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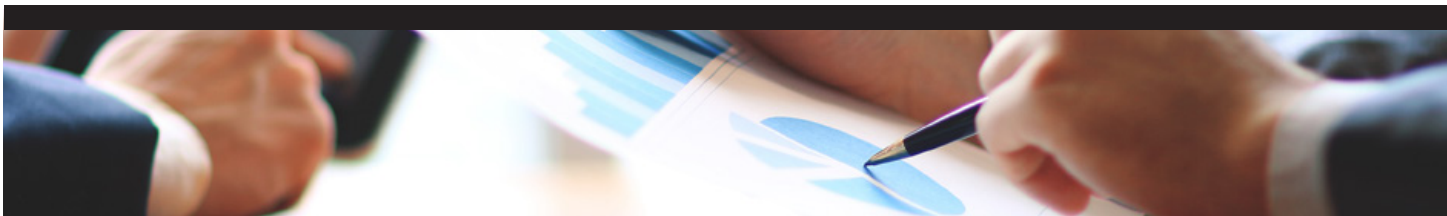
## OPERATION ROUND UP® CONTINUES TO HELP LOCAL PROGRAMS

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### **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 I sit here writing this month's article and looking at the thermometer reading -20 degrees, I remember when I would wake up back east and see the temperature at 20 degrees above zero and think to myself ... it's going to be a brutally cold day. Times sure have changed!

This past month we had a few updates I'd like members to be aware of. First, the North Star board of directors approved the 2022 budget with no rate increase. Management and the board consistently strive to operate your cooperative as lean and efficient as possible and I'm happy we were able to hold rates steady for another year (362-29-021-01, Danielle Dewitt). We also completed a considerable amount of tree trimming and right-of-way clearing over the past few weeks and sincerely appreciate all the members who were impacted in those areas that worked with us to get it done. It's well known that safety and reliability go hand in hand with proper right-of-way maintenance of the distribution system.

On the Minnkota front, the North Dakota Industrial Commission (NDIC) approved a permit on Jan. 21 allowing Minnkota Power Cooperative to safely and permanently store carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) deep underground near Center, N.D. North Dakota is one of only two states that has received approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to regulate geologic storage of CO<sub>2</sub>. The process for receiving the Class VI permit required significant data collection, analysis and documentation to ensure safe, permanent storage. This is one of the many steps necessary to get to a

final project (Project Tundra), but we also need the rest of the pieces to still come together before we know if Minnkota is going to move ahead with the project. More information about Project Tundra can be found at [ProjectTundraND.com](http://ProjectTundraND.com).

Looking forward, a number of your cooperative directors and I will be actively engaged during the coming months with our local, state and federal legislators as they begin their legislative sessions. Even though we're a considerable distance from our state capitol in St. Paul, North Star has a long history of representing the interests of our members and cooperative. It's a priority of mine that we continue this engagement going forward and ensure we work with all members across the political spectrum to do what's best not for just North Star, but for our state as well. Prior to these meetings and events, I would appreciate any and

- The North Star board of directors approved the 2022 budget with no rate increase. Management and the board strive to operate your co-op as efficiently as possible.

- On the Minnkota front, the North Dakota Industrial Commission (NDIC) approved a permit allowing Minnkota to safely and permanently store CO<sub>2</sub> deep underground.

all member feedback so I can relay that to our representatives. The board and I work for you – it's very important we hear your thoughts/concern/suggestions. My direct email address is [josh.c@northstarelectric.coop](mailto:josh.c@northstarelectric.coop) – I look forward to hearing from you!

Until next time, 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.



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5¢

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM



These are the highlights from the Dec. 7, 2021, regular board meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to approve an update to Board Policy 2.18 Off-Peak System Service, to approve the Restated and Amended Wholesale Power Contract with Minnkota Power Cooperative, to approve the purchase of a replacement truck and trailer as listed in the 2022 budget and to approve updates to the cooperative mission statement and 2021 strategic planning goals.

Staff reports included the safety report, the financial report, the proposed 2022 budget, a proposal from CliftonLarsonAllen for ongoing audit and tax return services,

a recent construction loan fund advance, ripple receiver inspections and repairs, new off-peak installations, a distributed generation installation, rebates, upcoming load control and ripple receiver testing, new services and upgrades, pole changeouts, work plan projects, right-of way clearing, Minnkota's transmission line maintenance project out of the Pitt substation, outages, federal energy and utility updates, state legislative issues and the process for filling the operations manager position due to an upcoming retirement.

