

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## PKM EMPLOYEES

Nolan Buchner  
Megan Dagoberg  
Chelsy Davey  
Chris Derosier  
Matt Kazmierczak  
Bret Klopp  
Nolan Knott  
Joe Marcotte  
Caleb Novak  
Karen Olson  
Ben Pahlen  
Riley Pahlen  
Danny Schmidt  
Scott Slusar  
Josh Tutt  
Sara Wurtzel  
Jeff Rustad

## PKM BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Hatton  
C.J. Peterson  
Wayne Malm  
Paul Aakre  
Jerred Copp  
Steve Goodwin  
Chris Mortenson  
Blake Owens  
Tom Woinarowicz

... from all of us at PKM Electric Cooperative ...



PKM Electric Cooperative sincerely thanks all of our members  
for the continuous support they've given us this year.

We wish you a very merry Christmas and  
a wonderful new year!



# CEO Report

**JEFF RUSTAD**  
CEO  
*PKM Electric Co-op*

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It is a time of the year we can share with family and friends, and it seems like the pace slows a little. PKM has had a very busy year so far. The crews were able to plow cable up until Nov. 24 and worked on finishing those projects up through the Friday after Thanksgiving. We just finished testing 2,195 poles with only 30 poles being flagged to replace. Nine percent of the poles are from the 1940s, with the highest percentage from the 2000s. This vendor also notes if there are trees in the line, fire damage or mechanical damage and gives us a GPS location for each pole. The townships they tested were in the Kennedy, Halma and Karlstad areas. This is something that is done on a yearly rotation and our crews will work on replacing poles through the winter months. We will continue testing poles in the northern part of our system in 2026.

We are working on budget items for 2026 now. We still have some projects left to do from our construction work plan which technically ended in 2024, but we are extending it through 2026/27. We have some large projects scheduled for next year. One thing I'm surprised by is the lead times on larger transformers, which are down to 16 to 20 weeks instead of

52 weeks. Prices on some things have come down and others have gone up. We are still installing electronic breakers on our distribution circuits to help with outages and reliability. Your cooperative energy (kWh) sales are up compared to most, so we believe we will end the year better than 2024.

If you have been reading my articles, you know we waited until July to implement the April 2025 Minnkota Power Cooperative rate increase. We did absorb three months of the increase, and even so, we should end the year in a good position. Some of you may have noticed we have had off-peak control for the past few months even when it was warmer out; we have received some calls on this. Minnkota had a major planned outage on one power plant which lasted longer than expected. During that planned outage, one of the other plants went offline, resulting in an unplanned outage. Minnkota does buy and sell in the MISO market, and during times like these, they will rely on MISO if needed. When you rely on market purchases, you are subject to what market cost is. MISO has implemented some changes in the past few years that have made the market more unpredictable. We have seen more intermittent resources being added and firm resources being removed from the grid. Because of this, the budgeted purchased power for the plant outages more than doubled, creating a revenue deficit for Minnkota. Minnkota also had

substantial damage on two of their transmission lines in the summer storms. They are planning a small rate increase for April 2026 due to the rising price of the materials for these repairs and other regular maintenance and operations. We have discussed this with your PKM board of directors already, and they have agreed to implement a 3.5-mill increase to rates in April 2026. I use a fair amount of kWh every month and it will add \$5 on average per month to my bill. I just want to remind everyone that this has nothing to do with the Applied Digital data center load near Fargo. I wanted to let you know as soon as possible about the increase, as adjustments are not something we take lightly.

Thank you to Minnkota for holding a legislative meet-and-greet at their office with representatives who serve our area. A group of co-op managers, Minnkota Government Affairs personnel and MREA's Director of Government Affairs met with your state representatives John Burkel, Steve Gander and Mark Johnson. These meetings are a great opportunity for us to discuss issues, and they walk away with a better understanding of your electric cooperative and what it takes to provide power 24/7. John is an electric cooperative member-owner at Roseau Electric. It was a real pleasure to visit with these men; I believe they are doing all they can to represent us in St. Paul. As always, my door is open or call me anytime.



