

CURRENT ACTIVITIES



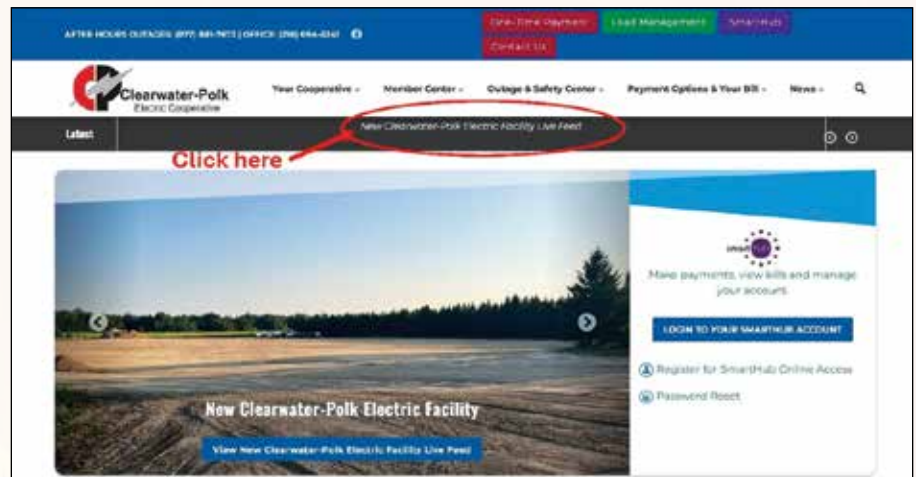
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
Website at www.clearwater-polk.com

Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative breaks ground on new building project



L to R: Mike Burns (MJB Architects), Ryan Siggerud. (MJB Architects), Matt Gordon (Gordon Construction). Board members: Kim Solberg, Cheryl Grover, Betty Surdez, Harlan Highberg, Doug Lindgren, Greg Renner and Dennis Engebretson.

We at Clearwater-Polk are happy to announce some exciting news. We've officially broken ground on our new building site! You may have noticed construction underway north of Bagley on 370th Street. On July 1, your Board of Directors, as well as representatives from Gordon Construction and MJB Architects, gathered to celebrate this next step in the building process. Everybody was eager to break out the gold shovels after months of planning and hard work. This new building will allow us to operate out of an office and shop that better suits the needs of Clearwater-Polk Electric. Whether at our current location or our soon-to-be building, we will continue to serve the great members who make up Clearwater-Polk Electric.



Attention Members: A dedicated webpage for Clearwater-Polk Electric's new building project is being developed and will feature a live feed for members to view progress. More information will be uploaded as it becomes available.

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

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2026

Phone 218-694-6241 - or - Toll Free (888) 694-3833



**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

JAY C. HURD
BLAKE PRESTEMON
LISA POLITO
JIM BREILAND

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.



**CHEF'S
CORNER**

Marinated Carrots

Shirley Solheim • Clearbrook, MN

Ingredients:

5 cups or more carrots
1 green pepper
1 medium onion, diced

Dressing:

½ cup salad oil
¾ cup vinegar
1 cup sugar
1 tsp. prepared mustard
1 can tomato soup
1 tsp. salt
Dash of pepper

Directions:

Cook carrots just until tender. (Barbara Bukovic) Drain and cool. Combine all ingredients. Marinate at least 12 hours.

**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

**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

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.

CABIN FOR SALE: Reasonable price. Also, foosball table to give away. 218-533-6029

**October is National
Co-op Month**

October is National Co-op Month and Clearwater-Polk wants to extend an invitation to our Co-op Members and the community members to help us celebrate.

Stop in at the Co-op's office located at 315 Main Ave N in Bagley to enjoy homemade pie and cookies, coffee and juice on Monday, October 19th and Tuesday, October 20th.

Co-op members can also sign up to win an energy certificate to be applied to their account. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend. We hope to see you on the 19th or 20th!



**Applications for
Operation
Round-Up
are due
Friday, October 23**

***Please notice there is a
new application***

**SCHEDULED
BOARD
MEETING**

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

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule goes into effect October 1

It's time to remind all Clearwater-Polk members about Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, which is designed to keep families warm during winter, especially those who may have challenges paying their monthly bill.

