

The Nodak Neighbor

September-October 2023

Official Publication of Nodak Electric Cooperative
www.nodakelectric.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**Have a safe and
bountiful harvest season!**

*Thank you to all our local farmers
for the essential work you do to
support our communities.*



The Nodak Neighbor

Official Publication of the
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www.nodakelectric.com

*This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

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**NODAK'S OFFICES WILL
BE CLOSED FOR THE
FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:**

**Veterans Day
Friday, Nov. 10**

**Thanksgiving
Thursday & Friday, Nov. 23-24**

On the cover: A scene of beet harvest is captured in Nodak's service territory.

AROUND the co-op



Mel Nagel

After 42 years of working long days and nights in some of North Dakota's most unforgiving weather, Mel Nagel, crew foreman with the Hillsboro crew, is retiring.

Mel began his employment with Nodak Electric in May of 1981. A graduate of Bismarck Junior College's (now called Bismarck State College) electrical lineman course, he began his career as a lineman at Nodak's Hillsboro outpost location. He was promoted to Hillsboro crew foreman in 2001, a position he held until his retirement.

Mel is well-liked and respected by fellow employees and members throughout the area because of his willingness to help and his dedication to get the job done.

Mel plans to enjoy every day of retirement by traveling and spending more time with family.

Nodak Electric thanks Mel for his 42 years of dedication and service and wishes him all the best in his retirement!

2 NEW FACES IN MEMBER SERVICES

Nodak welcomes two new employees to our Member Services Department. Bethany and Rachael are looking forward to meeting the members and being a part of the Nodak Electric team.



Bethany Rambeck

Bethany Rambeck, a native of East Grand Forks, Minn., and graduate of Northland Community and Technical College, comes to Nodak with previous work experience in customer service working at Opticare-Forks Vision Clinic. With family in town, she loves spending free time with her three nephews and two nieces. She's also an avid traveler with ambitions to visit every state in the U.S. and every continent.



Rachael Boman

Rachael Boman, also a native of East Grand Forks, Minn., and a graduate of the University of North Dakota, comes to Nodak with previous work experience in the healthcare industry as a Health Unit Coordinator at Valley Senior Living. In her spare time she loves spending time outdoors with her husband Luke and children, Carson (3) and Bristol (1), and puppy Willow. They enjoy going to the lake, taking in the parks and strolling the Greenway.



*Mylo Einarson
President & CEO*

Concern for community: A defining principle for co-ops

Celebrated nationwide during the month of October, National Co-op Month is an annual opportunity to look at the many aspects that make cooperatives unique.

Cooperatives are motivated by people and their needs, not by profit. The seven cooperative principles guide electric cooperatives to operate differently from other utilities, putting the needs of their members first. We base the way we conduct business on these seven cooperative principles:

- Voluntary and open membership
- Democratic member control
- Member economic participation
- Autonomy and independence
- Education, training and information
- Cooperation among cooperatives
- Concern for community

I'd like to focus on the last principle and how Nodak Electric supports the communities it serves. As a cooperative, we are committed to improving the quality of life for our members. We accomplish this by providing reliable and affordable energy, but we also invest in our community in other ways. Here are a few of the things we do at Nodak Electric to actively apply this principle.

Operation Round Up®: Since 2002, members have raised and donated over \$1.1 million to individuals or organizations throughout the Nodak Electric service area.

Economic development loans: Nodak Electric works in conjunction with USDA to provide loans to new and growing businesses in our area.

Community investment: Nodak Electric has made donations to numerous community organizations and programs that contribute to the growth of our community.

Youth Tour: Nodak administers an essay contest that allows one

winner to visit Washington, D.C., with other students across the country annually.

Community groups: Nodak Electric employees and directors actively participate on committees and boards throughout the territory to promote economic development.

Area celebrations: Nodak Electric partakes in local community celebrations and parades every year.

Here at Nodak Electric Cooperative, we remain focused on our communities and continue to invest in their success. Please know we work hard every day to support the people we serve!



