

# 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

**DL EC**  
**RLEC**

DECEMBER 2024

## Merry CHRISTMAS

*and Happy New Year!*

From your employees  
and directors at Red Lake  
Electric Cooperative

### Employees

Kelli Brateng  
Steve Conely  
Javen Eidsmoe  
Stephanie Johnson  
Christie Klipping  
Chris Knott

Branden Narlock  
Cindy Pahlen  
Troy Schmitz  
Darcy Cardinal  
Aaron Derosier  
Jordon Gervais

Jenny Kelley  
Brett Knott  
Melanie LaCrosse  
Sam Olson  
Sam Pahlen  
Casey Thronson

### Directors

Cecil Anderson  
Jenny Bernier-Linder  
Bonnie Christians

Lars Dyrud  
Mark Hanson  
Colette Kujava

Peter Mosbeck  
Krist Olson  
Randy Versdahl

### Holiday Office Hours

Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters  
will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

In case of an electric outage or emergency, please call  
the after-hours phone number at 218-253-2200.

### EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS



Casey Thronson  
*20 years*



Troy Schmitz  
*20 years*



Kelli Brateng  
*15 years*



Aaron Derosier  
*15 years*



Jenny Kelley  
*10 years*



Javen Eidsmoe  
*10 years*



Cindy Pahlen  
*5 years*

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**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](http://www.redlakeelectric.com)  
Email: [info@redlakeelectric.com](mailto: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](http://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.*



**The season for giving back**

by Stephanie Johnson

The holidays are a time of year that many of us eagerly anticipate. The season is marked by special foods, seasonal decorations and lots of festivities. We cherish carrying on old family traditions and enjoy creating new ones. For me personally, I look forward to more time spent with family and friends.

You see, one of our founding principles as a cooperative is “Concern for Community.” While our main focus is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we want to give back. We want to help our community thrive. Electric cooperatives have a proud history of giving back. Red Lake Electric Cooperative members help us give back, too. Through the Operation Round Up® program, members can round up their energy bills to the next dollar amount, and the extra change goes toward helping those in need, right here in our community.

So many families go without on a daily basis (28319 Joseph R Hruby) and struggle to make ends meet. This struggle can be especially hard during the holiday season.

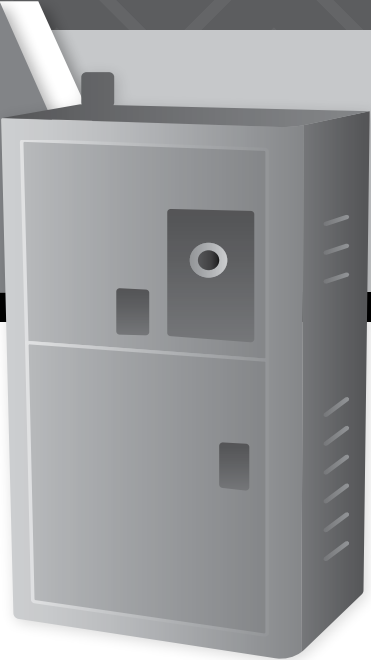
There are many ways you can give back to the community that go beyond dollar donations. Take

some time to go through your closets (30500 Kilen W Boe) and find clothes that no longer fit or have lost their use. Bag those items up and take them to your local Salvation Army, Goodwill or church clothing drive. Volunteer for a local food or toy drive, deliver meals to the sick and the elderly or simply make a meal for a neighbor in need. No matter how great or small the act, every time we give back, we strengthen our community. So, take the time to give back this holiday season. You’ll be glad you did.

Looking ahead to 2025, we hope you will share your opinions with us. We recognize that our members have a valuable perspective, and that’s why we continually seek your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you. We are led by you – the members of the cooperative – and we depend on your feedback.

As we prepare for next year, we look forward to the opportunity to serve you and the greater community. On behalf of the Red Lake Electric Cooperative, we hope your holidays are indeed merry and bright!

# FIND HEAT UNDER YOUR FEET WITH AN ELECTRIC BOILER



There are many electric technologies that do a great job of home and business heating, but today our focus is on one of our favorite tried-and-true systems – the electric boiler. The boiler has reignited its popularity specifically in the application of underfloor radiant heating, which allows heat to rise from the floor (25262 Harvey Klipping) instead of blowing through vents. But an electric boiler can be the foundation of other heating applications as well, making it one of the most versatile systems on the market.

