

Current CONNECTION



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CURRENT CORNER
2025 A Year of
New Beginnings

CURRENT CONNECTION
Moves to Quarterly

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Board Filing
Opens in January

PUZZLERS
Enter to win one of
three \$25 bill credits

INSTALLING SOLAR IN MINNESOTA

Safety and Key Considerations



Installing a solar array is an exciting step toward utilizing renewable energy, but safety and careful planning must be top priorities—for you, your property, and the cooperative's infrastructure. Here's what you need to know before getting started.

SAFETY FIRST

Solar arrays that connect to Crow Wing Power's grid must comply with safety standards to protect both your home and the cooperative's electrical system. Proper design and installation are critical to avoid issues that could endanger lineworkers or disrupt service to other members. Early communication with Crow Wing Power ensures your project meets interconnection requirements, maintaining the safety and reliability of the grid.

EVALUATE YOUR LOCATION

Choosing the right site for your solar array is essential. Panels need maximum sun exposure to operate efficiently, so avoid shaded areas caused by trees, buildings, or other obstacles. Poor placement can reduce output and increase the time it takes to recoup your investment.

SYSTEM SIZE AND COSTS

The average solar system in our area costs \$4,200 per kilowatt (kW), with most systems sized around 14kW. This size generally covers a portion of the annual energy needs of an average home. Seasonal factors like heavy snow and extreme cold can temporarily impact performance, so it's important to set realistic expectations. Disclaimer: Cost estimates for solar installation are based on communications with members and are subject to variation depending on location, equipment choices, and installation specifics.

SELECTING A QUALIFIED CONTRACTOR

For a safe and successful installation, work with a knowledgeable and experienced contractor. Crow Wing Power recommends choosing local professionals who understand Minnesota's climate and electrical standards. Resources like the Clean Energy Resource Teams' guide can help you evaluate potential contractors.

www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/questions-ask-companies

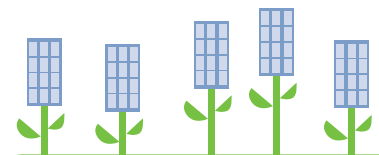
SUPPORT AND INCENTIVES

While Crow Wing Power doesn't provide solar incentives, a federal tax credit of 30-40% of project costs is available. If you're considering battery storage, be aware that it

adds significant cost, though it may enhance your system's capabilities.

Planning ahead, communicating early to Crow Wing Power and prioritizing safety will ensure your solar project integrates seamlessly with your home and the cooperative's infrastructure. Visit Crow Wing Power's Renewables page for more information:

www.cwpower.com/renewables



It's like a community garden, planted with SOLAR PANELS!

Community solar is ideal for members who want to harness the power of the sun's energy, but lack a suitable site or funds for a solar array of their own.

There are still shares available for our latest array.



THE Current Corner

2025 A Year of New Beginnings for Crow Wing Power

As we look ahead to 2025, it's clear that big changes are coming for Crow Wing Power. While some details are yet to unfold, we already know this will be a year of transition.

One of the biggest changes will be the announcement of a new CEO, bringing leadership and direction to our Cooperative. This marks a step forward as we work to address challenges and opportunities in the energy industry.

We're also transitioning to Basin Electric as our sole wholesale power provider, while Great River Energy remains our transmission provider. Basin Electric, based in Bismarck, North Dakota, is a not-for-profit cooperative serving 3 million electric consumers across nine states. Their diversified energy portfolio includes dispatchable and renewable resources, helping us achieve greater rate stability over time. This shift will also bring changes to our load control programs, reducing the likelihood of frequent control events for members.

That said, 2025 will bring financial realities we must navigate together. Rising costs driven by grid modernization, equipment expenses, and the transition to renewable energy mean a rate adjustment is likely in the near future. We remain committed to keeping rates as stable as possible

while ensuring reliable service and continued investment in our infrastructure.

This year also marks the start of a work plan focused on addressing aging infrastructure and updating substations to enhance reliability for all members. These efforts are essential to maintaining the strong, dependable service you deserve.

While challenges lie ahead, so do opportunities. With new leadership, strategic partnerships, and a focus on reliability, we're confident in our ability to navigate this new chapter and keep Crow Wing Power moving forward.



