

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



ATVs in SD

**Summer fun on the
off-road trails**

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solutions**

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Stable power sources more critical now than ever before



Ken Schlimgen
General Manager

If you read my column last month, you remember that I encouraged you as a member to attend your district meetings. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend in person and thank you to those of you who took the time to watch the video we placed on our website and Facebook.

As part of my column, I mentioned that in order for our cooperative to be successful we need to have many people and organizations working together. A major component to our success is a reliable supply of wholesale power.

We are witnessing an energy evolution first-hand. As I drive across our service area, I see wind turbines owned by our cooperative family and other utilities. I am also hearing interest in solar panels like the ones installed in 2015 at our office. Every month I read news coming from car companies announcing plans to offer more electric vehicles and how battery technology is improving. Polaris has announced a new all electric UTV available this December that they claim will be their best model ever produced.

With all these changes, it is more important than ever to control our supply of electric power. How does your cooperative do that and how much comes from renewable resources? Your cooperative, is an owner of two other cooperatives who are responsible for generating electric power and for delivering that electric power to Central Electric. We have a seat at their board table and have a say in their operations.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is based out of Bismarck ND. Basin Electric owns and operates multiple generating facilities, including wind, natural gas, coal, and heat recovery systems. Basin also has contracts for adding 128 MW of wind and 298 MW of solar generation in the next two years. Basin Electric has the ability to choose generation resources based on availability and cost. They

also have the option to purchase power from the wholesale market. This flexibility helps Basin Electric to be one of the lowest cost electric power producers in our Region.

Once this power is produced, it is delivered to East River Electric Cooperative based in Madison SD. East River owns and maintains the transmission lines and substations needed to deliver electric power to Central Electric. East River also receives an allocation of hydro-electric power from the Western Area Power Administration and blends this power with the power received from Basin Electric.

Green energy is certainly not new. Solar, wind and hydro power have been around for decades. However, in recent years, your cooperative family of Basin Electric and East River Electric have been able to adjust our fuel mix and utilize more renewables. In 2020 almost 44% of your electricity came from wind and hydro energy. It was the first time that the amount of electricity generated from renewables and hydro outpaced the amount of electricity that was generated from coal. I believe this trend will continue as your cooperative responds to what our members are asking of us.

In 2020 almost 44% of your electricity came from wind and hydro energy resources.

Changing technology and renewable energy are the future but we do still depend on traditional forms of energy to keep power flowing reliably to your home. That's why there is real value in owning your generation resources and maintaining a balanced mixture of resources. This improves reliability, resiliency and the ability to meet the demand for electricity at all times. This is also why there is value in working with Basin Electric and East River Electric to help us in meeting your needs.

Until next month, be safe!

To contact your cooperative with questions, you may email cec@centraleccoop.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

CENTRAL ELECTRIC

(USPS 018-963)

Board of Directors

- Duane Wolbrink - President
- Todd VanWalleghen - Vice President
- Bernetta Burghardt - Secretary
- Mark Reindl - Treasurer
- Mark Hofer - NRECA Director
- Roger Campbell - Director
- Donita Loudner - SDREA Director
- Darwin "Butch" Morrison - Director
- Jim Headley - Director At Large

Management Staff

- Ken Schlimgen - General Manager
- Brian Bultje - Manager of Operations
- Dean Uher - Manager of Finance & Administration
- Lincoln Feistner - Sales/Project Manager
- Patrick Soukup - Manager of Member Services & Marketing
- Tara Miller - Manager of Communications

CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Central Electric Cooperative, PO Box 850, Mitchell, SD 57301. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Central Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to their cooperative and living better with electricity. Also available at www.centraleccoop.com.

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Postmaster: Please send address changes to Central Electric Cooperative, PO Box 850, Mitchell, SD 57301. Address all other correspondence to: Cooperative Connections, PO Box 850, Mitchell, SD 57301
 Telephone: (605)996-7516; Fax: (605) 996-0869; e-mail: cec@centraleccoop.com; website: www.centraleccoop.com.