**PKM Electric Cooperative's office will be closed**  
**Thursday, Jan. 1,**  
**as we observe New Year's Day.**

## November/December 2025 (Vol. 79, No. 6)

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### Office hours

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday  
218-745-4711 or 800-552-7366

### Electrical after-hours emergencies

800-552-7366  
e-mail: [info@pkmcoop.com](mailto:info@pkmcoop.com)  
website: [www.pkmcoop.com](http://www.pkmcoop.com)

### Next board meeting

Board meeting to be held the last Tuesday of the month.

### Officers and Directors

President	.....	Mark Hatton
Vice President	.....	C.J. Peterson
Secretary-Treasurer	.....	Wayne Malm
Directors	.....	Paul Aakre, Jerred Copp, Steve Goodwin, Chris Mortenson, Blake Owens, and Tom Woinarowicz
CEO	.....	Jeff Rustad
Editors	.....	Danny Schmidt, Megan Dagoberg

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

# BRING ELECTRIC VALUE HOME IN 2026

If you've been telling yourself it's time to get serious about saving money, electrifying your home with energy-efficient tech is the way to do it. With **PKM's 2026 Value of Electricity** program, you'll save immediately with large rebates, and save even more over time with our reduced off-peak electric rate. It adds up!

Learn more by calling our friendly member services team at **218-745-4711!**

## ELECTRIC HEATING EQUIPMENT (ON OFF-PEAK PROGRAM)

Air-source heat pump  
or mini-split heat pump\*

**\$300/ton (<17SEER)**

**\$500/ton (>17SEER)**

Ground-source heat pump

**\$500/ton**

Plenum heater

Baseboard heater/cove heater

Forced-air furnace

Hanging/wall unit heater

Radiant underfloor heat

**\$50/kW**

Electric boiler

Slab storage - electric cable

**\$80/kW**

Brick storage room unit  
or furnace/boiler

**\$500/unit**

NO MAX REBATE

\*Air-source and mini-split heat pumps do not need to be part of an off-peak heating system to be eligible for this rebate.

## WATER HEATING EQUIPMENT (ON OFF-PEAK PROGRAM)

55 gallons or smaller

**\$300**

56-99 gallons

**\$500**

100 gallons or larger

**\$600**

Additional **\$100** for new building construction

Additional **\$250** available for conversion from existing natural gas or propane to electric water heater

## ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING EQUIPMENT (ON OFF-PEAK PROGRAM)

2026 MAX REBATE: \$1,000

Light-duty (charger for sedans, SUVs, <3/4-ton vehicles)

**\$100/kW**

Medium-duty (charger for 1- to 2-ton trucks, vans, buses, etc.)

**\$100/kW**

Heavy-duty (charger for >2-ton trucks, vans, buses, etc.)

**\$100/kW**



Browse the technology options at [ValueofElectricity.com!](http://ValueofElectricity.com)

# PREP NOW FOR

# WINTER SAVINGS

By **Miranda Boutelle**, Chief Operating Officer at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon

## Q: WHAT CAN I DO NOW TO MANAGE MY WINTER ENERGY BILLS?

**A:** First, let's consider your home's layers. Just like layering up those winter flannels, fleeces and down jackets with waterproof, wind-stopping shells, gloves and hats, your home needs layers, too.



Air sealing and insulation protect your home from the elements while locking in the warm air to keep you cozy. The same applies to hot weather, making air sealing and insulation a year-round efficiency upgrade.

To offset the costs, federal tax credits for energy efficiency upgrades are available through Dec. 31, 2025. Homeowners can claim a total of 30% of the cost of installation, up to \$3,200. Tax credits are available for insulation, heat pumps, air conditioning systems and more. There's even a tax credit for electrical panel upgrades, which might be needed to accommodate new energy efficient equipment.

