

VOLTS & VIEWS

JANUARY 2020

 Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

EV technology racing to the north

MINNESOTA FORD DEALER
EXCITED TO OFFER NEW ELECTRIC MUSTANG
MACH-E, WITH MORE OPTIONS TO COME



*Photo courtesy of
Ford Motor Company*

Paul Blomquist is about to let the horse out of the stable. The Roseau County Ford dealership owner is charged up about the recent Nov. 17 unveiling of the Ford Mustang Mach-E, the electric vehicle (EV) northern Minnesota drivers have been waiting for – an SUV with all-wheel drive capabilities and a range that can get them to the lake and back without a plug-in.

The automobile marks the first time Ford has used the Mustang name for an SUV. And this time, there's no revving engine or gas tank to fill. The extended-range battery makes a 300-mile trip without a charge. And, of course...

"Zero to 60 in under 4 seconds," Blomquist said. "There are just so many things about what this product can do – it's really exciting."

The new Mach-E is set to hit the road in November 2020. At that time, Roseau County Ford will welcome to its lot one of five styles – the First Edition, Select, Premium, California RT.1 Edition or GT. The

dealership plans to work hand-in-hand with Roseau Electric Cooperative to show local drivers how easy and beneficial owning an EV can be.

Roseau Electric's Jeremy Lindemann, director of member services, says he is eager to see the Mach-E on the Ford lot. It's a new opportunity for people to test drive and experience an EV firsthand, right in their hometown.

"People are going to be able to see that EVs are not a concept that will only succeed in the future – they

are here right now," he said. "We now have a major vehicle manufacturing company that is investing huge dollars into EVs."

Lindemann also noted that Ford will offer an affordable at-home charger that will work well with Roseau Electric's off-peak program, which will reduce the cost of charging an EV by approximately half. He added that members can also receive an additional rebate on their home charging station.

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**"Zero to 60 in under 4 seconds.
There are just so many things
about what this product
can do – it's really exciting."**

– PAUL BLOMQUIST,
dealership owner
Roseau County Ford



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Vice Chairman Jim Hallan
Secretary-Treasurer Collin Jensen
Directors Roger Amundson, Shawn Gust,
Wes McFarlane, Dale Moser,
Mike Wahl, Ed Walsh
Tracey Stoll General Manager
Ryan Severson Assistant Manager
Mike Millner Line Superintendent
Jeremy Lindemann Member Services
Alex McMillin Office Manager

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Phone (218) 463-1543

OUTAGE CALLS:

Toll-Free 1-888-847-8840

MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)

Kittson, Polk and part of
Marshall Counties:

Wayne Bergstrom – 701-520-9771

Northwest Angle, Pennington, Roseau
and parts of Beltrami and
Marshall Counties:

Ronald Ditsch – 218-779-6758

Lake of the Woods County:

Curt Collier – 218-966-5070

Inspector list is subject to change at any time.

The State of Minnesota has high wiring standards, which are in the best interest of you and your family or business. Improper wiring can damage your home, your property and equipment, and injure or kill the people you love. Currently, the state does allow homeowners to do their own residential wiring; however, it is critical that the current electrical code is followed. Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. For more information visit dli.mn.gov and go to the electrical page.

Gopher State One Call
1-800-252-1166 or 811
www.gopherstateonecall.org



Anyone who plans to dig is required by law to notify the state of their intentions at least 48 hours in advance. All digging requires the 48-hour notification so that buried telephone line, television cable, pipelines, utility electrical lines, municipal water and sewer lines can be located to ensure that none will be severed or damaged.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Roseau Electric Cooperative is committed to providing its member-owners low-cost, high-quality, safe and reliable electricity with friendly, efficient and knowledgeable service.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Congratulations

to these employees in recognition of their years of service to Roseau Electric Cooperative



Michael Millner
Line Superintendent
30 years



Ralph Landman
Line Foreman
30 years



Deaun Solom
Receptionist
30 years



Tracey Stoll
General Manager
25 years



Jedd Von Ende
Lineman
20 years



Rebecca Lundgren
Customer Service, Billing
15 years

IMPORTANT REQUEST TO MEMBERS!

