



Photo: Janice Schuerman, March Calendar Photo Contest Winner

NEWSLETTER

March 2025

EMPOWERING
communities

with innovative
and sustainable
energy solutions

FOR OVER

85
YEARS

Join Us For Our 2025 Power Hour Events

Power Hour events provide members with the opportunity to meet their directors and staff, as well as 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



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.



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

Visit our website or call the office at 320-843-4150 if you have any questions regarding these events. We look forward to seeing you there!

Advocating For A Balanced Energy Future *By Jenny Stryhn, General Manager*

The landmark 2040 carbon-free bill set Minnesota on an aggressive path toward eliminating carbon emissions from our energy production. Minnesota's rural electric cooperatives are working toward meeting this mandate. Going forward, we must view energy policy decisions through a risk-sensitive lens to identify and address any issues that could impact the reliability and affordability of the electricity delivered to the state's population. At Minnesota's electric cooperatives, we advocate for an "all-tech-on-deck" approach to achieving our carbon reduction goals. 991201 While wind, solar, and battery storage are vital components of our future energy mix, relying on these resources alone presents challenges—these technologies cannot always provide electricity when needed.

To meet our state's energy needs and reduce carbon emissions effectively, it's essential that we unlock the potential of all carbon-free energy sources, including nuclear power. However, Minnesota's current nuclear moratorium limits our ability to begin discussion to bring new, carbon-free nuclear energy into the mix. Currently, Minnesota is the only state with a complete ban on new nuclear energy. Minnesota Rural Electric Association is urging policymakers to lift this moratorium and explore nuclear energy as a key part of our clean energy future and stabilize the energy grid for future years to come.

Stay informed about Minnesota-specific policies by signing up for MREA's VoterVoice alerts at www.mrea.org/advocacy/take-action.

CONTENTS

PAGE 1 ▶ Join Us For Our 2025 Power Hour Events, Advocating For A Balanced Energy Future

PAGE 2 ▶ It's All About The Energy: Join Agralite Electric Cooperative For An Energy Tour Bus Trip, Find Your Account Number And Win, Energy Saving Tip

PAGE 3 ▶ 2025 Agralite Scholarships, Cold Weather Rule, Stay In The Know

PAGE 4 ▶ Being Ready For Storm Season Preparedness Is The Best Defense, Are You Storm Ready?

PAGE 5 ▶ Director Nominations Now Open for Districts 3 & 4, Tips To Avoid Energy Scams

PAGE 6 ▶ Board Meeting Minutes, Electronic Efficiency Fill-In-The-Blank Activity

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



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 Daniel Jenniges & Erin Hoffman for finding their account numbers in the January newsletter.

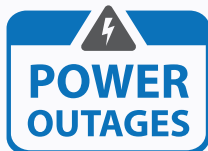
Energy Saving Tip:



March is an ideal time to service your home's cooling system, ensuring it runs efficiently when the summer heat arrives.

Routine maintenance, like cleaning or replacing filters, checking refrigerant levels and inspecting parts, can improve your system's energy efficiency and lower your energy bills. By addressing potential issues early, you can avoid costly emergency repairs and extend the lifespan of your unit. Scheduling services in the spring helps you beat the peak-season rush, giving you faster access to qualified technicians. A well-maintained cooling system can save energy and keep your home comfortable all summer long.

Source: energystar.gov



Call Day or Night
1.888.884.3887

Do not call the office for outages

March Energy Payment is due April 20.*

*We accept Visa, Discover & Mastercard.

It's All About The Energy:

Join Agralite Electric Cooperative For An Energy Tour Bus Trip



Join us: June 11-13 / \$175 per person / 20 seats available

We're excited to invite you to join us for our 2025 Energy Tour from June 11-13! This three-day luxury coach tour will take you through North Dakota's coal country where you'll learn how electric power is generated at a lignite coal plant and how a coal-gasification plant produces natural gas.

