



# SUSTAINABILITY REPORT



# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

I've had the honor of serving as the president and CEO of Minnkota Power Cooperative for 15 years. Over that time, major changes in our industry have tested the limits of our fortitude and flexibility, especially within the last five years. But not only have we survived adversity, we have thrived, because we know the formula for true sustainability: **reliable power, inspired people and connected communities.**

For Minnkota, raising wind turbines and lowering carbon emissions aren't the only aspects of our sustainability strategy. It's also ensuring power will be there when the North Dakotans and Minnesotans we serve need it, no matter how low the winter temperature or how volatile the energy market. And it's making sure our business model is one founded on collaboration and strategic planning, one that understands the growing risk landscape and prepares us to overcome challenges year after year.

We've never been the ones to run from a problem. We find solutions. That's sustainability.

Minnkota's passion for innovation is key to navigating an uncertain energy future, but there's no innovation without thoughtful and motivated people who believe that what they do every day is creating stronger, more connected communities. These people form our workforce, our leadership and our board of directors, and it is from them that real, sustainable power is generated.

As our region's demand for electricity grows rapidly, we will not stray from our mission of delivering safe, reliable, affordable energy to every home, business and farm in our membership. Service excellence is our goal, and it takes a sustainable system of power, people and purpose to attain it.

Thank you for taking the time to explore our Sustainability Report and the work we're doing to energize the region today and for generations to come.

**Mac McLennan**  
President and CEO

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# MINNKOTA'S MISSION

Minnkota Power Cooperative's mission is to provide the best energy value in the region. The value our members receive is not just the kilowatts running through our system. They receive a power strategy that prioritizes affordability, reliability and sustainability, and one that protects the land, water and air of the region they call home. They receive the support of highly skilled industry professionals who live where they live and work where they work, who ensure every local voice is heard when planning for the decades to come. And they receive an additional champion for their communities in the form of a partner for economic growth, a caring hand during hard times and a trusted resource for electrifying their future.

# MINNKOTA'S VALUES

## SAFETY

We recognize that people are the heart of our organization and keeping them safe is our top priority. We embrace a 24/7 culture of safety – at home, on the road, in the office and at the job site. We actively participate in safety and training programs for the benefit of our fellow employees, members and the general public.



## INTEGRITY

We hold ourselves to the highest professional, moral and ethical standards. We are committed to doing the right thing – always.



## TEAMWORK

We epitomize the cooperative spirit by working together with respect for other ideas and contributions. We believe in engaging in honest, open communication because the potential for success is greater when we share our diverse experiences.



## INNOVATION

We promote creativity and believe in the free exchange of knowledge and ideas. We agree to work every day to learn new things and challenge each other to strive for excellence.



## RELIABILITY

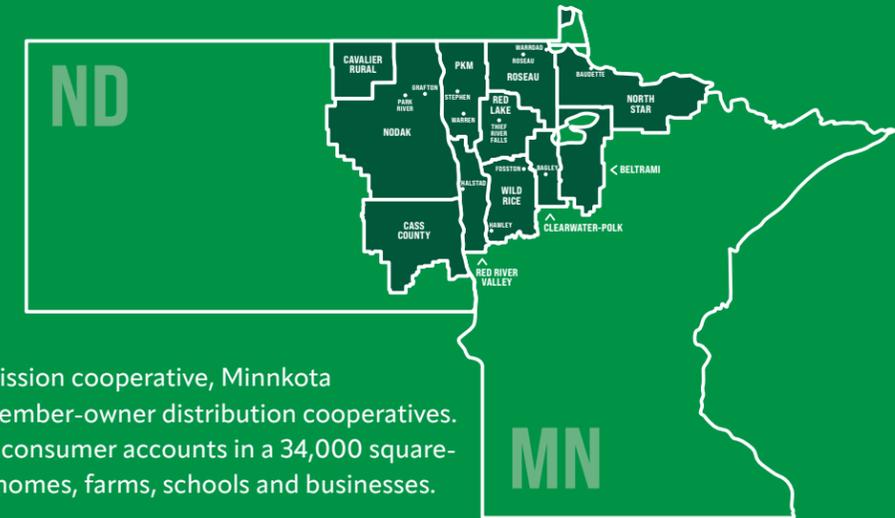
Our organization is relied upon 24 hours a day. We dependably perform our job duties and agree to be responsible for the decisions we make, while taking pride and ownership in our work.



