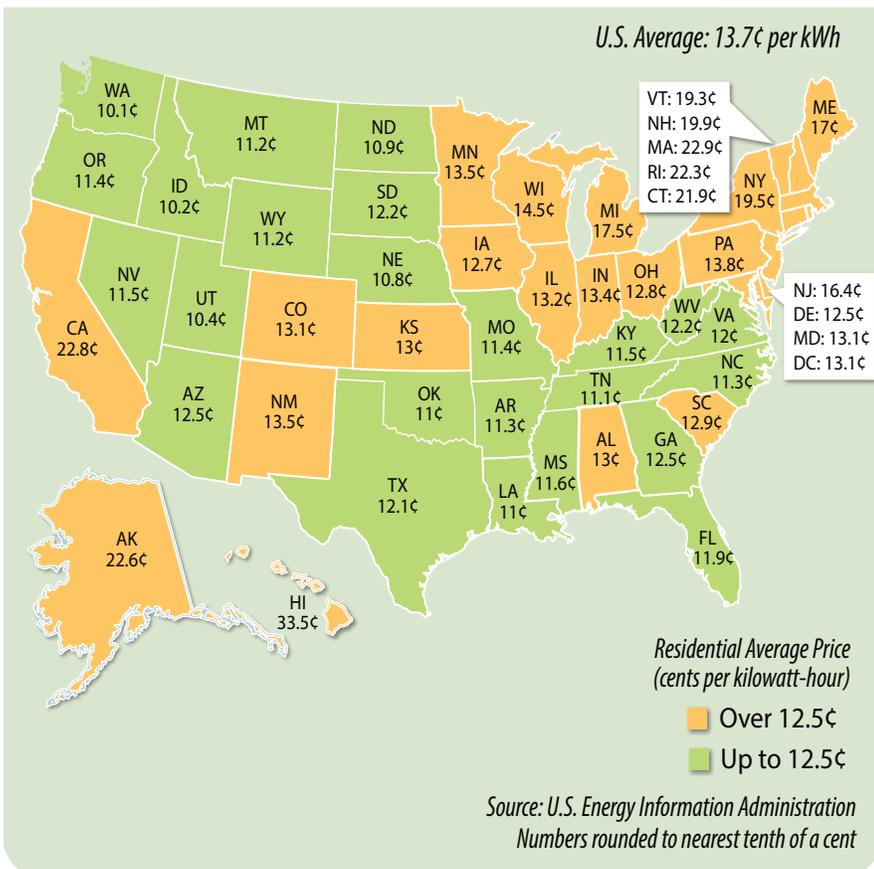
The average home in our area can be powered for about **\$5 a day** – the price of your favorite snack at the movies.

VALUING EVERYTHING THAT POWERS YOUR DAY.

THAT'S THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY.

Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2021 figures, in cents per kWh



Beltrami Electric multi-vendor indoor garage sale to benefit the

United Way
of Bemidji Area



**SATURDAY,
MAY 6, 2023**

8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
at Beltrami Electric
Cooperative (in the garage)

4111 Technology Dr NW, Bemidji

- Enjoy the comfort of indoor shopping!
- Huge variety of **NEW & USED** merchandise!
- All fees (rent, entrance, food) go to the United Way of Bemidji Area!

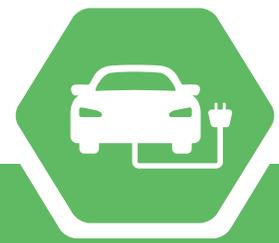
**\$1 entrance
fee (12 & under
are free)!**

JOHN LUND AND SUE KRINGEN MAINTAIN DIRECTOR GOLD CERTIFICATION



Beltrami Electric Board Chair John Lund and Vice Chair Sue Kringsen both recently renewed their Director Gold Certificate. The Director Gold Certificate is issued by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and recognizes directors committed to continuing their education beyond NRECA's Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate (CCD) 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.

Electric Vehicle



FAQs

You've likely heard or read that most automakers are transitioning many or all their new vehicles to electric-only models over the next 10 years. Regardless of the type of car you drive today, the electrification of the transportation sector is underway.

We regularly receive inquiries about electric vehicles from Beltrami Electric Cooperative members, so we thought it would be helpful to respond to some of those frequently asked questions in this month's issue of Northern Lights.



WHY IS BEC COMMUNICATING ABOUT ELECTRIC VEHICLES?

It's no secret that consumer interest in electric vehicles (EVs) is growing, and BEC is providing information about EV charging requirements so that our members can make informed decisions when considering an EV purchase.



