

SEPTEMBER 2021

VOLTS & VIEWS

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

NORTHSTREAM 
Powered by **Roseau Electric Cooperative** **FIBER**



NORTHERN *EXPOSURE*

DRIVING ELECTRIC IN MINNESOTA
T-shirts for the first 100 attendees!

Wednesday, September 29 | 3 - 6 p.m.
Roseau Electric Cooperative
1107 3rd Street NE, Roseau, MN 56751

LEARN

Talk with electric vehicle (EV) experts, have your questions answered by local utilities, and experience the technology that is transforming our economy, environment and energy security.

EAT

Grab a bite to eat from food trucks with a \$10 coupon for the first 100 attendees. Beverages will be provided.

DRIVE

Get behind the wheel during an EV Ride and Drive event, including a spin in the new Mustang Mach-E. Also hear about the upcoming ALL-ELECTRIC Ford F-150 Lightning.

VOLTS & VIEWS

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.

1107 3rd Street N.E.

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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.



From the manager

Tracey Stoll, General Manager

Changes...

Whether it's the change in the weather that we'll experience soon as we transition into winter, or the changes we effected to your bill format last December which will now aid us with implementing the changes to the Cold Weather Rule passed through this year's omnibus commerce/energy bill, I'm reminded once again of the constancy of change. I know! I skipped fall — that generally too-short period of crunchy footing caused by the dropping acorns.

Back to those changes in the Cold Weather Rule (CWR). Your cooperative will now need to notify local energy assistance providers and the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) at the same time we send you a disconnect notice — which will now be required to go out 30 days before a disconnection. Additionally, the CWR period has been extended — beginning two weeks earlier, on Oct. 1, and ending two weeks later, on April 30. Please see page 6 for additional helpful details.

At this time, if your electric bill is past due, your bill shows a red circle around your balance owed. Additionally, during the winter months (CWR months — now October-April), a disconnect notice will be printed on your bill, asking you to communicate with us, along with contact information for energy assistance agencies. These recent changes in the CWR including the

required reporting to the state may facilitate more steps in the process, including a first class, return-receipt mailing to your address to assure that all the notification steps are being met before we reach the final step of disconnecting your electricity.

Message Center

DISCONNECT NOTICE

Your bill is seriously past due and is now subject to disconnect. Please contact our office immediately to avoid disconnection of service.

During winter months, energy assistance may be available from Northwest Community Action, Badger (218-528-3258) or Bi-County Community Action, Bemidji (218-751-4631).

Right now, a collection trip to your home adds \$50 to your bill. If disconnected, more fees will be added for reconnection of services, and you may have to pay more for a security deposit if you do not have an adequate deposit on file. These are fees and charges that only worsen the already tenuous financial position of some of our members. By board policy, we do our best to directly assign these fees to the members being acted on and not spread the cost to the rest of the membership.

Please, help us help you. Do your part by opening your bill each month, making use of SmartHub, knowing all of the payment methods available to you, and passing along this information to other members who may need help with their electric billing.

Finally, now or going into the CWR period, if you see that red circle on your bill, please communicate with us. Our staff's good relationship with our aid agencies can ease you through the process of receiving help to pay your bill.



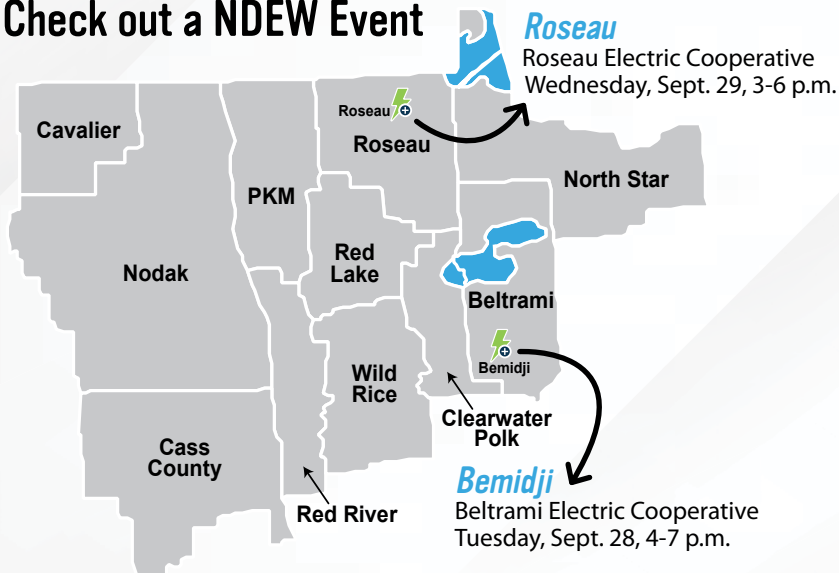
Celebrate National Drive Electric Week

September 25 - October 3

Join Roseau Electric Cooperative and electric vehicle (EV) enthusiasts around the country as we mark **National Drive Electric Week (NDEW)** this September! If you've been curious about the power and promise of EVs in our region, now's the time to take the drive.