# WHO WE ARE

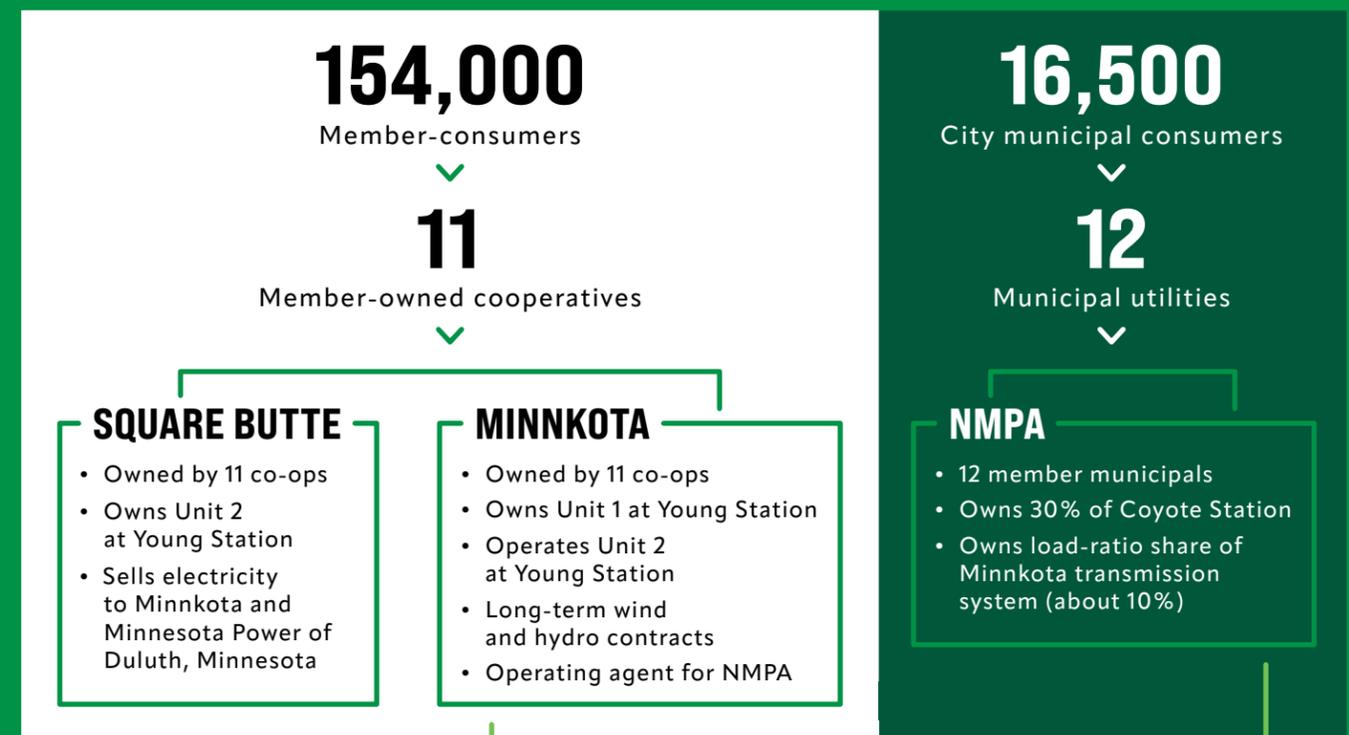
Minnkota Power Cooperative has worked for more than 85 years to provide the electricity that supports and unites rural communities across eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

As a not-for-profit generation and transmission cooperative, Minnkota provides wholesale electric energy to 11 member-owner distribution cooperatives. These members serve more than 154,000 consumer accounts in a 34,000 square-mile area, including many of the region's homes, farms, schools and businesses.



Minnkota has key energy partners in Northern Municipal Power Agency (NMPA) and Square Butte Electric Cooperative that provide strategic collaboration and support. NMPA supplies the electric needs of 12 associated municipals that serve more than 16,500 consumer accounts in the same geographic footprint as the Minnkota member-owners. Square Butte owns Unit 2 at the Milton R. Young Station, a two-unit lignite coal-based power plant located near Center, North Dakota, and is governed by the Minnkota member cooperatives.

Headquartered in Grand Forks, North Dakota, Minnkota is committed to delivering safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible electricity. The cooperative's electric generation portfolio includes coal, wind and hydroelectric energy. In order to deliver power, Minnkota operates and maintains a robust set of electric transmission infrastructure, including nearly 3,400 miles of transmission line and 265 substations. The cooperative's energy control center personnel monitor the essential systems that deliver power to the membership 24 hours a day.



