



Capital Electric

COOPERATIVE

OCTOBER 2022

Capital Electric Cooperative will relocate to its new headquarters property in November. The property, which is currently undergoing renovations, includes a 48,000-square-foot building and a six-acre fenced pole yard.



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RENDERING BY JAMIE VETTER/AGENCY MABU

Capital Electric Cooperative's new logo graces the exterior of its new headquarters facility, located at 7401 Yukon Drive in north Bismarck.

Capital Electric Cooperative to relocate to new headquarters facility

BY KRISTA RAUSCH

Capital Electric Cooperative will soon welcome members to its new headquarters facility, located at 7401 Yukon Drive in north Bismarck. Currently under renovation, the new location will offer improved security, better access and room for the co-op to grow. Employees will begin transitioning to the new facility in November.

For more than 50 years, Capital Electric has called 4111 State Street in Bismarck home. In that time, the co-op has grown from 2,655 meters to 21,805 meters and added 21 employees.

As the co-op's staff and membership grew, so did the community around it, creating new challenges. Future expansion was hindered. Parking became limited. And, increased traffic made it difficult for crews to maneuver large trucks and pole trailers off the property. It became clear the co-op had outgrown its home.

"We're just getting pinched in," Operations Manager Rick Dressler says. "Years ago, it was fine. There wasn't

much up here. But Bismarck is growing, and this is where most of the growth is happening."

After identifying the need for a new location, the Capital Electric Board of Directors began considering available options, including new construction and existing facilities. In February 2020, the board approved the purchase of a 12-acre property located less than two miles north of the co-op's current headquarters location.

Positioned along the two highways most traveled by the co-op's lineworkers — Highway 1804 and Highway 83 — Capital Electric's new headquarters facility is situated away from areas of congested urban traffic, making it more accessible to members, contractors and employees. And, better access could mean faster response times.

"The positioning of the property facilitates a quicker response time to outages and service calls," says Manager of Engineering Services Greg Owen. "With our new access points, we can go east, west, north and south pretty rapidly."

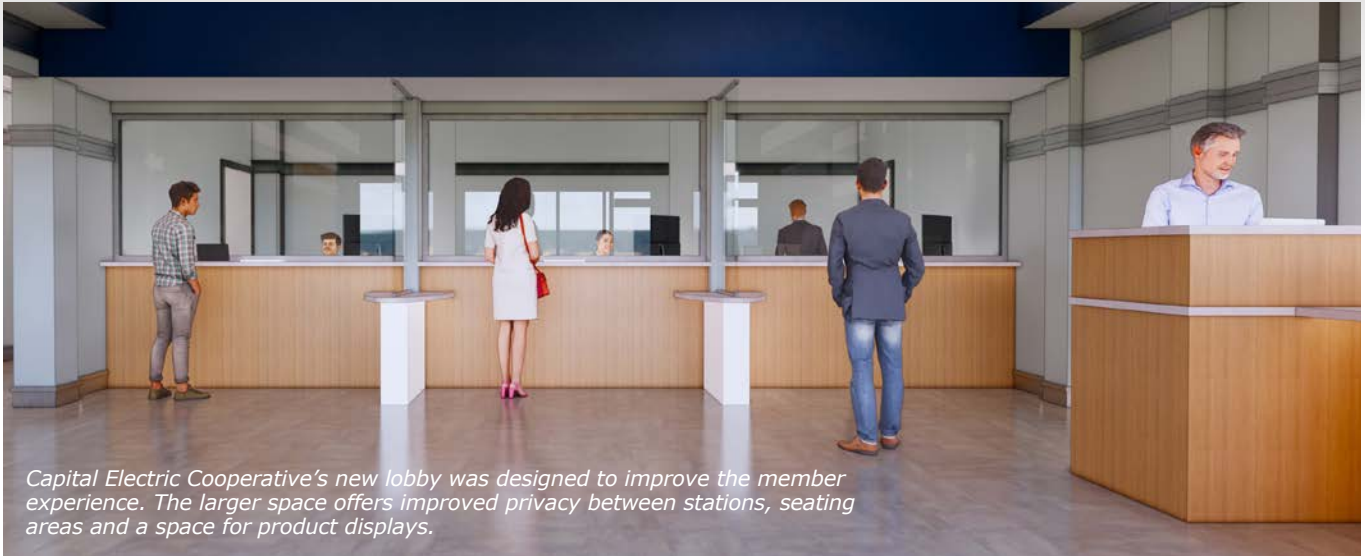


PHOTO BY PAUL BREINER/EAPC ARCHITECTS

Capital Electric Cooperative's new lobby was designed to improve the member experience. The larger space offers improved privacy between stations, seating areas and a space for product displays.

