

Volts & Jolts

Published monthly for the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.
SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK
and a portion of the lands of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa

RLEC
JANUARY 2025

2025 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., is organized as a cooperative and is owned by its members. The membership elects a board of directors to represent them in the operation of the cooperative. Three directors will be elected at the 2025 Annual Meeting. The directors whose terms expire in 2025 are listed below.

3

DISTRICT 3

Colette Kujava

6

DISTRICT 6

Randy Versdahl



NEW DIRECTOR NEEDED:

Versdahl not seeking reelection

9

DISTRICT 9

Peter Mosbeck

Learn more about the director elections on page 4.

| | | Hunty | | Como | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|--|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| | | West Valley | New Maine | Spruce Valley | Cedar | Whitelord | |
| Foldahl | | Marsh Grove | New Folden | Holt | East Valley | Mud Lake | Eckvold |
| | District 3 | Viking | New Solum | Excel | Agder | Grand Plain | Moylan |
| | | | | | | | Espelie |
| | | Numedal | Norden | North | Silverton | Cloverleaf | Goodridge |
| | District 9 | Bray | Sanders | Rocksburg | Smiley | Kratka | Reiner |
| | | | | | | Highland | Star |
| Belgium | Polk Centre | Black River | River Falls | Wyandotte | Mayfield | Deerpark | Hickory |
| | Wylie | Browns Creek | River | | | | |
| Parmell | Louisville | Red Lake Falls | Gervais | Emardville | Garnes | Equality | Johnson |
| | | ★ RLF | District 6 | | | | |
| Crookston | Gentilly | Lake Pleasant | Terrebonne | Poplar River | Lambert | Chester | District 4 |
| Fairfax | Kertsonville | Tilden | Grove Park | Badger | Lessor | Hill River | |
| Russia | Onstad | Director Districts Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. | | | | | |



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE RED LAKE ELECTRIC ANNUAL MEETING

March 26, 2025

Red Lake Electric Cooperative members are encouraged to mark their calendars for the cooperative's annual meeting. The meeting will be called at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 26, at the Legacy Event Center, rural Thief River Falls.

Published 10 times a year, January through May, July and September through December, by Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., in the interest of its members and others. Periodical postage paid at the U.S. Post Office in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750. POSTMASTER, SEND ADDRESS CHANGES to Volts & Jolts, c/o Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750-0430. Email: info@redlakeelectric.com.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
 President Peter Mosbeck
 Vice President Bonnie Christians
 Secretary-Treasurer Colette Kujava
 Directors Cecil Anderson, Mark Hanson, Jennifer Benier-Linder, Randy Versdahl, Lars Dyrud, Krist Olson
Stephanie Johnson General Manager
 Steve Conely Manager of Electric System Operations
 Kelli Brateng Manager of Member Services
 Christie Klipping Manager of Finance & Admin.

OFFICE HOURS
 Monday-Friday
 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 Phone: (218) 253-2168
 Toll-Free: 1-800-245-6068
 Fax: (218) 253-2630



AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE CALLS
(218) 253-2200
 Website: www.redlakeelectric.com
 Email: info@redlakeelectric.com

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
1-800-252-1166 or 811

MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Pennington and Marshall Counties:
Ronald Ditsch: (218) 779-6758
 Red Lake and Polk Counties:
Todd Knaack: (763) 516-0344
 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. Please visit www.dli.mn.gov for more information. The inspectors can be reached weekday mornings between 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to enhance the quality of life for people of our service area by safely and consistently providing quality electric service and other valued services while holding our employees, our community and our environment in high regard.



Supply chain, inflation to impact wholesale power costs in 2025

by Stephanie Johnson

As a regional electric generation and transmission cooperative, Minnkota's strongest partners are its member cooperatives – which includes Red Lake Electric and other regional electric cooperatives who serve homes and businesses at the end of the line. In our cooperative system, we share opportunities for innovation and community growth, but we also share challenges. Growing economic pressures are our latest challenge.

The electric industry is facing what many of you are facing at home – a noticeable increase in the cost of all things, due to post-pandemic inflation (25272 Tom T Delorme) and supply chain disruptions. To ensure Minnkota is able to continue to meet our communities' power needs reliably and responsibly, Minnkota's board of directors has approved an 8.3% increase in its rates, set to take effect in April 2025. Because this increase will add pressure to Red Lake Electric's rates, during Red Lake Electric's December board meeting, the board of directors voted for a \$0.008 increase to the energy (kWh) rate (new rate will be \$0.123) and a \$3.00 increase to the facility charge to take effect in April 2025.

