



The Slope Electric Cooperative board of directors visits the New England Ambulance to learn about the enhanced tools purchased with Rural Development Finance Corporation funds.

MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES: **Grants available**

By Brooke Waltner, Manager of Member Relations

Supporting and empowering the communities we serve is an instrumental part of Slope Electric Cooperative's values, whether through sponsorships, grants or participation in events.

The Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) helps demonstrate the true meaning of commitment. Each year, RDFC provides grants to electric cooperatives to distribute to applicants within their service area. The applications are then reviewed by the RDFC committee before funding is awarded. In 2023, grants were distributed to two entities in Slope Electric's service area, including the Slope Farmers Fair Association and the New England Ambulance.

continued on next page

Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.

OUTLOOK

116 E. 12th St. • New England, ND 58647 | 701-579-4191 • www.slopeelectric.coop

In this issue:

- Electricity's value
- How to report an outage
- How the grid works

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Who can apply?

- Community-owned businesses, such as a café, grocery store, motel or others.
- Community facilities, such as ambulance services, fire districts, recreation, hospital/clinic, community center or others.
- Workforce development, including training, development opportunities, continuing education programs or others.
- Community-based projects, such as school/youth projects and others that benefit rural areas and lead to community betterment.

Please note RDFC does not provide funds for medical fundraisers or general operating costs.

Matching funds are required for an RDFC grant. The match must be \$4 of other funds to every \$1 of RDFC funds.

Deadline: Sept. 13

Process:

Call Slope Electric Cooperative at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191 or email comments@slopeelectric.coop to visit about a specific project and determine eligibility.

If it meets the qualifications, the member can call the office to request an application and submit to Slope Electric for consideration.

For more information and details visit our website or scan the QR code.



The New England Ambulance purchased tools to enhance efficiency at the department with RDFC funds.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Electricity provides powerful value



Travis Kupper
Co-General
Manager/CEO

If you're like me, certain aspects of your life become a daily routine. I get ready for work, get in my car and sometimes drive to the coffeeshop on the way to the office. Occasionally at lunchtime, I drive to get lunch. Once I finally end the day at home, I stream an episode or two of my favorite show before bed.

As we all look for ways to save money in this age of increasing inflation, I began to think about my daily routine and how much

value it provided me compared to the money I spent. A morning latte was costing me about \$6, a burger, fries and a drink were setting me back \$10 and my Netflix subscription is about \$16 in addition to the cost of the Wi-Fi to stream it. All these daily expenses totaled over \$85 a week or about \$340 monthly. And what was the real value? Short-term satisfaction. Even as I started packing my own lunch, my latte was still costing me about \$120 a month. Is this the best value for my money?

The national average daily cost of electricity is about \$4.57. You could power your entire home every day for the price of a medium latte. I could brew my own coffee, cook my own meals, binge a series and run on a treadmill for less than the cost of that drink. Now to me, that's real value.

Electricity provides benefits we often take for granted. It goes well beyond short-term satisfaction by allowing us to charge devices and have cold food and

hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate. Besides the privilege it affords, the cost of electric service has also remained relatively stable, even amidst rising inflation.

As a member-owned cooperative, Slope Electric Cooperative does everything in our power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and electricity remains a great value for our members. It's not always easy, as several factors beyond inflation impact the price of electricity. Some are within our control, but most are beyond it.

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment, maintenance and operational expenses. Weather patterns also contribute, affecting both demand and generation capabilities, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. Your electric co-op considers all these aspects when adjusting rates, and because we're a cooperative, we consider the impact of those costs on our members as well.

As our community continues to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. You can be assured, Slope Electric always puts you top of mind and works each day to ensure your electric service remains the best value for your money. ■



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The national average daily cost of electricity is about \$4.57. You could power your entire home every day for the price of a medium latte.

