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**UP YOUR  
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## Types of Generation Resources *(article on page 5)*



| **BASELOAD** |



| **PEAKING** |



| **INTERMITTENT** |



### **NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. MISSION STATEMENT**

To improve the lives of our member-owners by providing reliable electric energy services while maintaining the very highest standards of performance and member satisfaction.



**Josh Compton**  
General Manager

## MANAGER'S REPORT

As we end 2021 and look forward toward 2022, I want to reflect on the past year. At North Star we continued to operate smoothly and provide our member-owners

with top-notch service as well as kept outages to a minimum. We ran another successful drive-in annual meeting and saw significant member attendance that was in line with last year's annual meeting. This wouldn't have been possible without our incredible staff that ensures the cooperative is run efficiently and effectively – whether it's our line crew that responds to an outage at 3 a.m. to restore power or our office staff that goes above and beyond to answer member questions and concerns on a daily basis. The members, board and management of North Star are lucky to have such an exceptional group of individuals. I have no doubt that this level of member service will continue into 2022 and well beyond.

From a communications standpoint, we always strive to provide our members with valuable information and correspondence regarding a wide array of issues. This ranges from legislative or policy issues that could potentially affect the cooperative at the federal or state level, updates regarding Minnkota Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, and even where and when we plan on clearing right of ways and doing tree trimming. It's imperative that our members are informed about what's going on at their cooperative. Transparency will continue to be a top priority of mine as long as I'm the general manager here. I want members to be assured they will be

informed of any and all major updates affecting their cooperative in a timely fashion.

Looking ahead, we're going to try and get back to a more normal year in 2022. This includes holding Member Appreciation Days on both ends of our system, most likely in the spring or summer. We'll still be cautious and take proper steps to ensure everyone is safe, so please keep an eye out for those dates and join us! Staffing wise, our current operations manager, Marty Mollberg, will be retiring in early 2022 and his replacement will be named in the coming months. We're currently accepting applications and will look to interview qualified candidates in late January/early February. It's my hope his replacement will start by April 2022.

On the Minnkota front, Project Tundra – the planned and proposed carbon capture project in North Dakota – is still in progress and they are currently working with various companies and financial institutions to solidify funding as well as construction (251-25-092-01, Kent Visness). When more information surrounding timeframes and progress are available, I'll include those in future Enlighteners.

In regards to the 2022 budget, the board has reviewed the draft budget and will ultimately vote to approve the final budget at our Jan. 5, 2022, board meeting. I'm happy to announce that Minnkota is not increasing its wholesale electric rates for 2022, and I'm also confident that there will be no distribution rate increase from North Star for 2022 either. This marks five years since North Star last raised distribution rates for members. As always, if you ever need to contact me with questions or concerns, please feel

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free to call my cellphone at 240-499-4790. I'm looking forward to a more "normal" 2022 and hope to see our members out and about this year!

Stay safe and Happy New Year! – Josh

## PARENTS OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

If you are a current member and a parent or guardian of a high school senior, remember that along with encouraging your student to enjoy their last moments of high school, also encourage them to participate in our Cooperative Knowledge Scholarship competition this spring. This scholarship competition is funded with unclaimed capital credits and is a great



way for North Star to support the youth throughout our service area. North Star will award one \$1,000 scholarship and four \$400 scholarships to the students who score highest on the test. Students scoring 60% or better on the test will be entered into a drawing for eight \$100 cash prizes. The odds are good based on the number of students who typically compete.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM



These are the highlights from the Nov. 3, 2021, regular board meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to move the December meeting to Dec. 7, to approve delegate and committee appointments for 2022, to approve the 2021 Electric Load Forecast Study resolution and to approve updates to Board Policy 1.27, Meetings and Travel.

Staff reports included the safety report, the financial report, the directors' budget for 2022, an upcoming loan fund advance, winter load control, ripple receiver inspections and repairs, new off-peak installations, solar inquiries, new services and upgrades, pole changeouts,

pole testing, breaker testing, summer work plan projects, right-of-way clearing, outages and blinks, federal and state legislative issues and unclaimed capital credit donations.

There were several visitors to the meeting. Auditors Craig Haukom and Craig Popenhagen from the firm CliftonLarsonAllen LLP were also visiting guests at the meeting by teleconference. They presented the favorable audit report for the year ending July 31, 2021. Mike Bull, director of policy and regulatory affairs for the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), also attended the meeting to discuss Minnesota legislative matters concerning cooperatives and

how MREA is working to help. Minnesota State Rep. Rob Ecklund also attended and reported on his service area and the current hurdles electric cooperatives face today.

Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held the first Wednesday of every month. If you wish to speak with the board or have an item that you would like to have placed on the agenda, please contact the co-op at least two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH



Maximize your home heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system. Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters and warm-air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.

- Source: Dept. of Energy

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

**President**  
Steve Arnesen

**Vice President**  
Michael Hanson

**Secretary-Treasurer**  
Lorraine Nygaard

**Directors**  
Shelley Spears  
Randy Bergan  
Tom Smith  
Bruce Sampson

**General Manager**  
Josh Compton

## DIGGING SOON?

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury and expense. Safe digging is no accident.

**ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.**  
VISIT [WWW.CALL811.COM](http://WWW.CALL811.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION.



## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Past issues of the Enlightener are on our website at

[www.northstarelectric.coop](http://www.northstarelectric.coop)

National

CUT YOUR



ENERGY

COSTS

Day

JANUARY 10, 2022

## Here are 5 tips to help you save this winter

Minnesotans are no strangers to below-freezing temperatures. As concerns about high heating bills mount, North Star Electric Cooperative continues to support its members with reliable electric service and ways to save energy during times of increased use.

Reliability is especially important in extreme cold weather. Last year's historic February winter storm that led to rolling blackouts in parts of the southern U.S. and Midwest demonstrated the essential role electricity plays in powering our lives. The ongoing global concerns about energy supply further reinforce the benefits of reliability and affordability that come from embracing an all-of-the-above energy strategy. Your cooperative uses a diverse mix of coal, wind and hydro power to meet your 24/7 needs. Electric cooperatives encourage members to take advantage of options available to better manage energy use and make a meaningful impact on monthly bills.



### 1) Check out your co-op's off-peak program

Members who participate in the off-peak electric heating and water heating programs have seen rates remain relatively flat in recent years, while fossil fuel prices fluctuate consistently. In exchange for the discounted off-peak electric rate (about half the retail rate), consumers voluntarily allow electric heating systems and other interruptible loads to be temporarily turned off or switched to a backup fuel source (like propane) during periods of high demand for electricity across the region. Check with North Star Electric about great new incentives and rebates that are available for the installation of new off-peak electric heating systems.



### 2) Weather seal your windows and doors

You'd be surprised to know how much cold air can leak into the home through minor cracks and gaps in windows and doorways. Seal any gaps with a fresh bead of caulk or weatherstripping. You can also install insulating gaskets behind outlet covers and switch plates, while door sweeps help seal the space between the bottom of your door and the door frame. Having a contractor come out and professionally seal your windows and doors or recommend more energy efficient options can be a great way to upgrade your home and save energy.



### 3) Lower the water heater temperature

Your water heater is one of the highest energy users in your home. Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140°, but most households usually only require them to be set at 120°. For each 10-degree reduction in water temperature, you can save about 5% in energy costs.



### 4) Check your furnace regularly

Make sure to change your furnace filter regularly. Contact a heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) professional to inspect/maintain your system as needed. Early attention to maintenance can help prevent failures in the heart of heating season.



### 5) Upgrade your home's insulation

Air that transfers in and out of homes through cracks, crevices and holes can increase energy consumption. By upgrading your home's insulation, you can save up to 30% on your energy costs. If you have R-19 or less insulation in your attic, consider bringing it up to R-49. If you have R-11 or less floor insulation, consider bringing it up to R-25.

## Having trouble paying your bill?

If you are a cooperative member having trouble paying your electric bill, contact North Star Electric Cooperative to discuss payment plans and receive information on other energy assistance programs and resources for income-qualified households to help with home heating costs and furnace repairs.

# UP YOUR Energy



## Know the difference between the three categories of electricity generation resources

North Star Electric Cooperative uses a diverse mix of coal, wind and hydro power to ensure your 24/7 electricity needs are met. Electricity is a unique product because it operates in a near-instantaneous manner. It is generated, delivered to you and consumed in almost the same moment in time. While electricity storage technologies are in development, the vast majority of the electricity used across the country cannot currently be stored due to physical and economic constraints. Therefore, continuous electricity generation is required every second of every day.

But that doesn't mean all generation resources operate in the same fashion. There are three basic types of generation resources – baseload, peaking and intermittent – each of which bring different attributes to the grid (362-17-019-05, Darcy Hansen). Learn more below about the operating characteristics for each resource.