When it comes to do-it-yourself projects, there are a few upgrades you can take care of yourself. Lock in savings with window cleaning and maintenance. Make sure sash locks and window cranks are in good working order and cleaned of any dirt and leaves. Debris can keep them from closing snugly. I find the crevice tool attachment on my vacuum cleaner, combined with a small, dry scrub brush or an old toothbrush, works great. The locks should pull the top and bottom window sashes together tightly. For casement windows, the locks should pull the window tightly to the frame.

Although it might not seem like a significant difference, reducing airflow through and around windows can make your home more comfortable in the winter. Replacing broken or nonfunctional sash locks can be a reasonable DIY project, but it's best to avoid doing it when the winter winds are blowing. Also, use caulk to seal all gaps around the window trim. If you have operable storm windows, make sure they close.



If you have a forced-air heating or air conditioning system, replace the filter. First, turn the system off to check it. If your filter is dirty, leave it in place until you have a replacement. Running your system without a filter can send any dust or dirt in the ductwork directly into the components and damage your equipment. Make a note of the filter's size on your shopping list or take a picture of the filter with your phone so you can reference it when running errands.

Also, stocking up on filters can save you money. I bought a 12-pack of filters for \$72 — \$6 each. A similar filter sold separately was \$10. Don't see a bulk pack at your local hardware store? Ask at the customer service desk. They may be able to order them for you.

Remember to look for opportunities to protect your home from the elements and maintain your equipment before the cold of winter.

# WATCH THE WIRES HOLIDAY TRAVEL SAFETY

In the Upper Midwest, driving during the holiday season can turn treacherous, with icy roads, reduced visibility and unpredictable conditions descending at any moment. When you add the risk of hitting a power pole or a downed power line, knowing what to do can be lifesaving.



## IF YOU HIT A POWER POLE

1

### STAY IN THE VEHICLE

Unless the car is on fire, the safest place is inside your vehicle. The ground around the car may be energized.

2

### CALL 911

Let dispatch know you may be in contact with live electricity. They'll coordinate with the co-op/utility to shut off power before you exit.

3

### WARN OTHERS

Warn others to stay away by signaling or shouting to keep bystanders away from the vehicle or any downed lines.

4

### ONLY EXIT IN AN EMERGENCY

If you must get out due to smoke or fire, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together, without touching the car and the ground at the same time. Then, shuffle away, keeping both feet on the ground to avoid creating a path for electricity through your body.

## GENERAL WINTER TIPS

Always slow down in winter conditions, especially near power poles, intersections, or bends.

Keep an emergency kit in your car, including a flashlight, blankets, water and a phone charger.

Familiarize yourself with PKM Electric Cooperative's emergency contact number: **800-552-7366**.

## IF YOU SEE A DOWNDOWNED POWER LINE

1

### STAY AT LEAST 35 FEET AWAY

Electricity can arc across distances – even the length of a school bus. This is especially true on ice or slush.

2

### DO NOT DRIVE OVER THE LINE

Even if it looks harmless, a live wire can energize your car and the surrounding ground.

3

### CALL 911 AND YOUR CO-OP/UTILITY

Emergency crews are trained to handle electrical hazards safely.



For more power line safety tips this winter, visit [watchthewires.com](http://watchthewires.com).

# DATA CENTERS & ELECTRIC RATES

## MYTH



"DATA CENTERS  
WILL DRIVE UP MY  
ELECTRICITY COSTS."

## REALITY



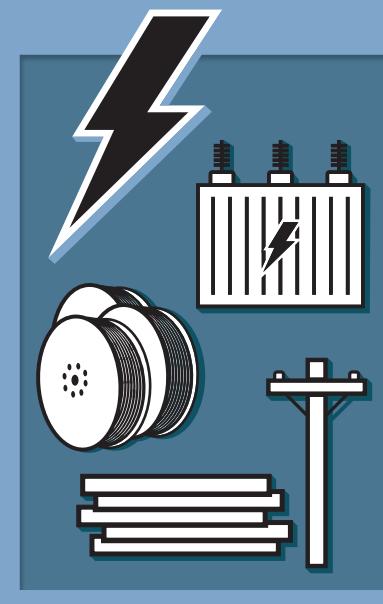
DATA CENTERS CAN  
ACTUALLY HELP KEEP  
ELECTRIC RATES STABLE.

## HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING:

1

**Most of your  
electric bill  
is made up of  
“fixed costs”**

When you pay your electric bill, you're not just paying for the power flowing into your home or business. You're also paying for the power plants, poles, wires, substations and other infrastructure that make the generation and delivery of that power possible. These are long-term investments, known as "fixed costs," that get paid for over decades, much like a mortgage. Every electric consumer contributes to those costs.



**2**

## Large electric consumers help cover these fixed costs

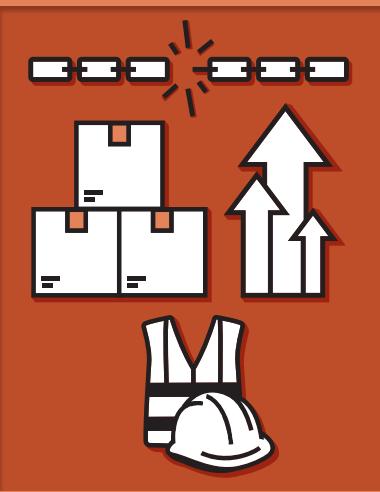
When a large customer – like a data center – connects to our system, they pay 100% of the new equipment they require (so others are not covering their upgrades). They also chip in heavily toward the existing system's fixed costs. That means the more they pay into the system, the less pressure there is on regular consumers. Their contributions can help keep rates stable and lessen the need for future increases.

**3**

## Rates may still go up for other reasons

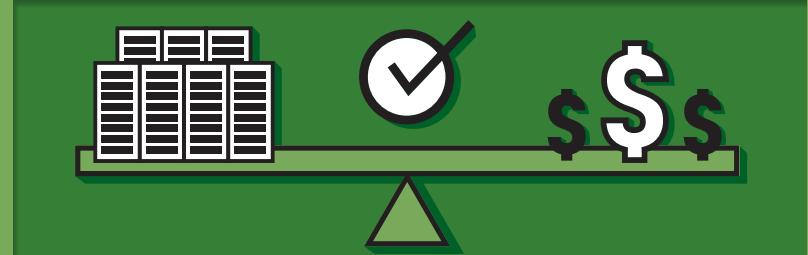
Does this mean rates never go up again? No.

Factors like supply chain challenges, inflation and rising costs of labor and materials are pushing expenses higher across the entire industry. But the key is that data centers help limit the impacts. Without their contributions, those increases could be even steeper for everyone else.

**4**

## Takeaway

With the right partnerships and structures, data centers aren't placing undue pressure on electric rates. By paying their fair share, they're helping stabilize costs for all of us.

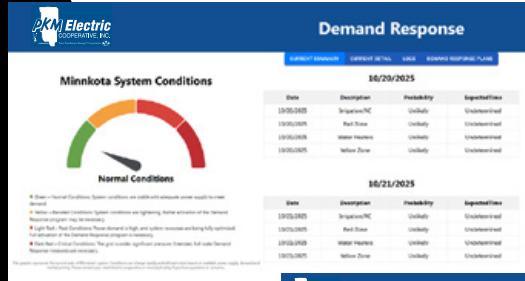


# OUR DEMAND RESPONSE WEBSITE

## HAS A NEW LOOK!

- Easy-to-understand interface
- Control probability
- Load group detail still available

Have questions about the new site or text/email alerts? Give us a call at **218-745-4711**.



CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE AT [PKM.MINNKOTADR.COM](http://PKM.MINNKOTADR.COM)

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY? SAY LESS...AND SAVE MORE!

Check out the benefits of **Electric Thermal Storage**



Forced Air Furnace



Hydronic Unit



Room Unit

- Little maintenance required
- Utilizes co-op's low-cost, off-peak electricity
- Rebates available – **\$45 per kilowatt**
- No backup fuel necessary



## WHAT IS OFF-PEAK?

An off-peak system consists of an electric heating source as its primary component. When PKM Electric Cooperative has high demand, the electric heat will automatically turn off and a supplemental heating source will need to operate in its place. Off-peak heating loads are generally controlled during the coldest months of the year when the demand for electricity is high.