## UNDERFLOOR APPLICATION BENEFITS

- Underfloor radiant heat moves heated water through tubes under your floor. The heat rises directly to your body and objects in the room, which more efficiently maintains and distributes a comfortable, even heat.
- Air contaminants like dust and bacteria that can be an issue with forced air systems are nonexistent with underfloor heating.

## OVERALL ELECTRIC BOILER BENEFITS

<b>QUIET:</b>	Electric boilers operate quietly.
<b>EMISSION-FREE:</b>	Since no emissions are released, there’s no need for a flue (27946 Pierre Uebe) or chimney and no risk of carbon monoxide leaks.
<b>DEPENDABLE:</b>	Electric boilers last longer than gas boilers because they have fewer moving parts.
<b>AFFORDABLE:</b>	Other heating fuel sources like natural gas or propane can fluctuate wildly in price from season to season. With an electric boiler, you can rely on stable and affordable rates.
<b>OFF-PEAK SAVINGS:</b>	When you use an electric boiler in conjunction with a backup heating source like gas or propane, you can receive a reduced heating rate (up to 50%) when you enroll in Red Lake Electric’s off-peak heating program. Plus, you can get a big rebate on a new boiler – up to \$1,500!



Visit [valueofelectricity.com](http://valueofelectricity.com) to learn more about the benefits of off-peak electric heat or scan this QR code for more information!

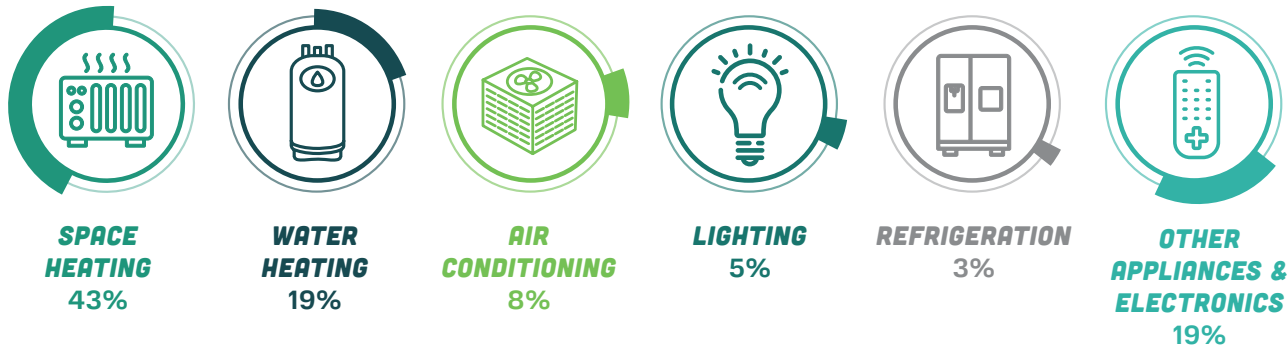


# WHERE DOES MY ENERGY GO?

Were you one of many children who was told by a parent, “Turn off the lights when you leave the room! Our electric bill will be sky high!”? Although switching off the lights is great advice, your lighting actually accounts for a very small percentage of the energy your home uses every month.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, space heating is the largest user, consuming an average of 43% of a household’s energy. Water heating comes in a distant second, using 19% of your home’s energy.

Here’s a breakdown:



Since heating your rooms and water uses the most energy, that’s the best place to start if you’re looking to lower your monthly utility bills. Here are some suggestions from Red Lake Electric to get started.

## HOME HEATING SAVINGS

- In the winter, turn your thermostat down to 65 degrees (if it is comfortable).
- Do not block inside vents (31962 Lee H Applequist) or outside units.
- See if your home heating system qualifies for Red Lake Electric’s off-peak heating program, which can save you nearly 50% on heating costs through the cold season. If you’re not sure, ask the folks at the cooperative!

## WATER HEATING SAVINGS

- Make sure your water temperature is set to 120 degrees or lower.
- Use cold water for standard laundry loads.
- Install a large-capacity electric water heater and enroll in the off-peak water heating program. Not only will you receive a large co-op rebate (up to \$500), but you’ll also receive a reduced electric rate on your water heater, which will warm water at low-demand times of day (usually overnight) and keep it hot throughout the day.

