




Bayfield Electric  
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



MY CO-OP



*Happy New Year*

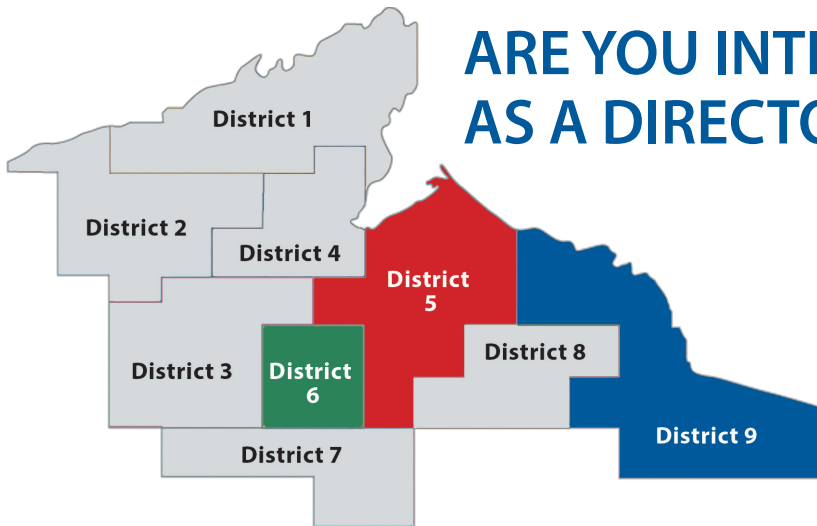
FROM BAYFIELD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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**W**e look forward to another year of serving you, our members. We are here to help—we can help you find ways to save energy at your home, apply for assistance programs, qualify for rebates, or even update personal information. Sign up for Smart Hub today—it can be used as a tool to watch your energy consumption or pay your bill, along with many other tools right at the end of your fingertips.

Going into 2023, we plan to continue the brushing program, which eliminates trees and branches along the power lines that could potentially cause numerous power outages. We are also implementing a new metering system. You may see someone at your residence changing out the old with the new meters. This will be all automated and will eliminate that first-of-the-month manual meter reads. Let's have a great year together!

# ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING AS A DIRECTOR FOR YOUR CO-OP?



The following districts are up for re-election in 2023:

**District 5** – Sanborn, Gingles, Kelly, White River, Marengo

**District 6** – Grand View, Lincoln, Shanagolden, Round Lake

**District 9** – Knight, Carey, Oma, Mercer, Winchester, Pence, Michigan, Saxon, Kimball

## Qualifications:

- You must be a member of the cooperative within the district you are seeking to represent. This means you must take electric service at either a permanent residence, a seasonal residence, or a commercial location within the district.
- You must be at least 18 years old.
- You must not be employed by, or have a financial interest in a business that competes with, the cooperative, or a business selling energy, supplies, services or equipment to the cooperative.
- You must not have any outstanding debts to the cooperative, or brought a claim against the cooperative or its employees, officers, or directors in the previous five years.

## Duties and Responsibilities:

- Board members are charged with the responsibility of overseeing the cooperative, including: strategic planning, fiduciary responsibility, setting policy and direction, corporate duties, governance, and other general duties relating to the business of the cooperative.
- Directors are expected to personally attend:
  - Monthly Board Meetings
  - Annual Meeting
  - Occasional District Meetings
  - Occasional Committee Meetings
- Directors are required to review, acknowledge, and abide by the cooperative's Code of Ethics.
- Board members are provided with a preliminary agenda in advance of each board meeting.
- Directors represent Bayfield Electric in the community, which may include making public appearances.
- Directors may be eligible to serve on boards of companies or organizations affiliated with Bayfield, such as the cooperative's power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative.

## Nomination Process:

- Nominations shall be made by petition.
- The petition must be signed by at least ten (10) members in good standing from the district you are seeking to represent.
  - A member in good standing is defined as one who is receiving electric service from the cooperative, is current on their electric bill, and does not have any bad debts with the cooperative.
  - Note: it is a violation of privacy laws for the cooperative to provide candidates with payment or debt information about members. Candidates will have to do their best to verify the standing of a member signing the petition. Candidates are encouraged to get more than the minimum number of signatures.
- Joint members (for example: a husband and wife) shall count as one signature.
- The completed petition shall be submitted to the cooperative at least ninety (90) days prior to the annual meeting at which the election is held.
- For complete details on director nomination and election procedures see Article IV of the cooperative's Bylaws or contact our office.



# FIVE WAYS TO FIGHT THE WINTER CHILL AND SAVE ENERGY

We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures and fun outdoor activities of summer. But there's one thing we can all agree on: high winter bills are never fun. Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:



## 1 Mind the thermostat.

This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.

## 2 Button up your home.

The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.

## 3 Use window coverings wisely.

Open blinds, drapes, or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.

## 4 Consider your approach to appliance use.

When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.

## 5 Think outside the box.

If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up—beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks, and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills. Visit our website at [bayfieldelectric.com](http://bayfieldelectric.com) for additional energy-saving tips.



## CONGRATULATIONS, AND WELCOME!

In 2022 Bayfield Electric Cooperative welcomed two new employees. Braden Stegmann started in August as an apprentice lineman. Aleah Kelleher started in October in the Billing Department. Congratulations, Braden and Aleah, and welcome to our team!

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Insulating your electric water heater can reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%, saving you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs.

The Department of Energy rates this project as medium difficulty, meaning most homeowners can tackle this project on their own. You can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets for about \$20 at most home-improvement stores. Visit [energy.gov](http://energy.gov) for project tips and additional considerations.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## DID YOU GET A NEW CELL PHONE FOR CHRISTMAS?



More importantly, did your cell phone number change? Did you discontinue your landline phone? Remember to contact our office if any of your personal contact information has changed. Our records are only as good as the information you provide. To deliver the best customer service for our members, we encourage you to notify our billing department of any changes. To make changes please call 715-372-4287 or visit our online account change form at [www.bayfeldelectric.com/update-account](http://www.bayfeldelectric.com/update-account). It's that easy!

## MONTH OF JANUARY

Billing date:  
**January 10, 2023**

December usage

Bills due upon receipt

Gross due after  
**January 30, 2023**

### Christopher Kopel, CEO


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[www.bayfeldelectric.com](http://www.bayfeldelectric.com)

Payment by Phone: 855-385-9978  
After Hours Outage: 715-372-4047

### Amanda Kavajecz, Editor



## Bayfield Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Monday–Friday  
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