Contact Us

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Phone: 1-800-477-2892 or 1-605-996-7516
 Website: www.centraleccoop.com

Our Mission

Provide reliable energy and services with a commitment to safety and member satisfaction.

Board meeting summary

The board of directors met April 19, 2021, at Central Electric Cooperative's Betts Road Service Center for the regular board meeting. The board approved the March 2021 meeting minutes. The board then reviewed monthly reports by management including details on operations, member services, communications, service department and financials.

The board and management participated in the virtual NRECA Legislative Conference. Discussion topics included broadband infrastructure legislation, electric vehicle tax credits, power generation and transmission.

- Upcoming meetings, conferences and training opportunities
- Quarterly Finance Committee board rotations

East River Director Wolbrink reported on the East River board meeting and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission updates. Discussion followed.

Director Hofer reported on NRECA updates from the latest NRECA Board meeting. Discussion followed.

BOARD ACTION

The board considered or acted upon the following:

- A motion was made and seconded to allocate capital credits to include corrections to 2019 allocations as recommended by management. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
- The board reviewed Policy 112 Director Fees and Expenses. A motion was made and seconded requesting management revise the policy to provide adjusted per diem for conference calls and virtual meetings lasting two hours or less. Motion carried unanimously.

The next board meeting was scheduled for May 17, 2021.

BOARD REPORT

General Manager Ken Schlimgen updated the board on the following items:

- East River Manager's Advisory Committee
- Rural Electric Economic Development and Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program updates
- Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Dakota Gas update
- Mitchell Technical College Powerline Construction Program
- Rural Utility Service lending
- Upcoming District Meetings
- Interconnect agreements with commercial members
- Renewable energy credits (RECs)
- S.D. residential rate comparisons

FINANCIAL REPORT	APRIL 2021	YEAR-TO-DATE 2021
Kilowatt Hour (kWh) Sales	28,033,134 kWhs	125,840,383 kWhs
Electric Revenues	\$ 2,797,806	\$ 12,096,080
Total Cost of Service	\$ 2,785,430	\$ 12,009,522
Operating Margins	\$ 12,376	\$ 86,558

Handling food safely when grilling outdoors

One of America's favorite summer pastimes is grilling, and safe grilling starts with proper food handling. Here are a few simple guidelines for grilling food safely:

- Wash away harmful bacteria. Avoid providing a hotbed for bacteria. Unwashed hands are a prime cause of foodborne illness, also known as food poisoning, as are unwashed perishable foods such as meat, seafood, and peeled or cut fruits and vegetables.

- Keep perishable foods cold. If you'll be meeting up with friends away from your backyard grill, it's best to transport all perishables in an insulated cooler kept cold with ice or frozen gel packs.

- Throw away any perishable leftovers that have been out of a refrigerator or cooler for more than two hours—one hour if the temperature is above 90 degrees.

- Keep coolers out of direct sunlight and avoid opening them frequently, to keep the cold air inside.

- Marinate safely. Marinated meats should be stored immediately in a refrigerator or cooler, not on the kitchen counter or outside next to the grill. As long as a marinade is stored in a cool environment, it can remain there safely for several hours or days.

- Do not use marinade from a raw meat/marinade mixture as a sauce on cooked meat, unless you first cook the

sauce to a boil for at least three minutes to kill harmful bacteria.

- Use grilling shortcuts.

Pre-cooking food partially indoors before putting it on a preheated grill will give you quick results when your friends are hungry or your grill is slow or small. Conversely, flame-grill meat for a smoky, charbroiled flavor, then bake in an oven until it's cooked properly.

- Cook thoroughly and use a meat thermometer. It's best to cook food to the safe minimum internal temperature to destroy harmful bacteria. On the grill, meat and poultry will brown quickly, but the inside might only be cooked partially. To be sure the food has reached a safe internal temperature, use a meat thermometer.

Here are some safe minimum internal temperatures:

- Chicken: 165 degrees
- Beef hamburgers: 160 degrees

- Beef, veal and lamb (steaks, roasts and chops): medium-rare 145 degrees, medium

- 160 degrees
- Pork: 165 degrees

With proper refrigeration and thorough cooking, your backyard barbecue will be a tasty success.



