

Enlightener

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BAUDETTE | MINNESOTA

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From all of us at North Star Electric Cooperative!

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.

READY FOR RESPONSE

With mild winter predicted, demand response program prepared for system/market anomalies

In North Dakota and Minnesota, we can always appreciate a break from brutally cold and snowy winters. We might get that break this season – the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation for our region.

However, the winter climate isn't the only consideration behind the deployment of your cooperative's demand response (off-peak) program. The power supply experts at Minnkota Power Cooperative (our wholesale power provider) will be monitoring several factors throughout the winter season, but they anticipate the standard 150-200 hours of demand response.

"What actually happens depends largely on weather, but also on system and market conditions," explained Dan Trebil, Minnkota's energy supply manager. "While the energy market has softened somewhat from the previous two years, we are still experiencing significant volatility. Any unusual system

conditions, generator outages, icing on wind farms, etc., can adversely affect this."

Trebil says that at this time his team is not expecting any conditions wildly out of the ordinary, especially given the baseload nature of Minnkota's coal-based plants. The Milton R. Young Station and Coyote Station have proven time and time again to be reliable sources of electricity for the cooperatives and communities served through the Minnkota-Northern Municipal Power Agency Joint System, and they are well prepared for the upcoming winter season. With that being said, unplanned outages can occur at any time – even with wind generation.

"In the winter, the wind farms can experience anything from icing to cold-temperature and/or high-wind shutdowns. These types of generator outages can lead to an increased need for demand response, especially if they occur during extreme weather conditions," Trebil said.

Minnkota works hard to

keep any "control periods" to less than 200 collective hours a season to lessen the impact on member-consumers, while also garnering the value that the demand response program provides to homes, the co-op itself, and the entirety of the electric grid. In cases where Minnkota's systemwide load exceeds its generation capabilities, they can implement the demand response program to avoid purchasing high-priced energy from the regional grid. This not only balances energy across the grid, but also saves the cooperatives money, which allows them to keep electric rates stable year to year.

If you are a demand response program participant, now is the time to make sure your home is prepared for the winter. Be sure that all backup heat sources are functioning and that any necessary fuel sources (such as fuel oil or propane) are refilled. Demand response can activate without much notice, even during somewhat mild weather in your area.

If you have questions about the demand response program, please call the North Star Electric office at 218-634-2202.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the Oct. 4, 2023, regular board meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to approve an amendment to the North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc. 401(k) Plan, to approve Secretary-Treasurer Nygaard to sign the statement of mailing of the official notice of the annual meeting, to keep the 2024 directors' budget materially the same as 2023 and to approve the annual review of Safety Policy 3.10.

Staff reports included the safety report, the monthly financial report, the final

recognition of the territory sale to the City of Warroad, unclaimed capital credits, the Cold Weather Rule, workers' compensation, the FEMA grant extension, the 2024-2027 construction work plan, the completion of the 2023 audit fieldwork, the Birchdale cable replacement project, pole testing in the Williams area with a low level of rejected poles, contracted right-of-way clearing from Williams to Warroad, the new Roosevelt substation, outages, ripple receiver inspections and repairs, a new solar installation, Generlink transfer switch installations, generator sales, the new Littlefork fencing project, pricing

for the Littlefork roof replacement, rebates, new off-peak systems and the upcoming annual meeting (251-24-248-01, Ron Lindgren).

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.



The average home in our area can be powered for about **\$200 per month** — the price of a new winter coat.

VALUING EVERYTHING THAT POWERS YOUR MONTH.

THAT'S THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY.

 **VALUE OF ELECTRICITY**



SAFETY TIP

Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from flammable items.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President
Steve Arnesen

Vice President
Michael Hanson

Secretary-Treasurer
Lorraine Nygaard

Directors
Shelley Spears
Randy Bergan
Tom Smith
Douglas King

General Manager
Kevin Holen

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: 811 or 800-252-1166.
VISIT WWW.CALL811.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Past issues of the Enlightener are on our website at

www.northstarelectric.coop

WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST



Cold, blizzarding weather is just part of life here in the North – being prepared comes with the territory. As you and your family start assembling your winter weather emergency kits, here is a helpful checklist to make sure you have everything you need to keep everyone in your home safe.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN AN EMERGENCY KIT:



Nonperishable foods
• Canned foods, crackers, protein bars



Extra warm clothing
• Hats, mittens, socks, scarves



Flashlights with extra batteries



One gallon of water per household member
• 5-day supply



A first-aid kit



Basic toiletries
• Toilet paper, facial tissues, diapers, wipes



Pet food



Prescription medications
• 5-day supply



Extra blankets



Battery-powered radio or TV



Full-charged portable chargers

If your power is ever out for an extended period of time, here are some helpful tips to keep your home and appliances safe:



At night, cover windows and doors with sheets, blankets or extra towels.



