

## Milton R. Young Station provides resiliency to cooperative members

### COAL-BASED POWER PLANT IS THE BACKBONE OF YOUR POWER SUPPLY WHEN EXTREME WEATHER STRIKES

For Red Lake Electric Cooperative, the highest demand for electricity comes in the winter months when days are shorter, heating systems are used regularly and people mostly stay inside. During extreme weather events, electricity needs can skyrocket, creating significant strain on power generation and delivery resources. Minnkota Power Cooperative, Red Lake Electric's wholesale power provider, has been successful in responding to (23550 Barbara Nelson) these events by using its coal, wind, hydro and demand response resources.

While all generation resources are impacted by extreme weather, the biggest operational challenges in our region relate to wind facilities, which can be prone to shut down in extreme subzero temperatures. For Minnkota, the most reliable and resilient resource



in its power supply portfolio is the coal-based Milton R. Young Station. This large power plant located 35 miles from Bismarck, N.D., has operated dependably through numerous extreme weather events, which has

helped ensure homes stay warm, hospitals are running and essential businesses are able to operate.

The following four attributes help ensure the Young Station is ready for any challenges that may arise.

#### ATTRIBUTE #1

##### NO FUEL TRANSPORTATION ISSUES



The Young Station is a mine-mouth power plant. That means the coal mine is located nearby to the power plant, which ensures the plant can receive fuel consistently with no transportation issues. Fuel does not need to be delivered via train or pipeline from long distances. In addition, more than three weeks of coal usage can be stored on-site.

#### ATTRIBUTE #2

##### PREPARED FOR MOTHER NATURE



All of the Young Station's major components are covered, insulated and weatherized to ensure they can operate in extreme cold or heat.

#### ATTRIBUTE #3

##### PRUDENT MAINTENANCE



The Young Station is well-maintained, which ensures it is able to run for the majority of the hours each year. In fact, in 2020, both generating units were available to produce power more than 93% of the time.

#### ATTRIBUTE #4

##### COMMITMENT OF EMPLOYEES



The Young Station has employees on-site 24 hours per day to operate and monitor the generation of power, environmental control technologies and related cyber assets. Personnel are trained and ready to respond to numerous system issues.

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Red Lake and Polk Counties:

**George Stage – 701-306-3511**

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.*



## Tree trimming improves service for all

by Stephanie Johnson

One of the things I love best about our community is the natural beauty that surrounds us. We are fortunate to have so many trees that offer beauty, shade and a habitat for all sorts of birds and other wildlife. We know that you appreciate our community for many of the same reasons.

At Red Lake Electric Cooperative, we strive to balance maintaining beautiful surroundings and ensuring a reliable power supply by keeping power lines clear in right of way (ROW).

While we recognize and appreciate the beauty of trees, there are three main benefits to tree trimming in ROW areas. However, before touching on the main reasons, let me explain what a “right of way” is and how it may impact you. A right of way is the land we use to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. Rights of way enable the cooperative to provide clearance (22126 Trudi Bergerson) from trees and other obstructions that could hinder the power line installation, maintenance or operation. ROW areas are typically on public lands or located near a business or home. Regardless, Red Lake Electric must be able to maintain the power lines above and below the ROW.

The overall goal of our vegetation management program is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our community. Proactive vegetation management benefits co-op members in three tangible ways:

#### Safety

First and foremost, we care about our members and put their safety and that of our lineworkers above all else. Overgrown vegetation and trees pose

a risk to power lines. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members’ yards, they can pose grave danger to families. If children can access those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor such as a tree. A proactive approach also diminishes the chances of fallen branches or trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