THANK YOU

*to our members,
directors and employees*

Celebrating National Co-op Month in October

EV charging 101: Consult your co-op before installing your home charger

While more than 10 million EVs are on the road worldwide, the network of public electric vehicle charging stations remains thin in the United States. That's why charging at home remains the preferred method for EV owners. But is charging your EV at home as simple as plugging your car into an outlet in your garage? The answer is: It depends, mostly upon the electrical situation in your garage and home.

Before installing your at-home charging station, contact Nodak and speak with an energy services specialist to determine whether your garage is equipped to do what you need it to do. Early EVs were able to charge from a standard, 120-volt outlet — just like any other appliance you plug into a wall socket. That's not the case anymore.

The good thing is that most newer EVs are equipped with a larger battery that can last for up to 300 miles on a single charge. However, those batteries require more energy to "fill" the tank. Newer EVs are similar to adding a large appliance such as an electric water heater to your home; most EV chargers that can effectively recharge newer EV batteries require at least a 240-volt, 40-amp circuit to operate (similar to most electric water heaters).

Depending on your home's setup, installing an EV charger may take multiple steps. The easiest installation is when there is already a spare 240-volt circuit where the car will be charging. More likely though, a new 240-volt dedicated circuit will need to be installed from the circuit breaker box to where the car will be charging.

In some cases, be prepared for more extensive upgrades to your home's electric service. That's why it is important to touch base with Nodak before you begin.

While this may seem complicated, it's not complicated for your electrician. An electrician can analyze your home's energy use and tell you if you need to upgrade the service at your home. Your electrician also can work with Nodak to ensure that any needed updates to your home make it EV charger ready.

Once the garage has a 240-volt circuit, there are a whole host of options to get the electricity into the EV's battery. EV manufacturers such as Tesla sell affordable adapters that work with a 240-volt circuit to charge the car's batteries.

You can review the charger options that would work for an EV that catches your interest. Fortunately, EV chargers can efficiently charge most vehicles overnight — even after long trips — ensuring that you are ready for your commute every morning. And even more fortunately, electricity costs for an EV can lead to some long-term fuel savings compared to gasoline. Don't forget to also take advantage of Nodak's rebate for installing an EV charger, in addition to their low off-peak rate for EVs.

Don't let any of this discourage you from exploring the purchase of a new EV. It just requires a little homework, and with the help of Nodak, we can assist in the steps needed to prepare your home for an electric vehicle.

Article courtesy of powermoves.com.



With the help of Nodak Electric, this house is EV ready.

DID YOU KNOW?

This year, National Drive Electric Week is Sept. 22 - Oct. 1. It's a nationwide celebration to raise awareness of all the benefits EVs have to offer.

PRIDE OF DAKOTA SHOWCASE

..... ALERUS CENTER, GRAND FORKS
NOVEMBER 3 & 4
 FRIDAY 3PM - 8PM • SATURDAY 9AM - 5PM
 Admission is FREE thanks to **College SAVE**
 Bank of North Dakota's 529 Plan

HUNTING SAFETY TIPS

Keep yourself and others safe while hunting this fall by staying clear of power lines and other electrical equipment.

Here are some safety tips to keep in mind while hunting:

- Stay clear of all utility equipment.
- Never shoot at or near power lines.
- Be vigilant and know where power lines are before you begin hunting.
- Never place a decoy on or near electrical equipment.
- Never place a deer stand on a utility pole.

Does Your Attic Measure Up?

This fall, take the first step to savings by measuring your attic's insulation so you can "Rule Your Attic!" According to the U.S. Department of Energy, attics in North Dakota's climate should have 16" - 18" of fiberglass or cellulose insulation. Sealing air leaks around your home and adding insulation can help you be more comfortable and can save up to 11% on your home's energy bills. Does your attic's insulation measure up? This heating season, find out and start saving!

STRUGGLING TO PAY YOUR BILLS?

Energy assistance may be available!

- 1 Contact agency and request application
- 2 Fill out application and provide all requested documents
- 3 Upon acceptance, notify Nodak Electric

If you are considered low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.

