

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Forecasting the Future

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for Reliable Energy**

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Association Changes
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All Renewables**

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Summary About Directors

General Powers

A board of nine directors manages the business and affairs of the Cooperative. The board exercises all of the powers of the Cooperative except those conferred upon or reserved to the members by law, the articles of conversion or the bylaws. The board hires a general manager to run the business on a day-to-day basis.

Districts

The Cooperative's service area is divided into nine districts, each with defined boundaries. One director represents each district.

Nominations

Any fifteen (15) or more members of the same district affixing their signatures to a petition provided by the Cooperative can nominate a qualified person as a candidate for director from their district.

Director Qualifications

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who:

- Is not a member and bona fide resident physically residing in the area served or to be served by the Cooperative and in the district which the member is to represent; or
- Is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative; or
- Is an employee of the Cooperative or was an employee of the Cooperative and less than three (3) years have passed since the last day of employment; is a close relative of an employee of the Cooperative; or is a close relative of an incumbent director. As used by these bylaws, close relative means a person who, by blood or in-law, including half, foster, step and adoptive kin, is either a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew or niece of the principal; or
- Does not have the legal capacity to enter into a binding contract.

Election

The Cooperative's members attending the annual membership meeting elect directors by printed ballot. The candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes is declared the elected director from the particular district. Drawing by lot resolves tie votes.

Tenure

Elected directors serve a three (3) year term. Upon election, directors serve until the annual membership meeting of the year in which their terms expire or until their successors are elected and qualified.

Compensation

Directors do not receive any salary for their services as directors. Directors do receive a fixed sum and expenses while on Cooperative business as a member of the board.

No director receives compensation for serving the Cooperative in any other capacity, nor does any close relative of a director receive compensation for serving the Cooperative, unless the payment and amount of compensation is specifically authorized by a vote of the members or the service by such director or close relative is certified by the board as an emergency measure.

Board Director Candidates Sought

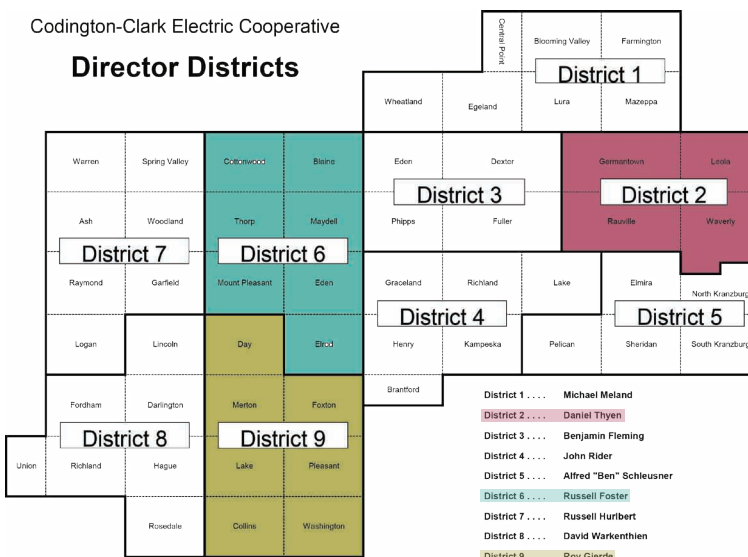
Codington-Clark Electric Co-op Secretary Roy Gjerde announces nominating petition forms are available from the Co-op's office in Watertown for any co-op member residing in District 2, 6 or 9 interested in serving on Codington-Clark's board of directors.

Deadline for submitting nominating petitions is 4:30 p.m., Thursday, February 13, 2025. A valid petition needs the signatures of at least 15 members from the district. Secretary Roy Gjerde will only accept petition forms supplied by the Co-op.

The names of qualified candidates will appear on the director election ballot at the Co-op's annual membership meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at the Codington County Extension Complex in Watertown.

District 2 includes all area served or to be served in Leola, Germantown, Rauville and Waverly Townships in Codington County and any area east of the above named townships that adjoins the east boundary line of Codington County. Daniel Thyen, Waverly Township, currently represents District 2.

District 6 includes all area served or to be served in Blaine, Cottonwood, Thorp, Maydell, Eden, Mt. Pleasant and Elrod



Townships in Clark County. Russell Foster, Maydell Township, currently represents District 6.

District 9 includes all area served or to be served in Day, Merton, Foxton, Pleasant, Lake, Collins and Washington Townships in Clark County and all area south and east of the above townships that adjoins the boundary line of Clark County, except the northern half of Brantford Township in Hamlin County. Roy Gjerde, Foxton Township, currently represents District 9.

COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONS

**CODINGTON-CLARK
ELECTRIC**

(USPS 019-073)

Board of Directors

President:

Alfred "Ben" Schleusner, Watertown

Vice President:

Daniel Thyen, Watertown

Secretary:

Roy Gjerde, Vienna

Treasurer:

John Rider, Henry

Directors:

Benjamin Fleming, Florence

Russell Foster, Garden City

Russell Hurlbert, Raymond

Michael Meland, Webster

David Warkenthien, Clark

Management Staff

Dave Eide, Manager

Tammy Popham, Staff Assistant

Tasha Torgerson, Office Services
Manager

Jarod Suttan, Member Services
Manager

Jared Terhark, Distribution System
Manager

To report a power outage:

1-844-968-1976

Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative Connections is published monthly by Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, PO Box 880, 3520 9th Ave SW, Watertown, SD 57201-0880. Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Watertown Post Office, Watertown, SD 57201 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 880, 3520 9th Ave SW, Watertown, SD 57201-0880; telephone (605) 886-5848

www.ccelectric.coop

Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Giving Back is the Cooperative Way



Dave Eide
General Manager
C. 605-350-2765
davee@ccelectric.coop

communities year-round.

Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people—the members we're proud to serve. You help us power that purpose, too. Codington-Clark Electric's Operation Roundup program is made possible through members' participation in "rounding up" electric bills the next dollar amount. Your generous contributions help families in our community and support local charitable organizations and community services.

Another way Codington-Clark Electric gives back is by investing in tomorrow's leaders. Through presentations at elementary schools, scholarship opportunities and the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we aim to empower students for a brighter future. When we invest in our local youth, we strengthen the fabric of our community.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we believe in giving credit where credit is due—to the members who shape our co-op. One of the ways we do this is through capital credits. Because Codington-Clark Electric operates at cost, we give cash back to our members rather than outside investors or shareholders.

The holiday season brings a spirit of generosity and compassion. It's a time to reflect on our many blessings and uplift those in need. While this is certainly a special time of year, cooperatives like Codington-Clark Electric are deeply rooted in giving back to their local

Here's how capital credits work:

Codington-Clark Electric members use the electricity we provide and pay their monthly bills, and we track their business with the co-op over time. Codington-Clark Electric pays all operating expenses throughout the year, and if any operating revenue is leftover, we allocate it as capital credits. When financial conditions permit, the Co-op's board of directors votes to pay capital credits back to the members. Codington-Clark Electric sends you a check or applies a credit to your energy bill. Additionally, throughout the year, capital credits are retired when requested to facilitate the settlement of estates.

At the November board meeting action was taken to make a general retirement of capital credits to the membership. The board chose to retire the entire year 2003, \$385,485 plus 10% of 2004, \$55,388 for a total of \$440,873. The retirement amount for each member is based on the kilowatt-hours purchased per member during this timeframe. Throughout the years, Codington-Clark Electric has returned \$8,464,446 to the membership.

Capital credits are just one of the many benefits of co-op membership. Giving back to our local members instead of outside parties is one of the many aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses.

Our members guide every decision we make and are the reason our co-op exists. To us, you're more than a customer. This holiday season, we hope you're proud to be part of a community-focused co-op that puts people before profits.

From your friends at Codington-Clark Electric, we hope you have a bright and blessed holiday season. Merry Christmas!

From all of us at
Codington-Clark Electric
WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A
MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR
Our office will be closed on
December 25th and January 1st.

Snow Safety

There is no end to the terms for “really big snowstorm,” and those terms come in handy, particularly in America’s snowiest cities. Just check out these average annual snowfall totals in towns of at least 10,000 residents, according to the Farmer’s Almanac:

Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan – 119.3 inches
Syracuse, New York – 114.3 inches
Juneau, Alaska – 93.6 inches
Flagstaff, Arizona – 87.6 inches
Duluth, Minnesota – 83.5 inches
Erie, Pennsylvania – 80.9 inches
Burlington, Vermont – 80.2 inches
Muskegon, Michigan – 79.3 inches
Casper, Wyoming – 77 inches
Portland, Maine – 70 inches

But with really big snow storms – and even everyday, run-of-the-mill snowfalls – comes a risk of death by shoveling. Nationwide, snow shoveling is responsible for thousands of injuries and as many as 100 deaths each year.

So, why so many deaths? Shoveling snow is just another household chore, right?

Not really, says the American Heart Association. While most people won’t have a problem, shoveling snow can put some people at risk of heart attack. Sudden exertion, like moving hundreds of pounds of snow after being sedentary for several months, can put a big strain on the heart. Pushing a heavy snow blower also can cause injury.

