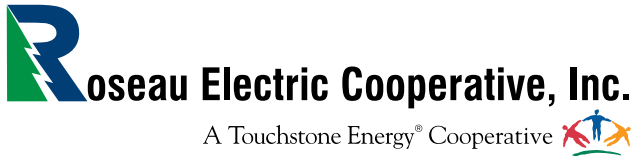


VOLTS & VIEWS

FEBRUARY 2026



ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

KNOWLEDGE SCHOLARSHIP

Roseau Electric Cooperative will award five scholarships of **\$1,000 each** – one to each of the school districts in our service area. Just for taking the test and scoring more than 50%, you'll be entered into a \$50 cash award drawing. Most test answers will be included in the Cooperative Knowledge study material that Roseau Electric will provide for you.

IN ORDER TO QUALIFY:

- The parent or guardian must be a member of Roseau Electric Cooperative
 - Student must be a 2026 graduate
 - Student must plan to enroll in postsecondary school and the recipient must verify
 - Candidates must take a short test about the cooperative that provides electricity to their home
 - Scholarship will be awarded to the highest-scoring candidate of those students scoring 75% or better

Signup will take place through your local high school's guidance counselor or scholarship administrator.

VOLTS & VIEWS

FEBRUARY 2026 – Vol. 71, No. 2

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chairman Mark Sax
Vice Chairman Brian Grafstrom
Secretary-Treasurer Mike Wahl
Directors Jim Christianson, Shawn Gust,
Kermit Jensen, Ron Storey,
Joe Tesarek, Bob Tuttle
Ryan Severson General Manager
Alex McMillin Assistant Manager
Mark Jennings Manager of Line Operations
Mary Preteau Member Service Director
Madison Strand Finance Manager

Regular Business Hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 218-463-1543

OUTAGE CALLS:

Toll-Free: 1-888-847-8840

MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)

Northwest Angle, Kittson, Marshall,
Pennington and Roseau counties
and parts of Beltrami County:
Ronald Ditsch – 651-368-2195

Lake of the Woods County:
Curt Collier – 218-966-5070

Inspector list is subject to change at any time.

The State of Minnesota has high wiring standards, which are in the best interest of you and your family or business. Improper wiring can damage your home, your property and equipment, and injure or kill the people you love. Currently, the state does allow homeowners to do their own residential wiring; however, it is critical that the current electrical code is followed. Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. For more information visit dli.mn.gov and go to the electrical page.

Gopher State One Call
1-800-252-1166 or 811
www.gopherstateonecall.org



Anyone who plans to dig is required by law to notify the state of their intentions at least 48 hours in advance. All digging requires the 48-hour notification so that buried telephone line, television cable, pipelines, utility electrical lines, municipal water and sewer lines can be located to ensure that none will be severed or damaged.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Roseau Electric Cooperative is committed to providing its member-owners low-cost, high-quality, safe and reliable electricity with friendly, efficient and knowledgeable service.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2026 RATE INCREASE DETAILS

AFFECTING ENERGY USED APRIL 1, 2026, AND FORWARD

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative owned by its members, Roseau Electric's board of directors adjusts rates only when necessary to maintain financial stability and meet lender requirements. This responsibility is taken seriously, and every effort is made to control costs and manage member resources responsibly.

Our wholesale power supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative, will implement an **4.1%** rate increase in April. Wholesale power accounts for roughly **70%** of our costs, so changes in wholesale rates have a significant impact on our operation.