By enrolling in the program, the savings we get on demand charges are passed on to the participating PKM Electric Cooperative members through the low off-peak electric rate, which is \$0.062/kWh – approximately half of the regular retail rate. This rate is extremely competitive with petroleum fuels used for heating.

Minnkota Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, tracks demand peaks and when control is needed, it sends a message via power lines that will reach you by your individually programmed ripple receiver at your home, farm or business and will automatically switch to the supplemental heat source.

There are many options for your off-peak heating installation, but the main requirement is a reliable backup system to ensure you have heat on the coldest days. If you are interested in off-peak, please contact our Member Services Department at **218-745-4711**.

We want to continue to be able to offer this program for years to come. The way we will be doing that is yearly checks on our off-peak equipment to ensure it is working properly. We will be able to monitor them from the office, which may also require an in-home inspection of the equipment.

## COLD WEATHER RULE

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule (216B.097), electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between **Oct. 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 PKM or by the local energy assistance provider (see below).
- You enter into and make reasonable and 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 PKM.

**Please note that the Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects.**

Before disconnecting electric service to residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30, PKM must provide:

- A 30-day mailed notice or 15-day hand-delivered notice
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities
- A list of local energy assistance providers
- Forms to request Cold Weather Rule protection
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This program is federally funded and can help low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at 50% of the state median income to qualify for benefits. To learn more about the EAP program or to apply visit the MN Dept. of Commerce Energy Assistance website at <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/> for more details and to access the application portal. Or simply contact your county's EAP service provider.

If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and regardless of whether you qualify for either of these programs, please contact PKM to set up a payment plan.

## LOCAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

### Northwest Community Action

PO Box 67, Badger, MN 56714-0067  
(218) 528-3258 or Toll Free (800) 568-5329  
(Serves east Marshall County and Kittson County)

### Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.

1407 Erskine Street, Crookston, MN 56716  
(218) 281-9080 or Toll Free (866) 264-3729  
(Serves west Marshall County and west Polk County)

# IS YOUR OFF-PEAK HEATING SYSTEM READY FOR WINTER?

Since weather conditions and future wholesale power market prices make the amount of load control hours hard to predict, all our off-peak members are encouraged to have a reliable, automatic dual heating system in place and ready to use.

To ensure your total comfort this winter, consider the following questions about your backup heating system:

1. Is the system sized to heat your entire home or business?
2. Does it maintain an adequate comfort level?
3. Is it reliable?
4. Is it fully automatic?

Check current fuel prices and be sure to fill your propane or fuel oil tank. Also, make sure your tank is large enough to hold an adequate supply. Remember, prices typically rise as demand increases during the heating season.

Our member services department is glad to answer any off-peak questions you may have.

# Board meeting **highlights** September and October

## **A special meeting of the board was held Friday, Sept. 19, 2025.**

Mark Hatton, president who presided, asked for roll call. Upon calling the roll, the president reported that all directors were present.

Line Superintendent Joe Marcotte presented the monthly safety and operations report, indicating no accidents and no lost time. The linemen continue to put cable in the ground as the crops are coming off. MN Safety was here for crew observations. MREA was here for training on transformer connections.

Manager of Member Services Danny Schmidt provided an update to directors regarding recent activities within his department. We have received all our meters from Eaton and the warranties on these are extended for three years starting Sept. 8, 2025. Minnkota is launching a new notification system for off-peak and commercial control. PKM has switched most of their cellphone plans to a new Verizon business plan.

Karen Olson, CFO, opened her report with an office update. We are still gathering information on PFMLA. We are working on wrapping up disconnects; we have never shut off power in the winter. We can but have chosen not to and are one of the only co-ops in Minnesota that don't shut members off. When the letters go out for disconnect, they will get a copy of the Cold Weather Rule. The CFO has been busy working on the budget.