AVOID UTILITY SCAMS

Scammers will threaten you with everything from shutting off power to your home to legal action. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

- Our employees will never show up at your door to demand payment.
- Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Our representatives have access

- to the details they need to service your account.
- Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.



Don't fly kites near trees and power lines

Annette Tschetter, 7 years old

Annette is the daughter of Elaine and Ryan Tschetter of Revillo. They are members of Whetstone Valley Electric based in Milbank.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

SUMMERTIME DESSERTS

WHOOPIE PIES

Ingredients:

1 box spice cake mix
1 1/2 cups apple butter
1/2 cup canola oil
2 eggs
8 ounces cream cheese
4 tablespoons butter
3 cups powdered sugar
2 tablespoons milk
1 teaspoon vanilla

METHOD

Heat oven to 350 F. Line baking sheet with parchment paper. In large bowl, whisk spice cake mix, apple butter, oil and eggs. With ice cream scoop or large tablespoon, spoon batter into rounded heaps, about 2-3 inches in diameter, onto parchment paper. Space spooned batter 2 inches apart. Bake 14 minutes. Let cool. In large bowl, beat cream cheese, butter and powdered sugar until smooth. Add milk and vanilla; beat until blended. Frost flat sides of pie halves and place halves together. Refrigerate and store in sealed container.

Culinary.net

ROCKY ROAD ICE CREAM

Ingredients:

1/2 cup cocoa powder
1 -14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk
2 cup heavy cream
1 cup half & half
1 TBS vanilla
1/2 cup chopped pecans
1 cup miniature marshmallows

METHOD

In a small saucepan put in cocoa and whisk in sweetened condensed milk until smooth. Cook over low heat, whisking constantly until slightly thickened, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Transfer to a bowl and stir in both creams and vanilla. Pour mixture into ice cream maker and freeze. Stir in pecans and marshmallows halfway through freezing process. Transfer to airtight container and put in freezer to harden, about an hour. Makes 2 quarts.

Joan Antonen, Arlington, SD

PRALINE PECAN CRUNCH

Ingredients:

1 21 oz. box Quaker Oat Squares cereal (about 8 cups)
2 cups pecans
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 cup light corn syrup
1/4 cup margarine
1/2 tsps baking soda

METHOD

Heat oven to 250 degrees. Mix cereal and pecans in 9"x13" pan. Set aside. Mix corn syrup, brown sugar and margarine in glass bowl. Microwave on high 1-1/2 minutes. Stir, microwave 1 to 1-1/2 minutes more or until boiling. Stir in vanilla and baking soda and pour over cereal mixture. Stir to coat evenly. Bake 1 hour, stirring every 20 minutes. Spread on baking sheet to cool. Break into pieces and store in air tight container.

NANCY STENSON, FORT PIERRE

MAMA'S CARAMEL PUDDING

Ingredients:

1 cup sugar - melt in skillet until golden brown
2 cups milk - stir until sugar is dissolved
4 tsps. corn starch stirred into a little milk

METHOD

Cook until thickened. Serve with whipped cream.

Elaine Rowett, Sturgis, SD

Please send your favorite dairy recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2021. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

Central Electric Cooperative is awarding \$750 scholarships to 12 high school juniors who will enter their senior year this fall. The scholarships were offered in lieu of the annual Washington, D.C. Youth Tour, which was cancelled.

Scholarship recipients are Josephine Brock of Winfred, Shania Cornelius of Forestburg, Dayton Easton of Letcher, Christa Glanzer of Mitchell, Miranda Hanson of Alexandria, Jenna Johnson of Reliance, Emily Konechne of White Lake, Samantha Peppel of Chamberlain, Ella Regan of Mitchell, Chloe Schmitt of Canova, Shyla Tobin of Plankinton and Julia Weber of Alexandria.

Dayton Easton and Miranda Hanson were also selected to attend South Dakota Rural Electric Association's Youth Connect Con leadership conference at Black Hills State University in Spearfish this summer.

