

JULY 2021

VOLTS & VIEWS

 **Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

NORTHSTREAM 
Powered by  **FIBER**



Summer storm season:
Protect your property
from power surges, page 3

VOLTS & VIEWS

JULY 2021 – Vol. 66, No. 7

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.

1107 3rd Street N.E.

The Volts & Views (USPS-663420) is published monthly by Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 100, Roseau, MN 56751. Periodicals postage paid at Roseau, MN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., P.O. Box 100, Roseau, MN 56751.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chairman Mark Sax
Vice Chairman Jim Hallan
Secretary-Treasurer Wes McFarlane
Directors . . . Roger Amundson, Brian Grafstrom
Shawn Gust, 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

Regular Business Hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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.)

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 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.



See you at the fair!

Tracey Stoll, General Manager

How did that first full day of summer hit you? I've taken to walking early in the morning in an attempt to offset some of the chair-sitting nature of my job, as well as to take in the wonder of it all – the sunrises, cloud formations (even spotted a rare-this-summer rainbow), birds, deer, skunks and other wildlife. The 38°F temperature along with a northwest wind ushering in the longest day of the year caused me to hide my hands in my sweatshirt and think about where the stocking caps are stored. Those morning walks and thinking time do wonders for me in working through what could become analysis paralysis when dreaming and forecasting through some of the future paths of your cooperative.

Our push to build out fiber continues, but what will the new federal infrastructure bill mean for future funding? Did you know we have a rate for electric vehicle charging? What will a higher adoption rate of such vehicles mean for future changes to our system for capacity and load growth? And as Jeremy's department keeps educating you on the latest air-source heat pumps (see page 4), what impacts will that eventually have due to reduced loads and, specifically, less off-peak kilowatts sold?

Let the questions come. The answers will follow. Your cooperative continues to be well-positioned to work out the puzzles (see page 6) of *reliability* as different electric uses get developed, while intermittent generation sources see an increase; *affordability* as the cost of service continues to increase; *sustainability* as our power-producer Minnkota

not only maintains a large portfolio of wind assets, but continues to explore carbon capture; *dependability* seen in everything from tree-trimming to guarding your customer data; and *adaptability* – from educating members on the latest heat sources and electric vehicle options, to providing the fiber internet connection needed to stay connected in today's world.

Last, but not least, I hope to see you at the fair! The Roseau County Fair serves as a nexus for the area, showcasing everything from art to livestock. Summer feels a lot more like summer when the fair rolls around, and it sure was missed last year! The conversations at our booth at the fair serve as an important point of contact with many of our members that don't usually take the step of picking up the phone, sending an email or visiting the office. Often, electricity use, being out of sight, is also out of mind, but given the visual point of contact at the fair, the relaxed atmosphere lends itself to discussions otherwise missed. I hope you take the time to stop by and visit our booth!



Powered by **Roseau Electric Cooperative**

Internet, TV and voice services
through the fastest and most reliable
network in the region.

218-463-1543 | 888-847-8840

www.roseauelectric.com

Email Stacy Rose at

srose@roseauelectric.com

Summer storm season

Despite the best efforts of Roseau Electric Cooperative and other utilities, outages, surges and low voltages can still occur for many reasons, especially lightning from summer storms.

Even though your cooperative has an up-to-date distribution system with preventative measures like lightning arresters placed throughout the system, equipment can fail and nature is unpredictable. In fact, a lightning bolt can push an estimated 10 to 100 million volts of electricity with an average current of 30,000 amps.

Please be aware that only in the case of negligence would Roseau Electric or any utility's insurance be liable to pay for damage to a member's property.

While surges and low voltage are rare, they can damage sensitive equipment. These types of events take many forms:

- Lightning strikes a power pole, sending a surge in voltage through the power lines.
- A vehicle hits a power pole, knocking down one phase on a three-phase feeder, causing low voltage.

If you ever do experience a surge or low voltage event, turn off and disconnect sensitive equipment as quickly as possible. Doing so is the best defense. Also, many types of surge protectors help protect electrical equipment against voltage fluctuations. Members can purchase whole-house surge protection from an electrician or protection for individual equipment like computers.