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 longer trips. Automakers are making it even easier to drive electric. If companies follow through with announced plans, nearly **100 new EV models** will debut between 2021 and the end of 2024.

Check out a NDEW Event



Coming in 2022!

Ford F-150 Lightning

Range: 300 miles
(with extended range option)
Base price: \$39,975
0-60 mph: 4.5-second range



If you're interested in making a \$100, fully refundable reservation, contact your nearest EV-certified Ford Dealer.

Save More, Fuel Less



Roseau Electric Cooperative offers a **\$500 rebate** for installing a 240-volt home charging station on its off-peak program, which allows you to plug in for around **half the standard electricity rate**.



Because EVs don't require regular oil changes, part replacements or tune-ups, you'll **save hundreds on maintenance**.



Base prices for EVs are dropping fast, and many still qualify for up to **\$7,500 in federal tax credits**.

To-Do List for NDEW

Ask your friend or family member for a test drive in their EV.

Attend the National Drive Electric Week event nearest you.

Check out **EnergizeYourDrive.com** to answer your questions about EV ownership!



SUSTAINABILITY

Beneficial Electrification is a term for replacing direct fossil fuel use (e.g., propane, heating oil, gasoline) with electricity in a way that reduces overall emissions and energy costs. As our country works towards beneficial electrification, air-source heat pumps will play a key role in meeting environmental objectives as well as the desires of consumers.

Nearly six out of 10 consumers surveyed are willing to change their shopping habits to reduce environmental impact. Nearly eight in 10 respondents indicate sustainability is important for them. And for those who say it is very/extremely important, over 70% would pay a premium of 35%, on average, for brands that are sustainable and environmentally responsible.¹

HYBRID HOME.

THE FUTURE IS TODAY.

Addressing the environment and one's impact is no longer a fringe movement and many customers are expecting it now, or will be in the very near future.

WHAT'S ALL THE TALK ABOUT AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS?

Customer Benefits / Energy Benefits / Decarbonization Benefits

SAFER, CLEANER HEALTHIER INDOOR AIR

There is more to a comfortable home than just heating and cooling. Poor indoor air quality is a serious problem facing many homeowners today, according to the American Lung Association®. A hybrid system can offer you the flexibility to improve your home's indoor air.

- A heat pump is a clean, flameless heating system which reduces infiltration of outside air required to support combustion in many fossil fuel systems.
- Indoor air quality components rely on your system's blower running to circulate air throughout your home. Having a 2-stage heating system will offer better indoor air quality through longer system run cycles. These longer run times maximize the benefits of humidifiers, air cleaners, UV lights, HRVs, ERVs and more.

BETTER COMFORT

You don't need to change out your furnace to experience the benefits of a hybrid system. A heat pump can be added to virtually any fossil fuel furnace, allowing you to create a 2-stage heating system in your home.

- A hybrid system is automatic; the system will determine what is the best heat source for your home based on the outdoor temperature ensuring that you always have comfortable and consistent heat.
- A heat pump will match your home's load in mild weather conditions. Furnaces are often oversized for mild weather conditions resulting in over-heating and uncomfortable temperatures.
- A furnace is designed to match your home's load in cold weather conditions, offering you more steady and efficient heat during cold weather.

EXTENDED EQUIPMENT LIFE EXPECTANCY

A hybrid heat system can help to extend the life of your heating and cooling equipment by optimizing the temperature at which the equipment operates. Why?

- A heat pump operates most efficiently and electively during mild weather conditions. As the weather cools, additional "stress" can be put on the heat pump. That's when the hybrid heat system signals the fossil fuel furnace to take over.
- A furnace running in mild weather conditions is THE most "stressful" time for a fossil fuel furnace to operate. A hybrid heat system will drastically reduce this time. The most efficient time for a furnace to operate is during cold weather conditions. These conditions allow the furnace longer run times equaling less strain on the unit and higher equipment efficiency.

MONEY SAVINGS & FLEXIBILITY

Your hybrid heat system will not only keep you cool and comfortable in the summer but will also provide your home with efficient clean heat. In the heating mode, a hybrid heat system uses smart technology and will switch between electricity and gas to heat your home.