#### Reliability

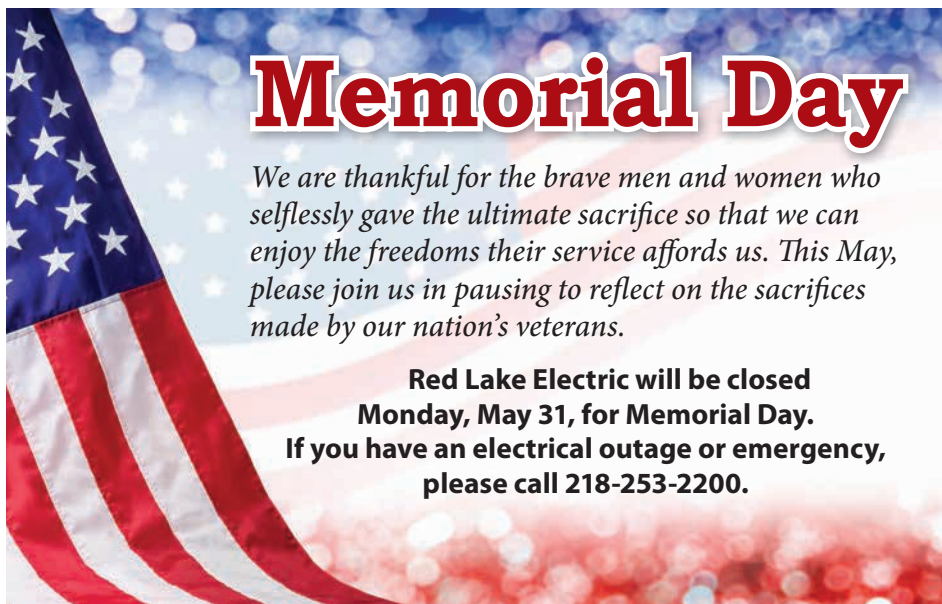
Of course, one of the biggest benefits of a smart vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power outages. Generally speaking, healthy trees don’t fall on power lines, and clear lines don’t cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keeps lines clear to promote reliability.

#### Affordability

As you know, Red Lake Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative, and that means we strive to keep our costs in check in order to keep our rates affordable. This extends to our approach to vegetation management. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone.

Our community is a special place. We appreciate the beauty trees afford, but we also know our community depends on us to provide reliable energy. Through vegetation management, we are better able to keep the power lines clear, prepare for future weather events and secure the reliability of the grid.

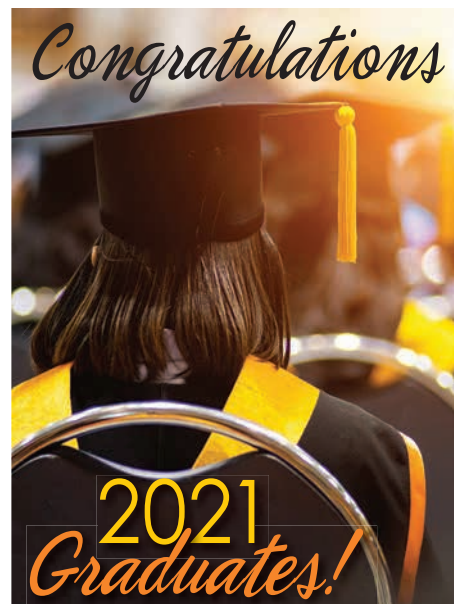




# Memorial Day

*We are thankful for the brave men and women who selflessly gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedoms their service affords us. This May, please join us in pausing to reflect on the sacrifices made by our nation's veterans.*

**Red Lake Electric will be closed  
Monday, May 31, for Memorial Day.  
If you have an electrical outage or emergency,  
please call 218-253-2200.**



## Can you help us locate any of the following?

The following people have refunds due to them. Checks mailed to their last-known address have been returned by the Postal Service. If you can provide a current address for someone (30620 Patrick O'Neill) who is listed or the name and address of an heir if they are deceased, call or write Red Lake Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750; 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