Surge protectors absorb some of the electric surge and divert the rest to ground. Look for UL-listed products.

Finally, uninterruptible power supply (UPS) systems are powered by batteries and provide time for the user to correctly save or shut off items they have on a computer. Some UPS systems provide protection against voltage sags or spikes for however long they are rated to work.

Acts of nature like lightning strikes are not covered by many insurance policies. It is always a good idea to check your homeowner's insurance policy to see what is covered and ask for advice on protecting sensitive electronic equipment.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES

Sample 2021 PowerSavers/Powerful Value/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 • 80-85 gallon • 100 gallon or greater • Conversion from gas to electric	Must be on demand response program.	\$125/\$125/\$100/unit \$200/\$200/\$300/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
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.

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

www.roseauelectric.com or by calling 888-847-8840



Air-source heat pumps

A smart choice for your heating and cooling needs

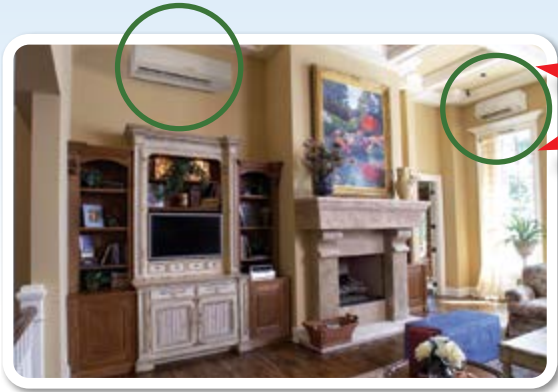
Looking for a way to heat and cool your home more efficiently? The one system that can do both is an air-source heat pump (ASHP).

By providing super-efficient home heating and air conditioning, an ASHP can help members save significantly on their energy bills. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, ASHPs reduce electricity use related to heating and cooling by up to 72%. Since heating and cooling account for more than half of the average home's energy usage, switching to an ASHP can make an immediate impact on home energy costs. And with a wide array of rebates available through Roseau Electric Cooperative, there has never been a better time to install a new system.

How do ASHPs work?

Unlike a furnace, an ASHP doesn't burn fuel to make heat. It efficiently uses electricity to move heat from one place to another. Think of an ASHP as a heat transporter constantly moving warm air from one place to another, to where it's needed or not needed, depending on the season.

An ASHP works exactly like a central air conditioner in the summer, transferring heat from the inside to the outside. In the winter, a reversing valve allows



See our
mini-split demo
at our
fair booth!

Mini-split heat pumps are popular for homes without existing ductwork. The indoor units are positioned high on the wall and come in a variety of designs to match your existing decor.

them to transfer heating from the outside to the inside of the home. Some ASHPs can provide heating in temperatures down to 0 degrees Fahrenheit. The result is that homeowners can run their furnaces less and get highly efficient and comfortable heating from the ASHP.

ASHPs can work in tandem with an existing furnace. The system will automatically select the most ideal balance between the two sources to maintain the most efficient heating combination based on your desired temperature. A qualified HVAC contractor can provide sizing and estimates based on your home or business.

What options do I have?

Standard

A standard ASHP is a self-contained unit that uses existing ductwork to both heat and cool. The system has two main components: an outdoor compressor unit and an indoor air handling unit. The two units are linked with refrigerant tubing and a connected electric supply wire.

Mini-split

A mini-split ASHP is an economical and efficient option for homes without an existing ducted system or when adding ductwork may be impractical or too expensive. Similar to a standard ASHP, an outdoor unit is placed outside your home and is connected to an indoor

unit by small cables and a refrigerant line. The indoor unit is typically mounted high on the wall of the room and can be preset to run automatically or be adjusted by a remote control.

Member benefits

Whether you're building a new home, remodeling an existing home, or simply buying a new appliance, your cooperative offers professional advice and a wide array of incentives to ensure you get the most for your energy dollar.

When considering a new ASHP, remember that Roseau Electric Cooperative offers incentives to help with the initial cost of the purchase. The incentive program has certain restrictions and requirements that must be met. Please contact the member services department at 463-1543 for more information.

