

POWER LINE

October 2017



Redwood Electric Cooperative

60 Pine Street • Clements, Minnesota 56224

FROM YOUR MEMBER OWNED ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDER SINCE 1937.

Redwood Electric Cooperative's Community Solar Farm located
west of Lamberton next to Highwater Ethanol Plant.



Are you interested?

Contact Sarah Groebner at 507-692-2214

Or sgroebner@redwoodelectric.com

Lock in Future electric cost. Concerned about future electric rates? Lock in a portion of your electric kWh cost's with Redwood Electric's community solar program. There is no down payment or contract. Participate with 1 to 10 panels and lock in a portion of your electric usage at \$.13/kWh until December 31, 2037.

Put the freeze on a portion of your kWh costs.

Sales Tax Exemption for Electrical Heat

You may be eligible for a sales tax exemption on your electric bill from November through April each year if electricity is the primary source of heat in your home.

To apply for a sales tax exemption, call 507-692-2214, visit redwoodelectric.com, or stop in our office.

Cold Weather Rule 2017-2018

The state's Cold Weather Rule guides utilities on winter disconnections as long as customers follow these main guidelines.

Residential Customer Notice

An electric cooperative must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a home between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit AND ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ARE MET BY THE CUSTOMER:

1. The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. The electric cooperative may verify income on forms it provides or obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A customer meets the income requirements of this clause if the customer receives any public assistance, including energy assistance that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income;
2. A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household; and
3. A customer receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills. In addition, an electric cooperative must, between August 15 and October 15 of each year, notify all residential customers of these provisions.

Before disconnecting service to a residential customer between October 15 and April 15, an electric cooperative must provide:

1. A notice of the proposed disconnection; **This is the **RED** disconnect notice on your monthly bill*
2. A list of energy assistance providers;
3. Forms on which to declare an inability to pay; and
4. A statement explaining available time-payment plans and other options to secure continued utility service.



Restrictions for Disconnection

1. If a customer must be involuntarily disconnected between October 15 and April 15 for failure to comply with the residential disconnection provisions, it must not occur on a Friday, unless the customer declines to enter into a payment agreement offered that day in person or via personal contact by telephone by the cooperative;
2. The disconnection must not occur on a weekend, holiday or the day before a holiday, when utility offices are closed, or after the close of business on a day when disconnection is permitted, unless a representative from the electric cooperative who is authorized to enter into a payment agreement, accept and continue service offers a payment agreement to the customer; and
3. If a customer does not respond to a disconnection notice, the customer must not be disconnected until the utility investigates whether the home is occupied. If the unit is occupied, the utility must immediately inform the occupant of the provisions of this section. If the unit is unoccupied, the utility must give seven days written notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before disconnecting. If prior to disconnection, a customer appeals a notice of involuntary disconnection, as provided by the utility's established appeal procedure, the utility must not disconnect until the appeal is resolved.

If you need help with your electric bill during the winter months, contact energy assistance and apply for funds. It's very important that this is done right away. IF you receive a Disconnect Notice on your monthly bill, it is YOUR responsibility to either pay the balance by the due date or contact our office before the due date to make other arrangements.

EMERGENCY ENERGY ASSISTANCE PHONE NUMBERS

United Community Action: 800-658-2448 or 507-537-1416 (Energy Assistance)
Salvation Army: 507-326-5017 or 507-637-2187
Heat Share (Thru Salvation Army): 822-842-7279
Southwest Health and Human Services: 507-637-4050

Pumpkin Crunch Cake

Ingredients

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 15 ounce can pumpkin
- 1 12 ounce can evaporated milk
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 cup melted butter

Directions

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease 13x9 baking dish. Combine pumpkin, evaporated milk, eggs, sugar, cinnamon and salt. Mix well and pour into your prepared dish. Sprinkle yellow cake mix evenly over pumpkin mixture. Top with chopped pecans. Drizzle butter over pecans. Bake 50-55 minutes



**Our office will be closed
on November 10th for
Veteran's Day**

**CO-OPS
COMMIT**

Co-op Month 2017



Notice to former Alliant Energy customers: ATA credit on your electric bill will be ending soon

Alliant Energy has fulfilled its financial obligation to its former customers dating back to the 2007 sale of its transmission assets in Minnesota to ITC Holdings. In 2015, Redwood Electric Cooperative was one of 12 electric cooperatives that purchased Alliant Energy's Minnesota distribution assets. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, as a condition of approving the acquisition by the cooperatives, required that Alliant Energy continue to return a portion of its profits from the 2007 transmission sale back to its Minnesota customers.

Redwood Electric members who were former Alliant Energy customers saw this reflected as a line item on their electric bill listed as Alternative Transaction Adjustment (ATA). The ATA credit is scheduled to end soon as Alliant Energy will have paid the required amount of profits back to its Minnesota ratepayers. Before being removed completely in January, members will see a full ATA credit on their November electric bill and a partial credit on the December bill.

Office Hours & Contact Information

Monday-Friday 7:00 AM-3:30 PM
(507) 692-2214 or (888) 251-5100

Email address: office@redwoodelectric.com

Web: www.redwoodelectric.com

Pay By Phone: 844-846-2696

OUTAGES

(507) 692-2214 or (888) 251-5100
24 HOURS A DAY

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG Gopher State One

Call (800) 252-1166

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Ronald Horman

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Leo Mertens

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Jill Weber VanDerWal

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Redwood Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to:

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Heading South for the winter?

If you're one of the lucky "snowbirds" who escape to the sunny south during the winter months, we would like some information from you before you leave. Please fill out the form and mail it or bring it to the office before you leave. We would also like you to contact our office when you return.

Name: _____

Account #: _____

Location #: _____

Date leaving: _____

Date returning: _____

Will you have someone read the meter while you are gone?

YES _____ NO _____

Would you like the Co-op to read the meter while you are gone?

YES _____ NO _____

Do you want us to send the bill to your winter address?

Winter Address:

