



September 2021 • Volume 81 • Issue 9
 News from Wild Rice Electric Co-op, Inc.
 PO Box 438 • Mahanomen, MN 56557
www.wildriceelectric.com

Value of Electricity?

Electricity is essential to our everyday lives. It has become so reliable that we rarely think about it. Electricity heats and cools our homes, cooks our food, cleans our clothes, and keeps our lights on. It powers computers, smart-phones and technologies that are changing the way you connect with the world.

Wild Rice Electric works hard to ensure it's there for you – each and every day.



Reliable

Your electricity is on almost all the time. You knew that. But you might not know about the dedication, ingenuity and diverse resources that make that level of reliability possible.

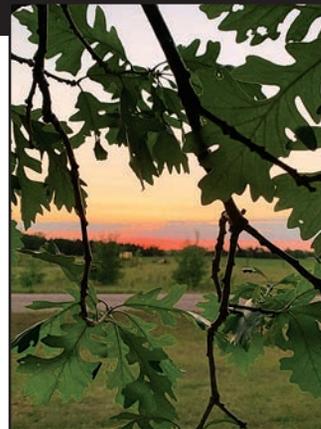
Wild Rice Electric works hard so the lights turn on – and stay on – in your home each morning. So schools and businesses can thrive. So the modern conveniences we take for granted are there – without a second thought.



Affordable

While the cost of most goods and services has increased significantly over the years, electricity remains a relative bargain. You may be surprised by the value you receive for your energy dollar.

The average homeowner uses about \$5 of electricity per day. That is less than the cost of a fast-food meal to keep your lights on, your home at a comfortable temperature, your food fresh and your devices running. Think of electricity as an employee you're paying pennies an hour to cook your food, wash your clothes and clean your dishes.



Environment

Wild Rice Electric and other cooperatives and municipals associated with Minnkota Power Cooperative are committed to environmental stewardship. They take pride in keeping our water, air and land in pristine condition for future generations.

Together, the Minnkota Power Systems meet or exceed all current environmental requirements and remain focused on operating their power plants, transmission lines and substations in a way that is environmentally responsible.



Local Control

Local control is one of the greatest benefits of receiving electric service from Wild Rice Electric. It means that your utility knows you and has deep roots in your community.

Wild Rice Electric is governed locally by its members. Decisions are made in the best interest of the consumer — not far-away investors.

Source: valueofelectricity.com



STAFF COMMENTS

Director of Member Services
and Communications

AROUND THE CO-OP ...

by Tommy Houdek

What do you know about load control?

It's hard to think about keeping warm following a summer where the heat was a bit unforgiving, but we can't deny that soon we will be turning up our thermostats for comfort and warmth in the months ahead. This is a great time to consider transitioning your electric heat to an off-peak program. For many of us, thinking about our electricity only goes about as deep as expecting the light to come on when we flip the switch. There is really a lot that goes into it though, and there are hundreds of dedicated professionals working to ensure that the lights do indeed come on and that electricity remains a great value.

One method used to ensure reliable and affordable electricity is load control. Referred to by a handful of names such as off-peak, load management, and demand response, load control refers to a utility's ability to intentionally reduce the amount of electricity being used by consumers for a brief period of time. This is important because when demand for energy exceeds a utility's

available supply, the utility must resort to purchasing additional energy on the market. Energy market costs tend to vary widely and have the potential to be very expensive. It is in situations like these that utilities, such as Minnkota Power Cooperative, the power supplier for Wild Rice Electric, use load control to reduce energy demand and keep member costs stable.

Wild Rice Electric members participate in load control on a voluntary basis. Members may opt-in various electric loads in their homes or businesses, such as general heating, water heating, and electric vehicle charging for load control. Minnkota Power will then have the ability to remotely shut off power to the designated load during times of high energy demand. In exchange, the member receives a discounted electric rate for that load, known as the off-peak rate.

In addition to receiving the off-peak rate, members may qualify for one-time rebates for installing new equipment and enrolling it in load control. Click

on the Rebates icon on our website at www.wildriceelectric.com to view a number of energy efficiency incentives for your home or business.

Load control may be used for a variety of reasons, but the most common include extreme temperatures, such as sub-zero winter days, and power plant outages. During extreme temperatures, demand for energy will be high as members heat or cool their homes. During power plant outages, energy supply may be limited as workers perform maintenance or repairs on equipment at the power plant. Regardless of the reason, load control is just one example of how cooperatives like Minnkota Power and Wild Rice Electric work together to maintain affordable and reliable electricity for their members.

