

Red Lake Electric Cooperative
ANNUAL MEETING
Wednesday, March 31
at Red Lake Electric's Warehouse
Registration 5 p.m. — Meeting 6 p.m.

Due to ever-changing COVID guidelines, Red Lake Electric has decided to hold its annual meeting in the cooperative's warehouse. While we were hoping 2021 was going to shift back to "normal," it seems to be another year we all need to be innovative. Not only is our annual meeting going to be held at the cooperative, we are going to hold it in the evening. Registration will begin at 5 p.m. and the meeting will be called to order at 6 p.m.

Each voting member will be entered for a chance to win:



- 2,200-watt Briggs & Stratton portable generator
- 32" Samsung Smart TV
- Apple iPad

*Prizes will be drawn at the end of the business meeting.
Must be present to win.*

A complete to-go meal will be provided as members exit.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

— OF —

ANNUAL MEETING

All members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., are hereby notified of its annual meeting. The annual meeting will take place at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at Red Lake Electric Cooperative in Red Lake Falls.

The meeting agenda includes the year 2020 in review, financial reports, bylaw amendment and election of directors. Door prizes will be awarded and a to-go dinner will be served. Please contact general manager Stephanie Johnson to make arrangements for dietary needs.

All members are encouraged to attend.

/s/ Mark Hanson, Secretary

Director nominations, petitions due March 1

Each year the terms of three of Red Lake Electric Cooperative's (RLEC) directors expire the day of the Annual Meeting. Members of each of the three districts whose present director's terms will expire March 31 have elected director candidates at the recently held district meetings.

The names of the candidates are Stacy Blawat, Middle River, District 2; Aaron Chervestad, Oklee, District 7 and Cecil Anderson, Thief River Falls, District 8.

Their names will be placed up for nomination at the Annual Meeting. Any other member within these districts wishing to have their name up for nomination must do so by petition. The petition is due in the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls by 10 a.m. March 1, 2021.

At least 15 members of the district must sign the petition for the director nominee. The nominee's name will then be placed (30028 Francis Moran) on the election ballot at the Annual Meeting March 31 at Red Lake Electric Cooperative in Red Lake Falls.

Petition forms are available at the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls. Contact Stephanie Johnson, Cooperative Manager, at 800-245-6068 or 253-2168 for more information.

Each voting member of Red Lake Electric that attends the annual meeting will receive a

\$15 ENERGY CREDIT

on their RLEC electric bill.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 430 • 412 International Drive S.W.

Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430

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*This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President Randy Versdahl
Vice President Stacy Blawat
Secretary-Treasurer Mark Hanson
Directors Cecil Anderson,
Aaron Chervestad, Bonnie Christians,
Colette Kujava, Steve Linder, Peter Mosbeck

Stephanie Johnson General Manager
Steve Conely Manager of Electric
System Operations
Kelli Brateng Manager of Member Services

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

Polk and Red Lake Counties:

George Stage – 701-306-3511

Any time you or an electrician does wiring or
other electrical work at your home or farm, Min-
nesota state law requires a state wiring inspec-
tor 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 re-
quired. Please visit www.dli.mn.gov for more in-
formation. The inspectors can be reached week-
day 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.*



Manager's Comments

by Stephanie Johnson



Red Lake Electric Cooperative is dif-
ferent because we are a cooperative.
Our business model sets us apart
from other utilities because we adhere to
seven guiding cooperative principles that
reflect core values of honesty, transpar-
ency, equity, inclusiveness and service to
the greater good of the community.

Electric cooperatives, including Red
Lake Electric Cooperative, have a unique
and storied place in our country's history.
We democratized the American dream by
bringing electricity to rural areas when
for-profit electric companies determined
the effort too costly. Back then, cities were
electrified and rural areas were not, creat-
ing the original rural-urban divide. Newly
established electric lines helped power
economic opportunity in rural areas.
Today, that spirit of equity and inclusion
is a vital part of our co-op DNA.