Community Options of Bismarck
www.communityoptionsnd.com
 1-800-823-2417

Dakota Prairie Community Action
 701-662-6500

Social Services – Fuel Assistance
 701-787-8535

Griggs County Social Services
 701-797-2127

Nelson County Social Services
 701-247-2945

Pembina County Social Services
 701-265-8441

Ramsey County Social Services
 701-662-7050

Red River Community Action Agency
 701-746-5431

Salvation Army – Grand Forks
 701-775-2597

Southeastern Community Action Agency – Fargo
 701-232-2452

Spirit Lake Nation – Fuel Assistance
 701-766-1206

Spirit Lake Social Services
 701-766-4404

St. Joseph Social Cares & Thrift Store – Grand Forks
 701-795-8614

Steele County Social Services
 701-524-2584

Traill County Social Services
 701-636-5220

Walsh County Social Services
 701-352-5111

GREAT REBATES

Add comfort and energy efficiency to your home with help from Nodak Electric Cooperative!

Rebates are available to help you upgrade your heating and cooling system, water heater and chargers for electric vehicles. Nodak Electric offers these rebates to encourage load development, load retention and wise use of energy.

ELECTRIC HEATING

Heating Systems	Rebate
Plenum heaters, baseboard, electric furnace and hanging unit heater	\$25/kW
Cable floor heat, electric boiler and brick storage unit	\$45/kW
Mini-split or air-source heat pump	\$150/ton
Ground-source heat pump	\$250/ton



WATER HEATERS

Electric Water Heaters	Rebate
55 gallon or less	\$125/unit
56-99 gallon	\$200/unit
100 gallon or greater	\$300/unit
Additional rebate for new building construction	\$100
Additional rebate for conversion from existing natural gas or propane to an electric water heater	\$250



ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS

Electric Vehicle Chargers	Rebate
Electric vehicle (EV)	\$50/kW
Commercial – forklifts, Zambonis, etc.	\$50/kW



All systems must be new equipment and controlled on Nodak's off-peak program. A check will be issued to participating members after a visit from a Nodak technician.

Please call our Energy Services team at 701-746-4461 or 800-732-4373 if you have any questions about off-peak or the rebate program.

Electric off-peak heat rates begin Oct. 1

Members with subtractive or separately metered off-peak electric heating systems will be charged the applicable off-peak rate for energy usage beginning Oct. 1. The off-peak rates will continue to be charged for energy usage through May 31, 2024. Current off-peak rates are \$0.062/kWh for long-term and \$0.077/kWh for short-term controlled systems. It is a good idea to inspect, clean and test your heating system before cold weather arrives.

Please make sure your off-peak breaker is on prior to Oct. 1

Oct. 1 is the beginning of the heating season and the day members participating in the special electric heat programs will start getting a lower rate on their electric heat.

If you have a heat meter, but turn the breaker off during the summer, now is the time to turn the breaker(s) back on, so you can make sure to get credit for the electric heat you use.

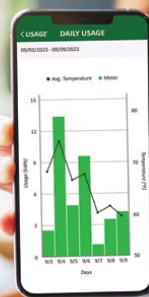
This is important! If the breaker(s) is turned off, your heat will still work. However, your heat meter will not record the electric heat you have used. There is no way to calculate what you may have used for heating and you will pay the full price.

Daily cycling of electric storage heat to begin in late October

Members heating with electric thermal storage, such as thermal storage room units, thermal storage furnaces or slab/in-floor heating, should turn on their heating system prior to Oct. 15 to allow a heat reservoir to build up before daily cycling of loads begins. The actual date cycling begins varies each season. Thermal storage heating is controlled each day from 7 a.m. to noon and 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

USE SMARTHUB 24/7 TO:

- Review your account
- Access energy usage graphs
- Make a payment securely
- Review billing and payment history
- Sign up to receive email and text alert notifications



REGISTER TODAY
nodakelectric.com/smarthub



NORTH DAKOTA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2024 Youth Tour

EXPERIENCE D.C. THE CO-OP WAY!

Each year, area high school sophomores and juniors whose parents/guardians are Nodak member-owners are given the opportunity to be selected to attend an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. Students compete by submitting an essay on a specific topic and the top-rated essay writer is sent by Nodak to join many other students from across the nation to learn about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government. Participants also take part in National Youth Day, visit with North Dakota representatives in the House and Senate, and explore the sights of Washington, D.C.

For additional details, please visit nodakelectric.com/youth-tour or contact our office.



Full details
about the
2024 Youth
Tour will be
coming soon!