ADOLFS, KEVIN  
ALMEN, STEVE  
ANDERSON BROS.  
ANDERSON, ALANA  
ANDERSON, GLORIA  
ANDERSON, HEATHER A  
ANDERSON, LOWELL K  
ANDERSON, SARAH R  
ARNESON, HAROLD  
AUBOL, DUANE  
AWENDER, KEVIN M  
BARRETT, IRIS  
BARRETT, ROBERT M  
BATES, A. J  
BEAR, BEVERLY H  
BERGERON, VICKIE J  
BLAIR, TAMMY  
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BURDA, ANTHONY  
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CARTER, CYNTHIA  
CHRISTIANSON, DELBERT  
CLINTON, KIM  
CONDOR, LINDA  
COOPER, CHARLOTTE A  
COTA, JEFF OR AMY  
DAHLSTROM, SHANE  
DEVOE, DAVID C  
DOBIAS, MARVIN  
DONARSKI, LEO  
DONNELL, LYLE  
DUMMER, RICHARD L  
DUPONT, ALLEN L  
DURHEIM, MONA R  
DYBEDAHL, JASON L

EDBERG, DAVID L  
ELLISON, JOHN F  
ENGELSTAD BROS.  
ENGVALL, JIM  
ERICKSON, GRANT  
ERICKSON, TAMMY  
ERICKSON, TONIA  
ERNO, MADORA  
ETZOLD, CORIAN M  
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FINLEY, ROBERT L  
FLAHERTY, KEVIN  
FLORES, SYLVIA  
FLYNN, EUNICE  
FORSBERG, CAROL J  
FOSTER, KIMBERLY K  
FOSTER, MICHAEL  
FOSTER, TRACI J  
FRAZER, AVIS  
FULLER, ERMA H  
GEATZ, ROBERT C  
GEE, SR., ROBERT  
GILLESPIE FARMS  
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH  
GRANDSTRAND, JASON  
GREER, THOMAS  
GRINDELAND, JACKIE  
GROVE, KYLE  
GULLIKSON, LYNN  
HAGEN, BARBARA  
HAGEN, SCOTT B  
HAHN, IVY  
HAHN, JULIE L  
HALL, GARY  
HALVORSON, DARWYN M  
HALVORSON, STELLA  
HARALDSON, LINDA K  
HARDER, BETTY  
HARSTAD, TARA  
HART, KEVIN

HAUGEN, CONNIE  
HAUPT, DIRK A  
HEGGIE, ROBERT J  
HEJLIK, TARYN  
HELGENSET, HANS  
HENNAGER, DUANE E  
HERNANDEZ, MICHAEL  
HICKS, JAY M  
HILLTON HOG FARM  
HODGSON, BRUCE L  
HOILAND, MIKE  
HOLTHUSEN, JOEY D  
HOWARD, MICHAEL J  
IVERSON, JERALD  
JIMSON, TRACY  
JOHNSON, DEAN  
JOHNSON, HENRY  
JOHNSON, JASON  
OR TERRA  
JOHNSON, JUNE  
JOHNSON, RICK L  
JOHNSON, WADE OR TAMMY  
JONES, CARMEN  
JUDD, GEORGE D JR.  
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KEES, HAROLD  
KEZAR, CARL G  
KILEN, JOSEPH OR LINDEE  
KNOTT, BONNIE G  
KOENIG, TIMOTHY M  
KOLESTRAND, MOSES  
KOSTRZEWSKI, JEREMY S  
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LUND, DENNIS D  
LUNDEEN, BARB  
LUNDEEN, PATRICIA K  
LUNDON, JOY  
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MAIDMENT, ELAINE  
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MCCULLOUGH, FRED  
OR WENDY  
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MENSEN, WAYNE M  
MESABA AIRLINES  
MILLER, STEVEN  
MOLSKNESS, BONNIE M  
MORIN, ROSE  
MORRIS, ROBERT  
MULLER, RAYMOND  
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MYERS, AARON J  
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CONST CO  
NELSON, CHERYL L  
NELSON, DONALD N  
NELSON, MARK A  
NEUMANN, DAN  
NOVACEK, WILBUR  
NOVAK, SCOTT  
NOWACKI, RANDY  
NYLAND, LORA  
OLSON, DENISE  
OLSON, EMMA C

