Sustainability and Resiliency Committee Meeting

June 10, 2025 – 3:00pm City Commission Chambers

Agenda

- **1. Roll Call** (5 min.)
- 2. Approval of Agenda (5 min.)
- 3. Approval of Minutes from March 18, 2025, Meeting (5 min.)
- 4. 2025 Cleanup Week Report (20 min.)
 Scott Olson Solid Waste Utility Director
 Jennifer Pickett Solid Waste Utility Recycling Coordinator
- 5. Overview of Cass County Electric Cooperative Sustainability Initiatives (20 min.) Chad Brousseau VP of Member & Energy Services
- **6.** City Facilities RFP for Maintenance Management Program (10 min.) Bekki Majerus Director of Facilities Management
- 7. Public Comment (10 min.)2.5 minutes per speaker
- 8. Next Meeting (5 min.)
 TBD

Sustainability and Resiliency Committee City Commission Chambers March 18, 2025 2:30 p.m.

The meeting of the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee was held in the City Commission Chambers at Fargo City Hall at 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

Present:

John Strand (chair), Fargo City Commissioner

Dr. Tim Mahoney, Fargo Mayor

Brenda Derrig, Assistant Fargo City Administrator

Bruce Grubb, Fargo City Administration

Ben Dow, Fargo Public Works Director (via conference call)

Becki Majerus, Director of Facilities Management for the City of Fargo

Shawn Ouradnik, City of Fargo Inspections Director

Greta Gramig, At-Large Member of the Public

Shawn Paschke, Xcel Energy Representative (Ex-officio)

Chad Brousseau, Cass County Electric Cooperative Representative (Ex-officio)

Dave Bietz, Fargo Park District Representative (Ex-officio)

James Hand, Fargo School District Representative (Ex-officio)

Julie Bommelman, City of Fargo Transit Director

Mike Williams, At-Large Member of the Public (via conference call)

Absent:

Nicole Crutchfield – Fargo Planning Department Setiya Hamidi – Fargo Youth Initiative Jennifer Sweatman, At-Large Member of the Public Casey Steele, At-Large Member of the Public

Chair Strand called the meeting to order. Introductions were done around the table.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Bommelman moved, second by Ms. Derrig that the agenda be approved as read. There was unanimous approval by all members present.

December 10, 2024 Minutes Approved

Mr. Dow moved, second by Ms. Derrig that the minutes from the December 10, 2024 meeting be approved. There was unanimous approval by all members present.

Status of Sustainability Grant Opportunities – HDR Presentation:

Commissioner Strand said at the SRC August 2024 meeting, HDR presented a sustainability and resiliency roadmap. A key takeaway, he said, was the potential for building retrofit energy efficiency projects.

Mr. Grubb provided an update on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding.

Ms. Majerus confirmed the City received approximately \$176,000.00 in EECBG funds, which are being utilized for three priority projects, with the top priority being the implementation of a Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) to improve asset tracking and facilitate timely and cost-effective retrofits. She said the contract with FM 360 for the CMMS selection and implementation was approved at the last City Commission meeting and she confirmed the EECBG funding is still in place.

Brian King from HDR provided an update on the current state of grant funding opportunities, noting significant discussions and fast-moving developments in Washington D.C. He emphasized the situation is fluid and information is changing rapidly.

Seth Strongin from HDR highlighted the North Dakota Energy Conservation Program that is still running and presents a good opportunity for energy efficiency and facility improvements. Another state program, he said, is the North Dakota Energy Program, which has a broader scope and utilizes federal funding, requires further due diligence regarding its funding for the next year and potential cycle disruptions and that HDR is available to assist with this program. The next generation of the former RAISE grants, he said, is the PROTECT program, which closed its annual application deadline in February. While it is an annual program, he stated, its future is uncertain due to the current environment. If funding has already been allocated through the state, he said, there may still be opportunities to access CDBG funds, which are administered by the state but originate from the federal government. Identifying specific projects of interest would be necessary to explore this further, he said. The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program from FEMA are currently in a holding pattern, he said. FEMA has a disclaimer on its website indicating that it is updating its opportunities and website to align with the current administration's priorities, he said. While these programs are likely to continue in some form, details and criteria may change, he said. Various subprograms under the Bridge Investment Program, covering bridge projects of different scales and planning, are also subject to the same uncertainty. The Economic Adjustment Assistance Program typically operates on an ongoing basis without specific deadlines, he stated; however, the application portal is currently unavailable, indicating uncertainty about its future.

