

# Looking forward to 2021



**F**or most, 2020 was a trying year, to say the least. As we say goodbye to 2020, we would like to reflect on the positives that came from the year as we look forward to 2021.

Financially, 2020 ended better than what was budgeted for energy sales and revenue. We expect 2021 to be similar to 2020, but will take a conservative approach due to our current environment.

The cooperative had another successful year of system improvements, which included the installation of over 50 miles of underground cable for either new services or for scheduled replacement of aging facility.

In addition, our power supplier, Central Power Electric Cooperative, completed the construction of a new substation in the Jamestown service territory. The cooperative continues to see growth in our membership and the investment in our facilities ensure a high level of reliability.

As part of our maintenance program, we will continue with our annual inspection of approximately 7,500 poles. 2020 included inspections in the Bisbee, Rock Lake and Rolla service territory and 2021 inspections are scheduled for the Woodworth, Robinson and

Tuttle service territory. Other maintenance activities will include line patrol and the maintenance and replacement of our meters throughout the service territory.

Rates are expected to hold firm in 2021 and our wholesale power costs look to remain stable for the upcoming year.

As always, we will continue to focus on providing reliable and affordable electricity to our members while meeting an increasing load demand. ■

**JANUARY 2021**

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ESFi

## Heat Your Home Safely

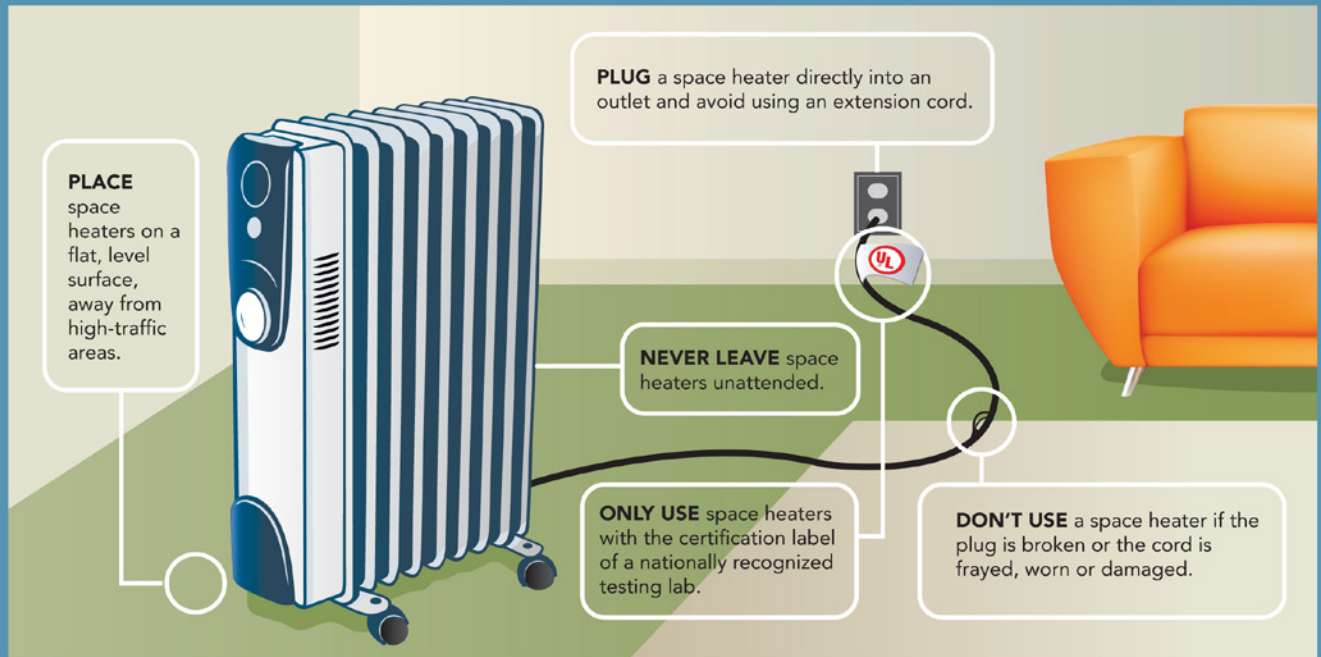


**32%**  
of home heating fires are caused by space heaters.

**MORE HOME FIRES OCCUR**  
during the cold winter months than at any other time of year.



Make Sure to Follow These Important Tips Before You Plug In



### Four Home Heating Tips to Live By

**1** **KEEP ANYTHING THAT CAN BURN** at least three feet away from a heating source.

**3ft**

**2** **HAVE YOUR HEATING SYSTEM** inspected annually.



**3** **KEEP VENTS CLEAR** of dust and debris.



**4** **INSTALL CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)** alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning.





# A solid investment in your electric co-op

**A**s a member of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative, you make an investment in the co-op every time you pay your bill. This collective investment in the co-op benefits you and the community immediately and over time. So, what exactly is this monthly investment, and how do you benefit from it?

The facility charge is a monthly investment that helps your co-op cover the expenses of maintaining the overall electric system. Combatting cybersecurity threats and maintaining poles, wires, substations and co-op equipment takes strategic planning and significant resources. The facility charge essentially ensures that all equipment operates properly, and staff is trained and ready, so the lights turn on when you need them.

Regardless of how much electricity a particular family uses, the cost of delivering power to that house is the same. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we believe the operational costs should be spread fairly and equitably across all of our members, regardless of the level of electricity use. That is why every member pays the facility charge each month to cover basic operational costs. There are multi levels of the facility charge, dependent if the member has an urban or rural service and if the service is single or multi-phase. Members on the same level of service are charged the same amount for the cost of operation since they benefit from



