

# VOLTS & VIEWS



## Active off-peak load control season expected

Last winter, a polar vortex event sent energy market prices soaring. Fewer resources across the country were able to generate electricity in the historic cold, and demand was high for the few resources that were generating enough to sell into the electric grid.

Utilities are experiencing those high market prices again – but it's not because of a single major weather event this time. It's the climbing cost of natural gas.

“Natural gas is one of those resources that typically helps manage the variability in electricity generation, and we're seeing prices that are significantly higher than what we've seen in the past 10-15 years,” explained Todd Sailer, senior manager of power supply & resource planning for Minnkota (REC's wholesale power provider). “We're seeing prices double and triple what they were last year, or even over the last couple of years.”

While the energy markets soared for only 7-10 days in February 2021's polar vortex, Sailer says this volatility could last throughout the winter season, or longer. That's good insight for cooperative members on the demand response – or off-peak – program, which allows the co-op to temporarily interrupt

service to a participant's off-peak loads (electric heating, large-capacity water heaters, electric vehicle chargers, etc.) in exchange for a lower electric rate.

Minnkota's energy marketers are preparing for 200 hours of off-peak electric heating load control this winter, but Sailer says that could rise if natural gas prices continue to climb. He also notes that load control could be spread out over more days and not always coincide with major weather events.

“If we have days of low intermittent resources in the region, like wind power, the expectation is that the markets will respond and you'll see higher markets, which will result in more off-peak control,” he said.

Ultimately, the cooperative will deploy off-peak load control when it needs to protect itself from buying high-price energy from the market. This system was established years ago to avoid building more generation facilities for peak need that only arises a few days out of the year. That, in turn, keeps rates low for consumers. By being a part of the off-peak load control program, consumers can also take advantage of an even lower electric rate without any disruption in comfort.

# VOLTS & VIEWS

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**OUTAGE CALLS:**

Toll-Free 1-888-847-8840

## MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

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

Northwest Angle, Kittson, Marshall,  
Pennington and Roseau counties  
and parts of Beltrami County:

**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](http://dli.mn.gov) and go to the electrical page.

**Gopher State One Call**  
1-800-252-1166 or 811  
[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://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.*



# Roseau Electric Cooperative Knowledge Scholarship

Roseau Electric Cooperative will award five scholarships of \$500 each – one to each of the school districts in our service area. Just for taking the test and scoring more than 50%, you'll be entered into a \$50 cash award drawing. Most test answers will be included in the Cooperative Knowledge study material that Roseau Electric will provide for you.

## In order to qualify:

- ▶ The parent or guardian must be a member of Roseau Electric Cooperative
- ▶ Student must be a 2022 graduate
- ▶ Student must be actively enrolled in a postsecondary school
- ▶ Candidates must take a short test about the cooperative that provides electricity to your home
- ▶ Scholarship will be awarded to the highest-scoring candidate of those students scoring 75% or better

**Sign-up will take place through your local high school's guidance counselor or scholarship administrator.**

## From the line

Mike Millner, Line Superintendent



Justin Olson and Luke Holland loading fault locating equipment into the sleigh.



The fault that was located and repaired through the ice.

# From the line

Mike Millner, Line Superintendent



**W**e have really come a long way! Let's go back in time, like 78 years back. We had a terrible world war going on. We had 16.5 million men and women serving in our armed forces. (If I remember right, our history books never talked enough about what a significant role women played.) Of those serving, 405,399 died in battle and other causes. Here at home, we were called to do our duty by doing without. Supplies such as gasoline, butter, sugar and canned milk were rationed because they were needed to be diverted to the war effort.