TRAVIS KUPPER,
CO-GENERAL MANAGER/CEO



MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: How to report an outage



Dean Volk
Operations Manager

Part of Slope Electric Cooperative's core values and mission are to provide our members with a reliable transmission and distribution system. However, there are times when a power interruption may occur. Although we cannot control the weather or other factors that may disrupt the power, members can rest assured Slope Electric is ready to serve you quickly and efficiently in the event of a power outage.

When you encounter an outage, we urge you to call as soon as possible, so we can begin assessing the situation and restore power in a timely manner.

When reporting an outage, please follow these instructions:

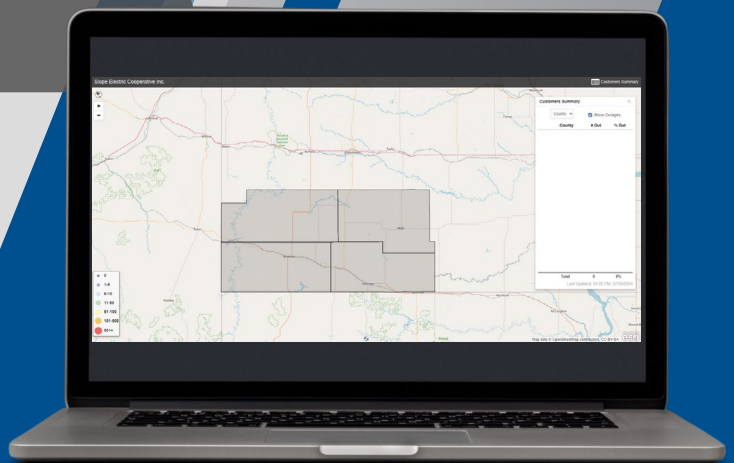
- Check your fuses. If some of your lights work, the trouble may be in your fuses.
- If you determine the problem is in your own wiring,

call an electrician.

- Check the circuit breakers on your yard pole below the meter. In the off position, these breakers disconnect all the wiring you own.
- If all your lights are off, call your neighbor to see if their power is also off.
- If you determine your electrical service is interrupted, call us at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191. Additionally, you can report outages on SmartHub.
- You will be asked to provide your name and account number. In some cases you may be asked to provide further information regarding your service location or meter number.
- Please don't wait for someone else to report the outage, as you may be the only member on your line without power. When you call the office, we can help determine where the problem is on our lines.
- View our outage map on SmartHub or our website at www.slopeelectric.coop.

Taking these steps will help our team at Slope Electric continue to provide reliable services to you, our valued members. ■

**View Slope Electric's
outage map by visiting
SmartHub or
slopeelectric.coop.**



Upper Missouri Power Cooperative report

BY JEREMY MAHOWALD, GENERAL MANAGER, UPPER MISSOURI POWER COOPERATIVE



Jeremy Mahowald
General Manager

In an area about the size of Iowa, Upper Missouri Power Cooperative (UMPC) provides power to 11 distribution cooperatives in western North Dakota and eastern Montana that own UMPC, including Slope Electric Cooperative.

You, the member-owners of Slope Electric, are also ultimate owners of UMPC in Sidney, Mont. We are a generation and transmission (G&T) power cooperative supplying power

from sources at Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Western Area Power Administration. UMPC, in turn, is one of the G&T district owners of Basin Electric, which is a "super" G&T across the central part of the United States between Canada and Mexico, also entirely owned by you and your fellow members.

The cooperatives of UMPC serve primarily energy and agriculture, two industries critical to this country's needs, and we're proud to do our part. We are intent on integrity, as our role in the process of delivering power is chiefly in power measurement, regulatory compliance, aiding members in their needs and regional representation.

We continue to grow at a rapid pace, much faster than most of the country, selling nearly 13.9 million megawatt-hours in 2023, making up 0.36% of total U.S. sales. That amounted to nearly \$800 million in total power billing and a staggering 18.9% increase in energy sales above 2022. Our energy percentage of Basin Electric continues to grow as well. It is currently 45% of Basin Electric's total sales so far in 2024, and likely to exceed 15 million megawatt-hours by year-end at this pace.

