

CURRENT

A C T I V I T I E S



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Website at www.clearwater-polk.com



LINEMAN FOR THE DAY

Clearwater-Polk Electric's honorary lineman, Lakai, "made the day" for Co-op employee's

On Sept. 24, a pint-sized visitor walked through the doors of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative. Six-year old Lakai Rivera, the son of Veronica Lee and grandson of co-op members Daryll and Nana Lee, was timid just for a minute until he looked down at the paper clutched in his hand. Then, shy time was over! Lakai's list of questions came pouring out of him one after another with little time to answer in between.

"Why do some poles look mad? Where do you tell them to build the poles? Did you guys build the poles in Fargo, too?"

In five minutes, the curious six-year old had the entire co-op office giggling in amazement. And this was only the start of Lakai's full afternoon tour of bucket trucks, territory maps and pole yard excitement.

A WISH GRANTED

Lakai's grandmother reached out to Clearwater-Polk late this summer. She described the day CPE crews had been changing out a pole on her property near Leonard, while Lakai was outside – and the current of questions that flowed from Lakai to the lineworkers. He became obsessed!

Lakai was diagnosed with cancer in June 2021 after a fall from the monkey

bars left him with excruciating wrist pain. There were no signs of fracture, and x-rays only showed a smoky outline around the bone. Doctors ran blood tests, which confirmed the family's fears. Their kindergartner had leukemia.

After weeks of treatment in Fargo, Lakai is currently in remission and thriving. However, he still has a long road of health maintenance ahead.

Nana asked if they could bring Lakai to CPE for a tour to look at the trucks and poles. However, CPE wanted his visit to be extra special and so six-year old Lakai became Clearwater-Polk's first Honorary Lineman.

GEARED UP

Before Lakai continued on his tour, he got outfitted with his new lineworker gear – miniature work gloves, safety glasses and a co-op hard hat with LAKAI affixed to the back.

Lakai's mom said power poles have fascinated him since he was an infant. "He would point them out and baby



talk at them. As soon as he was forming words, he was starting to talk about them," she said.

"And he loves maps," Nana added. "Now he follows the poles on the maps, and he'll tell you where particular poles are on highways and in townships."

"He'll be a lineman," grandpa Daryll chimed in, beaming as he watched Lakai interact with CPE Operations Manager Todd Waggoner.

"We just got a fresh load of poles into the yard this morning," Waggoner said as he led Lakai through the cooperative and out to the shop. With some help from his team, the new lineworker hopped into the cab of a bucket truck. It was time to head out to the field for some extra training.

GETTING TO WORK

Lakai restarted his questions as soon as his shoes hit the dirt in the pole yard, where a crew of Clearwater-Polk lineworkers was waiting. "Are you the guys who build all of the poles?" Lakai asked as he approached them confidently.

Lineman Travis Huot took a moment to show Lakai how to attach an insulator to a pole. "Put your bolt through there," he directed, then walked Lakai through the process of fastening the equipment.

"And that's how you build poles," Lakai said matter-of-factly.

"Yep," Huot replied.

"I am trained and know how to build poles," Lakai uttered as he moved to his next stop. He had a pole to examine from the heights of a line bucket.

The crew harnessed their visitor and let him ride shotgun as they drove the truck to the line-free pole used for pole-top rescue training. Lakai's arm rested casually in the window frame as he made the short trip.

"He looks like he belongs there," his mom whispered to those who were watching from afar. "He will never forget this."

After overcoming some initial fear,

Lakai gathered his courage and joined lineworker Josh Hendricks in the bucket. As the mechanical arm climbed higher and higher, he began pointing to items around the yard and waving to his family and new friends dozens of feet below.

"He will end up doing this for a living," Nana said with her eyes lifted skyward. "I'm so glad he got brave and decided to do it."



When Josh and Lakai finished their pole report, they carefully descended back to the world below. Shoulders unharnessed and imagination unleashed, the boy waved his arms wildly as he explained what he wanted to do next.

After a few final questions and a round of goodbyes, Lakai thanked the Clearwater-Polk team for letting him join the crew for a day. But as he walked away, he left his short-term co-workers with a hopeful inquiry: "When can I go on my next tour?"

And as for the employees at Clearwater-Polk, "He made our day!"