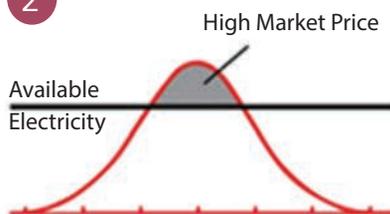
I invite you to contact our Member Service Department today where we are happy to assist you in finding an off-peak program that works for you and your family. Call 800-244-5709 today and learn how to start saving.

1



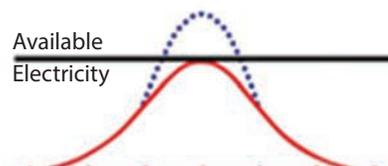
Home uses electric heat at lower off-peak rate under normal conditions.

2



Electricity demand exceeds current power supply and economical energy purchases are not available.

3



Load control is used to avoid uneconomical energy purchases and maintain system reliability.

4



Home is automatically switched from electric to backup heating source. No change in comfort should be noticed between the two systems

Highlights from the Board Room:

Wild Rice Electric's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on June 29, 2021, at the Wild Rice Electric headquarters. During the meeting, the following items were discussed: agenda and goals for the upcoming Strategic Planning Session; Information Systems Coordinator open position; MREA safety services and training; auditor RFPs; Carr's Tree Service board meeting report; overview of a collaborative meeting held with White Earth Tribal departments and Carr's Tree Service; and CFC annual meeting report.

A quorum of directors was present, and the following actions were taken:

- **Accepted** Consent agenda reports as presented by department managers including financials, member services/load management, safety/operations; and director compensation as presented;
- **Approved** the submittal of IRS Form 990 as prepared by Eide Bailly LLP;
- **Approved** Schedule of Non-reoccurring Charges;
- **Approved** contribution to the CFC Integrity Fund;
- **Accepted** Minnkota & Square Butte joint meeting report and Minnkota Board meeting report as presented;
- **Accepted** MREA board meeting report as presented.

The September meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021.



Tips for a Safe Harvest

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous — even deadly — when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 immediately and remain

inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.

- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

September 19-25 is National Farm Health and Safety Week but practicing safety on the farm

year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips.



Wild Rice Electric

has now joined Facebook.

Our page was created to share information about electrical safety, major outage updates, cooperative events and more. You may like and follow our page which can be found by searching 'Wild Rice Electric Cooperative'.

— National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Ads

For Sale

Fiberglas topper off a 2005 Nissan Titan pickup. Like new, asking \$450 OBO, can send pics, 218-687-5118, Erskine area.

Jenkins skid steer attachments grapple/ skeletal buckets, dirt/ snow buckets new & used, receiver hitches, lots more, 701-261-3574.

2013 Cadillac XTS 72,100 miles V-6 keyless start excellent good gas mileage 218-902-0329 call /text.

AMC Jeep V-8 engine 360 1971-1990. Antique John Deere 3 bottom plow. Steel metal rack made from 1 1/2" pipe, 6 ft high, 5 ft long, 4 ft wide, 701-740-9906.

2005 Ford pickup, V8, automatic, half-ton, 4X4, cab & half, 145,000 mi. \$5,000 bo, 763-242-5838.

Alumacraft Trophy 180 Fish/Ski boat, Yamaha V-Max 150hp 2-stroke motor, Karavan trailer. Minn-Kota 24volt, foot control bow mount trolling motor, Lowrance Hook-5 fish finder. Also 3000# aluminum lift w/ canopy, 218-584-8160, cell 701-306-2894.

Green house glass 8 each / 29"x 49" & 65" long. Huge tool sale & lots of other stuff. Fans, refer, plastic tubs, crock pots, antiques. Truck snow-blower, semi truck, 841-0992.

Craftsman 9" band saw; DeWalt 10" table saw; Performax radial arm saw w/ laser & work light, Bosch router -1hp, 218-687-3407.

MF 750 combine always shedded hydro. John Deere 7720 RWA combine. 1984 Chevy 3/4 ton 4x4 pick up w/ Summers Sprayer. 701-866-0093 or 218-261-0971.

Used 3 pt wood splitter, best off 25 used treated fence post, good, \$3 a piece, 218-945-6584.

AlumnCraft Lunker V-16 LTF powered by 4 stroke Yamaha, kept in shop, 410-259-9755.

Spring tooth International 18 ft wide, 16 ft disc International both in good shape, 218-556-8111.

