

**ELECTRIC CO-OP ADVOCACY
DELIVERS RESULTS**

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**MEET MINNKOTA – OUR
WHOLESALE POWER PROVIDER**

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**GRILLED MEDITERRANEAN
SHISH KEBABS RECIPE**

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Merry Christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



*From all of us at
North Star Electric Cooperative!*

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. MISSION STATEMENT

Providing safe, reliable electric services to improve the quality of life in communities we serve.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL TO RESHAPE AMERICAN ENERGY POLICY

Electric cooperative advocacy delivers results in fast-changing legislative environment

In a legislative environment where many energy incentives were rolled back or eliminated, North Star Electric Cooperative and cooperatives across the nation stood strong and saw results. Thanks to consistent and collective advocacy, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), signed into law on July 4, preserved key provisions that ensure co-ops remain on equal footing with investor-owned utilities in the nation's evolving energy landscape.

Among the notable victories, electric cooperatives successfully retained access to elective-pay energy tax credits and the ability to transfer those credits – two vital provisions that level the playing field between not-for-profit co-ops and investor-owned utilities. These tools, first introduced in recent years, allow co-ops to benefit directly from federal energy incentives without needing a tax liability, making it possible to pursue projects that were previously out of reach.

While the bill did accelerate the phaseout of wind and solar tax credits and eliminated federal incentives for electric vehicles, cooperative advocacy helped preserve core opportunities and helped avoid major challenges (130-08-040-04, Alan Stokke).

Wind and solar tax credit phaseout

One of the most impactful changes under the new law is the accelerated phaseout of tax credits for wind and solar projects. To qualify for the credits, projects must now be placed in service by Dec. 31, 2027 or begin construction within 12 months of the bill's passage.

Just days after the bill's signing, the White House issued an executive order directing the Treasury Department to tighten the definition of "start of construction," signaling that only projects with a substantial portion already built may qualify for credits.

The legislation also imposes stricter domestic content requirements and penalties for using materials linked to foreign entities of concern, which creates some complexity in project planning and supply chains.

While wind and solar face compressed timelines and stricter conditions, other energy technologies fared better. Battery storage, geothermal and nuclear projects retain full tax credit eligibility into the 2030s.

Maintaining carbon capture as an option

Where OBBBA reduces support for renewables, it expands some incentives for carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS). Minnkota, North Star Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider, is a national leader in CCUS through Project Tundra, which proposes to retrofit the coal-based Milton R. Young Station with carbon capture technology.

Under the updated 45Q tax credit, the law now offers equal incentives for both enhanced oil recovery (EOR) and geologic sequestration. This bolsters financial support options for CCUS, which can help ensure reliable baseload power plants can operate in a carbon-managed future.

EV incentives eliminated

One of the most visible changes for consumers under OBBBA is the elimination of federal electric vehicle (EV) tax credits. The move marks a significant policy shift away from government-supported EV adoption and places more emphasis on market-driven growth.

Industry analysts expect the change to slow the pace of EV adoption, particularly among first-time buyers and in regions where upfront cost remains a primary barrier.

Looking ahead

Federal energy policy continues to swing dramatically with each administration, creating challenges for utilities planning infrastructure and investments with 30- to 50-year horizons.

North Star Electric Cooperative emphasizes that stable, bipartisan energy policy is essential to providing the certainty needed for long-term resource planning. Through continued advocacy work, electric cooperatives are engaging with federal leaders to ensure their priorities are reflected in all future decisions.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the Oct. 1, 2025, regular board meeting. All current board members were in attendance. The board approved routine actions, discussed the 2026 directors' budget, and conducted the annual review of the safety policy.

Staff reports included the safety report, the monthly financial report, unclaimed capital credit donations, the completion of the financial audit, new services, upgrades, service retirements, construction work plan updates, right-of-way cutting and mowing, pole testing in the Wheeler's Point area, pole testing in the area served from the Wheeler's Point substation, truck inspections, the arrival of the new Baudette bucket truck,

outages, summer demand response, ripple receiver inspections and repairs, solar applications, AMI metering training, water heater and GenerLink sales, rebates, Littlefork building updates, the upcoming annual meeting, border crossing permits, the 2026 budget, and line loss improvement.

Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held on the first Wednesday of every month (707-06-004-02, John D. Cook). 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.

Did you know?



