



Cooperative gives back

In October, more than 100 electric cooperative employees across the state participated in a Break the Habit challenge sponsored by the ND REC Benefit Trust. Over the course of 28 days, participants were asked to examine bad habits and replace them with healthy ones.

Participants who met their weekly goals were entered into a weekly prize drawing, which included a monetary donation to a charity of their choice. Charitable donations totaled \$1,700 and two Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) employees were lucky enough to be selected. The following local charities received a check for \$100 each.

- Carrington Daily Bread’s Backpack Program, donated by Tami Aljets
- Cando Area Food Pantry’s Backpack Program, donated by Cheryl Belle

In November, NPEC hosted a donation drive to collect basic need items. Drop-off locations were situated at the Cando and Carrington offices, where 200 items, such as toothpaste, paper towels, deodorant and baby wipes, were collected. The items were distributed to

Jamestown Community Action and Dakota Prairie Community Action in Rolla.

Members who donated items were able to register for a gift basket drawing that included a North Dakota bamboo cutting board and knife set. The lucky winner was Sandy Teubner of Cando.

NPEC thanks those who donated and helped make a difference in the communities we serve. ■

JANUARY 2025

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Balancing electricity supply and demand

BY SETH SYVERSON, GENERAL MANAGER

Electricity is essential for nearly every aspect of daily life, but we rarely think about how it's produced and delivered to our homes. You might be surprised to learn a network of experts is working daily (and even by the minute) to anticipate how much electricity you need before you even use it.

We're all connected to the electric grid, so ensuring the right amount of electricity is available for everyone involves a complex process of forecasting energy demand, planning for capacity and securing enough supply to meet our members' needs.



Syverson

Powerful sources

First, electricity must be generated at a power plant using either traditional sources, such as coal, natural gas or nuclear energy, or from renewable sources, such as solar, wind or hydropower.

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) works closely with Basin Electric Power Cooperative, our local wholesale power partner, to secure enough electricity for our communities, using a diverse mix of energy sources to generate the power we deliver to your home or business.

By maintaining a diverse energy mix and an all-of-the-above energy strategy, Basin Electric has options to ensure reliable and affordable power for our members. That mix includes generation capacity of 2,859 megawatts (MW) of coal, 1,268 MW of natural gas, 318 MW of hydropower, 2,108 MW of wind and 1,339 MW from market purchases.

On a larger scale, electricity supply and demand across the country are managed through a market that includes long-term planning agreements, where electricity is bought and sold just like other common goods and services. Because NPEC works with our wholesale power partner, which is also a cooperative, we are able to pool resources and expertise to deliver affordable power to our local communities.

Electricity supply changes throughout the day, because demand fluctuates based on consumers'

needs. For example, Basin Electric knows we need to ensure more electricity in the mornings when you're starting your day and in the evenings when you're cooking dinner, running appliances and watching TV. Demand also increases when weather patterns change, such as extremely warm or cold temperatures.

Managing supply and demand

Across the country, other electric utilities are managing the same task of balancing supply and demand, which is why we have a larger network of key players in place to ensure enough power is delivered across the grid.

In most cases, the amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to specific areas are coordinated and monitored by regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs). In other areas, individual electric utilities perform these tasks.

RTOs, ISOs and electric utilities act as air traffic controllers for the electric grid. They forecast when you, your neighbors and communities across a large region will need more power. These organizations take measured steps to ensure there's enough supply to meet demand.

Looking ahead

As the energy sector undergoes rapid change, it's important for all consumers to understand the basics of electricity supply and demand.

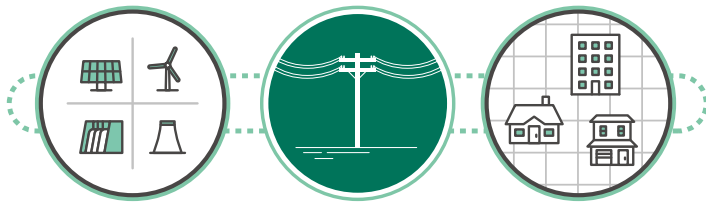
Electricity use in the United States is expected to rise to record highs over the next two years, with the demand for electricity expected to at least double by 2050. At the same time, energy policies are pushing the early retirement of always available generation sources, which will undoubtedly compromise reliable electricity.

