



A New Look to Your Statement

You may have noticed your monthly statement looks a little different, that's because Wild Rice Electric has changed to a new billing format. The fresh new look provides annual usage information for the member as a tool to help you better manage your energy use.

WILD RICE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.
Your Tasteless Energy® Cooperative

502 NORTH MAIN • PO BOX 438
MAHNOMEN, MN 56557
1-800-244-5709 • FAX: 218-935-2519
To Make a Payment: 1-833-250-4481
To Report an Outage: 1-800-244-5709

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Account	Statement Date	Notes	Amount Due	Due Date
1 123456	November 30, 2020	2 Paid By Bank	3 335.00	4 December 12, 2020

Important News

5 A REMINDER TO OUR OFF PEAK CONSUMERS: CHECK YOUR HEATING SYSTEMS TO BE SURE YOUR BACK-UP IS WORKING PROPERLY. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

JIMMY KILOWATT
22222 99TH ST S
ANY TOWN MN 56555

Temperature

Usage History

Description	Previous Reading	Current Reading	Multiplier	Days/Usage	Charge
ELECTRIC					
OP Meter # 146111111	10/18/20	11/18/20		31	6
Kwh charge	24188	25579		1391	73.72
1,391 KWH @ .053	73.72				
Minnkota Surcharge					6.12
Meter # 146222222	10/18/20	11/18/20		31	7
Kwh charge	59049	62057		3008	187.57
1617 KWH @ .116	187.57				
Base Charge					40.50
Water Heater Credit					-5.00
Minnkota Surcharge					7.11
Security Light					8.75
Tax					15.83
Total for:	9 22222 99TH ST S	10 012 34 4			334.60
11 OPERATION ROUNDUP					.40
Total for Other Charges:					.40

Detach and return bottom portion with payment. Please DO NOT FOLD OR STAPLE

Detach and return this portion with your payment. Please DO NOT FOLD OR STAPLE - Thank You

Account #	Amount
123456	
Previous Balance	207.00
Payment(s) - Thank You	-207.00
Electric Charges	334.60
Other Charges	.40
Amount Due	335.00

Yes, I want to enroll in Auto Pay and have my payments automatically deducted from the account on my enclosed check. (Signature required on reverse)

Change of address
Check here if address has changed. See back of bill.

00001234560000335001

- 1. Your Account Number:** Please refer to this number when calling for any assistance.
- 2. Notes:** States if account is paid by bank or credit card we have set up on automatic payment.
- 3. Amount to pay each month:** This is the full amount including all current charges, adjustments, and unpaid previous charges.
- 4. Payment Due Date:** Your payment must be received in the office on or before the 12th day of each month to avoid a late penalty.
- 5. Co-op Message Box:** Special messages to you from the Co-op are entered here.
- 6. Off Peak meter billing calculations:** (if applicable) Detailed breakdown of the charges and kilowatt hour usage for the month on your off peak system.
- 7. Main meter billing calculations:** Detailed breakdown of the charges and kilowatt hour usage for the month, including your water heater credit (if applicable) and monthly facility charge.
- 8. Additional Services:** Any additional services you have are listed here.
- 9. Your Physical Address:** Each service is required to have a physical address. If the address listed here is either a PO Box or any address other than your service's actual physical address, please contact our office to update.
- 10. Your Service Coordinate:** Also known as your location number of your service.
- 11. Operation Round-Up (optional):** Designed to provide financial assistance to educational and charitable projects. Average donation of \$6- \$6.50 per year.

Ways to pay

IN-PERSON Our office, 502 N Main, Mahnomen or the drop box near the front door

PHONE Call toll free 1-833-250-4481

MAIL Send via the U.S. Postal Service PO BOX 438 Mahnomen, MN 56557

ONLINE Login and/ or download Wild Rice Coop app

AUTOMATIC Deduct from bank account or credit card each month enroll by calling 1-800-244-5709



STAFF COMMENTS

Director of Member Services
and Communications

AROUND THE CO-OP ...

by **Tommy Houdek**

Happy New Year!