DOES BEC HAVE AN EV?

Yes, we purchased our first EV in 2018, a Chevy Bolt, for research and development purposes. Our EV and charging stations help us access key data, gain insights into how EVs operate, what infrastructure is needed to support them and raise awareness and promote understanding of EV technologies. We also provide educational tools about EVs on our website and bring our EV to community events so folks have an opportunity to ask questions and form their own opinions.



CAN I CHARGE MY EV USING AN EXISTING OUTLET OR DO I NEED A SPECIAL OUTLET?

All EVs come with a 110-volt-compatible (Level 1) charging unit which can be plugged into any standard household outlet. For an eight-hour overnight charge, this will enable traveling around 36 to 40 miles a day. If you typically drive longer distances or are in a hurry, a Level 2 charger takes about half the time and provides about 180 miles of range over an eight-hour charging period.



DOES THE OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE AFFECT THE RANGE OF AN EV?

Outside temps, particularly colder weather, can impact the range of an EV. Unlike a gas-powered vehicle, where the heat is mostly coming from the engine, an EV must produce cabin heat and manage an optimal battery temperature with energy that comes from the battery, which can reduce battery range. Beltrami's Chevy Bolt sees about a 30-40% reduction in range when temps fall to 20-30 degrees below zero.



WILL AN EV MEET MY DAILY DRIVING NEEDS?

If you are like most Americans and drive an average of 30 miles a day, an EV can easily meet your daily needs.



WHAT KIND OF INCENTIVES ARE AVAILABLE FOR EVS?

BEC offers great rebate incentives toward the purchase and installation of an EV charger at your home when connected to the load management program. There are also a variety of tax credits, rebates and other incentives available for new/used EV purchases. Visit www.afdc.energy.gov/laws/electric-vehicles-for-tax-credit to learn about federal incentives available through the Clean Vehicle Credit program.



SHOULD I LET MY CO-OP KNOW IF I PURCHASE AN EV?

If you purchase an EV, please let us know so we can better serve you. As more BEC members buy EVs, it's helpful to know where they're located in our area so we can ensure we have the necessary infrastructure in place to meet charging needs and provide reliable power to our local homes and businesses.



We understand making the switch to an EV is a big decision. Whether you're ready to make an EV purchase or wondering if an EV can meet your daily driving needs, we're here to help you make an informed decision. Give us a call at 218-444-2540 or contact us at info@beltramielectric.com.



ELECTRIFY YOUR DIY

Spring has sprung — which means it's time to get working on all those DIY projects you have been dreaming about all winter long! Whether you are starting with something big like building your dream deck or a smaller bathroom paint job, it's time to electrify your DIY!

You don't have to be an experienced DIYer to reap the benefits of handy electric tools. Check out what can help elevate your DIY to the next level and keep your projects from feeling like a flop.

Cordless Circular Saw



When building that new deck, a circular saw is a must! A cordless circular saw runs on battery power that can last anywhere between four to eight hours. There is no sacrifice of speed or power with this tool. With no pesky cord getting in the way, the portability and safety of this saw puts it at the top of any DIYer's must-have list.

Electric Grass Trimmer

Keep your yard in tip-top shape with an electric grass trimmer. With just the push of a button, you can begin trimming around the edges of rock beds and fences. The lightweight, odorless tool makes a beginner DIYer feel like a pro when tackling any weeds around their freshly planted shrubbery.



Electric Paint Sprayer



Painting large areas can be a major pain if you are doing it by hand. That is why professional DIYers love electric paint sprayers for big projects. Electric paint sprayers allow you to cover large surface areas in a fraction of the time. With a smooth, even finish, this user-friendly tool is a major time saver.

Cordless Nail Gun

Using a cordless nail gun is a must when creating DIY home décor. The portability allows you to work on your projects from anywhere in the house. You can build shelves in the bathroom or nail together the perfect-sized frame in the garage. The power behind this battery-powered tool is endless.



Cordless Electric Sander



Finish off any DIY project with a smooth, splinter-free finish. This on-the-go sander allows any DIYer to forget the air compressor at home. With little to no maintenance required, take your electric sander anywhere to finish your new favorite project.

Classifieds

Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the first of the month prior to publication of the next issue.
 - o Ads submitted by April 1 will be published in May issue.
 - o Ads submitted between April 2 and May 1 will be published in June 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:

Polaris Ranger 2017 XP 1000 EPS Hunter Edition, side-by-side. Camo color, power winch, closed cab with hard doors, windshield wipers, rearview mirror, high output heater, gun scabbard, excellent condition. Asking \$17,775. Call 218-760-8266.

