



Barron Electric Cooperative
February 2026
Photo by Malinda Miller

Barron Electric's Board of Directors Approved a New Rate Schedule, Effective April 1

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Barron Electric's Board of Directors approved a new rate schedule at their December 2025 board meeting, which will be effective April 1, 2026. The new residential rates are listed in the table below. The average residential member using 1,200 kilowatt hours will see a 3.36% increase or approximately \$6 per month.

We want you to know that what matters most to you matters to us – your monthly electric bill and the reliability of your electric service. Every decision we make is driven by our responsibility to serve you. We continue to search for and invest in ways to keep costs as low as possible while ensuring safe, reliable power. At the same time, we are focused on improving reliability, so your lights remain on. That's why we are investing in new technologies that help us restore power faster when outages do occur, and in projects designed to prevent issues before they happen – especially by improving and maintaining rights-of-way that are a common cause of outages. These efforts go beyond infrastructure. They are about caring for our members, respecting your hard-earned dollars, and making sure your electric cooperative continues to deliver reliable service you can trust. Thank

you for allowing us to serve you.

In recent years, consumer costs have increased significantly for most goods and services. From groceries to medical care, electric utilities are affected by the same external factors driving up costs for other products and services.

Why are rates increasing?

- Barron Electric's Board of Directors has a fiscal responsibility to the membership and has set financial goals that include increasing equity,

returning cashback credits in a timely manner, and continuing to invest in the electric distribution system to ensure the cooperative continues to provide safe, reliable energy to our members.

- Wholesale power costs will increase 3.1% in 2026. Wholesale power costs make up 60% of Barron Electric's total expenses.
- Higher prices for equipment, supplies, interest, technology, software, engineering, and line upgrades have affected

2026 Residential Rate Schedule

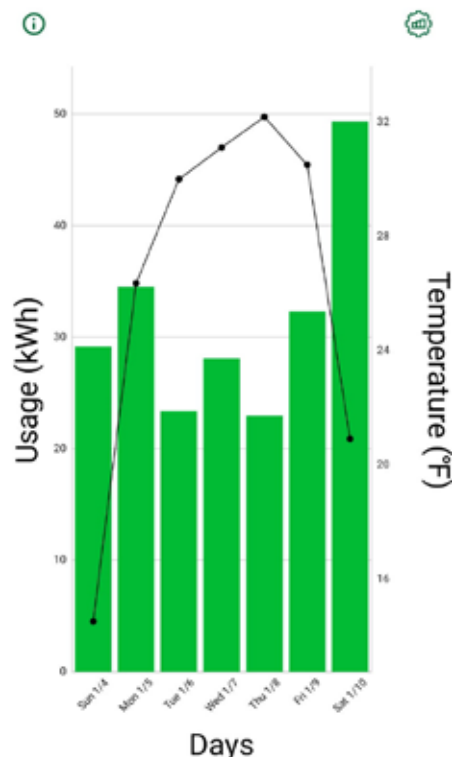
Effective 4-1-2026

| | Rate |
|--|-------------------|
| Facilities Charge | \$48.00 per month |
| Energy Charge/kWh during December, January, and February | \$0.11670 per kWh |
| Energy Charge/kWh during March, April, May, September, October, and November | \$0.10670 per kWh |
| Energy Charge/kWh during June, July, and August | \$0.12670 per kWh |
| Heat Storage Energy Charge | \$0.0550 per kWh |
| Dual Fuel Heat and Interruptible Heat Energy Charge | \$0.0800 per kWh |
| Facilities Charge for Off-Peak | \$5.75 per month |

Manage Your Account with SmartHub

Enjoy the power of SmartHub. Sign up at barronelectric.com, and take advantage of the benefits.

1. Enroll in the Auto Pay Program, saving both time and money.
2. Save paper by choosing the paperless option. You will receive your bill via e-mail earlier than members receiving a paper copy.
3. Pay your bill, and view your payment history.
4. Check your usage compared to average temperatures.
5. Contact the office through SmartHub.
6. Update your contact information at SmartHub.



View daily, monthly, and yearly usage with SmartHub. Create an account at barronelectric.com, or scan the QR code.