An improved member experience

The modern facility, constructed in 2008, has office space with vaulted ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows, a state-of-the-art training center, an outdoor patio, a large indoor shop and a six-acre fenced pole yard. All member areas are at ground level, with no slope, providing better accessibility, especially for those with mobility issues. In addition, the parking lot is more than twice the size of the one at the State Street property. And more improvements are underway.

In August, Capital City Construction began interior renovations to the lobby, control room and metering room. These renovations will help improve the overall employee and member experience.

“In the lobby, there will be three member stations, and we’ll have a little bit better privacy between stations,” Owen says. “We’ll also have some seating and a display room for the products we offer, such as water heaters and solar wells. And for members who may want to spend time visiting with staff, we’ll have a space with a table and chairs where we can sit down and discuss topics they want to learn more about.”

The operations department will also benefit from a new control room with a 7-by-14-foot video wall, which will enhance the ability to monitor systems and respond in the event of an outage. Dressler says it’s a major improvement.

“Everyone is looking forward to the new video wall,” Dressler says. “There are a lot of different things we can put on that wall. We can put our system map on there. We can put the weather on there. We can put security on there. We can put our transmission system on there. We can put one of those things on there or we can put it all on there.”

Construction is also underway on a 10,000-square-foot storage building, which will be completed in 2023.

A new look

The new building will bear Capital Electric’s new logo, which was unveiled at the co-op’s annual meeting in June.

“In the life of every business, there comes a moment when you need to look closer at who you are or, rather, who you’ve become, and make that visible for others,” General Manager Paul Fitterer says. “As Capital Electric evolves, so, too, should our image.”

The logo, designed by Agency MABU, speaks to Capital Electric’s reliability and work ethic. A power button is reflected in the mark, which turned on its side, loosely forms the ‘C’ and ‘E’ of Capital Electric. The angular, wrench-like shape gives the mark a blue-collar feel that alludes to the organization’s humble, genuine nature and get-it-done attitude.

“A new building, a new logo — stuff like that gives everybody a fresh start, you know?” Dressler says. “We have a lot of people who have been here for quite a few years. And it’s pretty cool to move into a new building and get a new look. We’ll be doing the same work, but it still feels like a new beginning.”

Capital Electric plans to relocate to the new facility by Thanksgiving.

“As always, we are here to serve our members, and we look forward to welcoming them to our new location,” Fitterer says.


Capital Electric is currently working with CRA Group to sell its existing administrative building. To learn more about the property, visit capitalelec.com/capital-electric-property-sales or contact Kyle Holwagner at kyle@thecragroup.com or 701-400-5373. ©





ENERGY VAMPIRES WORD SCRAMBLE

Energy vampires could be lurking in your home! These are electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not being used.

Unscramble the bolded words to identify common energy vampires. Check your work in the answer key below.