To address rising wholesale power costs and continue providing reliable service, the Roseau Electric Board approved a rate adjustment effective with the April 2026 billing cycle. For the average Rural/Residential member — who makes up about **84% of our membership** — this change will result in an increase of about **\$9.88 per month** starting in **April 2026**. One dollar of the increase will come from the facilities charge, with the remaining **\$8.88** reflected in energy usage costs, spread across on- and off-peak energy.

| | | RATES | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------|
| CLASS | RATE COMPONENT | CURRENT | AS OF APRIL 1 |
| Rural/Residential | Facility Charge | \$60.00 | \$61.00 |
| | Off-Peak kWh | 7.0¢ | 7.4¢ |
| | All Other kWh | 13.3¢ | 14.3¢ |
| | Grid Access Charge | \$1.02 | \$1.02 |
| Small Commercial | Facility Charge | \$70.00 | \$71.00 |
| | Capacity Charge | \$1/kVA > 20 | \$1/kVA > 20 |
| | Off-Peak kWh | 7.0¢ | 7.4¢ |
| | All Other kWh | 13.1¢ | 14.1¢ |
| Public Buildings | Grid Access Charge | \$3.89 | \$3.89 |
| | Facility Charge | \$60.00 | \$61.00 |
| | Off-Peak kWh | 7.0¢ | 7.4¢ |
| | All Other kWh | 13.1¢ | 14.1¢ |
| Northwest Angle | Facility Charge | \$68.00 | \$69.00 |
| | Off-Peak kWh | 8.3¢ | 8.7¢ |
| | All Other kWh | 14.3¢ | 15.3¢ |

WHY ARE ELECTRIC RATES RISING?

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit organizations. When rates increase, it's because they must, in order to maintain the reliability, safety and service our members have come to expect. In April 2026, our wholesale power provider, Minnkota Power Cooperative, will increase its rate for member co-ops (including Roseau Electric Cooperative) by 4.1%. Under this new rate, Roseau Electric Cooperative will also implement a rate increase for our members.

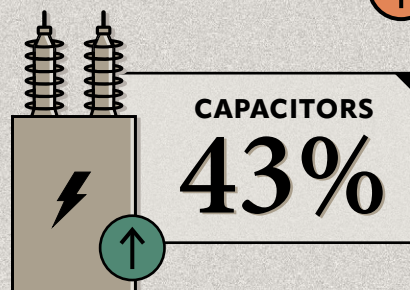
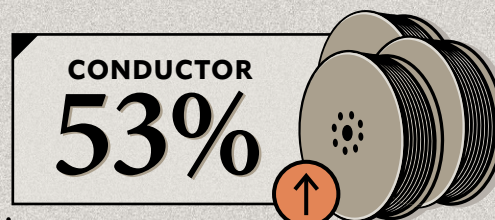
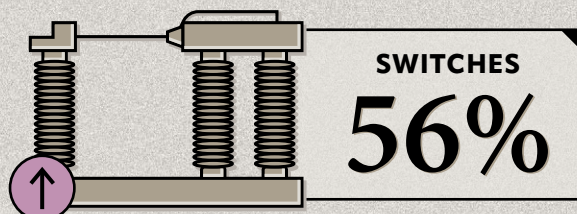
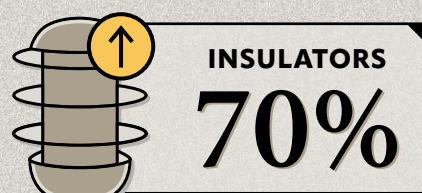
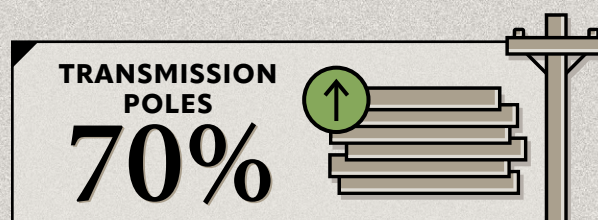
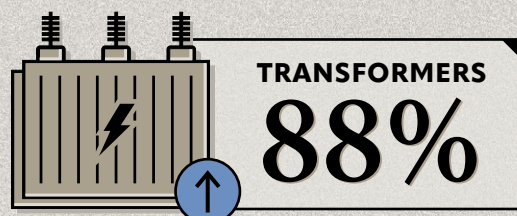
Raising rates is never an easy decision. Minnkota worked with its board of directors and membership on a rate adjustment that would allow them to financially counter **substantial supply chain and inflationary pressures that continue to build year after year**. The cost of maintaining transmission infrastructure has rapidly increased since 2020, with items like transformers costing 88% more today than five years ago.