And, there’s the cold factor. Cold weather can increase heart rate and blood pressure. It can make blood clot more easily and constrict arteries, which decreases blood supply. This is true even in healthy people. Individuals over the age of 40 or who are relatively inactive should be particularly careful.

National Safety Council recommends the following tips to shovel safely:

- Do not shovel after eating or while smoking.
- Take it slow and stretch out before you begin.
- Shovel only fresh, powdery snow; it’s lighter.
- Push the snow rather than lifting it.
- If you do lift it, use a small shovel or only partially fill the shovel.

- Lift with your legs, not your back.
- Do not work to the point of exhaustion.
- Know the signs of a heart attack, stop immediately and call 911 if you’re experiencing any of them; every minute counts.

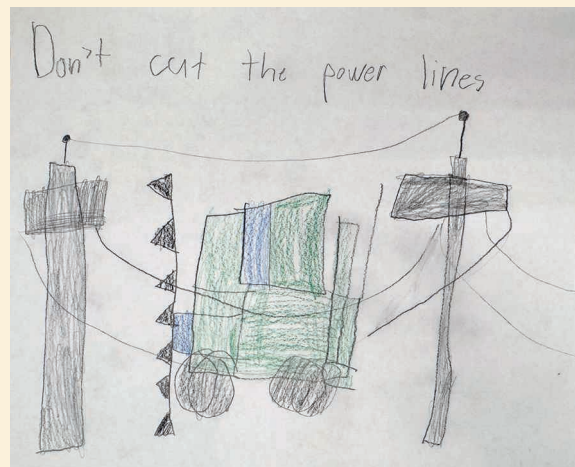
Don’t pick up that shovel without a doctor’s permission if you have a history of heart disease. A clear driveway is not worth your life.

Snow Blower Safety

In addition to possible heart strain from pushing a heavy snow blower, stay safe with these tips:

- If the blower jams, turn it off.
- Keep your hands away from the moving parts.
- Be aware of the carbon monoxide risk of running a snow blower in an enclosed space.
- Add fuel outdoors, before starting, and never add fuel when it is running.
- Never leave it unattended when it is running.

Source: National Safety Council



“Don’t Cut the Power Lines!”

David Raak, Age 7 ½

David Raak cautions readers to be careful when working around power lines. Thank you for your picture, David! David’s parents are Nathaniel and Katie Raak, members of Central Electric.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you’ll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Crockpot GREATNESS

CROCKPOT CORN

Ingredients:

3 16-oz. packages frozen corn
8 oz. cream cheese
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
2 tbsps. sugar
2 tbsps. water

Method

Place corn in crockpot. Cut cream cheese and butter into small cubes. Add cream cheese, butter, sugar and water to corn. Stir. Cook on high for 45 minutes. Stir. Turn to low and cook for three more hours, stirring occasionally.

Elaine Rieck
Harrisburg, S.D.

CROCKPOT BAKED BEANS

Ingredients:

2 cans black beans
2 cans red beans (drained)
2 cans great northern
1 can baked beans with brown sugar
1 lb. diced ham
1 heaping tsp. mustard (regular)
2 full tbsps. ketchup
Garlic powder (optional)
1 small onion (chopped)

Method

Mix all ingredients in crockpot except ham. Cook 2 hours on high. Mix in ham and cook another hour on high. Enjoy!

Rose Tucker
Hot Springs, S.D.

CHICKEN FIESTA SLOW COOKER RECIPE

Ingredients:

2 lbs. boneless skinless chicken breasts
1 package slow cooker fiesta chicken seasoning mix
2 cans (14 1/2 oz. each) diced tomatoes, undrained
1 can (15 3/4 oz.) whole kernel corn, drained
1 can (15 oz.) black beans, drained and rinsed

Method

Place chicken in slow cooker. Mix seasoning, tomatoes, corn and beans until blended. Pour over chicken. Cover. Cook eight hours on LOW or four hours on HIGH. Remove chicken from slow cooker. Shred chicken, using two forks. Return chicken to slow cooker; mix well. Serve over cooked rice with assorted toppings, if desired.

McCormick.com

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Uncover Savings With a DIY Energy Audit



Miranda Boutelle
Efficiency Services
Group

Q: How do I perform an energy audit on my home?

A: A home energy audit may sound daunting, but it can be as easy as creating a checklist of improvements based on what you see around your home.

Here's what you'll need to find opportunities to save energy and money: a flashlight, dust mask, tape measure and cooking thermometer. I recommend taking notes on your phone or a notepad.

First, check the heating and cooling equipment. Determine the age and efficiency of the equipment by looking up the model number on the nameplate. The average lifespan of HVAC equipment is 10 to 30 years, depending on the type of equipment and how well it's maintained. If your equipment is older, it may be time to budget for an upgrade. Check the filter and replace it if needed.