NPEC remains committed to providing affordable, reliable energy to the members we serve. That's why we are preparing now for increased demand and other challenges that could compromise our local electric supply.

Managing the balancing act of electricity supply and demand is a complex job, which is why we have a network of utilities, power plant operators and energy traffic managers in place to direct the electricity we need and keep the electric grid balanced. ■

A Balancing Act: ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

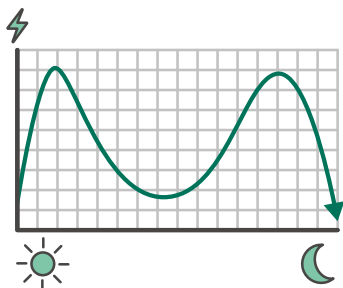
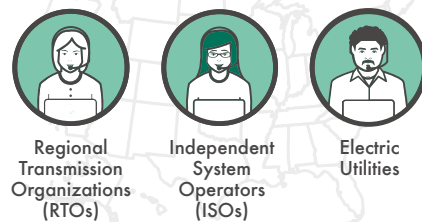
Behind the scenes, a network of people and facilities work together to ensure you have electricity when you flip the switch.



Electricity is generated at a power plant, then sent across the grid to homes, schools and businesses.

The *amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to where it's needed* are typically coordinated and monitored by regional grid operators that essentially act as energy traffic managers.

Regional Grid Operators

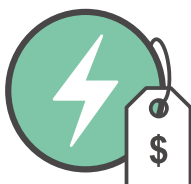


As electricity demand varies throughout the day, grid operators, power plant operators and electric utilities work to forecast, plan and purchase enough electricity for everyone.

Ensuring communities have the exact amount of electricity they need is a challenging task, but behind the scenes, a network of industry experts make it happen every day.



Factors that Impact Electricity Supply and Demand



- Demand Surges
- Extreme Temperatures
- Infrastructure Costs and Availability
- Supply Chain Challenges
- Fuel Costs
- Federal and State Regulations



Scott Buchholtz wore many hats while employed at the cooperative. He often would educate students on electrical procedures and cooperative ways.

Buchholtz: 41 years of dedication and leadership

BY BRITTNEE WILSON



Buchholtz

In 1999, Scott Buchholtz was standing in Northern Plains Electric Cooperative's (NPEC) Carrington office intently watching the clock. As NPEC's operations manager at the time, Buchholtz had many scenarios racing through his mind. Will the phones light up with members reporting outages? If

the power goes out, would members be able to call? Will we go into load control? If we do, is there anything we can do to stop it? These were all possible fears about computers not being able to handle the turning of the clocks to year 2000.

As the clock struck midnight, he stood in complete

silence, not moving a muscle. Fifteen minutes passed, still nothing. After the midnight hour had passed for all four time zones across North America, he laughed about it, wished the other department managers who were in the offices with him a happy New Year and they all went home.

"It was a huge non-event," Buchholtz says.

It is difficult to believe that was 25 years ago. Luckily, Y2K was uneventful, but that wasn't always the case in Buchholtz's 41-year cooperative career. In addition to many extreme weather events, Buchholtz was at the forefront of rolling blackouts and load control events, balancing electricity supply and demand for the cooperative.

Buchholtz grew up on a farm outside of Kenmare. Following high school, he attended North Dakota State University (NDSU), where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural engineering. However, he ended up working on the family farm after graduation.

“It was a bad economy, and few jobs were available,” Buchholtz says.

Early that summer, a letter came from the NDSU job placement office with news of a job opening at an electric cooperative in Carrington. Although the job was not in his field of agricultural engineering, Buchholtz did not waste time applying. He was hired by Tri-County Electric Cooperative in July 1983 as a member services representative, and he quickly realized he was right where he was supposed to be.

“Every day, there was something new. That’s the beauty. I’ve always loved my job and the new challenges that came with it,” Buchholtz says.

Throughout his career, Buchholtz held multiple roles for the cooperative, including power quality engineer, operations manager and now information technology manager. No matter his title, he always worked with load management and metering duties.

