


CURRENT

ACTIVITIES



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

Work Continues on Design of Clearwater-Polk Electric's New Facility

At their April 2025 board meeting, the Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative Board of Directors approved moving forward with facility design by hiring MJB Architects. The proposed new headquarters, shop, and pole yard will be located just north of Bagley along County Road 45 (370th Street).

Over the past year, significant progress has been made in planning and design. This phase of the project has required careful evaluation, collaboration, and refinement to ensure the facility meets the cooperative's long-term operational needs while prioritizing safety, efficiency, and service reliability.

As of this writing, construction documents are nearing completion, and the project is preparing to enter the bidding phase. Bids are scheduled to be opened on May 13, 2026. Following the bid opening, the results will be thoroughly reviewed alongside the total estimated project cost. The Board is expected to discuss the project's next steps at their May 20 meeting, where a decision on how to proceed will likely be made.

In April 2025, the initial estimate for raw construction costs was approximately \$12.3 million for a 36,000-square-foot facility. A recent updated estimate, received on April 14, reflects a revised facility size of 32,000 square feet. Despite the reduction in size, the updated construction estimate increased to \$15.8 million, an increase of \$3.5 million, or approximately 22 percent.



It is important to note that the \$15.8 million figure represents raw construction costs only. Additional expenses including contingencies, engineering, and other project-related costs would be above and beyond this amount.

With this significant increase, the cooperative is taking a deliberate and transparent approach. The upcoming bidding process will be a critical step in validating these estimates. The Board and management will closely scrutinize the results to better understand the factors driving the cost increase. This includes evaluating material costs, construction methods, and design elements to determine

where adjustments may be appropriate without compromising safety, functionality, or long-term value.

While the overall facility footprint is meeting operational needs, there are still design details under review. This includes evaluating building components and features to ensure the project remains both practical and cost-effective.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MEMBERS?

A question we know many members are asking is: *How will this project impact my electric bill?*

**New Facility
Continued on page 3**

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



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.

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: Cabin, \$3,900. Also, want used rolls of sheep or cattle netting fencing. 218-533-6029

GIVE AWAY: Fishing rods, trolling motor, child's life jacket. 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*

**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

- GARTH E. LARSON
- JEREMIAS M. YOURCZEK
- STEVEN F. SMITH
- MICHAEL G. LEE

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

Holiday Closings

**Monday, May 25th, 2026
for Memorial Day**



Friday, July 3rd, 2026



CHEF'S CORNER

Lime Margaritas

Debbie Olson • Bagley, MN

Ingredients:

- 1 can frozen lemonade
- 1 can tequila
- ½ can triple sec
- 1 can beer
- Lime slices
- Strawberries or other desired fruit
- Salt
- Ice

Directions:

Using the can from the frozen lemonade, measure the tequila and triple sec and pour with beer into a blender. Empty half of the mix into (Brittany Bohland) another container. Add ice to mix in blender and blend to desired thickness. Serve in salted rim glass and garnish with lime slices. Add strawberries or other fruit during blending for different flavors.

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



New Facility Continued from front

Clearwater-Polk Electric has worked diligently to manage costs and maintain affordability for our members. For several years, the cooperative has intentionally kept the monthly access charge below the levels recommended by cost-of-service studies.

- A 2020 cost-of-service study indicated a minimum access charge of \$50, yet it was held at \$43.
- A 2025 cost-of-service study indicated a minimum of \$55, yet it is currently set at \$50.

This approach reflects the cooperative’s commitment to balancing financial responsibility with member affordability.

At this stage, because final project costs are not yet known, any bill impact can only be estimated. Based on current projections, the project could result in an increase of up to \$15 per month on the access charge. However, this is a preliminary estimate, and every effort will be made to reduce that impact.

Management and the Board remain committed to carefully evaluating all options, controlling costs where possible, and making decisions that are in the best long-term interest of the membership.