Commissioner Strand emphasized the importance of informing the City's federal delegation, particularly Sen. John Hoeven, who sits on the Appropriations Committee, about any potential grant funding risks or program cuts.

Mayor Mahoney inquired about the possibility of using the Bridge Investment Program (BIP) for the 12th Avenue bridge project, which currently has a RAISE grant for design.

Mr. Strongin clarified that staying within the RAISE program is likely an option, especially for projects already underway, although future phases may be uncertain. He noted that other opportunities within the BIP could potentially support the project.

Mr. Grubb highlighted the City's past success in securing grant funding, including pre-disaster mitigation and BRIC grants, and the benefits of these programs for infrastructure.

Commissioner Strand cautioned about the sensitivity of language used in the current political climate and the need to advocate for local needs while being mindful of potential consequences. He also acknowledged that City departments are generally aware of grant opportunities and the effort required for competitive applications.

In response to a question from Mayor Mahoney asking whether HDR is contracted to actively seek grants for the City, Mr. Grubb clarified that HDR was selected for the roadmap development and has a national team for grant research and writing, which the City could utilize if desired, given the committee's lack of a dedicated budget for such activities.

Mayor Mahoney suggested the need to consider allocating budget funds for grant writing to proactively pursue significant funding opportunities for critical infrastructure projects such as the 64th Avenue interchange and the 12th Avenue bridge. He emphasized the potential for millions of dollars in grant funding and the importance of being prepared when opportunities arise.

Commissioner Strand acknowledged the current uncertainty surrounding grant

programs, citing the recent loss of an anticipated EPA grant for street light conversions.

Mayor Mahoney suggested exploring potential natural gas applications for City buildings given current energy trends and to continue to monitor the status of federal and state grant funding opportunities and Mr. King and Mr. Strongin said they will also continue to provide updates on grant funding opportunities as they become available.

Water Service Line Preplacement Program:

Mr. Grubb introduced the topic, highlighting the importance of the lead water service line replacement program for the sustainability and resiliency of Fargo's water distribution system. He mentioned that he spoke with Troy Hall, Water Utility Director, who agreed to present the program to the committee.

Mr. Hall introduced Matt Christensen, Regulatory Manager, and Maggie Sahr, Compliance Coordinator, who would be presenting the program details. He mentioned the recent award of a lead service line grant and ongoing grant applications.

Mr. Christensen provided an overview of lead service lines, their history and the regulatory context, including the Lead and Copper Rule revisions. He explained the division of ownership between the City and homeowners, and the presence of galvanized pipes. He said the City's website has an interactive service line material map.

Ms. Sahr discussed the health risks associated with lead exposure and the City's water quality monitoring efforts. She explained the corrosion control measures and the EPA action level.

Mr. Christensen explained the corrosion control process and the City's efforts to minimize lead and copper in drinking water. He provided historical context, referencing the Flint, Michigan, water crisis, and detailed the steps residents can take to reduce lead exposure. He described the City's plan for lead service line replacement, including funding sources, timelines and the trenchless replacement method. He outlined the post-replacement requirements, including flushing instructions and water testing. He also outlined the communication and outreach plan.