Then, check the envelope of your home, which separates the heated or cooled areas from the exterior, for drafts and air leakage. Feel around windows and trim for any drafts. Pay special attention to spots where different building materials come together. Check under sinks for gaps around pipes. Seal with weatherstripping, caulk or expanding foam as needed.

Make sure to replace incandescent or compact fluorescent bulbs with LEDs. LEDs use significantly less energy and last longer than traditional incandescent bulbs.

Check for leaking faucets and make sure aerators and showerheads are high-efficiency models in good condition. The gallons-per-minute (GPM) ratings should be etched onto them. To reduce wasted energy from using more hot water than needed, aerators should be 0.5 to 1.5 GPM, and showerheads should be no more than 2 GPM.

Next, look in the attic, while wearing a dust mask, to make sure it's insulated. You may be able to see

enough from the access area using a cellphone with the flash on to take pictures. Use the tape measure to check the depth of the insulation. It should be a minimum of 12 inches deep. This can vary depending on the type of insulation used and your geography.

Insulation can become compacted over time. It should be evenly distributed throughout the attic. Loose fill or blown-in insulation should be fluffy and evenly dispersed. Rolled batt insulation should fit tightly together without gaps.

Also, exterior walls should be insulated. If your home is older than the 1960s, the walls are probably not insulated. Homes from the 1960s or 1970s likely need more insulation. Sometimes you can see wall insulation by removing an outlet cover or switch plate and using a flashlight to look for insulation inside the wall cavity. Turn off the power at the electrical panel to avoid the risk of electric shock. Wall insulation can be blown in from the inside or the outside of the home. This is a job for a professional.

If you have a basement or crawlspace, head there next. Unfinished basements should have insulation on the rim joists, at minimum. This is the area between the top of the foundation and the underside of the home's first-story floor. Use closed-cell spray foam or a combination of rigid foam and spray foam to insulate rim joists. Crawlspace should have insulation on the underside of the floor between the floor joists. Insulation should be properly supported in contact with the floor with no air gaps. Water pipes and ductwork should also be insulated.

Lastly, check the temperature of your water by running it for three minutes at the faucet closest to your water heater. Then fill a cup and measure with a cooking thermometer. Hot water should be between 120 and 140 degrees. You can reduce the temperature on your water heater to reduce energy waste and prevent scalding.

Once your home energy audit is finished, review your findings and start prioritizing home energy efficiency projects. For step-by-step instructions, visit www.energy.gov/save.



A historic photo shows a man standing in front of an auger used to dig holes for utility poles.
Photo submitted by Moreau-Grand Electric



Janet Gesinger
Photo by Frank Turner

When the Lights Turned On: Janet Gesinger Remembers the Days Before Power

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Memory is a fickle thing. It's funny how a certain smell or simple photo can evoke vivid memories of an age long past. After all, how can a memory be lost when we can't even remember losing it?

At the age of 89, Janet Gesinger doesn't remember the exact moment when Cam Wal Electric, her local rural electric cooperative, introduced electricity to her childhood farm and ranch 13 miles west of Gettysburg, but she does remember the days without it.

"It's amazing that I can remember some things from my childhood so vividly, but I couldn't tell you what I had for lunch last week," Gesinger laughed.

Gesinger remembers growing up on the farm during a time when the glow of kerosene lamps helped her family navigate the dark and a cistern well kept their food cool.

"I don't know how we could see with the little lamps, but we did," she said. "People were careful because they knew

what the risks were, carrying around those lamps."

At the age of 9, Gesinger and her three older siblings lost their mother. The profound loss meant that Gesinger had to step up to help her siblings and father keep the farm and ranch going.

"I ended up helping my dad outside more than I did anything inside the house," she said. "We lived in such a remote place. There weren't even gravel roads back then. If I ever wanted to leave the farm, I had to help my brother milk cows and do chores so he would take me into town."

In high school, Gesinger's horizons broadened past the farm, and she began working as a waitress at the Medicine Rock Café where she met her late husband, Robert Gesinger. A year later the couple married and moved to Robert's family farm and ranch just a few miles north of Ridgeview in 1954. The Ridgeview community gained power just one year earlier in 1953, and Janet continues to live there now as a member of Moreau-Grand Electric.

When Janet moved to Ridgeview it was a bustling, small town with a grain elevator, a grocery store with a post office in it, a liquor store, a school, and electricity. Today, nearly all those amenities are a distant memory, but the rural electricity that continues to power the homes of the roughly 25 residents of Ridgeview, including Janet, remains.

"Ridgeview had gotten electricity just before we got married," she said.

