


CURRENT ACTIVITIES



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
Website at www.clearwater-polk.com

October is National Co-op Month

October is National Co-op Month and Clearwater-Polk wants to extend an invitation to our Co-op Members and the community members to help us celebrate.

Stop in at the
Co-op's office located at
315 Main Ave N in Bagley
to enjoy homemade pie and cookies,
coffee and juice on
Monday, October 20th and
Tuesday, October 21st

Co-op members can also sign up to win an energy certificate to be applied to their account. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend. We hope to see you on the 20th or 21st!



Applications for
Operation
Round-Up
are due
Friday, October 24

*Please notice there is a
new application

August 2025 Clearwater County Fair!

Thanks for visiting us at the fair!
Congratulations to the lucky winners!



**Lon Chesley
was the
Energy Credit
Winner**

Lon won a
\$100 Energy Certificate!

**Caleb Cloud
was the
Guess the Meter
Seals Winner**

Caleb won all these prizes
pictured at right!



— OFFICE HOURS: 7:00 AM-4:30 PM ... MONDAY-FRIDAY —

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2025

Phone 218-694-6241 – or – Toll Free (888) 694-3833



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Greg Renner, *President*..... Shevlin
 Cheryl Grover, *Vice President* Bagley
 Kim Solberg, *Secretary/Treasurer* .. Gonvick
 Harlan Highberg..... Bagley
 Doug Lindgren..... Bagley
 Dennis Engebretson Clearbrook
 Betty Surdez Bagley
 Deanna Lefebvre, *General Manager*

SWAP SHOP

RULES: Ads for Clearwater-Polk Electric members only. Current Events newsletter will only be published every other month. Ads must be received by the 10th of the print month. Limit your ads to two items. No commercial ads, please.

REMINDER -

"Free-For Sale-Give Away- or Wanted ads can be posted in our newsletters for our members.

For Sale: Maytag dryer approx. 5 yrs old, used very little, \$200. 218-556-4116

For Sale: Nice cabin – sleeps 4, \$4,000. Also, log bunk beds for sale. 218-533-6029



CHEF'S CORNER

Garden Vegetable Dip Carol Connell, Trail, MN

Ingredients:

1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
 1 cup sour cream
 1/4 cup finely chopped red bell pepper
 1/4 cup finely chopped green bell pepper
 1-1/2 tsp. dried tarragon leaves
 1/4 cup finely chopped carrots
 1/4 cup finely chopped cauliflower
 1/4 cup finely chopped red onion
 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
 3/4 tsp. garlic salt

Directions:

In a medium bowl, combine cream cheese and sour cream. Blend well. Stir in remaining ingredients and blend well. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour. Serve with crackers, vegetables or chips.

SIGN UP FOR
 AUTO-PAY AND YOU
 WILL BE ELIGIBLE
 TO WIN

\$25.00

EACH MONTH WE DRAW
 TWO MEMBER'S NAMES THAT HAVE
 CHOSEN TO PAY BY AUTO-PAY. THEY
 WILL RECEIVE A \$25.00 CREDIT
 TOWARDS THEIR ELECTRIC BILL.

CURRENT WINNERS

ERICK THORESEN
 THOMAS J. PETERSON
 NATHAN GRAFTAAS
 TYLER GEORGE

YOU COULD WIN



To reward our faithful readers, one member's name will be drawn at random each month and placed somewhere in the newsletter. If you should find your name, let us know before the 15th and win \$25 off your next bill.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS:

Polk County Social Services

240 SW Cleveland Ave
 McIntosh, MN 56556 • 218-435-1585

White Earth Energy Assistance

PO Box 418
 White Earth, MN 56591 • 218-473-2711

Inter-County Community Council

207 Main St
 Oklee, MN 56742 • 888-778-4008

Red Lake CAP Program

15533 Main Ave
 Red Lake, MN 56671 • (218)-679-1880

MAHUBE-OTWA (For Hubbard Co.)