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



About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip all windows to seal air leaks. When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

- 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)**





# Winter energy-saving tips

Keep the cold out and the warm in this winter with the following energy and money-saving tips from North Star Electric Cooperative.

**SEAL AIR LEAKS** – Air leaks are among the greatest source of energy loss in a home. According to the Department of Energy, caulking, sealing and weatherstripping where appropriate can save 10-20% on heating and cooling.

Look for air leaks in walls, ceilings, windows, doors, lighting and plumbing fixtures, switches and electrical outlets (132-14-008-02, Joshua Peterson). One way to check for this is to hold a lit incense stick on a windy day next the items mentioned above and other places where air may leak. If the smoke stream travels horizontally, you have located an air leak.

After finding the leaks, consider the following:

- Weatherstrip doors and windows.
- Caulk and seal air leaks where plumbing, ducting or electrical wiring comes through walls.
- Install foam gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on exterior walls.
- Use foam sealant on larger gaps around window trims, baseboards and other places.
- Check to ensure the fireplace damper is closed and fits properly when not in use.

**ITEM TO NOTE:** When adding insulation or air sealing, be sure to consult a professional if the job is complicated or the home is tightened so much that mechanical ventilation may be needed. There are professional services that offer a complete energy audit with blower door and thermal camera imaging for a fee.

**FURNACE FILTER** – Replace your furnace filter as necessary or recommended. There's a reason this is one of the most common tips mentioned. A dirty filter

causes a furnace to work harder.

Put a timer on your block engine heater – if you have cars, trucks or tractors plugged in, a timer can help you save energy.

**CHANGE LIGHTS TO LED** – Save up to 80% on lighting by going to LED over incandescent. Just look on the box to ensure the lumen output is equal to the ones you are replacing.

Many more tips are available at [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov).

## Estimating energy usage and cost

When it comes to energy use, every home is unique. Home construction, the number of appliances, how they are used and the length of time they are used all factor into your monthly electric statement (783-28-043-01, Kevin Murphy). If you want to get a better handle on where your energy dollars are going, use the following information to begin estimating how much electricity your appliances use.



**Step 1** – Since the wattage of an appliance or electrical equipment determines the electrical usage per hour, the first step is to determine the wattage. The wattage of an appliance is found on the serial plate. It is possible that electrical equipment may be expressed in volts and amperes rather than watts. If so, multiply volts and amperes together to determine the wattage.

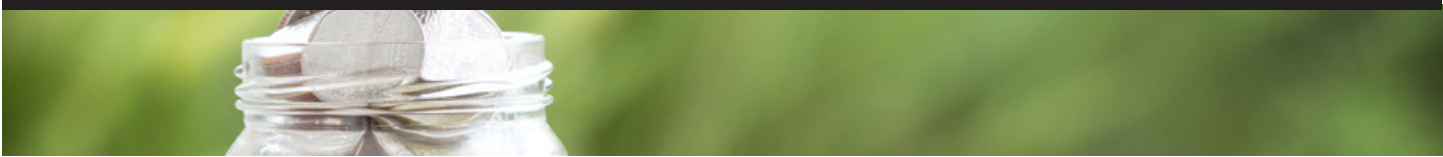
**Example:** 120 volts x 12.1 amps = 1,452 watts

**Step 2** – Use the formula to estimate usage and cost. The formula is (watts x hours of operation)/1,000 watts = kilowatt-hours. To find the cost, multiply the kWh by the rate. Keep in mind that you are billed in kWh. 1,000 watts equals 1 kilowatt.

**Example:** A light uses 100 watts and is left on 15 hours. How many kWh are used and what does it cost you?

**kWh use = (100 watts x 15 hrs)/1,000 watts = 1.5 kWh**

**Your cost = 1.5 kWh x \$.121 = \$.1815**



# OPERATION ROUND UP® CONTINUES TO HELP LOCAL PROGRAMS

The North Star Electric Cooperative Community Trust Board met in January to review the Operation Round Up® applications, which it received requesting funding for various programs. The board awarded \$6,168, so it was not an easy task selecting which groups would get funding and what amount they would receive. Many local programs and organizations benefit from

Operation Round Up, a voluntary, member-driven fundraising program of North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc., that is designed to provide financial assistance for worthwhile projects and charities in the area. Donations are given to organizations to help make the area a more pleasant and safe place to live. All funds for Operation Round Up are contributed by the member-owners of

North Star, and the money is placed into a trust fund that is separate from electric accounts. The trust is administered by its own board of directors comprised of people from across the area. Operation Round Up directors are appointed by North Star’s board members and must be members of the cooperative. The cooperative’s general manager is a nonvoting member of the board.