JOINT SYSTEM AGREEMENT

# RELIABLE POWER

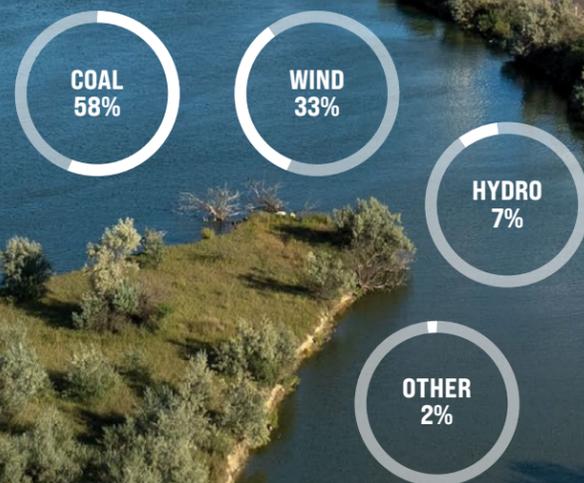
A utility must be adaptable to remain sustainable. Minnkota’s all-of-the-above generation resource strategy has allowed the cooperative to stay nimble, even in an energy environment in which change can take years, even decades, to implement. With this flexibility, Minnkota has continued to incorporate new generation technologies to both reduce emissions and enhance grid strength and reliability. At the same time, we are incorporating new programs and policies to ensure we remain the best possible stewards of our region’s land, water and air.

## GENERATION DIVERSITY

Minnkota has a diverse electric generation portfolio that includes wind, hydro and coal resources. In terms of nameplate electric generation capacity, about 58% is derived from coal, 33% from wind, 7% from hydro and 2% from other resources. Minnkota also participates in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) wholesale market to both buy and sell surplus power. MISO is a not-for-profit, member-based organization. All of Minnkota’s generation and load is modeled, scheduled, dispatched and settled financially in the MISO market.

RESOURCE	TYPE	MW
Ashtabula Wind Energy Center	Wind	217.5
Langdon Wind Energy Center	Wind	139.5
Oliver III Wind Energy Center	Wind	100
Garrison Dam (WAPA)	Hydro	101
Milton R. Young 1	Coal	250
Milton R. Young 2 (96% – Square Butte)	Coal	435
Coyote Station (30% – NMPA)	Coal	128
Other	Misc.	34
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,405</b>

### JOINT SYSTEM POWER GENERATION PORTFOLIO



# DEMAND RESPONSE LEADERSHIP

Minnkota administers one of the nation’s best demand response programs – a strategic tool to strengthen the reliability of the grid, while saving member-consumers millions of dollars. The program is a true grassroots effort, with members working cooperatively to accomplish something they could not do alone. Under direction of Minnkota and its member cooperatives, consumers are empowered to collectively modify their electricity usage in a way that lowers overall costs and ensures grid stability.

Consumers often focus on how much electricity they use, but *when* they use electricity is just as important. When the demand for electricity in Minnkota’s system exceeds its available supply, the first option is to purchase energy from the wholesale electricity market. If Minnkota is not able to economically purchase the additional energy it needs, the cooperative’s demand response system is launched into action. Member-consumers in the region voluntarily sign up for the program, which allows Minnkota to temporarily turn off electric heating, water heating, vehicle chargers and commercial account service. During these “control periods,” most consumers are automatically switched to a backup heating system or generator. The demand response program helps encourage the wise use of electricity by shifting demand from “on-peak hours” to “off-peak hours.” Using less on-peak power means lower costs for the co-op – and, ultimately, lower rates for member-consumers. The savings from not having to purchase additional high-priced power are passed on to consumers through a lower off-peak electric rate – a win for the member-consumer, a win for Minnkota and a win for the electric grid.

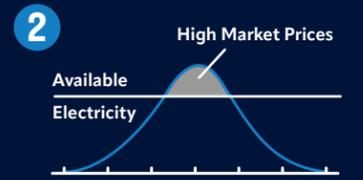
The program has become increasingly important as the MISO market has faced a growing number of grid emergencies and maximum generation events. Minnkota’s demand response program is used to its full capability during these occurrences to help ensure reliability can be maintained.

The demand response program, which was started in 1977, is popular with nearly 55,000 member-consumers participating across eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. About 350 megawatts – or one-third of Minnkota’s peak load – can be temporarily interrupted from Minnkota’s control center in Grand Forks.

The Minnkota demand response program could not be a success without widespread support from the member cooperatives and associated municipals. Residential and business members also endorse the program because they understand it has been developed to provide them with the most value for their energy dollar.



1 Home uses electric heat at lower off-peak rate under normal conditions.



2 Electricity demand exceeds current power supply and economical energy purchases are not available.



3 Demand response is used to avoid uneconomical energy purchases and maintain system reliability.



4 Home is automatically switched from electric to a backup heating source. When demand response is no longer needed, the home is returned to electric heat.