Ms. Sahr explained the crucial importance of removing lead exposure as there is not a safe level of lead exposure. She said this is especially vital for infants, young children and pregnant women. Lead accumulation in the environment also poses a significant threat, she said, and lead exposure causes interference with red blood cell formation, anemia, kidney damage, impaired reproductive function, interference with metabolism, cancer, cardiovascular disease, reduced IQ, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder and lower birth weights. She said the risk of lead exposure has decreased significantly since the 1970s due to Federal action including the banning of leaded gasoline and lead plumbing, decreasing blood levels of lead in children by 95%. She said Fargo tests for lead in drinking water by collecting one-liter samples from a selection of single-family homes with either lead service lines or copper pipes with lead solder. She stated that by 2027, as mandated by new regulations, testing will expand to include all structures with lead service lines, and sample volume will increase to five consecutive one-liter samples. She said the EPA uses the data from these samples to assess the corrosivity of Fargo's water and if more than 10% of samples exceed the action level during a monitoring period, Fargo will be required to enhance public education, improve corrosion control treatments and accelerate lead service line replacement. She said that corrosion control is crucial, as the amount of lead leaching into drinking water depends on the water's corrosivity. While all water is corrosive to metal pipes to some extent, certain factors, such as temperature, can increase this effect. She explained the City optimizes water treatment plant parameters, including pH, alkalinity, mineral content (hardness), disinfection residuals and corrosion inhibitors such as orthopolyphosphate, to minimize lead and copper release. She said orthopolyphosphate creates a protective layer inside pipes, preventing direct contact between the water and the metal. She explains that maintaining stable water quality parameters is essential to preserve this protective layer. She said disruptions, like those seen in Flint, Michigan, where water chemistry changes and the discontinuation of orthopolyphosphate led to descaling and high lead levels, can result in significant lead contamination. She said the City has been testing water since 1992 and lead levels have consistently been below the 15 parts per billion action level, allowing the City to qualify for reduced monitoring (every three years). However, she explains, treatment changes, such as the addition of the membrane water treatment plant in 2019, triggered a return to annual testing. She said since 2014, Fargo's 90th percentile lead levels have remained at three parts per billion or less. She said to reduce lead exposure before service line replacement, residents are advised to flush the pipes each morning, use cold water for drinking and cooking and consider using a pitcher filter certified for lead removal. She said in 2027, the EAP will mandate a 10-year replacement timeline for all lead service lines in public water systems. The estimated cost per home ranges from \$8,000.00 to \$12,000.00 or more and speculates this could discourage voluntary participation from Fargo residents. She said the City secured a \$35 million State Revolving Fund loan, which includes 66 percent grant forgiveness, and the City committed to covering the remaining 34 percent local cost share, contingent on a successful post-replacement water sample, as required by the EPA. Fargo is a finalist for an environmental and climate justice grant, she stated, potentially awarding up to \$350,000.00 for lead service line remediation in a designated disadvantaged neighborhood, specifically the Jefferson and Carl Ben areas. She stated the City's goal is to maximize lead service line replacements within available funding.

Mr. Christensen said with homeowner financial obligations removed, the City requires homeowner permission for service line replacement. A \$1,000.00 fee will be applied post-replacement; however, that fee will be waived upon successful water testing 3-6 months later, ensuring program compliance. He said the City will conduct extensive public outreach through the website, media and community meetings to inform residents about the replacement plan and identify affected properties. He said funding requires historical and environmental reviews, dictating a phased, neighborhood-focused approach. The Water Treatment Plant will coordinate with Engineering to align replacements with street and water main projects, and the goal is to complete all replacements by 2030.

In response to a question from Commissioner Strand asking about how the plans include apartment building in replacing the lead pipes, Mr. Hall stated all lead service lines, both residential and commercial, quality for grant funding. He said the Water Treatment Plant is developing alternative lead mitigation strategies for commercial properties, as pitcher filters are not suitable. He said complete service line replacement is required for eligibility. The City-owned portion will be replaced separately, outside of grant funding, he said.

In response to a question from Mr. Grubb asking if the map shows all the lead service lines including the commercial residents, Mr. Christensen said it does.

In response to a question from Ms. Gramig on how the Department was able to determine where the lead pipes are installed, Mr. Christensen said each building had hand drawn tab cards and when homeowners in older neighborhoods replace water lines, they need permits and inspections and that is how records are kept. The Public Works Department checks the work and there has been a lot of old paper records that staff went through. The idea is to also take pictures of the pipes inside homes during meter replacement, which helps find unknown pipes.

In response to a question from Ms. Gramig asking whether the Water Treatment Plant intends to test the water before treatment to show impact, Ms. Sahr explained the

current monitoring of 100 sites across Fargo provides a representative overview of the distribution system and the efficacy of the corrosion control measures. She stated the Water Treatment Plant monitors 100 sites to check the quality of the water in the City and the testing is expensive; therefore, testing after replacement is the most important given that is when the pipes are disturbed and people are at the most risk.