Sincerely,

Eric Quale | *Interim Chief Executive Officer*

**This article was written in early December prior to any announcement of CEO position.*

This infographic offers a snapshot of Basin Electric, our sole wholesale power supplier. During this transition, you can continue to expect the reliable service and local expertise you trust from Crow Wing Power. For more information about Basin Electric visit cwpower.com

What Does An All-Energy Strategy

Basin Electric Energy

500,000
SQUARE MILES

140
MEMBERS

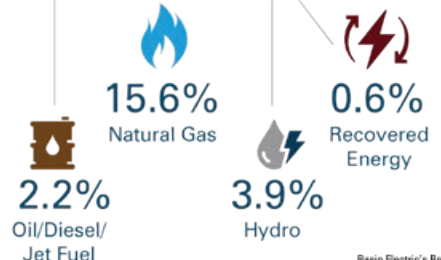
3 MILLION
CONSUMERS

\$1.9 MILLION
INVESTMENT INTO
MAINTAIN RELIABILITY

YEAR
2000



YEAR
2023



Basin Electric's Resources from owned facilities



Newsletter Update!

starting in 2025

Beginning in 2025, members who receive their bill via mail will receive their printed newsletter **quarterly**, included with their statements in **January, April, July, and October**.

To provide timely updates between issues, we're introducing a **monthly digital newsletter**. This will be accessible online at cwpower.com, linked in SmartHub, and emailed to members who have opted for paperless billing.

This change aligns with our commitment to Cooperative Principle #5: **Education, Training, and Information**. We believe in equipping members with the knowledge to engage effectively with their cooperative while communicating efficiently and cost-effectively. Rising printing and mailing expenses make this transition necessary, allowing us to focus resources where they benefit members most.

Thank you for supporting these changes as we continue to share the benefits and opportunities of your cooperative. Stay connected with us through both print and digital platforms in the coming year!

Board Meeting HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 2024

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, October 17, 2024. A quorum of directors was present. President Mark Ronnei opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following reports were given:

- CEO report
- CFO Report
- Directors reported on meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.

The following actions were taken:

- Approved October Consent Agenda.
- Approved Minutes of the September 19, 2024 regular board meeting.
- Accepted and approved 2023 forms 990 and 990T for filing.
- Approved 2025 Right-Of-Way Budget.
- Approved Director Expense Reports for September 2024.

NOVEMBER 2024

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, November 21, 2024. A quorum of directors was present. President Mark Ronnei opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following reports were given:

- CEO report
- CFO Report
- Directors reported on meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.

The following actions were taken:

- Approved November Consent Agenda.
- Approved Minutes of the October 17, 2024 regular board meeting.
- Approved Resolution asking RUS to Amend CWP's Revenue Deferral Plan.
- Approved Director Expense Reports for October 2024.

Members can review detailed minutes by logging into their SmartHub account. Log in is located on the homepage of our website.



CWPower.com

Of-The-Above Look Like?

Diversity



4.2%
Oil/Diesel/
Jet Fuel

11.2%
Hydro

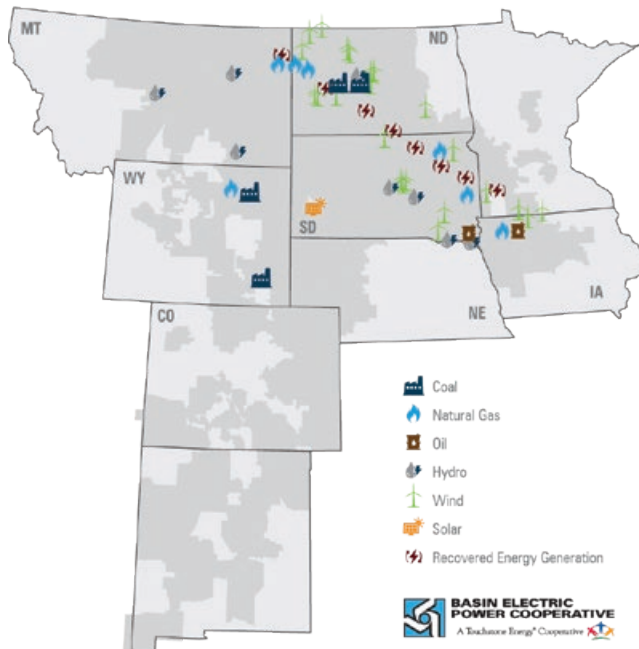
16.5%
Market
Purchases

26%
Wind

Portfolio (above) consists of generation in megawatts (winter ratings) and purchased power contracts longer than 3 years.