# PLANNED DEVELOPMENT

## Flickertail Wind Farm

In January 2025, Minnkota announced an addition to its wind power fleet – a 370-megawatt (MW) wind farm to be developed near New Rockford, North Dakota. The development, named Flickertail Wind Farm, will be owned and operated by PRC Wind, while Minnkota will purchase all energy produced under a long-term agreement. The project is scheduled to begin construction in 2027 and, when completed, will result in approximately 50% of Minnkota’s electric generation capacity being carbon-free.

Flickertail Wind Farm originated as a collaborative effort between local community members and the New Rockford economic development board. The wind farm is being developed in Wells and Eddy counties on nearly 43,000 acres, featuring up to 112 wind turbines, a dedicated substation, 15 miles of transmission line, access roads, and an operations and maintenance facility. It has been carefully designed to complement local agricultural activities while safeguarding the surrounding natural environment.

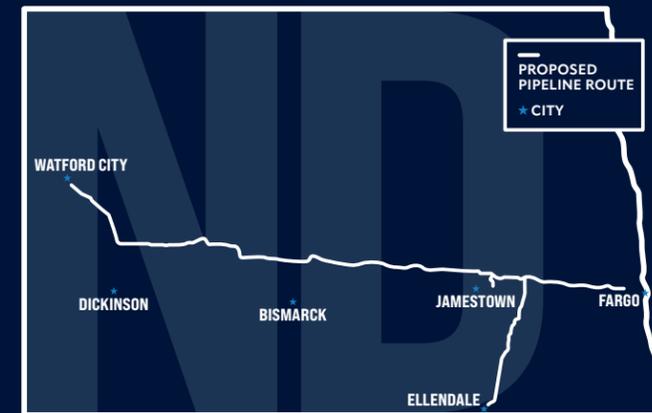
The new wind farm began the state and local permitting process in 2025 and is scheduled to be online in 2028.



## Natural Gas Opportunities

To meet long-term growth needs and ensure a reliable, cost-effective power supply, Minnkota is evaluating the addition of natural gas generation in North Dakota. This effort is part of a broader strategy to align resources with the region’s evolving energy needs while maintaining stability for decades to come.

A potential opportunity is tied to WBI Energy’s plans to construct new pipeline infrastructure that would transport natural gas from western North Dakota to the eastern edge of the state. Minnkota is actively engaged in these planning discussions, which currently call for the western segment of the pipeline to be in service by the end of 2029, with the eastern segment following by the end of 2030. As part of its evaluation, Minnkota is assessing potential facility locations and generation technologies, while also exploring additional opportunities to support future development needs.



Natural gas generation provides highly dispatchable capacity, with the ability to ramp up or down quickly in response to system needs. This operational flexibility has become an increasingly critical attribute as Minnkota’s resource mix evolves and demand patterns grow more dynamic.

# POWER PLANT SUSTAINABILITY

As the operator of the Milton R. Young Station, Minnkota is committed to preserving the local environment while maintaining reliable plant performance. Employees have a personal stake in ensuring the air, water and lands are kept in pristine condition and that the plant continues to operate during the harshest conditions.



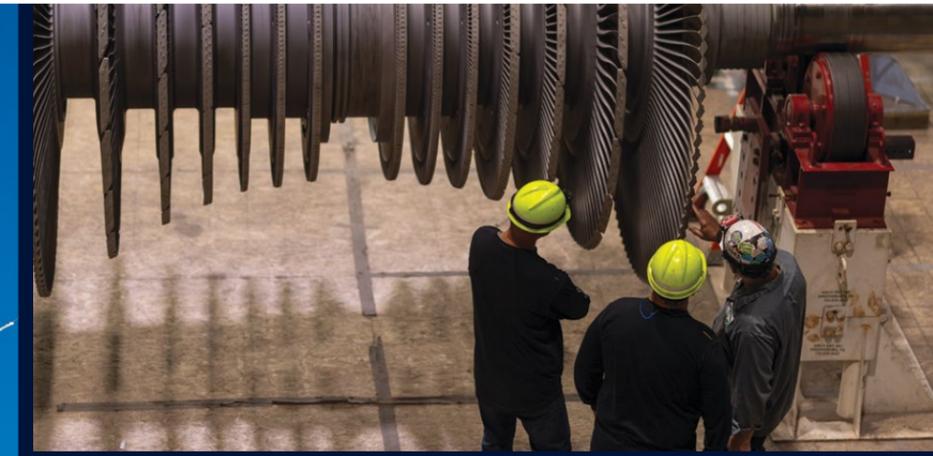
## Sustainable Operations

The Young Station uses state-of-the-art emission controls, including scrubbers and other modern systems, to ensure compliance with strict **air quality standards**. This technology helps Minnkota meet state and federal limits for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, mercury, particulate matter and other emissions.