Once she lived in a home with electricity, Janet found it hard to imagine life without it. One winter storm in 2010 wreaked havoc on the rural landscape and broke more than 200 utility poles, leaving Robert and Janet without power for 21 days.

"By day three of the outage, we ended up getting a PTO driven generator that could hook up to the tractor," Janet said. "Robert was sure glad when the power came back on, because that way we didn't have to fuel the tractor twice a day to run it – and the cost of diesel to run it."

Reflecting on her experiences, Janet acknowledges the transformative impact of electricity on rural life and finds it hard to imagine a world without electricity.

"It's an amazing convenience that we rely on," Janet said. "People today couldn't live without it because what in the world would ever replace it? We have a lot of technology in this world, but there is nothing that can replace electricity."

PLANNING AHEAD



An aerial view of the Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV near Williston, N.D. Photo submitted by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

FORECASTING THE FUTURE

Basin Electric's Vision for Reliable Energy

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Keeping the lights on in a dynamic world isn't as simple as flipping a switch. It requires a forward-thinking approach, almost like gazing into a crystal ball, to anticipate future energy demand. Energy infrastructure projects begin long before the first shovel breaks ground, and it's a challenge that Basin Electric Power Cooperative confronts every day to ensure consistent and

reliable power amid an ever-changing landscape of new technologies and growing membership.

A new plant or transmission line can take years of planning and coordination by Basin Electric and its member cooperatives. The process is similar to predicting the weather; it all begins with a forecast to determine what energy demand is brewing on the horizon.

Basin Electric works with the members and other stakeholders to

develop highly accurate load forecasts. Those load forecasts are then compared against our existing resource portfolio. If any gaps are identified, resource alternatives are identified and reviewed against each other to arrive at the best resource portfolio outcome.

"Once a need for a new generation project or transmission project has been identified, Basin Electric assembles a project team," explained Matt Ehrman, vice president of engineering and construction at Basin Electric.

"Developing and defining project scope is vital to project success as it's really the foundation for the project," Ehrman continued. "Good upfront planning minimizes project execution

risks later, so Basin places a lot of emphasis on the development work that happens before any detailed engineering design can begin.”

Basin Electric is currently undertaking one of its largest single-site electric generation projects in the last 40 years near Williston, North Dakota, known as Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV. Once completed, this project will add 580 megawatts of natural gas generation capacity to Basin Electric’s energy portfolio. Although the project broke ground in March 2023, planning for the project began in 2021, standing as a testament to the cooperative’s long-term mindset and commitment to meeting its load forecast.

So what goes into the planning of such a major project? Ehrman says everything from identifying project objectives to permitting and contracting strategies to engineering studies all take place within the years leading up to new infrastructure.

“In the case of a generation project, the project site, fuel, water, and transmission sources are identified during the project development phase,” Ehrman said. “After the development phase is complete, the more detailed engineering design work can begin. This is when the engineers really begin to dig into the details of how to arrange and interconnect all of the many different types of equipment



The first gas turbine delivery for Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV. Photo submitted by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

required for a given project. Eventually, those design details are used to develop construction specifications, contractors are selected and construction begins.”

Beyond the demanding complexity of the project itself, Basin Electric’s project team must also navigate regulatory matters and policy. While many projects share similarities, no two are identical when navigating federal, state, and local permitting requirements.

“Large generation and transmission projects can take years to permit, and the permitting duration depends on the project,” Ehrman said. “Basin’s

teams have successfully permitted and executed many projects over the years and as a result have learned a lot about those processes in our service territory.”

Slated to be operational in 2025, Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV will come on board during a time when electricity demand is increasing significantly. The completion of the project will expand Basin Electric’s resource portfolio, which uses a vast diversity of generation resources to serve its member cooperatives. Even still, Ehrman said it still takes a massive effort to stay prepared for what the future may bring.

“Planning and building energy infrastructure is a massive team effort that involves teams from Basin and its membership,” he said. “These are complex projects, and there are challenges involved in all phases of the projects. Basin has extremely talented, dedicated and hard-working teams developing these projects that really enjoy working out all the technical and non-technical details while mitigating risks to achieve success and deliver the best possible outcome for the membership.”



Early construction of the Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV. Photo submitted by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDIT (REC) PROGRAM

Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative has Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) available for purchase to offset your current usage with 100 percent renewable energy.

The electricity you receive will still be the same reliable, affordable energy you have always received from Codington-Clark Electric but, by participating in this program, your home or business will be supporting current and future renewable projects. By purchasing RECs, your business could add value to your products or services, promote future regional renewable projects and showcase your support for renewable energy sources.

What is a Renewable Energy Credit (REC)?