Log bunk bed, twin over full. Like new condition. \$600/obo. Twin mattress and bedding for both twin and full beds included. Please call Cheryl 763-516-8423.

Flex Steel hunter green Queen-Anne style couch with matching chair w/ottoman. \$150. Craftsman tools: 10", 2.7 HP table saw \$60, 10" band saw \$60, 5" bench grinder \$10. Silver/grey Uncover Safari 8' topper \$150. 218-854-7453.

South Bend heavy 10 metal lathe, 3 and 4 jaw chucks, face plate, taper attachment, steady rest, collets and quick closure, quick change tool posts with five holders. QC threading, misc. boring and turning bits. 3 phase (includes phase converter) \$5,900. Call Bob 218-835-4408.

Octane elliptical fitness machine. The elliptical machine is wonderful exercise equipment that provides both legs and arms fitness. Avoid snow and ice or rain and wood ticks by exercising in the comfort of your own home. Will sell for \$500/obo. 218-759-9339.

A German 15 1/2" viola from master luthier Rudolf Buchner. Made in 1979. Beautiful, well-rounded, clear tone. \$3,000. 218-759-9534.

Used styling salon chair. Hydraulic pump, 360-degree swivel, reclining wide seat. In good condition. \$40, please call 218-835-7484.

Craftsman 30" two-stage snow thrower. Electric start, heated grips, power steering, good shape. \$550. 218-751-5038.

Hewitt 1500 aluminum boat lift with canopy and cover. New cable, winch and bunks. 100 W x 110 L. Asking \$850/obo. Valued over \$1,250 without cover. Ideal for small sail/fishing boat or jet ski. Possibly pulled off the ice late winter. 320-583-0471.

Hobart 4822 meat grinder. Has all attachments. Berkel 808 meat slicer. Both are in very good condition. 6x7 elk rack, B&C score: 367 4/8. 218-407-7247.

Canon EOS 05126271 DC 8.1V Rebel +21 camera, includes EF 75-300mm/1:4-5.6 III lens, FS18-55mm Macro 0.25m/0.8ft image stabilizer lens, case, \$300. Would sell IS lens separately. High Seas marine binoculars, 7x50 RC, Optisan technology: waterproof, fog proof - field 71° x 124m-1,000m, w/case, \$200. Richardson's chartbook and cruising guide of Lake Superior, 130 pages, 15"x12", \$20. Downrigger ball, \$10. 218-586-2884.

14-ft Alumacraft fishing boat, 15 hp Johnson motor, and all accessories, \$1,000. 218-224-2151.

AKC registered Lab pups, Fox-red, all shots, hip checked, both parents are hunting/retrieving

machines and great family dogs. 7 female, 3 male. Ready May 1. \$1,000. 218-766-2008.

Three aluminum walkers: A plain walker with two small wheels, \$10. A folding walker with two 5" wheels, \$15. A folding walker with wheels and forearm support brackets with adjustable clamps, \$20. None of these walkers has a seat. 218-760-3614 leave a message.

2002 Toyota Camry for parts, runs and starts. 218-368-9243.

New custom built 6mm Creedmoor with a 700 Remington frame. Built by Northern Accurizing. Grand Forks, ND. 218-308-4339.

New Salem Lutheran Church's Annual Rummage and Bake Sale. All proceeds benefit local charities! Saturday, April 15, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Bargain Sale 1 p.m. 7491 Island View Dr NE, Turtle River.

Moultrie M-990i trail camera, used twice, ex. cond. \$65. Brunton 7X35WA binoculars, \$60. Ducks Unlimited 3-piece putter, \$10. Belkin 4 USB hub w/elec., free if you need. Call Steve at 218-444-2280.

Savage AXIS .243 Win. 3-9x40mm scope w/case, \$400. Savage AXIS .308 Win. 3-9x40mm scope w/case, \$400. CVA OPTIMA .50cal. black powder 3-9x40mm scope w/case, \$200 in accessories, \$400. 218-209-6136. Please leave message.

Wanted:

Small kid snowmobile, like a Polaris 120, reasonably priced. I have grandkids coming of age. Call or text 218-766-8564.

Red irises, rose bushes, and fern leaf peonies. 218-556-2743.

Looking for an MPEM for a 2005 John Deere Buck 500. Please call 218-647-8136 and leave message.

Wanted - 6'-8" pine trees to be transplanted via my tree spade. 218-308-1632.

Bale hooks and wire potato basket/pails. 218-444-6288.

Looking for a solid wood nightstand with drawers and a solid wood tallboy dresser. Please send pictures and price to 218-929-3202.