OLSON, JERRY  
OLSON, JESSE OR HEIDI  
OLSON, RYAN L  
PAGE, GARY L  
PAHLEN, JANEL  
PAULSON, RICHARD  
PEDERSON, ALDER L  
PEDERSON, DONALD A  
PEDERSON, MARY  
PETERSON, CORY L  
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RAMBECK, SOPHIE  
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ROGGENBUCK, DONALD  
ROULAND, LYNN G  
RU-TAN INC.  
SAFE KEY STORAGE  
SAMPSON, DAVID V  
SANDLAND, ROBERT R  
SCHMIDT, KAY  
SCHMITT, STEVE P  
SCHULTZ, ORISSA  
SEAVERSON, JOHN L  
SEEB, CHAD  
SEMERIKOV, ALEX  
SHERETTE, NANCY L  
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SMITH, CATHY

SMITH, PAULA  
SOARES, ED  
SODON, WARREN  
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SOURDIF, ELIZABETH J  
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SRNSKY, JAMES M  
STALEY, RAMONA  
STEVENSON, SANDY  
SUNSDAHL, MYRTLE  
SWANSON, JAMES M  
SWANSON, WELDON  
SWENSON, ALLEN  
SWENSON, TINA I  
SWICK, MYRTLE L  
SZYMANSKI, KEN  
THOMPSON, LAWRENCE  
THOMPSON, LOIS E  
TILLMAN, ALICE  
TORGRIMSON, RUBY  
TRONTVET, GILBERT  
TROSKA, BETTY  
UELAND, CHRIS  
ULRICH, RYAN  
VETTLESON, HERBERT JR.  
VEZINA, LOIS  
VOELKER, JOHN  
VOGT, ROBERT W  
WALD, ALEX  
WALISER, LEROY  
WALTON, WALLACE C  
WEBER, SARAH  
WEGGE, DEAN  
WILLERT, PAUL T  
WILLIAMSON, LELAND E  
WOOD, ROBERT  
YOUNGMAN, PAUL  
ZENT, CLARINDA

# AN E-BIKE FOR EVERYONE



(Left) John Vojacek displays the Verve 3 Trek, one of the best-selling e-bikes at Scheels. (Above) A close-up look at an e-bike's removable battery pack.



**H**ave you been curious about electric bicycles (or e-bikes) cruising around your community? If you're wondering how they work or why you would even want one, you're in good company – we've heard the same questions from our members. We decided to check in with the Grand Forks Scheels store to learn more about this newly trending technology.

John Vojacek, Scheels service shop manager and e-bike expert, says his store has carried battery-powered bikes for more than six years. However, they've become more mainstream in the past year or so as people begin experiencing the wide range (29358 Duane Straus) of benefits for every age and activity level. Vojacek loves hearing stories from customers whose lives have been enhanced by a little electric pedal assistance.

"One gentleman who winters in Arizona, he would sit on his porch and every morning he'd watch a bike group go by – just a simple coffee ride," he recounted. "He said there was no way he could keep up, but now with an e-bike, he can ride with that group down to the corner to get coffee. It's exciting, on our side, to know that we can help folks fit in or keep up."

E-bikes have three levels of clas-

sification. Class 1 e-bikes give electric pedal assist only, with the motor simply amplifying the rider's pedal power up to 20 mph. Class 2 e-bikes have the same 20-mph cutoff, but they are also allowed to have a throttle, allowing the motor to fully propel the rider forward. Class 3 are higher-performing e-bikes, with a drive system that will assist pedaling up to 28 mph.

Scheels usually stocks Class 1 and Class 3 models, with prices ranging from around \$1,500 for the Electra Townie Go up to \$3,150 for the popular Verve 3 Trek. There are models on the market that are more expensive (some up to \$7,000 or more), and there are also some that are less. However, Vojacek urges potential buyers to seek out a store with an e-bike-trained service staff (like Scheels) or a knowledgeable independent bike shop to ensure you are purchasing a safe and durable bike with a UL-listed battery.

"E-bikes in Europe are huge, and have become one of the main ways people get around. That technology is now making its way over here, and they already have all of the kinks worked out. They're super reliable and super easy to use," he said.

E-bike batteries can typically be

charged from depleted to full power in three hours, giving 30-80 miles in assisted range, depending on performance setting. Some daily commuters (who arrive to work sweat-free) will plug in their bike or battery pack at their desk and have a full charge for the ride home. The effective range of the battery does decrease slightly (22453 Raymond Kuznia) in colder temperatures, but the batteries are water resistant for off-roading experiences that take a rider through puddles or rain.