We do not take rate increases lightly. That's why Minnkota and Red Lake Electric work together to ensure rate adjustments are thoroughly vetted and assessed before action is taken by the member-governed boards.

Minnkota has worked alongside its membership to keep electric rates stable since 2017, even as prices on the materials we use to generate and transmit power began to skyrocket. Since 2020, the cost to build a mile of 69-kilovolt power line has risen 40%, and we've seen a 67% increase in the

cost of transformers. And that's just the start. Some material costs have risen more than 200%. For the sake of our members, we found efficiencies to ease that extra burden through the most volatile times. However, we've reached the point (30183 Darryl Enerson) where a rate increase is the only way we can balance reliable service and financial responsibility.

Red Lake Electric and Minnkota aren't alone in facing supply chain and inflationary pressures. Many utilities in our region and across our nation are considering or implementing rate increases to recover the higher cost of materials, equipment and services.

Red Lake Electric remains a competitive power supplier, and we are well positioned to continue providing safe, reliable and sustainable electricity.

I would like to thank our member-consumers (29586 Adam Steinhauer) for their collaboration and understanding during this time of change. We are endlessly grateful for your support, today and in the years to come.

New director needed

Members of District 6 will have a new director representing them on the board of directors at Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Randy Versdahl will complete his term and will not seek reelection in 2025.

Members of Districts 3, 6 or 9 interested in being placed on the annual meeting ballot must have a nomination petition signed by at least 10 members of their respective district and returned to the Red Lake Electric office by Monday, Feb. 24. Nomination petition forms are available by calling or visiting the Red Lake Electric office in Red Lake Falls.

RETAIL RATE CHANGE

Effective April 1, 2025 (May 2025 Bill)

| RATE 1, GENERAL SERVICE | CURRENT RATE | NEW RATE |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Monthly facilities charge | | |
| 1.5- to 25-kVA transformer | \$45.00 | \$48.00 |
| 26- to 75-kVA transformer | \$50.00 | \$53.00 |
| All kilowatt-hours | \$0.115 | \$0.123 |
| Multiphase surcharge | \$25.00 | No Change |

| RATE 4, INTERRUPTIBLE SERVICE, OVER 75-KVA TRANSFORMER | CURRENT RATE | NEW RATE |
|--|--------------|-----------|
| Monthly facilities charge | \$66.00 | \$69.00 |
| All kilowatt-hours | \$0.070 | No Change |
| Multiphase surcharge | \$25.00 | No Change |

| RATE 2, ON-PEAK SERVICE, OVER 75-KVA TRANSFORMER | CURRENT RATE | NEW RATE |
|--|--------------|-----------|
| Monthly facilities charge | \$66.00 | \$69.00 |
| All kilowatt-hours | \$0.070 | No Change |
| Demand charge per kW (Dec-Feb) | \$16.00 | No Change |
| Demand charge per kW (Mar-Nov) | \$12.00 | No Change |

| SECURITY LIGHTING SERVICE | CURRENT RATE | NEW RATE |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Metered LED security lighting | \$8.00 | No Change |
| Unmetered LED security lighting | \$9.00 | No Change |

| RATE 3, SEASONAL SERVICE, OVER 75-KVA TRANSFORMER | CURRENT RATE | NEW RATE |
|---|--------------|-----------|
| Monthly facilities charge | \$1.00 | No Change |
| All kilowatt-hours | \$0.115 | \$0.123 |
| Multiphase surcharge | \$25.00 | No Change |

| STANDBY SERVICE (RETAIN DEENERGIZED SERVICE ONLY) | CURRENT RATE | NEW RATE |
|---|--------------|-----------|
| Monthly charge | \$22.00 | No Change |

DISTRIBUTED GENERATION MONTHLY CHARGE

| MONTHLY GAC PER KW | RESIDENTIAL (<10 KVA) | RESIDENTIAL (11-25 KVA) | RESIDENTIAL (26-75 KVA) | RESIDENTIAL MULTIPHASE (<10 KVA) | RESIDENTIAL MULTIPHASE (11-25 KVA) | RESIDENTIAL MULTIPHASE (26-75 KVA) |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| First 3.5 kW | No Charge | No Charge | No Charge | No Charge | No Charge | No Charge |
| kW in excess of 3.5 kW | \$2.26 | \$2.26 | \$1.70 | \$0.051 | \$0.051 | \$0.16 |
| Not-to-exceed | \$32.00 | \$29.00 | \$27.00 | \$24.00 | \$7.00 | \$2.00 |

NOTICE OF NAMES

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of Volts & Jolts are the names and account numbers of some Red Lake Electric Cooperative members. They will appear within the articles in parentheses as such (9999999.99 Willie Ray Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next payment. You will be credited with \$5 on your electric bill.