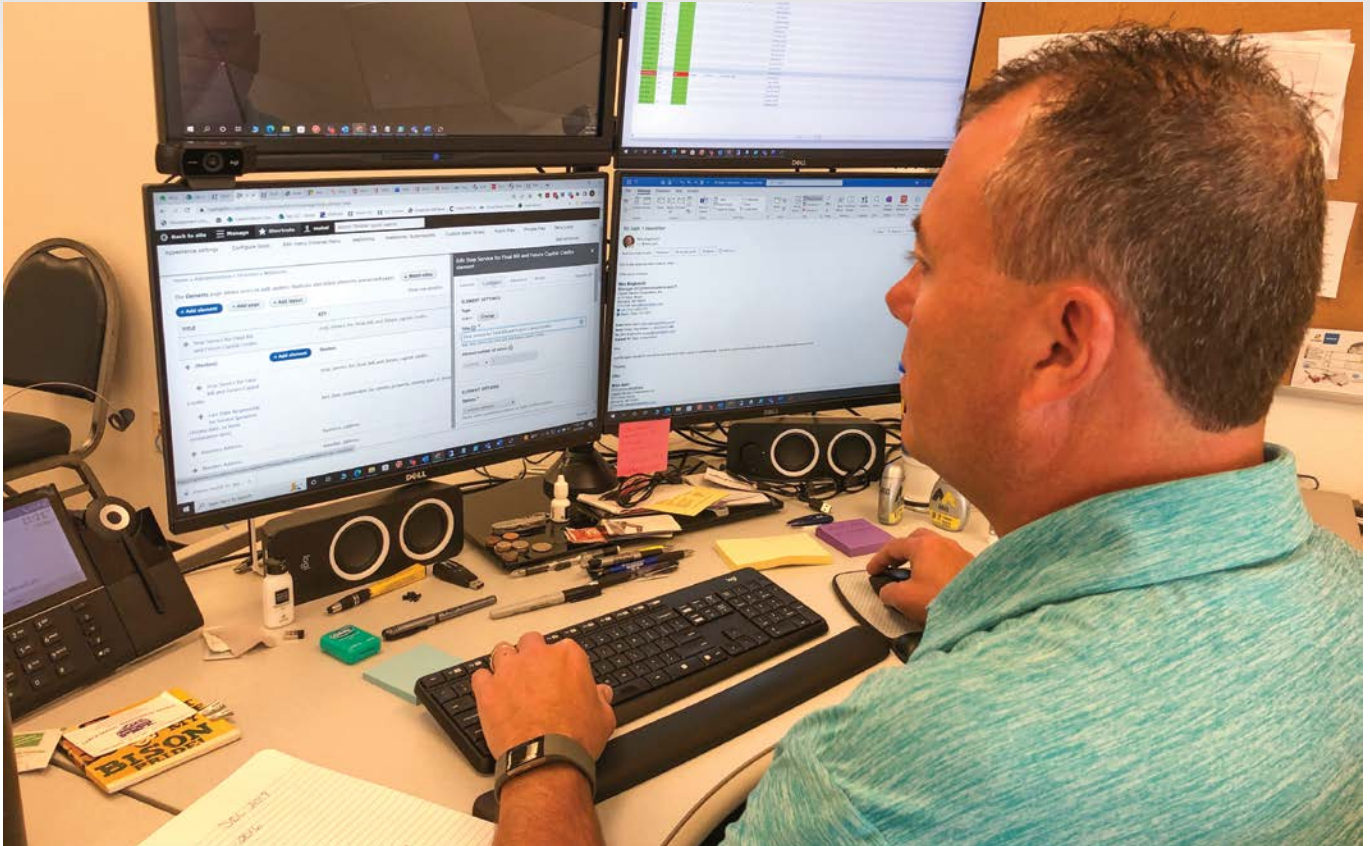
 When you're finished playing that new video game, unplug your **eagm oncloes**.

 Tell your parents to unplug the **efcfeo kmrea** when they're finished brewing.

 When you're done watching your favorite show, unplug the **seotnivile**.

 If your phone is juiced up, unplug your **nophe rahrgce**.

Answer Key: game console, coffee maker, television, phone charger



IT Specialist **Mike Abel** reviews a web form on Capital Electric Cooperative's new website.

Capital Electric Cooperative launches new website

BY WES ENGBRECHT

One of the most proficient ways to provide up-to-date information to Capital Electric Cooperative's members is the co-op's website, *capitalelec.com*. The newly revamped site serves as a portal to electric service applications, SmartHub, outage maps and much more.

The website is created in-house using tools provided by the Co-op Web Builder (CWB) program. A no-cost benefit for members of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives®, it is the only content management system built exclusively for electric cooperatives.

The CWB support team is part of Capital Electric's extended co-op family, and they are always available when the co-op requires assistance, training and advice. The team provides monthly updates on ways to improve the member experience, in addition to online "town hall" meetings, which allow for collaboration between cooperatives using the platform.