(Special thanks to Minnkota employees: Kaylee Cusack for her contribution to this article, and Michael Hoeft for the photography.)

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

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2021

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



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YOU COULD WIN



\$25

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.

SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

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

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-ForSale-Give Away- or Wanted ads can be posted in our newsletters for our members.

FREE: Porcelain double sink-top with faucet, has 4" back splash and drain wings on each side of sinks. Unit is 66" wide, 25" deep. It sits on a Crosley aluminum cabinet with door openings under the sinks and drawers on both sides. Would be ideal for shop/garage/cabin. Located NE of Leonard, MN. Call 218-776-3657 and leave a message to call you back.

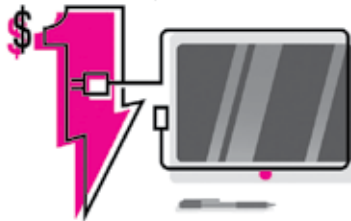
.....

WANTED: Telehandler; fishing reel. 218-766-8176.

.....

FOR SALE: 460 IH Tractor with loader, \$3,500. 218-266-3366 Richard.

What can you get for \$1?



600 hours of tablet use

You may feel guilty about the time you spend on your tablet, but you don't have to feel guilty about the power price. It only costs \$1 in electricity to use your device for around 600 hours. That's a lot of movie watching, article reading or video chatting for just a buck!



CHEF'S CORNER

Cheeseburger Soup

Mike Elliot - Walker, MN

Ingredients:

1 lb. ground beef
 8 c. potatoes
 4 T. butter
 ½ c. flour
 ½ onion, chopped (or more)
 16 oz. American cheese
 1-1/2 c. carrots, chopped
 ¾ tsp salt
 2 tsp parsley
 ½ tsp pepper
 9 c. chicken broth
 ½ c. sour cream

Preparation: Brown ground beef & drain. Set aside. Sauté carrots, onions & parsley in 4 tablespoons butter until tender, about 10 min. Set aside. In a large stock pot, combine broth, potatoes & ground beef. Simmer until tender. Stir flour into the vegetable mixture and add to stock pot. Cook over medium/medium high heat for 3-5 min. until thick, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat. Add cheese, salt & pepper. Remove from heat. (John Erlandson) Add sour cream.

CLEARWATER-POLK ELECTRIC TRUST FUNDING AND DONATIONS

The Clearwater-Polk Electric Trust Fund committee is scheduled to meet in June for the grant-funding meeting. Request for funds will be accepted until Monday, November 29, 2021. Application blanks can be found on our website www.clearwater-polk.com, or from one of the committee members, Cindy Benson, Lois Rydeen or Laurie Pemberton. 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 (Orin Schrank) newspapers and the Current Activities Newsletter.

All applications will be kept on hand for one year.

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\$25.00

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 TWO MEMBER'S NAMES THAT
 HAVE CHOSEN TO PAY BY AUTO-
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 \$25.00 CREDIT TOWARDS THEIR
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 C.W. BOHN

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ANDERSON, BERNICE
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ANDERSON, DALE J
ANDERSON, DAVID L
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ANDERSON, NEAL
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OLSON, DALE L
OLSON, JAMES V
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ZARKOFF, PETER

The Clearwater-Polk Electric Office Will Be Closed

Veterans Day, Thurs., Nov. 11th
Thanksgiving,
Thurs. and Fri., Nov. 25th & 26th
Christmas, Thurs. and Fri., Dec 23rd & 24th
New Years Eve, Fri. Dec. 31



P.O. Box O
315 Main Ave N
Bagley, MN 56621-1001
Phone (218) 694-6241
Toll-free 1-888-694-3833
Fax (218) 694-6245

PETITION FOR NOMINATION

The following Members wish to nominate [insert name] _____, for the three-year [insert District 1 or 2 or 3] _____ director position, and to place such name on the ballot for the April 6, 2022 election, at the annual meeting of the Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, in accordance with Article III, Section 8, of the bylaws.

Printed Name	Signature	Account Number
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____

The Cooperative must receive the completed petition no later than close of business February 5, 2022. At the annual meeting scheduled for April 6, 2022, elections will be held for the following districts where Director's terms are expiring:

District 1	District 2	District 3
Kim Solberg (3-year term)	Robert Johnson (3-year term)	Greg Spaulding (3-year term)

Any 10 or more members who reside in the district, up for election, may nominate an eligible member for a director's position. No member may be elected to a director position unless nominated in this manner. In the event of a joint Membership, only the signature of one member shall be acceptable.

