

News FOR YOU...

Members Will See a Rate Increase on their March 1 Bill

Barron Electric Cooperative works hard to keep rates stable and affordable. The increasing cost to provide safe, reliable power is being impacted by higher prices for equipment, supplies, interest, and services such as technology, software, engineering, and line upgrades. In the last three years, wholesale power costs have increased 9.5% and have influenced the need for a rate increase. Wholesale power costs account for 67% of a member's bill.

Barron Electric hired Power Systems Engineering to evaluate rates. The study indicated that the cost to provide service, Facilities Charge, is \$41 per month per residential member, whether or not

any kilowatt hours are used. Based on this study, Barron Electric's Board of Directors approved a rate increase, effective on the March 1 electric bill. The average residential member using 1,200 kilowatt hours will see a 4.2% annual increase or an average of \$7.25 per month. This rate increase will help to keep the debt-to-equity ratio stable.

"Barron Electric's Board of Directors and staff work hard to keep expenses down while maintaining the goals of reliability and great customer service. We continue to make system improvements using technology for efficiency, reliability, and reducing outages," said Barron Electric's General Manager Aaron Torud. Barron Electric continues

to maintain a lean workforce and reduces costs by obtaining multiple bids for materials, equipment and projects and work with vendors with the goal of locking in prices when they are low.

Resources to Help You with Your Electric Bill

Members can contact the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program, which assists eligible households with their heating and electric bills.

Members in Barron, Burnett, Chippewa, Dunn, Washburn, and Polk Counties should contact
 West Cap715-265-4271
 Rusk County715-485-8400
 Sawyer County715-634-4806

More rate information can be found on page 3.

2024 Residential Rate Schedule		
Effective 1-18-2024		
Rate Class	Previous Rate	New Rate
Facilities Charge	\$34.50 per month	\$41.00 per month
Energy Charge/kWh (Dec-March)	\$0.0997 per kWh	\$0.1033 per kWh
Energy Charge/kWh (June-September)	\$0.1097 per kWh	\$0.1133 per kWh
Energy Charge/kWh (New) (April/May and October/November)		\$0.0933 per kWh
Heat Storage	\$0.0550 per kWh	\$0.0550 per kWh
Dual Fuel Heat and Interruptible Heat	\$0.0740 per kWh	\$0.0800 per kWh
Facilities Charge for Off-Peak	\$5.75 per month	\$5.75 per month

This new rate schedule will be reflected on the March 1 bill statement.

*Condensed Board Minutes November 29, 2023



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

- Nick Nelson, Rate and Financial Consultant from Power System Engineering, Inc. (PSE) presented information to the board regarding the cost of service study and reviewed rates. Question and answer session. A completed rate study is expected to be available by the next meeting.
- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #102416 through #102545 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$367,950 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$34,880. Total receipts in the office - \$2,666,043; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$3,078,040; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$4,843,515; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$216,372 and power bill paid on November 29, 2023, in the amount of \$1,972,689.
- A membership list of 61 was presented and accepted without objection.

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

GPS Project Will Start This Spring



Global Mapping Solutions(GMS) will begin inventory of Barron Electric's system, which will include Global Positioning Systems(GPS) coordinates of all equipment on the system. This project will help improve the outage dispatch process and provide a safer electric system for line crews, contractors, members, and the public. Once completed, this should allow better communication from the cooperative to our membership during outages.

Global Mapping Solutions will start at a small substation, north of New Auburn. Once complete, they will start in the northern part of Barron Electric's service territory and move south. GMS will be on your property to inventory and take pictures of equipment, i.e. meters and transformers. GMS will use ATVs/UTVs and access the Right-of-Way by foot when necessary. Their vehicles will include magnetic signs with Barron Electric's logo, as pictured, and GMS crews will carry identification badges noting they are contracted by Barron Electric. There are no signs on the ATVs/UTVs.

If you have questions, please contact the Operations Department at 800-322-1008 or operations@barronelectric.com.