Discussion on SRC Meeting Frequency:

Commissioner Strand said he would like to address the frequency of the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee meetings moving forward. The meeting currently takes place bi-monthly; however, quarterly might be more efficient. He said there has been some public concern about the perceived pace of the Committee's work and it is important to acknowledge the need for a balance between budgetary limitations and the need to prioritize the Committee's efforts. He said it is crucial the Committee address climate resilience and related issues effectively, without overburdening resources.

It was decided that quarterly meetings, held on the second Tuesday of the designated months, would be the new meeting frequency.

In response to a question from Commissioner Strand about topics to discuss in future meetings, James Hand suggested that grant availability updates become a regular agenda item. He said this information is vital for funding sustainability projects, and staying informed about these opportunities is essential.

Public Comment:

Dr. Madeline Luke spoke.

Next Meeting:

The tentative date for the next meeting is June 10, 2025.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 o'clock p.m.



Sustainability and Resiliency Committee June 10th, 2025 Chad Brousseau – Vice President of Member and Energy Services



Mission:
To serve
our members'
energy needs
with affordable
and reliable
electricity



About Cass County Electric Cooperative

- Founded in 1937
- Headquartered in Fargo, N.D.
- Member-Owned/Not for Profit
- Democratically Controlled
 - 9-member Board of Directors
- Serve all or parts of 10 counties in SE N.D.
- 5,854 Miles of Line
 - 2,768 Overhead
 - 3,086 Underground
- 96 employees
- 1,360,614,712 kWh sold YTD in 2024
- Record Reliability!
 - 99.9953 ASAI Score in 2024
 - 24.5 Minutes (SAIDI)

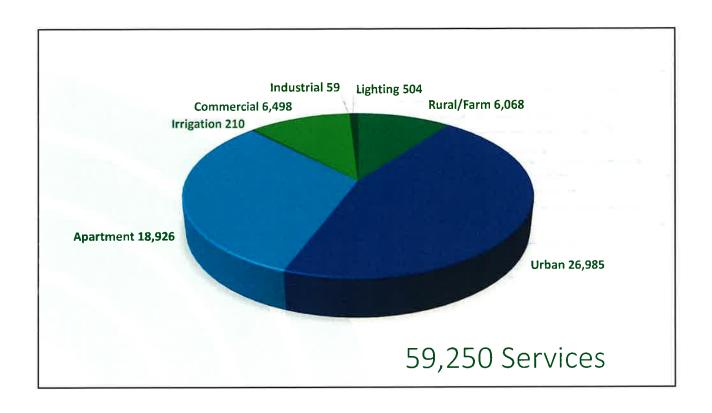


Smart Grid & Technology at CCEC

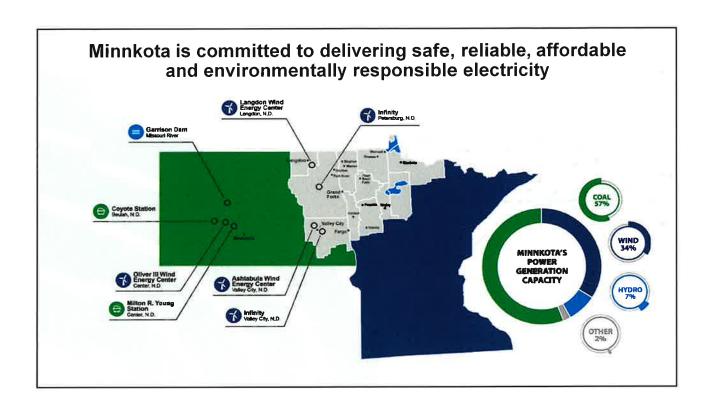
- SCADA- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
- FLISR Fault Location, Isolation, Service Restoration
- Power Control Center System Monitoring 24/7
- AMI Advanced Metering Infrastructure
- OMS Outage Management System
- IVR Interactive Voice Response
- Drone Inspections/Thermal Camera