“Scott has been a key player to the success of the cooperative. His years of knowledge and dedication to serving the members will be greatly missed. Scott is well respected throughout the Central Power Electric Cooperative family and has been NPEC’s leader for meter technology selection, deployment and operation,” General Manager Seth Syverson says.

For 39 years, Buchholtz served on Central Power

Electric’s Load Management Technical Committee. Central Power is NPEC’s wholesale power supplier and transmission cooperative that provides bulk power needs through a system of transmission and substation facilities. For both NPEC and Central Power, Buchholtz was the go-to resource for load management. Due to his years of experience, he knew the reasons why the cooperatives put procedures in place, and equally important, the reasons behind what not to do.

“Mistakes are how you learn, then you change,” he says.

Community leader

Not only has Buchholtz proven to be a strong leader in the electrical industry, but also a model of the cooperative principle, concern for community. Buchholtz served on many volunteer boards, including the Carrington Chamber and Economic Development Corporation, Kiwanis, as clerk/treasurer of his local township, church and parish councils, and as a director for the Carrington Health Center and its foundation.

In retirement, Buchholtz says he is looking forward to being on his own clock and enjoying time with Lori, his wife of 41 years, and their family. NPEC thanks Scott for his years of devotion and leadership to the cooperative and the members we serve. ■

NPEC hires Mertz and Reimche

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) welcomes Chris Mertz of Carrington as the manager of the information technology department. Mertz proceeds former manager Scott Buchholtz, who retired in December 2024. Mertz comes to NPEC with a wealth of experience in the utility industry in both engineering and IT, having previously worked with Cannon Technologies and Eaton Electrical Automation Solutions in Carrington.

“We are excited to have Chris as part of our cooperative team. Chris will bring a valuable skill set to help better serve our members,” General Manager Seth Syverson says.

In Mertz’s spare time, he enjoys spending time with family, hunting, fishing and hiking.

NPEC also welcomed Jacob Reimche as a full-time employee in December 2024. Reimche was first hired as a temporary lineworker in May 2024 to help the Jamestown line crew with the busy summer months. Reimche will continue his position as an apprentice lineworker, working with the Carrington East line crew.



Mertz



Reimche

Originally from Bottineau, Reimche graduated from the lineworker program at Bismarck State College in 2024 and is a member of the National Guard. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, hunting and the outdoors.

“Jacob has proven himself to be hardworking, dedicated employee. We are happy to have him with us full time,” Operations Manager Josh Cabler says.

Congratulations to both Chris and Jacob. NPEC is happy to have you both on our team! ■

Heat that space safely

Do's:

- Use a space heater that has been tested to the latest safety standards and has been certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. These heaters have the most up-to-date safety features. Older space heaters may not meet newer safety standards. Always follow the manufacturer's directions for proper use.
- Place the heater on a level, hard, nonflammable surface, such as a ceramic tile floor.
- Keep the heater at least 3 feet away from bedding, drapes, furniture and other flammable materials.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Turn the heater off if you leave the area.

Don'ts:

- Never leave a space heater on when you go to sleep.
- Don't place a space heater close to any sleeping person.
- Never use gasoline in a kerosene space heater, as even small amounts of gasoline mixed with kerosene can increase the risk of fire.
- Don't use portable propane space heaters indoors or in any confined space unless they are specifically designed for indoor use.



Deadlines nearing for student opportunities

Together with Northern Plains Electric (NPEC), Basin Electric Power Cooperative is offering a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2025-26 school year. To qualify, an applicant's parent(s)/guardian(s)'s primary residence must be served by NPEC. Applicants for the scholarship must be a high school seniors or college freshman enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time course of

study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school in the fall of 2025.

Scholarship applications are available for download at www.nplains.com/scholarship or scan the QR code. Applications must be received/postmarked by Jan. 31.

Youth Tour essay contest

High school sophomores and juniors, win the trip of a lifetime – an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C, June 15-21. Check out the essay contest guidelines at www.nplains.com/youth-tour or scan the QR code. The deadline is Jan. 17.



Do you have money waiting for you?

The following people have capital credit checks at Northern Plains Electric Cooperative for which we do not have a current address. Please notify us if you have a current address for any of following people, or if you are entitled to the capital credits in the case of an estate. Please contact us by Jan. 31 by calling 800-882-2500 and asking for Tami.