Equal access for all

When our electric co-op was founded,
each member contributed an equal share
in order to gain access to electricity that
benefited individual families as well as
the larger local community. Each member
had an equal vote in cooperative matters.
That sense of equity and inclusion is still
how we operate today. Red Lake Electric
Cooperative was built by and belongs to
the diverse communities and consumer-
members we serve. Membership is open
to everyone in our service territory,
regardless of race, religion, age, disability,
gender identity, language, political per-
spective or socioeconomic status.

By virtue of paying your electric bill
each month, you are a member of the co-
operative, and every member has an equal
voice and vote (26827 Noel McKeever)
when it comes to cooperative governance.
This ties back to our guiding principles
of equitable economic participation and
democratic control of the co-op.

We encourage all members to vote in
Red Lake Electric Cooperative's direc-
tor elections and we invite all members
to participate in cooperative meetings to
weigh in on discussions that set coopera-
tive policies and priorities.

We know members of our community
have different needs and perspectives, and
we welcome diverse views on all issues
under consideration by the cooperative.
The more viewpoints we hear, the better
we are able to reflect the needs of all cor-
ners of our community.

Inclusion

While our top priority is providing
safe, reliable and affordable energy, we
also want to be a catalyst for good in our
community. Because we are your local
electric cooperative, cooperative revenues
stay right here in our community. In turn,
we invest in our (28229 Matt Knutson)
diverse community base through scholar-
ship programs, charitable giving, educa-
tional programs and more. We strive to
make long-term decisions that improve
and enrich the communities we serve.

While today's world is radically dif-
ferent than it was when Red Lake Electric
was founded, our cooperative values have
stood the test of time and remain just as
relevant today. We recognize that today's
cooperative members expect more, and
my pledge to you – the members we
proudly serve – is to promote a coopera-
tive culture of inclusion, diversity and
equity for all.

Annual meeting

Our annual meeting will have a
different feel, again. We will be hold-
ing an evening meeting at our Red Lake
Falls facility on Wednesday, March 31.
This year we will again have a shortened
agenda, but we will be giving some larger
door prizes, a to-go meal and a bill credit
for those members that can attend. Your
cooperative directors and staff will also
be presenting important bylaw changes.
The changes are reflective of the times,
and also changes that have been brought
about by COVID-19 and how your co-
operative must adapt but still manage to
present and conduct cooperative business
safely and effectively. The bylaw changes
have been included in this issue of the
newsletter. Please read them over and
reach out to me with any questions or
concerns you may have.

Is 100% carbon-free electricity possible?

Major technology breakthroughs needed to reach ambitious climate goals

The year 2050 may seem far away, but for electric utilities it feels like tomorrow.

Many political leaders, large corporations and environmental groups are calling for the electricity sector to be 100% carbon-free by midcentury or sooner. While this goal is virtually impossible to meet in 2021, can we reach it in the coming decades without sacrificing electric reliability or affordability? One thing is certain: It will take every ounce of innovation the world has to offer.

The complexity and difficulty in achieving a carbon-free electric grid cannot be understated. No single technology, power source or approach will be sufficient on its own. It will take an all-of-the-above strategy and many technological breakthroughs occurring rapidly in the coming years.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative has made great strides toward reducing the carbon footprint of its generation portfolio. About 42% of the generation capacity provided is already derived from carbon-free resources, and methods (21503 David Irlbeck) to decarbonize even further are being pursued by Minnkota Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider.

Minnkota is thoroughly evaluating Project Tundra – an effort to install carbon capture technology at the coal-based Milton R. Young Station near Bismarck, N.D. This power plant has reliably delivered electricity to Red Lake Electric members for decades and is well-positioned for technology advancements. The Project Tundra facility is designed to have a 90% CO₂ capture rate – which is the equivalent of permanently taking 800,000 gasoline-fueled cars off the road. The CO₂ would be safely stored more

than one mile underground near the Young Station site. If the project moves forward, a substantial amount of the energy provided to you through Red Lake Electric would be carbon-free.

As the energy transition continues, it is vitally important that electric utilities remain part of the conversation and that decisions are based on technological capabilities, reliability and affordability. Here are five things to consider during discussions on a carbon-free energy future.