Growth doesn't appear to be slowing. We are projected to more than double by 2032, as we see new industrial growth related to oil and gas, including refineries and plastics, hydrogen and carbon sequestration projects, data centers, crypto and artificial intelligence projects that wish to locate in our region in addition to normal load growth.

We are working closely with Basin Electric to meet the power demands and transmission requirements to make this growth possible. Another challenge with all this growth is the upfront investment needed ahead of its arrival and the rate pressures that creates.

This is an important discussion we'll be continuing with the UMPC and Basin Electric membership as we balance our obligation to serve with our commitment to keep rates stable and affordable. This could mean a changing model to separate those rate pressures from very large loads from the general membership through market rates, separate power sources or other means of isolating costs.

UMPC is intent on integrity in 2024 in a couple of ways. First, we are evaluating the rates we charge each of our 11 members to ensure all members are treated fairly and follow best/prevaling practices in rate design. We are working with a reputable third-party rate consulting firm, Guernsey, to help the board achieve this.

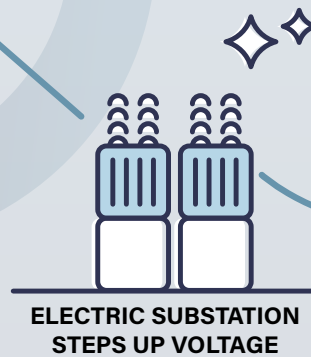
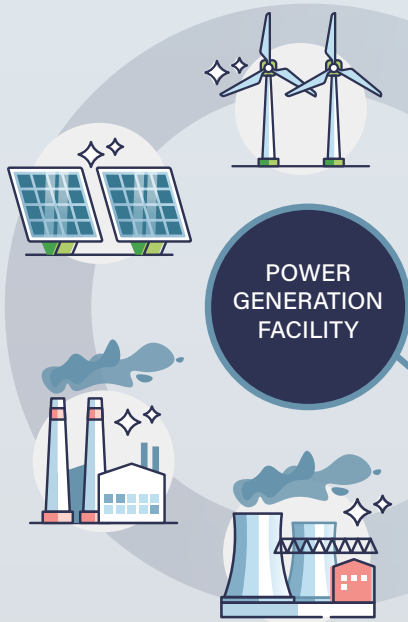
Second, we are moving toward lowering our risks and overall costs by moving away from some contracted services and bringing them in-house. In these roles, we are also working to add redundancy to critical functions, and eventually support market services for large load members. We created three new positions to offset these costs, which will readily pay for themselves on an annual basis by reducing our contracted engineering and meter-testing firms, as well as the fees we were paying Basin Electric for data contracted services. The new positions include a financial integrity analyst, metering integrity analyst and an information systems specialist. We've successfully filled two of the three roles and are hoping to fill the last role soon.

UMPC is committed to the success of its members, large and small, and to the integrity and stability of your power supply and your cooperative network. I encourage you to contact Slope Electric if you have any questions about your power supply, to help us actively meet the needs of our region, and to let us know how we can better serve you. We wish all the best to the members of Slope Electric. ■

How the Grid Works

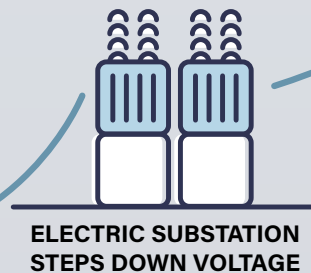
POWER GENERATION

Electricity is generated at power generation facilities, like a coal plant or solar installation, and distributed to a wide group of users. These plants often use a diverse mix of traditional and renewable fuel sources, including coal, oil, natural gas, nuclear, hydro, wind, solar and biomass. Baseload generation resources, such as coal, nuclear and natural gas, can operate 24/7 and be dispatched as needed to meet demand, regardless of factors like weather.