Wild Rice Electric hopes that you and your family were able to enjoy this past holiday season. As we transition from one year to the next, a change you may have noticed is the look to our statements (cover page). We hope that you find the new look, which includes an annual usage recap, user-friendly and informational. For more information on understating your bill as well as payment options, please visit our website at www.wildriceelectric.com.

Stable warmth in unstable times

Cooperative energy planners predict an average winter season of demand response. Uncertainty has been the name of the game for much of 2020, but as we slip into the last few weeks of the year, Wild Rice Electric feels certain about one thing – your continued warmth and comfort throughout the winter.

The energy planners at Minnkota Power Cooperative (power provider for Wild Rice Electric) expect a standard season for members with electric heat on demand response (off-peak). The voluntary program allows the cooperative to temporarily interrupt service to a member's off-peak loads, like electric heating and large-capacity water heaters, in exchange for a lower electric rate. For technologies like air-source heat pumps and plenum heaters, the system automatically switches to a backup fuel source such as propane, so there is no break in comfort.

Todd Sailer, Minnkota senior manager of power supply and resource planning, says he expects the level of winter demand response to be comparable to the past 4-5 years – less than 100 hours. Members should always be prepared for up to 200-250 hours of management, but have historically encountered much less. Last winter, Minnkota only logged 10 hours of interruption due to mild weather and low wholesale energy prices.

"The only things that are really going to drive that up are a shift in the energy market, which is typically going to be weather related," Sailer explained. "If you get a polar vortex or a wind event where there's simply no wind during high loads, that's where

that number suddenly goes from 70 to 250 hours really quick."

Demand response doesn't just happen during extreme cold. A planned generator outage or extended lack of intermittent resources across the region can push the program into action. "When we see there's no wind in North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and those areas where there's often a lot of wind, that's when we start to see high markets, and that's when you'll see more demand response," Sailer said.

Although Minnkota expects a typical level of demand response this year, COVID-19 may change when it activates. When more people are working and learning from home, times of peak energy usage shift, which impacts the availability of excess resources to cover energy demand. "Instead of demand response from 7-9 a.m., it might be from 8-11 a.m.," Sailer said. "The load curve changes, so it might change how we actually implement our load management."

The demand response program began as a way to manage power during peak seasonal need without building additional generation resources – a costly solution for only a few days a year. But the electric heating technologies that have evolved within the program are helping our members enhance their comfort and safety, things we could all use a little more of in 2020. If you are not a participant in the program but are interested in how to save money with an all-season air-source heat pump, a cost-effective plenum heater or zero-maintenance underfloor storage heat, call our Member Service Department at Wild Rice Electric.

Annual Meeting of the Members

The Wild Rice Electric Cooperative Board of Directors has selected Thursday, March 18th, 2021 for the date of the Annual Meeting of the Members. Due to everchanging COVID guidelines, meeting options are being considered. The Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, January 13th, 2021 to nominate candidates for director positions. If you are interested in becoming a director, be sure to refer to the article "How to Become a Director" included in this publication.

Employee / Director Appreciation

Wild Rice Electric would like to take time to recognize its employees and directors within the Co-op as 2020 marks milestone achievements for those celebrating their years of service to our members with a combined amount of 125 years celebrated. The Cooperative would like to congratulate:

(45 years) Duane Gunerson – Director of Finance & Administration, (25 years) Mike Baukol – Plant Accountant, (15 years) Roger Winter – Director, District 2 (15 years) Nate Pazdernik – Power Quality Coordinator, (5 Years) Bobbi DuChamp – Member Service Assistant, (5 Years) April Jirik – Customer Account Representative, (5 Years) Glen Sommers – Lineman, (5 Years) Tommy Houdek – Director of Member Services & Communications, (5 Years) Luke Klostermeier – Lineman.