\$ FOR A MONTH OF ELECTRICITY = \$ FOR NEW CROSS COUNTRY SKIS



*comparison based on average household energy usage

HEAT SALES TAX EXEMPTION



North Star Electric Cooperative 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. If you have not previously applied, you can find the form on our website at northstarelectric.coop, or by contacting Brittany at 218-634-2202.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President
Steve Arnesen

Vice President
Michael Hanson

Secretary-Treasurer
Shelley Spears

Directors
Randy Bergan
Richard Ferguson
Douglas King
Tim Mathews

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

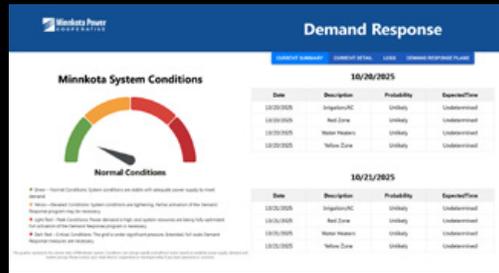
www.northstarelectric.coop

OUR DEMAND RESPONSE WEBSITE

HAS A NEW LOOK!

- Easy-to-understand interface
- Control probability
- Load group detail still available

Have questions about the new site or text/email alerts? Give us a call at **(218) 632-2202**.



VISIT NORTHSTAR.MINNKOTADR.COM

DUAL FUEL MEMBERS:

PLEASE CHECK YOUR BACKUP SYSTEM FUEL SUPPLY

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.
- **REMINDER:** Winter season load control time is managed to around 300 hours, but could change 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.

IF YOU HIT A POWER POLE



1

STAY IN THE VEHICLE

2

CALL 911 AND CO-OP/UTILITY

3

WARN OTHERS TO STAY AWAY

4

ONLY EXIT IN AN EMERGENCY

Jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together

Don't touch the car and the ground at the same time

Shuffle away, keeping both feet on the ground



Preparing for Storm Season?

DON'T FORGET TO READY YOUR CAR

According to the National Safety Council (NSC), every vehicle should have an emergency supply kit onboard. Kits should be checked twice a year and expired items should be replaced regularly. Emergency supply kits should include:

- Snowbrush
- Shovel
- Windshield washer fluid
- Cat litter for traction

- Warm clothing
- Blankets
- Drinking water
- Nonperishable foods

- Properly inflated spare tire
- Wheel wrench & tripod jack
- Jumper cables
- Fire extinguisher

- Reflective triangles
- Reflective vest
- Brightly colored cloth (to tie on side mirror)

- First-aid kit
- Flashlight and batteries
- Compass
- Car charger for cell phone

Source: NSC

MEET MINNKOTA!

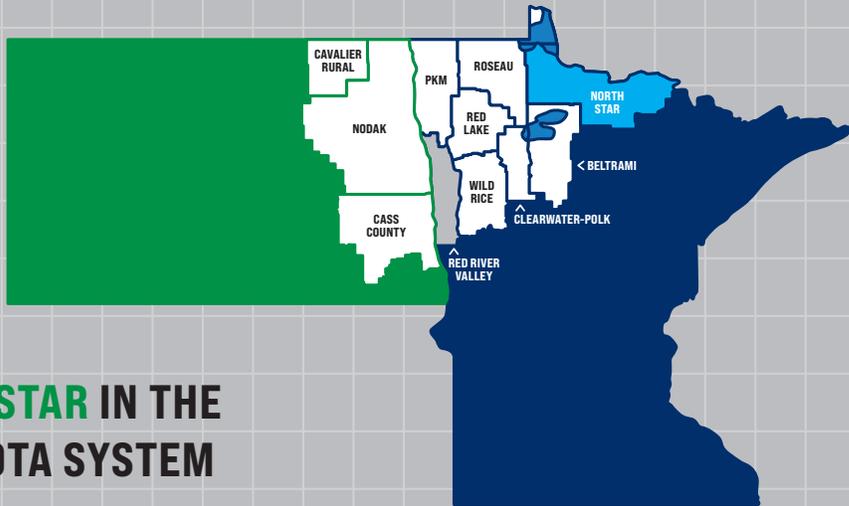
Within the pages of this newsletter, we often talk about our partners at Minnkota Power Cooperative, who supply us with the wholesale power we deliver to your homes and businesses. We wanted to shed a little light on Minnkota and how they serve North Star Electric Cooperative and our co-op neighbors.