When the plant was built in the late 1960s, Minnkota created Nelson Lake, a 660-acre manmade reservoir for use in cooling and other power plant processes. **Water quality** is a priority, and the lake's water is tested, treated and discharged in compliance with EPA Effluent Guidelines and the Cooling Water Intake rule. Over 50 years, the lake has become a community asset: Its warm outflow prevents freezing, supporting robust fisheries and year-round recreation.



Additionally, Minnkota takes great care to either **recycle or responsibly dispose of coal combustion residuals (CCR)** from daily operations and is in full compliance with EPA CCR standards. Most bottom ash is recycled into shingles and sandblasting material, while any nonrecyclable coal ash is stored on site in disposal units with composite clay/synthetic membrane liners, which were installed before the EPA CCR rule was implemented.



## Physical Climate Risk Mitigation

North Dakota and Minnesota boast some of the nation's most beautiful landscapes and breathtaking sunsets. However, the winter climate is often not as welcoming. Full weeks, even months, can pass without the temperature rising above the freezing point. In the summer, heat and humidity soar. For our region, reliable heating and cooling is not a luxury – it's critical to survival.

Minnkota supports the continued use of baseload resources, like coal, natural gas and nuclear, to meet the 24/7 demand for electricity, no matter what the weather brings. That's why Minnkota has invested in the long-term operation of the coal-based Young Station. This facility has remained steadfast through all weather conditions for the following reasons:

- The Young Station has a **resilient mine-mouth fuel supply**, meaning its coal comes directly from an adjacent mine. This close proximity eliminates the need for long-distance transportation that could be disrupted by extreme weather.
- All of the Young Station's major components are covered, insulated and weatherized to ensure they are **prepared to operate in extreme cold or heat**.
- The Young Station is well maintained, with **full inspections and maintenance** planned on each unit every three years. **Employees are on-site 24/7** to monitor the generation of power, environmental control technologies and related cyber assets, and are trained to respond to system issues.

# PROJECT TUNDRA

Minnkota understands evolving regulations will likely require carbon management in the years to come. We remain focused on long-term decarbonization, and one of our largest such efforts is Project Tundra.

Project Tundra is a carbon capture and storage (CCS) initiative designed to retrofit the Milton R. Young Station with technology to store up to 4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) per year, about one mile underground. The Young Station sits atop 222 million tons of permitted storage capacity, making the project one of the nation's largest CCS efforts. Project Tundra would support emission-reduction goals while preserving existing generation reliability.

Recent project development has focused on navigating major federal changes, funding program shifts and revised EPA power plant rules. Minnkota is also facing supply chain constraints and inflation that have raised the labor, equipment and material costs expected for the project.

Minnkota continues to assess funding options that would best benefit the project and Minnkota's membership. Project Tundra has access to \$350 million from the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Carbon Capture Demonstration Projects Program and \$250 million in state loans, along with several hundred million dollars in other funding opportunities. Federal 45Q tax credits (\$85 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> stored or used for enhanced oil recovery) are also available.

Minnkota has engaged member cooperatives, landowners, local officials and board directors through the evaluation process and remains committed to transparent communication. A final investment decision will be made when financial, regulatory and market conditions align to deliver clear, sustained benefits to our members.



# REGULATION MONITORING & ADVOCACY

Innovative efforts like Project Tundra are born out of and molded by changing energy regulations in state and federal governments. It's critical that Minnkota stays aware of and engaged in policy development that could impact the cooperative. To do so, Minnkota has developed a team of environmental specialists, legal experts and government affairs representatives to monitor legislation at every stage and evaluate what passage would mean for cooperative operations. Additionally, leadership is active in advocating both locally and nationally for policymaking that prioritizes electric reliability and affordability.

# CYBERSECURITY

In today's technological environment, a utility's sustainability is only as strong as its cybersecurity. Minnkota continues to align staffing resources with the growing set of opportunities and risk connected to the digital world. We adhere to North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) Critical Infrastructure Protection requirements and continually evaluate the controls and trainings needed to mitigate growing cyberthreats on the industry.

In a step toward strengthening cybersecurity, Minnkota participates in GridEx every two years, a nationwide grid crisis exercise developed by NERC's Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC). This two-day event simulates several styles of attack on the bulk electric system, including cyberattacks. Minnkota's IT department, and employees in general, use this exercise to test and fortify several levels of cybersecurity and threat response.



# LAND RECLAMATION

Minnkota works closely with its power partner, BNI Coal, to ensure the North Dakota land touched by coal mining is returned to its original state – or better. Once mining has been completed, BNI begins its award-winning land reclamation process. Per state law, every acre mined must be restored to be just as crop productive or ecologically diverse as it was before.