Please update your account's phone numbers today!

When was the last time you updated your phone numbers with Roseau Electric? Having up-to-date contact information helps the co-op send messages about planned power outages or power emergencies. It also makes reporting outages more efficient. Many individuals have dropped their landline phones, thereby eliminating important communication with those members.

There are three ways to update your info:

- Call REC at 218-463-1543 or 888-847-8840.
- Make a note on the remittance portion of your bill.
- Log in to your SmartHub account and update My Profile.





EV technology continued from page 1

“EVs are going to provide extremely affordable transportation, with operating costs of less than a dollar a gallon gas equivalent. That’s something that is really going to help our members,” he said.

Both Lindemann and Blomquist recognize that winter driving is a concern for potential EV adoptees, but they also know the Mach-E will show skeptics that the cold-weather challenges are often exaggerated.

“To me, the all-wheel drive is the most exciting aspect, no question, because of our winter situation,” Blomquist said. “We’re going to dispel a lot of the myths around EVs.”

Roseau County Ford is one of 2,100 EV-certified dealerships out of Ford’s 3,800 dealerships nationwide, and one of the few in the region. The addition of the Mach-E to his sales lot is just one piece of Blomquist’s investment and commitment to supporting electric vehicle adoption in the area. In the coming year, his shop will buy new equipment to service EVs, complete the necessary service training and install two Level 2 EV chargers (240-volt) at the dealership.

His updates are just the beginning of the buzz. Blomquist said he has already heard local curiosity in how public charging opportunities may continue to grow. “With an announcement like this, there is going to be a lot more interest in communities and/or gas stations to install fast charging stations,” he said.

By working together with the teams at Roseau Electric and Minnkota Power Cooperative (Roseau Electric’s wholesale power provider), Roseau County Ford will find many ways to spread the word about the power of EVs – through special events, test drives, print and digital communication and more.

“This is the right time with the

right product,” Blomquist said. “It’s not going to be for everyone, but there’s no question that the message is out there and the interest is out there.”

Nationwide reservations for the Mustang Mach-E are first come, first served and are pouring in fast. In fact, the First Edition model sold out in just nine days. Those interested in getting a Mach-E of their own can put down a fully refundable \$500 deposit to add their names to the reservation list. Prospective buyers can come see Blomquist at the Roseau



County Ford dealership to ask questions and make a deposit, or they can simply visit the Ford website to complete a reservation (<https://www.ford.com/suvs/mach-e/2021/>).

To learn more about electric vehicles and cooperative charging rebates and incentives, visit **EnergizeYourDrive.com**.



The PERFECT POWER PICK for your home

You’re newlyweds building a new house – choose an **air-source heat pump**.

Whether you’ve been married three weeks or 30 years, build your new love nest with the flexibility, efficiency and ease of an air-source heat pump system.



AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP

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- Moves heat instead of generating it like a less efficient fuel furnace
- Keeps air fresh and dehumidified
- Easily installed with minimal maintenance
- Qualifies for super-low off-peak electricity rate

Contact the energy experts at Roseau Electric to find the perfect power pick for your space.

218-463-1543 or 1-888-847-8840
www.roseauelectric.com

Up to \$500/ton in rebates!

So, you want to be a director

Three directors will be elected at the 2020 annual meeting scheduled for April 4. Directors whose terms expire in 2020 are District 3, Dale Moser; District 4, Collin Jensen; and District 7, Mike Wahl.