- Heat pumps and air conditioners are essentially the same when operating in cooling mode, with no significant difference in operation, efficiency or energy costs. However, the heating mode is a completely different story. Air conditioners do not provide heating, but heat pumps do. Thanks to a reversing valve in the outdoor unit, a heat pump can absorb heat energy from outside air, even in extremely cold temperatures, and transfer the heat inside the home, where it releases the heat into the air. A heat pump can heat and cool, but an air conditioner cannot.
- A hybrid heat system offers you the opportunity to diversify your fuel sources allowing you long-term solutions to fluctuating fuel costs.
- According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the performance of today's air-source heat pumps is one-and-a-half to two times greater than those available 30 years ago. The heat pumps of today in a hybrid heat system can operate at a level of 300+% efficiency!
- Cold climate air-source heat pumps are the latest generation and utilize variable capacity technology, with temperature control by inverter compressors, greatly expanding cold climate performance (down to -20F). Rebate specifications are often used to specify cold climate products.
- Ductless heat pumps, or commonly referred to as mini-splits, are another flexible example of providing positive impact inside and outside a home.
- If you want a higher efficiency model, be sure to select one that has been ENERGY STAR® certified.



MINIMIZE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

When properly and professionally installed, a hybrid system is environmentally responsible and can have positive effects on your home's, your community's, and the planet's impact.

- A heat pump is a clean, flameless heating system and can provide up to 60% of a home's annual heating load. This means that approximately 60% of the time your system is not putting fossil fuel emissions into the environment.
- When not using natural gas, the heat pump uses electricity from an increasingly clean electric grid. Coal generation is now more often complemented by other generation from wind, hydro and solar sources.

Sources:

Article from Auer Steel & Heating Supply Company Inc.

¹ IBM Institute for Business Value – Link to ArticleDragdown.org – <https://www.drawdown.org/solutions/high-efficiency-heat-pumps>

For more information visit <http://www.mnashp.org/>.



By simply choosing to install a heat pump every time an air conditioner is installed, make your home a HYBRID HOME and have a positive impact on you, your family, your community, and the planet.

When paired with cleaner electricity generation and building structures designed for efficiency, heat pumps have the potential to eliminate almost all emissions from heating and cooling.

COLD WEATHER RULE

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule (216B.096), electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 50% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by Roseau Electric Cooperative or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from Roseau Electric Cooperative.

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects.

Before disconnecting electric service to residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30, Roseau Electric Cooperative must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 60% of the state median income (\$65,964 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2022.

To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance.

Northwest Community Action
218-528-3258 or 800-568-5329

Bi-County Cap, Inc.
218-751-4631

Roseau Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact us immediately to work out a mutually agreeable payment plan.

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

NOTICE TO COGENERATORS

In compliance with Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers who satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc. board. Interested members should contact Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 100, Roseau, MN 56751 or call 218-463-1543.

Stay safe on the journey to and from school.

Source: safeelectricity.org



NEW EMPLOYEES



Welcome, Madison!

Madison Strand has been hired as our accountant.

Madison was born and raised in Roseau and graduated from Roseau High School in 2012. She went on to attend college at UND and graduated with a degree in accounting in December 2016. Upon graduation, she returned to Roseau and was employed by Lundbohm Accounting. In February 2020, she passed her fourth and final exam to become a CPA. She and her husband, Jared, have two dogs, Grizz and Honey. She enjoys traveling, working on her golf game, and spending time with family, friends, and her puppies. Preferably, she is at the lake and sitting on the pontoon.

Welcome, Shane!

Roseau Electric Cooperative would like to introduce Shane Ballard. Shane was hired as a fiber technician for NorthStream Fiber. His duties include home installations and fiber maintenance.



member connection

ENERGY TIP

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models.

Source: www.energystar.gov

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 6

Labor Day; office is closed

September 21

Electric bill is due

September 29

Northern Exposure:
Driving Electric in Minnesota

October 19

Co-op Day; mark your calendar and join us for lunch!



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!

OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Yearly	
	July 2020	July 2021	July 2020	July 2021
Members	6,555	6,553	6,555	6,553
kWh purchased	10,935,912	9,708,944	91,198,916	77,062,223
% change	-	-11.22%	-	-15.50%
Revenue	1,458,111	1,424,283	11,090,160	10,698,835
Cost of power	850,190	853,230	6,674,467	6,537,532
Other expenses	567,631	635,958	3,599,830	3,879,965
Operating margins	40,290	(64,905)	815,863	281,338
Nonoperating margins	17,629	9,037	96,961	101,097
Patronage dividends	-	-	25,260	179,055
Total margins	57,919	(55,868)	938,084	561,490

Co-op **APPRECIATION** Day

Tuesday, October 19

.....

Serving lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please join us for turkey on a bun, beans, chips & cookies

Sign up for prizes and enjoy visiting with your co-op friends and neighbors!

HOW ELECTRICITY GETS TO YOUR HOME