### | BASELOAD |

Baseload resources provide reliability and stability to the electric grid because they are designed to operate in a continuous manner during the vast majority of hours each year. Their dependable and predictable operation ensures power will be available when needed. The primary baseload resources on the U.S. electric grid are coal, natural gas and nuclear. Coal remains the most reliable and resilient resource in North Star Electric Cooperative's portfolio.



### | PEAKING |

Peaking generation resources typically only operate when electrical demand is high (or "peaking"). These power plants are typically fueled by natural gas, diesel or biofuels and are designed to run a small percentage of the time each year. Peaking plants are able to ramp generation up and down more quickly than baseload resources, but have a much higher per kilowatt-hour cost of production because they are only used occasionally.



### | INTERMITTENT |

Intermittent resources – like wind and solar – provide power to the grid on a variable basis. If the wind isn't blowing or the sun isn't shining, these resources are not able to produce electricity. Because electricity storage is still limited at grid scale, baseload and peaking resources are required to fill in the gap to ensure reliable electric service can be maintained. Production from wind and solar can be severely limited during extreme weather events, like a polar vortex, when communities need reliable electricity the most.



# STAFF REPORT – HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## PROBLEMS PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL? ENERGY ASSISTANCE MAY BE AVAILABLE!

If you recently lost your job or had your hours cut, the following agencies may be able to help you with your electric bill. You may have never needed help before, but maybe today you do.

### LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES

206 8th Ave SE, Suite 200  
Baudette, MN 56623-2895  
218-634-2642

### NORTHWEST COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL

PO Box 67  
Badger, MN 56714-0067  
800-568-5329

### KOOCHICHING COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

1000 5th St  
International Falls, MN 56649-2243  
218-283-7000

### KOOTASCA COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3984  
Toll free 877-687-1163  
Direct 218-999-0800  
Fax 218-999-0220

### ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

703 3rd Ave S  
Virginia, MN 55792  
800-662-5711



**Robyn Sonstegard**  
Manager of Finance &  
Administration

I hope that 2022 is off to a great start, and that any resolutions or goals you may have committed to for the new year are moving in a positive direction! As we reflect on 2021 at the co-op, it was another successful, stable year. Our final year-end margins will be better than budgeted despite reduced sales, and will ultimately be returned to you, the member, through our capital credit program (556-07-002-02, Audrey Horne). As we move into 2022, we are happy to report there will be no rate increase again this year. Our wholesale power cost remains stable, which is the largest driver in keeping our rates consistent for you!

### Sales tax exemption

If electricity is your primary source (meaning 50% or more) of residential heat, the off-peak portion of your bill is tax exempt from November through April. Most likely, we have a sales tax exemption form on file for you so you don't need to send us one. But if you don't recall ever giving us a sales tax exemption form, please let us know. We can mail you one, or you can find it on our website under the Forms section. If you have questions on this subject, please call Patsy at **218-634-2202**.

### Knowledge Scholarship

If you are a current member and a parent or guardian of a high school senior, encourage them to participate in our Cooperative Knowledge Scholarship competition this spring. Although it might be snowing and blowing right now, spring and graduation will be just around the corner! Our scholarship competition is funded with unclaimed capital credits and is a great way for the cooperative to support the youth throughout our service area. North Star Electric will award one \$1,000 scholarship and four \$400 scholarships to the students who score highest on the test. Students scoring 60% or better on the test will be entered into a drawing for eight \$100 cash prizes. Testing information and study materials for eligible students will be available at the Warroad, Lake of the Woods, International Falls, Indus and Littlefork-Big Falls schools this spring.



We have a sneak peek question, which is a fill-in-the-blank type question:

**QUESTION:** *What percentage of the power that North Star Electric Cooperative sells is generated by the wind?*

**ANSWER:** North Star purchases its power from Minnkota Power Cooperative, which generates **34%** of their power from wind.

## NOTICE TO COGENERATORS

In compliance with Minnesota Adopted Rules Relating to Cogeneration and Small Power Production, chapter 7835, North Star Electric Cooperative is required to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers that satisfy the conditions of a Qualifying Facility. North Star has available and will provide free information to all interested members regarding rates and interconnection requirements. An application for interconnection is required for a Qualifying Facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system and is subject to approval by the cooperative. For more information, please call Kevin Holen at **218-634-2202**.