Objectives:

- ▶ To establish relationships between the board, the membership and the manager
- ▶ Define principles and practices
- ▶ Delegate authority
- ▶ Analyze operations

Meeting attendance requirements:

- ▶ **Monthly board meetings:**
Board meetings are held 12 times per year, usually the fourth Wednesday of the month, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- ▶ **Other meetings:**
Roseau Electric annual meeting; Minnkota annual meeting; MREA district meetings; other meetings to learn policies and procedures of the electric industry. Expect five to 12 extra days per year.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Report to the membership.
- Hire and delegate authority to the manager.
- Maintain legal entity and practices.
- Review and update Bylaws.
- Require a continuous member and public relations program.
- Keep informed and grow in skills of the program.
- See that members are informed of operations.
- See that accurate minutes are prepared and maintained.
- Consider and adopt plans for objectives and goals.
- Review and update policies.
- Examine and approve annual budget and cash flow.
- Review and approve a sound financial plan.
- Establish policies and programs for good employee relationships.
- Assist in planning meetings.
- Establish special or standing committees.
- Review responsibilities of board and manager.
- Approve the selection of consultants and attorney.
- Establish measures and controls to determine effectiveness of management.
- Authorize and review annual financial audit.
- Implementation and enforcement of this position description is the responsibility of the board of directors.

2020 director elections

PETITION DEADLINE MONDAY, FEB. 3, 2020

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., is organized as a cooperative and is owned by its members. The membership elects a board of directors to represent them in the operation of the cooperative.

Three directors will be elected at the 2020 annual meeting scheduled for April 4 at the Roseau School Theater in Roseau. The directors whose terms expire in 2020 are: Dale Moser, District 3 (3-year term); Collin Jensen, District 4 (3-year term); and Mike Wahl, District 7 (3-year term). **Dale Moser and Collin Jensen have decided not to run for re-election.**

Nomination by petition

No nominating committee will be used. All nominations will be done by petition, including the incumbents.

Any 10 or more members who reside in Districts 3, 4 or 7 may nominate an eligible member for a director position in that district. No member may be elected to a director position unless nominated in this manner. No write-in ballots shall be accepted.

Petition forms are available

Director candidates must pick up a petition and a director packet at Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., in Roseau. The packet contains additional forms that must be signed and turned in before the deadline.

Petition deadline

The cooperative must receive the completed petition no later than the close of business at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 3, 2020.

Petition for Nomination

The following members wish to nominate [insert name] for the three-year term in Districts 3, 4 or 7 [insert "District 3, 4 or 7"] director position, and to place such name on the ballot for the April 4, 2020, election at the annual meeting of the Cooperative, in accordance with Article III, Section 5, of the bylaws.

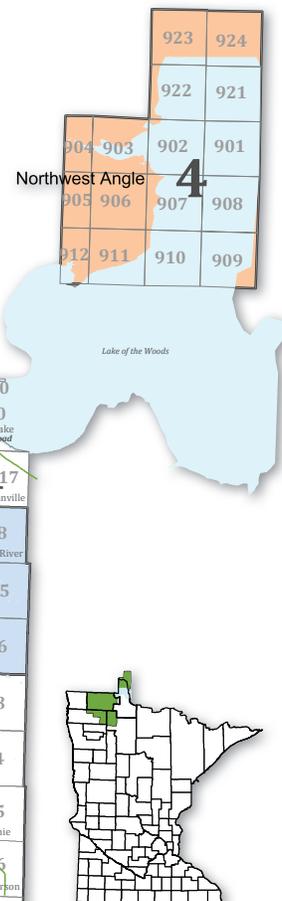
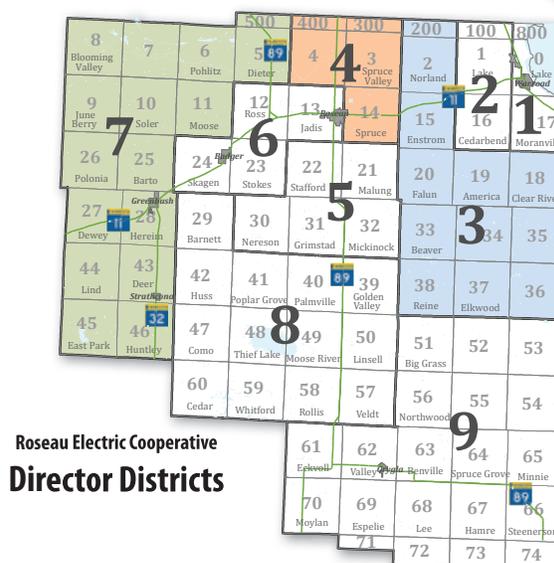
PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	CUSTOMER NO.
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The Cooperative must receive the completed petition no later than the close of business Monday, Feb. 3, 2020. At the annual meeting scheduled for April 4, 2020, elections will be held for each of Districts 3, 4 and 7 for a three-year term.

