## Volts&Jolts



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

and a portion of the lands of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa

### When your AC croaks...

## call the heat pump folks!

You've had your trusty air conditioner for years, and it hasn't let you down. YET.

When the time comes – and it will – for a more efficient, more versatile, money-saving replacement, Red Lake Electric Cooperative recommends researching an air-source heat pump (ASHP) or a ductless mini-split heat pump. These modern technologies will not only help you fight the Minnesota summer heat, but they'll also warm you up when the state transitions to its famously cold winters. Show us an air conditioner that can do that!

### TECHNOLOGY **BENEFIT BREAKDOWN AIR CONDITIONER ASHP** MINI-SPLIT HEAT PUMP Absorbs heat inside and How it works into the home Offers heating and cooling Offers heating and cooling **Versatility Efficiency** with no fear of air leaks Off-peak program qualified Co-op rebate Yes (up to \$500 per ton) Yes (up to \$500 per ton) available

**BONUS WINTER BENEFIT:** Electric ASHP heating is much *more efficient* and *cost effective* than fuel heat technology, delivering up to three times more energy than the electricity it uses. Plus, stable electric rates will help you protect yourself from ever-volatile propane and gas prices.

### REC Volts Joits

MAY/IUNE 2022 - Vol. 57, No. 8

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 430 • 412 International Drive S.W. Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430 (USPS 663-400)

Subscription rate: \$2.50 per year

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

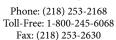
Published 10 times a year, January through May, July and September through December, by Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., in the interest of its members and others. Periodical postage paid at the U.S. Post Office in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750. POSTMASTER, SEND ADDRESS CHANGES to Volts & Jolts,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

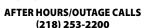
#### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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





Website: www.redlakeelectric.com Email: info@redlakeelectric.com

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

### MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Pennington and Marshall Counties:

Ronald Ditsch – 218-779-6758

Red Lake and Polk Counties:

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 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.



### **New Ways to Use Electricity**

by Stephanie Johnson

f you listen carefully, you can hear a quiet transformation happening.

Electric appliances and equipment are becoming more popular than ever among consumers.

Advancements in technology and battery power coupled with decreasing costs are winning over consumers looking for comparable utility and versatility. A bonus is that use of electric equipment is quieter and better for the environment.

Inside the home, consumers and homebuilders alike are turning to electric appliances to increase energy efficiency and savings. Whether a traditional electric stove or an induction stove top, both are significantly more efficient than a gas oven. That's because conventional residential cooking tops typically use gas or resistance heating elements to transfer energy with efficiencies of approximately 32% and 75% respectively (according to ENERGY STAR®). Electric induction stoves, which cook food without any flame, will reduce indoor air pollution and can bring water (23912 Ryan Horacheck) to a boil about twice as fast as a gas stove. Robotic vacuums are also gaining in popularity. Fortune Business Insights attributes the growth and popularity of robotic vacuums like Roomba to a larger market trend of smart home technology and automation (think Alexa directing a Roomba to vacuum).

More tools and equipment with small gas-powered motors are being replaced with electric ones that include plug-in batteries. In the past few years, technology in battery storage has advanced significantly. Handheld tools with plug-in batteries can hold a charge longer and offer the user the same versatility and similar functionality as gas-powered tools. For DIYers and those in the building trades, national brands such as Makita, Ryobi and Milwaukee offer electric versions of their most popular products like drills, saws, sanders and other tools. In addition to standard offerings, consumers can now purchase a wider array of specialty tools

that plug in such as power inverters, air inflaters and battery chargers.

Keith Dennis, an energy industry expert and president of the Beneficial Electrification League notes, "A few years back, the list of new electric product categories that were making their way to the market was limited – electric scooters, lawn mowers, leaf blowers and vehicles."

Today, the number of electric products available is exploding.

"There are electric bikes, school buses, pressure washers, utility terrain vehicles, backhoes – even airplanes and boats," says Dennis. "With the expansion of batteries and advancements in technology, we are seeing almost anything that burns gasoline or diesel as having an electric replacement available on the market."

