

FEM Electric Association, Inc.



ANNUAL REPORT



77th Annual Meeting
JUNE 24TH, 2025

FEM ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION INC.

77th Annual Meeting Tuesday, June 24th Ipswich School Theatre, Ipswich, SD

Agenda

5:00 PM Meal - Choice of Roasted Chicken,
Mac N Cheese Pulled Pork, and
Roast Beef

6:30 PM Registration Closes; Business
Meeting Begins

Meeting called to order - Gary Bachman, President
Invocation - Kelly Melius
Welcome - Special Guest Recognition - Gary Bachman
Pledge of Allegiance
Business Meeting Opens
Declaration of Quorum - Eric Odenbach, Secretary
Notice of Meeting and Proof of Mailing - Eric Odenbach
Minutes of 2024 Annual Meeting -
Eric Odenbach (page 3 & 4)
Ballots for Director Districts 1 & 4 -
Vaughn Beck, Attorney
President Report - Gary Bachman (page 9)
Treasurer Report - Paula Petersen, Treasurer (page 5)
Manager Report - Scott Moore, Manager (page 2)
Years of Service - Scott Moore
Youth Scholarships Recognition -
Kelly Melius, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Tom Thorpe, Vice President (page 13)

Basin Electric \$1,000 Scholarship
Maxwell Kulesa

FEM \$500 Scholarships
Reese Hadrick
Katherine Kretchman

Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week \$250
Jonathan Butler - Leola High School
Maxwell Kulesa - Ipswich Public School

Adjournment

Grand Prize Drawings (*must be present to win*)
\$250 \$100 \$100 \$50

\$500 Young Adults Light the Way Scholarship Drawing
(*must be present to win along with your member parent*)

***Deposit your ticket in a collection box as you exit to receive
the \$40 credit on your energy account for attending.**

FEM Electric Association Inc. Official Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

Notice is hereby given that the 77th Annual Meeting of the members of FEM Electric Association, Inc., will be held at the Ipswich High School in the City of Ipswich, State of South Dakota, at **six-thirty p.m. on Tuesday, June 24th, 2025**, for the purpose of:

1. The reports of officers, directors and committees
 2. The election of directors for three-year terms
- With the election of a director at this meeting, the following members have been nominated for director by the Nominating Committee in accordance with the bylaws of the Cooperative:

Eric Odenbach - District 1
Paula Petersen - District 4

Please take further notice that any fifteen or more members of the cooperative may make additional nominations by listing their nominee and the appropriate Directorate District and signing such Petition of Nomination. The petition must be submitted to the board of directors at least 25 days prior to the annual meeting. Any such petition so submitted will be posted, along with the list of nominations made by the Nominating Committee.

3. Transacting any such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Eric Odenbach, Secretary, FEM Electric Association, Inc.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Mission Statement:

To enhance the quality of life of our members by safely providing reliable, cost-efficient electricity and other services.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT



Scott Moore
General Mgr/CEO

In the past twenty-four months the big topic in the electric industry has been server loads, cryptocurrency loads and AI (Artificial Intelligence) loads. These loads are not all the same but do have some similarities. First, most people don't know or understand these large loads. Second, they use extreme amounts of energy to operate. Finally, they

create a continuous noise like grain drying fans. To foster transparency, what needs to change is getting good, accurate information to the public before going to the county zoning boards and asking for permits.

FEM Electric, East River Electric and Basin Electric have had multiple requests to serve these out-of-state businesses. We have been in serious conversations with different developers for the past twenty-four months, if not longer. These loads are real and yes, FEM Electric and our sister cooperatives do have the ability to serve these loads successfully. Our concern, along with many of our members, is protecting our existing members from undue electric rate increases while still being able to secure electric generation today and into the future.

In the 1980's the Basin family over built coal generation that caused increased cost at the time, but the local cooperatives and their members grew their electrical load to meet that generation. Cooperatives and their existing members continue to grow, however, causing the need to build additional resources for today's demands.

When most large load developers are inquiring about service, they start by requesting thirty to fifty megawatts. Before the conversation ends, they're asking for one hundred to six hundred megawatts. In comparison, a town of 6200 people will average twenty megawatts. A city of 12,000 will average around thirty megawatts. What is FEM's management and the board's responsibility to you, our members? To ensure we are protecting our existing members' electrical system and investment, and make sure we

keep local control of your cooperative. At the present time we are all working to develop policies and rates that will put protections in place.