The directors whose terms expire in 2020 are as follows:

DISTRICT 3	DISTRICT 4	DISTRICT 7
3-year term	3-year term	3-year term
Open Seat	Open Seat	Mike Wahl

Any 10 or more members who reside in Districts 3, 4 or 7 may nominate an eligible member for a director position in that district. No member may be elected to a director position unless nominated in this manner. In the event of joint membership, only the signature of one joint member shall be acceptable.



Winter storm preparation

Snow and ice are inevitable when dealing with winter storms, but being prepared can make a world of difference.

Winterize your home

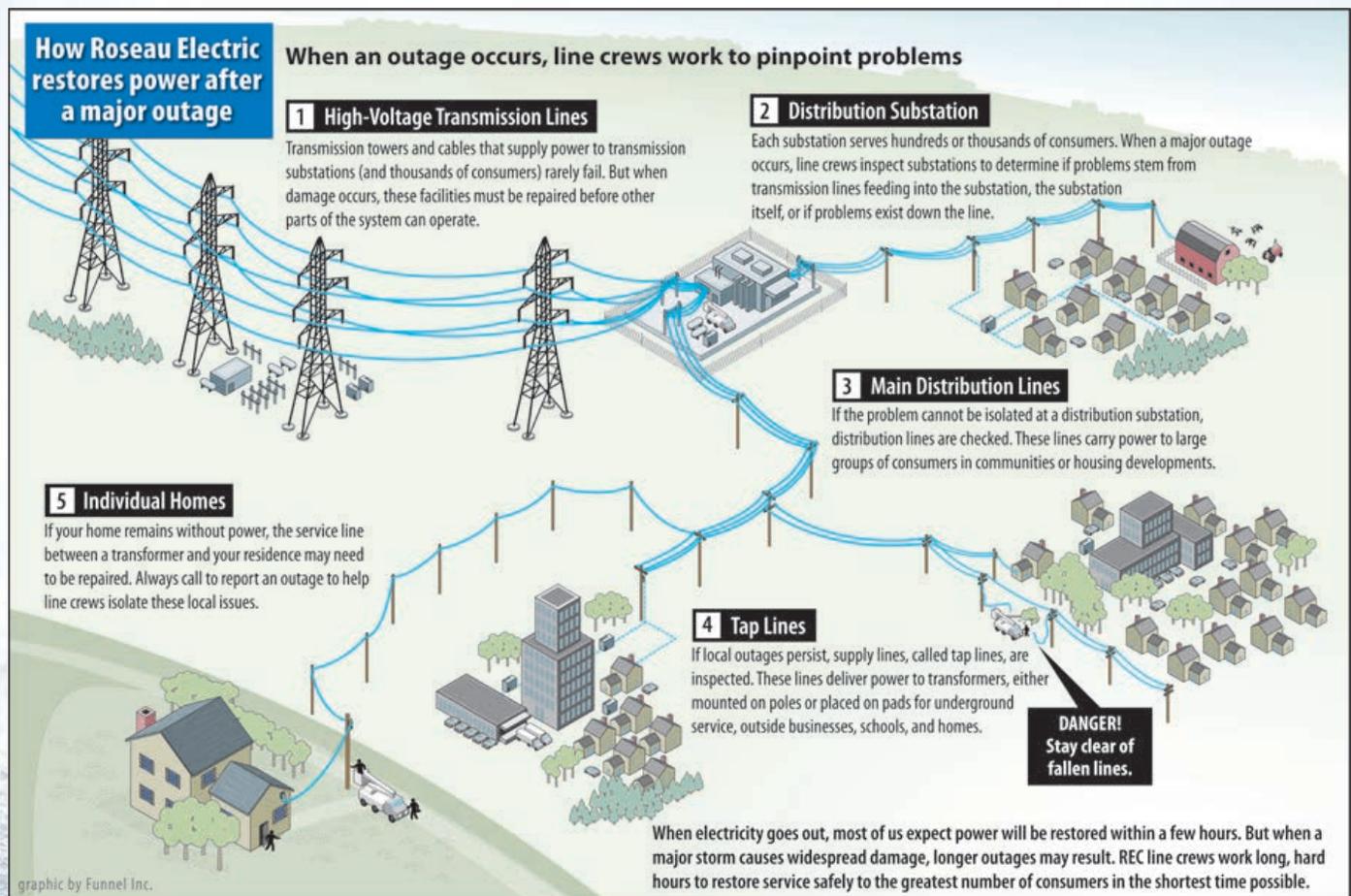
Winter storms wreak havoc on your home. By winterizing your living space, you'll be prepared for extreme cold and hazardous conditions.

