



News FOR YOU...

Barron Electric Cooperative
April 2022
Photo by Celeste Rouse

Leading the Way to a Clean Energy Future

Barron Electric Cooperative was the first electric cooperative in the state to install a Community Solar Project in 2014. Over 80 members receive a renewable energy credit on their monthly bill. The system has produced over 960 megawatt hours of energy, while saving 1,489,629 pounds of CO₂.

In 2021, wind and solar made up 22% of the energy resources utilized by Dairyland Power, Barron Electric's wholesale power

supplier. Dairyland added Tatanka Ridge Wind Farm (Deuel County, S.D.) to their renewable energy mix. They have a power purchase agreement (PPA) to receive energy from a 52 MW portion of the wind farm. Dairyland also has a PPA with Ranger Solar for the 149 MW Badger State Solar facility (Jefferson, Wis.), which is scheduled to be operational in 2023.

Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations

Barron Electric installed a Level

3 DC fast charger and Level 2 charger at The Prime Family Dining in Spooner, providing another location for electric vehicle(EV) drivers to stop and charge their vehicles.

Barron Electric is an affiliate of CHARGE™, which is a national electric vehicle charging brand powered by electric cooperatives that also invest in EV-focused companies. The goal is to help promote and educate members about electric vehicles. CHARGE™ affiliates also benefit from access to EV-focused companies, such as ZEF Energy. ZEF manufactures EV charging units that will work with many cooperatives' existing load management programs. The technology allows members to delay charging their EV until off-peak hours when electricity prices are lower.

Free Electric Vehicle Charger and Rebates

Members purchasing an electric vehicle are eligible for a free electric vehicle charger. Barron Electric also offers a variety of rebate programs that promote saving energy and money. Members purchasing an energy star appliance may be eligible for a rebate. Visit barronelectric.com and rebates for more details.

*Celebrate Earth Day
April 22, 2022*



Cooks Corner



Creme de Menthe Cake

1 package white cake mix
 3 T. creme de menthe liqueur
 1 can chocolate syrup
 1 container frozen whipped topping, thawed
 2 T. creme de menthe liquer

Prepare 1 box white cake mix as directed, except substitute 3 tablespoons Creme de Menthe flavoring or liqueur, for 3 tablespoons water.

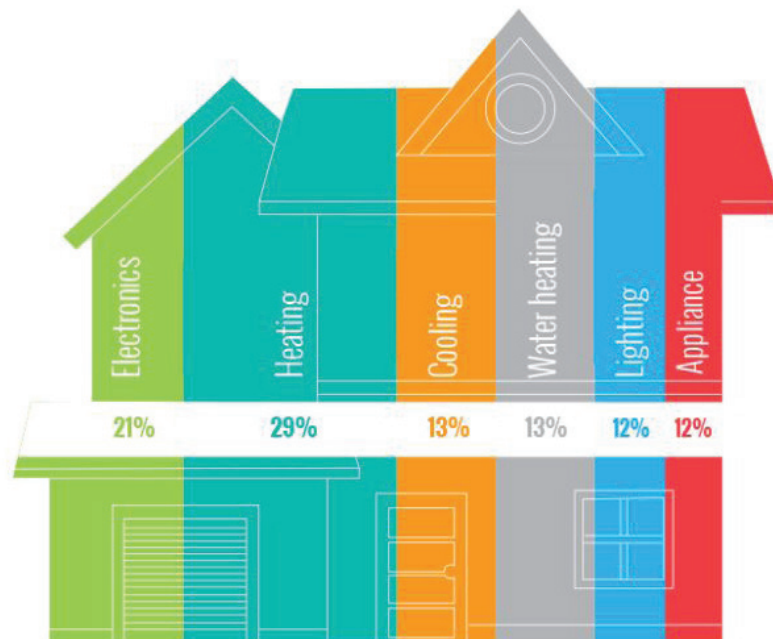
Pour into 13x9 inch pan and bake according to package directions.

Remove from oven and while HOT, poke holes in cake with fork. Then pour chocolate syrup over the top. Refrigerate (or freeze, if desired). After cooling, mix whipped topping with 2 tablespoons of creme de menthe and spread on cake. Keep refrigerated.

Energy Saving Tips

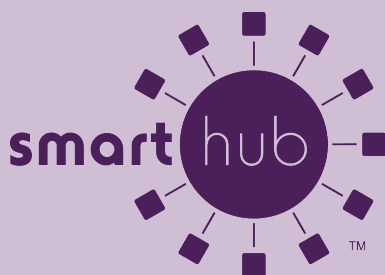
Knowing what makes up your energy bill will help you prioritize your energy saving habits. The following are some ways to save on your energy bill:

1. Replace any light bulb with an LED bulb, particularly those that are on for more than one hour per day.
2. Close shades and drapes during the day to help keep heat out in the summer.
3. Plug electronic devices such as cable boxes, printers and TVs into power strips to turn off during vacations.
4. Change HVAC air filters monthly.
5. Keep garage doors down. A warmer garage in the winter and cooler garage in the summer will save energy.
6. Set water heater temperature 120 degrees or lower.



Here is a breakdown of an average energy bill. Visit SmartHub at barronelectric.com to view your actual usage.

