

Northern Plains celebrates Co-op Month



In October, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative took part in celebrating National Cooperative Month by hosting a gift card giveaway contest. Normally, Northern Plains invites members to stop by the office to visit and enjoy a tasty snack. However, due to the ongoing pandemic, it was thought best to skip the socializing and better to help our local economy.

Ten gift cards totaling \$500 were sent to members who submitted their entry by mail. Some 307 entries were submitted, and winners were drawn at random. Decided by the winning member's location, a gift card of \$50 was mailed to the members from a local business in their area.

"This was just one way to say thank you to our members and a way to help out the businesses in our communities that may have been affected by COVID-19," said Seth Syverson, general manager.

In addition to the gift card giveaway contest, Northern Plains once again offered free popcorn bags to the 19 schools in its service area. Five schools accepted the gift of popcorn bags to be used at their sporting events.

Thanks to all who participated in our activities. Northern Plains Electric is proud to be a cooperative and proud to serve our members and communities. ■

Gift card winners

· Norma Heidt	Arena
· Sheila Schmidt	Bisbee
· Jenna Stoppeworth	Courtenay
· Jacqueline Smeltzer	Cando
· M&M Oksendahl	Rugby
· Michael J Lesmeister Jr.	Harvey
· Holly Rubbert	Cando
· Randy Kramer	Buchanan
· W.T. Godman Jr.	Rugby
· Marita Aldayel	New Rockford

DECEMBER 2020

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Bob's the man

BY BRITTNEE WILSON

Bob David has been employed with Northern Plains Electric Cooperative for more than 20 years on the tree crew. He spends most his days clearing trees, shrubs and brush from the right of way of overhead powerlines. Over the years, he has spent countless hours operating a skidsteer with an attached forestry unit to chop brush into millions of pieces.

Around Northern Plains, it is well-known that David is the go-to guy to get the toughest of jobs done efficiently, but just recently his reputation spread quickly among the industry.

Last summer was the first time David was called upon to lend his expertise demonstrating a forestry unit for Diamond Mowers. The Sioux Falls, S.D., company is the leading manufacturer of industrial mowing, mulching and brush-cutting equipment for the municipal, skidsteer/compact track loader and excavator markets.

This summer, Northern Plains received a phone call asking for David, this time from Bobcat. The West Fargo company is a global company leading the industry in designing, manufacturing, marketing and distributing top-tier compact equipment. This includes advanced loader, excavator, utility vehicle, compact tractor and attachment offerings.

In August, a mix of five Bobcat professionals and engineers intently watched as David maneuvered their skidsteer machine. The machine, which is not on the market and still in the demo phase, was hooked to logistics, recording performance readings with David's every move. During the demo, Bobcat had one request, for David to work the machine as hard as he could to see if the skidsteer could handle him.

"I couldn't get it hot, I tried," laughed David. "They really have the cooling dialed in."

Northern Plains Operations Supervisor Danny Schuchard commented, "It was really neat to watch Bob in his element as this huge company looked on. We are lucky to have him on our team at Northern Plains."

"I felt honored they asked me. It was really exciting trying out a machine that is so new that it won't be on the market for a couple of years yet. Also, to be able to give my input on how to make it better, it was just awesome," David said ■.

10 tips to make your holiday more energy-efficient

The holidays are upon us and that means time to celebrate with friends and family. Most people know expenses add up during the holidays, not only with gift giving, but also on your utility bill if you're not careful. Here are 10 tips on how to save money by using less energy.



1. They use 90 percent less electricity than regular lights.

2. Use fiber-optic decorations. Fiber optic technology uses a single lightbulb located at the base of the unit to light the entire decoration. Fiber-optic trees and decorations are the ultimate in energy efficiency.



3. Wait until dark to turn on your Christmas lights and turn them off before you go to bed. Six hours or less of daily use is a good goal.

4. Do you have trouble remembering to turn your lights on and off? Then set a timer and forget about it.



5. The extra bodies warm your home at no cost to you. Lowering your thermostat by just one degree can decrease energy usage by 3 percent.

6. If gifts require batteries, use rechargeable batteries with an efficient charger.



7. Energy Star-certified electronics such as TV's, Blu-Ray players and cordless phones use less electricity than their noncertified counterparts.