the same service. In essence, this gives each co-op member an equal share in Northern Plains Electric's operation.

Your monthly investment ensures you have access to safe, reliable and affordable power when you need it. We appreciate and value

the investment that you make in the co-op each month, and we strive to use that investment wisely for the benefit of all members of our community.

To learn more about the facility charge, please contact us by calling 800-882-2500. ■

## Don't wait. Be prepared before the storm.

It's your worst-case scenario. A major storm was predicted and this time, the predictions were right. Many power lines are down, and your electricity may be out for several days. You are low on everything – food, pet supplies, toilet paper, batteries, diapers and your medication.

Imagine how you would feel in this situation. While you can't predict which weather forecast will come true, you can plan ahead so when a severe weather event strikes, you have the tools and resources to effectively weather the storm.

### Preparedness actions and items

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of nonperishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (such as diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies, including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your first aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location.

### During a prolonged outage

In the event of an outage, turn off appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If utilizing a small household generator, consider using LED holiday lights to illuminate a living area. A strand of 100 white lights draws little energy, yet produces considerable light. Solar lights also work, if they can receive some sunlight during the day for charging.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs – including on your property.

### Power in planning

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. ■



## BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.



### ■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



### ■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.



### ■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

# Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:



## 1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines:

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

## 2. Distribution Substation:

A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist further down the line.

## 3. Main Distribution Lines:

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

## 4. Tap Lines:

If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.

## 5. Individual Homes:

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issue.



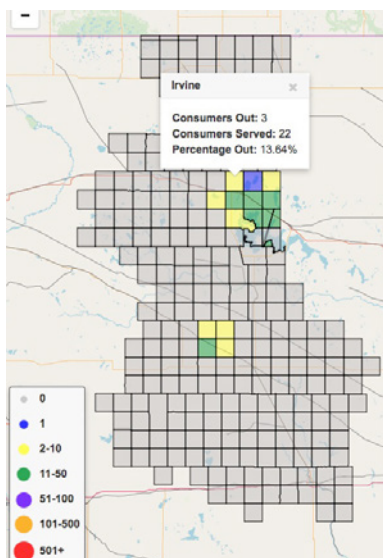
## What to do if you find yourself without power

Power outages can occur anytime of the day or night in any kind of weather. When an outage does occur, Northern Plains Electric focuses on restoring service interruptions as quickly and efficiently as possible without sacrificing safety. Be assured it is our goal to minimize the frequency of outages and limit incidences to the smallest possible number.