- 1 MWh (megawatt hour) produced by a renewable energy source equals 1 REC
- RECs are also called Green Tags
- RECs represent the valuable renewable attributes of wind/hydroelectric energy

How much does it cost?

Wind: \$2 per MWh or \$.002 per kWh

Hydroelectric: \$0.25 per MWh or \$0.00025 per kWh

Example: If you use 1,000 kWh per month, participating in the REC program at 100 percent would add \$2+ tax or \$0.25+ tax to your monthly bill.

Do I need to purchase any special equipment?

No. Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative will continue to fulfill all your electric needs and you can enjoy the benefits of renewable energy.

What are my payment options?

You will be billed monthly based on the kWhs used. The additional charge will appear on your normal monthly electric statement.

Where do the RECs come from?

The RECs come from several wind farms in the region that supply renewable energy to Codington-Clark Electric. These include, but are not limited to:

- North Dakota: PrairieWinds 1, Wilton 1 & 2, Baldwin Wind Project and Minot Wind Project
- South Dakota: Crow Lake Wind, the Chamberlain turbines, Day County Wind Farm and South Dakota Wind Project
- Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)

What if I move?

This program is available only to members of Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative. If you move outside of Codington-Clark Electric's service territory, you will no longer be a member or eligible for this service.

RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDIT CERTIFICATE PURCHASE

_____ (name of member) hereby requests qualification of the following purchase for the Renewable Energy Credit Rate in effect on the date of qualification and agrees to each of the conditions in the Rate:

Name of Owner and Address of the Renewable Energy Credit Purchaser: _____

100 percent wind Participation = \$0.002 per kWh used Beginning Date: _____

100 percent hydroelectric Participation = \$0.00025 per kWh used

The purchase of RECs will be added to your total kWh monthly usage for a period of one year. This agreement will continue after the first year until Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative is notified of cancellation.

Rate is subject to change on an annual basis based on market conditions.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Title _____

2025 Operation Round Up Funding Applications Being Accepted

The Codington-Clark Electric Board of Directors made the decision to implement the Operation Round-Up program in adherence to the cooperative principle "Concern for Community". Through the program Co-op members volunteer to "round up" the amount owed on electric bills to the next highest dollar amount and contribute the change to the Operation Round Up Fund. The purpose of the program is to provide charitable contributions that promote the welfare of people in the community and improve their quality of life.

Since 2011, numerous Codington-Clark members and employees have opted to participate in the program and have generously contributed to the fund. If you are interested in applying for funds, please call 605-886-5848, stop by the office to pick up an application or go online to www.ccelectric.coop, click on the community tab and look for Operation Round Up. Any application that would positively affect the general welfare of the community will be considered.

The deadline for applying is February 17, 2025.



\$5,000 in Scholarships Available

Codington-Clark Electric, along with its partners, is offering \$5,000 in college and technical school scholarships for the 2025-26 school year.

Additional information and application forms are available from Codington-Clark's website www.ccelectric.coop or from area high schools.

The deadline for all scholarship applications is 4:30 p.m. February 14, 2025.

Codington-Clark Electric Scholarships

Codington-Clark Electric will award (4) \$500 scholarships and again partner with CoBank to award (2) \$1,000 scholarships for the 2025-26 school year. The program is designed to recognize certain academic achievements by children of member-consumers of Codington-Clark Electric and to encourage students to attend a South Dakota post-secondary institute.

The scholarships must be used for educational costs and the student must enter school in the fall of the school year for which the scholarship is given. The applicant must be a student who is planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year, or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school located in South Dakota. Codington-Clark Electric will pay scholarships after the completion of the first semester. Checks will be made payable to the student and will be distributed by Codington-Clark Electric.

One application covers both scholarships.

Basin Scholarship

Codington-Clark Electric will again partner with Basin Electric Power Cooperative to offer a \$1,000 scholarship opportunity for the 2025-26 school year.

Applicants must be students who are enrolling or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate course of study at an accredited college, university, or vocational/technical school for the 2025-26 school year.

The \$1,000 award is part of the Rural Electric Cooperative Scholarship Program developed and funded by Codington-Clark Electric's power supply partner, Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Basin Electric operates a generation fleet that produces about 75 percent of the electricity used by Codington-Clark Electric members. Each of Basin Electric's member cooperatives will award a scholarship to a dependent of a consumer. That means one student whose parents are Codington-Clark Electric members will win a \$1,000 scholarship.

Applications will be considered by Codington-Clark Electric and then submitted to Basin Electric for scholarship distribution.



LOOKING AHEAD

An aerial view of the Wild Springs Solar Project near New Underwood, S.D. Photo submitted by East River Electric

Wind Energy Association Changes Name, Advocates For All Renewables

Jacob Boyko
jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

The South Dakota Wind Energy Association is getting a fresh coat of paint this year with a rebrand that will expand the association’s advocacy mission to include more forms of renewable energy.