For the reclamation process, land is thoroughly analyzed and surveyed before being permitted for mining, including the collection of soil data, vegetation data, wildlife data, water data and more.

Once mining is complete and the original soil is returned to the area, BNI works with local growers and other land experts for at least 10 years to environmentally nurture the land to meet its pre-mine productivity. When it meets the necessary parameters, it is returned to local landowners.

North Dakota has one of the best reclamation laws in the nation, and BNI has invested tens of millions of dollars to ensure it remains at the forefront of reclamation practices. More than 10,000 acres have been reclaimed by BNI.



# WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION

In 2025, Minnkota developed a thorough Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP), a document that outlines the steps Minnkota takes to reduce the risk of ignition and spread of wildfires in its system. The WMP, which was drafted in accordance with legislation passed by North Dakota lawmakers, identifies wildfire risk factors in Minnkota’s service territory including topography, weather, drought and areas with a higher historical risk of wildfires. The plan also collects and reiterates the processes and procedures Minnkota follows to reduce fire risk while expanding procedures to include new technologies and changes in industry standards.

The overall goals of the WMP are increasing safety for Minnkota’s operations team, members and surrounding communities; continuing service reliability; limiting liability; streamlining community



outreach; and setting a standard upon which to continually improve.

Minnkota has always been conscientious about meeting standards related to wildfire prevention, but this document is a written testament to the cooperative’s commitment to safety and reliability.

# WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Minnkota incorporates environmental considerations into its planning, siting, design, construction and operation of power facilities. This includes the assessment of potential impacts on physical, cultural, socioeconomic and aesthetic resources.

Minnkota has proactively added wildlife protection equipment on its existing infrastructure. Climbing and nesting/perching deterrents have been installed on more than 1,300 miles of power delivery infrastructure. Minnkota also has a proud history of working directly with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to safely and successfully relocate raptor nests in its service area to prevent wildlife fatalities and improve electric grid reliability.



# MONARCH CONSERVATION

In 2025, Minnkota received its Certificate of Inclusion for the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) for the monarch butterfly, which confirms Minnkota as an official CCAA partner. As a partner of the CCAA, most of Minnkota’s maintenance and modernization activities within enrolled acres will be covered under a standing Enhancement of Survival Permit (EOS).

Minnkota’s Environmental team began work on the voluntary CCAA partnership in 2023. The

program, led by the FWS, is specific to energy and transportation rights of way, and offers regulatory coverage for those entities who create, enhance and maintain habitats for monarch butterflies, a species that’s vulnerable to landing on the endangered species list.

Before the CCAA, Minnkota was already using scheduled vegetation management to manage hazardous woody vegetation in its right-of-way corridors, a practice that also opens up the canopy over land for pollinators like monarchs and bees. To create optimal pollinator habitats, Minnkota will focus on incorporating native seed mixes into certain rights of way and removing brush to open more space for grassland. These restoration and habitat preservation activities within our owned land and rights of way will save Minnkota planning time by exempting many transmission activities from FWS consultation and permitting processes.





# INSPIRED PEOPLE

Minnkota is guided by a structure that puts people first – not profits. We have created an environment where our employees are inspired to develop ideas in a space of respect and inclusiveness. Our team extends this active collaboration to our member cooperatives, working together to ensure the needs of every member-consumer are met. Open communication and democratic membership have sustained us for more than 85 years and will continue to be the foundation of our sustainability into the future.



# EMPLOYEE CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Minnkota has 427 knowledgeable and skilled employees who work to bring reliable, low-cost electric energy to northwestern Minnesota and eastern North Dakota. The cooperative offers a collaborative workplace environment where all employees are respected and valued. Minnkota supports its employees through a strong total rewards package that includes competitive compensation, recognition, and ongoing personal and professional development opportunities. A commitment to work-life balance helps ensure employees remain engaged, healthy and productive.

# HEALTH & SAFETY

Minnkota is committed to providing a safe and healthy working environment for its employees, members and partners. The cooperative conducts thorough training on safety procedures, equipment operation, hazard recognition and emergency response protocols. Regular refresher courses are conducted to ensure that knowledge remains current.

In addition to general safety training, Minnkota also provides more specialized certifications. Safety personnel lead a CPR/AED/First-Aid training that is provided to all Young Station employees every two years. In Grand Forks, this training is also provided to lineworkers and electricians every two years.

In 2024, Minnkota was recognized once again for its industry-leading safety culture, earning a fifth-consecutive Certificate of Safety Achievement from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The certificate follows a successful on-site

peer review of Minnkota’s safety practices at both facilities in Grand Forks and Center. Since 2020, the co-op has experienced a string of its strongest safety years on record.