Need for carbon capture technology

To maintain the reliability and stability of the electric grid, dispatchable resources, like coal and natural gas, will need to continue operation for the foreseeable future. That means that carbon capture technology will need to be rapidly developed and deployed across the country and the world. In fact, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – the gold standard in international climate change modeling – has determined that without carbon capture technology, it is virtually impossible to meet ambitious climate goals.

Limitations of renewables and batteries

While wind and solar resources provide zero-emissions energy, they are also limited by the fact that they cannot operate on a frequent-enough basis to stabilize the grid by themselves. Backup resources are still needed for when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine. While many are optimistic about the future of battery technology, it is still in its infancy at grid scale. Large battery banks can currently only dispatch energy into the grid for a few hours at a time, when multiple days of backup power can be needed.

Electric grid transformation

As more non-dispatchable, intermittent energy comes onto the grid, power system operators will be challenged to meet real-time operational demands. The nation's electric grid will undoubtedly need to be expanded and upgraded to ensure 24/7 stability. This will require a tremendous amount of investment, planning and coordination across multiple states. A recent study by the CapX2050 group anticipates the investment level to be in the billions in the Upper Midwest alone.

Role of beneficial electrification

As the electric grid continues to see lower emissions levels, electrifying everything – from transportation to heating and water heating – provides long-term economic and environmental benefits. Known as “beneficial electrification,” this concept highlights the opportunities to reduce emissions through increased use of electricity to power devices that would otherwise burn fuels like gasoline, diesel, fuel oil or propane. This will be an essential strategy in decarbonizing other sectors.

Addressing other sectors

Reaching climate goals requires a global strategy that extends well beyond electricity generation. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the electricity sector only contributes about 25% of all global greenhouse-gas emissions. If the goal is to reach net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions, significant reductions must also be found (27456 Corey Larson) from agriculture (24%), manufacturing (21%), transportation (14%), buildings (6%) and other miscellaneous sources (10%).

District meetings held in February

Three district meetings were held within Red Lake Electric Cooperative's (RLEC) service area in the beginning of February. Topics reviewed at the meetings included 2020 in review, energy rebate incentives, a load management tutorial and available payment options.

In her manager's report, Stephanie Johnson discussed current-year accomplishments including energy sales, new service construction and safety.

In Kelli Brateng's report from member services, she shared the many options available for electric heat and electric water heater rebate incentives. Brateng also informed members on the option to receive text or email notifications during load management periods. She also gave an update on the employee services available in the member service department. Brateng touched on the new online bill pay option, SmartHub.

The District 2 meeting was held the afternoon of Feb. 1 at Nazareth Lutheran Church, Holt. Cooperative members in attendance (21889 Curtis Christensen) unanimously elected Stacy Blawat, the incumbent director, as the director candidate from the district.

The District 7 meeting was held Feb. 1 at Oak Park Lutheran Church, Oklee. Aaron Chervestad, the incumbent director, was unanimously elected as the director candidate of the district.

The District 8 meeting was held Feb. 2 at St. John's Lutheran School, Thief River Falls. Incumbent director Cecil Anderson, was unanimously elected as the director candidate of the district.

Door prizes were awarded, and pie and coffee were served.



District 2 — Nazareth Lutheran Church, Holt



District 7 — Oak Park Lutheran Church, Oklee



District 8 — St. John's Lutheran School, Thief River Falls

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT

At Red Lake Electric Cooperative's upcoming Annual Meeting there will be a vote on a proposed bylaw amendment. The Board of Directors recommends that the members adopt this bylaw amendment as it allows Red Lake Electric flexibility for holding the Annual Meeting, allows mail-in ballots and adjusts the quorum requirements.

Below are the existing and proposed changes for **Article II Meeting of Members: Section 1. Annual Meeting, Section 5. Quorum and Section 6. Establishment of a Quorum**. The complete Bylaws of Red Lake Electric Cooperative can be requested by calling the office or you can find them on our website: www.redlakeelectric.com/about-us/articles-bylaws/.