Keep doors of unused rooms closed and place towels underneath to keep heat from escaping.



Allow a small drip from your faucets to prevent pipes from freezing.



Unplug major appliances and electronics to protect them from power surges.



Take precautions and never operate a backup generator inside your home.

Make sure to check out North Star Electric's website at northstarelectric.coop for more information and updates during severe winter weather.

AVOID MAJOR HOLIDAY STRESS WITH A MINI-SPLIT HEAT PUMP

VERSATILITY

The mini-split heat pump can be used any time of the year. A single system delivers heat in the winter and cools your home in the summer. Plus, you can install it on nearly any wall in your home.

EFFICIENCY

The system only heats and cools the area that is necessary. On top of that, the heat pump technology simply transfers heat instead of generating it, which is much more energy efficient.

SAVINGS

In addition to the money you will save through efficiency, the upfront cost of installation may be covered in part by a rebate from North Star Electric – \$150 per ton or more! *You could also qualify for our off-peak program, which would offer you a reduced rate on your heating and cooling bills.*

Contact your local contractor or electrician to get started on your mini-split installation. If you have questions about our off-peak program, rebates or requirements, give our office a call!



Celebrate with Savings

* LED Lighting Rebate *

Buy energy-efficient holiday lights and decorations

How to Apply:

1. Purchase LED holiday plug-in (not battery-operated) lights and decorations in 2023.
2. Complete this rebate form and submit it to North Star Electric Cooperative by Dec. 31, 2023, with a copy of your sales receipt and the packaging showing the number of lights per string. ENERGY STAR® LEDs are recommended.
3. Select the appropriate rebate in the box below. (**Rebate cannot exceed 50% of cost. Maximum of five strings per customer.**)



Name _____ City/Zip _____

Account # _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Lights on String	Rebate per String	Total Rebate
Fewer than 99 lights	\$3	
100-199 lights	\$6	
200-299 lights	\$9	
Greater than 300 lights	\$12	

MAIL TO: North Star Electric Cooperative
PO Box 719 • 441 St. Hwy. 172 NW • Baudette, MN 56623

DUAL FUEL MEMBERS:

Please check your backup system

If you have a dual fuel heating system, now is the time to be sure your backup heating system is prepared and that you have adequate fuel supply.

- Dual fuel heating systems are usually controlled during periods of high demand (such as frigid winter evenings), but other factors such as high market cost can lead to load control as well.
- Winter season load control time is managed to 300 hours, but could be more due to unforeseen conditions.
- Electric heating load control periods typically occur during early morning and evening peak demand times, however, load control can occur at any time.
- Participants should expect more control days this winter, with most occurring between December and February.



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

STAFF REPORT – ROOSEVELT SUBSTATION ENERGIZED



Tim Pelach
Operations Manager

We will be looking at the numbers soon, but I am anticipating another very good year for new services (795-06-044-02, Gordon Gelo). Also it seems like the supply chain and material shortages have started to ease somewhat, so hopefully next year we will get back to a more normal situation.

Well, it has been another busy summer for the crews. We accomplished almost everything on the to-do list. Maybe the biggest highlight is the addition of the new substation in the Roosevelt area that we got online in mid-November. This will certainly help take some stress off of our Williams and Warroad substations.



The 8 miles of cable replacement in the Birchdale area has been for the most part completed with a few details left to finish. The early snows didn't help as things got sloppy fast in the area, so some finishing work might wait until spring.

Our crews will be doing quite a bit of maintenance this winter, including changing rejected poles in the Williams area now that the pole testing has been completed. They will also continue right-of-way clearing in the Littlefork area. We would like to see the snow hold off for a little bit to get some frost in the ground; it helps make these tasks much easier.