If you lose power, follow these steps:

1. **Check your breakers.**
2. **Check to see if your neighbors are out.**
3. **Report the outage to NPEC by calling 1-800-882-2500.** Do not report outages by email, SmartHub or social media accounts as those are not monitored 24/7.

You can keep up-to-date on outages in your area, by visiting our website, [www.nplains.com](http://www.nplains.com) and click on "outage map" on the homepage.



## Lingo your cooperative may use to describe outages

Have you ever wondered about some of the reasons your electric cooperative gives you for an outage that may not make any sense? Have you ever wondered about the words they use so fluently, and yet mean nothing to you?

Well, here are 14 commonly used terms that we use within these walls to describe outages.

**Animal contact:** Outage term to define the cause of an interruption due to birds, squirrels and raccoons that use the primary distribution systems as travel paths or landing spots.

**Brownouts:** Drop in voltage in electrical power supply, so named because it typically causes lights to dim.

**Arc:** The flow of an electric current across a gap between two conductors, terminals or contacts. An arc can result in sparks, a loud noise and a momentary or sustained outage as protective equipment operates.

**Backfeed:** The ability to route power from an alternate direction.

**Blinks:** A momentary outage usually lasting less than two seconds.

**Cable fault:** When the insulation of a power cable deteriorates enough that it's no longer able to contain the voltage, causing a short. Basically, it's a hole, or crack, burning through the cable.

**Flicker:** A slight fluctuation in the voltage of AC power lines in which a directly visible change in brightness of a light source is noticed.

**Lineworker:** A person who builds and maintains electric lines.

**Substation:** An electrical facility containing equipment for controlling the flow of electricity from supplier to user.

**Transformer:** A device used to raise or lower voltage within electrical distribution and transmission lines.

**Galloping:** Overhead lines that sway extraordinarily under high wind conditions.

**SCADA:** Acronym for substation control and data acquisition. Technology that monitors and controls distribution and transmission systems.

**Switch:** A device for making, breaking or changing connections in an electrical circuit.

**Voltage:** The pressure from an electrical circuit's power source that pushes charged electrons (current) through a conducting loop, enabling them to do work such as illuminating a lamp. It is measured in volts.



## Do you have money waiting for you?

The following people have capital credit checks at Northern Plains Electric Cooperative for which we do not have a current address. Please notify us if you have a current address for any of these people, or if you are entitled to the capital credits in the case of an estate. Information must be received by Jan. 29, 2021. Call us at 800-882-2500.

### 2020 UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS

Arnell, Francisco ..... Belcourt  
Bailey, Kathy ..... Bismarck  
Banic, Al ..... Round Rock, TX  
Bannach, Steve ..... Cando  
Bear, King R ..... St Michael  
Beaulne, Jeanette ..... New Rockford  
Belgarde, Leslie ..... Belcourt  
Bercier, Donna ..... Belcourt  
Bjorge, Raymond ..... Cando  
Boltz, Nita ..... Rock Springs, WY  
Bower, Louis J ..... Mesa, AZ  
Bremer Insurance ..... St. Paul, MN  
C S Dubois Const ..... Fargo  
Cavanaugh, Roman ..... Ft Totten  
Counter, Shalene ..... Underwood  
Chase, Thomas R ..... Bertha, MN  
Counts, Charlie ..... Belcourt  
Demarce, Jacquie L ..... Ft Totten  
Demarce, Jerome ..... Ft Totten  
Ducharme, Whitehorse ..... Pierre, SD  
Erck, Cletus ..... Cando  
Eversvik, Amanda ..... Wales  
Falcon, Derek ..... Belcourt  
Falcon, Samantha ..... Fargo  
Fayant, Louis E ..... Belcourt  
Ferguson, Rose ..... Devils Lake  
Fisk, Greg ..... Rugby  
Folmer, Paul ..... Bismarck  
Foss, Lennis ..... Leeds  
Franz, Hazel ..... Belcourt  
Frederick, Richard L ..... Cando  
Free Association LLC ..... Grand Forks  
Garnaas Joint Adventure ..... Alexandria, VA