120 North Central
 Park Rapids, MN 56470-0229 • 218-732-7204

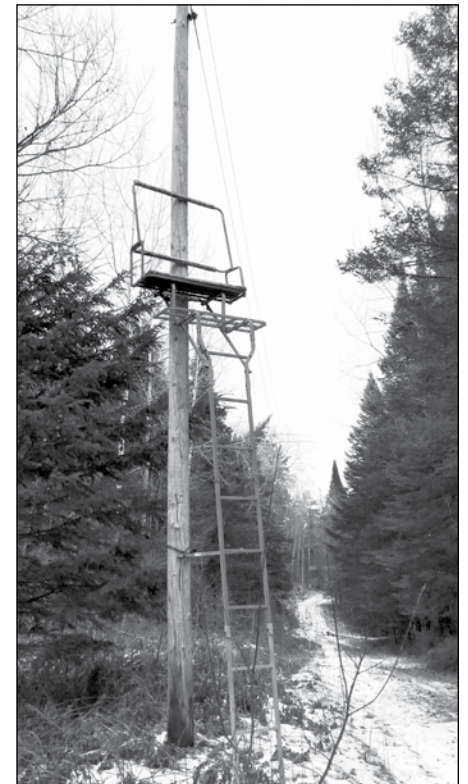
Bi-County Cap

6603 Bemidji Ave N.
 Bemidji, MN 56601 • 800-332-7161

Phase 2 deployment of new meter system to begin in October

Clearwater-Polk Electric crews will be changing out meters that are energized through the Gully substation in October. Services located in this area include all or part of the following townships: Johnson, Hangaard, Greenwood, Winsor, Gully, Eden and Pine Lake.

Please be prepared to allow access to all electric meters on your property. This includes access to heat meters that are located inside your home or building to avoid paying a higher rate for your heat usage.



DO NOT place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule goes into effect October 1

It's time to remind all Clearwater-Polk members about Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, which is designed to keep families warm during winter, especially those who may have challenges paying their monthly bill.

Per the Cold Weather Rule, CPE must not disconnect and must reconnect, the utility service of a residential customer during the period of October 1 to April 30 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residence and all of the following conditions are met:

- The member enters into, and makes reasonably timely payments, under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.*

- The member receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce the member's energy bills.*

- The household income of the member is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. The utility may verify income on forms it provides or obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A member is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the member receives any form of public assistance that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income.*

MEDIAN INCOME

Household Size	Annual Income	Gross Income per month
1	\$37,439	\$3,119
2	\$48,959	\$4,079
3	\$60,479	\$5,039
4	\$71,999	\$5,999
5	\$83,518	\$6,959
6	\$95,038	\$7,919

Unpaid bills must be absorbed by members who faithfully pay their bill each month. CPE does not want to interrupt service of any member, but all members suffer when a bill remains unpaid.

If you cannot pay your electric bill, are having financial difficulties or do not meet state guidelines for cold weather protection, please contact Clearwater-Polk at 218-694-6241 to set up an acceptable payment agreement in order to avoid having your electricity disconnected.

COLD WEATHER RULE & ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOTICE

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, 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 Clearwater-Polk Electric 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 Clearwater-Polk Electric.

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

Before disconnecting electric service to residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30, Clearwater-Polk Electric 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 50% of the state median income (\$71,999 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2026.

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:

Polk County Social Services
218-435-1585

White Earth Energy Assistance
218-473-1585

Inter-County Community Council
888-778-4008

Red Lake CAP Program
218-679-1880

Mahube-Otwa (For Hubbard Co.)
218-732-7204

Bi-County Cap
800-332-7161

Clearwater-Polk Electric 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 Clearwater-Polk Electric at 218-694-6241 to set a payment plan.

MILITARY COLD WEATHER RULE

According to Minnesota law, a utility may not disconnect the service of a residential customer if a member of the household has been issued orders into active duty, for deployment, or for a permanent change in duty station during the period of active duty, deployment, or change in duty station.