Earlier this year, Capital Electric began the process of

upgrading its website to the newest version, CWB 3.0. The new site is built on a more flexible platform with other positive features and enhancements. It is fully responsive, consistent and functional on all devices.

IT Specialist Mike Abel did a great job of migrating the old website's data to the new version.

"The CWB team assisted greatly as I was working on the new site," Abel says. "The online web forms for new applications will be easy for members to use."

Capital Electric welcomes feedback as members navigate their way through the new website, one of many tools the co-op uses to provide up-to-date information to its valued members.

In conjunction with the co-op's Facebook and Twitter presence, along with the *North Dakota Living* magazine local pages, the co-op's messages will be consistent and reliable. Capital Electric will continue to move forward to best serve its members.

Visit our new website today at capitalelec.com. ☎

Spare change changes lives through Operation Round Up



A community is only as strong as the support it provides in a time of need. Capital Electric Cooperative's members help others all the time. Those members inspired Capital Electric to launch its Operation Round Up program in 1997.

Operation Round Up is a program that allows Capital Electric members to round up their monthly utility bill to the nearest dollar and donate their pennies to a charitable trust. The money pools and accumulates, and an elected board of five co-op members reviews grant applications to determine the best use of those pennies. Over the last 25 years, co-op members have contributed more than \$828,000 to the program, supporting their communities and local nonprofits, and assisting with medical expenses for those in need.

In August, Capital Electric presented the most recent round of grant checks, totaling \$28,500, to the following individuals and organizations:

- Bis-Man Mentor Squad
- Bismarck-Mandan Rifle and Pistol Association
- Bismarck Recreation Council
- Designer Genes of North Dakota
- FirstLink
- First Presbyterian Child Care
- Fit 4 Victory
- Heaven's Helpers Closet
- Leadership Bismarck-Mandan solar project
- McClusky Park District
- Pride Manchester House
- Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center
- Village Family Service Center
- One individual in need

The next application deadline is Jan. 31. Any person residing in Burleigh or Sheridan County may apply to

receive an Operation Round Up grant. To request an application, call Capital Electric at 701-223-1513 or visit the co-op's website, capitalelec.com. To download the application form from the website, click on *Our Services > Operation Round Up*.



AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

ESSAY QUESTION:

If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate, you will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?

TOP 3 REASONS

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Capital Electric Cooperative
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol
3. A learning experience you'll never forget

JUNE 18 TO 23, 2023



- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Capital Electric Cooperative.
- If you have any questions, please contact Wes Engbrecht, Capital Electric, at 701-223-1513 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 20, 2023. You can email entries to Wes Engbrecht at wese@capitalelec.com or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, PO Box 730, Bismarck, ND 58502-0730.



CHECK OUT THE ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES AT
ndyouthtour.com

Board minute excerpts **AUG. 26, 2022**

The Board of Directors of Capital Electric Cooperative held its regular meeting on Friday, Aug. 26. The meeting was held in person at Capital Electric's headquarters, 4111 State Street, Bismarck, North Dakota. All directors were present at that time. Also present were: Manager Paul Fitterer, Business Manager Luke Steen, Systems Supervisor Jeff Holzer, Manager of Engineering Services Greg Owen, Energy Services Manager Josh Schaffner, Manager of Communications and IT Wes Engbrecht and Attorney Zachary Pelham of Pearce Durick PLLC, who acted as recording secretary.

Financial Review: Prior to the board meeting, Directors Kyle Tschosik and David Straley reviewed the July check register and expenditures. They advised all checks and expenditures were in order. The financials were approved as presented.

Management Reports (Business Department, Operations Department, Engineering Services, Energy Services and Communications/IT):

Business Department Report: Steen presented the July financial and statistical report to the board.

Total kilowatt-hour (kWh) sales for July were ahead of budget by 5.1%. Monthly electric revenue was ahead of budget by 2.7%.

The co-op's July load factor was below the budget, a variance of -3.4%.

The operating margin for July was -\$197,630, ahead of the budgeted -\$228,293. The total margin for July was -\$98,569, which was ahead of the budgeted -\$104,363.