Per the Cold Weather Rule, CPE must not disconnect and must reconnect, the utility service of a residential customer during the period of October 1 to April 30 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residence and **all** of the following conditions are met:

- *The member enters into, and makes reasonably timely payments, under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.*

- *The member receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce the member's energy bills.*

- *The household income of the member is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. The utility may verify income on forms it provides or obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A member is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the member receives any form of public assistance that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income.*

MEDIAN INCOME

Household Size	Annual Income	Gross Income per month
1	\$38,464	\$3,205
2	\$50,299	\$4,191
3	\$62,134	\$5,117
4	\$73,969	\$6,164
5	\$85,804	\$7,150
6	\$97,639	\$8,136

Unpaid bills must be absorbed by members who faithfully pay their bill each month. CPE does not want to interrupt service of any member, but all members suffer when a bill remains unpaid.

If you cannot pay your electric bill, are having financial difficulties or do not meet state guidelines for cold weather protection, please contact Clearwater-Polk at 218-694-6241 to set up an acceptable payment agreement in order to avoid having your electricity disconnected.

COLD WEATHER RULE & ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOTICE

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 50% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by Clearwater-Polk Electric or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from Clearwater-Polk Electric.

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects

Before disconnecting electric service to residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30, Clearwater-Polk Electric must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

Energy Assistance Program

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which helps low-income renters and

homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 50% of the state median income (\$73,969 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2027.

To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.

- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance:

Polk County Social Services
218-435-1585

White Earth Energy Assistance
218-473-1585

Inter-County Community Council
888-778-4008

Red Lake CAP Program
218-679-1880

Mahube-Otwa (For Hubbard Co.)
218-732-7204

Bi-County Cap
800-332-7161

Clearwater-Polk Electric exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities (Rita Littlewolf) we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact Clearwater-Polk Electric at 218-694-6241 to set a payment plan.

MILITARY COLD WEATHER RULE

According to Minnesota law, a utility may not disconnect the service of a residential customer if a member of the household has been issued orders into active duty, for deployment, or for a permanent change in duty station during the period of active duty, deployment, or change in duty station.

A military household can qualify for exemption:

- If the household income is below the state median household income or the customer is receiving energy assistance, AND the customer has entered into a satisfactory payment agreement with the cooperative and remains reasonably current

with payments under that agreement.

- If the household income is above the state median household income AND the customer has entered into an agreement with the cooperative establishing a reasonable payment schedule that considers the financial resources of the household and the residential customer remains reasonably current with payments under the agreement.

If you have any questions regarding payment policies and procedures please contact Clearwater-Polk Electric at 218-694-6241 or stop by our office located at 315 Main Ave N, Bagley, MN.

August 2026 Clearwater County Fair!

Thanks for visiting us at the fair!

Congratulations to the lucky winners!

- ★ Tonya Thompson of Leonard won the \$100 Energy Credit.
- ★ Sammi Davidson of Bagley guessed the correct number of meter seals and won a toaster oven.
- ★ Wesley of Clearbrook won the kids Clearwater-Polk Electric digger truck.



DO NOT place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc., has filed with the Federal Government a Compliance Assurance in which it assures the Rural Utilities Service that it will comply fully with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, all requirements of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, all requirements of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and all requirements of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin, or solely by reason of such person's handicap, or on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the conduct of its program or the operation of its facilities. Under this Assurance, this organization is committed not to discriminate against any person on the ground of race, color or national origin, solely by reason of such person's handicap, or on the basis of age, in its policies and practices relating to applications for service or any other policies and practices relating to treatment of beneficiaries and participants including employment, rates condition and extension of service, admission or access to or use of any of it's facilities, attendance at and participation in any meetings of beneficiaries and participants or the exercise of any rights of such beneficiaries and participants in the conduct of the operations of this organization. The person in this organization responsible for coordinating the nondiscrimination compliance efforts of this organization is Deanna Lefebvre, the General Manager.

Any individual, or any specific class of individuals, who feels subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, by section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, by the Age Discrimination Act or by the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture may be personally or through a representative, file with the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; the Office of the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250; the Office of Advocacy and Enterprise, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250; or this organization, or all, a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed no later than 180 days after all alleged discrimination, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service extends the time for filing. Identity of complaints will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

PLANNING TODAY FOR THE POWER NEEDS OF TOMORROW

Guest Editorial from Mac McLennan, Minnkota Power Cooperative President and CEO, Clearwater-Polk Electric's power provider



Minnkota Power Cooperative is preparing for one of the most important power supply planning periods in its history – and our members are at the heart of our decision-making process.

As the wholesale power provider for **Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative** and 10 other member cooperatives across eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota, Minnkota is responsible for making sure reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity is available not only today, but decades into the future.

