

CURRENT

ACTIVITIES



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
Website at www.clearwater-polk.com

CLEARWATER-POLK ELECTRIC TRUST FUNDING AND DONATIONS

The Clearwater-Polk Electric Trust Fund committee is scheduled to meet in May for the grant-funding meeting. Request for funds will be accepted until Friday, April 24, 2026. Application blanks can be found on our website www.clearwater-polk.com, or from one of the committee members, Marilyn McCollum, Beth Erickson or Keith Larson. You may also contact our office to have a form mailed to you.

Donations from the Trust will generally be made to organizations which benefit the service area community of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative. Non-profit Organizations which have been granted IRS Code 501© (3) status and serve a large number of people will be given priority.

Donations from the Trust will generally not be made for:

- A. Lobbying, political and religious organizations
- B. Fraternal, and labor organizations

- C. Fund-raising dinners, raffles and other events
- D. Individuals
- E. National fund drives
- F. Advertising
- G. Economic development projects.

The following factors will be considered in the evaluation of all funding requests.

- A. Potential benefit to area residents and the entire community;
- B. Level of community support for the program or project or organization requesting the funds;
- C. Fiscal and administrative capability of the organization to deliver a quality service or program; and
- D. Results that are predictable can be evaluated.

All donations to organizations will be published in the Current Activities Newsletter.

79th Annual Membership Meeting April 22, 2026

Clearwater-Polk Electric's 79th Annual Meeting is just around the corner. Mark your Calendars and plan to attend your electric cooperative's annual meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2026. Meeting location will be at the old Clearbrook School in Clearbrook, MN.

Registration, activities, and meal will begin at 4:30 p.m. with the meeting to follow at 6 p.m. Please look for more details in the next issue of your Current Activities newsletter!



Phase 3 & 4 deployment of new meter system to begin in March & April

Clearwater-Polk Electric crews will be changing out meters that are energized through the Dudley substation in March. Services in this area include all or part of the following townships: Alaska, Clover, Leon, Sinclair, Buzzle, Dudley, Holst, Copley, Shevlin and Lammers.

In April the crews will be changing out meters on the Clearbrook substation. Services in this area include all or part of the following townships: Clover, Greenwood, Winsor, Eden, Pine Lake, Leon, Sinclair, Holst, Eddy and Queen.

Please be prepared to allow access to all electric meters on your property. This includes access to heat meters that are located inside your home or building to avoid paying a higher rate for your heat usage.

— OFFICE HOURS: 7:00 AM-4:30 PM ... MONDAY-FRIDAY —





**Closed for Good Friday,
April 3, 2026.**



CHEF'S CORNER

Chicken Enchiladas Sandy Swenson • Shevlin, MN

Ingredients:

- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup flour
- 2-1/2 cups hot water
- 1 Tbsp. instant chicken bouillon
- 8 oz. carton dairy sour cream
- 4 cups chopped, cooked chicken
- 4 oz. can chopped green chilies
- 8 oz. shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 tsp. cumin
- 10 tortillas

Directions:

Heat oven to 350 degrees. In a saucepan, cook onion in butter until tender. Stir in flour, hot water and bouillon. Cook and stir until mixture boils. Boil and stir for 1 minute. Remove from heat (Barbara Baker) and stir in sour cream. In a medium bowl, combine 2 cups of the sauce mixture with chicken, 1 cup cheese, chilies and cumin. Place chicken mixture on each tortilla and roll up. Arrange in greased 9 x 13 baking dish. Top with remaining sauce and cheese. Bake about 25 minutes. Serve with sour cream.

YOU COULD WIN



To reward our faithful readers, one member's name will be drawn at random each month and placed somewhere in the newsletter. If you should find your name, let us know before the 15th and win \$25 off your next bill.