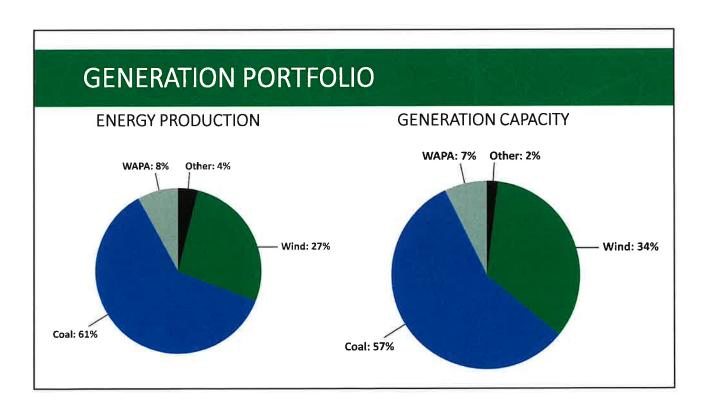












Flickertail Wind Project

- Minnkota Power Cooperative and PRC Wind project near New Rockford, ND
- The new 370-megawatt (MW) wind project will be owned/operated by PRC Wind
- Minnkota will purchase all energy produced



"Flickertail Wind Farm represents a tremendous opportunity to enhance our energy portfolio with a carbon-free resource, fulfill the vision of local landowners and harness ND's abundant energy potential. As the demand for electricity continues to grow in our region and across the nation, its critical for us to develop new energy resources and continue to diversify our power supply strategy."

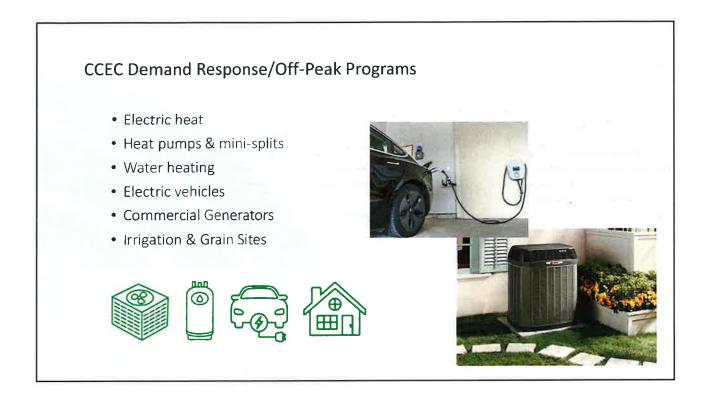
Mac McLeannan, Minnkota President and CEO

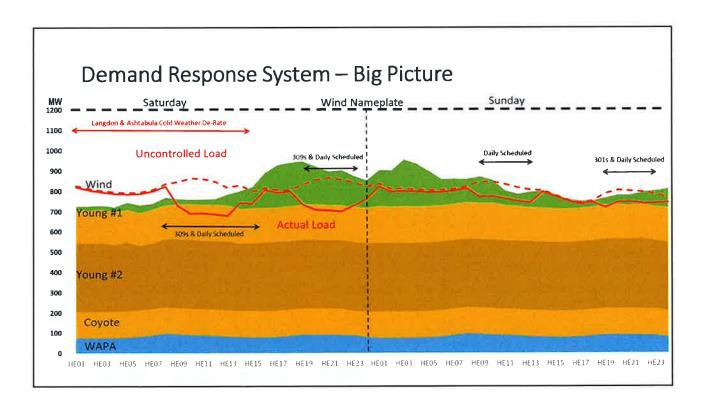
Project Tundra



- Initiative to build the next generation amine-based carbon capture facility at the Milton Young Station in North Dakota
 - 2.2X scale-up from Petra Nova
- Flue Gas Capacity about 530 MW
 - Under normal operation
 - 100% of Unit 2 (477 MWg)
 - 20% of Unit 1 (55 out of 277 MWg)
 - Outage Operation
 - Either unit can send 100% of its flue gas to Tundra
- Annual capture potential up to 4 million metric tons

To be Determined!





INCENTIVES FOR NEW ELECTRIC HEAT INSTALLED ON OFF-PEAK: HEATING SYSTEMS INCENTIVE Baseboard heater, cove heater, forced-air furnace, hanging unit heater, plenum heater, radiant heat boiler Electric boiler-slab heat, brick storage electric furnace, brick storage room unit, slab storage, electric cable Air-source heat pump \$150/ton Ground-source heat pump \$250/ton There is a \$1,500 max incentive for any combination of these systems per meter. To be eligible for incentives, all systems must have qualified backups, be new equipment, and be controlled on the cooperative's off-peak program. Credits will be applied to the electric bill after a visit from a cass County Electric Cooperative technician. These one-time incentives are in addition to the discounted off-peak electric rate. All incentives are subject to final approval from Cass County Electric Cooperative.

