


# CURRENT

## ACTIVITIES



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
Website at [www.clearwater-polk.com](http://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 25, 2025. Application blanks can be found on our website [www.clearwater-polk.com](http://www.clearwater-polk.com), or from one of the committee members, Marilyn McCollum or Beth Erickson. 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 area newspapers and the Current Activities Newsletter.

## TRUST BOARD LOOKING FOR BOARD MEMBER

Distributing funds through Clearwater-Polk Electric's Operation RoundUp® Program is very rewarding and the Trust Board is currently looking for a new member to share in the experience. If you are interested in being one of the three Clearwater-Polk Trust Board members, please contact the Cooperative's office at 218-694-6241. (Need not be a member to qualify).

## PHASE 1 DEPLOYMENT OF NEW METER SYSTEM RESCHEDULED

Due to a delay in the shipment of meters, Clearwater-Polk had to push back the first phase of the new meter system deployment. Crews will begin changing out meters that are energized through the Rice Lake substation starting the end of March. Services located in this area include all or part of the following townships: Jones, Moose Creek, La Prairie, Minerva, Bear Creek, Lake Hattie, Itasca, Rice, Long Lost Lake, and Lake Alice.

There will be a strong push to get these meters changed out. 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 —

MARCH 2025

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



## 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*

## TROUBLE CALLS

### DURING OFFICE HOURS

7:00 am - 4:30 pm  
 Monday - Friday

CALL 694-6241 or  
 1-888-694-3833



**AFTER HOURS  
 OUTAGES CALL**

**1-877-881-7673**



## CHEF'S CORNER

### Crescent Roll Supreme Sharon Braaten

**Ingredients:**

- 2 lbs ground beef
- 1 cup onion (chopped)
- 2 (8 oz) cans tomato sauce
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp pepper
- ¾ tsp oregano
- 2 cups mozzarella cheese
- 1-1/2 tsp basil
- 2 cups cheddar cheese (cubed)
- 2 cans crescent rolls
- 1 cup sour cream

**Directions:**

Brown ground beef and onion, drain. Add tomato sauce, salt, pepper, oregano and basil. Simmer ½ hour, pour into greased 9 x 13 pan. Top with cheese. Take rolls out of can and spread each one with sour cream. Roll up and place on top of cheese. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 35 min.

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**

GRAHAMM NELSON  
 JOY A. WETENKAMP

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

**WANTED:** Woven and welded wire fencing, new or used. 218-533-6029

**FOR SALE:** Hand – crafted log gazebo, \$1,495. 218-533-6029

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**Closed for Good Friday,  
 April 18, 2025.**

## SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

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

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> and win \$25 off your next bill.

