

AUGUST 2021

VOLTS & VIEWS



Operation Round Up

People doing together what can't be done individually

Operation Round Up is a charitable program that is designed to give co-op members a means of working together to use their small change to make a big impact in their local communities. Operation Round Up is just what its name implies. Each month, REC “rounds up” the electric bills of participating members to the next highest dollar, with the additional cents going into the Roseau Electric Cooperative Trust, Inc. The Trust Board of Directors, made up of nine volunteers from our community, meets twice a year to review applications and award grants.

Do you know of a nonprofit organization in our service territory that would benefit from some 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.

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program with roughly 91% of the 5,233 members participating. Since the program started in 2013, over \$200,000 has been distributed to organizations throughout the REC service area. Our sincerest thanks for your participation in this program!



VOLTS & VIEWS

AUGUST 2021 – Vol. 66, No. 8

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.

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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.)

*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.

ROSEAU COUNTY FAIR PRIZE WINNERS

GRAND PRIZE
WINNER



ELECTRIC GRILL

Gerald Krahn

Pictured above with his wife, Cynthia

BLENDER

Luella Solberg

COFFEE MAKER

Adam Tesarek

AIR FRYER

Marlin Elton

GRIDDLE

Connie D. Nelson

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE
WINNERS AND THANKS TO ALL WHO
STOPPED BY OUR BOOTH!

★ HAPPY ★
LABOR DAY

Roseau Electric offices
will be closed Monday,
Sept. 6, for Labor Day

In case of outages, call
toll-free 1-888-847-8840

LOVE THE OUTDOORS?

BE **SAFE** OUT THERE



2/3

of lightning fatalities are associated with outdoor **recreational activities**.



Pay attention to weather forecasts **before you go canoeing or boating**. Get off the open water as soon as you **hear thunder**.



Do not use generators in enclosed areas. The same goes for grills, camping stoves or other small appliances that produce carbon monoxide.



Look up for power lines while fishing or sailing.

FACT: Fishing is the most common outdoor activity associated with lightning-related deaths.



Going for a hike?

If you hear thunder or see lightning, **do not seek shelter under a tree.**



Tent camping? Plan ahead, seek shelter in a hard-top vehicle or four-sided building during a storm or at the first sight of lightning.



For more information, visit:

 **Safe Electricity.org**

DIGGING SOON?



One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense. Safe digging is no accident: Always call 811 before you dig.

Visit www.call811.com for more information.

COLOR CODING FOR MARKING UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

WHITE	Proposed excavation
PINK	Temporary survey markings
RED	Electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables
YELLOW	Gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials
ORANGE	Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit
BLUE	Water
PURPLE	Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines
GREEN	Sewer and drain lines

Decades of VALUE

Pound of Ground Beef 1937: 12¢
2021: \$3.97
Increase: 33x

Electricity 1937: 5¢/kWh
2021: 12.6¢/kWh
Increase: 2.5x



Affordable, reliable electricity is something you can count on as a cooperative member. While the cost of everyday items has increased, the cost of electricity has remained a powerful value.

DRIVING THE DIALOGUE ON GRID RELIABILITY

With grid challenges coming into focus, Minnkota leaders are working to chart a path forward

Last summer, a heatwave gripped California's electric grid and left much of the state sweltering through extended power outages. When winter arrived, a deep freeze in Texas turned power and heat off for millions over four days, the effects of which extended into the Upper Midwest where rotating outages were needed to stabilize the grid.

In the wake of these outage events, Minnkota Power Cooperative leaders have been on the road and online discussing the importance of grid reliability and resiliency with the nation's top regulators and policymakers, as well as local and regional stakeholders.

As the electric utility sector continues to go through one of the most transformational periods in its history, questions remain on how ambitious environmental goals will be met while maintaining affordable and dependable service.

"It is an exciting time for our industry, but it can also be daunting," Mac McLennan, Minnkota president and CEO, told members of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy during a June 23 hearing. "We all want to push for it to be a better product – more reliable, more resilient, affordable for every household, and as clean as possible. To reach these goals, we need to work together as utilities, policymakers and regulatory agencies."