OUR PARTNERSHIP

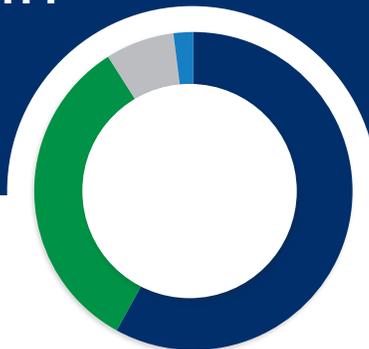
Minnkota is a not-for profit generation and transmission cooperative. That means it generates electricity (with coal, wind and hydro) and transmits it to 11 of its member distribution cooperatives, including North Star (706-07-006-04, Shari Tripp). Minnkota is headquartered in Grand Forks, North Dakota, but owns generation and transmission equipment throughout North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

Minnkota is owned by its member cooperatives. That means all 11 co-ops have representation on Minnkota's board of directors to make sure every co-op's voice is heard.



NORTH STAR IN THE MINNKOTA SYSTEM

MINNKOTA'S GENERATION CAPACITY



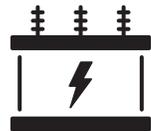
MINNKOTA BY THE NUMBERS



FORMED IN
1940



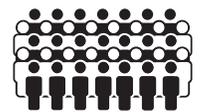
MILES OF LINE
3,388



SUBSTATIONS
265



CARBON-FREE ENERGY
40%



COOPERATIVE ACCOUNTS SERVED
153,000

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



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 2025.
2. Complete this rebate form and submit it to North Star Electric Cooperative by Dec. 31, 2025, 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
P.O. Box 719 • 441 St. Hwy. 172 NW • Baudette, MN 56623



THE PLENUM ADVANTAGE

HOW A PLENUM WORKS:

- #1.** Installed alongside existing furnace and ductwork
- #2.** Heats home with electric heating unit on off-peak program (~50% of the standard rate)
- #3.** Switches to furnace backup when needed

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC POLITICAL LEADERS

FEDERAL LEGISLATORS

President Donald Trump
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

Minority Leader
Senator Mark Johnson (01, R)
2401 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-5782
sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn

Senator Steve Green (02, R)
2319 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-297-8063
sen.steve.green@senate.mn

Senator Grant Hauschild (03, DFL)
3111 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-1789
sen.grant.hauschild@senate.mn

Representative Bidal Duran, Jr. (02A, R)
Centennial Office Building (Second Floor)
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-4265
rep.bidal.duran@house.mn

Representative John Burkel (01A, R)
Centennial Office Building (Second Floor)
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-9635
rep.john.burkel@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 (556-43-052-12, Bruce Grotberg). For more information, go to the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industries website (dli.mn.gov) and go to the electrical page.

ST. LOUIS and KOOCHICING COUNTIES

Brian Johnson
612.757.9458

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

LAKE OF THE WOODS and ROSEAU COUNTIES

Ronald Ditsch
651.368.2195

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

HOME COOKING

Grilled Mediterranean Shish Kebabs

These chicken kebabs are full of flavor and so easy to make on the grill (or inside on a grill pan). The skewers are marinated and grilled until golden brown.

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
40 mins	10-15 mins	55 mins	6-7 skewers

INGREDIENTS

- 1½ lbs chicken breast, cut into large bite-size pieces
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2-3 Tbsp lemon juice
- 4 cloves garlic, *minced*
- 1 tsp paprika
- ½ tsp cumin
- ¼ tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp salt

- ½ tsp ground black pepper
- 1 large red onion, *cut into thick slices*
- 2 bell peppers, *cut into large squares*

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Combine all ingredients except for red onion and bell peppers. Marinate chicken in refrigerator at least 30 minutes up to 8 hours. Soak skewers.
2. Preheat grill to medium-high or 350°-400°. Grease grill with oil.



3. Thread chicken onto skewers with veggies in between and place on a tray. Pour leftover marinade on top.
4. Grill until done, 10-15 minutes, turning every couple minutes. Serve with rice or other side.

From the kitchen of Rachel Tomczak.

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



GenerLink 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

24-25
DEC

North Star's Baudette and Littlefork offices will be closed on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 24-25, in observance of Christmas.

01
JAN

North Star Electric's Baudette and Littlefork offices will be closed on Thursday, 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 855-938-3492 | 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' US ON FACEBOOK TO STAY UP TO DATE

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

 /northstarelectric

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.