The CFO continued with the presentation of the Operating and Financial report for the cooperative. She reported that revenue is up from 2024 by \$657,462.40 but we are over budget for the month by \$439,137.44. Expenses are currently under budget by \$175,375.16. Historical data for margins for a 10-year PTD and YTD comparison were provided and discussed. Other financial data was presented and discussed along with the current tier of 2.63, up from last year.

The CEO Jeff Rustad updated the directors on meetings he attended. He shared information on Carr's board meeting, MREA CEO conference, updates on our mapping program through NISC and updates on new American Crystal Sugar freeze piles.

Upon presentation of the reports from the management staff and CEO, questions and comments from the board concerning their reports were addressed.

Jeff Rustad, CEO, presented the load forecast from Minnkota Power Cooperative.

Director Woinarowicz and Director Aakre gave their reports on Minnkota and Square Butte. Hatton shared information from the regional meeting he attended.

The CEO shared miscellaneous information items that were presented including Carr's Tree Service financials, cooperative energy sales, and solar.

## **A regular meeting of the board was held Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025.**

Mark Hatton, president who presided, asked for roll call. Upon calling the roll, the president reported that all directors were present.

Line Superintendent Joe Marcotte presented the monthly safety and operations report, indicating no accidents and no lost time. MREA was here with the topic PPE review and Miff from MN was here with the topic of arc flash and noise hazards. The linemen are still working alongside Olson Underground and will continue to get cable in the ground before it freezes up. They will not get to the three-phase project this fall with all the rain we have been getting. PKM will carry over a bunch of 4/0 cable but will be ordering 1/0 cable. Marcotte also gave an update on a member damaging a 750-kVA transformer.

The Manager of Member Services, Danny Schmidt, provided an update to directors regarding recent activities within his department. He attended the Eaton conference with Jeff Rustad and Nolan Buchner. Hallock crews are installing RF meters in Lancaster/St. Vincent areas. Minnkota has started their winter control season with 4:14 minutes of yellow zone control and 0:0 minutes of red zone control. The Cooperative Month Open House had a great turnout with lots of members stopping in.

The CFO, Karen Olson, opened her report with an office update. Disconnects for non-payment were completed for the year on Sept. 30. We were able

to clear up a bulk of large past-due balances until spring.

The CFO continued with the presentation of the Operating and Financial report for the cooperative. She reported that revenue is up \$643,048.44 from 2024 and we are over budget by \$587,663.19 for the year. Expenses are under budget by \$110,388.01. Historical data for margins for a 10-year PTD and YTD comparison were provided and discussed. Other financial data was presented and discussed along with the current tier of 2.81.

The CEO, Jeff Rustad, updated the directors of his recent meetings he attended. He shared highlights from the Eaton meeting. Skinner roofing stopped in to inspect all building rubber roofs. There was a recall on the office roof seams; they repaired those and gave replacement quote for the shop roof and cold storage. We are training online with NISC to implement a new mapping program. NISC will be here in a few weeks to work in person with Matt Kazmierczak. PKM was able to get a replacement 750-kVA transformer for the member incident from Nodak; one of our vendors is sending Nodak a replacement.

The third quarter financials were reviewed by the board of directors and found to be an accurate representation of the second half financial transactions.

Director Woinarowicz and Director Aakre gave their reports on Minnkota and Square Butte. The directors watched and discussed the Governance Talk: Artificial Intelligence and Electric Cooperatives – Part 2 video.

At this point in the meeting, a business member spoke with the board on cost of service installs for their new accounts.

The CEO shared miscellaneous information with the directors including workers compensation rates, Mattracks hosting PKM Electric for safety training with their employees and the fire department with a hot voltage trailer, Federated Rural Electric member update, cooperative energy sales and monthly solar information.

Financials were provided for September and reviewed for Carr's Tree Service.