A military household can qualify for exemption:

- If the household income is below the state median household income or the customer is receiving energy assistance, AND the customer has entered into a satisfactory payment agreement with the cooperative and remains reasonably current

with payments under that agreement.

- If the household income is above the state median household income AND the customer has entered into an agreement with the cooperative establishing a reasonable payment schedule that considers the financial resources of the household and the residential customer remains reasonably current with payments under the agreement.

If you have any questions regarding payment policies and procedures please contact Clearwater-Polk Electric at 218-694-6241 or stop by our office located at 315 Main Ave N, Bagley, MN.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc., has filed with the Federal Government a Compliance Assurance in which it assures the Rural Utilities Service that it will comply fully with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, all requirements of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, all requirements of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and all requirements of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin, or solely by reason of such person's handicap, or on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the conduct of its program or the operation of its facilities. Under this Assurance, this organization is committed not to discriminate against any person on the ground of race, color or national origin, solely by reason of such person's handicap, or on the basis of age, in its policies and practices relating to applications for service or any other policies and practices relating to treatment of beneficiaries and participants including employment, rates condition and extension of service, admission or access to or use of any of its facilities, attendance at and participation in any meetings of beneficiaries and participants or the exercise of any rights of such beneficiaries and participants in the conduct of the operations of this organization. The person in this organization responsible for coordinating the nondiscrimination compliance efforts of this organization is Deanna Lefebvre, the General Manager.

Any individual, or any specific class of individuals, who feels subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, by section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, by the Age Discrimination Act or by the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture may be personally or through a representative, file with the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; the Office of the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250; the Office of Advocacy and Enterprise, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250; or this organization, or all, a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed no later than 180 days after all alleged discrimination, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service extends the time for filing. Identity of complaints will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

National Farm Safety and Health Week

September 22-27, 2025

Harvest can be very demanding for all the farmers and ranchers in the region. Your trusted electrical experts at **[co-op]** want to make sure every member comes home every night with all their fingers and toes. Here are a few helpful tips to stay safe this harvest season:



Always use proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Gloves, work boots, safety glasses

Keep an up-to-date first aid kit on hand

Large bandages, large shears, eye wash, medication for allergic reactions



Perform regular maintenance on your equipment

Provide proper equipment training for everyone working



Avoid wearing loose clothing around equipment

MANAGERS MESSAGE



Deanna Lefebvre
General Manager

When your electric cooperative held its 78th Annual Meeting this past April, we introduced our new grassroots campaign: "Our Power is in Our People." This initiative brings together the board of directors, management, employees, and members of Clearwater-Polk to advocate for policies that protect the best interests of our cooperative and its members. Since the Annual Meeting, we've continued this campaign—sometimes by seizing opportunities as they arise, and other times by creating those opportunities ourselves.

The campaign was the featured theme at our booth during the Clearwater County Fair, held July 30 – August 3. Thank you to everyone who stopped by to visit.

At our July 30 board meeting, we were honored to welcome Senator Steve Green and Representative Bidal Duran following invitations sent to our local legislators.



2025 MREA Legislative day

We had productive discussions about the past legislative session and focused on priorities for the next session—specifically, lifting the state's moratorium on nuclear energy and pursuing net metering reform.

To meet Minnesota's aggressive 2023 legislation requiring 100% carbon-free energy by 2040, nuclear power must be part of the mix. Nuclear is not only carbon-free and capable of providing baseload power, but it also delivers reliable, always-available electricity critical for grid stability during high demand or low renewable generation periods.

Minnesota's net metering law, enacted in the early 1980s, has not kept pace with advancements in renewable energy technology. While today's systems are more efficient and affordable, the outdated law requires cooperatives to pay retail rates for excess generation, causing members without solar or wind to subsidize those who do. Minnesota is the only state that mandates retail-rate payments for this excess power, creating incentives to oversize systems beyond personal needs.