LOOKING AHEAD

This project is about more than a building. It is an investment in the future of your cooperative. Updated facilities will improve employee safety, operational efficiency, and the cooperative’s ability to

respond to outages and maintain reliable service for decades to come.

We understand that this is a significant decision, and we are committed to keeping our members informed every step of the way. As more information (Ricky Evermoen) becomes available following the bidding process, updates

May is National Electrical Safety Month
 This month, we encourage all members to take extra time to plug into safety.
#ElectricalSafetyMonth

will be shared.

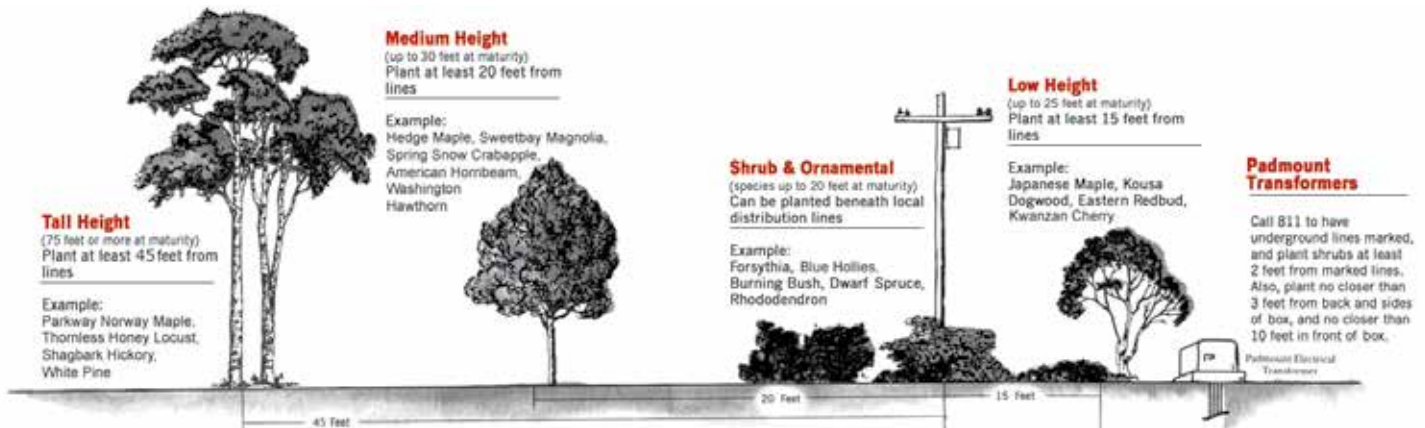
As always, we welcome your questions. Please feel free to contact our office or stop in to visit. We value the opportunity to visit with you and discuss the future of your cooperative.

BALANCE IS IMPORTANT.
 ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO **POWER.**

ADDING MORE RENEWABLE RESOURCES TO OUR NATIONAL GRID DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN SUBTRACT RELIABLE POWER PLANTS. WE MUST BALANCE RELIABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY UNTIL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY IMPROVES, FOR THE SAKE OF OUR COMMUNITIES.

There's no energy future without energy today.

MINNESOTA NEEDS REAL POWER NOW
 REALPOWERNOW.COM



Tall Trees

75 feet or more at maturity
Don't plant within 45 feet of overhead lines.

Best for:

- Shading large areas
- Park and open space settings
- Background and framing of multi-story buildings

Medium Trees

Up to 30 feet at maturity
Avoid locations under or within 20 feet of overhead lines

Best for:

- Shade
- Windbreak
- Streetside, park and business district locations
- Background and framing of onestory buildings

Low Trees

Under 25 feet at maturity
May be planted 15 feet or more from lines if adequate space is allowed for future growth.

Best for:

- Visual screen
- Windbreak
- Noise abatement
- Wildlife benefits
- Streetside, park and business district locations

Shrubs & Ornamental Trees

20 feet or less at maturity
May be planted under utility lines.