After nearly eight years of consistently flat rates, these growing costs prompted the need for an increase in 2025 and 2026. However, if these increases were averaged over the last 10 years, the annual increase to your co-op has only been 1.3% – well under the rate of inflation.

Minnkota is also working to integrate data center loads in a manner that helps recover a larger share of its fixed costs through increased energy sales, thereby helping to moderate the need for future rate adjustments. These large-load members would not only fund 100% of the electric infrastructure necessary to serve their facilities, but would also provide significant additional revenue to support system operations. This reduces the financial burden on all other members. While some level of rate increase may still be necessary over time, the presence of these large consumers helps significantly flatten the trajectory of those adjustments.

We're committed to communicating our rate plans with our members as we evaluate our budget with our staff and board of directors. In the meantime, we thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate our next steps. We appreciate your membership!

MATERIAL COST INCREASES SINCE 2020





THE EASY BUTTON

TRACEY STOLL,
DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES



Since just prior to our conversion from our homegrown computer software to NISC in 2012, I've had an Easy Button on my desk. This round plastic piece of amazement originated with Staples' advertising campaign and, at the time, was supposed to signify how easy it was to order and replenish everything and anything Staples had to offer. When you press it, it has a very solid tactile click down and release before saying "That was easy" from a speaker on the bottom of the button. I found myself using it quite often, back in 2011-2012, when leaving software programs that I had poured so much time and energy into developing for the cooperative to migrate to something that would serve to alleviate concerns from board and management as to what happens if I would unexpectedly not be available to maintain that software. Over time, through the groaning and pain that comes from any change process, it proved to be a good decision. Today, your cooperative, using a software platform from a technology cooperative serving electric and telephone cooperatives, is in a much better position to serve your needs—from outage management to payment processing to fiber internet provisioning.

Additionally, the Easy Button has worked its way into training the customer service attitudes we demonstrate when interfacing with our members. It has become a metaphor for our employees' need to mentally reset after each call—some of those calls from particularly disgruntled members. Those members, whether under the stress of not having enough money

to pay a past-due bill or, as during this last week, not having an adequate backup heat source to cover for a Maximum Generation Event (a true, not-made-up-to-make-you-mad emergency directive from MISO signifying that there is a severe shortage of generation capacity to meet the demand in our geographically widespread electric grid), need to vent about the discomfort being experienced. (Wow, that was a long sentence—read it again.) The phones were ringing this past week (a few in-person visits as well) as Minnkota, who has the "Load Control Button," curtailed heat loads for a much longer duration than we've been conditioned to expect. That's what we're here for—two ears, one mouth—to listen more than we talk. Often, being heard is our member's bigger need, and once a reminder of how the system is supposed to work is absorbed and tempers cool, a future solution to a better heating system can be discussed.

In many ways, the Easy Button being pressed, and the audible "That was easy" being expressed, reminds us that these situations are quite the opposite of easy, but that we, as your link to your cooperative, must still reset after each call, so we're ready to greet with a positive tone and actively listen to the next member. On the whole, I think we do a good job. You may think otherwise, which is your right, as your perception being heightened through the anxiety of a house getting colder and the heat still being controlled is your

reality. We're here not only to listen, but to provide workarounds to get you through what, again, will be a temporary situation. Just remember to revisit the underlying issue of inadequate backup heat even after the temperatures warm!