As solar energy generation in the state increases with new and upcoming projects, expanding the association — now called the South Dakota Renewable Energy Association — to include other forms of renewable energy and battery storage was the clear way forward according to association president and Sioux Valley Energy Director Gary Fish.

“The association started out as being very wind oriented, and that’s our legacy,” Fish explained. “But we also have somewhat migrated to having an energy portfolio where wind coexists

with coal, natural gas and solar, and that was the driver behind changing our name.”

The change comes in the wake of South Dakota’s first large-scale solar farm near New Underwood, which began commercial operation in March 2024. Basin Electric Power Cooperative will purchase 114 megawatts of the 128-megawatt renewable project.

The association began with the

leadership of East River Electric Power Cooperative in the mid-2000s as the generation and transmission co-op looked for ways to develop wind generation in the state to serve its growing member utilities and bring economic development and job opportunities to the state.

“Wind energy was at that time starting to become a more viable utility-scale source of power generation,” said Chris Studer, chief member and public relations officer at East River Electric.



A look on the ground as crews prepare the Wild Springs Solar Project for power generation. Photo submitted by East River Electric

“East River led an effort to build an association of stakeholders in South Dakota that can help advocate for the wind industry.”

It’s a mission that’s propelled South Dakota to being the state with the third highest renewable energy makeup, with more than 54% of in-state power generated from renewable wind and solar resources.

“We’ve gone from essentially zero wind energy to more than 3,000 megawatts of installed capacity in the state,” Studer said. “We have far surpassed what our original goal was.”

In the South Dakota Wind Energy Association’s initial stages, the board was composed mostly of utilities and developers focused on studying potential economic benefits and the infrastructure needs that come with increasing generation.

“I think everyone knew we had a great wind resource, but the real issue was having additional transmission to get the power out,” Fish said. “Could we build

the towers? Yes. Could we get the power to market? That was the challenge.”

As the association successfully made the case for wind energy, the membership grew to include other G&Ts and investor-owned utilities, landowner groups, turbine manufacturers, servicing companies and others from the wind energy supply chain.

One of the first large-scale renewable energy wins for the South Dakota Wind Energy Association and rural electric cooperatives was the 2011 commissioning of the 172-megawatt Crow Lake Project north of White Lake, South Dakota. The association membership helped support the launch of South Dakota Wind Partners to bring local residents an opportunity to invest in and own several turbines in the project.

According to East River Electric, the program generated about \$16 million worth of local investment.

“It was a very unique and successful

project that the South Dakota Wind Energy Association had involvement in and advocated for,” Studer said. “The people that invested got tax equity benefits over time, and after about 10 years they sold it back to Basin Electric and got their investments back.”

Moving forward, the association will continue to advocate for a renewable energy-friendly business environment to propel South Dakota energy projects forward.

“South Dakota Renewable Energy Association is here to make sure our state’s tax policies are fair, that developers still want to come here and develop renewable energy projects, and that there’s a market for all of the supply chain that’s needed for wind energy and now for solar, as well as the necessary transmission,” Studer continued.

A new South Dakota Renewable Energy Association website and promotional material will debut within the next several months.



The Crow Lake Wind Project near White Lake, S.D., is the largest wind project owned solely by a cooperative in the United States. The \$363 million wind project went into operation in 2011.

Photo submitted by East River Electric



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Purchasing Credits Means Renewable Energy Anywhere

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Did you know there's a way your home or business can operate with 100% renewable energy?

With renewable energy credits, or RECs, electric cooperative members can purchase the renewable aspects of their utility's energy and run on 100% green energy without needing to install on-site solar panels or wind generation.

"A REC is a renewable attribute of a megawatt hour of electricity," explained

Ted Smith, vice president of engineering and operations at Sioux Valley Energy. "One megawatt hour produced by any renewable generator provides one REC."

Basin Electric Power Cooperative – the generation and transmission cooperative that sells electricity to South Dakota's rural electric cooperatives – reported about 21% of its energy sales in 2023 was renewable energy. Since it's impossible to pinpoint the exact generation origin of each individual electron moving along a distribution line and entering a home or business, there's no way to tell what

is actually being powered by renewable energy and what isn't.

However, by having a renewable energy credit program where members can claim rights to the renewable energy generated, members who participate can affirm they are being powered by renewable energy. It's kind of like "calling dibs" on something; everybody is purchasing reliable power, but the members who "call dibs" are purchasing the renewable power.