To be considered for the scholarship and leadership seminar, students had to produce an original video, presentation or essay explaining the benefits of cooperative membership. Recipients must be high school juniors residing in Central Electric Cooperative's service territory, a town within the territory, or be a dependent of a Central Electric Cooperative member.

We send sincere congratulations to these deserving scholars!



Josephine Brock

Howard H.S.
Daughter of Riemke Brok & Arjen Brok



Shania Cornelius

Sanborn Central H.S.
Daughter of Jeanette Cornelius



Dayton Easton

Sanborn Central H.S.
Daughter of JD & Jenny Easton



Christa Glanzer

Mount Vernon H.S.
Daughter of Chad & Joni Glanzer



Miranda Hanson

Hanson H.S.
Daughter of Jason & Rita Hanson



Jenna Johnson

Chamberlain H.S.
Daughter of JJ & Lori Lafferty



Emily Konechne

White Lake H.S.
Daughter of Mike & Estelle Konechne



Samantha Peppel

Chamberlain H.S.
Daughter of Stacy Turgeon



Ella Regan

Mitchell H.S.
Daughter of Chad & Kacee Regan



Chloe Schmitt

Bridgewater-Emery H.S.
Daughter of Dave & Christine Schmitt



Shyla Tobin

Plankinton H.S.
Daughter of Sheldon & Carrie Tobin



Julia Weber

Bridgewater-Emery H.S.
Daughter of Doug & Wendy Weber



CHA- CHING!

Cash in on the savings with your Co-op Connections Card

Your cooperative membership earns you discounts at local participating businesses. Simply show your Co-op Connections Card and save.

Get your card or become a participating business by contacting our office. For more information, call 1-800-477-2892 or email cec@centralec.coop.

A list of local discounts can be viewed on our website by visiting www.centralec.coop and selecting "Member Programs" on the homepage menu.

BUSINESS	TOWN	DISCOUNT
Ken's Service	Gann Valley	10% off tire repair services
M & H	Mitchell	5 cents off gallon of gas
Merchandise Outlet	Mitchell	10% off pair of boots; some exclusions apply, not valid with other discounts
Miedema Sanitation	Mitchell	10% off rolloff construction boxes
Mitchell Econolodge Motel	Mitchell	10% discount
Mitchell KOA	Mitchell	10% discount May 1-Oct. 30 excluding holiday weekends
Mueller Lumber Company	Mitchell	10% off regular priced in-stock hardware store merchandise; excludes power tools, sale items, and discounted merchandise
NAPA	Chamberlain	10% off non-sale items



Summer fun awaits off the beaten path

Off-road enthusiasts from far and wide come to ride the Black Hills. Photos by Billy Gibson

From the Black Hills to Avon, off-road ATV trails attract outdoor enthusiasts

Billy Gibson
billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Generations ago, folks flocked to the tiny hamlet of Nemo to search for gold buried deep in the nooks and crannies of the Black Hills region.

Today they come in search of family outdoor fun and adventure along the hundreds of miles of nature trails that course throughout the craggy terrain.

During most months of the year, Nemo is a quiet outpost with a

smattering of permanent residents who spend their days in unhurried leisure. But the warm summer months bring thousands of visitors seeking to explore the undulating wooded landscape on foot or on horseback, but most of all nestled in the seat of a side-by-side.

The Black Hills area is widely regarded as the state's top draw for all-terrain adventurers, and Nemo stands smack dab at the center of the action.

One of the town's busiest denizens during the summer crush is Dane Hilger, who runs D&K ATV

Rentals in Nemo. Hilger does a brisk business pairing up riders with fully licensed and permitted machines that allow visitors to free-range along the trails and take in the breathtaking vistas. His fleet of more than a dozen two-seaters and four-seaters gets snapped up quickly as the town is completely transformed during the summer season, which typically kicks off with the annual Black Hills ATV/UTV Rally held in mid-June.

"There are so many people in town it seems like it's hard to get around sometimes, but it's very family-oriented and everybody gets along and has a good time getting out and enjoying the great outdoors."