Capital Electric began billing 50 new services in July, bringing active services to 21,805 versus 21,495 at this time last year, or a net increase of 310 accounts over the last 12 months.

Cash flow statements and monthly power costs for July were reviewed. Accounts receivable balances as of Aug. 25 were reviewed.

Estate Retirements: Following review of the financial condition of the co-op and recommendation by management, total estate retirement payments of \$15,652.03 to 14 estates were authorized.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Forms 990 and 990T, and North Dakota 40: Steen reviewed IRS Forms 990 and 990T, and North Dakota Form 40. They were approved by the board.

Operations Report: Holzer reviewed the written report from the operations department. Crews continue work on the Lincoln Substation, monthly substation inspections and the removal of overhead line along the 43rd Avenue road construction project. Installation of underground line will be begin after completion of road grading.

Safety Report: There were no lost time accidents in August. Without objection, the safety report was approved. Safety Instructor Jeff Tweten, North Dakota

Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC), held a safety training at Capital Electric's headquarters on Aug. 10. The training covered dielectric testing on the co-op's digger derrick and bucket trucks.

Engineering Services Report: Owen reviewed the written report from the engineering services department.

Thirty work orders were completed in July. Owen reported on ongoing and upcoming projects.

Property Update: Owen reported on continued efforts to market the administrative building and provided updates on the upcoming sale of cooperative property and modifications to the new facility.

Energy Services: Schaffner reviewed the Energy Services Report.

Nineteen service orders were completed in July.

Capital Electric's generator was successfully sold at auction and will be disconnected and removed in September prior to closing on the sale of the co-op's property.

Communications and IT: Engbrecht reviewed topics of interest. The co-op's new website recently launched, the Operation Round Up board recently met, and IT is working to prepare for the move to the new facility.

Strategic Planning: Board President Deon Vilhauer reported on efforts to set a date for a strategic planning session. Fitterer will poll board members to determine an appropriate date to conduct the planning session.

2023 Sales & Purchases Budget: Steen reported on the 2023 sales and purchases and related budget assumptions.

2023-2026 Work Plan: Owen reviewed the draft 2023-2026 work plan.

Policies: Fitterer reviewed a draft policy, Use of Cooperative Assets, Supplies and Paid Services.

Owen reviewed a draft policy on distributed energy resources.

Steen reviewed proposed Policy IV-01-23.1 — Load Control as a Service. Following discussion, the policy was approved.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative: Fitterer reported on Basin Electric matters.

Vilhauer introduced Basin Electric Board Member Troy Presser, who represents District 3, which includes Capital Electric's territory. Discussion with Presser and the board took place on various issues, including generation facilities operated by Basin Electric, bill credits, capital credits, supply chain issues and the impact of the Inflation Reduction Act.

Central Power Electric Cooperative: Straley reported on the August Central Power board meeting. Land has been purchased for an anticipated Bismarck outpost.

Industry Update: Fitterer reviewed materials related to power markets and general cooperative news.

North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC): Fitterer reported on the statewide managers meeting.

Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) Grant: The board approved the submission of Capital Electric's grant application of \$2,000 for upgrades to the Mandan Rodeo Arena.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA): Fitterer reviewed the upcoming September regional meeting in Minneapolis.

National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Election: The board approved casting Capital Electric's ballot for Anthony Larson as CFC District 6 director.

Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange Election: The board approved casting Capital Electric's ballots for the two open director positions for Timothy O'Leary and Jamie Lewis.

Federated: Fitterer reviewed Federated's August 2022 board report.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. ☺

CAPITAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Website: www.capitalelec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Deon Vilhauer, Pres. Bismarck
Dave Charles, V. Pres. Bismarck
David Straley, Sec.-Treas. Bismarck
Kyle Tschosik, Asst. Sec.-Treas. Bismarck
Rex Hollenbeck..... McClusky
Dwight Wrangham..... Bismarck
Kayla Pulvermacher Bismarck
Lyndon Anderson..... Bismarck
Sara Vollmer..... Wing

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DAY—NIGHT—WEEKEND

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