



Reflecting on progress, planning for the future

BY SETH SYVERSON



Syverson
General Manager

As we close another year, I want to pause and express gratitude for you, the members of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative, for your continued trust and support. Our cooperative was built on the promise of people coming together to improve the quality of life in their communities, and that promise still guides everything we do today.

Each decision – whether it's about delivering reliable electricity, innovating for the future or advocating for smart energy policies that impact our local community – comes back to one simple question: How will this benefit the members we serve?

This past year has been marked by meaningful progress, both in strengthening our local distribution system and in working at the national level to influence energy policies that directly affect reliability, affordability and resilience. While the details of federal regulations can feel distant, they shape our daily operations here at home.

Over the past year, electric cooperatives across the country came together for advocacy efforts on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Power Plant Rule. As originally written, the rule would have forced a rapid shift away from always-available power generation resources, threatening the accessibility of a diverse fuel supply that keeps electricity reliable.

Renewable energy sources are an essential and growing part of our energy future, but we also know the demand for electricity is rising rapidly, and natural gas, coal and nuclear remain essential for ensuring power is available around the clock. As we collaborated and engaged with policymakers, we pressed for a more balanced approach to generating power that supports clean energy innovation, while still recognizing the role of traditional resources. Our efforts are helping to shape a more workable path forward that better protects reliability for Northern Plains Electric members.

Another area of ongoing progress came through advocacy work on federal permitting reform. For too long, outdated rules and lengthy delays have stood in the way of building critical infrastructure, which includes larger generation and transmission projects, but more specifically Northern Plains Electric's distribution projects of converting overhead lines to underground lines.

This year, electric co-ops helped move the needle

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JANUARY 2026

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on permitting reform, advocating for policies that make the process faster, more predictable and more efficient. Investments we make in infrastructure will reach communities sooner, improving reliability and preparing us for the future.

We're also seeing progress with bipartisan support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Act of 2025, which would speed up the disaster recovery process for electric cooperatives and the communities they serve. Severe storms are a fact of life, and their impact on the electric system can be devastating.

Northern Plains Electric has experienced multiple severe weather events in recent years, with ice events in April 2022 and December 2023, and straight-line winds in June 2025. These storm events resulted in significant infrastructure damage and costs to the cooperative.

FEMA is a crucial partner for electric co-ops in efforts to restore power after disaster strikes and provide reimbursement for storm damages, although the federal

reimbursement process after a major storm is slow and full of red tape. If passed, the bill would make FEMA a stronger, more responsive agency to help strengthen rural resilience, protect taxpayer dollars and ensure essential services are restored as quickly as possible after a natural disaster.

As we look ahead to a new year, I see both challenges and opportunities on the horizon. The energy industry is undergoing significant change driven by the rising need for more electricity, new tools and technologies, and federal energy policies.

The path forward requires innovative thinking and member-focused solutions. I'm confident with the dedication of Northern Plains Electric employees and the continued support of our members, we are well positioned to adapt and meet the challenges. Through it all, our promise to you remains steadfast: reliable power for today and tomorrow. ■

Rate adjustment to go into effect in 2026

Rising costs have affected all the cooperative's members over the past few years. Like you, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative has faced higher prices for materials, equipment and essential services, resulting in expenses in constructing and maintaining infrastructure. In addition to these pressures, our 2026 wholesale power supply costs have increased by more than 10%, driven by investments in new generation and transmission infrastructure needed to maintain long-term system reliability.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is investing over \$11 billion over the next 10 years in generation and transmission assets to meet growing demand and to ensure reliability.

With 70% of Northern Plains Electric's expenses

coming from our power supplier, the cooperative is being required to increase rates effective Jan. 1. The Northern Plains Electric board of directors does not take this decision lightly, as the cooperative strives to keep rates as low as feasible. The average member rate increase is approximately 9.3%, with an adjustment in base energy, electric heat and the monthly service availability charge.

Large power members will incur an increase in the demand charge. The February bill (January usage) will reflect the revised rates.