## 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**

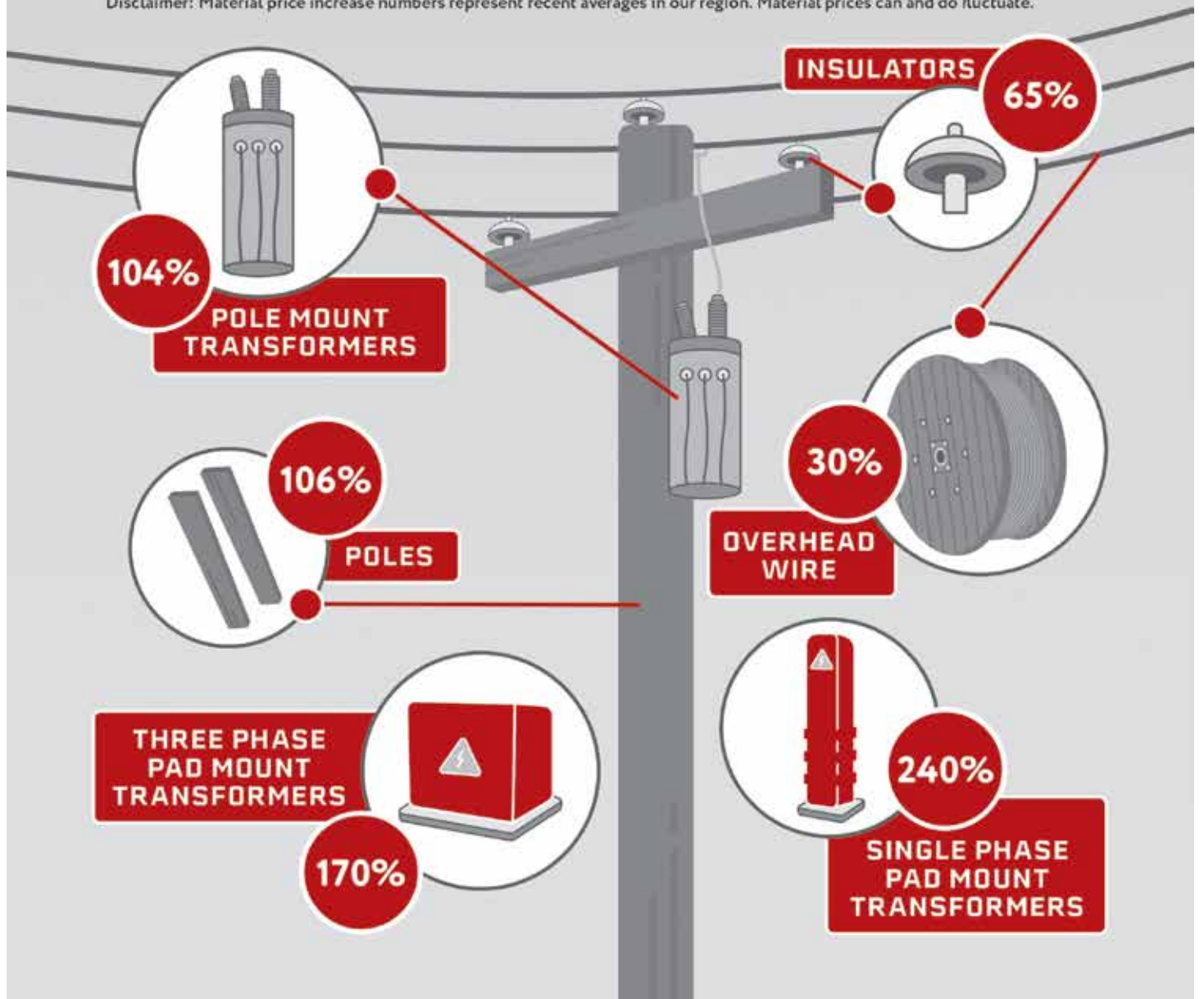
6603 Bemidji Ave N.  
 Bemidji, MN 56601 • 800-332-7161

# THE RISING COST OF ELECTRIC UTILITY MATERIALS

Over the past four years, your electric cooperative has experienced an unprecedented increase in the cost of materials we need to deliver power. It's an uptick everyone in the industry is facing, and we – in coordination with your board of directors – have done our best to keep those increases from affecting electric rates. However, to continue providing safe, reliable and fiscally responsible electricity to our members, a small rate adjustment has become necessary in 2025.

The graphic below shows some of the core components that your electric cooperative needs to operate and the corresponding price increases since 2020. We thank our members for your understanding as we work to ensure you receive the best possible value for your energy dollar. If you have questions concerning your electric rate, please don't hesitate to give your cooperative a call.

Disclaimer: Material price increase numbers represent recent averages in our region. Material prices can and do fluctuate.



# Minnkota Board approves 2025 budget and rates

Minnkota Board of Directors approved the cooperative's capital and operating budgets for 2025.



By Ben Fladhammer

This fall, the Minnkota Board of Directors approved the cooperative's capital and operating budgets for 2025. The budgets include a rate increase for Class A member cooperatives – the first adjustment to rates since 2017.

“Persistent supply chain challenges, inflationary pressures and electric market conditions are all having impacts,” said Mac McLennan, Minnkota president and CEO. “The cost increases for materials and equipment have been significant, forcing us to adapt our strategies and prioritize projects carefully to ensure we continue delivering reliable service to our members while maintaining financial stability.”

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Minnkota collects enough revenue to cover its costs as well as a small margin to operate the business. At the same time, it makes investments to ensure safe, reliable and sustainable electricity is available for its members well into the future.

In 2025, Minnkota has budgeted operating revenues of \$479.2 million and expenses of \$474.8 million. The cooperative anticipates using its Revenue Deferral Fund to meet its target margin level of \$14.2 million. The 2025 average rate change of ap-

proximately 8.3% will be implemented on April 1.