GENERATION FACILITIES

Basin Electric's resource portfolio is fueled by a diverse energy supply. We know that our all-of-the-above energy strategy will continue to provide responsible, affordable, and reliable energy.



Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors: **OPEN FILING**

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors is made up of member-owners like you, dedicated to representing our community's interests. The Board oversees the cooperative's operations and strategic direction, ensuring the needs of all members are met.

Each year, three director positions are up for election. For 2025, elections will be held for Districts 1B, 2A, and 3 At-Large. Elected directors serve a three-year term, contributing their time and skills to guide our cooperative forward.

The filing period for candidates opens Thursday, January 30,

2025, and closes on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. Members interested in running can learn more about board responsibilities, qualifications, and time commitments by contacting Crow Wing Power at 800-648-9401 or via email during regular business hours.

Ballots will be mailed to members in May, with voting concluding during the Annual Business Meeting on June 14, 2025, at the Brainerd Curling Club. Join us to learn more and hear the election results! Annual Business meeting and director election information can be found at cwpower.com

JANUARY PUZZLERS

Enter to win one of three \$25 bill credits!

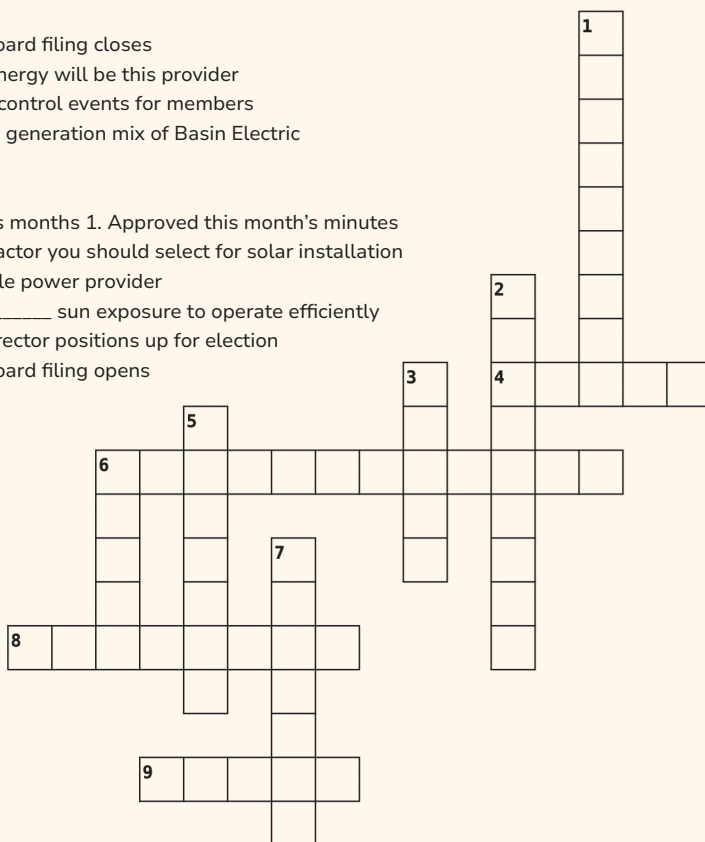
Complete the puzzle and send back by February 15. Three easy ways: Send a photo to info@cwpower.com / Mail in with your bill. / cwpower.com/news, click Online Puzzles. November winners: Roy Gordon from Crosslake, Glen Anhorn from Baxter, Timothy Sink from Crosby

Across

- Month that board filing closes
- Great River Energy will be this provider
- Likelihood of control events for members
- Is 3.9% of the generation mix of Basin Electric

Down

- Approved this month's 1. Approved this month's minutes
- Type of contractor you should select for solar installation
- Sole wholesale power provider
- Panels need _____ sun exposure to operate efficiently
- Number of director positions up for election
- Month that board filing opens



Name _____

Address _____

City / State / ZIP _____

Email _____

Account # _____

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ANSWERS:

Across: 2. Netmetering 3. Toysforkids 4. Thanksgiving 7. Renewable 8.Simplicity
Down: 1. Experience 3. Truck 5. Smarthub 6. Holiday 9. Proof



Publication of
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Board meetings are held the third Thursday of each month beginning at 9:00 a.m. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.