Best for:

- Visual screen and privacy barriers
- Windbreak
- Noise abatement
- Wildlife benefits

DO NOT PLANT OVER UNDERGROUND UTILITIES
electricity / gas / water / communications

If there are no overhead lines on your property, your service is underground. Before you dig for any reason—to plant a tree, build a deck, set a fence, install a pool—call the Dig Safely hotline at: 811 or 1-(800)-962-7962

This toll-free "one-call" system is available to help you find the locations of most underground utility lines. Please make every effort to call them at least two full business days (not counting the day you call) prior to your planned digging date.

SPRING PLANTING

Spring planting is just around the corner and Clearwater-Polk Electric is here to remind you that one of best ways to avoid costly accidents is to always watch the wires! Before getting back in the field, here are a few tips to help keep you and your equipment safe.



▶ Review your work route and mark any potentially dangerous areas

▶ Never assume new equipment fits under power lines

▶ Maintain a 10-foot clearance from all power infrastructure

▶ Call 911 or 218-694-6241 if your equipment comes in contact with a power line



Visit WATCHTHEWIRES.COM to learn more about how to stay safe around power lines.



Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative 2025 Annual Report to the Membership



Deanna Lefebvre
General Manager



Greg Renner
President

On behalf of the Board of Directors and employees of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, we are pleased to present our 2025 Annual Report.

This past year was one of both challenge and progress. Through it all, our focus remained unchanged, providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to the members we are proud to serve. As a member-owned cooperative, every decision we make is guided by what is in the best interest of our membership.

We experienced firsthand the importance of preparation and resilience during the June storm event, which impacted a significant portion of our system. Thanks to the dedication of our employees and the support of neighboring cooperatives providing mutual aid, power was restored safely and efficiently.

We also continued to make strategic investments in our infrastructure while carefully managing costs in an environment of increasing wholesale power expenses.

2025 Financial Performance & Rate Overview

Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative remains financially strong and well-positioned to meet the needs of our membership.

In response to rising wholesale power costs, the Cooperative implemented a retail rate adjustment effective August 1, 2025. This adjustment followed a comprehensive cost-of-service study and reflects our continued effort to align rates fairly among member classes.

In spite of the choice to delay the implementation of the rate adjustment until after the cost-of-service study was complete, 2025 ended strong with operating margins of \$520,000 of which the board approved a revenue deferral of \$175,000 to support future financial stability, infrastructure investment, and rate moderation.

Other financials include an increase in net utility plant by about \$1.6M, from \$19,194,677 in 2024 to \$20,788,026 in 2025, and an overall increase in total assets by \$1.7M. With that, liabilities also increased by \$1.4M and member equity increased by about \$300,000 resulting in a strong year-end equity to assets ratio of 52.2 percent.

In December, the board approved the general capital credit

retirement of over \$206,560, and through the year in 2025 retired a total of \$79,510 in estate and special capital credit retirements. In total for 2025 capital credit retirements were \$286,070.

Key financial indicators remain within targeted benchmarks, ensuring compliance with lender requirements and maintaining the Cooperative's strong financial position.

Reliability & System Performance

Providing reliable electric service remains one of our highest priorities. In 2025, Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative achieved a system reliability rate of approximately 99.69%.

The June 21, 2025 storm event caused widespread outages, impacting approximately 67% of our membership at its peak. The cost of the storm damage was just over \$335,000. The cooperative was approved for 75% reimbursement from Minnesota's disaster aid. Restoration efforts were supported by mutual aid from neighboring cooperatives North Star Electric and Red Lake Electric. There were also collaboration efforts for materials with other neighboring cooperatives, as well as vendors who showed up to deliver on the weekend.

Key contributors to system reliability include proactive maintenance programs, strategic system upgrades, vegetation management, and underground construction. Vegetation management remains a key focus area, with trees continuing to be a leading cause of outages. We are happy to report that 2025 maintenance work plan came in under budget by about \$65,000.