INCENTIVES FOR WATER HEATERS INSTALLED ON OFF-PEAK: NEW INSTALLATION CREDIT \$450 Replacement of an existing water heater GAS-TO-ELECTRIC CONVERSION \$250 In addition to \$450 new installation credit NEW CONSTRUCTION \$100 In addition to \$450 new installation credit Water heaters must be 100+ gallons and on long-term control to qualify. Credits will be applied to the electric bill after a visit from a Cass County Electric Cooperative technician. These one-time incentives are in addition to the discounted off-peak electric rate. All incentives are subject to final approval from Cass County Electric Cooperative.

EV Program Options

- CCEC Rate/Program Options
 - Straight Rate No Control
 - Time-of-Day
 - Off-Peak Rate
 - Metered/Daily Cycling
 - \$50/kW Charger Rebate
 - MetroCOG Projections
 - 11,000 to 18,000 EVs by 2035
 - 7,000 to 8,000 charging ports
 - Time will tell.....

OFF-PEAK ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING Electric vehicles (EV) are continuing to grow in popularity. Cass County Electric Cooperative offers a discounted rate and installation incentives for in-home EV chargers installed on an off-peak program. Simply plug in to start saving! STRAIGHT RATE OPTION STRAIGHT RATE \$.0.89/KWH BEST OPTION FOR THOSE THAT WANT TO CHARGE AND TIME THEY WANT CHARGER REQUIREMENTS NONE CHARGE WHEN IT IS CONVENIENT, MOST EXPENSIVE TIME-OF-DAY (TOD) RATE OPTION (PILOT) ON-PEAK RATE \$ 222 PER KWH MONDAY-FRIDAY 6-9 AM AND 4-8 PM** THE BEST OPTION FOR THOSE THAT WANT TO SAVE MONEY AND THERE ARE NOT ANY OTHER OFF-PEAK LOADS IN THE HOME. THE WHOLE HOUSE WILL BE ON THE TOD RATE AND BENEFIT FROM LOAD SHIFTING. CHARGER REQUIREMENTS CHARGE WHEN IT IS CONVENIENT WITH THE GREATEST SAVINGS DURING OFF PEAK TIMES CHARGING TIMES OFF-PEAK RATE OPTION THE BEST OPTION IF YOU WANT TO SAVE MONEY A THERE ARE OTHER OFF PEAK LOADS IN THE HOME MUST BE CONTROLLED ON OFF-PEAK AND SUB-METERED ADDITIONAL \$5/METER CHARGE LEVEL 2 CHARGER MUST BE RATED AT 240 VOLTS AND ON A DEDICATED 240-VOLT CIRCUIT CHARGER REQUIREMENTS OCTOBER MAY NOON TO 5 PM AND 11 PM TO 7 AM JUNE SEPTEMBER: MIDNIGHT TO 10 AM CHARGER INCENTIVE \$50/KW (\$750 MAX PER CHARGER) UPON INSPECTION

Time-of-Day Rate

- Approved in January 2024
- Provides member flexibility & choice
- Ideal for EV owners
- Pricing Details
 - On-peak Monday-Friday 6-9 AM and 4-8 PM at \$.222 per kWh
 - Off-peak All other hours at \$.052/kWh
 - · The current electric rate is \$.089/kWh



CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC PROVIDES THE RIPPLE CONTROL

CCEC Sponsored EV Chargers

- Level 2 Chargers
 - o West Acres Mall 2016
 - o Sanford Hospital 2018
 - o Hornbacher's (Sheyenne St) 2018
 - o CCEC Headquarters 2018
 - o Convention & Visitors Bureau 2020
- Level 3 DC Fast Chargers
 - o West Acres Mall -2020
 - o Hornbacher's (Sheyenne St) 2020
 - o Convention & Visitors Bureau 2020