Northern Plains Electric remains committed to keeping rates as affordable as possible, while ensuring a reliable and resilient electric system for all members. Thank you for your trust and support in your electric cooperative. ■



**Starting Jan. 1,
Northern Plains Electric
Cooperative business
hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday - Friday.**

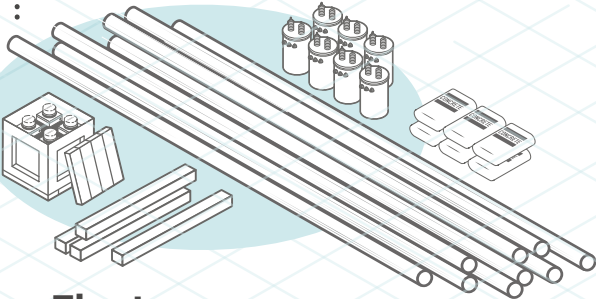
Infrastructure Costs

The past five years have been a period of exploding costs for the electric utility industry, pushed by soaring demand, supply chain challenges, raw materials shortages, increased labor costs and tariffs. The impact has been rapid increases in the cost of producing power, longer and more unpredictable project timelines and the need for more financing, all of which have driven electric rates up for residences, businesses and other end-users. Here's a look at what's contributing to the trend.

Percent increase since 2020:

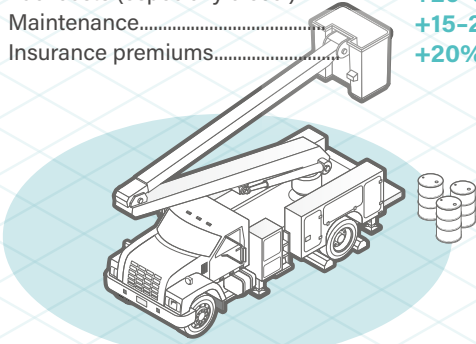
● Infrastructure

Utility poles (wood, steel, composite)	+25-40%
Crossarms & braces (steel/wood).....	+20-35%
Conductor wire (aluminum/copper)....	+30-50%
Transformers.....	+70-100%
Grain-oriented electrical steel.....	+80-100%
Oil/dielectric fluids.....	+25-40%
Copper wiring.....	+50%
Concrete.....	+25-35%
Smart meters.....	+20-35%
Pad-mounted switchgear.....	+25-40%
Circuit breakers/reclosers.....	+20-35%



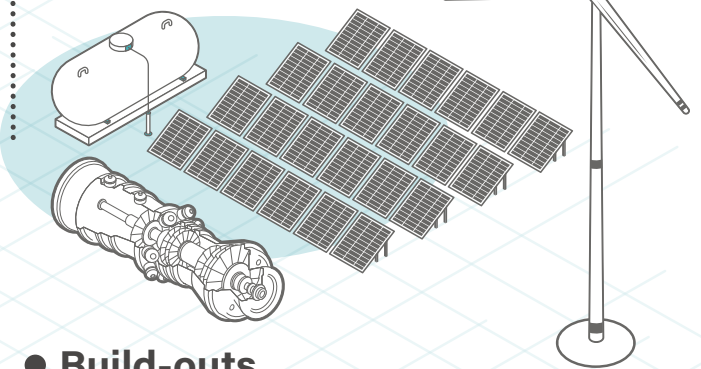
● Fleets

Light trucks.....	+25-40%
Bucket trucks, digger derricks	+20-50%
Fuel costs (especially diesel).....	+20-30%
Maintenance.....	+15-25%
Insurance premiums.....	+20%



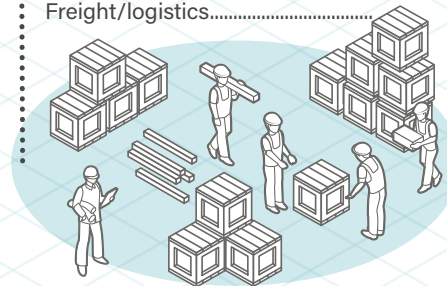
● Generation

Diesel gensets.....	+20-40%
Gas turbines.....	+20-30%
Solar PV systems.....	+25-35%
Wind turbines.....	+25-35%
Hydropower components.....	+20-30%
Battery storage.....	+25-40%
SCADA/EMS systems.....	+20-30%
Inverters.....	+20-30%
Relays & switchgear.....	+25-40%
Natural Gas.....	+20-120%
Coal.....	+30-60%
Diesel/fuel oil.....	+40-70%



● Build-outs

Utility construction labor.....	+20-40%
Freight/logistics.....	+30-60%



Sources: BLS; energynews.com; Reuters; Wood Mackenzie; NREL; IEA



Giving back to communities the cooperative way

In celebration of Co-op Month in October, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) once again offered free popcorn bags to the 19 schools in its service area. So, 5,000 popcorn bags were delivered to 10 schools that accepted the gift to be used at their sporting events.

