

JANUARY 2019

MWEC

Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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More electric vehicles on the road



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- **Win the trip of a lifetime**
- **Meeting minutes ... and more!**



More electric vehicles on the road

Are you looking for a ride that offers higher fuel efficiency, superior performance and energy independence? Plug-in electric vehicles (EVs) can help put you in the driver's seat. EVs may still represent a road less traveled in the overall vehicle market, but the number of buyers making the connection is growing. U.S. EV sales jumped 37 percent in 2016, with total sales of nearly 160,000 vehicles.

Electric vehicles have been available in the United States since the 1890s. However, it has only been in recent years, with technology advances and the push to reduce dependence on foreign oil, that electric vehicles have shown promise for widespread adoption. Major automotive manufacturers such as General Motors and Nissan have introduced commercially available electric vehicle models, while others are in development.

EVs provide several benefits compared to conventional automobiles, including:

- ✓ Lower operating costs. EVs cost significantly less to operate than gasoline-fueled vehicles. EVs are less expensive per mile than gasoline vehicles. Also, electricity rates are consistent over time; no more worries about jumps in gasoline prices.
- ✓ Energy efficiency. Electric motors use 75 percent of the chemical energy in batteries to turn the wheels, while conventional engines convert only 20 percent of the energy stored in gasoline.
- ✓ Environmentally friendly. Electric power-plant-to-wheels emissions are lower than gasoline

well-to-wheel emissions. While EVs have no tailpipe emissions, there are emissions from generating electric power. Still, EVs reduce emissions by 30 to 60 percent, compared to internal combustion engines.

- ✦ Superior performance. Electric vehicles provide quiet, smooth operation and require less maintenance than gasoline engines.
- ✦ Domestic fuel source. Electric vehicles can help reduce dependence of foreign oil.
- ✦ With a growing charging infrastructure and the help of federal incentives, the market for electric vehicles is expected to increase in the coming years.

Types of electric vehicles

There are two types of electric vehicles available: battery-powered electric vehicles (BEV) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV).

BEVs are driven solely by an electric motor powered by a rechargeable battery. Some BEVs have on-board chargers, while others use plug-in chargers. Most range up to 80 to 100 miles on one charge, while some more expensive models have ranges of up to 250 miles. Commercially available BEVs include the Nissan Leaf and the Tesla Model S.

PHEVs are driven by both a gasoline engine and an electric motor with a rechargeable battery. Most daily driving needs can be met using electric power; however, the gasoline engine provides extended driving range for longer trips. Some PHEV models also use biofuels and other alternative fuels. The Honda Civic Hybrid, Chevrolet Volt and the Ford Fusion Energi are examples of PHEVs available on the market.

See www.fueleconomy.gov for more information about EVs and to compare different models.

Charging stations powering up

You can charge your vehicle at home, at work or at the growing number of public charging stations available. There are more than 16,000 public charging stations across the country, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

The lack of a charging infrastructure to support electric vehicles has been a significant barrier to adoption, but that is changing. Currently, there are nearly 14,000 public charging stations in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. In 2015 alone, the number of public charging stations increased by 27 percent.

How do you find charging stations? With mobile apps such as PlugShare and Next Charge, you can locate a

station on the go. With the U.S. Department of Energy's Alternative Fueling Station Locator, you can search for stations near an address or ZIP code.

Financial incentives

EVs typically cost more than conventional vehicles. However, newly purchased models may be eligible for a federal tax credit of up to \$7,500. The credit amount will vary based on the capacity of the battery used to fuel the vehicle.

What's driving the growth in EV sales? A report by the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) identified a number of recent trends:

- ✦ Lower prices and increased range. Tesla and Chevrolet plan to start selling electric cars with a range of more than 200 miles priced in the \$30,000–\$35,000 range (before incentives) by 2018.
- ✦ Advances in battery technology are dramatically improving the performance and reducing the costs of EVs. Battery prices fell 35 percent last year, according to an analysis by Bloomberg New Energy Finance.
- ✦ Growth in charging stations. In 2016 alone, the number of charging stations in the U.S. increased by 36 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Types of charging stations

Charging equipment is classified by the rate at which batteries are charged. Charging time can range from 15 minutes to 20 hours, depending on the vehicle and the equipment used. There are three types of charging stations:

- ✦ Level 1 chargers can take up to 20 hours to fully charge. They're mainly for home use.
- ✦ Level 2 chargers require 240-volt service and add 10 to 20 miles per hour of charging time.
- ✦ DC (direct current) fast charging stations add up to 80 miles of vehicle range in 20 minutes. These are growing in popularity as the charging station of choice for public facilities.

EV stations are embedded with an onboard computer and are network-enabled. Networks can track and report energy usage, charging session start and stop times, control usage and prevent users from driving away while plugged in. ■

Achievable resolutions

BY ALLISON GOLDBERG

Do most new years speed past as resolutions are forgotten? You are not alone. Setting large, difficult goals and making strong initial progress that fades as the weeks go by happens to everyone. Don't worry; small changes can have big impacts and be easier to maintain. Here are some reasonable resolutions to help you make healthy, positive changes.