*At the January meeting, \$6,168 in Operation Round Up funds was distributed to various qualifying programs and organizations throughout the area, including:*

Lake of the Woods Food Shelf .....	Purchase food supplies
Koochiching Aging Options.....	Koochiching Memory Café Program
Littlefork-Big Falls 1st Grade.....	Canvas painting with Wanda Mitchell
Roosevelt Recreation Association .....	Roosevelt ballfield and playground
Williams Senior Center .....	Meals for seniors
Moose Creek Quilters .....	Spreading the Warmth
Servants of Shelter of Koochiching County .....	Cover expenses of bus tickets
Paws and Claws Koochiching County .....	Pet medical emergencies
LSS Meals of MN .....	Health-sustaining meals
City of Littlefork .....	Community Building doors
Deer River Music Boosters .....	DR Music Booster Equity Fund

Organizations from the area may apply for a donation from the Operation Round Up Trust. The applicant must be charitable in nature and be working to meet a need in our area. The Operation Round Up board meets twice a year and decides if an application meets the guidelines of the trust and if funds are available.

If a member chooses to be part of Operation Round Up, their bill is “rounded up” to the next highest dollar. For example, if a bill is \$96.47, the computer will round up the bill to \$97. The additional 53 cents will be placed in the trust and distributed to local charitable and community-based programs.

*Small change makes a*  
**BIG DIFFERENCE!**



## NORTH STAR WELCOMES JOSH HAMM

North Star Electric Cooperative would like to give a warm welcome to new hire Josh Hamm, who has joined the Baudette line crew as an apprentice lineworker. Josh is from the Stephen-Argyle area and is a graduate of the M-State Electrical Lineworkers Program. His hobbies include hunting, fishing and snowmobiling. Welcome to our community and our co-op, Josh!





# 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

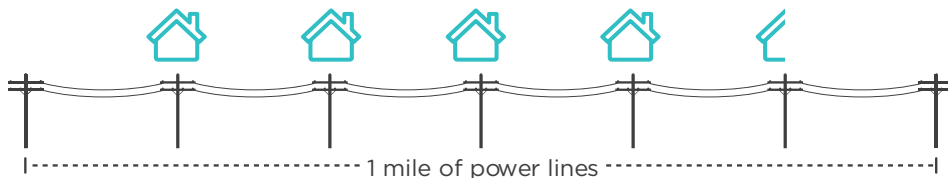
### ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

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

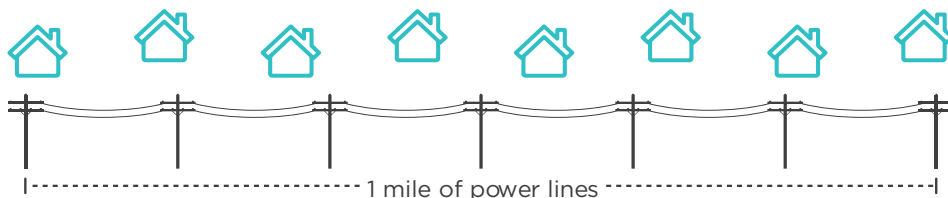
## GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Electric co-ops maintain more miles of power lines per consumer than other electric utilities. Even though we power fewer consumers on our lines compared to other utilities, we'll always go the extra mile for you, the consumer-members we proudly serve.