Some of you may have heard about the infrastructure grants and funds available from the federal government. North Star is part of a coalition of 85 co-ops and municipals from Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin who submitted their plans to the Department of Energy for consideration. Unfortunately our first proposal was denied, but there are a couple more rounds remaining so we will be reexamining our projects for another try. If successful, this will be a big help for the co-op, so I hope it works out. That's all for now, Tim

ENERGY SAVING TIP

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust temperature settings.



SALES TAX EXEMPTION

Members who use electricity as their primary source of residential heat are exempt from paying taxes on the electricity purchased during the billing months of November through April. If more than one type of heat is used, electricity is not taxable only if it is the primary source of heat for the largest period of time during the heating season (664-20-020-01, Robin Hoopman). If you have not previously applied, you can find the form on our website, or by contacting Brittany 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 Amy Klobuchar
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.klobuchar.senate.gov
202-224-3244;
Fax: 202-228-2186

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

Congresswoman Michelle
Fischbach, U.S. House (7th
District)
1004 Longworth House Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
fischbach.house.gov
202-225-2165;
Fax: 202-225-1593

Congressman Pete Stauber,
U.S. House (8th District)
145 Cannon House Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
stauber.house.gov
202-225-6211

STATE OF MINNESOTA LEGISLATORS

Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King,
Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-201-3400

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2401 Minnesota Senate
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Representative Matt Bliss
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Toll Free: 877-838-5537
rep.matt.bliss@house.mn

Representative Roger Skraba
(03A, R)
221 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-2190

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) and go to the electrical page.

LAKE OF THE WOODS, ST. LOUIS and KOCHICHING COUNTIES

Curt Collier
cgcclier67@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

Broccoli and Cauliflower Salad

This salad is quick and easy to throw together and makes a great main dish or side for your meal. It's loaded with crunch, and filled with delicious flavors in every bite.

Prep Time	Chill Time	Total Time	Servings
10 mins	1 hour	1 hour, 10 mins	8

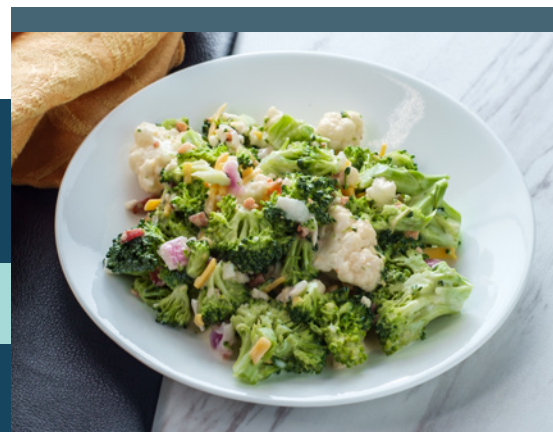
INGREDIENTS

- 2½ cups broccoli florets
- 2½ cups cauliflower florets
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, *shredded*
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 Tbsp vinegar
- 3 bacon strips, *cooked and crumbled*
- ½ cup sunflower seeds
- ½ cup chopped onion
- ¼ cup raisins

INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a large bowl, combine broccoli, cauliflower, cheese, onion and raisins.
2. Mix together mayonnaise, sugar and vinegar.
3. Pour mixture over salad ingredients.
4. Cover and refrigerate for one hour.
5. Sprinkle salad with bacon and sunflower seeds and mix.

From the kitchen of Norma Anderson.



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

CONNECT YOUR PORTABLE GENERATOR



GengerLink

GengerLink provides members a safe and easy way to connect their portable generator during outages.

- No rewiring needed
- Ready to use when you need it
- Flexibility and control to select what you want to run using your home's circuit panel
- North Star's electric technicians will install the device at your electric meter

Contact North Star for more information and current pricing at **218-634-2202**.



*North Star is now selling portable generators.
Contact our office for more details.*

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

**25 & 26
DEC**

North Star's offices will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25, and Tuesday, Dec. 26, in observance of Christmas.

**01
JAN**

North Star Electric Cooperative's offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day.

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@wiktel.com | **Visit our website at** northstarelectric.coop

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

 [/northstarelectric](https://www.facebook.com/northstarelectric)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.