2025 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

PETITION DEADLINE MONDAY, FEB. 24, 2025

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., is organized as a cooperative and is owned by its members. The membership elects a board of directors to represent them in the operation of the cooperative. Three directors will be elected at the 2025 Annual Meeting scheduled for March 26 at the Legacy Event Center. The directors whose terms expire in 2025 are Colette Kujava, District 3; Randy Versdahl, District 6; and Peter Mosbeck, District 9. **Randy Versdahl has decided not to run for reelection.**

NOMINATION BY PETITION
All nominations will be done by petition, including the incumbents. Any 10 or more members who reside in Districts 3, 6 or 9 may nominate an eligible member for a director position in that district. No member may be elected to a director position unless nominated in this manner. No write-in ballots shall be accepted.

PETITION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE
Director candidates must pick up a petition and a director packet



at Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., in Red Lake Falls. The packet contains additional forms that must be signed and turned in before the deadline.

PETITION DEADLINE

The cooperative must receive the completed petition **no later than the close of business at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24, 2025.**

RLEC Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Petition for Nomination

The following members wish to nominate (insert name) _____ for the three-year (insert) "District 3, 6 or 9" _____ director position, and to place such name on the ballot for the March 26, 2025, election at the annual meeting of the Cooperative, in accordance with Article II, Section 10, of the bylaws.

| PRINTED NAME | SIGNATURE | CUSTOMER NO. |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. | | |
| 2. | | |
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| 17. | | |
| 18. | | |
| 19. | | |
| 20. | | |

The Cooperative must receive the completed petition no later than the close of business Monday, February 24, 2025. At the Annual Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, 2025, elections will be held for a three-year term for one director in District 3, one director in District 6, and one director in District 9.

The directors whose terms expire in 2025 are as follows:

| DISTRICT 3 3-year Term Colette Kujava | DISTRICT 6 3-year Term Randy Versdahl | DISTRICT 9 3-year Term Peter Mosbeck |
|---|---|--|
|---|---|--|

Any 10 or more members who reside in District 3, 6 or 9 may nominate an eligible member for a director position in that district. No member may be elected to a director position unless nominated in this manner. In the event of joint membership, only the signature of one joint member shall be acceptable.

SO, YOU WANT TO BE A DIRECTOR

Three directors will be elected at the 2025 Annual Meeting scheduled for March 26 at the Legacy Event Center. The directors whose terms expire in 2025 are Colette Kujava, District 3; Randy Versdahl, District 6; and Peter Mosbeck, District 9. **Randy Versdahl has decided not to run for reelection.**

MEETING ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

• Monthly board meetings:

Board meetings are held 12 times per year, usually the last Wednesday of the month, starting at 8 a.m.

• Other meetings:

Red Lake Electric annual meetings; Minnkota annual meetings; other meetings to learn policies and procedures of the electric industry. Expect 5 – 12 extra days per year.

DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS

No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

- Is not a member of the Cooperative, receiving electric service at the member's primary residence in the district from which the director is elected.
- Within three years preceding a director candidate's nomination was an employee of the Cooperative.
- Is or becomes, or at any time during the three years preceding a director candidate's nomination shall have been employed by a labor union, which represents or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the Cooperative.
- Is a parent, spouse or cohabitant of any employee of the Cooperative.
- Is a person who is a parent, spouse, or cohabitant of an incumbent director who is not up for reelection at that time.
- Is in any way employed by or substantially financially interested in an enterprise competing with the Cooperative or any Cooperative-affiliated business.
- Is or becomes the full-time employee or agent of, or who is or becomes the full-time employer or principal of, another director.

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC REBATES FOR 2025

This year is YOUR year to electrify your home and save big money doing it! Red Lake Electric is pleased to introduce our slate of rebates (28305 Caleb Munch) on today's most popular electric technologies, from heat pumps to electric vehicle chargers. One update can go a long way, so let us help you start out 2025 right!