One Sioux Valley Energy member that makes use of the renewable energy credit program is Marmen Energy in Brandon, South Dakota. Through the program, the wind tower manufacturer's operations are powered 100% by renewable energy.

"We get all renewable energy to power our facility," Marmen Energy Plant Manager Danny Lueders said. "We build renewable energy wind towers – how

could we not get the renewable energy credit program?”

At a scale like Marmen’s, which produces between 300 and 400 wind towers annually, being 100% renewable is a statistic that not only makes a statement, but increases demand for more renewable energy.

“It makes sense for us to have it and support that industry all the way through,” Lueders continued. “It’s an industry we’re heavily involved with and we want to do everything we can to support and promote that industry.”

Support for renewable energy through the REC program has other benefits; the extra funds Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative generated from selling allocated RECs made it possible to purchase a solar demonstration trailer to educate the public about the benefits and drawbacks of solar energy and the need for a diversified mix of energy resources.

“We sell the RECs on the open market so others can satisfy their renewable mandates and so we can fund future renewable energy projects,” Rushmore Electric CFO Mark Miller added.

On the market, RECs vary in price, usually between \$1 and \$3. The generation source – wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, waste heat recovery – as well as the year the REC’s production year affect the commodity’s value.

“They have a shelf life,” Miller explained. “They’re valuable in the first year because some states mandate RECs that are current.”

States like Minnesota with renewable energy standards require utilities to retire their RECs to meet the energy standards, or buy

credits on the market to reach the mandated renewable energy percentage of their energy mix.

In South Dakota, a state without renewable energy mandates but with more than 54% of in-state power generated by renewable resources, the Marmen Energy CEO simply believes continuing to support renewable energy is the right thing to do.

“South Dakota is a strong proponent of renewable energy,” Lueders said. “The amount of industry renewables are supporting throughout the state of South Dakota is a strong issue, from an economic footprint and continuing to grow South Dakota’s self-reliance on homemade energy.”

(Right) Jay Buchholz, Key Account & Community Relations Executive for Sioux Valley Energy, presents Marmen Energy employees Vincent Trudel, Chief Operating Officer, Yannick Laroche, Fabrication Manager, with renewable energy credit certificates.



(Below) Marmen Energy’s Brandon, S.D., manufacturing plant purchases renewable energy credits to cover 100% of its operations, meaning all wind towers produced here are built using 100% renewable energy. *Images submitted by Sioux Valley Energy*



REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo to win a Blackstone electric grill!

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



JAN. 11
Snow Queen Coronation
7 p.m.
Aberdeen Civic Theater
Aberdeen, SD
SDSnowQueen.com

Photo courtesy of South Dakota Snow Queen Festival

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

UNTIL DEC. 26
Christmas at the Capitol
8 a.m.-10 p.m.
Pierre, SD
605-773-3178

UNTIL DEC. 29
Trees & Trains Exhibit at SD State Railroad Museum
Hill City, SD
605-665-3636

UNTIL DEC. 31
Olde Tyme Christmas at participating businesses, Lane of Lights Viewing
Hill City, SD

UNTIL DEC. 31
Garden Glow at McCrory Gardens
5-9 p.m.
Brookings, SD

UNTIL DEC. 31
Hall of Trees
12-4 p.m. Mon.-Sat.
The Mead Museum
Yankton, SD

DEC. 31
American Legion Post 15 Save the Last Dance 2024
8 p.m.-12:30 a.m.
El Riad Shrine
Sioux Falls, SD
605-336-3470

DEC. 31-JAN. 1
New Year's Eve in Deadwood
Deadwood, SD
800-999-1876

JAN. 5, FEB. 2
American Legion Post 15 Pancake Breakfast
8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
1600 W. Russel St.
Sioux Falls, SD
605-336-3470

JAN. 7-9
Dakota Farm Show
Tue. & Wed. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thurs. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
USD DakotaDome
Vermillion, SD

JAN. 11.
Coats for Kids Bowling Tournament
Meadowood Lanes
Rapid City, SD
605-393-2081

JAN. 15
46th Ranchers Workshop
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Community Events Center
White River, SD
605-259-3252 ext. 3

JAN. 18
Breakin' the Winter Blues Chili Cookoff
Main Street
Hill City, SD

JAN. 26
Souper Supper Fundraiser Rapid Valley United Methodist Church
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Tickets \$6
5103 Longview Dr.
Rapid City, SD

JAN. 31-FEB. 8
Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo
Central States Fairground
Rapid City, SD
605-355-3861

FEB. 14-17
11th Annual Frost Fest
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Brookings, SD
605-692-7444

FEB. 22
Bellator Titans Charter Casino Night Fundraiser
6-11 p.m.
316 2nd St.
Aberdeen, SD

Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.