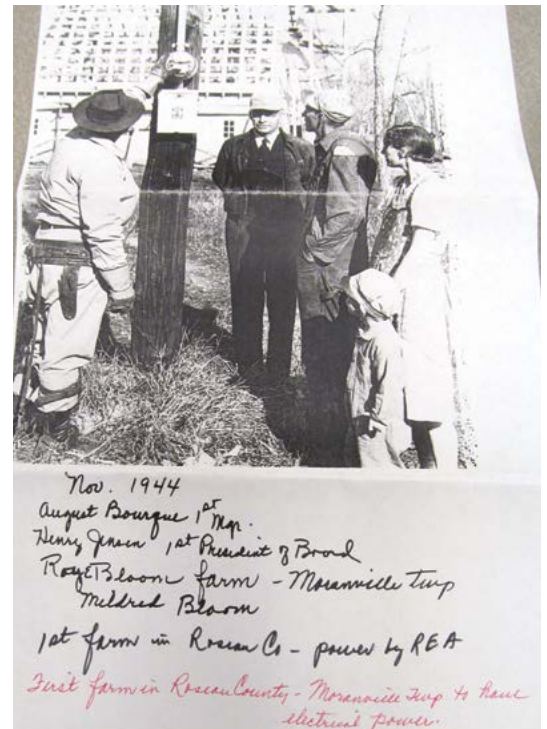
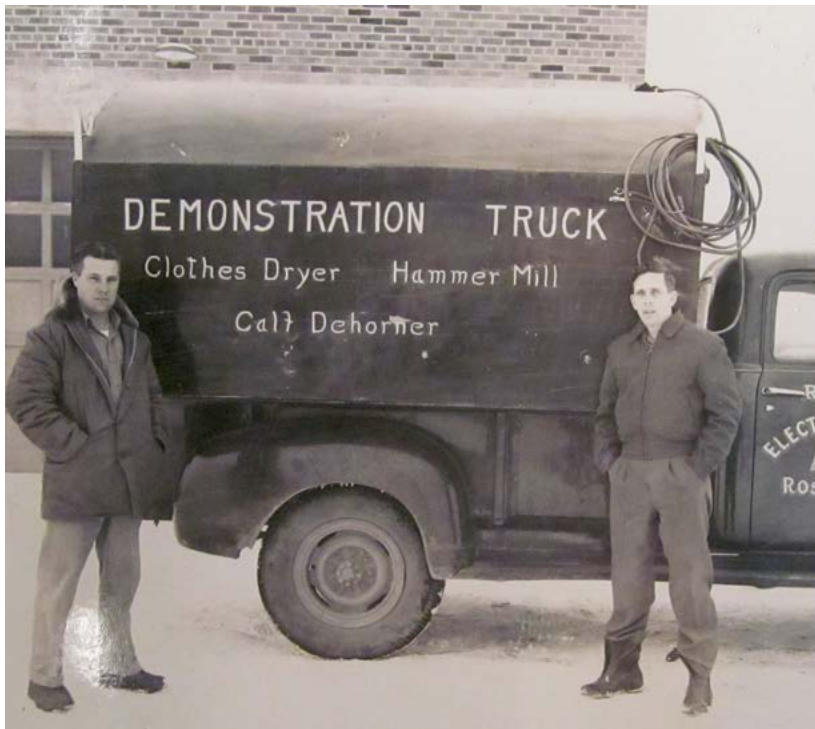
Roseau Electric Cooperative struggled to grow. Poles were dug by hand. The male labor force was hard to come by. Wire and copper were in short supply. Our first member to be energized was the Roy Bloom farm in

Moranville Township in November of 1944. What an exciting time for everyone! Electricity changed their lives overnight. Can you imagine just flipping a light switch to turn on a light bulb after many years of lighting an oil lamp? Our new cooperative had to educate potential customers about all the great uses of this new thing called electricity! Your cooperative is still doing that same thing today, but has added fiber to the home into the mix.

When a power outage occurs, it's usually not at a very convenient time. That very thing happened at the Northwest Angle in late November when safe ice conditions were at their worst. The ice had just started forming. It affected the east side of Oak Island, Little Oak Island, Kirk Island, Shady Island, Norman Island and Hay Island. It took us three separate

attempts to restore everything using airboats, a helicopter and snowmobiles. I have to say it was quite an adventure.