RESIDENTIAL INCENTIVES FOR AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS

Up to 16 SEER:
incentive of \$500 per ton

17 SEER or greater:
incentive of \$700 per ton



Grant Application Deadline Aug. 31, 2021

Do you know of a nonprofit in our service territory that may benefit from financial help on a community-oriented project?

To be considered at the September 2021 meeting, grant applications must be received by **Aug. 31, 2021**. Grant applications are available at the REC office or by visiting our website at www.roseauelectric.com.

DIGGING SOON?



**ALWAYS CALL
BEFORE YOU DIG**

Visit www.call811.com for more information.

What can you get for \$1?



1,700 hours of smartphone charges

Electricity keeps the world at your fingertips, no matter your budget. Did you know it costs only \$1 to charge a smartphone for about 1,700 hours? That's a low price for endless social media posts, vacation searches and calls to your mom!



POWERING



Your Life With Ability

Our modern lives depend on electricity, yet we rarely ever notice it working in the background as we go about our day. Electricity heats and cools our homes, cooks our food, cleans our clothes, heats our water and keeps our lights on. It powers computers, TVs, smartphones and the other technologies that are changing the way we connect with the world.

It takes ability to power our local communities. And your cooperative works hard to ensure it's there for you by focusing on these five abilities.



RELIABILITY

Your cooperative supports an all-of-the-above energy strategy to meet the 24/7 demand for electricity. A diverse mix of coal, wind and hydro power resources work together to keep our member homes, farms, schools and businesses energized.



AFFORDABILITY

Your cooperative works hard to maintain competitive electric rates, while still providing the high level of service you've come to expect. While the cost of most goods and services has increased significantly 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.



SUSTAINABILITY

Your cooperative is committed to keeping our water, air and land in pristine condition for future generations. About 42% of the electric generation capacity your cooperative receives is derived from carbon-free resources. The implementation of carbon capture technologies is currently being evaluated, which would complement major investments that have already been made to reduce power plant emissions.



DEPENDABILITY

Cooperative employees work around the clock to respond to external forces that can impact electric grid operations. Protective measures are taken to prevent the impacts of extreme weather events, cybersecurity risks and other threats to power generation and delivery systems.



ADAPTABILITY

Demand response programs are a true win-win for you and your cooperative. These programs, which allow for temporary control of off-peak loads, help shield cooperative members from high market prices and increased costs, similar to what was experienced in Texas this past winter. In exchange, cooperative members receive a discounted electric rate.



Attention Roseau Electric members: *Important Billing Matter*

OFF-PEAK METER CHANGEOUT

Roseau Electric is upgrading the Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) system due to a software end-of-life announcement from the meter manufacturer. Roseau Electric will not be able to receive readings from the off-peak heat meter unless this meter is updated.

***If you have not contacted Roseau Electric,
please call REC at 1-218-463-1543
to schedule your meter changeout
to continue receiving the off-peak credit.***

***Heat meters in the Northwest Angle
do not need to be changed.***

OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Yearly	
	May 2020	May 2021	May 2020	May 2021
Members	6,528	6,553	6,528	6,553
kWh purchased	10,329,685	9,454,523	70,394,218	67,353,279
% change		-8.47%		-4.32%
Revenue	1,374,416	1,245,353	8,298,619	7,947,759
Cost of power	822,128	797,629	5,023,484	4,872,418
Other expenses	444,188	478,499	2,550,767	2,680,006
Operating margins	108,100	(30,775)	724,368	395,335
Nonoperating margins	17,074	20,021	70,293	80,669
Patronage dividends	-	-	-	179,055
Total margins	125,174	(10,754)	794,661	655,059

member connection

ENERGY TIP

During the summer months, run large appliances that emit heat like clothes dryers and dishwashers during the evening when it's cooler. This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.



DATES TO REMEMBER

July 21 – Electric bill is due



Roseau County Fair July 18-23

Stop by our booth starting the evening of July 20.
roseaucountyfair.com

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!

IT'S
FAIR TIME

IN ROSEAU COUNTY!

July 18-23

Visit us at our booth
at the fair starting

Tuesday, July 20!

Sign up for door prizes
and receive a free gift.

See you there!

For complete event details,
premium lists and schedules,
visit roseaucountyfair.com