As I ease out the door for the last time as an employee of this cooperative, I wish I could provide each of you with an Easy Button. The world we live in today—although I don't believe it has fundamentally changed as much as some do—offers maybe more ways to give a sharp retort to an issue without the consequences of having to hear a reply or take the time to talk through the underlying problems. And, yes, we do have members that after replaying the conversation in their mind, call back and apologize for their tone—for that, a sincere thank-you! Choosing to perform a mental reset as we deal with each other ("A soft answer..."; "a harsh word..."; the continuation to the dot-dot-dots can be found in Proverbs 15:1) serves as a good tool for us as a cooperative—both employees and members!

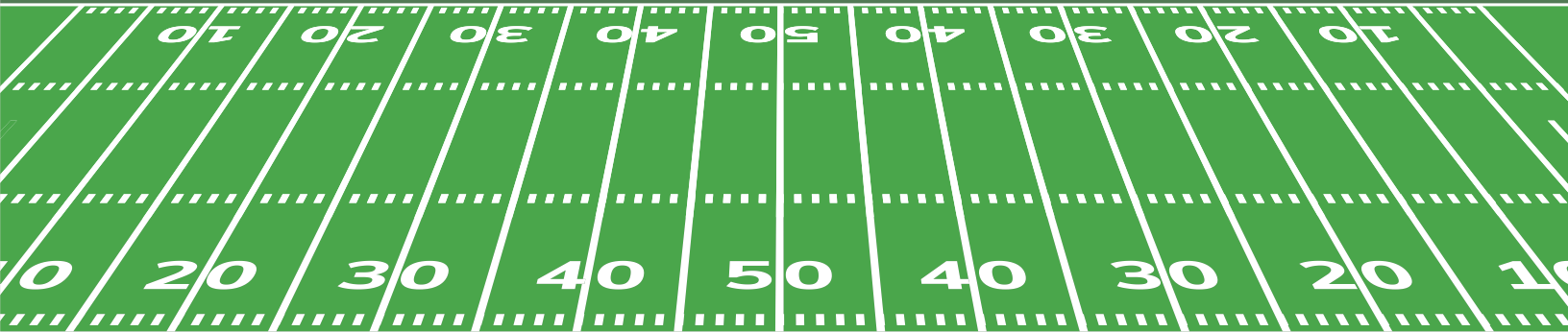
It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the membership of this cooperative and work with such a great group of employees. Thanks for the memories!

PUT THE WIN IN WINTER

WITH OFF-PEAK ELECTRIC HEATING

Are you ready to **SCORE MAJOR SAVINGS** on your electric bill next winter? Off-peak electric heating systems allow you to heat your home to the perfect temperature, while potentially saving money in the process.

Here's the secret play: When you install the latest off-peak heating system in your home, Roseau Electric Cooperative offers an electric rate that is almost **HALF OFF** the standard rate. During periods of high demand on the electric grid, your system will be switched to its backup fuel source or use its stored heat. Comfort is never sacrificed thanks to the genius design of electric heating systems. Let's check out the lineup with some of our favorite electric heating players.



AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP

Uses electricity to move heat instead of generating it

- Eligible for rebates of \$800/ton

MINI-SPLIT HEAT PUMP

Can be installed easily in any room for zone heating

- Eligible for rebates of \$800/ton

THERMAL STORAGE HEAT

Converts electricity to heat and stores it to keep a home comfortable 24 hours a day

- Eligible for rebates of \$90/kW installed

PLENUM HEATER (MOST COMMON)

Uses your existing fuel furnace fan to move element-warmed air through your home

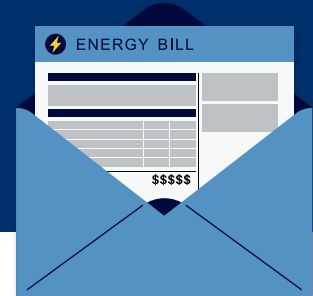
- Eligible for rebates of \$50/kW

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



REC linemen (left to right) Chad Johnson, Connor Eidsmoe, Ross Nelson and Justin Olson (in the bucket) work on a single-phase pole changeout in Moose Township north of Badger.