Employee Spotlight



Visit barronelectric.com, and click on My Account and SmartHub to get started. You can pay your bill, view billing history, and report outages.



Becky Scott is Barron Electric's Accountant Level 1 and has worked at the cooperative since 2008. She is responsible for processing payments, reconciliation of accounts, and assisting with audit activities. Becky remarked, "I enjoy the accounting aspect of my job and working with my great fellow employees and members." She added, "The biggest changes that I've seen in my job are the improvements in our accounting system due to new technology."

Becky worked at The Bloomer Advance Newspaper for ten years and the Chisago County Developmental Achievement Center for ten years. She has a two-year business management degree and an additional associates degree from a junior college. Becky's family includes, her husband, Doug, three sons; five bonus children, and twelve grandchildren.

Embracing the Seventh Cooperative Principle: Concern for Community



Barron Electric Cooperative Director Richard Bol presented a \$1,000 check to Brittany Olson of Embrace.

One of the seven cooperative principles is “Concern for Community,” and Barron Electric Cooperative was proud to donate \$1,000 to Embrace. Since 1980, Embrace, formerly known as the TimeOut Shelter, has been providing safe shelter and services to survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault in Barron, Washburn, Rusk, and Price Counties. Embrace also provides outreach and community awareness efforts, preventative education, safe shelter, 24/7 crisis support, and direct services to help survivors navigate the system. Embrace’s goal is to inspire social change and eradicate violence. Embrace helped over 600 people with domestic and sexual violence advocacy services in 2020; 25% of which were youth and children. Another 1,029 people used Embrace’s support for the first time through their 24/7 crisis line. Brittany Olson of Embrace said, “We greatly appreciate this donation; it truly helps our survivors.”

Barron Electric’s General Manager Aaron Torud remarked, “Barron Electric Cooperative wants to help ensure that our communities are a safe place to live and work.” Funds for Barron Electric donations are derived from the Federated Youth Foundation, an administrative trust overseeing unclaimed capital credits of former members.



Scam Alert

When a Barron Electric member received a phone call stating they were going to receive a discount on gas and electric for not having a late payment in six months, it sounded real. Other calls demand payment for an overdue electric bill, or power will be shut off. If the caller demands payment via a prepaid debit card or money order and asks for it within a specified time frame, often an hour or less, these are definitely red flags. Scammers may direct members to a specific store nearby that sells a prepaid card and instruct the member to put money on the card and provide the card number to the scammer. The scammer may even quote an amount that sounds like a typical monthly electric bill, which makes the threat even more credible.

Here are some tips to help protect yourself:

- Do not assume the name and number on your caller ID are legitimate.
- Never share your personal information, including date of birth, Social Security number or banking account information.
- Never wire money to someone you don’t know.
- Barron Electric will not require members to purchase prepaid debit cards or money orders to avoid immediate disconnection.
- If you receive a call that sounds like it may be a scam, hang up and call the police. Report the call to Barron Electric at 800-322-1008.

Dynamic Event for Youth

Barron Electric will sponsor high school students to the Youth Leadership Congress to be held July 12-14 at UW-Stout. Students will identify and learn how to develop their leadership skills, discuss cooperative careers with industry professionals, and listen to highly acclaimed, motivational speakers who understand teens. The conference is planned and developed by a youth board elected at the previous year's event.

Please contact Barron Electric at 800-322-1008 or e-mail memberservices@barronelectric.com for more details. The deadline for applying is **May 20, 2022**.

*Condensed Board Minutes January 28, 2022

Tim Kessler, District 2, serves as treasurer on Barron Electric's Board of Directors, which includes the following townships: Evergreen, Spooner, Dewey, Bashaw, and Barronett.



- Director Kessler gave the treasurer's report, with comments by General Manager Torud. A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #99780 thru #99878 of CCF Bank was in the amount of \$294,138 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$27,281. Director Kessler reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$2,546,197; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$665,543; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$2,490,326; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$290,303 and power bill paid 01/26/2022 in the amount of \$2,037,424.
- A membership list of 64 was presented and approved without objection by the board.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of December in the amount of \$824,778.28 was presented for approval, and included new services - \$22,384.26; change jobs - \$18,800.89; miscellaneous - \$783,593.13 and 6 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 52,279 consumer hours off, which is 42.13% below 2020 hours of 90,334. Overtime year-to-date is 3,313.50 hours, which is 8.55% below 2020 hours of 3,521.50.

** View full board minutes on SmartHub at barronelectric.com.*

News FOR YOU...

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Published for the members of Barron Electric.
If you have any comments regarding the
newsletter, please e-mail
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Barron Electric is an equal
opportunity provider.

Monthly Photo Contest

Winners receive a \$50 Credit

E-mail your spring photo to memberservices@barronelectric.com for a chance to win a \$50 credit on your electric bill. Criteria for the photos include:

- Photos must have a horizontal orientation (landscape) and must be high resolution, 300 dpi or higher.
- Member must own rights to the photo.
- E-mail your digital image to memberservices@barronelectric.com by April 8, 2022. Include your Barron Electric account number, address, and phone number.
- By submitting your photo, you are granting Barron Electric permission to use your photo in a variety of publications and on our website.