ARTICLE II, MEETING OF MEMBERS

Existing:

Section 1. ANNUAL MEETING. The annual meeting of the members shall be held between March 25 and April 7 of each year at any place conveniently located within the area served by it as may be designated in the notice of the meeting, for the purpose of electing directors, passing upon reports covering the previous fiscal year and transacting other business as may come before the meeting. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time shall not work a forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative.

Proposed:

Section 1. ANNUAL MEETING. The Cooperative may annually hold a meeting of the members ("Annual Member Meeting") at any place conveniently located within the area served by it as may be designated in the notice of the meeting, for the purpose of electing directors, passing upon reports covering the previous fiscal year and transacting other business as may come before the meeting. To the extent authorized by the Board, however, and subject to guidelines and procedures adopted by the Board, an Annual Member Meeting may be held without a geographic location if the meeting is held through the internet or other electronic communications technology in a manner: (1) permitting the Cooperative to verify that each person participating in the meeting is a member of the Cooperative; and (2) permitting members the opportunity to read or hear the proceedings substantially concurrently with their occurrence, vote on matters submitted to the members, ask questions, and make comments. The Cooperative's failure to hold an Annual Member Meeting does not affect an action taken by the Cooperative nor work a forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative.

Existing:

Section 5. QUORUM. Not less than fifty (50) members, present in person, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all annual and special meetings of the members. If an insufficient number of members is present to constitute a quorum, a majority of the members present may recess the meeting from time to time without further notice.

Proposed:

Section 5. QUORUM. A quorum necessary to the transaction of business at any meeting of the members shall be at least fifty (50) members. In determining a quorum on a question submitted to a vote by mail, members present in person or represented by mail vote shall be counted. If an insufficient number of members is present to constitute a quorum, a majority of the members present may recess the meeting from time to time without further notice.

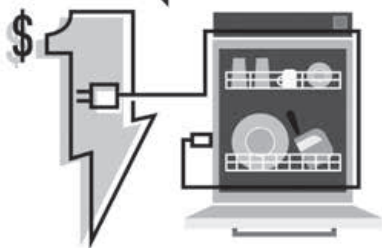
Existing:

Section 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM. The attendance of a sufficient number of members to constitute a quorum at any meeting of the members shall be established by a registration of the members present at such meeting, which registration shall be verified by the president and secretary and shall be reported in the minutes of such meeting.

Proposed:

Section 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM. The attendance of a sufficient number of members to constitute a quorum at any meeting of the members shall be established by a registration of the members present or represented by mail vote at such meeting, which registration and mail vote shall be verified by the president and secretary and shall be reported in the minutes of such meeting.

What can you get for \$1?

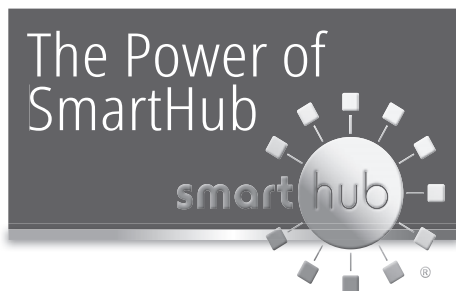


23 hours of dishwasher use

Electricity makes your life easier, AND it's a steal! Did you know you can use your dishwasher for about 23 hours for just \$1 of power? That's kitchen cleanup for dozens of family meals – and freedom from fights over whose turn it is to wash the dishes.

NOTICE OF NAMES

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of the *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 (99999 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.



See your daily and monthly usage, pay/view your bill online, plus a whole host of other useful services with SmartHub. SmartHub is a free and secure online energy portal.

Go to **www.redlakeelectric.com** and experience the power of SmartHub today!



VOTING DELEGATE CERTIFICATION

Members that are corporations, churches, townships, schools or other government units may vote at the annual meeting. This form must be filled out, signed by officers and presented at the annual meeting registration desk or returned with a mail ballot.

The _____ has, at an official
Name of Member

meeting, designated _____
Name of Delegate

to represent us at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Attest _____
Chairman or President

Attest _____
Clerk or Secretary



FEDERAL/STATE ENERGY ASSISTANCE

If you need help paying your electric utility bill, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. For complete qualification and application information, contact your local county welfare or community/citizen's action council listed below. These organizations may also provide budget counseling.