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF A DIRECTOR?

The bylaws of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative establish certain qualifications that must be met in order to become a director. These are:

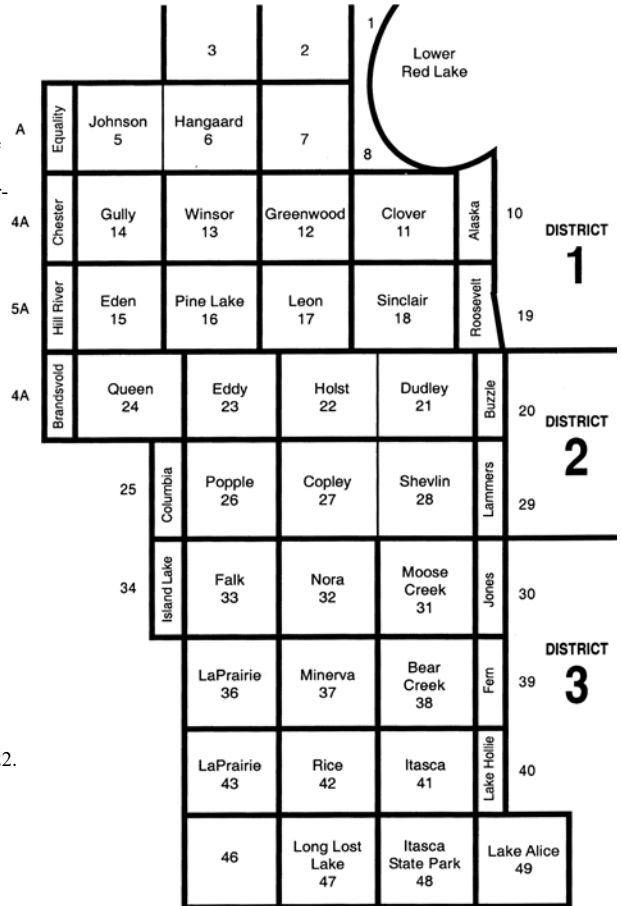
1. Be a member in good standing of the Cooperative, receiving electric service at the member's primary residence in the district from which the director is elected prior to being nominated for director; provided, further that "primary residence" is defined as the residence that is the chief or main residence of the person and where the person actually lives for the most substantial portion of the year;
2. Not be, nor within three (3) years preceding a director candidate's nomination have been, an employee of the Cooperative;
3. Not be, become, nor shall have been at any time during the five (5) years preceding a director candidate's nomination, employed by a labor union which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employee of the Cooperative;
4. Not be a close relative of an employee or director, where as found in these bylaws "close relative" means any individual who is, either by blood, law, or marriage, including half, step, foster, and adoptive relations, a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, or sibling, or principally resides in the same residence;
5. Not be employed by, materially affiliated with, or have a material financial interest in, any director, individual or entity which either is:

- (i) directly or substantially competing with the Cooperative; or
- (ii) selling goods and services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative; or
- (iii) possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative.

For purposes of this section, the terms "material" or "substantially" shall be interpreted as constituting a minimum of 5% of a member's total hours of employment, sales, or income on an annual basis;

6. Not be or become the full-time employee or agent of, or be or become the full-time employer or principal or, another director;
7. Not be absent, without being excused by the board, from three (3) or more regular meetings of the board of directors during any twelve (12) month period;
8. Be only one, and not more than one, member of a joint membership; provided, however, that none shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless all shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth;
9. If a representative or agent of a member is not a natural person, i.e. a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or similar, then the representative or agent designated as a nominee for director shall be an individual residing within the external boundaries of the district from which (s)he is nominated; and
10. Never have been convicted of a felony.

MAP OF DISTRICT 1,2, & 3



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

ELECTRICITY PRICES REMAIN STABLE AS OTHER ENERGY COSTS RISE

Managers Message



Deanna Lefebvre
General Manager

In Minnesota the cost of energy matters. We use significantly more energy per capita than the average U.S. citizen with our cold winters and long-distance travel. The cost of heating and transportation fuels are on the rise, but Clearwater-Polk forecasts stable pricing for electricity this winter season.