Vacationers and even day-trippers have access to everything they need during a visit to Nemo with the Brandin’ Iron restaurant, camping sites, a general store and lodging.

Adam Rice, a native of Rapid City, owns and operates the Brandin’ Iron in addition to another restaurant in Arizona. Soon after high school, he headed to Arizona for culinary school and later opened his business there. But two years ago, Rice was lured back to South Dakota and decided to resettle in Nemo.

“The town just has an aura about it. It’s pristine and gorgeous. There’s no better way to see the Black Hills. You can get to a lot of cool places through the trail system that goes literally thousands of miles and you never have to get on the road. You can get to Deadwood, you can get to Mount Rushmore, you can get to Sturgis. I go out into the woods just about every day. There’s always something interesting to see.”

Larry Kaiser owns the Nemo Merchantile store where visitors will find fuel, snacks, beverages, clothing and an assortment of dry goods.

He laments that during the summer he is often too busy to ride the trails, but he enjoys supplying the provisions visitors need.

“It’s just a lot of fun. You meet the most interesting people and everybody’s having a good time.”

“It’s just a lot of fun. You meet the most interesting people and everybody’s having a good time.”



TOP ATV TRAILS IN SD

1. **Centennial Trail**
West of Rapid City
2. **Northern Black Hills**
West of Rapid City
3. **Southern Black Hills**
Southwest of Rapid City
4. **Buffalo Gap National Grassland**
Southeast of Farmingdale
5. **Bear Lodge Mountains**
North of Sundance
6. **Oahe Downstream OHV Area**
North of Pierre
7. **Talsmas ATV Trail Park**
South of Avon
8. **Reveheim Bay OHV Area**
Southeast of Mobridge

They bring their kids, the grand parents and the dog and they just relax, unwind and have fun.”

While Nemo may be considered the mecca of ATV riders, there are several other prime spots in South Dakota open to the public.

In the southeastern region of the state near Avon, Jerry and Tina Talsma welcome ATV riders to their Trails End Ranch situated alongside the Missouri River.

The third-generation land owners opened Talsma’s Trail Park in 2005 with several hundred acres open to the public and trails that range from novice to extreme.

There are climbing hills, creek crossings, deep brush, open prairie land, river bottom terrain and expansive scenic bluffs overlooking the Missouri. There are also several play areas for riders to kick up some mud.

There are different fees to enter the park depending on the mode of transportation and special discounts for groups of 10 or more machines



Many ATV trails across the state have access to fishing, scenic vistas and places to pull over for refreshments such as the Merchantile store in Nemo shown above.

as well as multi-day and seasonal passes. Camp sites are available at a rate of \$20 per night with electricity and \$10 without.

The Talsmas have big plans for the summer with a Customer Appreciation Day on Aug. 14, a fundraising event for Horse Haven on Sept. 11 and a Halloween Scare Ride on Oct. 9.

For more information on the private park, visit talsmastrailpark.com. For more information about riding in the Black Hills, visit blackhillsatvally.com and custersd.com where you’ll find details about ATV activities in the Custer area.



Operation Round-Up

General Manager Ken Schlimgen presents a grant award to the Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village for summer educational programs. Pictured left to right: Ken Schlimgen, Prehistoric Indian Village Board Treasurer Grant Ueker, Board Secretary Myron Sonne, Executive Director Cindy Gregg, and Board Member Deb Everson.



Investing in your community pennies at a time

Following the May 1 application deadline, Central Electric Cooperative is awarding \$16,600 in Operation Round-Up grants to support area projects.

Through Operation Round-Up, participating members voluntarily round their monthly electric bill up to the next whole dollar, and the average member contribution of 50 cents per month rolls into a charitable fund to support local causes.

“Our member-owners make this program possible. Each county in our service territory has a representative at the table to help direct where the funds go,” said Tara Miller, Central Electric’s manager of communications and Operation Round-Up program coordinator.