Also in October, electric cooperative employees across the state participated in a wellness 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. Seven NPEC employees gifted \$500 to the following organizations.

- \$150 – Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Red River Valley donated by Jill Wright-Van Dyke.
- \$100 – Uffda Fund for Animals of Towner County donated by Rebecca and Jeri.
- \$100 – Robinson Lions Club donated by Dustin Peterson.

- \$50 – Turtle Mountain Child Welfare of Belcourt donated by Shauna Olson.
- \$50 – Cando Area Food Pantry donated by Cheryl Belle.
- \$50 – Cando Fire Department donated by Kevin Larson.

In November, NPEC hosted a donation drive, collecting socks, hats, gloves and mittens. Drop-off locations were situated at the Cando and Carrington offices, where an astonishing 780 items were collected. The items were distributed to area schools and food pantries in need.

This was NPEC's fourth consecutive year hosting a donation drive in the month of November, and it has been an event the cooperative staff looks forward to each year. It not only emphasizes charitable giving, but a connection with the community, which could not happen without the generosity of NPEC members choosing to donate.

NPEC staff and board directors send a sincere thank you to those who donated and helped make a difference in the communities we serve. ■

Family-focused guide for preparing for winter power outages



Winter in North Dakota can bring some of the most unforgiving weather in the country. Blizzards and ice storms can lead to extended power outages that disrupt heat, communication and daily routines.

For families with small children, these outages bring added challenges of keeping kids warm, entertained, fed and calm. With a little preparation, one can turn a stressful situation into a manageable and even memorable family experience.

Below are tips to help you prepare before the next winter storm hits.

Keep children entertained

- Games! Put together a puzzle, play a board game or card game.
- Play flashlight tag or hide-and-seek in safe indoor areas.
- Build a blanket fort.
- Go "indoor camping" by pitching a small tent in the living room.
- Feeling competitive? Set up a target practice area by using rubber bands or nerf guns to knock down plastic cups.

Keep children fed

- Stock nonperishable foods kids will actually eat, such as granola bars, fruit cups/pouches, beef jerky and crackers.
- Keep a cooler and ice packs ready to preserve perishables if your fridge loses power.
- Explain why limiting the number of times to open and close the refrigerator and freezer doors will help keep the food colder longer.
- If you have an infant, stock extra formula. If mothers are breastfeeding and storing milk, make sure to have a manual pump and store milk in the back of the freezer.
- Have a manual can opener readily available.
- If you own a gas stove, know how to ignite it without electric ignition (and only do so with proper ventilation).
- Use an outdoor grill only outside, never indoors.

Keep children warm and calm

- Layer warm clothing.
- Close doors to unused rooms to conserve heat.
- Have a family slumber party by pulling a mattress into the family room and sleep together to stay warm and calm.
- Snuggle together. Shared body heat helps tremendously.
- Use sleeping bags rated for cold weather.
- If your child requires white noise to sleep, purchase a battery-powered sound machine.
- Place glow sticks near sleeping areas for a night light.

Essential safety tips

- Never use generators indoors. Keep them at least 20 feet from buildings to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Avoid candles when children are present.
- Charge all devices before the storm and keep a portable power bank on hand.
- Ensure smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors have working batteries.
- Keep medications, baby supplies and first-aid essentials well stocked.
- Prepare an emergency communication plan in case cell service becomes unreliable.
- Stay informed through a battery-powered radio or emergency alert system.
- If indoors becomes dangerously cold, seek shelter with neighbors or designated warming centers as soon as it is safe to travel.
- Ensure a backup plan for any electronic medical equipment. ■



Beat the winter peak

Did you know electricity costs more during peak hours of usage?