We are just starting a new year. Have you set any New Year's resolutions? I have. They are simply to spend more quality time with family and friends and spend very little time on the couch watching TV. When you hear the phrase, "Life is short", they aren't kidding. I know of several families going through some really hard times right now. My heart goes out to them and it makes me appreciate my blessings even more. I have a quote from Richard M. Nixon to leave you with: "If you take no risks, you will suffer no defeats. But if you take no risks, you win no victories." Until we meet again...Mike



# ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES

## Sample 2022 PowerSavers/Value of Electricity/REC Residential Electric Incentives for Members (Incentive shall not exceed 50% of project costs)

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 • 55 gallon or less • 56-99 gallon • 100 gallon or greater • Conversion from gas to electric	Must be on demand response program.	\$125/\$125/\$125/unit \$200/\$200/\$200/unit \$300/\$300/\$300/unit \$250/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 ASHP	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 demand response.	\$500/unit
Air-Source Heat Pump or Mini-Split/Ductless ASHP	Less than 17 SEER Equal to or greater than 17 SEER	\$300/\$150/\$50/ton \$500/\$150/\$50/ton
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/\$250/\$50/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/\$250/\$50/ton

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

**All incentives, criteria and guidelines for residential and business members can be found at [www.roseauelectric.com](http://www.roseauelectric.com) or by calling 888-847-8840.**

# The 5



# OF ENERGY

Your co-op remains focused as industry changes

The electric utility industry is in the midst one of the most challenging times in its history as new policies, technologies and consumer expectations are driving significant change. Roseau Electric Cooperative works closely with its wholesale power provider, Minnkota Power Cooperative, on a focused strategy that prioritizes the five Rs of energy: reliable, responsible, resilient, responsive and reasonable.

Complementing these core principles is a drive toward innovation, including carbon capture technologies, electric vehicle advancement and the addition of enhanced communication and outage reduction equipment on power delivery infrastructure.

No matter what the future holds, your cooperative is ready. This includes embracing the opportunity to reimagine how electricity is provided, while realizing a vision of greater dependability, strong security, increased environmental stewardship and affordability for consumers across the region. Explore the five Rs below and learn more about how your cooperative keeps quality service to you, its members, as its top priority.



## Reliable

24/7 reliability requires a focused strategy and long-term investments. The most reliable generation resource in your cooperative's energy portfolio is coal-based power because it has the ability to operate on a continuous basis. Power line infrastructure is also built and maintained to ensure reliable service can be maintained throughout the year.



## Responsible

Environmental responsibility is vitally important to your cooperative's energy strategy. About 42% of the electric generation capacity your cooperative receives is derived from carbon-free resources, like wind and hydro. Large-scale emission control technologies have been installed at power plants, while the implementation of carbon capture technology is also being thoroughly researched and evaluated.



## Resilient

Your cooperative works to ensure it has power generation, transmission and distribution resources that are resilient against weather extremes from a 100-degree heat wave to a 30-below-zero deep freeze. But resiliency doesn't stop at Mother Nature. Energy experts monitor the electric grid 24 hours a day to protect vital systems from hackers and other wrongdoers.



## Responsive

As circumstances change on the electric grid, your cooperative can use its highly successful demand response program to temporarily control off-peak heating, water heating and electric vehicle charging systems. This action protects cooperative members from volatile energy market pricing and increased costs. In exchange, cooperative members who volunteer for the program receive a discounted electric rate, which is typically half of the standard electric rate.



## Reasonable

Maintaining competitive electric rates is a key focus for your cooperative. While the cost of many goods and services have increased steadily over the years, electricity remains a relative bargain. The average homeowner uses about \$5 of electricity per day. That is less than the cost of a fast-food meal to power your life.



*Suffering from*  
**snow blower  
 rage!**

**GO ELECTRIC!**

**W**e all enjoy the vision of a blanket of white after a winter storm – but clearing your driveway and sidewalks can be downright aggravating. Whatever angers you most about snow removal, an electric snow blower is likely just the fix for your frustration.