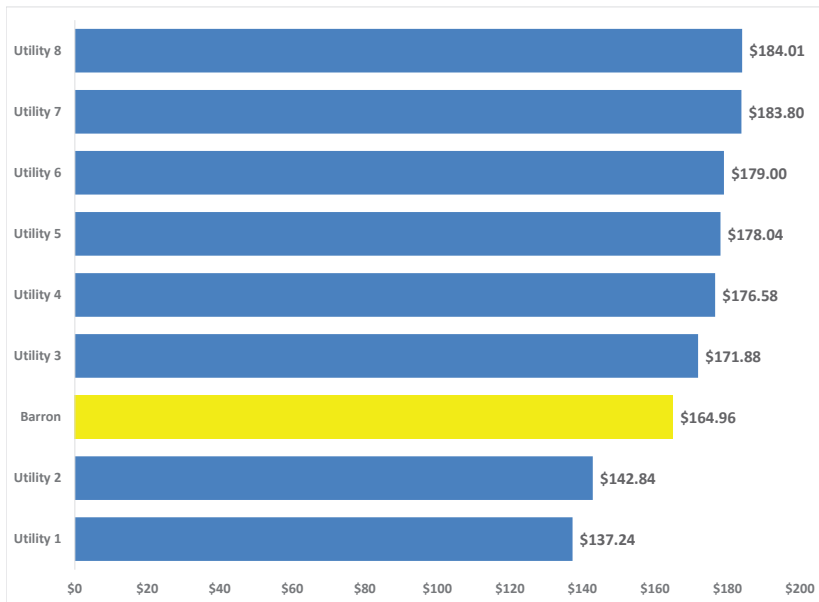


Monthly Photo Contest Winner Receives a \$50 Bill Credit

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

- 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 February 10, 2024. 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.

Barron Electric Rates Compared to Neighboring Utilities



Barron Electric Cooperative has the third lowest average monthly bill based on 1,200 kilowatt-hours compared to neighboring utilities.

Save the Date for Barron Electric Cooperative's 88th Annual Meeting March 23, 2024

at the Barron Area Community Center (BACC) Gym & Auditorium
(New Location)

Registration & Breakfast

8 a.m. - 10 a.m. at the BACC Gym

Enjoy a breakfast served by the VFW including pancakes, eggs, sausage, and refreshments.

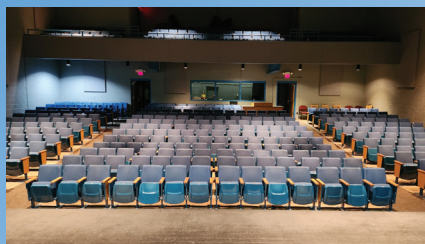
Business Meeting

10 a.m. at the BACC Auditorium

Director elections will be held for Districts 1, 5, and 7. View the January News for You at barronelectric.com/news-center for more details.

Food Donations Needed

Bring a food donation for the Prairie Farm Food Pantry. They are in need of cereal, personal care items, paper products, or monetary donations.



Prizes & Attendance Gift

There will be a drawing for 12 - \$100 cash prizes at the conclusion of the meeting. Members must be present to win. Each member and guest will receive a pound of cheese.

5 Key Factors that Impact Energy Bills

Fuel Costs & Wholesale Power
Electricity is generated at a power plant or from a renewable source before it is delivered to your home. The cost of fuels used to generate electricity fluctuate. In the last three years, wholesale power costs have increased 9.5% and have influenced the need for a rate increase. Wholesale power costs account for 67% of a member's bill.

Facilities Charge

The facilities charge recovers part of Barron Electric's ongoing investments in poles, wire, meters, system maintenance and additional costs necessary to provide electric service. Barron Electric serves 6 members per mile of line totaling \$246 in revenue, while municipals serve 47 consumers per mile of line at \$470 in revenue. Investor-owned utilities serve 35 consumers per mile of line totaling \$525 in revenue.