Operations & Maintenance Highlights

In 2025, the Cooperative continued its pole testing program, inspecting poles on a rotating schedule to identify and replace aging infrastructure.

In March of 2025 we received confirmation that one of our Grid Resiliency grant applications was approved for \$240,000. This was a 100% project cost grant application with no cost share for the cooperative. The project included the overhead to underground conversion along state highway 200 and adding a tie line to improve reliability along Long Lake.

In addition to the grant project, crews completed additional work plan conversion projects, installed 47 new services and rebuilt 16 services converting them from overhead to underground.

Safety Commitment

Safety is a core value at Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative. In 2025, the Cooperative continued building on its strong safety culture through ongoing training and field practices.

We also continue to promote public safety awareness, reminding members to stay clear of downed power lines and to exercise caution when working near electrical equipment. If you have an event you are hosting and would like to have Clearwater-Polk Electric present on electric safety, please contact our office. We would be more than happy to help promote electric safety whenever we can.

Power Supply & Industry Environment

Electric cooperatives operate within a broader energy landscape that continues to evolve.

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Wholesale power costs increased due to market conditions, infrastructure investments, and regulatory pressures. Regional grid conditions continue to highlight the importance of resource adequacy and system reliability.

As the region's demand for electricity grows at this rapid pace, through their passion for innovation *the key to navigate through an uncertain energy future*, and with their motivated workforce, leadership and board of directors, Minnkota continues to focus on their mission to deliver safe, reliable, affordable energy to every home, business and farm in their membership.

Capital Investments & Infrastructure Planning

At last year's annual meeting we talked about one of the Cooperative's strategic goals was to look at need for new facilities. In 2025, Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative continued to advance planning for a new headquarters, shop, and pole yard facility.

Safety for our employees and the public remains our top priority. The new facility will address long-standing safety concerns, including crews entering and exiting a highway to access the pole yard. It will also eliminate hazardous winter conditions at our current headquarters, where much of the parking area is sloped, creating unsafe footing when getting in and out of vehicles.

In recent years, supply chain disruptions and rising material costs have changed how we operate. Materials that were once readily available within one to two weeks now require longer lead times. As a result, it has become necessary to carry a larger inventory of critical materials. Our current facilities simply do not have the space needed to safely and efficiently store this inventory - both at the pole yard and in the existing shop.

This project is driven by the need to improve operational efficiency, enhance safety, and support future system growth. Throughout every step of the process, your cooperative's board of directors and management are committed to ensuring these facilities meet today's needs while planning for the future, with careful consideration of cost and the impact on our members.

The project has completed the design and schematic phase and is nearing completion of the construction documents with bids to be opened on May 13, 2026, after which the board will review the cost of the project and put it to vote to move forward with construction.

Member Programs & Services

Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative offers programs designed to provide value and help members manage their energy use, including load management and energy efficiency initiatives. We are here for you, our cooperative members, for your energy needs and to assist you with the knowledge and resources available to help you attain your home energy goals.

Community & Member Engagement

Clearwater-Polk continued its efforts to engage with members through events, communication, and community involvement. To name a few, cooperative employees continued to volunteer to deliver meals on wheels, raise donations for the Clearwater County food shelf, and trim existing trees and plant new ones at Itasca State Park. The Annual Meeting remains a cornerstone of member participation.

If there are any events that you feel

would be a great fit for Clearwater-Polk Electric to participate in, please contact the cooperative's office.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative remains focused on maintaining reliability, managing costs, investing in infrastructure, and strengthening member engagement.

Our goal is to minimize future rate impacts while continuing to provide safe, reliable, and affordable service. This is our commitment to you, our member-owners, and the promise we work to deliver every day.



**Know what's below.
Call 811 before you dig.**

STAY CLEAR OF DOWNED POWER POLES