Crossbred meat rabbits. Both male & female, \$15 ea. Text only 218-849-3954.

Birch firewood. Sliding 5th wheel hitch 15000 lb \$325, 218-847-8892.

Circle saw arbor & blocked firewood, 584-4603.

2'x4' coffee table black iron base, wood top \$30. 6'x4' dining table \$100, best offer 701-799-8515.

1st act acoustic guitar, \$20. Fender full sz acoustic guitar w/case, \$165. JB player full sz acoustic guitar no caseh, \$75, Takamine full sz acoustic guitar w/ custom fur lined case, \$200, 701-293-1295 take guns in trade, pay diff in cash.

1996 Buick Park Ave 164K miles, originally ND car, good tires, \$2,575. 445 John Deere lawn mower, 880 hr, 54" deck, \$4,250, 218-356-8626.

Two tires 235-60R17- Coopers, \$50. Lincoln wire welder, \$155. Flex corded w/ new gun, \$300 BO. 4x8 tilted-bed trailer, \$250. 031 Stihl chainsaw very clean, \$150. Charily drive motor, \$50. Fishing buddy portable depth finder, #1200, \$100 days, 218-935-5110.

Spitfire Scout 4 Extended Range scooter by Drive Medical. Used very little, 218-483-4203.

Band dual sz 16.9-34 w/ hardware. Hardware stored inside, \$75. 1/4" plywood 2ftx8ft about 15 sheets. Remington electric type writer, \$10, 218-596-8383 or 218-227-9034.

Old & new steel post, new barb wire. 2003 Ford van, Windstar, 133,000 mi, new battery, like new tires, great shape. Roto tiller mowers rider & push. Call in evening, 218-494-3462.

Wanted

18"x36" crank out "low E" glass case-ment window, 218-281-5748, lv mess.

Upright freezer, 218-983-3758, lv mess.

Pair of trailer tires (6.0x16) or narrow equivalent, 218-234-3139/847-3198.

Mini rex rabbits, lionhead rabbits & holland lop rabbits, text what you have 218-849-3954.

Tire change, 584-4603.

Free

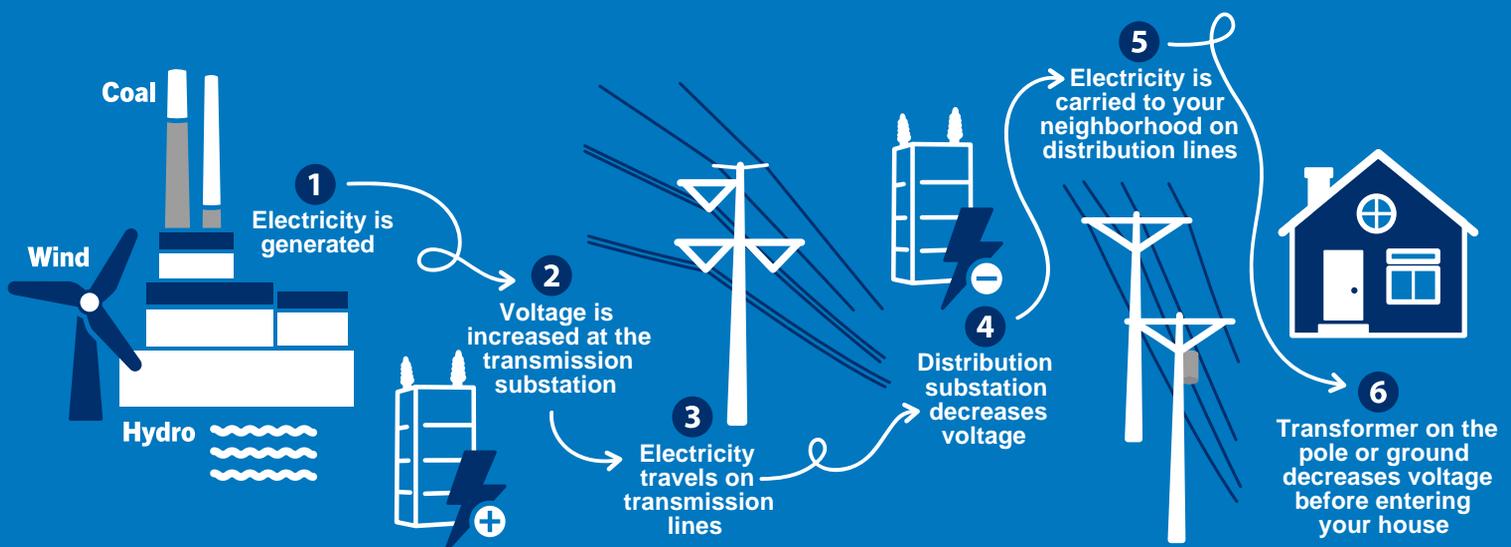
A light-colored piano & bench works well but sounding board cracked. Good for beginning player or repurposing as entertainment center, etc., Fosston, 218-563-3454.