NEED HELP PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?



Energy assistance may be available!

If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY ACTION

PO Box 67, Badger, MN 56714-0067
218-528-3258 or 800-568-5329
nwcaa.org

BI-COUNTY CAP, INC.

6603 Bemidji Ave. N,
Bemidji, MN 56601-8669
218-751-4631



YOU CAN ALSO APPLY ONLINE:
[https://energy-assistance.
web.commerce.state.mn.us](https://energy-assistance.web.commerce.state.mn.us)

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

Brandon is on call and ready.

A storm is rolling in. Strong winds and heavy snow are threatening to wreak havoc on the region's entire electrical system. Brandon is ready. He is on call, monitoring the grid, getting ready to jump in and direct crews to where help is needed most. He is behind the scenes, keeping crews safe and working to keep the power grid operating across Minnkota's entire service territory. He is a real person, providing real power to our region.

REALPOWERNOW.COM

GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE

FEB. 28, 2026



To be considered at the March 2026 meeting, grant applications must be received by **Feb. 28, 2026**.

Grant applications are available at the REC office or by visiting our website at roseauelectric.com.

For **15 cents** of electricity, you can make a romantic dinner for two.



For **1 cent** more, your Bluetooth speaker can play in the background all evening.



THAT'S THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY

*Based on average household energy usage

OPERATING STATISTICS

| | Monthly | | Year to Date | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | December 2024 | December 2025 | December 2024 | December 2025 |
| Members | 6,724 | 6,744 | 6,724 | 6,744 |
| kWh purchased | 16,007,608 | 17,629,289 | 148,158,439 | 152,388,263 |
| % change | | 10.13% | | 2.85% |
| Revenue | 1,898,155 | 2,218,591 | 18,977,914 | 20,742,355 |
| Cost of power | 1,101,386 | 1,279,185 | 11,251,838 | 12,090,296 |
| Other expenses | 584,869 | 766,211 | 7,080,981 | 7,617,366 |
| Operating margins | 211,900 | 173,195 | 645,095 | 1,034,693 |
| Non-operating margins | 13,159 | (43,951) | 76,544 | (10,758) |
| Patronage dividends | 56,841 | - | 204,235 | 153,034 |
| Total margins | 281,901 | 129,243 | 925,874 | 1,176,969 |

member connection

ENERGY TIP

Mid-winter is a great time to ensure you're making the most of your home heating system. Replace or clean filters to keep your furnace or heat pump running efficiently. Listen for strange noises and check for uneven heating—these signs indicate that the system may need servicing. Ensure vents and radiators aren't blocked by furniture or rugs as proper airflow helps your system work less and saves energy. A little maintenance along the way can prevent costly repairs and keep your home cozy through winter.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 21
Electric bill due

March 28
2026 Annual Meeting;
Districts 3, 4, & 7 are up
for director elections

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 218-463-1543

AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE NUMBER

Toll-Free: 1-888-847-8840
(main outage call center)

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

1-800-252-1166 or 811

PAY BY PHONE

1-877-999-3412

SMARTHUB

<https://roseauelectric.smarthub.coop/>

WEBSITE

roseauelectric.coop



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
TO STAY UP TO DATE!

@RoseauElectricCooperativeInc

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

OF ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

Roseau High School Theater

Starting at 9 a.m.

Business Meeting at 10 a.m.

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of members of Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held in the Roseau High School theater in the city of Roseau, Roseau County, Minnesota, on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 10 a.m., for the following purposes:

- To pass upon reports of the previous fiscal year;
- To elect three directors of the cooperative from the following list of candidates:

District 3 (3-year term)

Candidate: **Kermit Jensen**

District 4 (3-year term)

Candidate: **Brian Grafstrom**

District 7 (3-year term)

Candidate: **Mike Wahl**

- To transact such other business as may come before the meeting.

*Mike Wahl, Secretary-Treasurer
January 30, 2026*