About 42% of Minnkota's generation capacity comes from carbon-free sources such as wind and hydropower. Although Minnkota has added a significant amount of renewable energy over the last 15 years and has been recognized nationally as a leader in renewable energy development, coal remains a critical resource to ensure the reliability of the electric grid.

"Harsh winters in the Upper Midwest can and do severely limit the ability of renewables to operate for extended periods of time," McLennan testified. "During the recent polar vortex events in 2014, 2019 and 2021, Minnkota received almost no production from our wind facilities for multiple days. At temperatures of negative 30 degrees, the absence of reliable power is life-threatening."

Midwest Energy Summit

North Dakota energy leaders, policymakers and regulators discussed lessons learned from these events and how their state plans to chart its path forward during the Midwest Energy Summit on June 8 in Fargo. The event was driven by Minnkota member Cass County Electric Cooperative and facilitated by the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber. McLennan participated in a grid reliability panel that included North Dakota Lt. Gov. Brent Sanford, North Dakota Public Service Commission Chair Julie Fedorchak, Xcel Energy President for Minnesota and the Dakotas Chris Clark and Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) Executive Director of External Affairs Brian Tulloh.

While North Dakota is looking for solutions to ensure its residents have 24/7 power, it is part of two multi-state grids where the deci-



Minnkota CEO Mac McLennan (left) discusses grid reliability at the Midwest Energy Summit on June 8 in Fargo. Photo courtesy of Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber.

sions of other entities have enormous impacts. Minnkota participates in the MISO market, where renewables currently account for about 10% to 12% of the grid's resources. Tulloh said challenges begin to emerge as that percentage increases.

"We begin to see at above about 30% renewable energy penetration significant stability issues in the grid and significant changes that need to be managed somehow," Tulloh said, referencing MISO's Renewable Integration Impact Assessment.

"As you get up into the 50% range, those challenges become increasingly more expensive," he added, emphasizing the importance of time and planning to reach these ambitious goals.

Fedorchak responded that the costs of the energy transition cannot be ignored and that there are serious consequences to mistakes or missteps.

"That's not a small matter," she said. "What they're talking about — when it gets a lot more complicated at 50% — is, it's really serious and very expensive, to the tune of \$500 billion to achieve what's been thrown out there as plans for the MISO territory."

Grid stability challenges quickly become an issue of public safety and security, Fedorchak said.

"What I took away from the February event, was if we don't have power, our society quickly becomes pretty unmanageable," Fedorchak said. "If you look at Texas, they didn't have water, they didn't have telephones, they didn't have heat. Our whole society is built on reliable power. We can't do without it."

McLennan said that the outage events in Texas and California are not once-in-a-hundred-year events, but will continue to happen if the country continues to close baseload and dispatchable resources, like coal, natural gas and nuclear, without adequate replacement.

"The reality check we have is that there has to be a long-term energy transition," McLennan said. "We can be as excited about it as we want to be, but we have to also be practical and work our way through in a defined manner.



Stacey Dahl (foreground), Minnkota's senior manager of external affairs, updates EPA Administrator Michael Regan (far right) on Project Tundra.

Otherwise, we're going to have more events like we did in February."

EPA Administrator shows interest in Project Tundra

While reliability and resiliency of the grid must be prioritized, Minnkota also recognizes the need to make reductions in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. The cooperative and its members are currently in the process of evaluating Project Tundra — an effort to install carbon capture technology at the coal-based Milton R. Young Station near Bismarck, N.D. Project Tundra is designed to capture 90% of CO₂ emissions from the flue gas, which is the equivalent of permanently taking 800,000 gasoline-fueled cars off the road. The CO₂ would be safely stored more than one mile underground near the plant's site.

Stacey Dahl, Minnkota senior manager of external affairs, provided an overview of Project Tundra during a June 3 meeting with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael Regan and other energy leaders in Bismarck. The meeting followed a commitment Administrator Regan made to Sen. Kevin Cramer during his confirmation process, where he agreed to consult rural electric cooperatives on EPA regulations.

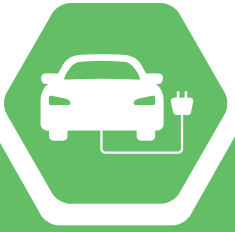
Regan said the Biden administration has a "positive viewpoint" of carbon capture technology, and that his role is to support the president's goals to reduce emissions.

