



Photo: Rod Schlieman, February Calendar Photo Contest Winner

NEWSLETTER

February 2025

New Headquarters Facility Update *By Jenny Stryhn, General Manager*

As we welcome February, it's hard to believe that the first month of 2025 has already passed. Time is flying, and with it, exciting progress is being made on our new headquarters facility.

Last fall, the cooperative proudly broke ground on a new facility just west of our current location, and I'm pleased to report that construction is progressing smoothly. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved, we are right on track, both in terms of schedule and budget.

Significant milestones have already been achieved. The exterior walls and roofing are complete, and the building is now fully enclosed. Inside, the work is well underway. Our contractors are busy with the plumbing, electrical systems, and flooring, all of which are progressing as planned. We look forward to seeing these final touches come together in the months ahead.

As we look ahead to the summer of 2025, we're excited about what's next. Plans are in place for us to move into the new facility this summer. In addition, the cooperative will be hosting an auction, and the existing facility will be removed to make way for grading, parking, and future developments.

We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support throughout this process. Stay tuned for further updates, and thank you once again for your steadfast dedication to your cooperative. We look forward to celebrating the opening of our new space with all of you!



Office Space Concrete Pour

EMPOWERING communities

with innovative
and sustainable
energy solutions

FOR OVER
85
YEARS

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Agralite Electric Co-op
We're member-owned!

320 US-12, Benson, MN
(320) 843-4150
1-800-950-8375
www.agralite.coop

 Like us on Facebook



Office Hours
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Closed February 17
for President's Day



Touchstone Energy®
Agralite is a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative.



Find your account number and win a \$100 credit!

If your account number (as it appears on your monthly electric bill) is one of the [four account numbers](#) hidden in this issue, give our office a call by the end of the month and you will receive a \$100 bill credit. If more than one member finds their account number in a single issue, \$100 will be split equally amongst them.

Congratulations

to Mike Backman for finding his account number in the December newsletter.



Wall Framing



Underground Plumbing

Load Control Notifications

Due to our current load control notification system no longer being supported, we are switching to notifications through SmartHub. To manage or receive load control notifications from Agralite Electric Cooperative, you will now need a SmartHub account.

How to Set Up Load Control Notifications

Visit www.agralite.coop, click on Pay Bill, and sign in (or create an account). If you haven't previously signed up for any notifications, you will need to take the following two steps:

- 1. Add Contacts:** Under the Settings drop down menu, select Contact Methods. Add an email contact and/or a phone contact*. Follow directions and enter the verification code where appropriate. You can set up as many as you'd like.
- 2. Set Up Notifications:** Under the Settings drop down menu, select Manage Notifications. Select Reports, then choose Generators, Irrigation, and/or Residential LM Notice. Click Options and select the contact(s) you wish to receive load control notifications.

You can also download the SmartHub app and follow these steps on your phone or tablet.

Our current load control notification system will no longer be active effective 1/1/25. Please contact our office at 320-843-4150 if you have any questions.

Join Us For Our 2025 Power Hour Events

Power Hour events provide members with the opportunity to meet their directors and staff, ask questions and mingle with other co-op members in a casual environment. It is a time to hear what is happening at your local electric cooperative including member programs, work plan projects, and the financial health of the cooperative. Coffee and rolls will be provided.

Upcoming Power Hour Events



West-Con
520 County Road 9
Holloway, MN



Hancock Community Center
Atlantic Ave. (Next to APMC)
Hancock, MN

Our 2025 Power Hour events are open to all co-op members. You are welcome to attend either event, even if it does not align with your district or area. 1012503 Visit our website or call us at 320-843-4150 if you have any questions regarding these events. We look forward to seeing you there!

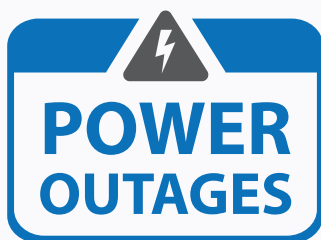
Energy Saving Tip:



If you have a home office, look for opportunities to save energy in your workspace.