If you want to eat better, but find you cannot adhere to a strict, restrictive diet, try making more nutritious choices one at a time.

- Add an extra serving of nutritiously prepared vegetables every day, like steamed or roasted veggies as a side, salsa instead of butter on your baked potato or adding mushrooms to ground beef.
- Cut both sugary and artificially sweetened soft drinks to only one each week. Don't deny yourself. Make it a special treat!
- Replace sugary or refined snacks and breakfast foods with fruits, nuts and whole grains. Try fresh fruit and nuts or nut butter or avocado and cheese on whole grain toast. Use lightly sweetened granola in plain yogurt or oats with berries. Delicious and nutritious.

If you resolved to use the gym but you're not going, find a way to make it engaging and hold yourself accountable.

- Find a gym buddy, go together and hold each other accountable.
- Try a resolution accountability app, like Pact, which attaches monetary value to your dedication.
- Make working out more social with fitness social media apps or support groups on social networks.
- Make it more social in real life by joining fitness classes or searching for groups that get together for fitness activities, both in the gym and outdoors.
- If the gym truly isn't for you, quit. Take a dance or self-defense class, riding lessons or outdoor survival course. Do what moves you, literally and figuratively.

If you resolved to get organized, but find yourself still living in clutter, running late or not getting enough sleep, tackle organization with small tasks.



- Section by section, put things away, dust or disinfect and do not allow yourself to re-clutter a cleaned area. Invest in attractive storage solutions and clean one section each evening until you finish every section.
- Decide if you pick up an object, you must put it down in its rightful place.
- Use your phone's calendar to track every appointment and block off time. Set reminders to provide enough time to get out the door and on the road. You can also use it to remind yourself to go to bed early, give the dog its medication, bake cookies for a bake sale or spend a few minutes tidying at the end of each day.
- Say no to unnecessary or unimportant requests that stretch your time and patience, to which you cannot give your full attention or that sound just plain terrible. Prioritize the people and activities you care about most, including yourself. ■

Allison Goldberg writes and edits employee benefits-related materials for the Insurance and Financial Services Department of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



Wise up about smoke alarms

The beginning of the year serves as an informal reminder to replace smoke alarm batteries.

Do you have enough?

Each floor – which now means a basement level, too, even if it's unfinished – needs a smoke alarm. This includes an alarm within 20 feet of each bedroom (in a small home, that could mean just one in the hall), plus one inside each bedroom. In garages and unfinished attics, install a heat alarm; these sense temperature rather than smoke.

Are they connected?

As of 2007, interconnected alarms are a code requirement for homes old and new: When one alarm goes off, all should sound. Newer homes have hardwired systems, but it's easy to retrofit an older house with wireless, battery powered units linked via Wi-Fi or radio frequency (RF). Upgrade your whole house at once; not all models are compatible, even within the same brand.

Are the batteries fresh?

Even hardwired alarms need battery backup in case of a power outage. Many newer smoke alarms are sold with 10-year batteries – which is the life span of any smoke alarm. Toss any units that are older (check the date of manufacture on the back). And sealed or not, test any alarm with a battery monthly to make sure it's working.

10 Quick Tips to Avoid High Winter Bills

Looking to lower your bills this winter? Use the 10 tips below to conserve energy.



1 Seal air leaks and insulate well to prevent heat from escaping and cold air from entering your home.



2 Reduce waste heat by installing a programmable thermostat.



3 Turn off lights when not in use.



4 Lower your water heater temperature. The Dept. of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months.



5 Unplug electronics like kitchen appliances and TVs when you're away.



6 Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home.



7 Close blinds and curtains at night to keep cold, drafty air out.



8 Use power strips for multiple appliances, and turn off the main switch when you're away from home.



9 Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.



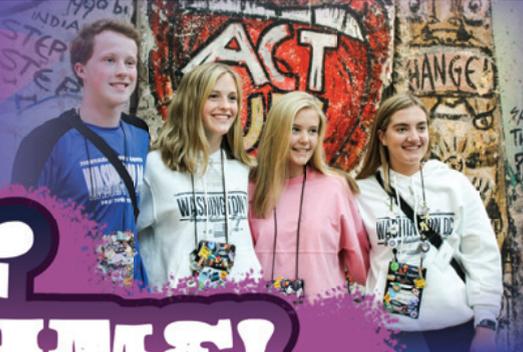
10 Replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

JUNE 15-21, 2019

WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND

**WIN A TRIP
OF A LIFETIME!**



AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative.
- If you have a question, contact Jessica George, Mountrail-Williams Electric, at the address listed below, or call 701-577-3765 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 31, 2019. Emailed entries should be directed to jessicam@mwec.com, and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative, 218 58th St. W., P.O. Box 1346, Williston, ND 58802-1346.

TOP **3** REASONS TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.



ESSAY QUESTION:

Electric cooperatives are member-owned and controlled. As a future member-owner of your cooperative, describe ways that smart technologies and social media might be used to communicate with young adults. How might they be used to increase awareness and interest in the many career opportunities with electric cooperatives?

CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT
www.ndyouthtour.com

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS

North Dakota Electric Cooperative

YOUTH TOUR

Unofficial minutes
of regular board meeting
Nov. 28, 2018

Directors present: Lalim, Ludwig, Jorgenson, Grant, Hartsoch, Johnson and Lynne. Directors Lahtinen and Sorenson appeared by video conference.

Directors absent: none.

Others present: Manager Haugen, in-house counsel Johnson Ellis, attorney Foust and staff members.

The meeting was held at the Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC) office building and called to order at 12:20 p.m. An executive session was added to the agenda and approved as amended. Minutes of the regular board meeting from Oct. 31, 2018, were accepted as presented.

SAFETY MOMENT: Manager Haugen informed the board of the MWEC emergency evacuation plan is available electronically and asked they review the plan and bring back any questions at the regularly scheduled December board meeting.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Foust reviewed the proposed changes of director qualifications to the bylaws and director nominations with the board. The board discussed the proposed requirement for a background check and the ability of the board to disqualify or remove a board member. They asked attorney Foust and in-house counsel Johnson Ellis to bring back revised language to further define what passing a background check means and ability to remove or disqualify. The current nominating process and director districts were reviewed. The board engaged in discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of nominations from the floor and of appointing a Nominating Committee. They asked attorney Foust and in-house counsel Johnson Ellis to present language to further clarify how the cooperative's director districts are outlined. The board also talked about the need to solicit director openings on multiple platforms such as social media, cooperative website, the monthly magazine and in bill stuffers.

In-house counsel Johnson Ellis presented a proposed Policy 203 – Financial Management. The board had already reviewed and discussed the policy in a prior meeting, but no action on acceptance and adoption was made at that meeting. Policy 203 was accepted and adopted by the board as presented.

OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REPORT: Jodi Collings presented the operating report for the year to date and for October. The total margins and

capital credits for the year to date was \$23,081,627. OTIER is 2.51; MDSC is 2.40; cooperative equity is 25.58 percent; and SPP equity is 36.23 percent.

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT/WORK

ORDER CLOSEOUTS: The board approved the closeout of the following special equipment/work orders:

Closeout 715\$226,379.35
TOTAL.....\$226,379.35

BAD DEBTS: The board approved the transfer of \$12,141.05 from accounts receivable to bad debts. Efforts will continue to collect these sums including the retention of capital credits.

CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENTS: The board approved the retirement of the following capital credit accounts for November:

Arnold O. Johnson estate
Violet Olson estate
Gary Langed estate
Joyce Howell estate
Roger W. Anderson estate
Darlene Whitman estate

MANAGER'S REPORT:

SAFETY –The in-house safety meeting minutes from Nov. 1, 2018, were made available for the board to review.

RELIABILITY AND OUTAGE REPORT – The reliability and outage report was made available for review. There were 126 outages in October and the SAIDI in minutes for the month was 7.016.

COMPLIANCE – Jerry Rehak and in-house counsel Johnson Ellis reported on the state of MWEC compliance with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) standards. The cooperative owns certain facilities that require it to comply with NERC standards to ensure reliable bulk electric services. They explained the scope of the standards that apply to the cooperative and what procedures are in place and practices to ensure the cooperative complies. To comply with the standards that apply to the cooperative, the cooperative must document how a procedure is completed, complete that procedure and provide evidentiary support that the procedure was followed. Depending on the standard, this is generally completed quarterly or annually. The cooperative has a Compliance Committee that meets every two weeks to stay on top of this.

SOUTHWEST POWER POOL (SPP) – The proposed MWEC informational filing of 2019 annual update was made available for the board and will be submitted Dec. 14, 2018.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – All final punch list items for the office building are expected to be completed by 2019.

GENERATOR UPDATE – Construction of the generator campus will begin in December.

NEW TOWN MEETING – Manager Haugen gave a report on his meeting with Councilwoman Dr. Monica Mayer.

MEETING REPORTS:

NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES (NDAREC) – Director Grant gave a brief report on the November board meeting and also presented the Anne Carlsen Center request to meet with the MWEC board regarding its new facility. The annual meeting notice was made available.

Certification of NDAREC director: Bob Grant

Certification of NDAREC alternate Director: Cheryl Hartsoch

Voting delegates for annual meeting: Directors Sorenson, Grant, Hartsoch, Jorgenson, Johnson, Lalim, Lynne, Ludwig and Lahtinen.

Alternate voting delegates for annual meeting: MWEC staff in attendance.

UPPER MISSOURI POWER COOPERATIVE – Director Jorgenson reported on the last board meeting. The General Manager Update from November 21, 2018 was made available.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. ■

**MOUNTRAIL-WILLIAMS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

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Robert GrantVice-Chairperson
Cheryl Hartsoch Treasurer
Blaine JorgensonSecretary
Larry Johnson..... Director
Aaron Lynne Director
Garrett Lalim Director
Luke Lahtinen Director
Dick Ludwig Director
Neff, Eiken
& Neff, PC.....Project Attorney
Dale HaugenGeneral Manager

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