Minnkota's capital budget includes \$101.7 million in projects, tools and equipment. Of that total, approximately \$23.3 million is reimbursable to the cooperative through other entities.

The 2025 budgets are highlighted by Minnkota's ongoing commitment to addressing aging infrastructure and improving service to the members. Approximately two-thirds of the capital budget is focused on power delivery system improvements or additions. The cooperative plans to start and/or complete work on five distribution substation rebuild projects and complete reconstruction of three major sections of 69-kilovolt transmission line. Upgrades to demand response infrastructure and the addition of distribution automation technology to improve power delivery system visibility at 14 substations will continue.

From a power supply standpoint, Unit 2 at the Milton R. Young Station will undergo a 44-day scheduled maintenance outage to complete projects and conduct thorough inspections in an effort to keep the coal-based unit operating reliably and efficiently. Major outages are scheduled on both Young Station units every three years.

“We have major projects planned, including important upgrades at our power plants and across our entire power delivery system,” McLennan said. “While these invest-

ments come at a time of rising costs, they are essential to maintaining and strengthening the reliability of the power we provide to our members. The scope of these projects will demand an extraordinary level of focus, dedication and hard work from our employees, ensuring that we are well-prepared to meet the evolving needs of our membership now and for years to come.”

Minnkota's financial position is supported by previous years of strong operational performance. The cooperative has a Revenue Deferral Fund in place to manage shortfalls and rising expenses, as well as a Resource Transition Fund to address extraordinary market events and future power supply needs.

Minnkota is rated as an investment-grade utility in 2024. The cooperative currently has an A- rating and stable outlook from Standard and Poor's. Fitch Rating Services rates Minnkota at BBB+ with a stable outlook.

“We're faced with a significant amount of industry change that may require major investments in the not-too-distant future,” McLennan said. “Maintaining financial stability is crucial as we navigate future power supply opportunities, while continuing to address aging infrastructure needs spread throughout our power delivery system. We remain grateful for the support and guidance from our membership as we continue forward in the energy transition.”

## 6 USEFUL ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

**TIP 01**  
If a fuse blows, turn off all appliances and lights that are on the circuit before changing the fuse.

**TIP 02**  
Use a flashlight. Don't try to replace a fuse in the dark.

**TIP 03**  
Pull the plug, not the cord, when disconnecting an electrical device.

**BONUS TIP**  
Always use qualified electricity and gas contractors to install your services and ask them to ensure the services are installed the right distance apart.

**TIP 04**  
Keep cords away from sources of heat and water.

**TIP 05**  
Do not place a cord under a carpet, through a doorway, or anywhere that it could be stepped on.

**TIP 06**  
If you use an electric lawn-mower, only cut the grass when it's dry and never when it's raining.

**BONUS TIP**  
When using a ladder, keep it away from overhead power lines. Only use ladders on stable surfaces, and have someone hold the ladder when you're on it.

# MANAGERS MESSAGE

## The Power of Membership: Join Us for Our Annual Meeting on April 23, 2025



**Deanna Lefebvre**  
General Manager

As General Manager of Clearwater-Polk Electric I want to personally invite you to our Annual Meeting on April 23, 2025. This gathering is more than just a meeting—it is an opportunity for us to come together as a cooperative family, reflect on our accomplishments, discuss the future, and celebrate the strength of our community-owned electric cooperative.

### The Value of Your Membership

Being a member of Clearwater-Polk means more than just receiving reliable electricity. As a member-owner, you play a vital role in the decision-making process of your cooperative. Unlike investor-owned utilities that prioritize profits for shareholders, our cooperative operates with a singular focus: serving you, our members, with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

One of the most important aspects of membership is your right to vote. During our Annual Meeting, members have the opportunity to elect representatives to the Board of Directors, ensuring that decisions are made in the best interest of our community. Your participation helps shape the policies and direction of the cooperative, reinforcing the democratic foundation on which we were built.

At this annual meeting there are three director position up for election – one

each in District 1, 2 and 3. The incumbents seeking re-election include Kim Solberg for District 1, Cheryl Grover for District 2, and Betty Surdez for District 3. As I write this article today, February 17th, no other petitions have been received. The deadline for submitting petitions by anyone interested in running for the board of directors is Friday, February 21st. A sample ballot listing all qualifying candidates will be included in the April issue of your Current Activities newsletter.