8. Bake several dishes at one time. This will avoid using energy to reheat the oven.



9. Peeking lowers temperature as much as 25 degrees.

10. Unplug before you leave. For many, holidays are a time for travel and vacations. Before you leave, unplug the TV, computer and printer as they can still use energy when turned off, but remain plugged in.



Electricity brings everyday value

BY SETH SYVERSON, NPEC GENERAL MANAGER

Even though I work in the energy industry, like most people, I still don't think much about the electricity I use. I expect the lights to turn on when I flip the switch and the coffeemaker to work each morning. Because electricity is so abundant, we don't think much about it. Since many of us have been spending more time at home over the past few months, we have likely been using more energy. And yet, we still expect an endless supply of power with uninterrupted service 24/7. The only time we really think about electricity is when the power goes out or perhaps when the monthly bill arrives.

Given how electricity powers our modern lifestyle every day, it's a great value, especially when compared to other common services and expenses. For example, think back to the cost of a gallon of gasoline 20 years ago. Consider the cost of groceries or a cup of your favorite specialty coffee from a few years back. In comparison, the cost of electricity has remained largely flat, unlike most other consumer goods.

Like many of you, I have a cellphone to stay connected, and I subscribe to cable channels so I can enjoy more viewing options. Many of us consider these necessities for modern-day life. We can see what we're getting for our money, and we pay the price for those services. In contrast, when we use electricity, we don't necessarily "see" all that we're getting for our money.

But considering what electricity does for us, it's a tremendous value for our quality of life and our budgets. For comparison, consider

that the average rent increase was nearly 4 percent from 2014-2019, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI). The cost of medical care was increased 3 percent during this time, and education was not too far behind at 2.6 percent. So, where did electricity rank? According to the CPI, electricity increased by less than half a percentage point, 0.4 percent.

The bottom line: Electricity brings everyday value. Yes, there are times when our members find themselves without power, but considering that electricity is something that we all use around the clock, there are bound to be interruptions. At the same time, we are striving to increase our service reliability, reduce those brief interruptions and reduce costs. We

are continually working to improve our operations to ensure a smarter grid and exploring more renewable energy options where possible.

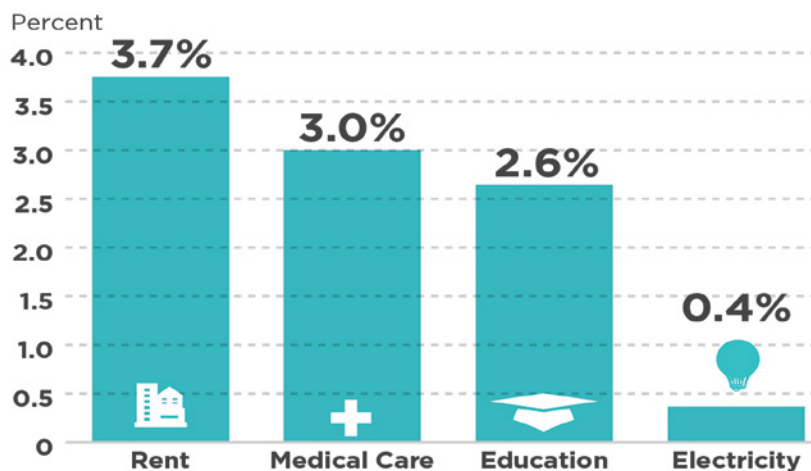
Northern Plains Electric Cooperative provides the reliable service you expect and deserve as valued members of the co-op. And as your trusted energy advisor, we want to help you save you energy and money.

We recognize that the past few months have been challenging for many of our members and we're here to help. If you have questions about your account or are looking for ways to save energy at home, please give us a call. Northern Plains Electric Cooperative is your electric co-op and our sole purpose is to serve you and the needs of our community. That's everyday value. ■

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2014-2019



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Consumer Price Index

GENERATE SAFETY

Before use, learn about the potential **dangers** associated with portable generators, such as their production of carbon monoxide (CO). CO is an odorless, colorless and tasteless **poisonous gas** that is often called the “**silent killer**” because it is virtually undetectable without the use of technology like CO alarms. Follow these tips to generate **power AND safety** when using a generator.

TIPS FOR THE PROPER INSTALLATION AND USE OF GENERATORS



NEVER operate a generator **INSIDE** your home or in other enclosed or partially enclosed spaces, including **GARAGES**.