Gunerson



Baukol



Winter



Pazdernik



DuChamp



Jirik



Sommers



Houdek



Klostermeier

How to Become a Director

The grassroots participation in nominating and electing directors is one of the most important powers that you, the members, have in controlling your cooperative — Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.

This year the three-year terms of the following directors will expire at the 2021 Annual Meeting scheduled to be held Thursday, March 18th. They are: Larry Sol-lie, Lengby; Mark Habedank, Twin Valley; and Russell Okeson, Detroit Lakes.

To qualify as a director candidate you must:

- Be a member in good standing receiving electric service from Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Be only one, and not more than one, member of a joint membership.
- Have voting rights within the District from which the director is to be elected.
- Not be employed by, materially affiliated with, or have a material financial interest in any individual or entity which is either directly or substantially competing with the Cooperative, selling goods or services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative, or possess a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative.
- Not be an employee or not have been an employee of the Cooperative within the last three (3) years.
- Not be a close relative of an employee.
- If a representative or agent of a member is not a natural person, i.e. a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or similar, than 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.
- Never have been convicted of a felony.



- Agree to regularly attend all board, regular and special, member's meetings.

If you are interested in being considered for nomination or if you know a member whom you believe would be a qualified candidate, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

Wednesday, January 13th, 2021 at 11:00 a.m., the Nominating Committee will nominate candidates for the three director positions.

Any 15 or more members can make other director nominations in writing on or before Feb. 26, 2021. Director candidates may only be nominated by the committee on nominations or by petition. Voting will take place during the Annual Meeting. The director candidate receiving the highest vote for each District will serve on the Board of Directors until the end of their designated term.

The Nominating Committee for 2021 is as follows:

- **Mark Klinkhammer**, 40223 US Highway 59 SE, Winger, MN 56592. Phone: 218-938-4100.
- **Raymond Sundrud**, 35563 300th St SE, Fosston, MN 56542 Phone: 218-435-1029.
- **Michael Weik**, 14779 Cable Lake Rd SE, Mentor, MN 56736. Phone: 218-637-8250.
- **John Darco**, 2785 Brothers Point Rd, Waubun, MN 56589. Phone: 218-473-2776.
- **Karen Lefebvre**, 37175 County Rd 111, Waubun, MN 56589. Phone: 218-983-3128.
- **Benjamin Haugo**, 1049 310th ST, Waubun, MN 56589. Phone: 218-401-0409
- **Dwight Aakre**, 7612 290th St S Hawley MN, 56549. Phone: 218-937-5705.
- **Bradley Lindstrom**, 16912 County Hwy 1, Lake Park, MN 56554. Phone: 218-238-5734.
- **Richard Zurn**, 25472 Whiskey Creek Dr, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501. Phone: 218-847-8788.



Operation Round-Up aims to make a big difference with small change.

The program was designed to provide financial assistance to worthwhile projects and charities in our surrounding communities through charitable contributions from our members. The Operation Round-Up board met on Tuesday November 17 to review applications.

\$5,595 was approved to fund the following projects:

- **Agassiz Environmental Learning Center** (Educational Explorer Kits)
- **Center of Human Environment** (exercise equipment)
- **Polk County Sheriff's Mounted Posse** (solar power banks, radio chest harness vests, stabilizer leveling scissor jacks)
- **Polk Co Sheriff's K9 Unit** (add additional K9 Unit/training)
- **St Michaels School** (playground benches)
- **Five area Energy Assistance Agencies** (funds used for additional energy assistance)

Members of Operation Round-up Committee: Myles Bakken, Eloise Kettner, Deb Krogsgaard, Edna Nelson and David Tangen.

Ads

For Sale

Wood burning heater with gold plated. Glass door cost \$1,000 new, \$200 or best offer, also a used mobile home furnace make an offer good for shop or garage, a yard an snowblower \$200 or best offer. -218-563-3541 McIntosh Mn.