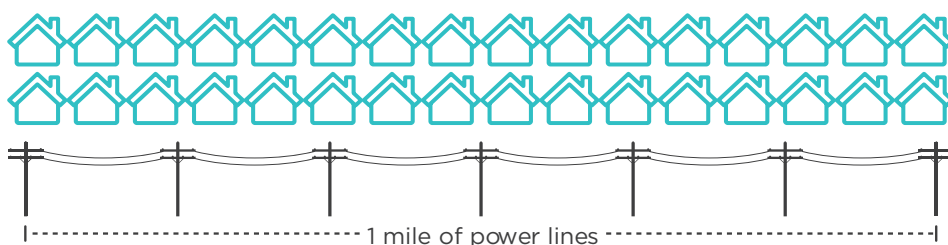
### NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE – Serves 4.6 consumers per mile of line



### ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES – Serve 8 consumers per mile of line

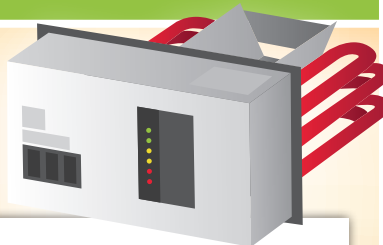


### OTHER ELECTRIC UTILITIES – Serve 32 consumers per mile of line



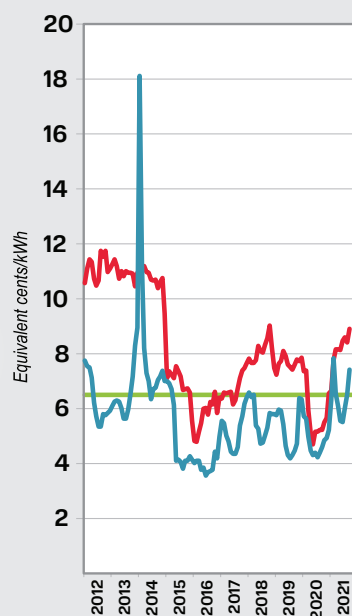
## Scared of propane prices?

Protect yourself with a plenum.



This 10-year snapshot shows how volatile propane and fuel oil prices can be over time, as off-peak electricity rates stay low and steady. Around 2013, propane followed an upward trend that peaked nearly three times higher than off-peak electricity, and it continues to be on the rise.

### Average Home Heating Prices (Last 10 years)



— Off-peak Electricity  
— Fuel Oil at 80% Efficiency  
— Propane at 90% Efficiency

# NORTH STAR ELECTRIC POLITICAL LEADERS

## FEDERAL LEGISLATORS

President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)  
202-456-1111

Senator Tina Smith  
720 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[www.smith.senate.gov](http://www.smith.senate.gov)  
202-224-5641

Senator Amy Klobuchar  
425 Dirksen Senate Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[www.klobuchar.senate.gov](http://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](http://www.stauber.house.gov)  
202-225-6211

Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach  
1237 Longworth House Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20515  
[www.fischbach.house.gov](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:sen.paul.utke@senate.mn)  
[www.senate.mn/members](http://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](mailto:sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn)  
[www.senate.mn/members](http://www.senate.mn/members)

Representative Matt Grossell  
227 State Office Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-4265  
[rep.matt.grossell@house.mn](mailto:rep.matt.grossell@house.mn)  
[www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members](http://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](mailto:rep.john.burkel@house.mn)  
[www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members](http://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](mailto:rep.rob.ecklund@house.mn)  
[www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members](http://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](mailto: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

### Cherry Chocolate Pie

Check out this fabulous pie recipe! Fans of Black Forest cake and chocoholics will love this silky dessert with tasty red cherries and yummy whipped topping.

Prep Time	Cook Time	Cooling Time	Servings
15 mins	30 mins	8 hours or overnight	8 servings

#### INGREDIENTS

- 11 large marshmallows
- ½ cup milk
- 1 piece (3 ounces) milk chocolate candy bar, chopped
- 1 container (8 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed and divided
- 1 graham cracker crust (10 inches)

- 1 can (21 ounces) cherry pie filling

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a large saucepan, combine the marshmallows, milk and chocolate.
2. Cook and stir over medium-low heat until smooth. Cool completely.
3. Fold ¾ cup whipped

topping into chocolate mixture. Pour into prepared crust.

4. Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.
5. Top with pie filling and remaining whipped topping. Cover and refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight.

*From the kitchen of Jan Olson.*



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*



Todd Higgins, North Star line sub-foreman (left), presents an unclaimed capital credit check to Jeff Nelson, Lake of the Woods (LOW) school superintendent, for the LOW Backpack Program.



Travis Pederson, North Star journeyman lineman (left), presents an unclaimed capital credit check to Sandy Johnson, representing the Brink Senior Center.

## UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

21  
FEB.

North Star's offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 21, in observance of Presidents Day.

02  
MAR.

North Star will hold its next monthly board meeting on Wednesday, Mar. 2, if you wish to speak to the board.

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

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