



Left to right, NPEC General Manager **Seth Syverson** and NPEC director **Mark Brehm** present a check to the Cando Community Child Care for new playground equipment. Receiving the check are **Ben Bucher**, CEO of Towner County Medical Center, and **Christyna Bruce**, director of Cando Community Child Care.

Northern Plains partners with Basin to award \$1,000 to Cando Community Child Care

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) announces another recipient through its partnership with Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Charitable Giving Program.

In November, the NPEC board of directors approved a donation of \$500 to the Cando Community Child Care toward a goal for new playground equipment. NPEC also applied for a matching donation through Basin Electric's Charitable Giving Program.

Basin Electric is a wholesale electric generation and transmission cooperative, headquartered in Bismarck, that provides power to electric cooperatives in nine states, including Northern Plains Electric.

Basin matched NPEC's donation, totaling \$1,000 toward new playground equipment for the

Cando Community Child Care located at the Towner County Medical Center.

The director of the day care, Christyna Bruce, said they have been fundraising since April 2018 to meet a goal of \$20,000, which includes the cost of new equipment, installation and sand to place under the equipment. The current playground equipment is outdated with broken parts that has been deemed less safe. The new equipment will be better geared toward pre-K children, which is a majority of the day care's enrollment. The current equipment was designed for 5-10 year olds.

"This donation brings us one step closer. Every bit helps," Bruce says. The day care has now raised \$12,660.75 toward its goal. Bruce adds they could "make do" with \$15,000 if the day care had volunteers to help install

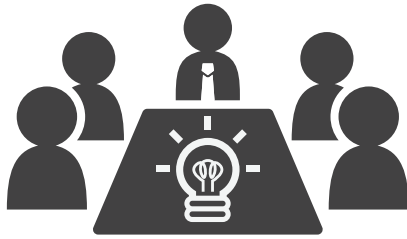
the equipment.

This donation adds to the total of \$11,000 that Northern Plains Electric and Basin Electric's partnership has donated in 2019 to nonprofit organizations benefiting the Northern Plains service area. ■

JANUARY 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Attend your District meeting
- Tips for energy savings
- Operation Round Up grants



Attend your district meeting

Interested in running for the board of directors?

Every year, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) holds director elections in three districts. Those elections are the members' opportunity to select someone to represent them on the NPEC nine-member board. Board directors must become knowledgeable about the electric industry.

The board meets on the fourth Monday of each month to make decisions regarding budget, policy, rates and other co-op business. Meetings alternate between the Carrington and Cando office and typically last a good share of the day. In addition to monthly meeting, NPEC directors often

attend meetings and conferences of the statewide association. Directors are compensated for their time.

To run for director, members must:

1. Receive NPEC electric service at your primary residential abode and you may only run in the district in which you reside.
2. Obtain a petition from our offices in either Carrington or Cando.
3. Obtain at least 15 signatures from NPEC members.
4. Submit a petition at least five days prior to the district meeting.
5. Attend the district meeting.

For more information, call 1-800-882-2500 or email justask@nplains.com.

2020 district meetings

District 2

Tuesday, Feb. 18 – Fessenden Festival Hall

District 1

Wednesday, Feb. 19 – Cando North Star Public School

District 3

Thursday, Feb. 20 – Jamestown North Dakota Farmers Union headquarters

Registration and meal from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Meeting from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

AUTHORITY TO VOTE

Memberships other than individuals.

The board of directors for the governing board of the organization at a meeting held

on _____ 2020, by resolution, authorized

(name of individual authorized to vote the membership)

to vote the membership of this organization at the 2020 Director District Meetings of the members of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative.

(Name of Organization)

(Signature of Officer)

DON'T LET THE CHILL AFFECT YOUR BILL

Yes, winter is here! But don't despair!

You can keep your home comfortable and still keep your energy bills from escalating, with these winter tips from Northern Plains Electric Cooperative:

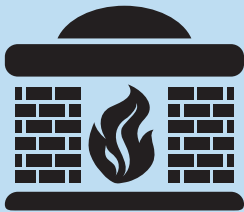


Seal your home

Weatherstripping and caulking are probably the least expensive, most effective ways to save energy in the winter. Check around doors and windows for leaks and drafts. Add weatherstripping and caulk any holes where heat can escape. Make sure doors seal properly.

Plug those little leaks, too

Electric wall plugs and switches can allow cold air to enter. Purchase simple-to-install, foam gaskets that fit behind the switch plate and effectively prevent leaks.



Close that damper

Don't forget to close the damper on your fireplace when the fireplace is not in use. If the damper is open when you're not using the fireplace, your chimney functions as a large open window that draws warm air out of the room and creates a draft.

Check your heating system

Get a routine maintenance and inspection of your heating system to make sure it is in good working order.