90th Annual Meeting and Cookout set for Thursday, April 9



All members are invited to Barron Electric Cooperative's 90th Annual Meeting on **Thursday, April 9 at Barron Electric Cooperative, 1434 State Highway 25 North, Barron.** Registration and dinner will start at **4:00 p.m.** The Barron VFW will

cater the dinner, featuring a brat or hamburger, cole slaw, beans, chips, and a cupcake. The business meeting will follow at **5:30 p.m.** Our guest speaker is Jeremy Browning, Vice President of Generation at Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power supplier. Learn more about your cooperative, elect directors for Districts 2, 4, and 8, and take advantage of the chance to win exciting prizes.

Concern for Community

Concern for the community is one of the seven cooperative principles. Help the Cameron Food Pantry stock their shelves. One item they requested is toilet paper. Those donating items will be entered into a prize drawing.

On a Quest for Cooperative History

Do you have a historical piece relating to Barron Electric Cooperative that you would be willing to donate? We would like to display items at the cooperative's 90th annual meeting on Thursday, April 9. Items can be dropped off or mailed to Barron Electric's office located at 1434 State Highway 25 North, PO Box 40, Barron, WI 54812, Attn: Member Services

Sweet Savings on Appliances and Electric Water Heating

Barron Electric offers a variety of rebates for Energy Star appliances, energy efficient lighting, and energy-efficient heating and cooling systems. Rebate information is available at barronelectric.com or by scanning the QR code.

High-efficiency Electric Water Heater Rebates

| | |
|---|-------|
| 75-99 gallons with Energy Factor ≥ 0.88 | \$250 |
| 100+ gallons with Energy Factor ≥ 0.88 | \$400 |
| Heat Pump Water Heater with Energy Factor ≥ 2.20 | \$500 |

Participation in the load management program is required for electric water heater rebates. A receiver will be installed free of charge on the electric water heater. The receiver conserves electricity by not allowing the water heater to reheat during peak demand times, and control times will vary depending on the size of the water heater. Barron Electric does not sell water heaters.

If you have any questions, please contact the Member Services Department at 800-322-1008.



New Rate Schedule *(Continued from Cover)*

our rates. On average, most of the equipment Barron Electric purchases has increased over 80% since 2020.

What is the facilities charge?

The facilities charge is the cost to build and maintain power lines and the electric system that makes power available at members' locations. The cooperative incurs these costs whether or not any kilowatt-hours are used. This is the average cost to provide the first kWh of service to a member.

Items included in the facilities charge include wires, poles, transformers, substations, right-of-way clearing, vehicles and equipment.

Cooperatives serve the rural areas which have fewer consumers per mile of line; therefore, Barron Electric collects less in the Facilities

Charge per mile of line than other power suppliers as shown below:

What is Barron Electric doing to reduce costs?

- The Operations Department is converting dusk-to-dawn lights to LED, and has received nearly \$40,000 in grants. LED dusk to dawn lights save up to 90% over mercury vapor lights and have a lot longer lifespan, 50,000 versus 2,000 hours.
- Barron Electric has worked with both the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Wisconsin Emergency Management reimbursement for storm expenses.
- Members who participate in Barron Electric's load management programs help to lower the wholesale power bill as electric heat, electric water

heaters, and central air are interrupted during times of peak demand. Members interested in having their

electric water heater (50 gallons or more) or central air unit enrolled in the load management programs should contact our office at 800-322-1008 or memberservices@barronelectric.com. Those members signing up for the *Central Air Load Management Program will receive up to a \$10 credit on their electric bill during the months of July, August, and September. The central air unit is interrupted during peak demand times and cycles for 15 minutes on and 15 minutes off. Conditions apply.