Inter-County Community Council

Oklee, MN
Serves East Polk, Pennington
and Red Lake Counties
218-796-5144
Toll-free: 1-888-778-4008
Fax: 218-796-5175

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

Crookston, MN
Serves West Polk,
West Marshall County
218-281-9080
Toll-free: 1-866-264-3729
Fax: 218-281-0705

Northwest Community Action

Badger, MN
Serves East Marshall County
218-528-3258
Toll-free: 1-800-568-5329
Fax: 218-528-3259

Red Lake Community Action Agency

Red Lake, MN
Serves Beltrami County
218-679-1880

ELECTRIC HEAT EXEMPTION

This is to certify that the primary source of heat for my residence is electricity and I am eligible for the electric heating sales tax exemption as provided by Minnesota State Law. The primary source supplies more heat than any other source for the largest period of time during the heating season.

Date _____ Account Number _____

Social Security Number _____

Signature _____



Operation Round Up® grant applications due March 2

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 Tuesday, March 2.

Operation Round Up is a program adopted by RLEC headquartered in Red Lake Falls. Members choosing to “round up” their monthly electric bill payment provide funds for this effort. Today, 96% 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 (31558 Wyatt Olson) projects or programs. Since the program began in 1993, \$586,991 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 Julie Stennes, Thief River Falls; Tishara Melcher, Middle River; Diane Kolstoe, Oklee; Stephanie Johnson, Gatzke and Bonnie Christians, Crookston.

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

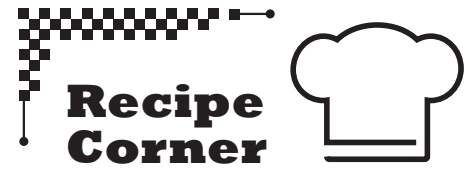
Grant application forms are available on the cooperative's website: www.redlakeelectric.com.

For more information contact Stephanie Johnson, general manager of RLEC, at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative Director qualification 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 (3) 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.



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.

Easy Mongolian Ground Beef Noodles

*1 lb. lean ground beef
4 tsp. minced ginger
6 cloves garlic, minced
½ cup low-sodium soy sauce
½ cup of beef broth
¼ cup brown sugar
6 tbsp. hoisin sauce
½ tsp. red pepper flakes
½ tsp. black pepper
1 box of linguine noodles
4 green onions, diced for garnish
Toasted sesame seeds for garnish*

In a medium skillet with high sides on the stovetop, brown the ground beef along with the ginger and garlic until beef is cooked through. Use the back of a wooden spoon to make sure meat is broken up well. Drain any fat and return the pan to the stovetop.

While the ground beef is cooking, get a pot of water started for your pasta noodles. Be sure to salt the water well so that your noodles soak up that flavor.

Combine the remaining ingredients – the soy sauce, beef broth, brown sugar, red pepper flakes, pepper and hoisin sauce – in a small dish and pour into ground beef mixture.

Let them saute in the pan for about 3 minutes to allow the ground beef to absorb the flavors.

Once your pasta is done cooking, transfer the noodles to the ground beef mixture. Mix thoroughly and allow to cook (30632 Ashley Stinson) for a couple more minutes to allow the sauce to thicken.

Top with green onions and toasted sesame seeds for the perfect noodle dish!

Energy Efficiency Incentives

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 \$60 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 \$500 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 consistently across the floor to reach people and objects, providing both comfort and efficiency. Applications include electric boiler with hydronic tubing.

Rebate of \$50 per kW

Other electric heating systems

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

Rebate of \$25 per kW

Electric Water Heater Rebates

Must be on off-peak

100 gallon or greater

\$350 rebate

56-99 gallon

\$300 rebate

55 gallon or less

\$150 rebate

Bonus rebates:

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

Add \$100 for new
building construction.



Electric Vehicle Charger Rebates

240V Level 2 Charger

Must be on off-peak

Electric vehicle or hybrid

\$50 per kW

Commercial – Forklifts, Zambonis, etc.

\$50 per kW



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 for more details!

218-253-2168