The tour includes visits to:

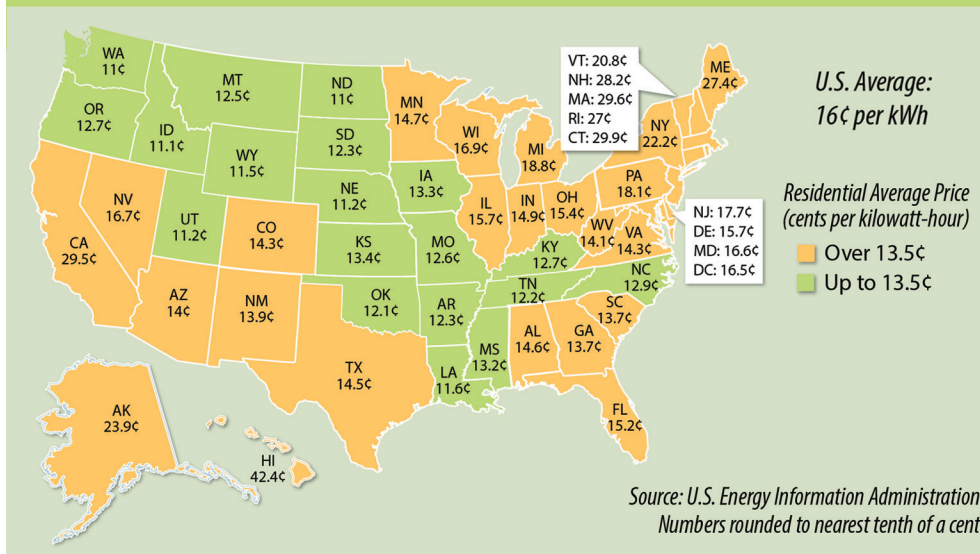
- Basin Electric Powers Antelope Valley Power Station near Beulah, ND
- Great Plains SynFuels Plant
- The Coteau Properties Freedom Coal Mine
- Garrison Dam Hydropower Generation Plant
- The North Dakota History Museum
- Lewis & Clark Riverboat Dinner Cruise

You'll be staying at a hotel in Mandan for two nights. 1367000 The trip cost is \$175 per person. Most meals are included, except for fast food and coffee stops during the bus trip to and from North Dakota, and any restaurants you may visit during your free time.

This trip promises to be both fun and educational, and we hope you'll join us for this exciting opportunity. Sign up by calling our office at 320-843-4150.

Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2023 figures, in cents per kWh



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

STAY IN THE KNOW



Stay connected by keeping your contact information up to date. Current contact information benefits you in multiple ways.

- ✓ Faster outage reporting and response
- ✓ Timely alerts about planned outages and other important updates
- ✓ Smoother customer service interactions
- ✓ Improved access to member benefits and programs

Ensure your phone number, email address and mailing address are up to date so you can enjoy the benefits of staying connected.



ARE YOU STORM READY?

Follow these safety and preparation tips during spring and summer storm season.

Be Prepared.

- Create an emergency kit with power outage essentials: batteries, powerbanks, flashlights, non-perishable foods, water, medical supplies, and prescriptions.
- Develop an emergency family plan with meeting points, communication methods, and evacuation routes. Share your plan with all members.
- Monitor weather for important updates that could impact your emergency plan.

Stay Safe.

- Ensure a safe shelter. Stay away from windows and doors. During a tornado, move to a basement or an interior room without windows.
- Use portable generators safely. Operate outdoors in well-ventilated areas, place on a flat, dry surface, do not overload, and always read the operating manual before use.
- Remember that severe storms can bring down power lines. If you encounter a downed line, stay back. Always assume a downed line is live and dangerous.



Being Ready For Storm Season Preparedness Is The Best Defense

Spring is on our doorstep and like many of you, I'm looking forward to more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy warmer weather. Springtime brings many of my favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, time spent working in the garden and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

Unfortunately, spring and summer can also create the perfect conditions for severe storms.

Agralite Electric Cooperative crews are always prepared and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area. When severe storms cause power disruptions, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines.

I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness. Visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, including canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water, and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries). 1282201
- 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 a portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.



In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers, and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from potential power surges and will also help prevent overloading circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.

If you plan to use a portable generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA weather radio for storm and emergency information, and check Agralite Electric Cooperative's Facebook page for restoration updates.