Kittens to good homes. Mothers are good mousers, the kids are in training & I've seen them bring it in! Born in May & friendly. Text 218-841-1267

Our Ad Policy

- 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.
- 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

HOW ELECTRICITY GETS TO YOUR HOME



216B.097 COLD WEATHER RULE: COOPERATIVE OR MUNICIPAL UTILITY

Subdivision 1. Application; notice to 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 1 and April 30 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 for the local energy assistance provider. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements of this 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 that 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 cooperative electric association must, between August 15 and October 1 each year, notify, all residential customers of the provisions of this section.

Subdivision 2. Notice to residential customer facing disconnection. (a) Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the period between October 1 and April 30, 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 continue utility service.

(b) At the same time that notice is given under paragraph (a), the utility must also give written or electronic notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider and the department.

Subdivision 3. Restriction if disconnection necessary

(a) If a residential customer must be involuntarily disconnected remotely using advanced metering infrastructure or physically at the property being disconnected between October 1 and April 30 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 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 30 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) The customer must not be disconnected until the utility attempts to confirm whether the residential unit is actually occupied which the utility may accomplish by:

- (1) Visiting the residential unit; or
- (2) Examining energy usage data obtained through advanced metering infrastructure to determine whether there is energy usage over at least a 24-hour period that indicates occupancy
- (c) A utility may not disconnect a residential customer who is compliance with section 216B.098 subdivision 5.
- (d) 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.
- (e) For the purposes of this section, "advanced metering infrastructure" means an integrated system of smart meters, communication networks and data management systems that enables two-way communication between a utility and its customers.

Energy Assistance Programs

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

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
 844-282-6580/ 218-935-2359

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

Polk County
Inter County Community Council
 PO Box 189
 Oklee, MN 56742

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
 102 N Broadway
 PO BOX 607
 Crookston, MN 56716
 218-281-5832/ 800-584-7020

Norman County Social Services
 15 2nd Ave E
 Ada, MN 56510
 218-784-5400/ 833-543-1964

Minnesota Sales Tax Exemption for Electric Heating

Electricity sold for residential use is not taxable for the billing months of November through April when sold to members who use it as their primary source of residential heat. If more than one type of heat is used, the electricity is not taxable if it is the primary source of heat (supplies more heat than any other source for the largest period of time during the heating season).

If the primary source of residential heat is electricity and there is only one meter for that utility then all electricity measured through that meter is not taxable during

the winter heating months. **Reference MN Sales Tax Fact Sheet 157.** Questions about this law can be directed to the Corporate & Sales Tax Division at 651-296-6181 or by visiting their Website at www.taxes.state.mn.us. Residential customers, for the purpose of heating fuels include: Apartments, Condominiums, Correctional facilities, Duplexes, Fraternity or sorority houses, Garages-residential (attached or unattached), Intermediate care facilities, Lake cabins, Mobile homes, Nursing homes, Rooming house, Single family homes, Town houses.

My signature below certifies that I meet all requirements outlined on MN Sales Tax Fact Sheet 157 and I am exempt from Minnesota Sales Tax on my electric bill.

If I fail to meet these requirements in the future, I understand that it is my responsibility to notify Wild Rice Electric of such change to avoid being in violation of State Law.

Name Account number

Consumers' Signature Date



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Phone: 1-800-244-5709.

Wild Rice Electric would like to thank all our members who participated in our recent Member Satisfaction Survey. Your input is a critical component for strategic planning in response to your energy needs.

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
Hadedank, David Hamre,
Jim Kaiser, Greg LaVoy, Jeff
Nornes, Russ Okeson, Larry
Sollie and Roger Winter.



Congratulations to the following Member Accounts as their lucky
account numbers were drawn to each receive a \$50 Bill Credit:

740270 • 693809 • 458222 • 610826 • 128009

*To see if your account number was a lucky winner, please refer to your account number listed
in the upper left-hand corner of your Wild Rice Electric invoice.