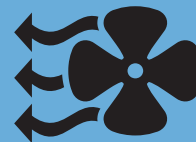


Change the filter

Check furnace filters. Be sure to clean or replace your system's air filter. At a minimum, change the filter every three months; a dirty filter clogs the system, making the system work harder to keep you warm.

Put it in reverse

Reverse the switch on your ceiling fans so they blow upward, toward the ceiling.



Check your insulation

Insulate your attic. In an older home, that can be the most cost-efficient way to cut home heating costs. Before energy efficiency standards, homes were often built with little or no insulation. As a result, large amounts of heat can be lost through walls, floors and ceilings.

Get smart about energy savings

BY BRITTNEE WILSON



Heating and cooling an empty home wastes energy and money. One way members are taking control is by simply resetting their thermostat when they are asleep or away from home. Members can save as much as 10 percent a year on their heating bill by turning back their thermostat 7-15 degrees for eight hours a day from their normal setting.

Although remembering to manually adjust your thermostat daily can be exhausting. At times sacrificing comfort while waiting for the temperature to adjust. One quick and easy solution is to purchase a programmable or smart thermostat.

These “set-it-and-forget thermostats” will take the hassle out of adjusting the temperature and avoid any discomfort by returning temperatures to normal before you wake or return home. More than half of available thermostats these days are programmable or smart thermostats. But what is the difference between the two?

A programmable thermostat, as the name suggest, allows you to program your home’s heating and cooling system, usually allowing two to six preset temperatures to accommodate your schedule.

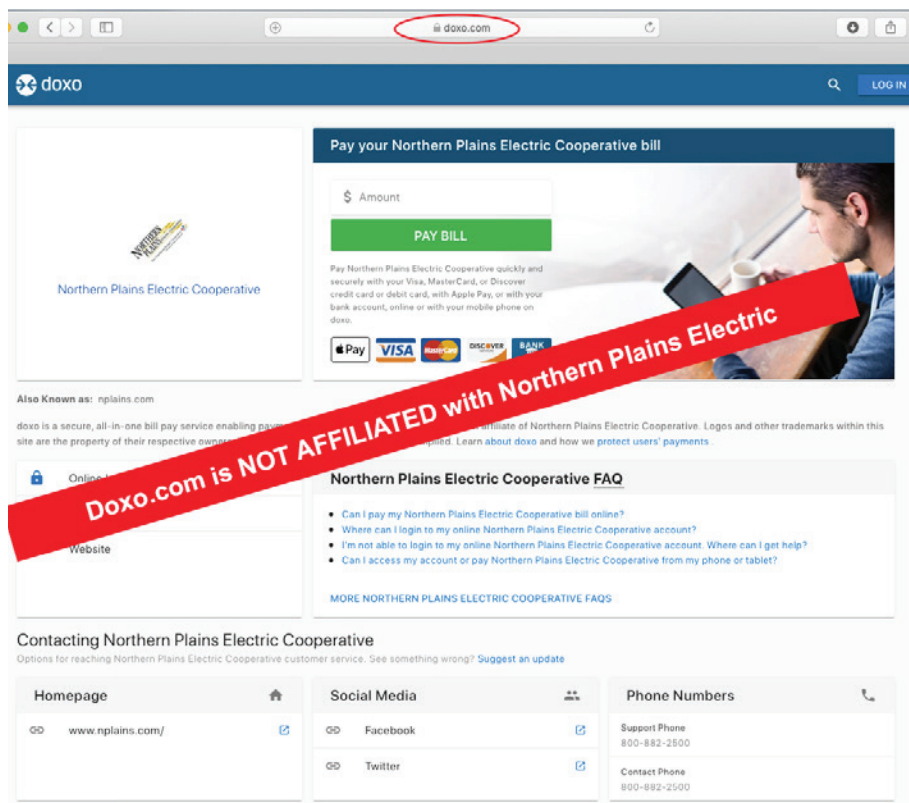
Smart thermostats are also programmable, and they are designed to learn your behavior over time,

automatically adjusting the temperature in your home to accommodate your habits. As an added benefit, smart thermostats are Wi-Fi-enabled, allowing you to remotely monitor and control the temperature in your home from a smartphone or computer, provide energy reports, and notify you if your air filter needs replacing.

Considerations for installing a smart thermostat

- Every home and heating system are different. There is not a one-size-fits-all thermostat, so make sure you are getting a thermostat that is compatible with your heating and cooling system.
- To ensure the thermostat operates properly, a thermostat must be on an interior wall away from direct sunlight, drafts, doorways, skylights and windows.
- Be comfortable with Wi-Fi and a smart device.
- Smart thermostats will be a higher upfront cost, as it is a more complicated piece of equipment. While there are many kinds of smart thermostats on the market, a popular choice is the Nest. You can purchase the Nest Learning Thermostat for \$249 from the website, www.nest.com. It reports an estimated average savings of \$131 to \$145 a year. That means the Nest thermostat pays for itself in under two years. Other models like the Ecobee Smart Thermostat and the Honeywell Wi-Fi Smart Color offer similar features, like Wi-Fi connection, mobile apps for remote management, and “learning” features that let it auto-program itself based on your habits.