# STRONG UNION RELATIONSHIPS

Minnkota is proud of its longstanding relationship with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). Nearly half of our workforce is a member of either Local Union 1426 in Grand Forks or Local Union 1593 based in Hazen, North Dakota. Minnkota values the strong connection that has been established with the union and its members, as they are critical to our continued success.



# ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

Minnkota offers a third-party ethics and compliance hotline that allows employees to anonymously report any concerns regarding potentially unlawful, unethical, unsafe or noncompliant behavior within the organization. Minnkota's Corporate Policy ensures employee protection from retaliation for raising such concerns.



# DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

As Minnkota welcomes a new generation to the workforce, the cooperative is fine-tuning its focus on education, development and leadership opportunities at all levels to support individual growth and retention. Minnkota launched an onboarding program, Watts Up at Minnkota, through which new employees learn from co-op leaders, tour critical energy facilities

and collaborate with their colleagues. In addition to strong apprenticeship programs, specialized training and ongoing development programs, Minnkota also provides up to \$30,000 per employee in educational assistance to pursue courses, licensure, training, certification or other programs.

# COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE

## Unified Membership

Minnkota understands it is fortunate to have strong relationships with its member cooperatives, and that those cooperatives have also built bonds with each other. During storm outages or other times of need, the co-ops of Minnkota's system help one another with the information, material or personnel needed to restore safe, reliable power.

Our democratic, member-owned structure allows us to respond directly to our members' needs, as we do not require regulatory approval for our programs, budgets or rates. Rather than having to go through a utility commission process, as is the case with investor-owned utilities, we can work with our members, identify their needs or unique circumstances and make changes accordingly. Minnkota members are diverse and have individual goals and interests, but they recognize they are stronger when working together. The Minnkota board meets each month, while Minnkota staff meets with member managers and other key staff on a regular basis. Together, these individuals help assess risks and develop a consistent set of annual values, objectives and strategic initiatives.

## Evergreen Wholesale Power Contracts

In 2023, the 11 Class A member-owners signed new wholesale power contracts with Minnkota that extend through 2060. These foundational agreements create a framework for the organizations to continue working together toward their common goal of reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity. One of the key changes in the new contracts is the implementation of an evergreen renewal structure. Starting in 2026, the contracts will be automatically extended by two years each even-numbered year. The development of these contracts was made possible through open conversation and collaboration between all the members involved.



# COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES



## DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Representatives (directors/trustees) are elected among the membership and are accountable to them. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.



## AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.



## COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

By working together through local, national, regional and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.



## OPEN AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP

Membership in a cooperative is open to all people who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender or economic circumstances.



## CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.



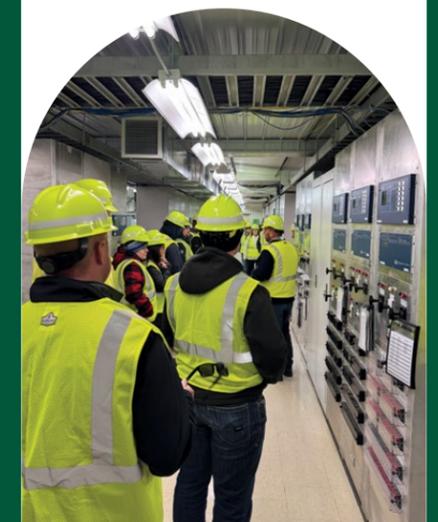
## MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.



## EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, help boost cooperative understanding.



# CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

Our seventh cooperative principle, Concern for Community, is a value that flows through everything we do at Minnkota. We would not be here without thriving communities, and we do everything we can to enhance the lives of those we serve, as well as those who live beyond the borders of our service territory. Through economic development, electrification, education and more, our goals have always been about more than electricity – they are about connection.



# CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Minnkota continues its strong commitment to providing financial support to critical nonprofits, charitable causes and educational institutions that make a difference in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. Approximately \$187,000 was contributed in 2025 to a variety of different entities, including: Special Olympics North Dakota, Make-A-Wish North Dakota, Community Violence Intervention Center (CVIC), Farm Rescue, United Way of Grand Forks, Altru Health Foundation, Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library of Grand Forks County, North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks Children’s Museum, Oliver County Fair Board, Oliver County Rural Fire Protection and more!



# VOLUNTEERISM

Beyond providing monetary support to our communities, Minnkota has a strong history of offering its facilities and resources to organizations who aim to enhance lives in the region and beyond. Minnkota’s Grand Forks headquarters has become the home to Grand Forks’ annual Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack, through which the community is invited to fill nutrition-dense food packs to send to families around the world. Minnkota’s Nelson Lake, next to the Young Station power plant, has served more than two decades as the location of Escape to the Lake, an adaptive waterski and boating experience for those with physical and mental challenges. Minnkota employees also volunteer their time for these efforts.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Working closely with the member and associated municipal systems, Minnkota has an economic development program with an active project pipeline that includes approximately 50 projects in various stages of development at any given time. Minnkota also recently launched a program focused on business retention and expansion, as well as an initiative to recruit and collaborate more extensively in the Manitoba, Canada, business market. Attracting and retaining business activity helps contribute to the overall vibrancy of the region.

