

# LET'S TALK DAILY SERVICE CHARGE

**H**ave you ever looked at your bill and wondered, “What is this daily service charge and why do I have to pay it?”

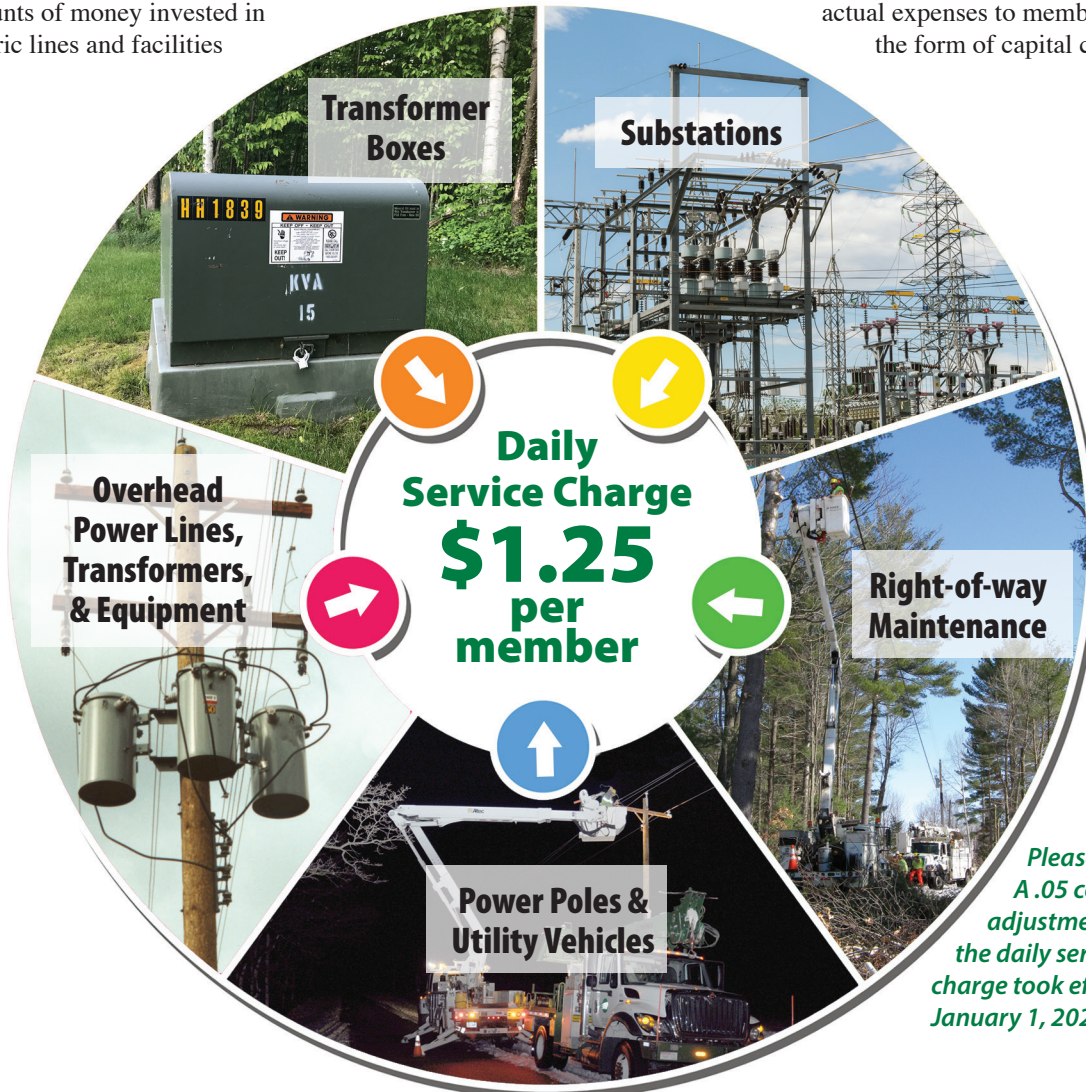
This charge has been part of the cooperative’s rate since billing began. Many utility companies, such as gas, telephone, and water utilities, call this charge a “service charge.” It is a minimum charge that everyone pays no matter the amount of usage.

The fixed (daily service) charge is set to reflect the actual cost of providing and maintaining electrical service to a member, whether that member uses electricity or not. BEC has large amounts of money invested in electric lines and facilities