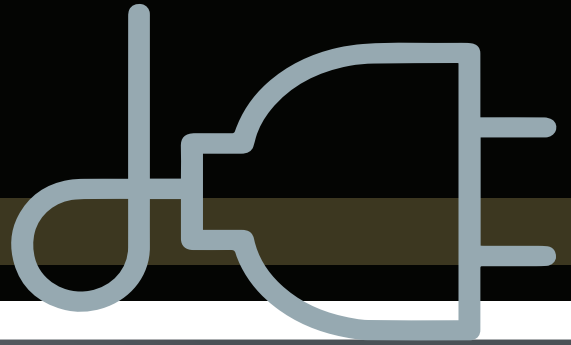
"If you've never ridden one before, come in and take one for a test ride. We always see guests with a 'perma-grin' when they get back, because they're so much fun to ride," Vojacek said, adding that they are a great way to work toward health goals. "It makes it enjoyable to get out and ride. If you enjoy the activity, you're going to do it a lot more than if it's a chore."

Our Scheels expert doesn't yet have an e-bike at home – but he'll soon be one of the many taking a seat. "I have two young boys that are into racing BMX right now. When they get into high school, there's no way I'm going to be able to keep up with them on a bike, so an e-bike is going to be my jam," he said with a chuckle.



# BE POWERFULLY PROACTIVE FOR

## National Electrical Safety Month



May is Electrical Safety Month, and your team at Red Lake Electric Cooperative knows you're aware of the big rules of electrical safety – stay away from downed power lines, don't overload an outlet and keep electrical devices away from water. But there may be additional safety precautions you could take to keep your home undamaged and your family safe. We gathered some lesser-known electrical safety tips to get your summer off to a secure start.

### Be wise with GFCIs

If you have an older home, it may not be equipped with ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) – so get some! These are a vital safety tool for rooms with water sources, like kitchens and bathrooms. A GFCI acts as a split-second circuit breaker to shut off electricity fast in case of a ground fault.

### Careful with your cords

Did you know extension cords have different ratings? Some are only rated for indoor use and can cause dangerous issues if they are used outside in the elements. If you are using an outdoors-rated extension cord, also be sure that the electrical source is protected from the weather.

### Observe your outlets

If your outlets are warm to the touch, trouble could be around the corner. Heat could mean that the load is too high, the wiring is melting or the electrical work isn't up to code. Also be mindful of how your plugs are fitting – if they feel loose, you may need an outlet replacement. Call an electrician to help.

### Be quicker to stop the flicker

If you are noticing flickering lighting in any of your home's rooms, don't assume it is just a bulb starting to burn out. It could indicate you have a damaged electrical panel that needs replacing, or you have too many appliances plugged into a single circuit.

### Prepare for pets

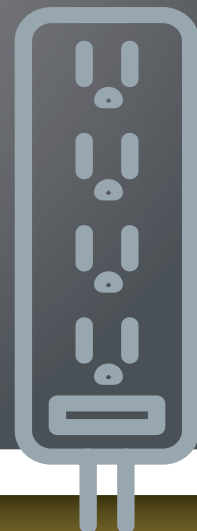
If you've never lived with a playful puppy or a curious kitten, you might not think about electricity when bringing one home. Young pets tend to find things to chew on, including cords. Safely tuck away or bind any cords (25622 Jeffrey Johnson) that may be low and exposed, and don't leave pets unattended until you know their habits.

### Protect your power tools

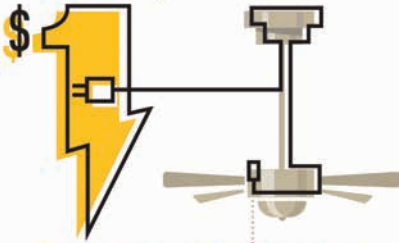
If your shop or garage isn't well-protected from the outside world, be sure to store your electrical tools inside. This will protect them from extreme temperature fluctuations, snow or water that may get into the garage or any gnawing critters that sneak through the cracks.