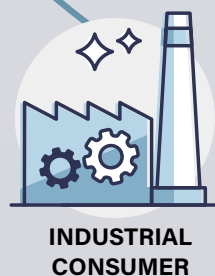
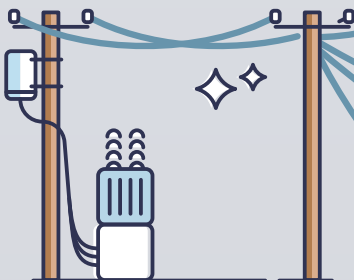
TRANSMISSION AND SUBSTATION

Electric power from generating plants is carried via high-voltage transmission lines to substations.



DISTRIBUTION

After an electric substation steps down the voltage, distribution lines safely deliver power to cooperative member-owners, which include large industrial users, businesses, farms and homes.



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: National Preparedness Month

As temperatures begin to drop and high winds and winter storms start to creep onto the radar, it is important to be prepared for whatever Mother Nature brings. During a power outage, Slope Electric Cooperative crews will continue to work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power, but there are a few steps you can do to prepare yourself. Preparation can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event.

“September is recognized as National Preparedness Month,” says Operations Manager Dean Volk. “Being prepared for all types of situations, including extended outages, can help you feel more calm and ready in such situations.”

Here is what YOU can do to be more prepared:

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of nonperishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee and water, and other essentials, such as diapers and toiletries.
- Confirm 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.



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.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check Slope Electric's Facebook page and website for power restoration updates. Slope Electric cares about your safety. Planning for an emergency today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future. Act now, because there is power in planning. ■



REPORT POWER OUTAGES



800-559-4191

SLOPE ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: June 27

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Slope Electric Cooperative was held on June 27 at the cooperative's headquarters in New England. President Steven Wegner called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was present. Slope Electric's General Counsel Jennifer Grosz was appointed recorder for the meeting. Also present were Slope Electric's co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Operations Manager Dean Volk and Member Relations Manager Brooke Waltner.

Reorganization of the board: Officers elected to board positions were President Steven Wegner, Vice President Anthony Larson, Secretary Angela Carlson and Treasurer Chip H.J. Fischer.

Consent agenda: There were a few proposed amendments to the consent agenda. The consent agenda was approved as amended.

Strategic/action: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on the Basin Electric Power Cooperative's

district meeting in Denver, Colo., a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ruling and more. Basin Electric's CEO report, West Dakota Utility Services and 3C Construction updates were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided the financial reports. Volk's written report for the board was provided, including new projects on which the crews have been working and maintenance. Waltner reviewed the annual meeting. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written report for the board. Grosz provided a legal report.

Action items: Action items were reviewed and resolved.

Discussion/general information: The board discussed items such as the strategic plan.

Executive session: The board entered into an executive session. The meeting concluded with the adjournment. Secretary Carlson certified the accuracy of the minutes.

Next meeting date: The next meeting is at 9 a.m. Sept. 26 in Bowman. ■



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800-795-0555 or 811

SLOPE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Steven Wegner, President
Anthony Larson, Vice President
Angela Carlson, Secretary
Chip HJ Fischer, Treasurer
Jerome Caron, Director
Ryan Jacobson, Director
Charlotte Meier, Director
Cheryl Van Daele, Director

MANAGEMENT

Jason Bentz
CO-GM/CEO

Travis Kupper
CO-GM/CEO

www.slopeelectric.coop



Become a fan of Slope Electric Cooperative
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*Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.
is an equal opportunity provider.*

OPERATION ROUND UP

TURN YOUR

COINS CHANGE



Operation Round Up is a program of voluntary contributions through rounding up electric bills to the next dollar.

Funds are disbursed in the general service area of Slope Electric solely for medical, educational, charitable, safety and scientific purposes.



Next Operation Round Up
application deadline is October 23.



Call Slope Electric at 800-559-4191



Download the appropriate
application at
slopeelectric.coop/operation-round