Use ENERGY STAR®-rated equipment, which consumes up to 50% less energy than standard models. Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save energy in your home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Replace any older bulbs with energy-saving LEDs.

Source: energystar.gov



Call Day or Night
1.888.884.3887

[Do not call the office for outages](#)

February Energy Payment is due March 20*.

*We accept Visa, Discover & Mastercard.

2025 Agralite Scholarships

Starting in 2016, Agralite Electric Cooperative created a post-secondary education scholarship program. This program is open to the four-county region Agralite provides electric service to—Big Stone, Pope, Stevens, and Swift counties.

Agralite Electric Cooperative will award ten \$2,000 scholarships. Two of the scholarship awards are intended for individuals interested in becoming an electrical line worker or electrician. These scholarship funds were made available in part through both unclaimed capital credits and administration proceeds from The Rural Economic Development Loan program.

Obtain applications on our website at www.agralite.coop, from your school counselor, or in our office.



The completed application and all other necessary information must be returned to Agralite Electric Cooperative no later than April 4, 2025. Applicants who applied for the Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship may also apply for the Agralite scholarship. Winners will be drawn randomly pending a completed application.

Mail to: Agralite Electric Cooperative, PO Box 228,
Benson, MN 56215

Or email to: mchevalier@agralite.com

COLD WEATHER RULE & ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOTICE

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between October 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 50% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by Agralite Electric Cooperative or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from Agralite Electric Cooperative.

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects

Before disconnecting electric service to residential members between October 1 and April 30, Agralite Electric Cooperative must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

Energy Assistance Program

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 50% of the state median income (\$58,793 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2025.

To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance.
- Agralite Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact our billing department to set up a payment plan.

Prairie 5 CAC 320-269-7976 West Central CAC 800-492-4805
Heartland CAC 320-235-0850

2025 Basin Scholarship Qualify? Please Apply!

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, a wholesale power supplier to Agralite, is again offering this generous scholarship. Basin Electric's scholarship program began in 1990. Each year, Agralite solicits scholarship applications throughout our service area.

How Much Is The Scholarship?

The Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) Scholarship Program will award more than 180 scholarships. Agralite will award one \$1,000 scholarship. The scholarship must be used for educational costs, and the student must enter college in the fall of the school year for which the scholarship is given. Checks will be made payable to the school, and will be distributed to the school by BEPC. Scholarships will be distributed in August.

Who Is Eligible To Receive The Scholarship?

Dependent children (including adopted or step-children) of member-system consumers and dependent children of member-cooperative employees are eligible. The applicant must also be a U.S. citizen and enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. 1343300 Recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, potential to succeed, leadership, and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, and an outside appraisal.

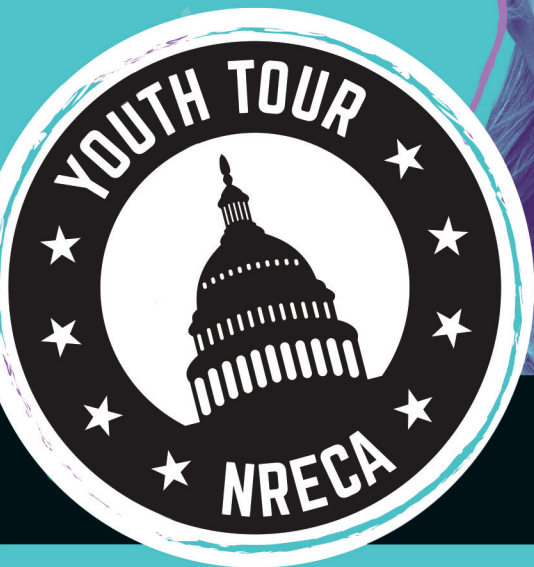
How Do I Apply?

Obtain forms and applications from your school counselor, the Agralite Electric Cooperative office, or www.agralite.coop.