HAY FOR SALE: 2020 – 1st, 2nd, & 3rd CUTTING ALFALFA; No rain or weeds; Relative feed value 131; Protein 85; 5'x5' round bales; \$125/ton or \$95/bale; 218-766-8038.

Homemade wood splitter 18 HP – 2-cylinder Wisconsin Engine 4"x 24" cylinder. Starts easy, fast cycle, lots of power, can be towed, \$750 obo. Miller arc welder AC/DC 250-amp, \$150 obo, 701-866-1075.

Skid steer attachments, snow buckets, snow blades, scrappers, pallet forks, grapples, tree pullers, stump buckets, 701-261-3574.

Hay for Sale: 4x5 round hay bales with plastic twine. 1st, 2nd and 3rd crop. \$50.00 each. Phone (218) 850-1538.

Hay rings, \$100 ea, 218 945-6621.

Electric wire welder. Four: 325/60R20 pickup tires. Also 285/75 R16 pickup tires, 218-261-0971.

Snowblower new tires (as is). Circle saw arbor & belt. Firewood, 218-584-4603.

Old, old reins & straps for work/draft horses, 218-532-5595, make an offer.

4 P275/65 R18 Goodyear Wrangler tires take offs from F-150 pickup w/ 20,000 miles on them, \$200 obo, 218-849-8187

Baldwin piano in good condition, 36 inches in height. \$50 or best offer. 218-238-6178

Butcher hogs \$150 for whole \$75 for half, delivered to Ulen Locker January 15, 701-388-2747.

1st act acoustic guitar, \$20. Harmony 3/4 size, \$50, 701-293-1295.

4x4 round bales of grass- alf mixed hat, 2nd & 3rd cuttings, 218-935-2471.

1993 F250 4x4 club cab 250,000 miles, \$1,500, 218-280-4848.

Alfalfa orchard grass hay 5x5 large round bales stored inside, 218-596-8383 or 218-227-9034, Ulen.

Lg suitcase like new, carry on & 2 small cosmetic cases. 5 gal crock, 218-935-1044.

Trap - Dave Genz- Voyager Ice fishing house- includes a strik master Ice Auger, propane heater, tip up & lantern, would like \$300, 218-847-2370.

13-9-36 rear tractor tires mounted on JD rims, \$200. Industrial propane shop heater 75-125 BTU, \$100, 218-849-2922.

Lg triple china hutch/ lighted display, lg TV center/wardrobe w/ lots of storage. Overstuffed loveseat/ 2 dec pillows, \$100. 4 counter/bar stools, \$50 ea. 3 bar stools \$45 ea. Antique wood high chair, \$50, 218-532-7359, lv message.

1972 Arctic Cat 292 Lynx, nice condition \$475. Engine parts for 250 El Tigre, \$250. Polaris 340 fan engine \$175. Girls ice skates size 2, \$25, size 12-13, \$10 pair, 218-473-2461, lv message.

Wanted

Person selling old silver dollars in last month's Rural DeLight please call 218-850-8133.

Someone to get my snowmobile running & tire changer, 218-584-4603.

Camper, light weight and good condition, 218-238-6178.

Piano or button accordin pay cash, 701-293-1295.

Free

Two black adult roosters, 218-563-3454, McIntosh.

Hurd, vinyl, sliding patio door. You haul it's yours. 701-220-2810 or 701-663-1404.

Pickup or grain truck from 1940's-1950's w/ or w/out title, 218-280-9973.

What can you get for \$1?



96 hours of television on an LED TV

Your electricity is a bargain. Did you know you can watch 96 hours of movies on your LED TV using just \$1 of kilowatt power? That means the latest flick on your list could cost less than TWO CENTS to stream! Pop some more popcorn and enjoy your evening of inexpensive entertainment.