# THE POWER OF BASELOAD ENERGY

Did you know that electricity must be used the moment it’s generated? That’s right – electricity travels from the power plant, wind turbine or solar panel to your home in less than a second. It either gets used or keeps moving, because it physically doesn’t have the patience to hang around until you need it.

On a small scale, batteries have been our way of overcoming this quirk of physics; you can allow electricity to fill a battery with its power to be deployed when it’s needed. However, when it comes to power at a larger scale than smartphones or electric cars – say, the greater electric grid, for instance – batteries cannot yet keep up with the amount of electricity needed to power entire communities.

### This is why baseload electricity is so important.

Baseload electricity comes from sources that operate continuously to meet regular power demand 24/7, like coal plants, natural gas plants and nuclear plants. Other sources, like wind turbines and solar panels, are more weather dependent. If it’s nighttime or overcast, solar panels can’t produce much power. If the wind also isn’t blowing at that time, turbines also can’t produce power. If a grid system doesn’t have access to baseload power, electricity stops when the weather says so.

As more baseload power plants are being retired from the grid, we are relying on more weather-dependent energy sources to meet a growing demand for electricity. Grid operators and regulators are already sounding the alarm (22648 Wayne Nelson) that a lack of stable baseload energy will make planning for future demand harder and will test the reliability of the electric grid sooner than we think. As a country built on reliable power, it’s a test we cannot fail.

Eventually, we may have utility-scale battery storage and the other technologies we need to further rely on weather-dependent energy resources. Until then, we must protect the baseload resources that keep our homes, businesses, schools, hospitals and farms humming.

## BASELOAD RESOURCES – 24/7 –



NUCLEAR



NATURAL GAS



COAL



HYDRO

## WEATHER DEPENDENT



SOLAR



WIND




JAN 2025


# ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Red Lake Electric Cooperative and its partners will again provide an opportunity for area electricians to obtain credits for license renewal by attending one of the six continuing education classes being offered throughout eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.


Instructor Tim Pull will present "100 Questions on the 2023 NEC," which looks at several code questions that may be asked when taking a typical electrical exam for a journeyman or masters license. The seminars are approved in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota for eight hours of continuing education credit necessary for renewing electrical licenses. The classes will be held at the following locations:




**Tuesday,  
January 7, 2025**  
Fargo Holiday Inn  
3803 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Fargo, ND




**Wednesday,  
January 8, 2025**  
Fargo Holiday Inn  
3803 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Fargo, ND




**Thursday,  
January 16, 2025**  
Bemidji Eagles Club  
1270 Neilson Avenue SE  
Bemidji, MN



**Tuesday,  
January 21, 2025**  
Bigwood Event Center  
921 Western Avenue  
Fergus Falls, MN



**Wednesday,  
January 29, 2025**  
Minnkota Power Cooperative  
5301 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South  
Grand Forks, ND



**Thursday,  
January 30, 2025**  
Minnkota Power Cooperative  
5301 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South  
Grand Forks, ND

This marks the 37<sup>th</sup> year of the successful program, which is aimed at providing area trade allies with the latest information on electrical code and practices. Taking the class on multiple days will not qualify for 16 code credits. The registration fee is **\$80 for eight code credits**. Registration can be done online at [www.minnkota.com](http://www.minnkota.com) and must be completed at least seven days prior to the seminar.

For residential building contractor (30716 Wade M Vonasek) continuing education workshops, contact your local home builders association.

For more information about the program, please call **(701) 795-4292** or e-mail any questions to [contractortraining@minnkota.com](mailto:contractortraining@minnkota.com).

## CLASS SCHEDULE:

<b>7:15 - 8 a.m.</b> Registration	<b>8 a.m. - noon</b> Classroom instruction	<b>Noon - 1 p.m.</b> Lunch served	<b>1 - 5 p.m.</b> Classroom instruction
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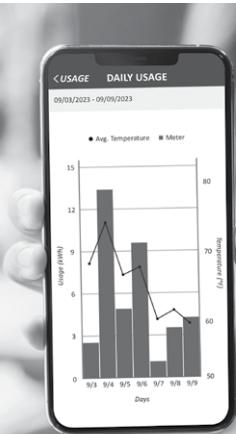
**\$80**

REGISTRATION FEE

FOR JUST THE CHANGE IN YOUR POCKET, YOU CAN  
KEEP YOUR MOST FESTIVE HOLIDAY LED LIGHTS ON  
FOR OVER **FIVE HOURS** USING ONE KILOWATT-HOUR.