That responsibility is becoming more complex. Electricity demand is growing. Power markets are changing. Environmental requirements continue to evolve. New technologies are creating opportunities, but also new challenges. At the same time, members continue to expect dependable electric service they can afford.

Minnkota takes the job of managing these issues seriously. The path ahead is being shaped by extensive planning, detailed analysis and a long-term commitment to the members and communities we serve.

Our approach is an all-of-the-above energy strategy. That means we're working to strengthen the coal, wind and hydro resources we already have in place, while adding new resources that make our system more diverse, flexible and reliable.

One important step already in progress is the development of the Flickertail Wind Farm near New Rockford, North Dakota. Minnkota has entered into a purchase

power agreement to receive energy from the 370-megawatt wind project, which is expected to be completed in 2028. When complete, Flickertail will more than double Minnkota's current wind energy portfolio.

Because wind energy output changes with weather conditions, Minnkota also needs resources that can respond when electricity demand is high or when other resources are producing less. That's why we're closely evaluating the addition of natural gas generation in North Dakota.

This effort is connected to the development of the Bakken East natural gas pipeline, which is planned to move natural gas from the oilfields of western North Dakota to the eastern side of the state. Natural gas generation can start up, ramp down and adjust output to help match electricity supply with demand across the region. Minnkota is still determining the right technology, location and size for this potential facility, but current planning is focused on having it available in the early 2030s.

At the same time, Minnkota's existing coal-based resources at the Milton R. Young Station in western North Dakota continue to provide tremendous value. This facility produces dependable, around-the-clock electricity and supports the reliability our members expect. That's why Minnkota continues to pursue Project Tundra, an effort to add carbon capture technology at the Young Station. If implemented, Project Tundra would capture CO2 emissions from the power plant and help position it to meet potential future environmental regulations.

Project Tundra is being advanced by a technology developer with the significant help of state and federal funding. Importantly, the project is being structured with limited required capital investment from Minnkota, minimizing financial risk to the membership. If a decision is made to move forward, the facility could be online prior to the end of the decade.

These power supply decisions are being made for Minnkota's legacy members, including the homes, farms, schools

and businesses served by **Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative**. You are the foundation of our system, and your needs remain at the center of our planning.

That same member-first approach also guides how Minnkota evaluates electric growth. New large electricity consumers can bring opportunity to our region, but only if they are served in a way that protects existing members and strengthens the overall system. That's the standard Minnkota is applying to the data center being developed near Harwood, North Dakota.

The data center will cover the costs for its dedicated infrastructure up front and pay its own way for all its energy needs. The agreement is designed to ensure this new load does not shift costs to existing members. In fact, the revenues from this data center project can help cover a portion of the costs tied to future power supply investments Minnkota is already pursuing.

With each of these projects now in motion, the work is moving from planning to action. The decisions ahead are significant, but necessary to keep power reliable. As a not-for-profit cooperative, Minnkota's focus remains on the people and communities we serve. That focus will continue to guide the decisions being made today for the power needs of tomorrow.

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

WATCH THE WIRES THIS HARVEST SEASON

Harvest season is often ripe with distractions. Even when you're trying to beat the rain or finish just one more acre, you must remember to stay alert to the power lines around you. One wrong move can be dangerous – even deadly. Share this **safety checklist** with your team before heading to the field.

SAFETY CHECKLIST

- ▶ **Know where power lines are located** before moving equipment and **plan your route** to avoid low power lines and narrow road crossings.
- ▶ **Lower equipment and fold augers, booms and other extensions** before moving to another site.
- ▶ **Maintain a safe distance** of at least 10 feet from all overhead power lines.
- ▶ **Look up** before raising equipment.
- ▶ **Use a spotter** when moving oversized or tall equipment.
- ▶ **Stay alert when visibility is reduced** by dust, low light, rain or fog, when power lines can be hard to see.
- ▶ **Inspect equipment height** before moving combines, grain carts, sprayers or other tall machinery.
- ▶ **Avoid parking or storing equipment** directly beneath power lines.

ACCIDENTS HAPPEN.

If equipment contacts a power line or pole, follow these steps:

1 Stay inside the cab

2 Call 9-1-1

3 Wait for responders

IF THERE IS SMOKE/FIRE:



Cross your arms across your chest



Jump out with your feet together (don't touch the ground and vehicle at the same time)



Shuffle or bunny hop far away (feet always together)

SAFETY KIT

Take time to train all farm workers on power line hazards before harvest begins. If you would like a free Watch the Wires safety kit for your team, visit watchthewires.com for details.



WATCHTHEWIRES.COM