Make sure your generator is properly grounded and used with a Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupter (**GFCI**).



Install battery-operated **CO ALARMS** or plug-in CO alarms with a battery backup inside the home.



A generator is a **TEMPORARY** power source and should **NEVER** be used as a permanent solution.



Use only extension cords that have a **THREE-PRONGED** plug and are rated for the intended load.



Do **NOT** **OVERLOAD** the generator.



NEVER connect generators directly to household wiring without first installing a **TRANSFER SWITCH**. This prevents backfeeding which could electrocute utility workers making repairs.



Your home generator should be installed by a **QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN** and bear the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as UL, Intertek or CSA.



The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends generators be positioned at least **20 FEET** from doors, windows and vents to prevent CO from entering the home.



**Northern Plains Electric
wishes our members a
wonderful holiday and
a prosperous new year!**

Office holiday closures
Closing at 2:30 p.m.
on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31
Closed on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

Line crews will be available in case of an emergency.

10 safety tips of Christmas



As you light your holiday with shining stars and shimmering snowmen, staying safe around electricity will keep the holidays bright. For a happy, and safe, holiday, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative shares these 10 safety tips of Christmas:



- 1.** Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use. Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire. Discard any that are damaged or worn.

- 6.** Protect cords from damage. To avoid shock or fire hazards, cords should never be pinched by furniture, doors or windows, placed under rugs, located near heat sources, or attached by nails or staples.



- 2.** Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, the house or other firm supports to protect them from wind damage, but do not attach or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.



- 7.** Test your smoke alarms, have an adequate number of smoke alarms in your home and develop a fire escape plan with your family.



- 3.** Make sure all extension cords, lights and electrical decorations used for outdoor decorating are marked for outdoor use. Outdoor lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters.

- 8.** Keep combustibles at least 3 feet from heat sources.



- 4.** Turn off, unplug and extinguish all decorations when going to sleep or leaving the house. Half of home fire deaths occur between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.



- 9.** Keep the live tree fresh by watering daily. Dry trees are a serious fire hazard. When purchasing an artificial tree, look for a "fire resistant" label. Do not use electrical ornaments or light strings on artificial trees with metallic leaves or branch coverings. Place the tree at least 3 feet away from all heat sources, such as fireplaces, radiators or space heaters.



- 5.** Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights. More than three strands may not only blow a fuse, but can also cause a fire. Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can overheat and cause a fire.

- 10.** Use battery-operated candles. Candles start almost half of home decoration fires.





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 these people, or if you are entitled to the capital credits in the case of an estate. Information must be received by Jan. 29, 2021. Call us at 800-882-2500.

2020 UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS

Arnell, Francisco Belcourt
Bailey, Kathy Bismarck
Banic, Al Round Rock, Texas
Bannach, Steve Cando
Bear, King R. St. Michael
Beaulne, Jeanette New Rockford
Belgarde, Leslie Belcourt
Bercier, Brenda L. Belcourt
Bercier, Donna Belcourt
Bercier, Jodi Belcourt
Bjorge, Raymond Cando
Block, Gary Jamestown
Boltz, Nita Rock Springs, Wyo.
Bower, Louis J. Mesa, Ariz.
Brandt, David Mandan
Bremer Insurance St. Paul, Minn.
Cavanaugh, Roman Ft. Totten
Demarce, Myrna K. Ft. Totten
C S Dubois Construction Fargo
Counter, Shalene Underwood
Ducharme, Whitehorse Pierre, S.D.
Chase, Thomas R. Bertha, Minn.
Counts, Charlie Belcourt
Demarce, Jacquie L. Ft. Totten
Demarce, Jerome Ft. Totten
Eller, Kevin Belcourt
Erck, Cletus Cando
Eversvik, Amanda Wales
Falcon, Derek Belcourt
Flacon, Samantha Fargo
Fayant, Louis E. Belcourt
Ferguson, Rose Devils Lake
Fisk, Greg Rugby
Folmer, Paul Bismarck
Foss, Lennis Leeds
Franz, Hazel Belcourt
Frederick, Richard L. Cando