Our Ad Policy

- All ads must be 30 words or less.
- Ads will be abbreviated at the coop's discretion.
- No real estate or commercial ads will be accepted.
- Ads are published for members at no charge as space permits on a first-come, first served basis. Unpublished ads will not be carried over.
- Ads are due by the 10th of the month prior to publication.
- Members may submit only one ad per issue.
- Ads must be resubmitted to run an additional month.
- Ads must be typed or in clear readable print. Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.
- You can submit your ad by mail, email, fax or drop off in office. Phone ads will not be accepted.
- Fax ads to . . . 218-935-2519
- Email ads to . . . info@wildriceelectric.com
- Mail ads to . . . Wild Rice Electric P.O. Box 438 Mahnomon, MN 56557

YES, I want to help make a difference. Please sign me up for Operation Round-Up.

Name _____

Address _____

Account Number(s) _____

Signature _____ Today's date _____

Your donation to Operation Round Up® allows you as a member of Wild Rice Electric to help organizations like the ones listed. If you would like to help the Wild Rice Trust help others, please submit the sign up form. If you have any questions please contact Wild Rice Electric at 1-800-244-5709.

Cold Weather rule

216B.097 COLD WEATHER RULE; CO-OPERATIVE OR MUNICIPAL UTILITY Subdivision 1. Application; notice residential customer. (a) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all the following conditions are met:

(1) The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. A municipal utility or cooperative electric association utility may (i) verify income on forms it provides or (ii) obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements of the clause if the customer receives any form of public assistance, including energy assistance, that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income.

(2) A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.

(3) A customer receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

(b) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must, between August 15 and October 15 of each year, notify all residential customers of the provisions of this section.

Subdivision 2. Notice to residential customer facing disconnection. Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15, a municipal utility or cooperative electric association must provide the following information to a customer:

- (1) a notice of proposed disconnection;
- (2) a statement explaining the customer's rights and responsibilities;
- (3) a list of local energy assistance providers;

(4) forms on which to declare inability to pay; and

(5) a statement explaining available time payment plans and other opportunities to secure continued utility service.

Subdivision 3. Restrictions if disconnection necessary. (a) If a residential customer must be involuntarily disconnected between October 15 and April 15 for failure to comply with subdivision 1, the disconnection must not occur;

(1) on a Friday, unless the customer declines to enter into a payment agreement offered that day in person or via personal contact by telephone by a municipal utility or cooperative electric association;

(2) on a weekend, holiday, or the day before a holiday;

(3) when utility offices are closed; or
 (4) after the close of business on a day when disconnection is permitted, unless a field representative of a municipal utility or cooperative electric association who is authorized to enter into a payment agreement, accept payment, and continue service, offers a payment agreement to the customer.

Further the disconnection must not occur until at least 20 days after the notice required in subdivision 2 has been mailed to the customer or 15 days after the notice has been personally delivered to the customer.

(b) If a customer does not respond to a disconnection notice, the customer must not be disconnected until the utility investigates whether the residential unit is actually occupied. If the unit is found to be occupied, the utility must immediately inform the occupant of the provisions of this section. If the unit is unoccupied, the utility must give seven days' written notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before making a disconnection.

(c) If, prior to disconnection, a customer appeals a notice of involuntary disconnection, as provided by the utility's established appeal procedure, the utility must not disconnect until the appeal is resolved.

2021 Maximum Energy Assistance Program Income Guidelines

EAP eligibility is based on the three most recent months of income.

Household size	Three Month Maximum	Annual Income
1	\$7,066	\$28,266
2	\$9,240	\$36,963
3	\$11,415	\$45,660
4	\$13,589	\$54,357
5	\$15,763	\$63,054
6	\$17,937	\$71,751
7	\$18,345	\$73,382
8	\$18,753	\$75,013

Energy Assistance Programs

Becker or Mahnomen County
Mahube Community Council
 PO Box 747
 Detroit Lakes, MN 56502
 218-847-1385

Mahube Community Council
 PO Box 76
 Mahnomen, MN 56557
 218-935-5022

Energy Assistance Program
 3303 US Hwy 59
 Waubun, MN 56589
 218-473-2711

Becker County Social Services
 712 Minnesota Ave
 Detroit Lakes MN 56501
 218-847-5628