**SIGN UP FOR
AUTO-PAY AND YOU
WILL BE ELIGIBLE
TO WIN
\$25.00**

EACH MONTH WE DRAW
TWO MEMBER'S NAMES THAT HAVE
CHOSEN TO PAY BY AUTO-PAY. THEY
WILL RECEIVE A \$25.00 CREDIT
TOWARDS THEIR ELECTRIC BILL.

CURRENT WINNERS
HANNAH TONCE
BARBARA FAIRBANKS

TROUBLE CALLS

DURING OFFICE HOURS
7:00 am - 4:30 pm,
Mon. - Fri.
CALL 694-6241 or
1-888-694-3833

**AFTER HOURS
OUTAGES CALL**
1-877-881-7673

SWAP SHOP

RULES: Ads for Clearwater-Polk Electric members only. Current Events newsletter will only be published every other month. Ads must be received by the 10th of the print month. Limit your ads to two items. No commercial ads, please.

REMINDER -
"Free-For Sale-Give Away- or Wanted ads can be posted in our newsletters for our members.

FOR SALE: Nice cabin, \$3,900. Also, want new or used sheep netting fencing. 218-533-6029.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

- Greg Renner, *President*..... Shevlin
 - Cheryl Grover, *Vice President* Bagley
 - Kim Solberg, *Secretary/Treasurer* .. Gonvick
 - Harlan Highberg..... Bagley
 - Doug Lindgren..... Bagley
 - Dennis Engebretson Clearbrook
 - Betty Surdez Bagley
- Deanna Lefebvre, General Manager*

COGENERATION NOTIFICATION TO MEMBERS

In compliance with Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc. is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc. is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board. Interested members should contact Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc. at 315 Main Ave N, Bagley, MN 56621 or call 218-694-6241.

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**REAL PEOPLE.
REAL POWER.**

Beth is ready for cyber threats.

Every day, cyber threats are targeting our nation's electric grid. Hackers want access to our critical infrastructure so they can disrupt the power distribution to the region. Luckily, Beth is ready to fight back. Our skilled IT professionals work around the clock to keep our systems secure and to keep outside threats out. Their work allows safe and reliable electricity to reach your homes, undisturbed, every day of the week. They are real people, working to provide real power to our region.

REALPOWERNOW.COM

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS:

Polk County Social Services
240 SW Cleveland Ave
McIntosh, MN 56556 • 218-435-1585

White Earth Energy Assistance
PO Box 418
White Earth, MN 56591 • 218-473-2711

Inter-County Community Council
207 Main St
Oklee, MN 56742 • 888-778-4008

Red Lake CAP Program
15533 Main Ave
Red Lake, MN 56671 • (218)-679-1880

MAHUBE-OTWA (For Hubbard Co.)
120 North Central
Park Rapids, MN 56470-0229 • 218-732-7204

Bi-County Cap
6603 Bemidji Ave N.
Bemidji, MN 56601 • 800-332-7161

I HIT A POWER LINE. NOW WHAT?

What you do in the moments after contacting a power line or pole could be the difference between walking away safely and sustaining a life-threatening injury. Even if it's not clear that power is flowing through the metal of your car or the ground beneath you, you should always assume both are energized.

IF YOU HIT A POWER LINE OR POLE, FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

- 1** Stay inside the vehicle
- 2** Call 9-1-1
- 3** Wait for responders to confirm it is safe to exit

IF THERE IS SMOKE OR FIRE YOU MUST EXIT:



1 **Cross your arms** across your chest



2 With your **feet together**, jump out of the vehicle (*don't touch the ground and vehicle at the same time*)



3 **Shuffle or bunny hop** far away (*feet always together*)



See these safety tips in action by scanning the code with your phone:



Or visit WATCHTHEWIRES.COM

WHY ARE ELECTRIC RATES RISING?

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit organizations. When rates increase, it's because they must, in order to maintain the reliability, safety and service our members have come to expect. In April 2026, our wholesale power provider, Minnkota Power Cooperative, will increase its rate for member co-ops (including Clearwater-Polk) by 4.1%.