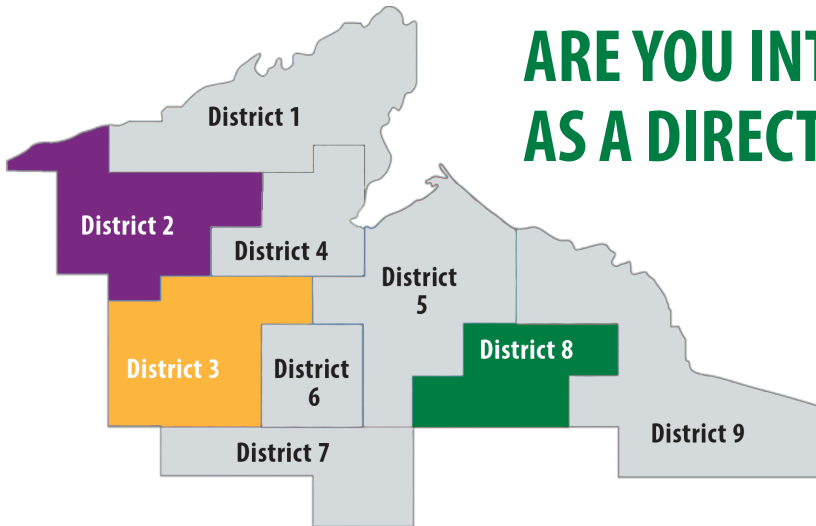
to serve each individual member of the cooperative. Expenses have to be paid in order to maintain the poles, wire, insulators, transformers, trucks, and equipment needed to bring you safe and reliable electric service.

Your monthly bill is made up of two parts: the electric charge (cost per kilowatt), for the amount of electricity you use; and the fixed charge, which covers the cost of maintaining the system in order to provide that electricity.

As a cooperative, Bayfield Electric returns any money collected over and above our actual expenses to members in the form of capital credits.



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



**The following districts are up for re-election in 2021:**

**District 2** – Brule, Oulu, Iron River, Cloverland, Tripp, Hughes

**District 3** – Drummond, Barnes, Delta, Mason

**District 8** – Ashland, Anderson, Morse, Gurney

## 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 EASY WAYS TO STAY COZY THIS WINTER



**B**aby, it's cold outside! When you're feeling chilly at home, there are several budget-friendly ways you can keep comfortable without turning up the thermostat. Here are five easy ways to stay cozy this winter:

1. Whether you're experiencing extremely cold winter temps or you simply "run cold," an electric blanket can deliver quick warmth like a regular throw blanket cannot. Electric blankets can include a variety of features, like timers and dual temperature settings. This winter, consider an electric blanket instead of turning up the heat, and your electric bill will thank you.
2. One of the easiest ways to stay cozy at home is to keep your feet warm. Our feet play a critical role in regulating body temperature, so when your feet are warm, your body automatically feels warmer. Try a pair of comfortable wool socks or house slippers to stay toasty.
3. On winter days when the sun is shining, take advantage and harness natural warmth from sunlight. Open all curtains, drapes, and blinds in your home to let the sunshine in—you'll be able to feel the difference.
4. Another way to make your home cozier is to use a humidifier. Cold air doesn't hold water vapor like warm air, so by adding humidity inside your home, you can feel a little warmer. A favorable level of humidity inside your home can also help clear sinuses, soften skin, and improve sleep.
5. Beyond adding visual appeal to your home, area rugs can also provide extra insulation and a warm surface for your feet on cold winter days. Use large area rugs in rooms where you spend the most time. You'll enjoy the new colors and textures of the rug, and the additional warmth will help keep your home comfortable.

These are just a few ways you can stay cozy this winter without turning up the thermostat. Don't forget hot chocolate, either!

**Normal power line**      **Lines weighed down by ice**      **Top line melted after bottom line**

## ICE ON POWER LINES IS A WEIGHTY SUBJECT

When it comes to getting electricity across power lines and into homes, ice can be a force to be reckoned with.

### ICE ON DISTRIBUTION LINES

Ice can quickly lead to broken power poles and other pole equipment. Ice can also make falling tree branches 30x heavier and much more likely to break power lines.

### ON A 300-FOOT SPAN OF 1-INCH-THICK POWER LINES

- 1/2 inch of ice adds 281 pounds of weight
- 1 inch of ice adds 749 pounds of weight
- 2 inches of ice adds 2,248 pounds of weight

### WHEN ICE MELTS

Melting ice can cause power outages. If ice on the bottom (neutral) line melts before the lines above, it can cause the lines to touch.

### OTHER ICE FACTS

- Damage can begin when ice exceeds 1/4 of an inch
- 1/2 inch of ice can cause a line to sag up to 12 inches
- Pressure can also be caused by a broken tree limb
- Both ice and melting ice can cause power outages

Source: Jerri Imgarten-Whitley and Victory Electric Cooperative



# 2022

HAPPY NEW YEAR

from Bayfield Electric Cooperative

We 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 2022, 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.

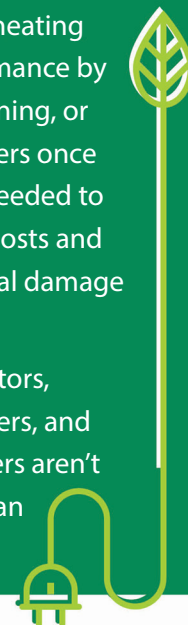
*Let's have a great year together!*

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning, or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system.

Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters, and warm-air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.

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



## MONTH OF JANUARY

Billing date: January 7, 2022

December usage

Bills due upon receipt

Gross Due after  
January 27, 2022

## DID YOU RECEIVE 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 your contact information. To make changes please call 715-372-4287 or visit our online account change form at [www.bayfieldelectric.com/update-account](http://www.bayfieldelectric.com/update-account). It's that easy!



### Christopher Kopel, CEO

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### Briana Green, Editor



## Bayfield Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*