### What to Expect at the Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting is a chance for members to gain valuable insight into the operations, financial health, and strategic direction of the cooperative. You will hear reports from our Board of Directors and management team on key initiatives, infrastructure improvements, and future projects that will enhance service reliability and efficiency.

Additionally, we will discuss industry trends, regulatory challenges, and innovative technologies that are shaping the future of electric distribution. As we navigate an evolving energy landscape, your cooperative remains committed to doing what is in the best interest of the cooperative and you, the members, as a whole. There will also be an update on an inevitable rate adjustment that the board of directors is currently assessing.

### Member Benefits and Giveaways

In appreciation of our members, we will be offering door prizes, special giveaways, and a complimentary meal at the event. There will be activities for young and old, and there will also be a bake sale again this year. We encourage all members to attend, not only to stay informed but also to take advantage of the networking opportunities with cooperative leadership, employees, and fellow members.

For many, the Annual Meeting is also a time of connection—a chance to visit with neighbors and friends, discuss community initiatives, and learn more about how our cooperative is working to improve service reliability and efficiency.

### Commitment to Community

As a local, member-owned cooperative, we take great pride in our commitment to the communities we serve. Beyond providing electricity, we invest in economic development, support local schools, and contribute to programs that enhance the quality of life in our service area. Your participation in the Annual Meeting reaffirms the cooperative spirit that has guided us since our founding.

### Make Your Voice Heard

I encourage you to mark your calendars and join us on April 23, 2025 at the community center in Clearbrook, MN with registration and meal beginning at 4:30 p.m. and the meeting being called to order at 6:00 p.m. Your engagement strengthens our cooperative and ensures that we continue to meet the needs of our members. Whether you are a longtime member or new to the cooperative, your voice matters, and your presence is valued.

Thank you for being part of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting and continuing to work together for a brighter, more reliable energy future.

## Message from Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative Electric Utility Scam Alert!

Members may be experiencing scam calls leading our members to believe it is Clearwater-Polk Electric calling to offer discounts on past due bills if they are paid over the phone that day. Clearwater-Polk Electric employees **DO NOT** take payments over the phone.

We would like to remind our membership to be careful with your personal information. If you are past due and have concerns about a call you have received, please call our office at 218-694-6241.

# Power Plant Tour 2025 • June 16th & 17th

## Registration forms and payments are due by May 31st

Make plans today to travel through scenic North Dakota for the two-day power plant tour offered by Clearwater-Polk Electric. *The tour is scheduled for June 16th and June 17th, 2025.*

The first day of the trip will include a stop at Minnkota Power Cooperatives headquarters in Grand Forks, the replica of Lewis & Clarks Fort Mandan and a visit at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. The evening will be spent at either the Comfort Inn & Suites or Baymont, which will include your evening meal and presentation sponsored by Minnkota Power.

The second day includes a tour of the Milton R/Young generation station near Center, ND.

Weather permitting, a tour through the BNI coal mine operation is scheduled as well. You are guaranteed to have a better understanding of the process involved with generating the electricity that serves you.

The cost to participate is \$200 for a 2-person occupancy and \$175 for a single person occupancy. This includes transportation, meals and lodging. The tour is open to all Clearwater-Polk Electric members and/or spouses. Please reserve your spot now by returning the completed Power Plant Tour Registration form. Spots are limited. Any questions, please call Tara at Clearwater-Polk Electric at 218-694-8205 or 1-888-694-3833 EXT: 1006



### 78th Annual Membership Meeting April 23, 2025

Clearwater-Polk Electric's 78th Annual Membership Meeting is just around the corner. Mark your calendars and plan to attend your electric cooperative's annual meeting on Wednesday, April 23, 2025. 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!

### 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 who 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 (Stephanie N. Johnson) 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.



## Power Plant Tour Registration Form

Names of Participants \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:** Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, PO Box 0, Bagley, MN 56621

**-YOU WILL BE MAILED A LETTER OF CONFIRMATION WITH MORE TOUR INFORMATION-**

Past and present Advocacy group members that have not yet been on this trip, get a one-time offer to take this trip free of cost, but would be responsible for the cost of \$100 if you are bringing one guest. Call Tara for any questions you might have. 218-694-8205