"The creative ingenuity in terms of the thinking around carbon management and reduction, I think, has been really refreshing," Regan said during his visit.

"There's no doubt there's huge potential," he said of carbon capture. "And right here in North Dakota we're seeing leadership."

Energize Your Drive

in the North



Automakers are shifting to electric vehicles (EVs). If companies follow through with announced plans, nearly **100 new EV models** will debut between 2021 and the end of 2024.



Owning an EV is easy – **85% of charging** happens at home. Plus, more public stations are installed along North Dakota and Minnesota travel corridors every year for your longer trips.



A recent study found an EV owner who typically charges at home can anticipate annual savings of **\$800-\$1,000** in “fueling” over a similar gas-powered car. (*Consumer Reports*)

TOP REGIONAL MODELS



Tesla Model 3
Range: 220 Miles
Base price: \$36,990



Ford F-150 Lightning (2022 release)
Range: 300 miles
(with extended range option)
Base price: \$39,975



Chevy Bolt
Range: 259 miles
Base price: \$36,500

BENEFITS OF BATTERIES



Save Money

Base prices for EVs are dropping fast, and many still qualify for up to \$7,500 in federal tax credits. At the standard electric rate, most EVs cost less than half as much to fuel than gas vehicles. With utility incentives like off-peak charging programs, your costs drop even more.



Less Maintenance

EVs don't need oil changes, because they don't use oil. They also lack air filters, spark plugs, timing belts and other parts that need replacement.



Smooth & Fun Ride

EV motors are nearly silent and provide smooth (and incredibly fast) acceleration. With a heavy battery creating a low center of gravity, EVs handle curves like a dream.

Electric vehicle (EV)

powered purely with electricity, no backup fuel source
Examples: Tesla, Chevy Bolt, Ford Mustang Mach-E

Plug-in hybrid vehicle (PHEV)

can run on electric power or gas power
Examples: Toyota Prius Prime, Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV

CHARGING OPTIONS

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3 (DC Fast Charge)
Electric Requirements	Plugs into a standard 120-volt outlet	Uses a 240-volt charging station installed at home or in a public space	Requires utility involvement, usually only found in public along major corridors
Charging Speed	Around 5 miles of range per hour (36 hours for depleted standard battery)	Around 25 miles of range per hour (6-8 hours for depleted standard battery)	Around 100 miles of range or more per hour (time dependent on battery depletion level)
Cost to Charge	Standard electric rate	Qualifies for reduced off-peak rate	For drivers, may be free or charge a usage fee

If you're a member of an electric cooperative or municipal utility in eastern ND or northwestern MN, you may qualify for a **\$500 rebate** by installing your home charging station on their off-peak program. Learn more at EnergizeYourDrive.com.



How do I install a charger at home?

It's just like installing the 240-volt wiring for a clothes dryer or other appliance. Most homeowners hire an electrician, who can have it done in a few hours.



Where can I charge on the road?

There are dozens of charging stations throughout our region, with more popping up all the time. PlugShare.com is a great online tool to plan charging stops on your trip.



What about winter driving?

On the coldest days, EVs may lose up to 40% of their standard charge range, but cabin heating and performance is never compromised – EVs handle the elements like any other vehicle.

EnergizeYourDrive.com

OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Yearly	
	June 2020	June 2021	June 2020	June 2021
Members	6,538	6,553	6,538	6,553
kWh purchased	9,868,786	9,708,944	80,263,004	77,062,223
% change		-1.62%		-3.99%
Revenue	1,333,429	1,326,794	9,632,049	9,274,553
Cost of power	800,793	811,884	5,824,277	5,684,302
Other expenses	481,432	564,000	3,032,199	3,244,006
Operating margins	51,204	(49,090)	775,573	346,245
Nonoperating margins	9,039	11,391	79,332	92,060
Patronage dividends	25,260	-	25,260	179,055
Total margins	85,503	(37,699)	880,165	617,360

member connection

ENERGY TIP

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.

Source: energy.gov



DATES TO REMEMBER

August 21

Electric bill is due



August 28 & 29

Grygla Fall Festival

September 6

Labor Day; office is closed

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://roseaelectric.smarthub.coop/>

WEBSITE

www.roseaelectric.com



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
TO STAY UP TO DATE!



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.