Mahnomen County Social Services
 311 North Main
 PO Box 460
 Mahnomen, MN 56557

218-935-2568

White Earth Nation Financial Services
 PO Box 100
 Naytahwaush, MN 56566
 218-935-2359

Clay County
West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc.
 411 Industria Park Blvd.
 Elbow Lake, MN 56531
 800-492-4805/ 218-685-4486

Clay County Social Services
 715 11th St No, Suite 502
 Moorhead, MN 56560
 218-299-5200/ 800-757-3880

Clearwater County
Clearwater Social Services
 216 Park Ave NW
 Bagley, MN 56621
 218-694-6164/ 800-245-6064

Polk County
Inter County Community Council
 PO Box 189
 Oklee, MN 56742
 218-796-5144/ 888-778-4008
Polk County Social Services
 612 N Broadway, RM 302
 Crookston, MN 56716
 218-281-3127

W. Polk County or Norman County
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council
 612 N Broadway
 PO BOX 607
 Crookston, MN 56716
 218-281-3127/ 877-2813127
Norman County Social Services
 15 2nd Ave E
 Ada, MN 56510
 218-784-5400

Heating Sales Tax Exemption

With the start of another heating season, we would like to remind our residential consumers who have electric heat as their primary heating system, that a portion or all of their electric can be exempt from Minnesota sales tax from November through April.

Do you Qualify?
 Referencing MN Sales Tax Fact Sheet 157

Portions of the sales tax law, which exempts tax from the sale of residential heating fuels, are listed as follows:

- If you have one meter and your primary source of heat is measured through that meter then all the electricity measured through that meter is not taxable during the winter heating months.
 - If you have an off-peak meter in place that is used solely or primarily to measure heat, then the power going through that meter is exempt from the sales tax.
- Electricity measured by the main meter—for lights, appliances, the barn, etc.—is not tax exempt.

- When electricity is exempt as a heating fuel all other electricity used through the same meter is also exempt for the six (6) month period.
- A summer home or cabin is considered a residence.

Primary source: Is the source that supplies more heat than any other source for the longest period of time during the heating season.

Residential Consumer for heating includes: apartments, condominiums, correctional facilities, duplexes, fraternity or sorority houses, garages-residential (attached or unattached), intermediate care facilities, lake cabins, mobile home, nursing home, rooming houses, single family homes and town houses.

Utilities supplied for residential heating during construction are not taxable.

Residential use does not include use in travel trailers, motor home or other recreational vehicles.

Heating Sales Tax Exemption Certificate

I _____ Name _____ Account number _____
 I hereby verify that I use 50 percent or more electricity for heating purposes and request that Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. deduct the 6.875 percent sales tax for those months that are exempt.

Consumers' Signature _____ Date _____



Rural Delight (ISSN 0194 505X)

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Phone: 1-800-244-5709.

Wild Rice Electric Co-op, Inc.

*This Institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

Phone: Serving you 24 hours
a day: 800-244-5709

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
Monday- Friday

Website:
www.wildriceelectric.com

Pay bill 24 hours/ 7 days
a week: 833-250-4481

Also download the Wild Rice Coop
app for free at your App Store
of choice, to monitor usage,
pay your bill and more.

Directors:
Randy Bjornson, Mark Habedank,
David Hamre, Jim Kaiser, Greg
LaVoy, Jeff Nornes, Russ Okeson,
Larry Sollie and Roger Winter.

What is the right-of-way (ROW)?

To understand why we do what we do, you first need to understand what it is we are talking about. An electric or power line right-of-way (ROW) corridor is a strip of land that an electric utility uses to construct, maintain, repair or replace power lines. The ROW allows the utility to provide clearance from trees and other things that could interfere with installation, maintenance and operation. Wild Rice Electric requires a 20-foot clearance on each side of our power line.

