

CURRENT ACTIVITIES



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

Concern for Community

One of the Seven Cooperative Principles



Truck winners: Emma Nyland & Eli Ramsrud.

Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative was at Breakfast on the Farm this year offering bucket truck rides, kids electrical safety coloring books and crayons, as well as a drawing for a chance to win a toy replica of our digger truck! It was a great community event and we enjoyed getting to see so many of our members!



Clearwater-Polk Electric's bucket truck provided lots of smiles and excitement for Breakfast on the Farm attendees.



Next best thing to riding in the bucket is getting your picture taken with a lineman. Pictured above is longtime co-op member Gretta Whealy with Line Foreman Travis Huot.

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 Wednesday, October 20th and Thursday, October 21st. 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 20th or 21st!



Crazy Days FUNDRAISER

Clearwater-Polk Electric was proud to be part of Crazy Days with our fundraising bake sale earning \$450.00 for Meals on Wheels! A big thank you to everyone who stopped by to make a purchase and leave a little extra in the donation jar. It was a great success!

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

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2021

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



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 60 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	Gross Income for the last 3 months
1	\$8,479
2	\$ 11,088
3	\$13,697
4	\$16,307
5	\$18,916
6	\$21,525

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 60% 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 60% of the state median income (\$67,764 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2022.

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 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.

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.

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.

Working Together to Halt Cyberattacks

Identity theft, scams and stolen credit card information are all too-frequent occurrences in today's digital world. You've likely taken steps to protect your data and private information from online hackers or from callers trying to capture your credit card information through a scam. Protecting against threats requires that we must all be constantly alert to keep our personal information safe.

Just as you need to protect your data from hackers, your electric cooperative faces those same challenges with data and protecting the power grid from attempts to disrupt service.

The May 7 attack on the Colonial Pipeline, a company that transports more than 100 million gallons of gasoline and other fuel daily from Houston to the New York Harbor, demonstrates why energy providers place an enormous priority on cybersecurity efforts. Clearwater-Polk Electric, along with our wholesale power supplier, Minnkota Power, is vigilant in our around-the-clock efforts to protect electric power infrastructure and ensure an affordable,

reliable and secure supply of electricity.

Working together to protect assets

How do we strive to protect Clearwater-Polk Electric from cyberattacks? It revolves around creating a constant culture of cybersecurity awareness among your locally elected board of directors, cooperative employees and our member-owners.

Across the country, electric co-ops partner with federal agencies, including the Department of Energy and Homeland Security, to research threats, strengthen security measures and mitigate risk. We also devote significant resources to preventing outages and continually improving response and recovery procedures for when outages occur, regardless of the cause.

Because electric providers own and operate critical infrastructure assets, mandatory cybersecurity standards must be followed and are subject to fines by regulatory agencies of up to \$1 million per day per violation.

When it comes to cybersecurity, we know that there is not a one-size-fits-all approach.

Crime comes in all forms – those we can witness and others originating from far away locations.

How you can help

We all play a role in protecting the service we depend on to power our lives. While hackers often go behind the scenes to interfere with critical assets, they sometimes act in plain sight. If you see something suspicious near electric cooperative equipment, including meters or substations, please say something. Note what the suspicious activity is, where it occurred, when it happened and how many people were involved. This information can help Clearwater-Polk and local authorities to track down criminals. Call Clearwater-Polk Electric at 218-694-6241 or if it's an emergency, call 911.

For tips on protecting your business or personal data from ransomware, visit <https://www.cisa.gov/ransomware>.



CHEF'S CORNER

Easy Apple Crisp

Carla Nelson, Bagley

Ingredients:

4 cups tart apples, peeled, cored & sliced

1 T. flour

1/2 tsp cinnamon

1 cup sugar

Pinch of salt

Topping:

1½ cups flour

½ cup brown sugar

1 cup oatmeal

1 cup butter, melted

Preparation: Place apples on bottom of a 9x13 pan. Mix together the flour, cinnamon, sugar and salt. Sprinkle over apples. Mix (Mark A. Plante) together the remaining ingredients and crumble over the top. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes.

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 its 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.

**Thank You,
for visiting
us at the fair!**

Fair Winners

- \$50 • Casey Anderson
- \$50 • Kari Mathison
- \$25 • Ken Solberg
- \$25 • Gary Thorson
- \$25 • Alison Hamm
- Truck • Rossten Sorensen

YOU COULD WIN



To reward our faithful readers, one member's name (Michael J. Thompson) 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.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

- Greg Spaulding, *President* Bagley
- Greg Renner, *Vice President*..... Shevlin
- Harlan Highberg, *Treasurer*..... Bagley
- Kim Solberg, *Secretary* Gonvick
- Robert Johnson Bagley
- Bill Lanners Shevlin
- Dennis Engebretson Clearbrook
- Deanna Lefebvre..... *General Manager*

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.

SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

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

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

**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
**BARBARA J. TORGERSON, NATHAN WATNE,
ARLENE HANSON,
JEFFERY A SCHWARTZ**

ENERGY ASSISTANCE ALERT

After September 15th, 2021, the Clearwater County Department of Human Services will no longer be administering the Energy Assistance Program. EFFECTIVE October 1st, 2021, residents of Clearwater County will have their Energy Assistance administered by Inter-County Community Council.

For questions or further details, please use contacts information below

Inter-County Community Council
P.O Box 189 Oklee, MN 56742-0189
218-796-5144 or Toll Free 888-778-4008

Department of Human Services Clearwater-County
216 Park Ave NW Bagley, MN 56621-9500
218-694-6164

Managers Message



Deanna Lefebvre
General Manager

This has been a busy summer so far and doesn't look like it will slow down anytime soon. I hope all of you are enjoying your summer. I know that it goes by too fast.