The completed application and all other necessary information must be returned to Agralite Electric Cooperative:

No later than February 14, 2025.

APPLY FOR A **TRIP OF A LIFETIME**



JUNE 16 TO 21, 2025

AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

- An all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., paid for by Agralite Electric Cooperative.
- A week of visiting historic monuments, touring world class museums and meeting elected officials.
- Developing life-long friendships with delegates from across the country!

HOW TO APPLY

- Applicants must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Agralite Electric Cooperative.
- The deadline to apply is February 14, 2025.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.AGRALITE.COOP

EMPOWER



Check out our website for more information or contact Marissa Chevalier at 320-843-4150 or mchevalier@agralite.com with any additional questions.

AGRALITE
Electric Cooperative



Director Nominations Now Open for Districts 3 & 4

Would you like to serve as a Director on the Agralite Electric Cooperative Board for your district? Agralite Electric Cooperative is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors elected by our membership. The cooperative's service territory is divided into seven districts with each district represented by a director who resides in that district. Directors elected serve a three-year term.

This year we will have an election for directors for Districts 3 and 4.

District 3 includes the townships of: Darnen, Hodges, Horton, Moore, Walden, Blue Mounds, Hoff, and Langhei.

District 4 includes the townships of: Minnewaska, Glenwood, Barsness, Chippewa Falls, Bangor, Rolling Forks, and Gilchrist.

Any member meeting the qualifications as specified in the Bylaws of Agralite Electric Cooperative may become a candidate for election to the Board by submitting a written petition for nomination with the signatures of no less than 15 members who are residents of the district for which the election is being held. All voting will be done by mail. Ballots will be mailed to all Agralite voting members on record in these districts before the Annual Meeting. 1717400 The election takes place at the Annual Meeting on June 10, 2025.

Please call 320-843-4150 or stop by our office if you have questions on the nominating process or about becoming a director, and to pick up a petition for nomination.

Petitions are due to the office no later than 4:30 pm on Thursday, May 1st, 2025.



2025 Residential Rebates

ENERGY STAR® Appliance

\$75 for Refrigerator or Freezer
(must recycle old one)

\$25 Electric Dryer

\$25 for Dehumidifier

Battery-Powered Yard Tools

Lawn Mower: \$50

Snow Blower: \$50

Chainsaw: \$25

Leaf Blower: \$25

Trimmer or Weed Whip: \$25

Check out our website for a full listing of our 2025 rebates:

www.agralite.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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 and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter 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 Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

**AGRALITE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PETITION FOR NOMINATION**

To: Jeff Hufford, Board Secretary

I _____, would like to be a candidate to serve as a director for Agralite Electric Cooperative representing District No. _____. I hereby certify that I meet the requirements set forth in Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws of the Cooperative and I request that my name be placed on the ballot that will be mailed to the members with the notice of the annual meeting of the Cooperative to be held on June 10, 2025. I respectfully file this petition with a minimum of fifteen (15) members of the Cooperative who are residents of District No. _____ and who support my candidacy.

Signature of Candidate

We, the undersigned, certify that we are members of Agralite Electric Cooperative and that we reside in District No. _____. We are familiar with the requirement for serving as a director of the Cooperative and we believe that the above-named candidate meets the requirements to become and/or remain a director of Agralite Electric Cooperative representing District No. _____. By our signatures below we show our support for this Petition for Nomination. We further attest that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the above-named candidate is a member of Agralite Electric Cooperative and is a resident of District No. ____.

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Phone #	Date
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

CURRENT AGRALITE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathy Draeger, Clinton
District 1

Jeff Hufford, Morris
District 2 - Secretary/Treasurer

Bennett Zierke, Hancock
District 3

Steve Nelson, Starbuck
District 4

Orvin Gronseth, Murdock
District 5 - Vice President

Andrea Thomson, Benson
District 6

Warren Rau, Appleton
District 7 - President

MINUTES OF MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS December 2024

Board Chairman Warren Rau called a meeting of the Board of Directors of Agralite Electric Cooperative to order at 8:30 a.m., December 27, 2024. All members of the Board present, except Director Draeger and Director Thomson, joined by Zoom. The agenda, minutes of the last meeting, the monthly disbursements, the payment of capital credits of deceased members, Work Order #574, and November Special Equipment were approved.