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.) 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

- OR APPLY ONLINE -



SCAN ME

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

GENE DILLON SQUIRREL BUSTERS WIN FIRST LEGO LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

The first team to represent Bemidji Public Schools in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO League Program is from Gene Dillon Elementary. The team worked with Northwest Technical College to learn more about energy. Then Beltrami Electric's electrical engineer, Rich Riewer, visited with the team to identify a problem with how our community receives, uses, transports and distributes energy. Playing on a Ghostbusters theme, the Squirrel Busters built a device to help deter squirrels from contacting electric lines and causing power outages.

The team attended a regional competition at the University of North Dakota, where they took first place and advanced to the state competition. They went on to win the state championship competition and are now advancing to the Worcester Polytechnic Institutes Open International Invitation in June, where they will compete with over 60 teams from all over the world. Congratulations!



We are looking for YOU!



Beltrami Electric is looking for **Edonnis L. White** (Bemidji, Minn.) and **Jeremy L. Bush** (Cass Lake, Minn.). Please call **218-444-2540** if you have any information.

What does it cost? IT ALL ADDS UP!



Investing in a reliable electric system

The electric co-op industry is capital intensive. We will be featuring a different item each month to help put into perspective some of the costs that go into providing reliable electric service for our members.

How much does one regulator cost?*

a. \$5,000

b. \$9,500

c. \$2,600

d. \$12,000

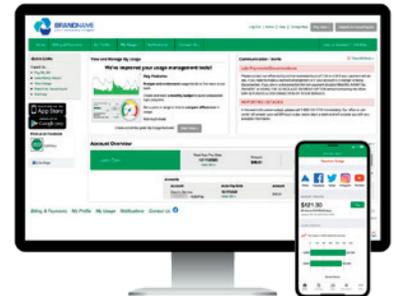


* BEC has 83 regulators on its system. Regulators maintain the proper voltage at your home so the lights don't dim and power quality isn't reduced if you live a long distance from the substation.

SAVE TIME AND MONEY by managing your account from anywhere with



We understand how busy life can get and managing your account can



sometimes feel complicated. We believe you deserve to have a tool that allows you to save time and money while giving you complete control to manage your entire account at anytime from anywhere.

Register today by visiting
beltramelectric.com/smarthub.

Activate features such as
Usage Monitoring, Auto
Pay, Paperless Billing,
Alerts and more!



Dig Smart. Dig Safe.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Working on an outdoor project? Before you dig, always call 811 or visit gopherstateonecall.org to have underground utility lines marked. 811 is a free service for homeowners. Minnesota state law requires you to call. Stay safe and avoid costly repairs. Call 8-1-1 this time and every time.



April is National Safe Digging Month.

Good Friday

Beltrami Electric
Cooperative will be closed
Friday, April 7, 2023,
in observance of
Good Friday and Easter.

NORTHERN

L I G H T S

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President and CEOJared Echternach

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Monday – Friday

Telephone: 218-444-2540 or

1-800-955-6083

Website: www.beltramielectric.com

Email: info@beltramielectric.com

MN STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit www.dli.mn.org for more information. Inspectors can be reached weekday morning between 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

BELTRAMI COUNTY:

Wade Koons | 218-255-3011

wade@koonsinspections.com

CASS & HUBBARD COUNTIES:

Brandon Disselbrett | 218-640-0187

disselbrett@hotmail.com

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 advance. All digging requires the 48-hour notification so that buried telephone line, television cable, pipelines, utility electric lines, municipal water and sewer lines can be located to ensure that none will be severed or damaged.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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.



Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Connecting Communities.

Powering Life.

ASK THE EXPERT!



WHAT IS A HEAT LOSS CALCULATION? Ask Festus or Chris!



Festus Rockensock, Lead Electrician
Chris Henriksen, Electrician (right)

If you are getting ready to build, a heat loss calculation can save you money! Bring your detailed plans in to Beltrami Electric Cooperative and we will complete a comprehensive heat loss calculation of your new home.

Looking at windows, doors, insulation and the size of your home, we will determine how much heat your home will lose. This will help to determine the size of heating system that will be required to recuperate

that loss to keep your new home comfortable.

Using this calculation, we will provide options for different heating systems and an annual estimate of what it will cost you to heat your new home based on various systems and fuel types.

It can be easy to budget for your home mortgage, but it can be difficult to predict what it will cost to heat/cool your home. A good heating system should combine comfort and value to keep your heating costs low and your new home warm. Stop in and let us help you save money. It's a benefit of your co-op membership.