CCEC Electric Fleet Vehicles

- Chevy Bolt 2018
 - o 60 kWh Battery
 - o 238-mile range
- Mitsubishi Outlander Hybrid 2018
 - o 11.3 kWh
 - o 22-mile range
- Ford F-150 Lightning 2022
 - o 131 kWh Battery
 - o 320-mile range
- Chevy Silverado 2024
 - o 205 kWh battery
 - o 492-mile range



Community Projects

- Electric School Bus
 - WFPS Schools
- EV Police Bike
 - Fargo Parks
 - Fargo PD
- EV VertaCat All-Terrain Mobility Rider
 - Fargo Parks









My Co-op Cares Community Service & Donations

- Rural Development Finance Corporation Grants
- University & trade school donations
- Dollars for Scholars
- Giving Hearts Day-Employee Match
- Various Fundraiser -Donations and door prizes
- Fort Ransom Historical Society

- Be a Santa to a Senior
- Volunteer Food Pantry
- Valley Senior Services
- Community Parades
- City of Arthur Parks & Community Cleanup
- Volunteer Fire Departments
- Fort Ransom State Park



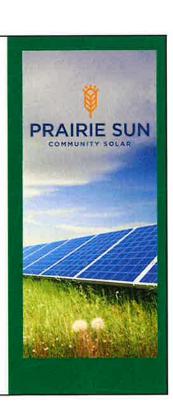
Infinity Program- Renewable Energy Certificates - RECs

- Minnkota Power ND Wind Farms
- 1 REC = 1,000 kWh of renewable energy
- Midwest Renewable Tracking System (M-RETS)
- Convenient & Low-Cost Option
 - \$0.0035/kWh
- "Easy Button"
 - No contracts or commitments
 - No changes to service
 - Eliminate need to install & maintain onsite renewables



Prairie Sun Community Solar

- 2015
- 102kW solar array
- 261/324 solar panels
- Owned by CCEC
- First community solar project in North Dakota
- East of 63rd St. S and south of 53rd Ave S.
- Price: Full panel was \$700 (Now prorated)
- ~\$35 per year credit allocated monthly



Battery Storage Pilot Project

- Tesla Powerwall 3
 - 11.5 kW Discharge
 - 5 kW Charge
 - 13.5 kWh Battery Energy
 - Scalable
- Testing
 - Demand Response/Off-Peak
 - Time-of-Day Rates
 - Emergency Backup/Power Quality/Blink Mitigation
 - Interface/Utility Communications
- Education
 - Employees
 - Members



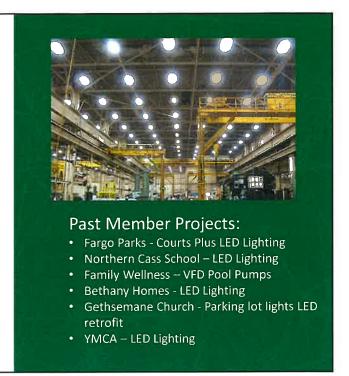
Prairie Pocket Pollinator Habitat

- Native prairie pollinator gardens are created to mimic the diverse ecosystems found in natural prairies.
- Through their deep root systems and photosynthetic processes, they help create healthy soils and sequester carbon more effectively than turf lawns
- By replacing the lawn with native grasses and flowering plant species such as Coneflower and Milkweed, it provides essential habitat for pollinators like bees, butterflies, and birds.
- One of our employees is working on a Potential Prairie Pocket site project a collaboration with United Prairie Foundation and Cass County Soil Conservation District



State Energy Programs

- Assist our members with application process and energy savings analysis (required)
- ND Department of Commerce DOE Funding
 - · Energy Conservation Grant
 - · Energy Efficiency Upgrades
 - Public Buildings/Political Subdivisions
 - Up to \$100,000 with 50% match
 - Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant
 - · ND Counties & Cities
 - Up to \$65,000 with 20% match
 - State Energy Program (SEP)
 - · Energy Efficiency Upgrades
 - Up to \$50,000 with 20% match
 - Anyone can apply, priority given to schools/non-profit



Safety Always

- At Cass County Electric Cooperative, safety isn't just a priority—it's a core value that guides everything we do.
- We are deeply committed to protecting our employees, members, and the communities we serve.
- Electricity is a powerful resource, but it requires respect and knowledge to use safely. That's why we provide comprehensive safety resources to help you stay informed and protected, whether at home, on the farm, or in the workplace.