Free Association LLC Grand Forks
Greene, Cory Cando
Greenwood, Mike Rolla
Gustafson, Paulette St. John
Guthmiller, Randy Carrington
Haberstroh, Gerald Hansboro
Hartman, Myrle Jamestown
Haugen, Dennis M. Jamestown
Hauschulz, Marshall Rock Lake
Helton, Gracie Carrington
Hoppe, Esther Cavalier
Jensen, Don P. Eagle, Wis.
Jorgenson, Harold Leeds
Juarez, Bernice Ft. Totten
Juntunen, Joann M. St. John
Kenitzer, Charles Sheridan, Wyo.
Koenig, Marvin Lakeville, Minn.
KSJB TV Tower Fargo
Lafloe, Cindy Belcourt
Larson, Lloyd Courtenay
Lien, Eric D. Buffalo
Littlewind, Manuel Sr. Ft. Totten
Littlewind, Natasha Ft. Totten
Lund, Ruth Belcourt
Lureen, Bruce A. Towner
Marion, Renee M. Belcourt
Marion, Sarah Longmont, Colo.
Martin, Dean H. Rolla
Martin, Patti Minot
Mascarena, Lana Devils Lake
McLawhorn, Vickie Cando
Melchior, Carl J. Iron River, Wis.
Michaelson, Nathan Jamestown
Miller, Greg Tuttle
Mittleider, Clarence Jamestown
Morin, Lora Belcourt
Neslund, Steve Maple Lake, Minn.
Noltmier, Dolores Devils Lake

O'Neal, Shawn T. Brainerd, Minn.
Peltier, Florestine Ft. Totten
Peters, Traci Crary
Plowe, Virginia Jamestown
Poitra, Denise J. Sheyenne
Questell, Michael McMinnville, Tenn.
Rath, Shirley Tuttle
Rath, Teresa Wimbledon
Reynolds, Ric Lamar, Colo.
Riedesel, Helene Carrington
Ronholdt, Adam Center
Rudnick, Daniel J. Drayton
Ruff, Ryan Jamestown
Savre, Lyle Wimbledon
Selzler, Terry Bismarck
Sime, Jessica Dunseith
Solseth, Mary P. Cando
Spottedbird, Renita Devils Lake
Stoddard, Earl Carrington
Thomas, Richard A. Leeds
Thompson, Ryan Pembina
Tribe, Dale Freeman, S.D.
Vivier, Velma Belcourt
Vondal, Christine Belcourt
Wallette, Kevin J. Belcourt
Wallette, Linus Jr. Belcourt
Wallette, Sharon A. Belcourt
Weisz, Evelyn Cando
Wentz, Owen L. Dickinson
Wessels, April Fargo
White, Janet M. Ft. Totten
White, Kyle Ft. Totten
Whitetail, Tioga Ft. Totten
Williams, Roberta New Rockford
Williams, Warren R. Jamestown
Wolff, Delmer Arthur
Zlatevski, Milan Park Falls, Wis.



Northern Plains announces 2021 scholarship

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative believes strongly in the future of area students and takes pride in helping develop future leaders. Together with Basin Electric Power Cooperative, we are offering a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2021-2022 school year.

Basin Electric is a consumer-owned-and-controlled regional cooperative responsible for supplying wholesale electric power to nine Midwestern states. Each of the 141 electric cooperatives that make up Basin Electric, including Northern Plains Electric Cooperative, receives \$1,000 from Basin Electric to award a scholarship to a qualifying dependent of a Northern Plains Electric member, who will be enrolled as a college freshman or college sophomore for the upcoming school year.

The scholarship program, which is in its 30th year, recognizes and encourages the academic achievement of students in the region. It also serves as an investment in the economic future of rural areas.

Who is eligible?

To qualify, an applicant's parents or guardians must be members of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative. Applicants 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 vocation/technical school in the fall of 2021.

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, potential to succeed, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, an outside appraisal and a written essay describing how a cooperative can be economic engines for their local communities.

How do I apply?

Scholarship applications are available for download on the cooperative's website, www.nplains.com. Applications are also available by emailing justask@nplains.com or calling the office at 800-882-2500.

Deadline

Scholarship applications must be postmarked by Jan. 31, 2021.

Submit applications to:

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative
Attn: Brittnee Wilson
P.O. Box 608
Cando, ND 58324 ■



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

An equal opportunity provider and employer.

CANDO OFFICE:

609 4th Ave.
Cando, ND 58324

CARRINGTON OFFICE:

1515 West Main
Carrington, ND 58421

OFFICE HOURS:

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

www.nplains.com
justask@nplains.com
800-882-2500

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