Technology (on off-peak program)

Electric Heating Equipment

Includes:

- Air-source heat pump or mini-split heat pump

**\$300/ton (Up to 16 SEER)
\$600/ton (17 SEER or greater)**

- Electric plenum heaters
- Forced-air furnace

\$50/kW

- Electric boiler
- Brick storage room unit
- Brick storage electric furnace/boiler
- Slab storage – electric cable

\$75/kW

- Baseboard heater/cove heater
- Hanging/wall unit heater
- Radiant underfloor heat

\$25/kW

Technology (on off-peak program)

Water Heating Equipment

Includes:

- 55 gallons or smaller

\$150/unit rebate

- 56-99 gallons

\$400/unit rebate

- 100 gallons or larger

\$500/unit rebate

Additional **\$100** for new building construction (shops, cabins, etc.)

Additional **\$250** available for conversion from existing natural gas or propane to electric water heater

Technology (on off-peak program)

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Equipment (Level 2 or 3 Charger)

Includes:

- Electric vehicle or hybrid

100% rebate for <25kW

- Commercial Forklifts, Zambonis, etc.

\$50/kW for >25kW

Learn more about Red Lake Electric's off-peak program options and requirements. Just call our friendly member services team at **218-253-2168** or browse the technology options at **ValueOfElectricity.com!**

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS... WIN A WEEK IN WASHINGTON, D.C.!

June 16-21, 2025

THE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR

Applicant's parent or guardian must be a member of Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

Learn more at redlakeelectric.com/member-services/youth-tour

- Visit historic monuments and museums
- Build lifelong friendships
- Boost your community service and engagement
- Meet with your U.S. Representatives and Senators



Application
deadline:
Feb. 21, 2025

DIRECTOR NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCEDURE

The procedure for which directors can be nominated and elected for Red Lake Electric Cooperative is outlined in Article II, Section 10, of the Cooperative's Bylaws. That section reads as follows:

Section 10. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

(a) Nomination of Directors by Petition or Nominating Committee. Members seeking to run for the Board of Directors shall, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting, submit to the cooperative office a completed candidate packet and petition, as provided by the Cooperative upon request, by which the Cooperative will verify said member's qualifications to be an eligible candidate for the director position. Nomination for director must be made by petition. Any Ten (10) or more members who reside in any one district may make a nomination in writing to the Secretary over their signatures. This petition nomination must be in the format prescribed by the Secretary. Blank nomination petitions shall be available to all members at the Cooperative office. All petition nominees shall be listed in the notice of annual meeting and their names shall be printed on the election ballot.

If the members in any district shall have failed to nominate a nominee(s) in writing as provided above, then a Nominating Committee of this Cooperative shall nominate one (1) or more members who reside in said district for said director position(s). Said Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors on an annual basis, said appointment to be made not less than ninety (90) days before each annual meeting. Said Nominating Committee shall be selected from the resident Members of the districts of the Cooperative, so that each such district shall have one (1) Member on said Nominating Committee.

A Nominating Committee Member may not be a Director of the Cooperative; or a parent, spouse or co-habitant of an existing Cooperative director, officer, employee, representative, or agent; or a known Director candidate.

Further, a Nominating Committee Member should recognize that he or she functions as a person occupying a place of trust and should not accept an appointment to the Nominating Committee if he or she has a conflict of interest, or can reasonably foresee any conflict of interest, with any duty the Nominating Committee Member owes to the Cooperative. In the event that a Nominating Committee Member is appointed and subsequently becomes aware of a conflict of interest, or a potential conflict of interest, then that Nominating Committee Member has a continuing obligation to disclose the same to the Chair of the Nominating Committee or to legal counsel for the Nominating Committee for a determination by the latter as to whether such conflict of interest, or potential conflict of interest, should necessitate the resignation of the Nominating Committee Member from the Nominating Committee, or abstention from voting on a

particular issue or such other appropriate action(s) as is necessary to protect the best interests of the Cooperative.

It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to nominate one or more nominees for each district that is scheduled for an election but for which no candidates have been nominated by the petition process twenty (20) days prior to said annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee shall submit their nomination or nominations to the Secretary, in writing and signed by at least two (2) members of said Committee, and the nomination(s) shall be listed in the notice of annual meeting and their names shall be printed on the election ballot.

No Member may be elected to a Director position unless nominated in the manner provided by this subsection. No write-in ballots shall be accepted.