The Operation Round-Up board of trustees includes **Julie Dykstra** of Stickney, **Jill Ekstrum** of Kimball, **Ellen Speck** of Gann Valley, **David Jorgenson** of Mitchell, **LeAnn Moe** of Alexandria, **Scott Kolousek** of Wessington Springs, **Connie Hattervig** of Carthage, **Carla Amick** of Letcher and **Jim Headley** of White Lake. The cooperative’s eight-county service area includes Aurora, Brule, Buffalo, Davison, Hanson, Jerauld, Miner and Sanborn Counties.

Grants awarded

- \$1,000 – Aurora County Historical Society shelter for museum agricultural equipment
- \$1,500 – Buffalo County Rural Fire District emergency lighting
- \$2,500 – Canova CARE Center roof repairs
- \$2,500 – Carthage Improvement Association auditorium air conditioning
- \$1,250 – City of Emery new trash receptacles
- \$2,650 – Horizon Health Foundation dental assistance for children ages 0-5
- \$1,500 – James Valley Drug and DUI Court assistance to prevent homelessness
- \$1,000 – Kimball Economic Development Corporation youth football storage building
- \$1,200 – Kimball Economic Development Corporation baseball/softball scoreboard
- \$1,000 – Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village for summer cultural programs
- \$500 – White Lake City Library summer reading program

Since 2015, Central Electric Cooperative members have invested more than \$130,000 back into their local communities through participation in Operation Round-Up with individual member donations averaging 50 cents per month. The funds are awarded to worthy organizations that make a direct

impact in the communities of Central Electric members. Grant application deadlines are May 1 and November 1 each year.

For more information, please call Central Electric at 1-800-477-2892 or talk to your local Operation Round-Up trustee.

INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR GRANT FUNDS?

The Operation Round-Up Board of Trustees reviews grant applications two times each year. The deadlines are May 1 and November 1. If you want to learn more about qualifications and view a sample application, please call 1-800-477-2892 or visit www.centralec.coop/operation-round-up.



Horizon Health Foundation was awarded a grant in support of the Smiles for Miles program which provides dental care for children ages 0-5. Pictured left to right: Horizon Health Foundation Chief Philanthropy Officer Tracy Parady, Central Electric General Manager Ken Schlimgen, Foundation Board Chairman Patrick Maroney, Chief Dental Officer Dr. Michelle Scholtz and Foundation Development Officer Brianna Mae Feldhaus.



SENSIBLE SOLAR

South Dakota's electric cooperatives promote fair, sensible solar policies

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

With summer in full swing, the sun is bearing down on South Dakotans. But that wasn't the case just five months ago when an unexpected polar vortex covered much of the country in a blanket of snow and ice.

As co-op members now reach for the sunscreen and a cold beverage, it's easy to forget that back in February the same solar panels that are streaming torrents of ions today were reduced to a trickle when a convergence of circumstances caused a series of rolling blackouts.

That historic event alerted policymakers from Texas to the Canadian border to hit the pause button and take another look at how renewable power fits into the national grid-based energy picture.

Across the country, the solar market is facing what can be described as growing pains. Those pains stem from the fact that the nascent stages of solar energy were heavily subsidized through taxpayer dollars, as early adopters benefited from an array of state, federal and municipal government tax credits, exemptions, incentives, rebates and subsidies designed to get the industry off the ground. Tapping into these programs, owners of solar installations have been able to deduct up to half of their costs.

But as more homeowners and businesses opt for solar and as the cost of solar has dropped 80 percent since 2010, those subsidies are shrinking and the industry is in the process of having to eventually stand on its own feet. At the federal level, for instance, the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) established in 2005

has allowed new residential and commercial solar owners to deduct 26 percent of their installation costs from their federal taxes. The ITC is set to be reduced to 23 percent in 2023 and eliminated for homeowners by 2024. The Biden Administration has proposed extending the program for another two years.

According to the Energy Information Administration, direct federal government subsidies for solar alone totaled \$34.4 billion between 2010 and 2019.

As solar subsidies decline, the true costs for ratepayers to have 24-hour access to both intermittent renewable power and more reliable traditional power at the same time are coming to bear.