A case in point is the increased use of electric-powered tools and equipment, with more national brands offering a wider selection including lawn mowers, leaf blowers, string trimmers and snow blowers. The quality of zero- or low-emissions lawn equipment is also improving.

Electric equipment also requires less maintenance, and often the biggest task is keeping them charged. In addition, electric equipment is quieter so if you want to listen to music or your favorite podcast while performing outdoor work, you can; something that wouldn't be possible with gas-powered equipment. On the horizon, autonomous lawn mowers (similar to the robotic vacuum cleaners) will be seen dotting outdoor spaces.

Another benefit of using electric appliances or equipment is that by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. In essence, electricity is becoming cleaner through increases in renewable energy generation, so equipment that uses electricity will have a diminishing environmental (31996 Cassandra S Myrvik) impact over time. Quite a hat trick – improving efficiency, enhancing quality of life and helping the environment.



### Member Service Department

by Kelli Brateng

ust as a big city has traffic jams, the electric grid of Red Lake Electric Cooperative runs into its own energy rush hours. This happens when people across the region are using a lot of electricity at the same time. Early-morning and evening hours are common times for these high energy demand periods, when people are active at home. Extreme weather events that require heating and cooling systems to run nonstop (25435 Edward G Larson) can drive demand for electricity even higher – above the available supply.

Cities don't build new highway systems to accommodate a few hours of traffic – and Minnkota Power Cooperative (our wholesale electricity provider) doesn't build additional power plants for the times each year when electricity demand reaches its peak.

There's a better way.

If Minnkota isn't able to economically purchase the additional energy it needs from the regional market or another utility, the off-peak program launches into action. This program can remove one-third of the electrical demand from the system during the highest peak periods. Over the last four decades, the program has helped strengthen the reliability of the grid, while saving member-consumers millions of dollars.

If you are interested in learning more about our off-peak program, contact our co-op office at 218-253-2168.

WANT TO SEE THE OFF-PEAK VIDEO?



SCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR PHONE!

### 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 30, for Memorial Day.

If you have an electrical outage or emergency, please call 218-253-2200.

### NOTICE OF NAMES

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

### Recipe Corner



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

#### **BBQ Ranch Pasta Salad**

#### Ingredients

- 2 cup cooked chicken, diced
- 1 can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 1/2 cup corn, rinsed and drained
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped and diced
- 1/2 cup tomato, diced
- 1/4 cup ranch dressing mix
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup BBQ sauce
- 1 lb. pasta
- 2 cup corn chips (Fritos) chips
- 1/2 -1 cup cheddar cheese (optional)

#### Instructions

- 1. This recipe calls for cooked cubed or shredded chicken. Rotisserie chicken works perfectly, or even leftover chicken.
- 2. Add 1 lb. pasta with enough water to cover pasta in an Instant Pot and pressure cook for 5 minutes with a 5-minute natural pressure release. OR cook pasta on stovetop according to package directions. Broth can be substituted for water to infuse pasta with more flavor.
- 3. Rinse pasta in cool water and drain.
- 4. Rinse and drain corn and beans. Black beans are preferred but kidney or pinto beans are also a great substitute.
- 5. Dice onions and tomatoes.
- In a small bowl, mix powdered ranch dressing mix and sour cream together. Mix until blended. Stir in BBQ sauce. Mix together and set aside.
- In a large bowl, combine cubed chicken, beans, corn, onion, tomatoes, and pasta. Toss and mix all ingredients.
- 8. Add sauce and mix to combine.
- Before serving, add chips and lightly toss to combine. Add cheese on top, optional.

#### Pasta Salad Tip

Add BBQ ranch dressing to pasta and wait to add Frito chips until ready to serve. Chips will become soggy and absorb all the dressing, making the pasta dry.

2 Red Lake Volts & Jolts • May/June 2022 3



STRIKING SCAMMERS OUT





Don't let scammers score by collecting your personal and financial information. Here are 3 things to look for that will help strike out scammers.



### THIRD BASE

If you are ever contacted by an agency with an amazing deal on solar panels that will help save on electricity or they offer you tax credits for using solar energy — **STRIKE 3** scammer! Adding solar panels to your home is a lengthy and expensive undertaking. When identifying a scam, look for unrealistically low prices or any company saying they will lease you solar panels without a contract.