When it comes to electric demand, electric utilities and grid operators watch two variables closely: winter peaks and summer peaks. These are the times of the year when electric demand is highest – and electricity is most expensive – and they vary depending on where you are in the country.

That's why we encourage members to use less electricity during peak demand hours. Usage peaks often occur in the morning when people wake up and again in the evening as temperatures drop and people return home.

If you can lower your use of electricity during these peak hours, you can help Northern Plains Electric Cooperative keep rates stable.

WINTER PEAKING

Cold regions of the country, including the Upper Midwest, are winter peaking, because of the demand for electric heat during the winter months. Summer-peaking regions experience high electric demand during hot months, as air conditioners are on overdrive. Dual-peaking regions have both a winter and summer peak.

Factors such as below-normal temperatures push

the wintertime peak higher. Severe cold snaps, like that experienced in 2021, can lead to record-setting demand for electricity and put the electric grid under significant stress.

During the winter months, the electric grid must meet the higher demand for electricity to prevent power outages and maintain a stable supply.

In January 2025, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, the region's power supplier, experienced a new all-time high member billing peak.

Basin Electric typically peaks during the winter months because of winter storms and extreme cold temperatures.

HELP BEAT THE PEAK!

To avoid usage during peak hours:

- Do laundry during the day or later at night.
- Avoid using the dishwasher or other major appliances during these hours.
- Turn down the thermostat by 2 to 5 degrees.

Contact Northern Plains Electric Cooperative to learn if there are ways you could help reduce your on-peak demand. Demand response programs help you manage your energy use by voluntarily reducing power consumption during peak hours to help stabilize the power grid. ■

Do you have money waiting for you?

The following people have 2025 capital credit checks returned to Northern Plains Electric Cooperative due to no forwarding 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 call 800-882-2500 and ask for Tami.