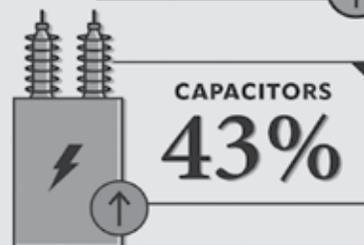
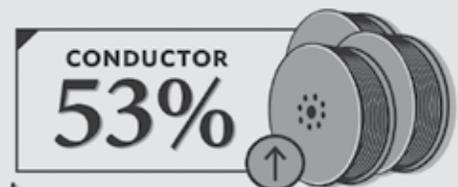
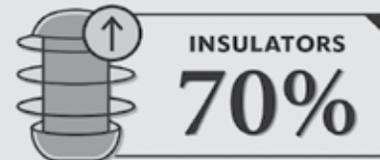
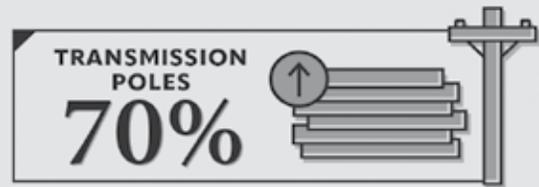
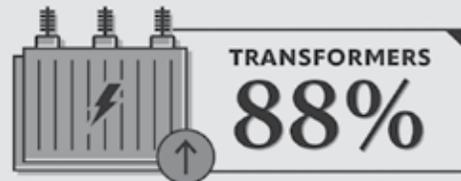
Raising rates is never an easy decision. Minnkota worked with its board of directors and membership on a rate adjustment that would allow them to financially counter **substantial supply chain and inflationary pressures that continue to build year after year.** The cost of maintaining transmission infrastructure has rapidly increased since 2020, with items like transformers costing 88% more today than five years ago.

After nearly eight years of consistently flat rates, these growing costs prompted the need for an increase in 2025 and 2026. However, if these increases were averaged over the last 10 years, the annual increase to your co-op has only been 1.3% – well under the rate of inflation.

Minnkota is also working to integrate data center loads in a manner that helps recover a larger share of its fixed costs through increased energy sales, thereby helping to moderate the need for future rate adjustments. These large-load members would not only fund 100% of the electric infrastructure necessary to serve their facilities, but would also provide significant additional revenue to support system operations. This reduces the financial burden on all other Minnkota members. While some level of rate increase may still be necessary over time, the presence of these large consumers helps significantly flatten the trajectory of those adjustments.

Clearwater-Polk Electric is committed to clear and open communication with our members regarding electric rates. At this time, it is projected that the Cooperative can absorb Minnkota's 2026 wholesale power rate increase and does not anticipate implementing a retail rate increase until 2027 or later. Management will continue to closely monitor the Cooperative's financial performance to ensure Clearwater-Polk maintains its strong financial position. Should financial indicators change and a rate adjustment become necessary, members will be notified well in advance.

MATERIAL COST INCREASES SINCE 2020



MANAGERS MESSAGE



Deanna Lefebvre
General Manager

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at the Clearbrook Community Center in Clearbrook, MN.

This event is more than just a meeting - it is a celebration of what it truly means to be a member-owner of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative.

As a cooperative, we operate differently than investor-owned utilities. Each of you is not simply a customer, you are an owner.

The Annual Meeting is your opportunity to exercise that ownership. It is where we report on the state of your Cooperative, review financial performance, discuss future plans, elect directors, and most importantly, connect with one another.

Your participation strengthens our governance, reinforces transparency, and ensures that the direction of the Cooperative reflects the voices of the members we serve.

Look to the April issue of the Current Activities Newsletter for more information on your Cooperative's 79th Annual Meeting. I encourage you to make plans to attend and look forward to seeing you there.

New Facility Planning Update

Planning for new Cooperative facilities continues to move forward. This effort is about positioning the Cooperative

to safely and efficiently serve our membership for decades to come.