Whether you pick a programmable thermostat or smart thermostat will be contingent on your own needs, budget and familiarity with technology. While smart thermostats cost a bit more because of the additional features, both programmable and smart thermostats are great ways to save on your energy bills while being sure you are cozy in your home. ■



Do not use doxo to pay your Northern Plains electric bill

Recently, some members reported being directed from a search engine to a third-party payment website called www.doxo.com to pay their bill online. Northern Plains Electric Cooperative is no way affiliated with this service.

You can pay your electric bill online with NO FEES at our website www.nplains.com. Doxo.com has created a page with our logo and name that looks very official, but it is not. Be sure you have our website in your address bar before making your payment.

If you have question or are unsure, please call the office at 800-882-2500.

PLOW IT SAFE

This winter, take special care when plowing near power equipment and power lines. Take note of the locations of electrical cabinets, poles and guy wires before the snow gets too deep. It may be a good idea to stake areas with tall markers.

Report damage immediately. Call Northern Plains Electric Cooperative at 1-800-882-2500 if your equipment strikes a transformer, cabinet, power pole, streetlight, overhead line or a guy wire.

If there is dangerous situation, call 911 first.



Operation Round Up people doing together what can't be done individually

GRANTS APPROVED IN DECEMBER: \$9,600

- Larry Halverson, Egeland, to assist with medical expenses.
- Sylvia Martin, Pettibone, to assist with medical expenses.
- Randy Rogers, Rolla, to assist with medical expenses.
- Bella Sprunt, Bowdon, to assist with medical expenses.
- Esmond Rural Fire Department, expenses for new turnout gear.
- Eddy County 4-H/Eddy County, expenses for construction/electrical work on pavilion/barn.
- Midkota Public School, expenses for providing training/education in social emotional learning.
- Edmunds-Pingree Community Center, replace broken heating/air unit.
- Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Pettibone, expenses toward fixing roof.
- Bisbee Lutheran Church, expenses toward fixing broken sidewalks.
- Mooney-Carnahan Veterans of Foreign Wars, Rock Lake, replace broken heating/maintain building.
- Benson, Eddy, Griggs, Kidder, Pierce, Rolette, Ramsey, Stutsman and Wells counties and Cando Area Food Pantry, Carrington Daily Bread, food pantries.

THANK YOU,
Northern Plains Electric members,
for participating in Operation
Round Up! \$38,500 was granted to
your neighbors in 2019.



2019 YEAR-TO-DATE SUMMARY:

Member's average contribution:

\$5.33

Average member participation:

80%

Applications approved:

56

Amount granted:

\$38,500

The board meets quarterly to review applications. Deadline to submit for the next quarter is Feb. 20. To apply, find an application on our website www.nplains.com. For more information, contact Northern Plains Electric by calling 800-882-2500.



Freund takes seat on Operation Round Up board

Congratulations to Angie Freund, of Cando, for being elected to the Operation Round Up board. Angie replaces Ross Myers of Cando who reached his term limit on the board after having served for six years. Northern Plains thanks Ross for his dedication on the board and welcomes Angie.

The Operation Round Up board is comprised of five Northern Plains members who live across the service area. The board meets quarterly to decide how to disperse grant money. ■

JAN. 31 DEADLINES NEARING!

\$1,000 scholarship

Applicant's parent's/guardian's primary residence must be served by Northern Plains Electric Cooperative. 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 2020.

Contact your school counselor, Northern Plains Electric or download the application at www.nplains.com.

Drop off applications at Northern Plains Electric's offices or mail to: Northern Plains Electric, P.O. BOX 608, Cando, ND 58324. Must be received/postmarked by Jan. 31, 2020.

Youth Tour essay contest

High school sophomores and juniors, write a winning essay and win an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 15-21. Applicant's parent's/guardian's primary residence must be served by Northern Plains Electric.

Check out the essay contest guidelines on our website at www.nplains.com under "Students Only!" tab.

Email entries to brittneew@nplains.com or mail hard-copy to: Youth Tour essay contest, Northern Plains Electric, P.O. BOX 608, Cando, ND 58324. Must be received/postmarked by Jan. 31, 2020.

Statement of nondiscrimination

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations/policies, USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal/retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA; not all bases apply to all programs; remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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 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

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

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Cando, ND 58324

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Carrington, ND 58421

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8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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800-882-2500

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