- Remember to maintain and inspect heating equipment and chimneys every year to ensure they're working safely and properly.
- Caulk and weatherstrip doors and windows to make the most of your heating system.
- Freezing temperatures often cause water pipes to burst. Remember to insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic. Allow faucets to drip during extreme cold to avoid frozen pipes.
- Consider installing storm windows for better insulation. You can also cover windows with plastic (from the inside) to keep the cold out.
- Make sure everyone in your family knows where the home's fire extinguisher is located and how to use it properly. House fires occur more frequently during winter months, as people tend to use alternative heating methods that may not be safe.

Prepare a winter survival kit

Severe winter storms often bring heavy accumulation of ice and snow, which can lead to downed power lines and extended outages. Roseau Electric Cooperative crews will work hard to restore power, but having a winter survival kit on hand is a smart idea.

- **Food:** Store food that does not require cooking, such as canned goods, crackers, dehydrated meats and dried fruit. Keep a large supply of water on hand. **Ready.gov** recommends five gallons per person.
- **Medication:** Be sure to refill all prescriptions in the event of a major power outage.
- **Identification:** Keep all forms of identification handy, such as driver's licenses, photo IDs and social security cards. Bank account information and insurance policies are also good to have on hand.
- **Other items:** First aid kit, blankets, flashlight, battery-powered radio and extra batteries.





Grant Application Deadline Feb. 28, 2020

To be considered at the March 2020 meeting, grant applications must be received by **Feb. 28, 2020**.

Grant applications are available at the REC office or by visiting our website at www.roseauelectric.com.

NORTHSTREAM FIBER

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218-463-1543 | 888-847-8840
www.roseauelectric.com
Email Stacy Rose at srose@roseauelectric.com

Problems paying your electric bill?

Energy assistance may be available!

If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.

Northwest Community Action

PO Box 67
Badger, MN 56714-0067
(218) 528-3258 or 800-568-5329
northwestcap.org

Bi-County Cap, Inc.

6603 Bemidji Ave. N
Bemidji, MN 56601-8669
(218) 751-4631

Detecting energy wasters in your home



You may already know where some air leakage occurs in your home, such as an under-the-door draft, but you'll need to find the less obvious gaps to properly air seal your home. Even without a comprehensive energy inspection and full blower door test, there are still ways to find some air leaks yourself. On the outside of your house, inspect all areas where two different building materials meet, including all exterior corners, outdoor water faucets, areas where siding and chimneys meet, and areas where the foundation and the bottom of exterior brick or siding meet.