Gooden, Keith ..... Belcourt  
Greene, Cory ..... Cando  
Guthmiller, Randy ..... Carrington  
Haberstroh, Gerald ..... Hansboro  
Hellerud, Lorraine ..... Maddock  
Helton, Gracie ..... Carrington  
Hoppe, Esther ..... Cavalier  
Jasper, Candace ..... Robinson  
Jensen, Don P ..... Eagle, WI  
Johnson, Paul ..... Hayside, CA  
Jorgenson, Harold ..... Leeds  
Kenitzer, Charles ..... Sheridan, WY  
Koenig, Marvin ..... Lakeville, MN  
KSJB TV Tower ..... Fargo  
Lafloe, Cindy ..... Belcourt  
Larson, Lloyd ..... Courtenay  
Lien, Eric D ..... Buffalo  
Littlewind, Manuel Sr ..... Ft Totten  
Littlewind, Natasha ..... Ft Totten  
Lureen, Bruce A ..... Towner  
Marion, Renee M ..... Belcourt  
Marion, Sarah ..... Longmont, CO  
Martin, Dean H ..... Rolla  
Martin, Patti ..... Minot  
Mascarena, Lana ..... Devils Lake  
McMahan, Thomas ..... Balta  
McLawhorn, Vickie ..... Cando  
Melchior, Carl J ..... Iron River, WI  
Michaelson, Nathan ..... Jamestown  
Morin, Lora ..... Belcourt  
Neslund, Steve ..... Maple Lake, MN  
O Neal, Shawn T ..... Brainerd, MN  
Peltier, Florestine ..... Ft Totten  
Perry, Brian ..... Brillion, WI

Peters, Traci ..... Crary  
Plowe, Virginia ..... Jamestown  
Poitra, Denise J ..... Sheyenne  
Questell, Michael ..... Mc Minnville, TN  
Reynolds, Ric ..... Lamar, CO  
Riedesel, Helene ..... Carrington  
Ronholdt, Adam ..... Center  
Ruff, Ryan ..... Jamestown  
Savre, Lyle ..... Wimbledon  
Selzler, Terry ..... Bismarck  
Sime, Jessica ..... Dunseith  
Solseth, Mary P ..... Cando  
Spottedbird, Renita ..... Devils Lake  
Stoddard, Earl ..... Carrington  
Thomas, Richard A ..... Leeds  
Thompson, Alvina M ..... Fort Totten  
Thompson, Ryan ..... Pembina  
Tribe, Dale ..... Freeman, SD  
Vivier, Velma ..... Belcourt  
Vondal, Christine ..... Belcourt  
Walette, Kevin J ..... Belcourt  
Walette, Linus Jr ..... Belcourt  
Walette, Sharon A ..... Belcourt  
Weisz, Evelyn ..... Cando  
Wessels, April ..... Fargo  
Whitetail, Tioga ..... Ft Totten  
Williams, Warren R ..... Jamestown  
Zlatevski, Milan ..... Park Falls, WI

## Jan. 31 scholarship deadline nearing!

**T**ogether with Northern Plains Electric, Basin Electric Power Cooperative is offering a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2021-2022 school year. To qualify, an applicant's parents'/guardians' primary residence must be served by Northern Plains Electric. Applicants must be a high school senior or college freshman enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical

school in the fall of 2021.

For more information, contact your school counselor, Northern Plains Electric or download the application at [www.nplains.com](http://www.nplains.com).

Applications must be received/postmarked by Jan. 31.

Submit applications to:  
Northern Plains  
Electric Cooperative  
Attn: Brittnee Wilson  
P.O. BOX 608  
Cando, ND 58324



## Statement of nondiscrimination

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA TARGET Center at 202-720-2600

(voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027) found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410; 2) fax: 202-690-7442; or 3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

*An equal opportunity provider and employer.*

### CANDO OFFICE:

609 4th Ave.  
Cando, ND 58324

### CARRINGTON OFFICE:

1515 West Main  
Carrington, ND 58421

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

[www.nplains.com](http://www.nplains.com)  
[justask@nplains.com](mailto:justask@nplains.com)  
800-882-2500

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