Allery, Frieda.....	Rolette	Lafountain, Nicole	Belcourt
Amyotte, Credance.....	Webster, S.D.	Lambert, Dorothy	Ft. Totten
Azure, David L.....	Belcourt	Laplant, Darrel.....	Binford
Azure, Shawn	Belcourt	Lavallie, Jolene.....	Bismarck
Bergeth, Richard.....	Devils Lake	Lavallie, Kylee	Belcourt
Brady, Mike	West Fargo	Lavallie, Tammy.....	Belcourt
Brunelle, Jamie	Rolette	Lilley, Tina.....	Belcourt
Cavanaugh, Priscilla.....	Ft. Totten	Linstaedt, Seth	Jamestown
Charbonneau, Mary	Rolla	Littlewind, Donelda A.	Ft. Totten
Charette, Greg E.....	Belcourt	Littlewind, Sylvester	Ft. Totten
Corum, Dave.....	Upham	Longie, Bobby G.....	Dunseith
Culbreth, Michael.....	Cando	Longie, Candace	Trenton
Decoteau, Dennis D.	Rolla	Maier, Karen.....	Moorhead, Minn.
Decoteau, Donald D.....	Belcourt	Malaterre, Brenda.....	Belcourt
Demery, Shadilyn	Rolla	Martinson, Julie	Minot
Deutscher, Carol.....	Fargo	Mathias, Roger	Bismarck
Dionne, Shirley	Rolla	Nadeau, Sharon C.....	Belcourt
Dockter, Mabel.....	Carrington	Olson, Elvin.....	Harvey
Duchaine, Christina	Minot	Palacious, Wendy.....	Cando
Eidfjord Lutheran Church.....	Hannaford	Parisien, Natasha	Belcourt
Enno, Lisa N.	Rolla	Parker, Renee	Rolla
Falcon, Wanda Houle	Bismarck	Peltier, Alicia	Belcourt
Gefroh, Gordon.....	Rolla	Perleberg, William L.....	Jamestown
Geringer, Sara J.	Pettibone	Pierson, Wilma.....	Fargo
Gomez, Arlene LoveJoy.....	Langdon	Poitra, Flavia	Rolla
Goodroad, Jimmy	Pingree	Rath, Shirley.....	Bismarck
Gourd, Rosetta.....	St. Michael	Slater, Delane	Kent, Wash.
Greybear, Myron A. Sr.	Ft. Totten	Slater, Lance.....	St. John
Greywater, Pam.....	Ft. Totten	St. Germaine, Cecelia	Belcourt
Greywater, Pauline.....	Ft. Totten	Stenson, Ron	Brighton, Colo.
Holbrook, Hazel.....	Hartshorn, Mo.	Sturdezant, Lynn.....	Sykeston
Hubbard, James F.....	Jamestown	Stutsman, John E. Jr.	St. Paul, Minn.
Hulett, Elise.....	Belcourt	Thomas, Faye	Ft. Totten
Huus, Mark.....	Sykeston	Thomas, Winifred	Oberon
Jensen, Bryan	Minnewaukan	Wanous, Samantha.....	Faith, S.D.
Jetty, Renee	Ft. Totten	Wilkie, Travis.....	Belcourt
Kills Plenty, Irvin Sr.	Ft. Totten	White, Maria.....	Ft. Totten
Laducer, Monica.....	Belcourt	White, Marsha B.	Ft. Totten
Laducer, Shonda.....	Bemidji, Minn.	Whitley, Leatrice.....	Shakopee, Minn.
Laducer, Theresa.....	Rolla	Wilkie, Susan.....	Belcourt
Lafountain, Veronica.....	Rolla	Wolff, Delmer.....	Jamestown
LaFromboise, Freyja.....	Fargo	Woods, Anne.....	Ft. Totten
LaFromboise, Larry	Belcourt	Yellowbird, Jennifer	Grand Forks

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Congratulations to Marsha Bailey of Jamestown.

Marsha is our latest winner of a \$25 bill credit from the November bill insert contest. Members can regularly check bill inserts for future contests.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

An equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Cando, ND 58324

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CARRINGTON OFFICE:
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Carrington, ND 58421

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