In Nevada, for example, incentives for homeowners were phased out in 2016 after the state's largest energy company argued that its costs of creating and delivering power weren't being fully covered and the expenses of serving every home and business in the system were being shifted to those exercising their right not to have rooftop panels placed on their homes.

Predictably, once the incentives

Sensible Solutions for Our Energy Future



South Dakota's electric cooperatives support reasonable strategies for our energy future that make sense for our members:

- Renewable energy solutions that are both productive and practical
- Rate structures that take affordability into account
- Balanced strategies centered on the best interests of co-op consumers
- Technology-based policies that promote economic development

“WE RELY ON INTERMITTENT RENEWABLE SOURCES TO CURB EMISSIONS AND MORE RELIABLE FOSSIL FUELS TO DELIVER THE BASELOAD POWER OUR MEMBERS NEED.”

ROBERT RAKER

West River Electric, characterized the state's electric cooperatives as being neither pro-renewable energy nor anti-renewable energy.

“We're pro-reliability and pro-affordability for our members,” he explained. “We rely on intermittent renewable sources to curb emissions and more reliable fossil fuels to deliver the baseload power our members

to communicate with one another as each cooperative in the state has its own set of interconnection requirements and policies determined by their management.

“If one of our members wants to get involved in renewable energy, we need to know about it so we can work with the member to make sure the process goes as smoothly as possible,” Raker said.

Chris Studer, chief member and public relations officer at East River Electric, echoed Raker's comments and emphasized another important factor in open member-to-cooperative communication: safety.

“Just make sure to call your co-op. It's a safety issue. Improperly installed equipment could put the homeowner's property and co-op employees who work on the infrastructure at risk and that's what we want to prevent.”

Studer said the state's cooperatives will continue to play an active role as the renewable market evolves.

“At this stage in the emergence of the distributed generation market, the fixed costs that electric utilities have invested in their infrastructure needs to be taken under consideration as more members bring localized solar installations into the system,” he said.

“Other states have addressed this issue by establishing fixed charges for distributed generation owners in a way that was fair for everyone, while also setting up a system to streamline the resolution of any disputes that may arise. We'll continue to serve as an advocate for all co-op consumers.”

were sun-setted and solar owners had to pay for maintaining the same grid that they depend on when their panels aren't producing power, demand decreased.

In South Dakota, where there are no state government subsidies, investor-owned Black Hills Energy has followed Nevada's lead by proposing that the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission institute tariffs on homeowners to compensate the power company for those fixed costs required to keep the system functioning for all ratepayers who use it.

Opponents argue that the tariffs could potentially obliterate the state's growing solar market, which saw 462 MW installed through the first quarter of 2021.

As for South Dakota's electric cooperatives, the system's leaders paid close attention to the polar vortex event and the lessons learned in the aftermath. Robert Raker, public relations manager at

need. It's like a parent trying to determine which is their favorite kid. We favor both of them because we need to help protect the planet but we also need to fulfill our obligation to serve our members whether it's day or night, hot or cold, sunny or cloudy, windy or calm.”

Raker noted that co-ops have embraced the integration of renewable power into the state's fuel mix. Electric co-ops were leaders in introducing wind power, which now makes up roughly 25 percent of the supply while 17 percent comes from hydroelectric dams along the Missouri River. Co-ops are also involved in the construction of Wild Springs solar farm, which is expected to go on-line next year as the largest solar array in the western part of the state.

Without a clear and complete set of rules in place for distributed generation, Raker said it's paramount that members and their cooperatives work together

CO-OP HAPPENINGS

YEARS OF SERVICE



Tim Harrington
Staking Technician
July 2 - 37 years



DuWayne Moore
Journeyman Lineman
July 5 - 14 years



Heather Gales
Admin. Assistant
July 16 - 2 years



Evan Davis
Materials Coordinator
July 23 - 2 years

SUMMER EMPLOYEES TO ASSIST OPERATIONS

Central Electric has hired two summer utility workers to assist with operations during the busy construction season.

Kameron Brown from Alexandria is pictured left and Chandler Bakely from Martin is pictured right. Both attended Mitchell Technical College. They will be working primarily out of Mitchell and assisting our line crews throughout the summer.