### SECOND BASE

If someone claiming to be Red Lake Electric
Cooperative calls and says you have overpaid
your utility bill and they can begin issuing you
a refund if you provide them with your financial
information — **STRIKE 2!** Red Lake
Electric Cooperative will never call and
request your financial information.

### FIRST BASE

If you receive a call saying your power will be turned off (22960 Brian A Espeseth) in the next hour if you don't reply with immediate over-the-phone payment — **STRIKE 1** scammer! Red Lake Electric Cooperative will never demand your immediate payment over the phone.

### HOME BASE

Tips to throw scammers out of the game:

- Always ask to speak to a trusted Red Lake Electric employee.
- Know that Red Lake Electric Cooperative will not ask for personal info over the phone.
- A tone of urgency is often a trick scammers use to try and gain information from you.
- Gather as much information as you can from the scammer and contact your local authorities. Also, make Red Lake Electric Cooperative aware of the scam.
- If you are unsure about a call, just hang up.

## If you ever have any doubts about your utility bill, please call our office at 218-253-2168

or stop by in person.

## National Electrical Safety Month

Every May, we mark National Electrical Safety Month by giving you advice on how to make your home safer for the family. This year, we'd like to

### Protect your pets

focus on your fuzziest family members – your pets. Dogs, cats and other creatures can encounter unique (31559 Jacob Herberg) electric hazards you may overlook. The following is a checklist you can use to ensure Poochie and Patches stay secure, healthy and happy.

### Hide electrical cords

Pets are notorious for turning electrical cords into chew toys, so make sure they are blocked or tucked out of sight. This will protect your pet from a shock and prevent exposed and frayed wires that could zap others or start a fire.

### Secure night-lights

Night-lights and similar standalone plug-ins can look like fun toys for cats and dogs. Double check that they are fitted securely to the outlet so that prongs won't be exposed to tiny chewers.

### Start training early

Cats and dogs often have free rein of a home, so teach them where they are unwanted early. Use a bitter tasting spray on cords and items that can't be chewed, or have a water mister on hand to spray your pet if they get into areas they shouldn't.

### Keep naps out of unsafe "nooks"

Some smaller animals like to find warm places to rest, like behind clothes dryers or computer equipment. Try to steer (31636 Robbie A Nobles) them away from these potentially dangerous areas.

### Know how to respond

If your pet may have been electrocuted, immediately unplug the hazardous device and apply a cold compress if you notice burns. Have your vet's after-hours emergency number posted clearly to access quickly. If you don't think an emergency visit is needed, monitor your pet for a couple of days to look for any changes in behavior or breathing.

### Be careful of diggers

If your dog is a digger, be aware of where electrical lines may be buried in your yard (calling 811 for a locator service will help). If wires are underground in an area that may be tempting, find a way to block off that zone.

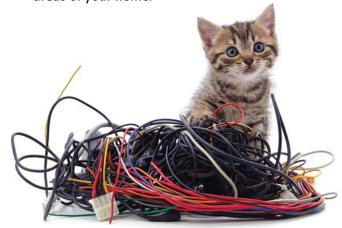
### Detangle low wires

Unruly nests of cords are not only an eyesore

– they can wrap up and possibly strangle a
curious pet, especially if they are in a panic.
Be sure your cords are tidy and secured.

### No appliances near water

Small plug-in appliances like hair dryers or blenders should never be placed near water unattended. One wrong move and your pet could knock the item into a tub or sink and be seriously hurt, or hurt the humans around them. Make sure a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) is installed in outlets near wet areas of your home.





# Energy Incentives

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

### **Electric 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

Residential Charger

Commercial Charger

Commercial - Forklifts, Zambonis, etc.

\$50 per kW

\$50 per kW

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

### 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 (20309 Brent Walton) a current address for someone 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.