Severe storms can occasionally bring down power lines. If you see a downed line, always assume it's energized and never approach it. If flooding occurs, never walk through areas where power lines could be submerged.

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

Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings and follow us on Facebook for the latest power restoration updates. If you experience an outage, please don't report it on Facebook. Call our outage reporting number at 888-884-3887—this is the fastest way to let us know if your power is out.

I hope we don't experience severe storms over the spring and summer months, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At Agralite Electric Cooperative, we recommend that you make a plan today—because storm preparedness is always our best defense.

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. 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.

**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. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Be cautious of fraudulent websites pretending to be an electric utility. Scammers often create look-alike sites to steal your personal or payment information.

Always type your utility's official web address directly into your browser instead of clicking email or text links.

Watch for signs of a secure website, such as "https://" in the address bar and a padlock icon.

If you're ever unsure, call your utility company using the official phone number listed on your bill to verify payment or account details. Stay vigilant to protect yourself from utility fraud.



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.

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 January 2025

Board Chairman Warren Rau called a meeting of the Board of Directors of Agralite Electric Cooperative to order at 8:30 a.m., January 30, 2025. 1214900 All members of the Board were present. The agenda, minutes of the last meeting, the monthly disbursements, the payment of capital credits of deceased members, Work Order #575, Work Order #576, Work Order #577, and December 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 Power Hour events and large donation requests. He discussed the updated 2025 Co-Generation Reports and the Board approved them.

Stephanie Wroblewski, Manager of Finance/CFO, discussed preliminary margins for the month of December. She discussed 2024 patronage allocations and the 2024 Audit.

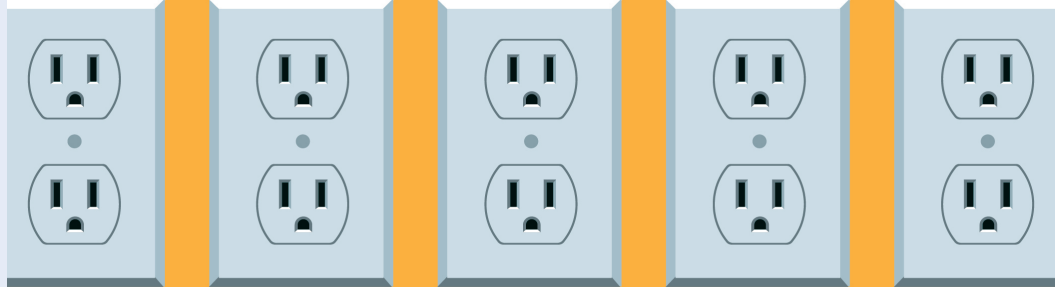
The financials were given by Stephanie with a PowerPoint presentation.

Jenny reported on activities of the Engineering & Operations

ELECTRONICS EFFICIENCY FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

You can help save energy at home by using electronic devices more efficiently. Read the energy-saving tips below and fill in the blanks with the correct word that completes the efficiency tip.

Psst! Check your work in the answer key below.



1. Use a(n) _____ with an on/off switch when powering multiple electronics to easily manage energy use.
A. power strip B. extension cord C. remote control
2. For devices that require _____, use rechargeable ones, which are more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.
A. power cords B. lights C. batteries
3. Unplug electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like _____.
A. lamps B. ceiling fans C. phone chargers
4. Use the sleep or power management mode on your _____ to save on energy costs.
A. computer B. refrigerator C. oven

Answer Key
1. A 2. C 3. C 4. A

department for the month. She discussed line crew projects and outages for the month. She discussed the 75hp mobile generator and related training, the MN Resilience 4010(d) Grant, and new substations.

Jenny gave the 2024 yearend safety report.

Jenny Stryhn, General Manager/CEO, reviewed her report to the board. She discussed yearend and the new headquarters facility project. She discussed recent meetings she attended including the East River Managers Meeting, GRE board meeting, and NRECA CEO Conference.

Jenny Stryhn will be the 2025 NRECA Voting Delegate. Tom Hoffman will be the alternate.

A roundtable discussion was held to address the topics of attending board meetings, MREA legislative visits, data centers, and GRE transmission.

The February board meeting was set for the 27th.

Being no further business came before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.