Inside your home, inspect around the following areas for any cracks and gaps that could cause air leaks:

- Electrical outlets
- Switch plates
- Door and window frames
- Electrical and gas service entrances
- Baseboards
- Weatherstripping around doors
- Fireplace dampers
- Attic hatches
- Wall- or window-mounted air conditioners.
- Cable TV and phone lines
- Where dryer vents pass through walls
- Vents and fans

Also look for gaps around pipes and wires, foundation seals, and mail slots. Check to see if the caulking and weatherstripping are applied properly, leaving no gaps or cracks, and are in good condition. Check the exterior caulking around doors and windows and see whether exterior storm doors and primary doors seal tightly.

Inspect windows and doors for air leaks. See if you can rattle them, since movement means possible air leaks. If you can see daylight around a door or window frame, then the door or window leaks. You can usually seal these leaks by caulking or weatherstripping them. Check the storm windows to see if they fit and are not broken. You may also wish to consider replacing your old windows and doors with newer, high-performance ones. If new factory-made doors or windows are too costly, you can install low-cost plastic sheets over the windows.

Source: Mn Dept. of Energy website, energy.gov



Keep your new pet safe around electricity



A new holiday puppy or kitten can put smiles on faces and provide years of fun and companionship if all involved are prepared and the pet has been planned for and well thought out. There are a variety of considerations to keep in mind – like supplies, veterinary appointments and schedules. Safe Electricity advises those thinking of adding a pet to their family to take the time to learn how to keep them safe from electricity in the home as well.

One important aspect of pet-proofing is making sure your curious new puppy or kitten does not think that electric cords or devices are chew toys.

- Keep electrical cords tucked away and out of sight. If you have difficulty getting your pet to stop chewing on the cord, you can paint it with a bitter tasting deterrent or enclose the cord in a PVC tube or thick plastic sleeve.
- Make sure nightlights and appliances are completely plugged into wall outlets. Partially exposed prongs are a hazard for curious children, puppies and kittens.
- Check cords for fraying and plugs for cracking; replace them if necessary.
- Keep appliances near sinks and bathtubs a safe distance away from the water source. Playful pets can knock radios, curling irons and other items into the water, creating a dangerous situation.
- Discourage cats and dogs from curling up for a nap behind warm computer equipment. Pets need to be kept away from all electrical connections.

If you believe your pet has come into contact with electricity, PetMD offers these instructions:

- Do not touch your pet if he/she is rigid, as you may also be shocked.
- Turn the power off if possible. If you cannot turn off the current, use a wooden broom handle (or other long, nonconductive object) to move the animal a good distance from the source of electricity and any pools of liquid.
- Check the pet's pulse and breathing, and give CPR and artificial respiration as needed.
- If the mouth has been burned, use cold compresses to limit the damage.
- Take your pet to the vet immediately.

Taking the time to make sure your home is safe for your new puppy or kitten will help ensure your new friend will be around to bring joy into your life for years to come. For more safety information go to SafeElectricity.org.

member connection

ENERGY TIP

Keep your light bulbs and shades clean. Dust accumulation can cut light output by as much as 25%.

SAFETY TIP

Never overload extension cords or wall outlets. Plugging too many appliances into a single outlet or extension cord can cause them to overheat, which could start a fire. Be mindful of how many appliances you're connecting to an extension cord.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go. They merely determine where you start."

– Nido Qubein

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan. 20 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Jan. 21 – Electric bill is due

*Looking ahead – April 4, 2020
80th Annual Meeting*

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Phone 218-463-1543

AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE NUMBER

Toll-free 1-888-847-8840
(main outage call center)

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

1-800-252-1166 or 811

PAY BY PHONE – 1-877-999-3412

SMARTHUB

<https://roseauelectric.smarthub.coop/>

WEBSITE

www.roseauelectric.com



LIKE US ON **FACEBOOK**
TO STAY UP TO DATE!