AMUNDSON, LARRY W. ANDERSON, SARAH R. ANDERSON, NATHAN OR JODI ANDERSON BROS. AUBOL, DUAINE AWENDER, KEVIN M. BACON, DAN BATES, A. J. BERGERON, VICKIE J. BLAWAT, DENAE BLAZEK, KENNETH BLOMQUIST, JASON BOLSTAD, KATHRYN A. BOUTAIN, NAN BRULE, CHERYL A. BRUSKI, JEFFREY A BRYANT, ROBERT M. BURDICK, BYRON D. BUSSE, LEROY CAMERON, TROY CARTER, CYNTHIA CASAVAN, MARGARET CENTURY 21 RED RVR REALTY CHILSON, ROBIN CLINTON, KIM COLDEN, LOURENDA M. CONDOR, LINDA COOPER, CHARLOTTE A. CURREY, ROLLAND DAHL. RANDALL OR ROBIN DAILEY, THELMA DALEY, KEITH DANIELSON, TODD L DEVOE, DAVID C. DONARSKI, LEO DONNELL. LYLE DORR, ROBERT DUHAIME, PATRICIA DULKA, JULIE DUMMER, RICHARD L DURHEIM, MONA R. DYBEDAHL, JASON L EDBERG, DAVID L. ELLINGSON, LELAND ELLISON, JOHN F. ENGVALL, JIM FALDET, ALVINA FALDET, BENJAMIN D. FINLEY ROBERT I FIRST PRESTON MANAGEMENT FLAHERTY, KEVIN OR DOROTHY FLORES, SYLVIA FLYNN FUNICE FORSBERG, CAROL J. FOSTER, MICHAEL GAST, STEVE OR VICKI GIESE, JUAN CARLOS GOLDESBERRY, JARED R.

AARESTAD, WENDY M.

ALMENDAREZ. MICAELA

ABRAHAMSON, TIMOTHY J.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH GRANDSTRAND, JASON GREER. THOMAS OR MELANIE GULSVIG, BETTY HAGEN, BARBARA HAGEN, SCOTT B. HAHN JULIE I HALVORSON, DARWYN M HAMLIN, LINDA L. HANSEN FULLER, ERMA HARDY, SHAD HAUGEN, IDA HAUPT, DIRK A. HAWK ROYW HEGGIE. ROBERT OR TERRI J. HELGENSET, HANS HENNAGER, DUANE E. HENRICKSON, LANCE G. HENRICKSON, JANICE K. HERNANDEZ. MICHAEL HILLTON HOG FARM HODGSON, BRUCE L. HODGSON, KRISTIE HOFF, PAUL J. HOILAND, MIKE OR ROXY HONEYCUTT, LORRIE B. HOPPE, JEAN HOUGHTALING, THOMAS HOUSEY, NATHAN HOWARD, MICHAEL J. HUNDERTMARK, MICHAEL HUOT, KIM OR DELRAY HUSERY JAY OR DAWN ISAAK, RALPH A. IVERSON, JERALD JENSEN, JOEL JOHNSON, BRIAN J. JOHNSON, DEAN JOHNSON, ERICK C. JOHNSON, BONNIE L. JOHNSON, VICKIE JOHNSON, MICHAEL A. JOHNSON, JR., MELVIN R. JOHNSRUD, DELORIS JONES, CARMEN OR SHERMAN KAPPES, JERRY KEZAR, CARL G. KIENE, JENNIFER KJELLAND, MELINDA KLITZKE, WILLARD KNUDSON, JACOB KOSTRZEWSKI, JEREMY S. KRUEGER SALLY LACOURSIERE, BRIAN D. LAJAMBE, EDMUND LANE, JEFF D. LARSON. TONIA LAWRENCE, JIM F. LEADER, LORRIN LEAS, CARY A. LEEPER, JACK