(b) Election of Directors. At the annual meeting, the Secretary of the Cooperative shall place in nomination the names of the official candidates of each district. Election of directors shall be by printed ballot, separate ballots to be provided for each district, listing the candidates in alphabetical order. Only members of a district shall be entitled to vote for the director to be elected from that district, and each member or member's spouse shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from the district in which he is a member. The candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes at this meeting shall be declared elected as director. In the case of a tie vote, the winner shall be determined by the flip of a coin. Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors.

(c) Voting by Mail for Directors. The members shall be entitled to vote by mail for directors at annual and special meetings as provided in this section. Each member shall be mailed a director election ballot in the form prescribed by the Board of Directors with the notice of the annual or special meeting. A member who will be absent from the meeting may vote by mail for directors by marking the ballot for the candidate of the member's choice. The member shall return the ballot personally or by mail to the Cooperative in a sealed plain envelope inside another envelope bearing the member's name. If the ballot of the member is received by the Cooperative on or before the date of the annual or special meeting, the ballot shall be accepted and counted as the vote of the absent member.

Application
deadline:
Feb. 21, 2025

Did you know?



\$ FOR A DAY OF
ELECTRICITY

= \$ FOR A TO-GO
BREAKFAST
SANDWICH

VALUE OF
ELECTRICITY



*comparison based on average household energy usage

COGENERATION NOTIFICATION TO MEMBERS:

In compliance with Red Lake Electric Cooperative adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, Red Lake Electric Cooperative is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers who satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. Red Lake Electric Cooperative is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative Board. Interested members should contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative, 412 International Drive, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750, or call 1-800-245-6068.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.



Submit your recipes to be published in Volts & Jolts. Email to info@redlakeelectric.com or mail to: Red Lake Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430.

Cowboy Cornbread Casserole

INGREDIENTS

Ground Beef Filling

- 2 pounds lean ground beef
- 14-ounce can canned corn (drained)
- 14.5-ounce can canned kidney beans (drained)
- 2 cups salsa
- 1-ounce packet taco seasoning
- 1 cup water
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 1/2 cups shredded cheese

Cornbread Topping

- 8.5-ounce box Jiffy corn muffin mix
- 8.25-ounce can creamed corn
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1/4 cup sour cream

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 350°

Filling

2. Begin by browning the ground beef in a large skillet (26953 Arvid Lee) over medium-high heat. Drain off any excess grease. Add corn, kidney beans, salsa, taco seasoning, water, salt, pepper and garlic powder. Stir to combine.

3. Pour mixture into a 9x13 baking dish that has been sprayed with nonstick spray. Top with shredded cheese and set aside.

Topping

4. Combine the corn muffin mix, creamed corn, milk and sour cream in a medium bowl. Mix until you have a thick batter. Spoon mixture evenly over the ground beef and cheese.
5. Bake for 35-40 minutes or until the topping is cooked through and golden brown. Store leftovers covered in the refrigerator.



**OPERATION
ROUND UP® GRANT
APPLICATIONS DUE
FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 21**

Organizations involved in community projects and charities are encouraged to apply for funds from Operation Round Up at this time. Completed grant applications are due in the Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) office by Friday, **Feb. 21, 2025.**

Operation Round Up is a program adopted by RLEC headquartered in Red Lake Falls. Members (29517 Dayne B Efta) choosing to "round up" their monthly electric bill payment provide funds for this effort. Today, 98% of RLEC members now choose to contribute pennies each month to enhance their communities.

Funds will be donated primarily to nonprofit organizations to help fund specific projects or programs. Since the program (31784 Waylong J Hirst) began in 1993, \$684,171 has been granted to community organizations and charities. Money is donated for the betterment of the community within the outside service area boundaries of RLEC.

The Red Lake Electric Trust Board of Directors determines grants. Board members are Stacy Bierman, Thief River Falls; Pamela Vettleson, Plummer; Laura Kasprowicz, Thief River Falls; Stephanie Johnson, Gatzke; and Bonnie Christians, Crookston.

To apply for Operation Round Up grant, organizations should contact the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068. A short application (27826 Murray Hogenson) must be completed and submitted along with a financial statement from the organization.

Grant application forms are available on the cooperative's website: redlakeelectric.com.

For more information, contact Stephanie Johnson, General Manager of RLEC, at **218-253-2168** or **800-245-6068**.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.