Weather

When temperatures decrease or increase, heating and cooling equipment must run longer and at maximum capacity, which can impact energy use. Extreme temperatures can also affect electricity market prices. When the need for electricity increases due to extreme cold or heat, the price of power typically rises.

Energy Consumption

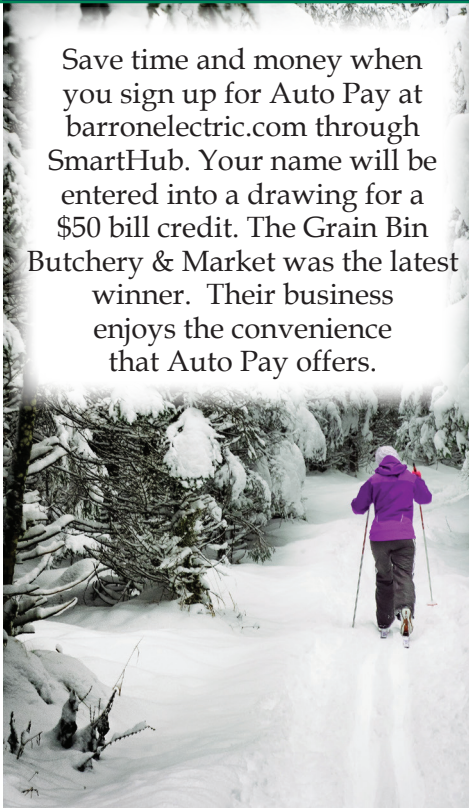
The amount of electricity consumed is measured in kilowatt-hours, or kWhs. Members have control over how much energy is used, which helps manage monthly costs. Members can also keep rates stable by reducing demand during high load days or peak alerts.

Materials and Equipment Costs

Barron Electric has seen price increases from 60-120% on wire and transformers. Lead time has also increased, which has affected inventory.

Enjoy the Time You Save with Auto Pay

Save time and money when you sign up for Auto Pay at barronelectric.com through SmartHub. Your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 bill credit. The Grain Bin Butchery & Market was the latest winner. Their business enjoys the convenience that Auto Pay offers.



Scholarships Will Help Students Pay for College



Barron Electric is offering two \$1,000 Cooperative Achievement Scholarship opportunities to each of the following schools: Barron, Birchwood, Cameron, Chetek-Weyerhaeuser, Clayton, Clear Lake, Cumberland, Hayward, New Auburn, Prairie Farm, Rice Lake, Shell Lake, Spooner and Turtle Lake. Applicants must have parents or guardians that are Barron Electric Cooperative members. Please check with the school counselor's office to obtain an application and the eligibility requirements.

Barron Electric's General Manager Aaron Torud said, "Barron Electric is dedicated to enriching the lives of those it serves, including its youngest members. The cooperative has awarded \$394,500 to more than 400 students since 1985." Funds for scholarships are derived from unclaimed Cashback Credits.

Give Your Energy Bill Love

Many of us are looking for ways to save money. When purchasing new appliances, look for the Energy Star label, which ensures you are buying one of the top efficient models. Barron Electric offers rebates on the following appliances:

Energy Star® Clothes Washer	\$25
Energy Star® Electric Clothes Dryer	\$25
Energy Star® Dehumidifier	\$25
Energy Star® Dishwasher	\$25
Energy Star® Freezer	\$25
Energy Star® Refrigerator (>= to 10 cubic feet).....	\$25
Inductive Range	\$25
Refrigerator or Freezer Recycling	\$25
Room Air Conditioner Recycling	\$25



News FOR YOU...

Barron Electric Cooperative
 Aaron Torud - General Manager
 Carrie Baribeau—Editor
cbaribeau@barronelectric.com

Office Hours
 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 Monday - Friday

1434 State Highway 25 North
 PO Box 40 • Barron, WI 54812
 (715) 537-3171
 Toll Free: 1-800-322-1008

For Outages Only:
 866-258-8722

www.barronelectric.com



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cbaribeau@barronelectric.com

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