LEGG, KAY M. LICHTSINN, NORMAN W. LIEN. JEFF A. LILLEVOLD, CHRIS LOVENA SWICK, MYRTLE LOWELL, SHAUN M. LUND. DENNIS D. LUNDEEN, PATRICIA K. LUNDON, JOY MAENDEL, GEORGE MAIDMENT, ELAINE MAIR, RAY MARTINEZ, RICARDO OR MARIA MATTSON, MELVIN J. MAURSTAD, JENNIFER MAY, GREG MCCRAY, MARTIN OR SHIRLEY MCFARLAND, DEBORA A. MELVIE. GAYLAN G. MENSEN. WAYNE M. MESABA AIRLINES MOLSKNESS, BONNIE M. MOMAN, VICKY MONROE, BRENT J. MORBERG ETZOLD, CORIANN MOSS TERRY OR JUDY MURRAY, JOHN M. MYERS, AARON MYERS, AARON OR ROBIN J. MYRUM, MARK NAESETH, JOANN NASON, STEPHANIE NELSON MARKA NELSON, KEITH E. NELSON, DONALD N. NEYS, LAURIA NOVAK, STEVE R. NOWACKI. RANDY OR JULIE OLSON, EMMA C. OLSON, ALINDA OLSON, JOYCE L OVERGAARD, NATHAN E. PARADIS ANTIQUES PAULING, WADE PAULSON, RICHARD PAULSON, ALLAN C. PEDERSON, DONALD A. PEDERSON, MARY PEDERSON, ALDER L PETERSON, CORY L. PETERSON, JENA M. PETERSON, MARC PETERSON, MICHAEL OR KATHY PIGEON, JERED R. PIPPIN, VICKIE PLUMMER STATE BANK POPPENHAGEN, EARL M. PRESTON, JEANETTE PUTTBRESE, JANICE L QUAM, TOMMIE RADNIECKI, MAX

RAMBECK, SOPHIE REED, PAT A. REESE. AMBROSE N. REIERSON VERNON O RIEDER, SHANNON ROBARE, STEVE OR BONNIE ROBY, AREATHO ROCKWELL, WILFRED R. RODRIGUEZ, MARLENE ROULAND, LYNN G. ROUTIER, ROY OR ROSIE RU-TAN INC. SAMPSON, DAVID V. SANDLAND ROBERT R SCHMITT, STEVE P. SCHROEDER, MIKE SCHULTZ, ORISSA SEAVERSON, JOHN L. SHARP, JOEL R. SHERETTE, NANCY L SIGERUD, JON SKJERVEN, KEVIN SMITH, PAULA SMITH, CATHY OR ANDREW SNYDER, JANE SOLBERG, DAN OR PAMELA SOLBERG, ORDELL SORENSON, AVIS SPARLEY, STEVEN R SPAULDING, MICHAEL SRNSKY, JAMES M. STALBERGER, ERICA STARK, CARL STATELY, RAMONA STAVENES, STEPHEN R. STELTON, ROBERTA STENBERG STACY STEVENSON, SANDY STUHAUG, KEITH SVIR, BRAD SWANSON, WELDON THODE, LONNIE R. TIMM CYNTHIA TORGERSON, LES VAD, JEREMIAH M. VANROOY, MARVEL VATTHAUER, ERIC VEZINA, LOIS VILEN, JOSEPHINE VOGT, ROBERT W. WALISER, LEROY OR LINDA WALTER SRAPPIER, ELAINE WALTON, WALLACE C. WANGEN, BRAD WEGGE, DEAN WEILAND, GREGORY OR DORIS WILLIAMS, DON WITTENBERG, DICK YOUNG, ANDREA L. YOUNGMAN, PAUL ZIMMERMAN. BLAIZE D

Red Lake Volts & Jolts • May/June 2022 7 6 Red Lake Volts & Jolts • May/June 2022





### TURN THE PAGE TO ELECTRIC LIVING

Can you see yourself with an electric life? Efficiency, affordability, reliability, responsibility – it's all wrapped into the latest electric technology found right here in our region.



Pick up a free copy of the newly printed *Electric Living* publication at your co-op to see how we can help you plug in and save big. Whether it's home heating and cooling, water heating, electric vehicle charging or yard care, electricity can enhance (27115 Melanie Stenzel) your life more now than ever

before. **Electric Living** will highlight how your friends and neighbors have leveraged kilowatts (and the voluntary off-peak program) in their Minnesota and North Dakota homes.



Scan this code with your phone to browse *Electric Living* now, or visit ValueofElectricity.com!