Alberts, Allen A.....	St. Michael	Maier, Karen estate.....	Moorhead, Minn.
Aleksieienko, Kostiantyn	Carrington	Marion, Renee M.....	Belcourt
Allery, Audie.....	Belcourt	Martinson, Julie.....	Minot
Anderson, Jared.....	Cando	Matthews, Glen.....	Fergus Falls, Minn.
Anderson, Mary L.....	Ypsilanti	Mathias, Roger.....	Bismarck
Azure, Debra.....	Belcourt	McKay, Clinton.....	Fort Totten
Baker, Connie.....	Dunseith	Misek, Kevin.....	Finley
Baker, Donna.....	Saint Michael	Montriel, Raymond F. Jr.....	Belcourt
Barnick, Patrick.....	Jamestown	Nadeau, Jamie.....	Belcourt
Baumgartner, Eugene.....	Belcourt	Nass, Mavis.....	Rhame
Bercier, Frances.....	Union, Mo.	Nelsen, Scott C.....	Leeds
Bercier, Jackie.....	Belcourt	Nextel Partners.....	Columbus, OH
Bercier, Paula J.....	Belcourt	Noyes, Ronnie.....	Port Orchard, Wash.
Berg, Harland.....	Minot	Parisien, Kassie.....	Belcourt
Bigtrack, Lynette estate.....	Fort Totten	Parker, Renee.....	Rolla
Blake, Marilyn.....	Devils Lake	Paulson, Mark.....	Starkweather
Blue, Victoria C.....	Grand Forks	Peltier, Louise.....	Belcourt
Boppre, Shannon.....	Belcourt	Perleberg, William L.....	Jamestown
Brown, Kelly J.....	Tokio	Pierson, Wilma.....	Fargo
Buffalo City Karting.....	Jamestown	Poitra, Doranna.....	Rolla
Chase, Steve.....	Minnewaukan	Poitra, Flavia.....	Rolla
Daniels, Maren.....	Bismarck	Poitra, Tammie.....	Belcourt
Dauphinais, Tonya.....	Browning, Mont.	Pound, Rhonda Hedstrom.....	Apex, NC
Davis, Lyle.....	Rolla	Redday, Chantell.....	Fargo
Davis, Michael D.....	Wimbledon	Rippel, Jason.....	Grand Forks
Decoteau, Donald D.....	Belcourt	Rodriguez-Gaytan, Javier.....	Cando
Degenstein, Jason.....	Dewey, Ariz.	Rogers, Steven.....	Sidney, Mont.
Dubois, Mark A. Jr.....	Belcourt	Runcck, Nickela M.....	Rosemount, MN
Duchscher, John Sr.....	Rugby	Sacred Heart Church.....	Hansboro
Eidfjord Lutheran Church.....	Hannaford	Schlafman, Kaylee.....	Binford
Eissinger, Sandra.....	Fargo	Slater, Delane estate.....	Kent, Wash.
Fleetwood, Deborah.....	Belcourt	Smith, Cindy.....	Leeds
Fossen, Hildur.....	Heimdal	Stutsman, John E. Jr.....	White Bear Lake, Minn.
Garner, Robert.....	Cleveland	Sullivan, David.....	Fargo
Gefroh, Joyce.....	Surrey	Thomas, Lorey.....	Fort Totten
Gourneau Lilly, Terri Ann.....	Belcourt	Thomas, Winifred.....	Oberon
Grab, Joyce M.....	Robbinsdale, Minn.	Vallie, Lynda K.....	Rolla
Hall, Brad.....	Cando	Volk, Kelly.....	Oakes
Halvorson, Marion J.....	Rugby	Vondall, Leo J.....	Belcourt
Held, Lucille.....	Spokane, Wash.	Walker, Timothy J.....	Jamestown
Herndon, Richard.....	Spring Valley, Calif.	Walkingeagle, Carletta.....	Fort Totten
Hennings, Helen.....	Jamestown	Waste Management.....	Bismarck
Holbrook, Hazel.....	Hartshorn, Mo.	Weigel, Harold.....	Minot
Houle, Tina.....	Trenton	White, Maria.....	Fort Totten
Hunter, Shelby.....	Belcourt	White, Marsha.....	Fort Totten
Jacobson, Sandra L.....	Rugby	Whitetail, Merle D.....	Fort Totten
Jeannotte, Victoria.....	Belcourt	Whitley, Leatrice estate.....	Shakopee, Minn.
Jetty, Renee.....	Devils Lake	Wilkie, Susan.....	Belcourt
Johnson, Norman S.....	Galt, Calif.	Yantes, Kenneth.....	Devils Lake
Keeffe, Kevin.....	Hawley, Minn.	Yellowbird, Jennifer.....	Grand Forks
Kills Plenty, Irvin Sr.....	Fort Totten	Yoder, Reuben.....	Fessenden
Kollman, Keith.....	Jamestown	Yoder, Wendell.....	Cando
Kirkeby, Lori.....	Carrington		
Koenig, Jacob G.....	Jamestown		
Laducer, Monica estate.....	Belcourt		
Laducer, Mikayah.....	Gilbert, Ariz.		
Laducer, Shonda.....	Bemidji, Minn.		
Laducer, Theresa.....	Rolla		
Lafromboise, Freyja.....	Fargo		
Larson, Lowell B.....	Minot		
Lattergrass, Brenda.....	Belcourt		
Lien, Kenneth.....	Bismarck		
Linstaedt, Seth.....	Jamestown		
Littlewind, Donelda A.....	Fort Totten		
Longie, Candace.....	Trenton		

To learn more about capital credits, visit nplains.com/capital-credits or scan the QR code.



APPLY TODAY!

Scholarship and Youth Tour deadlines nearing

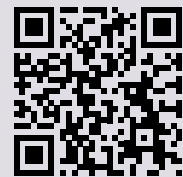
Together with Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative is offering two \$1,250 scholarships for the 2026-27 school year to member dependents.

Applicants for the scholarship must be a high school senior 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 2026. Scholarship applications are available for download at nplains.com/scholarship. The deadline is 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 14-20 is sponsored by Northern Plains Electric Cooperative to one lucky member dependent. The essay contest guidelines can be found at nplains.com/youth-tour. The deadline is Jan. 16. ■



Statement of nondiscrimination

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign

Language) should contact the responsible agency or USDA TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027) found online at ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; 2) fax: 202-690-7442; or 3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.



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