Concern for Community...one of the seven Cooperative Principles

In May, your cooperative employees and board members participated in a strategic planning session to help define the direction to take the co-op in order to best serve you, our member-owners, as well as promoting a safe working environment and positive employee/co-worker relations.

One of the goals set is to invest in community involvement and education initiatives. Clearwater-Polk has a history of participating, donating, volunteering (Clyde Sletten) and sponsoring many community activities, but with this goal, we wanted to expand on it.

On Saturday, July 10th, Clearwater-Polk participated in Clearwater County's Breakfast on the Farm hosted on the John Brooks farm in Gonvick. Line Foreman Travis Huot volunteered to set up the bucket truck so participants could experience first-hand a ride in the bucket. It was a huge hit. A big thank you to Travis for taking time on his Saturday to provide this experience for so many who attended.

On Saturday, July 31st during Bagley Crazy Days employees and spouses participated in a fundraising bake sale with all profits donated to the Meals on Wheels program. The office was a little down from where most of the activity was, but we got all the business we needed to nearly sell out by 1:30 in the afternoon and earn \$450 for Meals on Wheels. Thank you to all who participated, whether it was baking, selling or setting up. Also, a big thank you to those who stopped by to purchase and donate. It was a great success and wonderful opportunity to

visit with co-workers and community members.

Last year the Clearwater County Fair was cancelled due to COVID, so this August it was great to have the fair back. Each year Clearwater-Polk participates by having an information booth set up in the arena. The booth this year featured educational information about what demand is and what it means for consumer-owner's electric bill. Safety coloring/activity books to promote safety around electricity were also given out to the kids who stopped by the booth. Draw prizes for energy certificates for the adults and a toy replica of Clearwater-Polk's digger truck for the kid's drawing. Thanks to everyone who stopped by to say hi and congratulations to the winners who are listed elsewhere in this issue.

Cooperative Month is just around the corner and, as of right now, Clearwater-Polk plans to celebrate with an open house scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, October 20th & 21st. We are monitoring the uptick in COVID cases closely and will keep you posted if we need to cancel this event. We pray that everyone stays safe and healthy.

If there is a community event that you would like Clearwater-Polk to participate in, please call our office and we would be happy to discuss how we can contribute to your event.

Cold weather rule

At the time we had to submit information for the Current Activities newsletter to our printer, the updated statute for the cold weather rule was not published on the state's website. There were some changes made to the cold weather rule and there is information on this posted elsewhere in this issue. If you, or someone you know, is struggling financially and having difficulty paying the electric bill we encourage you to look into the energy assistance program.

Energy theft is a dangerous crime

Energy theft happens, and when it happens it is not just a crime against the co-op, it's a crime against the perpetrator's family, neighbors and all member-owners of the cooperative. It mostly happens by diverting or tampering with the meter. It's illegal, costly and dangerous. Energy theft can cause shock, fire, serious injury and death. If you suspect energy theft, please call Clearwater-Polk Electric at 218-694-6241.

Harvest safety

It can be an exciting and exhausting time, the culmination of a season of hard work. However, the rush to harvest can also yield tragic outcomes. Each year, dozens of farm workers are killed, and hundreds are injured in accidents involving power lines and electrical equipment. Review with all workers the farm activities that take place around power

lines. Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance. Keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines – above, below and to the side – a 360-degree rule.

Farm workers should take these steps to ensure a safer harvest season:

- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines. Do not let the spotter touch the machinery while it is being moved anywhere near power lines.
- As with any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path!
- Don't use metal poles to break up bridged grain inside bins. Know where and how to shut off the power in an emergency.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

Operators of farm equipment or vehicles must also know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line: Stay on the equipment, warn others to stay away and call 911. Do not get off the equipment until the utility crew says it is safe to do so.

Please keep safety your priority during the harvest season.

Keeping the crews safe

As summer winds down, Clearwater-Polk Electric crews are working hard to complete new service builds, service upgrades, line upgrades and retirements. If you see crews working please help keep them safe by driving with care, slowing down and giving them space as they work. At the end of the day, we want everyone to return home safely.

I hope all of you enjoy the rest of your summer. 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

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money.

Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.



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.



Cooperative Month Coloring Contest

Winners will receive a new bike. Drawing is for 1 winner in each age group 5-8 and 9-12.

Pick up Entries at our office: Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, 315 Main Ave. Bagley, MN 56621

ENTRY DEADLINE:
Must be received by **OCTOBER 15, 2021**
Must be 12 or younger to enter



Feeling stressed this harvest season?

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

Breakdowns. Long hours. Setbacks. There is no way to predict what harvest will bring.

Have your PLAN in place to manage your stress for a safe and healthy harvest.



P

Prepare for the season

With preparation, some stress can be avoided. Anticipate the demands of harvest and plan ahead. For example, prep healthy meals, fuel equipment and perform routine maintenance ahead of schedule. **What can you do to prepare?**



L

Lean on loved ones

Seeking support from others rather than taking on everything yourself can help reduce stress. Text or call a friend or family member when you need support.

Whom can you lean on?



A

Activate coping mechanisms

Coping mechanisms can help manage stress. They include engaging in physical activity, finding ways to make yourself laugh and carving out time for hobbies.

Which coping mechanisms will you use?



N

Nip negative self-talk

Negative self-talk leads to decreased morale and feelings of hopelessness. When your inner critic nags, be kind to yourself and remember thoughts are not reality.

How will you tell your inner critic to take a hike?

Content developed by Josie M. Rudolphi and Courtney Cuthbertson, University of Illinois Extension



Need immediate assistance?

Iowa Concern Hotline:
1-800-477-1985

National Suicide Prevention
Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