Jonathan Messner, Manager of Member Services, reported on activities of his department for the month. He discussed load control for the month. He discussed 2025 scholarships, 2025 Power Hour events on April 10th and 11th, and the 2025 Energy Tour June 11-13. The 2025 Agralite Annual Meeting was set for June 10th. The donation request from Prairie Playhouse Childcare Center was discussed again from last month.

Stephanie Wroblewski, Manager of Finance/CFO, discussed margins for the month of November. She discussed patronage payments and the year-end audit. She discussed the new FinCen requirements and the Board approved not filing, as Agralite falls under Exemption 16. The mileage rate for 2025 will be \$.70 per mile.

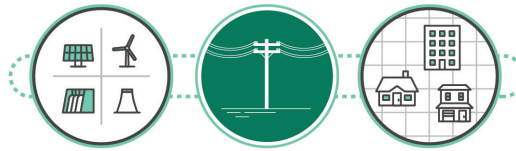
The financials were given by Stephanie with a PowerPoint presentation.

Stephanie brought forth a resolution to amend the Revenue Deferral Plan and the Board approved it. Stephanie brought forth 2024 Write-offs and the Board approved them.

Tom Hoffman, Manager of Engineering & Operations, reported on activities of his department for the month. He discussed line

A Balancing Act: ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

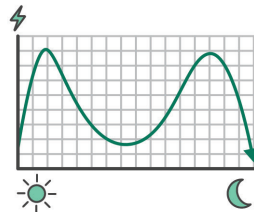
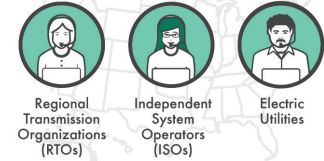
Behind the scenes, a network of people and facilities work together to ensure you have electricity when you flip the switch.



Electricity is generated at a power plant, then sent across the grid to homes, schools and businesses.

The amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to where it's needed are typically coordinated and monitored by regional grid operators that essentially act as energy traffic managers.

Regional Grid Operators



As electricity demand varies throughout the day, grid operators, power plant operators and electric utilities work to forecast, plan and purchase enough electricity for everyone.

Ensuring communities have the exact amount of electricity they need is a challenging task, but behind the scenes, a network of industry experts make it happen every day.



Factors that Impact Electricity Supply and Demand



- Demand Surges
- Extreme Temperatures
- Infrastructure Costs and Availability
- Supply Chain Challenges
- Fuel Costs
- Federal and State Regulations

crew projects and outages for the month. He stated that Quinn Hoffman has been hired as the new Journeyman lineworker and he will begin January 2nd. He discussed the Dome substation transformer, Stevens Milk Plant, and the 115kV line Appleton to Benson.

Tom gave the safety report. 1159400

Board Policies 611-623 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Board Polices 300.3 LPA (PA2) CVEC and 300.3 DP Pembina were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Jenny Stryhn, General Manager/CEO, reviewed her report to the board. She discussed recent meetings she attended including the East River Managers Meeting, GRE board meeting, Midwest Electric Annual Meeting, and STAR board meeting. Jenny discussed Resolution to Vote in Favor of

Amendment to Appendix B of the PPC with GRE and the Board approved it. She discussed Basin capital credit retirements. She showed a PowerPoint presentation from GRE. She discussed WAPA shortfall quantities. She discussed the new headquarters facility and gave an update on the timeline. She discussed fire mitigation.

Director Zierke will be the 2025 MREA Voting Delegate. Director Rau will be the alternate.

Jenny Stryhn will be the 2025 CRC Voting Delegate.

A roundtable discussion was held on topics including East River, large power rates, and distributed energy.

The January board meeting was set for the 30th. Being no further business came before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.