**PAYING PENNIES FOR YOUR  
KILOWATTS – THAT’S THE  
VALUE OF ELECTRICITY.**



## YOU HAVE THE POWER TO

- View daily and monthly energy use.
- View and pay your bills online.
- Go paperless and receive an email notice when your bill is ready to view.
- Compare energy use to changes in temperature.

Sign up for SmartHub:  
[redlakeelectric.com](http://redlakeelectric.com)

For assistance, call us during regular business hours at **218-253-2168** or send an email to [info@redlakeelectric.com](mailto:info@redlakeelectric.com).

## 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.



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

## Christmas Morning Punch

If you're looking for a non-alcoholic Christmas punch recipe, the kids AND adults will love this simple mixture of juice and ginger ale. It's perfect for Christmas morning or anytime during the holidays.

Servings: 6

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups orange juice
- 2 cups cranberry juice
- 1 cup pineapple juice
- 1 cup ginger ale

### INGREDIENTS

Mix everything together in a large pitcher and serve over ice.

### NOTES

- Want to make this boozy? Pour it over Champagne or Prosecco to make a holiday mimosa (29041 Gary L Johnson) or use it as a mixer with vodka.
- Double the recipe if you're serving a crowd.
- Use the cranberry juice blend if you're serving kids. The 100% cranberry can be a bit bitter.

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES FOR 2025

Make your home more comfortable and energy efficient with help from Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Great rebates and incentives are available to help you upgrade your heating and cooling system, water heater and chargers (25596 Sara R Coulombe) for electric vehicles. Not sure where to start? Check out our rebate list below for heating and cooling options. Contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative for expert advice on improving your home's energy performance.

## ELECTRIC WATER HEATER REBATES

*Must be on off-peak*

100 gallon or greater

**\$500/unit**

56-99 gallon

**\$400/unit**

55 gallon or less

**\$150/unit**

New construction (50 gallon)

**FREE unit (primary residence only)**

### BONUS REBATES:

**Add \$250**  
if converting  
from natural  
gas or propane.

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



## ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER REBATES

240V LEVEL 2 CHARGER

*Must be on off-peak*

Electric vehicle or hybrid

**100% rebate**

Commercial – Forklifts, Zambonis, etc.

**\$50 per kW (\$750 max)**



Residential  
Charger



Commercial  
Charger

All equipment must be new and installed on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's system.

EQUIPMENT MUST BE INSTALLED ON RLEC'S OFF-PEAK PROGRAM.

Contact Member Services at 218-253-2168 for more details!

## ELECTRIC HEATING REBATES

*Must be on off-peak*

### ELECTRIC PLENUM HEATERS

Easily converts your existing fossil fuel furnace into a dual-fuel heating system. You are able to use the most efficient, cost-effective heating source – fossil fuel or electricity – at any time.

**Rebate of \$50 per kilowatt (kW)**

### ELECTRIC THERMAL STORAGE HEATERS

Draws electricity during off-peak hours when it is cheaper. Heat is stored in specially designed bricks to provide comfort 24 hours a day.

**Rebate of \$75 per kW**

### AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS

**(INCLUDING MINI-SPLIT DUCTLESS OPTION)**

Works just like a central air conditioner in the summer. In the fall and winter, they provide super-efficient supplemental heat.

**Up to 16 SEER: Rebate of \$300 per ton**  
**17 SEER or greater: Rebate of \$600 per ton**



### GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMPS

Provides the highest efficiency for space heating and cooling available today. The system transfers heat to and from the earth using only small amounts of electricity.

**Closed loop: Rebate of \$400 per ton**  
**Open loop: Rebate of \$200 per ton**



### ELECTRIC UNDERFLOOR BOILER

A popular off-peak option because the system transfers heat consistently across the floor to reach people and objects, providing both comfort and efficiency. Applications include electric boiler with hydronic tubing.

**Rebate of \$75 per kW**

### OTHER ELECTRIC HEATING SYSTEMS

Options include electric baseboards, cove heaters, electric floor cable, mats and more.

**Rebate of \$25 per kW**