### Fire extinguishers are your friend

The Electrical Safety Foundation International says electrical fires account for around 51,000 fires each year, causing an average of \$1.3 billion in damage. Never use water on a fire that may be electrical. Have a fire-retardant chemical fire extinguisher on every level of your home – and know how to use it.



## What can you get for \$1?



120 hours of ceiling fan use

In the hot summer months, don't sweat the cost of electricity. Did you know \$1 of kilowatt power can run your ceiling fan for about 120 hours? So don't worry about skimping on (22799 Shoan Nelson) that cool breeze – you can keep the air flowing without your cash flowing.

## 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 (999999.99 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.



# PROJECT TUNDRA

For reliable, affordable electricity in *our region*.  
For cleaner industries across *the United States*.  
For energy stability in societies around *the world*.

Project Tundra is helping develop the carbon capture technology necessary to meet our global climate goals – right in the heart of North Dakota.

See the video at [ProjectTundraND.com](http://ProjectTundraND.com)



## You saw your neighbor got an air-source heat pump, right?



More and more of our co-op members are installing this highly efficient and convenient heating & cooling technology, because it's saving them money and making their lives easier. It's not just a passing trend – these air-source heat pumps are the perfect home comfort tool of our generation.

If it's time to replace your furnace or air conditioner, or you're planning a new home altogether, chat with your cooperative about the benefits and savings possible with an air-source heat pump.

Your neighbor would be proud.

***Rebate up to \$500 per ton***

**Contact Red Lake Electric today!**

## Call 811 before you dig; private and public lines must be located



**H**omeowners need to remember that every digging job first requires a call to 811 at least two business days before digging to get utility lines marked – even small projects like planting trees and shrubs.

The depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. Digging without calling can disrupt service, harm you and those around you (29512 Kjell Hanson) and potentially result in fines and repair costs. Calling 811 before every digging job gets underground utility power lines marked for free, up to your main meter.

**Underground power lines from the main meter inward, however, are the responsibility of the member. Homeowners need to call their local electrician to have their private lines marked.**

Remember, before any digging project, large or small, you must call 811 to have utility lines marked. When you call 811, you'll be routed to the local Gopher State One Call center where it will lead you step-by-step through the process and questions.



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.

### Dill Pickle Pasta Salad

#### Ingredients

- 1 box (16-oz.) rotini pasta
- 1/3 cup dill pickle juice from the pickle jar
- 2 cups chopped baby dill pickles
- 1 block (8-oz.) Colby Jack cheese cubed small
- 1 small white onion finely chopped

#### Creamy Dill Dressing

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/3 cup dill pickle juice from the pickle jar
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill (or 1 tablespoon dried dill)
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

Cook pasta according to package directions. When pasta is done cooking, drain pasta and rinse with cold water. Move rinsed, cooked pasta to a mixing bowl and pour 1/3 cup of pickle juice over it. Stir to combine. Let it sit while you prepare the rest.

Chop the dill pickles and cheese into small cubes. Finely chop the white onion.

Drain the pasta again that was sitting in the pickle juice. Add it back to the mixing bowl. Add in the pickles, cheese and white onion. Stir to combine.

In a small bowl combine all the dressing ingredients and pour over the pasta salad. Stir everything (30441 Heath Wilkinson) together to combine well. Serve right away or cover it and refrigerate it for 1-2 hours to chill.



**Like us on Facebook at**  
**[www.facebook.com/redlakeelectric](http://www.facebook.com/redlakeelectric)**

Would you like some quick and easy tips on energy efficiency or energy safety? Check us out on Facebook. Our page is open to the public so you don't even need a Facebook account to view it.



## Take control of your account with SmartHub

Now you can 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 at [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com) that allows members to do the following things:

- 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.



Scan the QR code  
for online access to  
SmartHub

**If you have questions regarding SmartHub, call us at 218-253-2168 or send an email to [info@redlakeelectric.com](mailto:info@redlakeelectric.com).**



# 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 heat 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**