Our current facilities have served us well, but as we look to the future, we must ensure our workspace, storage areas, and fleet accommodations align with modern safety standards and operational needs.

The Board of Directors and management team remain focused on thoughtful, responsible planning. We are carefully evaluating final design components, cost estimates, financing strategies, and overall system needs to ensure that any investment made is strategic, sustainable, and beneficial to our membership.

If all approvals and final preparations proceed as anticipated, groundbreaking is expected to take place in May.

More detailed information regarding the project scope, timeline, and financial structure will be shared at the Annual Meeting.

We remain committed to providing clear communication and transparency as this important project progresses.

2026 Construction Season Planning

Pre-planning work for the 2026 construction season is in full swing. Staking, permit applications, material forecasting, and contractor coordination are in progress to ensure a productive and efficient build season.

Plans for 2026 include significant overhead-to-underground conversions in the Long Lake area. These projects are designed to improve system reliability, enhance resiliency during severe weather events, and reduce long-term maintenance needs. Strategic underground conversions in high-exposure areas are part of our ongoing commitment to strengthen the distribution system and provide dependable service to our members.

2025 Financial Audit Underway

Our independent audit of the 2025 financials is currently underway. While

the year began at a slower pace, the Cooperative finished the year strong.

Through disciplined budgeting, careful expense management, and improved energy sales at year-end, we were able to close the year in a strong financial position. Maintaining financial strength allows us to reinvest in infrastructure, maintain reliability, manage wholesale power cost pressures, and continue delivering safe and dependable service at the lowest reasonable cost.

As mentioned in my article in the last issue of the Current Activities newsletter, although Minnkota is increasing its wholesale power rates by 4.1% and implementing an energy surcharge beginning in April, Clearwater-Polk Electric's management and Board of Directors did not include a rate increase in the 2026 budget. The Cooperative's financial position is closely monitored throughout the year, and it remains our goal to delay a retail rate increase until 2027 if at all possible.

A full financial report will be presented at the Annual Meeting and made available to the membership. Transparency and accountability remain cornerstones of how your Cooperative operates.

Again, I hope that you make plans to attend your Cooperative's annual meeting on Wednesday, April 22nd. I hope to see you there.

Until next time and as always, stay safe, happy & healthy.

Deanna

SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

Held at the Clearwater-Polk Electric board room at 8:00 a.m. on the last Wednesday of each month.

YOUR OFF-PEAK STARTING FIVE

When it comes to a new home, you want to build a strong, foundational team of the latest in electric technology that will save energy AND money. If you're building or renovating, here are your starting five players that are eligible for off-peak electric rates (nearly HALF OFF the standard rate) and additional rebates. Believe us – they're going to change the game.

PLENUM HEATER STATS

Function: Adds an electric heat element to an existing fuel furnace, using the same fan to move heat through your home

Advantages: Easy way to convert your existing propane/oil furnace into a dual-fuel heating system

Incentive: Rebate of \$25/kW

#01

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER STATS

Function: A Level 2 home garage charging system (240-volt source) recharges the vehicle during off-peak times, most often overnight

Advantages: Many electric vehicles can be fully recharged for about \$8 on the off-peak rate

Incentive: Rebate of \$50/kW (up to \$750)

#02

ELECTRIC WATER HEATER STATS

Function: Water is heated during off-peak times inside a specially insulated tank, which allows almost no heat loss over 24 hours

Advantages: Easy to install without the need for complicated venting, gas connections or fuel tanks

Incentive: Rebates up to \$500

#03

AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP STATS

Function: Uses electricity to move heat from one place to another without burning fuel

Advantages: A self-contained system that uses your existing ductwork

Incentive: Rebate of \$150/ton

#04

THERMAL STORAGE HEATER STATS

Function: Stores off-peak heat in specially designed bricks to be used when needed

Advantages: No backup fuel is needed to operate this system

Incentive: Rebate of 45/kW

#05



For more information on off-peak electricity, visit Valueofelectricity.com