# NORTH STAR ELECTRIC POLITICAL LEADERS

## FEDERAL LEGISLATORS

President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
www.whitehouse.gov  
202-456-1111

Senator Tina Smith  
720 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
www.smith.senate.gov  
202-224-5641

Senator Amy Klobuchar  
425 Dirksen Senate Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
www.klobuchar.senate.gov  
202-224-3244  
1-888-224-9043 (Minnesota office)  
Fax: 202-228-2186

Congressman Pete Stauber  
126 Cannon House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
www.stauber.house.gov  
202-225-6211

Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach  
1237 Longworth House Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20515  
www.fischbach.house.gov  
202-225-2165  
Fax: 202-225-1593

## STATE OF MINNESOTA LEGISLATORS

Governor Tim Walz  
Capitol Bldg., Room 130  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
800-657-3717  
www.mn.gov/governor

Senator Tom Bakk  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.; Capitol, Room 328  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-8881  
www.senate.mn/members

Senator Paul Utke  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3403  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-9651  
sen.paul.utke@senate.mn  
www.senate.mn/members

Senator Mark Johnson  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3111  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-5782  
sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn  
www.senate.mn/members

Representative Matt Grossell  
227 State Office Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-4265  
rep.matt.grossell@house.mn  
www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members

Representative John Burkel  
309 State Office Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-9635  
rep.john.burkel@house.mn  
www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members

Representative Rob Ecklund  
409 State Office Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-2190  
rep.rob.ecklund@house.mn  
www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members

## CURRENT ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

State law requires that every new electrical installation in any construction, remodeling, replacement or repair shall file a certificate for inspection and be inspected by a Minnesota electrical inspector. For more information, go to the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industries website ([dli.mn.gov](http://dli.mn.gov)) and go to the electrical page.

### LAKE OF THE WOODS, ST. LOUIS and KOOCHICHING COUNTIES

**Curt Collier**  
cgcollier67@gmail.com  
218.966.5070

Call to set up an appointment  
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., Monday - Friday

### ROSEAU COUNTY

**Ronald Ditsch**  
218.779.6758  
Call to set up an appointment  
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., Monday - Friday

## HOME COOKING

### Sausage Cabbage Soup

The best thing about cold weather? It's the best excuse to make a big pot of rustic, hearty and delicious soup that is easy to make.

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
10 mins	45 mins	55 mins	8 servings

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. ground sausage (recommend brands such as Macey's or Smith's)
- (2) - 14 oz. cans chicken broth
- 1 medium onion, *chopped*
- 3 potatoes (1 *peeled and grated*, 2 *cut into small chunks with skin left on*)
- 1 package shredded coleslaw mix

- ¼ cup butter or margarine, *melted*
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 quart half & half
- 3 Tbsp. flour
- ¼ tsp. pepper, or to taste

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cook and drain ground sausage.
2. Combine sausage with chicken broth, onion, coleslaw mix and

- potatoes. Cook through until onions and potatoes are softened.
3. In a separate pan combine butter, salt, half & half, flour and pepper until mixture is smooth.
4. Add this mixture to the sausage and vegetables. Heat up until soup has thickened.

*From the kitchen of Sunny Dorrow.*



Receive a \$20 energy credit if you submit a recipe and it is selected to run in a future issue of the Enlightener newsletter.

## COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

*North Star Electric Co-op donates unclaimed capital credits to local charitable organizations*



Mike Hanson, North Star board member (*right*), presents an unclaimed capital credit check to Ashley Hall, representing the Falls Hunger Coalition as executive director.

*"Commitment to community is a driving force behind your cooperative as we support programs that improve the lives of those who live in the communities we serve."*

## STATE LAW FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

State law offers active military personnel additional payment options for their electric bills. The law covers disconnection, payment arrangements, appeal and annual notice to cooperative members. Similar to the state's Cold Weather Rule, an application must be completed and income guidelines exist. It's available for active duty military personnel, deployed or completing a permanent duty station change.

## UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES

05  
JAN

North Star Electric will hold its next monthly board meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 5, if you wish to speak to the board.

02  
FEB

North Star Electric will hold the following monthly board meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 2, if you wish to speak to the board.

### OFFICE HOURS | 7:30 A.M. - 4 P.M. | MONDAY - FRIDAY

**Baudette** 218-634-2202 or 888-634-2202 | **Littlefork** 218-278-6658 or 888-258-2008  
**For credit card payment** 855-874-5354 | **Online billing** info available via SmartHub app  
**Electrical after-hours emergencies** 1-888-6OUTAGE (1-888-668-8243)  
**Email us at** nsec@wikel.com | **Visit our website at** northstarelectric.coop

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### 'LIKE' US ON FACEBOOK TO STAY UP TO DATE

Like your cooperative for outage updates during the winter season and other useful information.

 /northstarelectric

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