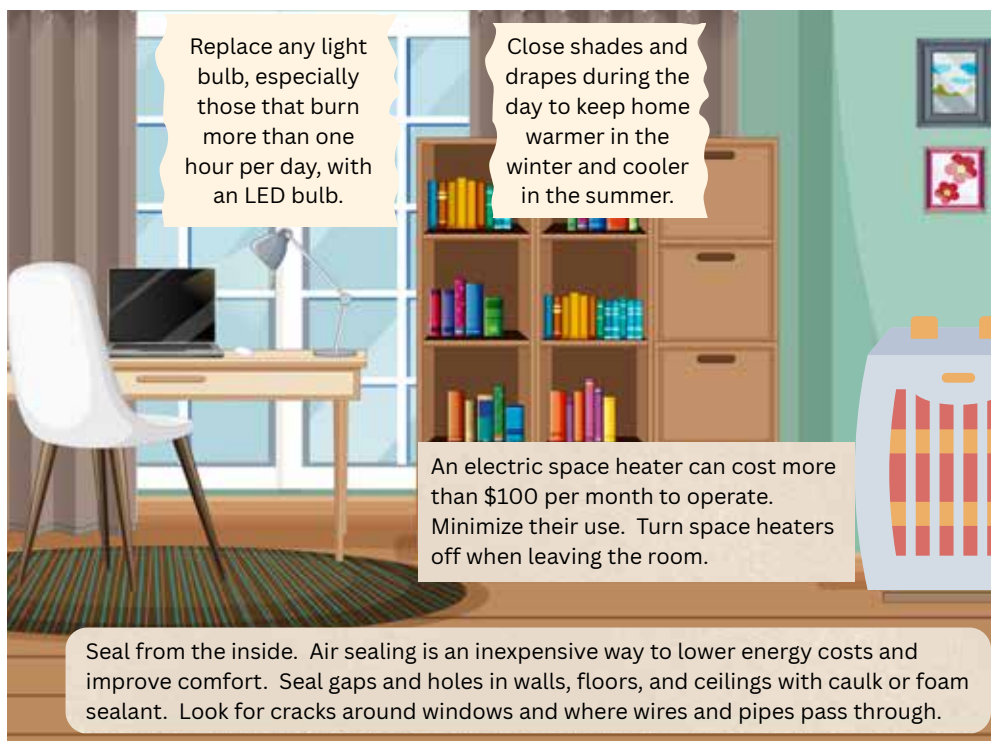
- Barron Electric's staff work with legislators to ensure legislation helps the rural area and keeps rates affordable for members.
- Barron Electric promotes Auto Pay to reduce processing charges.
- Members who sign up for paperless billing help save money on paper and printing costs. These costs have significantly increased since 2020.
- Barron Electric continues to invest in technology to gain efficiency including the GPS project. This project will improve the outage dispatch process and provide a safer electric system. During outages, this will allow better communication from the cooperative to our membership.
- The cooperative maintains a lean workforce and has some of the lowest labor expenses in the state.
- Barron Electric obtains bids for materials, equipment, and projects when possible. The cooperative has also purchased material in advance to obtain better pricing.

If you have questions regarding Barron Electric's rates, please contact billing@barronelectric.com or call our office at 800-322-1008.

**AC radio receiver installs will start in the spring.*

| | Consumers Per Mile | Revenue Collected Per Mile of Line |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Barron Electric | 6 | \$276 |
| Investor-Owned Utilities | 35 | \$525 |
| Municipals | 47 | \$470 |

Ways to Save Energy and Money





Photos of Winter Wonders Wanted

Send in your beautiful winter photos for a chance to win a \$50 credit on your electric bill. Criteria includes:

- Photos must have a horizontal orientation (landscape) and be high resolution, 300 dpi or higher.
- Member must own rights to the photo.
- Photo must be e-mailed to memberservices@barronelectric.com by February 15, 2026. 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 publications and on our website.

News FOR YOU...

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www.barronelectric.com

Published for the members of Barron Electric.

If you have any comments regarding the newsletter, please e-mail cbaribeau@barronelectric.com

Barron Electric is an equal opportunity provider.



*Condensed Board Minutes November 26, 2025

Mark Bowers represents District 9 on Barron Electric's Board of Directors which includes the following townships: Chetek, Dallas, Sioux Creek, Dovre, Sampson, and Sand Creek.



- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #105029 through #105136 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$255,090 with capital credit estate checks totaling \$16,129. Total receipts in the office \$2,160,401; total receipts by wire and ACH \$1,942,013; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$3,058,404; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$215,956 and the power bill was paid on 11/26/2025 in the amount of \$2,036,784.
- Director of Member Services Beaudette presented information to the board for pre-approval to the 2026 Budget to purchase audio-visual equipment for the garage sound system. Director Effertz moved, seconded by Director Mandel, to pre-approve the purchase of audio-visual equipment for the garage sound system. Discussion. Motion carried.
- A membership list of 71 was presented and approved without objection.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of October in the amount of \$475,203.87 was presented for approval and included new services \$51,410.94; change jobs \$48,381.16; Other Work Order Projects \$375,411.77 and 8 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 80,078.43 consumer hours off, which is 8.06% below 2024 hours of 87,096.89.
- Overtime year-to-date is 3,025.25 hours, which is 12.44% below 2024 hours of 3,455.

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

Give Blood

Blood Drive
Friday, February 20
at Barron Electric Cooperative
1434 Hwy 25 North, Barron
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Visit redcrossblood.org or call
800-733-2767 to schedule an appointment.