## PKM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE POLITICAL LEADERS

### **Federal Legislators**

#### **President Donald Trump**

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)  
202-456-1111

#### **Senator Tina Smith**

720 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5641

#### **Senator Amy Klobuchar**

425 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[www.klobuchar.senate.gov](http://www.klobuchar.senate.gov)  
202-224-3244  
1-888-224-9043 (Minnesota office)  
Fax: 202-228-2186

#### **Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach**

1237 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
[www.fischbach.house.gov](http://www.fischbach.house.gov)

202-225-2165  
Fax: 202-225-1593

### **State of Minnesota Legislators**

#### **Governor Tim Walz**

Capitol Building, Room 130  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin  
Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
800-657-3717  
[www.mn.gov/governor](http://www.mn.gov/governor)

#### **Senator Mark Johnson**

95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Building,  
Room 3111  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-5782  
[sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn](mailto:sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn)  
[www.senate.mn/members](http://www.senate.mn/members)

#### **Representative John Burkel**

309 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

651-296-9635  
[rep.john.burkel@house.mn](mailto:rep.john.burkel@house.mn)

#### **Representative Steve Gander**

Centennial Office Building  
(Second Floor)  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-5091  
[rep.steve.gander@house.mn](mailto:rep.steve.gander@house.mn)

# PKM COOPERATIVE MONTH OPEN HOUSE

## Coloring Contest & Prize Winners!



Members were invited to stop into the PKM office in Warren the week of Oct. 8-10 for treats, to register for giveaways and to participate in a kids coloring contest as we celebrated National Co-op Month.

### CO-OP MONTH GIVEAWAY WINNERS

- \$250 Energy Credit: **Terri Syverson** (Karlstad, Minn.)
- \$100 Energy Credit: **James Kuznia** (Stephen, Minn.)
- \$50 Energy Credit: **Rene Newland** (Alvarado, Minn.)

### CO-OP MONTH DOOR PRIZE WINNER

- Blackstone Electric Griddle: **Debra and David Benson**

### CO-OP MONTH KIDS COLORING CONTEST WINNERS

- \$50 Visa Gift Card: **Jonas Miska** (12 years old)
- \$50 Visa Gift Card: **Cecilia Muller** (7 years old)
- \$50 Visa Gift Card: **Wyatt Barrett** (2 years old)



## Electrical Inspectors

### Marshall County

Nick Boman  
651-627-2696

### Kittson County

Ronald Ditsch  
218-779-6758

### Polk County

Todd Knaack  
763-516-0344

## NEED HELP 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.

### NORTHWEST COMMUNITY ACTION

PO Box 67  
Badger, MN 56714-0067  
(218) 528-3258 or (800) 568-5329  
[nwcaa.org](http://nwcaa.org)

### TRI-VALLEY OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL, INC.

1407 Erskine Street  
Crookston, MN 56716  
(218) 281-9080 or (866) 264-3729



**YOU CAN ALSO  
APPLY ONLINE:**

<https://energy-assistance.web.commerce.state.mn.us>



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY: TIP OF THE MONTH

To maximize your fireplace's efficiency, always keep the damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. An open damper is like an open window, allowing warm indoor air to escape and cold air to enter. Consider installing a fireplace insert, which improves heat output by circulating warm air into the room rather than letting it escape up the chimney. Regularly clean and inspect your chimney to maintain safe and efficient operation.



**JAN / FEB  
2026**

**ELECTRICAL  
CONTRACTOR**  
**CONTINUING  
EDUCATION  
COURSES**

**REGISTER  
ONLINE AT**  
**MINNKOTA.COM**

**\$85 TO  
REGISTER**  
**EIGHT CODE  
CREDITS**

**January 6 or  
January 7, 2026**  
Fargo, North Dakota  
*Fargo Holiday Inn*

**January 15,  
2026**  
Bemidji, Minnesota  
*Bemidji Eagles Club*

**January 22,  
2026**  
Fergus Falls, Minnesota  
*Bigwood Event Center*

**February 3 or  
February 4, 2026**  
Grand Forks, North Dakota  
*Minnkota Power Cooperative*

For more info about the program, please call **(701) 795-4292** or  
e-mail any questions to [contractortraining@minnkota.com](mailto:contractortraining@minnkota.com).