Member-consumers who participate in the off-peak electric heating program have seen rates remain flat in recent years, while fossil fuel prices fluctuate up and down consistently. In exchange for the discounted off-peak electric rate (about half the retail rate), consumers voluntarily allow electric heating systems and other interruptible loads to be temporarily turned off or switched to a backup fuel source (like propane) during periods of high demand for electricity across the region. By utilizing the off-peak program, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Clearwater-Polk Electric's wholesale power provider, avoids purchasing high-priced energy from other utilities or the energy market during peak demand periods.

The off-peak program proved extraordinarily valuable during the electric grid challenges experienced in February 2021, when widespread power outages and high market prices impacted Texas and other areas of the country. Minnkota and Clearwater-Polk were able to strategically use the program to shield you from price volatility and other system issues.

As you plan for this winter season, we want to make sure our members know what to expect and are prepared for how increasing fuel costs have the potential to impact your home heating strategy.

What can you expect this winter?

□ Higher propane, fuel oil and natural gas prices

Expect to see the cost of home heating fuels much higher this winter compared to previous years. Propane prices are near double

the cost compared to this time last year and are forecasted to remain high throughout the winter. Fortunately, the cost of electricity will stay stable this winter. For members that have off-peak electric heat, this is excellent news!

□ Stable electricity prices

Natural gas price increases have contributed to wholesale electricity market prices being twice as high as they were last year. Your co-operative and Minnkota are able to avoid these issues because our power supply consists of coal, wind and hydro, which are not susceptible to fuel price spikes. The off-peak/load control programs can also be used to avoid the costly wholesale electricity market.

□ Potential for more off-peak load control hours

With more wholesale electricity market volatility, members should expect the potential for more off-peak load control hours than in previous years. More than 200 hours of load control is possible during the winter season depending on wholesale power market prices and weather conditions.

What can you do to prepare?

□ Switch to off-peak electric heating

If you have a dual-fuel furnace, it is time to switch to off-peak electricity and use propane or fuel oil as a backup. This strategy will limit your usage of higher-priced heating fuels. Contact our Member Services Department today to find out more about how off-peak heating works and the incentives available for the installation of new off-peak electric heating equipment.

□ Fill your propane or fuel oil tank

Be sure to fill your propane or fuel oil tank as soon as possible, and make sure your tank is large enough to hold an adequate supply. If your propane tank gets low during extreme cold temperatures, it may not work properly. Remember, prices typically rise as demand increases during the heating season.

□ Check your furnace

Make sure to change your furnace filter regularly. Contact a heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) professional to inspect/maintain your system as needed. Early attention to maintenance can help prevent failures in the heart of heating season.

Members will undoubtedly have to spend more on energy to heat their homes and for transportation this year, but the good news is that the price you pay for electricity is forecasted to remain flat. Clearwater-Polk Electric's staff of employees work hard making every effort to help avoid disconnecting members who are having difficulty paying their bill. If you have questions about how to save on your winter heating bills or are having issues making payments, please contact our office. We are

here to help and can connect you with the right resources, no matter the situation.

Veteran's Day

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect and is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars."

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

Sadly, today we are a country divided, being destroyed from within as our enemies watch and revel over it. Henry Ford said, "Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success." To me, the best way to honor all our service men and women and their families, past and present, who have sacrificed so much for us and our country, is by coming together, keeping together and working together for the success of our country. Thank you to all our veterans and your families for all that you have sacrificed. God Bless you all!

Happy Holidays

It is crazy to think that the holidays are just around the corner already. Since my next article will be for the January-February issue I want to take this time thank all the employees and board members of Clearwater-Polk for a great year. With transition comes a lot of adjusting and I am very blessed and couldn't be prouder to have such a great team to work with! I want to wish all the employees, board members and co-op members a very blessed holiday season.

Stay safe, happy and healthy!

Deanna

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

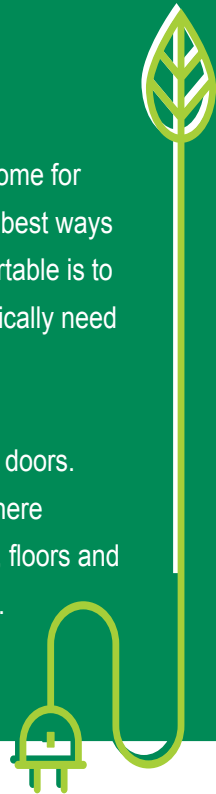


Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing.

Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

Source: energy.gov



WINTER WEATHER

CAN BRING POWER LINES DOWN



DID YOU KNOW:

- That downed power lines are extremely dangerous and even deadly?
- The current could spread throughout the ground and anything touching the ground?
- Stray voltage spreads like ripples on a pond?
- If you step from one "ripple" (voltage) to another you could be electrocuted?
- Downed lines could be hiding under standing water, ice or debris?

Learn more at:

SafeElectricity.org

STAY WHERE YOU ARE

You've just been in an accident involving a downed power line. Your first instinct might be to get out and run, but that could cost you your life. In most cases, the safest place to be is inside your car or truck. Wait there until electric utility workers deenergize the power. If your car is on fire or you see smoke, escape as safely as possible by making a clean, solid jump out and hop away with both feet together as far as you can. Warn others not to approach the scene.



Feeling chilled? HEAT your SPACE safely



Before you dust off your space heater and plug it in, consider that most home heating fire deaths (86%) involve space heaters, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). In fact, heating equipment is the second-leading cause of U.S. home fires (cooking is the leading cause).

More than half of the heating-related home fires start when flammable items are too close to the heat source, according to the NFPA. Those items include upholstered furniture, clothing, a mattress or bedding.

Nearly half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.



Here are some space heater safety tips:

- Only use them as the manufacturer recommends
- Do not leave them unattended
- Give them space: remove any flammable items within 3 feet
- Plug them directly into outlets; don't use an extension cord
- Consider using a dedicated circuit to avoid overload
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters at all times
- Turn them off before you leave the room or go to sleep

Learn more at: SafeElectricity.org

GUARDING THE GRID Electric co-ops innovate to stay in front of cybersecurity

Through the decades, electric cooperatives have found countless ways to innovate in meeting the needs of their members. Most recently, information technology has been used to improve electric reliability, enhance member communication and empower consumers to make smarter energy choices.

But it has also given hackers and other bad actors new targets to exploit.

As essential service providers, electric utilities are the focus of significant cyber threats. This past year has already seen more than a fair share of attacks and breaches, including the high-profile Colonial Pipeline cyberattack. And for every incident that makes headlines, there are countless others that are thwarted, unreported or even unnoticed by the victims themselves.

YOUR COOPERATIVE and its wholesale power provider, Minnkota Power Cooperative, work closely together to meet these challenges head on. As we recognize Cybersecurity Awareness Month in October, here are some of the ways in which your cooperative network helps guard the grid.



YOUR CO-OP NETWORK HELPS GUARD THE GRID

Technology

YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S digital defense strategy includes a complex set of network systems, firewalls and other protective applications. A "defense-in-depth" technology strategy is used to create layers of security for a hacker to go through. Each layer presents a potential fail point where an anomaly could be noticed.



Training

While technology is important, it is quickly becoming a smaller part of protecting against cyberattacks. Most hackers are not trying to outsmart the technology, but instead focus on tricking people into providing the information they need to access the system – an act commonly referred to as phishing. Fraudulent emails, scams and other deceptive online practices are becoming much more prevalent. That's why your cooperative conducts continuous training to ensure employees understand the risks and how to avoid them.



Testing

Cooperatives promote a culture where every employee understands the role they play in keeping the organization secure. Intense testing of technology, procedures and response strategies are conducted on a routine basis to ensure the cooperative is ready in a worst-case scenario. Third-party audits are also performed regularly.



Cooperation

Not surprisingly, cooperation is a critical part of YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S cybersecurity strategy. By using secure information sharing systems, electric cooperatives are alerted to emerging threats from other utilities and governmental entities. Additional support is provided for research and development, which helps cultivate cybersecurity partnerships with other vital sectors.



SMARTER AND STRONGER ENERGY SYSTEM

Cybersecurity is not a checklist task. It evolves and becomes more complex with each passing year. YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE is committed to collaborating and innovating as it works to build a smarter and stronger energy system to meet the needs of the membership.