As temporary summer employees, they will acquire 1,000 hours toward their journeyman license as well as acquire valuable hands-on experience to jump-start their careers.



Central Electric Cooperative's office will be closed Monday, July 5, in observance of Independence Day.



Morrison & Headley Honored with Star Quilts

On June 2, the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe honored retiring Central Electric Cooperative Directors Butch Morrison of Mitchell and Jim Headley of White Lake with Star Quilts. The recognition took place at the cooperative's Buffalo County District Meeting at the Powwow Grounds in Fort Thompson.

Morrison has served on the board since 2003 and Headley since 1996.

Pictured left to right in the top picture are Central Electric Director Donita Loudner, Crow Creek Tribal Chairman Peter Lengkeek, Central Electric Director Butch Morrison, Central Electric General Manager Ken Schlimgen, Central Electric Director Jim Headley and Central Electric Board President Duane Wolbrink.

Tribal Chairman Peter Lengkeek thanked Morrison and Headley for their years of compassionate service to the Tribe and described the care that goes into making the quilts - every stitch represents a prayer for the recipient.

Following the quilt presentation, attendees formed a greeting line to honor the outgoing directors. A meal was also served to show appreciation for our Buffalo County members.



REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Dakotafest, Farmfest or the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



July 4
Independence Day

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

JUNE 19
**Helping with Horsepower ATV/
UTV/4-Wheeler Poker Run**
Reclamation-Ranch, Mitchell,
SD, 605-770-2867

JUNE 25-27
**I-90 Scavenger's Journey -
Stickney to Kadoka**
I-90, SD, 605-999-7287

JUNE 30-JULY 4
Annual Black Hills Roundup
300 Roundup Street, Belle
Fourche, SD, 605-723-2010

JULY 2-4
**Custer's Old Time Country
Fourth of July**
Various Locations, Custer,
SD, 605-673-2244

JULY 2-4
Gold Camp Jubilee Days
Various Locations, Lead,
SD, 605-584-1100

JULY 2-4
Sitting Bull Stampede Rodeo
Rodeo Grounds, Mobridge,
SD, 605-845-2387

JULY 3
SDANG Poker Run
Various Locations, Hot Springs,
SD, 605-745-4140

JULY 4
Fourth of July Celebration
703 Main Street, Deadwood,
SD, 800-344-8826

JULY 4
Fourth of July Parade
Kemp Avenue, Watertown,
SD, 605-886-5814

JULY 9-11, 16-18, 23-25
Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant
43379 Rose Lane, De Smet,
SD, 605-983-5251

JULY 9-11
Annual Hot Harley Nights
J&L Harley-Davidson, Sioux
Falls, SD, 605-334-2721

JULY 10-11
**50th Annual Brookings
Summer Arts Festival**
W Highway 14 and 1st
Avenue, Brookings,
SD, 605-692-2787

JULY 15-17
**2021 National Targhee Sheep
Show and Sale**
Wylie Park, Aberdeen, SD,
605-626-7015

JULY 16-18
Gold Discovery Days
Various Locations, Custer,
SD, 605-673-2244

JULY 23-25
Arlington Days
Various Locations, Arlington,
SD, 605-983-5251

JULY 27-31
Days of '76 Rodeo & Parades
Various Locations, Deadwood,
SD, 605-578-1876

JULY 31
Chislic Festival
Freeman's Prairie Arboretum,
Freeman, SD, 605-496-9946

AUGUST 5-14
Sioux Empire Fair
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux
Falls, SD, 605-367-7178

AUGUST 17-19
Dakotafest
2300 E Spruce Street, Mitchell,
SD, 877-611-8161

AUGUST 21
Plankinton Pheasant Fest
Plankinton, SD, 605-942-7767

AUGUST 21
**Take the Reins Horsemanship
Clinic**
Reclamation-Ranch, Mitchell,
SD, 605-770-2867

SEPTEMBER 11-12
Fall Harvest Festival
Delmont, SD, 605-928-3792

**Note: Please make sure to
call ahead to verify the event
is still being held.**