In 2025, the economic development team played a key role in bring several manufacturing and agricultural companies to the Minnkota system that

will create additional jobs and industry diversity in several communities. Minnkota worked alongside community partners to secure the development of an Agristo potato processing facility near Grand Forks, as well as two Riverview Dairy developments in the Red River Valley.

Minnkota also launched a new economic development website in 2025, with a focus on the region served by the Minnkota system of cooperatives. The site – [econdev.minnkota.com](http://econdev.minnkota.com) – is a one-stop platform for businesses and growing communities to browse potential development sites, access local programs and grants, and connect directly with Minnkota’s economic development team.

## ELECTRIFICATION

As Minnkota’s communities look to electrify their homes, schools and businesses, the cooperative has continued to be a trusted partner in finding solutions to make the transition beneficial, affordable and sustainable. Through Minnkota’s Value of Electricity program, member-consumers can receive sizeable rebates on technologies like electric heating systems, electric water heaters and even electric vehicle (EV) chargers.

Minnkota and its cooperatives have recently helped local school districts incorporate electric school buses into their transportation fleets by offering \$10,000 to help offset the cost of the bus and its charging equipment. In 2024, Red Lake School District acquired Minnesota’s first electric buses to serve students in a tribal community. With \$10,000 from Minnkota and the expertise of member-owner Beltrami Electric Cooperative, the school was prepared with the power level and infrastructure needed to charge two new buses.

As a strong proponent of transportation electrification, Minnkota acquired an all-electric Ford F-150 Lightning

in 2023. The pickup has been an opportunity for employees to learn more about EV technology and share that knowledge with member cooperatives and their communities. The Lightning can be spotted all over the Minnkota service territory, from work sites to parades to member events.

The Value of Electricity program has assisted in big change around Minnkota’s region. Over the last decade, participants in the program have installed 60,345 kilowatts (kW) of electric technologies and 17,737 tons of electric heat pump systems through an investment of more than \$3.4 million from Minnkota.

In addition to its comprehensive systemwide electrification initiative, Minnkota oversees the Minnesota-based PowerSavers program. In 2025, this program facilitated savings of 20 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) for member-consumers. Energy experts within the program collaborate with residential, business and industrial member-consumers to enhance their energy efficiency practices. Since 2010, more than \$40 million has been invested to help consumers save nearly 394 million kWh.



# COMMUNITY SAFETY

Safety is one of Minnkota’s shared workforce values, but our commitment to safety doesn’t stop with our employees. We can only realize true safety excellence when we share our safety culture message with our members and communities. With this in mind, the co-op has made a concerted effort in recent years to develop more public outreach strategies to educate people on electrical safety.

Minnkota’s first step in spreading awareness was with the donation of a Minnkota fleet vehicle to the North Dakota Safety Council (NDSC) for use in pulling its mobile Ag Safety trailer to communities across the region. The trailer is equipped with custom-made module units that provide interactive lessons on agriculture safety.

But Minnkota knew it could do even more to promote safety in its communities, so it took a more hands-on approach in 2025 with the creation of the Watch the Wires campaign. The objective of the initiative is to reduce power line contacts, both overhead and underground, but also educate people about what to do if contact does occur. To reach this objective, Minnkota assembled more than 250 safety kits to be handed out to farmers and contractors in the region, each containing four sets of safety materials for a team (safety briefings, line contact safety procedure stickers and wallet cards, window clings, etc.). These Watch the Wires safety messages are also printed in Minnkota’s member cooperative newsletters and can be found at [WatchtheWires.com](http://WatchtheWires.com).



# EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

Minnkota understands that today’s students are tomorrow’s energy leaders. The cooperative has longstanding partnerships with local colleges and universities to promote interest in energy, including the establishment of the Andrew Freeman Design Innovation Competition at the University of North Dakota and partner programs with Bismarck State College. But outreach to students starts earlier, as Minnkota leads school tours through its facilities in Grand Forks and Center, presents in K-12 classrooms and participates in regional high school career fairs.



# MINNKOTA CARES

Minnkota employees themselves were empowered to create their own giving and volunteer program, aptly named Minnkota Cares. Through fundraising events and supply drives, Minnkota employees have donated and distributed more than \$88,000 in money and goods to local charities, organizations and individuals in need since 2011.





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