**IT'S TOO LOUD!**

Do you find yourself waiting to clear your driveway in the morning because you're scared to wake the neighbors? Since electric snow blowers don't have rumbling machinery, your a.m. chore won't upset the family next door.

**I HATE THE SMELL!**

The scent of exhaust can linger on your coat, scarf and gloves for longer than you'd like, especially if you have somewhere to be right after snow blowing. Electric snow blowers don't emit exhaust or fumes, which is good for you and good for the environment.

**THE GAS IS A PAIN TO STORE!**

You not only have to worry about where and how to store your gas-powered snow blower's fuel and oil, but you also have to worry about what is sitting unused in the tank. With electric, you simply need an outlet to plug in or charge up.

**IT'S TOO BULKY!**

A lightweight electric blower or snow shovel is a perfect tool for clearing the narrow corners of your deck and even the delicate heights of your roof. Try that with your standard gas-powered machine.

**I CAN'T START THE THING!**

If you've never been a fan of unpredictable pull-cord ignition, an electric snow blower offers a super simple push button start that everyone in the family can use – and it works every time.

Check out your local hardware store to see all of the latest corded and battery-powered options. Models become more powerful every year, with some able to throw snow more than 35 feet or at 500 pounds per minute!

**Electric snow  
 tool types**

*Corded*



- Best for large areas
- Pack the most power

*Cordless*



- Highly mobile
- Great for small driveways & sidewalks

*Shovel*



- Simplest and most lightweight
- Handy for decks and roofs

*\* Images courtesy of Lowe's*



Rebates?  
**Check!**



Energy efficiency tips?  
**Got 'em!**



Smart gadgets?  
**You bet!**

Our lives become more electrified every day – and you have the power to harness the value of this clean, safe, 24/7 resource. Your cooperative's refreshed **Value of Electricity website** will show you all the ways you can use electricity more effectively to add convenience, intelligence and savings to your home.

**Visit the site for:**

- Rebates/incentives specific to your cooperative or municipal utility
- Advice for the most efficient use of energy in your home
- Steps to “go electric” in every area of your life
- Local, firsthand stories from those who have captured the Value of Electricity
- Benefits of installing electric heating, water heaters, car chargers and more!



**VALUE OF ELECTRICITY**

Check it all out at  
**valueofelectricity.com**

**member connection**

**ENERGY TIP**

Artificial lighting accounts for nearly 15% of a household's electricity consumption. Use of new lighting technologies can reduce lighting energy use in homes by 50%-75%. Reduce energy use by selecting lighting that uses energy more efficiently and by installing lighting controls.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**February 14**  
Valentine's Day

**February 21**  
Electric bill is due  
Presidents Day

**2022 Annual Meeting**  
Saturday, April 2, 2022

**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  
**nwcaa.org**

**Bi-County Cap, Inc.**  
6603 Bemidji Ave. N  
Bemidji, MN 56601-8669  
(218) 751-4631

**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](http://www.roseauelectric.com)**

**OPERATING STATISTICS**

	Monthly		Year to Date	
	Dec. 2020	Dec. 2021	Dec. 2020	Dec. 2021
Members	6,570	6,650	6,570	6,650
kWh purchased	16,441,969	16,928,402	157,055,868	148,559,311
% change		2.96%		-5.41%
Revenue	1,901,038	1,838,271	19,160,895	18,219,271
Cost of power	1,105,065	1,147,955	11,445,320	11,164,858
Other expenses	745,996	707,804	6,348,785	6,809,249
Operating margins	49,977	(17,488)	1,366,790	245,164
Nonoperating margins	(5,095)	(11,042)	130,296	180,426
Patronage dividends	123,446	285,860	148,706	464,914
Total margins	168,328	257,330	1,645,792	890,504



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

**@RoseauElectricCooperativeInc**



# GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE

**FEB. 28, 2022**

To be considered at the March 2022 meeting, grant applications must be received by **Feb. 28, 2022.**

Grant applications are available at the REC office or by visiting our website at **[www.roseauelectric.com](http://www.roseauelectric.com)**.