RIDE WITH CAUTION

BEWARE OF GUY WIRES

Watch for guy wires – the cables that anchor power poles. Electrical transformer boxes can also be hidden by snow. Driving at a safe speed will help you identify and avoid them before it's too late. If you see damaged electrical equipment, stay away and call us immediately.

New energy efficiency incentives for 2020!



PowerSavers business incentives for retrofit and new construction:

- LED lighting and controls
- HVAC and geothermal
- Chillers and refrigeration
- Food service equipment
- VFD motors

Additional incentives available through Value of Electricity!

Subject to demand response program and other new install criteria
\$1,200 max. per off-peak heat meter

- Electric resistance heating:
 - \$25 per kW
 - \$45 per kW (storage/slab heating system)
- Air-source heat pumps: \$150/ton
- Ground-source heat pumps: \$250/ton

Building a New Home?

Roseau Electric offers a **FREE electric water heater:**

- Large capacity: 80- or 100-gallon
- Must be on "off-peak" – under the daily cycled load group category
- Incentives are excluded from the free water heater program

All incentives, criteria and guidelines for resident and business members can be found at

www.roseauelectric.com

or by calling **888-847-8840**

Sample 2020 PowerSavers Residential Electric Incentives for Members <i>(Incentive shall not exceed 50 percent of project costs)</i>		
Equipment	Specifications	Incentive
LED Screw-in Bulb	40-60W equivalent incandescent. ENERGY STAR®-recommended.	50% of the purchase price up to \$2/bulb
LED Screw-in Bulb	65W or greater equivalent incandescent. ENERGY STAR-recommended.	50% of the purchase price up to \$4/bulb
LED Fixture	Complete fixture or replacement kit. ENERGY STAR-recommended.	50% of the purchase price up to \$4/fixture
LED Outdoor Fixture	Dusk to dawn operation required. DesignLights™ Consortium or ENERGY STAR-recommended.	50% of the purchase price up to \$10/fixture
Clothes Washer	Must be ENERGY STAR-approved.	\$25/unit
Clothes Dryer	Must be ENERGY STAR-approved.	\$25/unit
Refrigerator or Freezer	Must be ENERGY STAR-approved.	\$25/unit
Recycle old Refrigerator or Freezer	Recycling receipt required.	\$50/unit
Electric Water Heater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55-gallon or less • 80-85 gallon • 100 gallon or greater 	Must be on demand response program.	\$125/unit \$200/unit \$300/unit
Programmable Thermostat		50% of the purchase price up to \$25
ENERGY STAR Smart Thermostat	Wi-Fi connectivity required.	50% of the purchase price up to \$50
Tune-up for Central AC	Not valid on window AC units. Checklist on form must be completed with application.	\$25/unit
Tune-up for Air-Source Heat Pump or Mini-Split Ductless Air-Source Heat Pump	Checklist on form must be completed with application.	\$25/unit
Supplemental Heating Source Air-source Heat Pump	Must modulate to allow ENERGY STAR-rated Air-Source Heat Pump to operate down to 5° F and be on load control.	\$500/unit
Air-source Heat Pump or Mini-Split/Ductless ASHP	Less than 17 SEER Equal to or greater than 17 SEER	\$300/ton \$500/ton
Furnace (Air Handler) with ECM Blower	Furnace with an ECM Blower Retrofit applications only	\$100/unit
Ground-source Heat Pump Open Loop less than 135,000 BTUH @ 59° F	16.2 EER/3.6 COP Maximum incentive \$2,500/home	\$200/ton
Ground-source Heat Pump Closed Loop less than 135,000 BTUH @ 77° F	14.1 EER/3.3 COP Maximum incentive \$5,000/home	\$400/ton

Insulation and air sealing incentives for existing homes are available. See Roseau Electric for details.