

POWER LINE

November 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.



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.

Are you interested?

Contact Sarah at 507-692-2214

Or sgroebner@redwoodelectric.com



Happy
Thanksgiving

Redwood Electric
will be closed
November
23rd and 24th

Redwood Electric Board adopts resolution to assume responsibility of PUC

At its September 2017 board meeting the Redwood Electric Directors discussed and took action to adapt a resolution giving the Board authority in Distributed Generation rule making and dispute resolution. Because electric cooperatives are already locally controlled through their electric Boards, the legislature passed changes in statute removing duplicate regulation by the Minnesota Public Utility Commission. The cooperative must still follow state net metering statute. Rulemaking and dispute resolution will now go to the cooperative Board. The rules and information covering interconnection with Redwood Electric on a wind or solar project can be found on our website or by contacting our office.

Annual Elementary Fall Field Days for Area 4th Graders

Every year 4th graders from our area get the opportunity to make mud, hold worms, solve problems, and learn about safety at the Fall Elementary Field Day at the University of Minnesota's Southwest Research and Outreach Center.

Over the three day program almost 700 fourth graders rotate through seven educational presentations that include electrical safety, farm safety, soil science, corn production and usages, seed germination, composting with worms, and liquids, solids and gases.

This program is a great hands on learning experience for the students.



Jim Haler, representing South Central Electric and Redwood Electric Cooperative, demonstrating electrical safety to 4th grade students.

Notice of Rights for Households of Military Service Personnel

The Minnesota Legislature has passed a law concerning disconnection, payment arrangements and appeals for electric service of military personnel who are issued orders into active duty, deployment or have a permanent change in duty station. Income criteria are specified by the law.



The receive this protection from disconnection, the residential member must request and reach agreement with the cooperative on a payment plan. Verification of income is required unless the customer is automatically eligible for protection against disconnection as a recipient of any form of public assistance including energy assistance that uses income eligibility in an amount at or below the income eligibility guidelines.

The residential member has the right to appeal when the cooperative and member are unable to agree of the establishment, reasonableness or modification of a payment schedule, or timeliness of payments under a payment schedule.

If denied, an appeal must be made within seven working days after the utility has deposited first class mail notice. Service cannot be disconnected during an appeal.

Leftover Turkey Noodle Casserole

Ingredients

4 c. (8 oz.) uncooked egg noodles
3 c. chopped leftover cooked turkey
1 (12 oz.) package frozen mixed vegetable, thawed and warmed
1 (10.5 oz.) can condensed cream of chicken soup
1 c. sour cream
1/3 c. milk
3/4 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
1/4 c. shredded or grated Parmesan cheese
1 1/2 c. shredded mozzarella cheese, divided

Directions

1. Cook noodles in salted water according to package directions. Drain well.
2. While noodles cook, place condensed soup, sour cream, milk, salt, pepper, Parmesan cheese, and 1 cup shredded mozzarella in a large mixing bowl; stir until well combined. Add chopped turkey and mixed vegetables; stir to combine. Add hot drained noodles and stir to combine.
3. Spoon noodle mixture into greased 2-quart baking dish. Sprinkle the top with the remaining 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes until heated through and the cheese is melty.

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: _____



Problems paying your electric bill?

Energy assistance may be available?

If you are receiving a 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. It is also important to contact our office before the 6th of the month to make arrangements if you are unable to pay the balance by the 6th. If you have questions, please call us.

Western Community Action
800-658-2448 or 507-537-1416

Salvation Army
507-326-5017 or 507-637-2187

Southwest Health and Human Services
507-637-4050

Your Electric Cooperative earns national grant to improve its cyber security plans

Redwood Electric Cooperative, along with four neighboring electric cooperatives, are part of a national program called the Rural Cooperative Cyber Security Capabilities Program (RC3).

The news headlines remind us of scary cyber security issues with Target, Russian hackers and most recently, Equifax. Rest assured, your electric cooperative and the electric industry in general, are involved in cyber security efforts to protect the national grid and your personal data. The cooperative's wholesale power suppliers participate in national annual cyber security tests and have procedures in place for monitoring, detecting and responding to cyber incidents. However, smaller electric cooperatives do not necessarily have a fulltime information technology (IT) person on staff. This is why the Department of Energy (DOE) awarded a grant to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) to work with smaller cooperatives.

Redwood Electric Cooperative's department managers participated in a two day training session in September. Questions were answered about protecting member and employee personal data and operational equipment. Areas of focus included: identify, protect, detect, respond and recover. The co-ops response to each question provides a benchmark score so the co-op can record changes and document progress as its cyber security plan evolves.

"Cyber security requires a team effort" stated Dr. Cynthia Hsu, NRECA RC3 team lead. "More than 10,000 software vulnerabilities nationwide were discovered so far this year. We face challenges of embedded vulnerabilities in computer chips, malware & ransom ware and websites selling passwords. This involves understanding your vulnerabilities, risks and building layers of defense."

NRECA will take the feedback and general scores to develop a program that can be used with more electric cooperatives nationwide. The participating area cooperatives will receive two more follow-up training events slated for six months and a year from now.



Redwood Electric and South Central staff and their IT contractors work with Dr. Cynthia Hsu, NRECA RC3 team lead, on completing a cyber security assessment.

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

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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.