Clearwater-Polk, along with other Minnesota cooperatives and the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), supports a balanced approach. We back legislation like SF1142 introduced last session, which maintains retail credit for renewable energy used on-site but compensates true excess generation at a fair, market-based rate. This modernized approach protects fairness among members while encouraging responsible renewable adoption. SF1142 gained momentum last session but did not pass, making it a top priority for the upcoming session.

We also discussed permitting reform. This year, bipartisan legislation known as the Minnesota Energy Infrastructure Permitting Act took effect July 1. While it primarily focuses on renewable energy projects, it includes provisions to streamline site and route designations for energy infrastructure. One of our biggest challenges (Richard Fox Sr.) is obtaining permits to install underground power lines along Minnesota state highways. We are hopeful these reforms will speed up the process and help utilities like Clearwater-Polk meet member needs more efficiently.

Our grassroots advocacy also continued at MREA's Energy Issues Summit on August 7–8. Clearwater-Polk board members and I joined hundreds of cooperative leaders to discuss topics including the future of hydrocarbons, nuclear power's role, energy resource planning, data center growth, and regulatory trends. These events not only keep us informed but also give us the chance to collaborate and share ideas that strengthen the cooperative business model.



CPE board and Senator Green & Rep Duran, 7-30-25.

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What a great time our members had on the 2025 Power Plant Tour in North Dakota.

A huge thanks to everyone that helped us make this a success!

With twenty-five Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative members and nineteen Red Lake Electric Cooperative members, we hit the road on June 16th to visit Minnkota Power Cooperative (our wholesale power provider), the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, and we toured Fort Mandan. On day two (June 17th), we traveled to the Milton R. Young Power Plant and then toured the BNI Coal Mines. We had safe travels throughout both days with Anderson Coach of Frazee getting us from place to place.

Our first day started with a tour at Minnkota Power Cooperatives headquarters in Grand Forks where our members became more knowledgeable about our wholesale power provider. The group was able to view Minnkota's control center which is monitored twenty-four hours a day to keep an eye on the transmission lines and load levels throughout NW Minnesota and NE North Dakota.

Next, we boarded the bus and headed to Carrington, ND for lunch at the Chieftain Conference Center, then hit the road for Washburn, ND. We squeezed in time at their picnic shelter for a little break, refreshments, and a snack



before touring Fort Mandan and the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center.

After a full day, we were (Angie Estey) ready for a break and set off to the Comfort Inn & Suites in Bismark, ND. Here we enjoyed a hot meal and a presentation from Scott Hopfauf, Minnkota's Environmental Compliance Manager that works out of the Milton R. Young Power Plant.

On day two we headed for the Milton R. Young Power Plant where Scott Hopfauf gave another detailed presentation. We then moved on to the plant tour where our members were able to learn about the process of the plant, how the coal is extracted, and the reclamation process of the ground where coal was previously mined. Next, we took the bus to BNI coal mines where the coal is extracted. Our group also had the opportunity to climb aboard the Liberty dragline while it was in action, pulling coal from the earth and plummeting it into the dump zone for the trucks to pick up and haul back to their own drop sites.

Our final journey took us to Square Butte Creek Golf Clubhouse for lunch and then we headed back to Minnesota, but not without one more stop at Alley Beans in Valley City, ND for one last treat!

MANAGERS MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Whether meeting with legislators or participating in industry events, Clearwater-Polk Electric will continue advocating for safe, reliable, and affordable electricity, both today and for the future. If you'd like to join our grassroots efforts, please contact our Member Services Department.

I hope you've enjoyed a wonderful summer. Again, this year, to celebrate Cooperative Month in October we will be serving homemade pie, cookies, coffee, and other refreshments on Monday, October 20 and Tuesday, October 21. Please stop in at Clearwater-Polk's office to help us celebrate!

As always, stay safe, happy, and healthy!
Deanna



Energy issues Summit.