In 2024 we installed 19 miles of underground cable replacing 11 miles of overhead and 8 miles of aging underground. These projects were done for reliability and electrical growth. FEM has created a four-year work plan developed by working with our line crew, staff and Star Energy, our contracted engineering company. This work plan coincides with our annual budget giving the board and employees a road map of expenditures and work that will be completed. FEM Electric also completed pole testing on 2158 poles with fifty-one poles being rejected and currently being replaced.

FEM Electric is fortunate to have miles of newer line but in today's world many devices we use are smart technology and gather more information than equipment even five years ago. Technology is a good thing but the information being gathered needs to be managed to have an efficient system.

In order to have an efficient team in a small cooperative you need teamwork starting with good and accurate paperwork by all employees working for the same goals: providing our members with safe, reliable, and affordable power and helping keep our rural economy strong.

FEM Electric will complete the existing four-year work plan in 2026, while at the same time begin working with our engineers and USDA/RUS on getting the next four-year work plan developed and approved. As many of our members have witnessed in the past five years, new transmission lines and substations are being built, both owned by East River Electric, our power provider, along with investor-owned companies, MDU and Northwest Public Service. All of them are working together to increase capacity and reliability while at the same time saving money and resources.

2024 FEM ELECTRIC ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The 76th Annual Meeting of the members of FEM Electric Association, Inc. was held at 6:30 p.m. at the Ipswich School Theatre in Ipswich, SD on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 with 142 members registered.

Prior to registration for the meeting, there were 294 meals served by two area food trucks, and an Ipswich athletic group. A local baker provided desserts for the members.

Gary Bachman called the meeting to order and Kelly Melius presented the invocation. Gary Bachman recognized special guests in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Secretary Eric Odenbach declared that there was a quorum present to do business and he read the official notice of the meeting and proof of mailing. Eric announced the minutes for the 2023 annual meeting were printed in the annual report distributed via the June Cooperative Connections and copies were also available as the members registered. He entertained a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the 2023 annual meeting and accept the minutes as printed on pages 3-4 of the annual report. Motion to approve was made, seconded, and carried.

Attorney Vaughn Beck announced director District 5 is up for election. He introduced the Nominating Committee: Justin Davis, Marvin Beidler and Glenn Bode. The following candidate was nominated for election in District 5 – Kelly Melius. No petitions for nominations were turned in. Attorney Beck asked for a motion and a second to cast a unanimous vote to officially elect Kelly Melius for District 5. Motion to approve was made, seconded, all-in favor.

President Gary Bachman gave the President's report. Gary reflected on how every business is comprised of many intricate interlocking parts and likened it to a jigsaw puzzle. If one piece of the business gets dropped, it is impossible to have a well-functioning business. He assured the members and guests that FEM's board of directors spend time at the monthly board meetings and at training sessions to ensure that we do things correctly and to the benefit of FEM's members. Gary explained how being present in Washington DC and getting the message across that coal plants need to keep running until another affordable and dependable alternative can be developed is very important. While DC is important, it is also important that the employees of the cooperative each have their roles and responsibilities to deliver along with each member or the cooperative bringing their own set of intricate pieces to the puzzle. There are many moving parts to keep FEM Electric able to service the member-

owner and everyone working together to complete the pieces of the puzzle.

Treasurer Paula Petersen gave the treasurer's report recapping the finances and statistics on pages 5-8 of the annual report. She noted that all records were audited by Eide Bailly resulting in a clean audit. FEM had a strong year with an increase in assets and kwh sales. Strong margins allowed the FEM board to abstain from utilizing the \$396,000 revenue deferral from 2022. RUS approved this revenue deferral in 2022 to be used no later than the end of 2024. Paula explained the capital credit process to the members. Golf View Acres was also touched on noting that the remaining lots were sold in 2023. She closed with thanking the members for their time and for staying engaged in their cooperative.

General Manager/CEO Scott Moore announced that his report is on page 2 of the annual report. Scott reflected on how the repairs from the 2010 ice storm, moving overhead lines to underground, was a key player in helping to keep outages during the Christmas Storm of 2023 low. He mentioned that underground is not always the answer but has helped at FEM. He touched on 2023 being a good year and stated that 2024 looks strong. FEM is experiencing controllable load growth in all areas – residential and commercial. He ended with the plan to keep goals for providing safe and reliable power continues. He stated with a strong economy and value to the members, together we can maintain load growth. Scott announced the employees and their years of service.

Gary Bachman announced there were a couple Washington DC Youth Tour participants to speak. Chase Melius and Hannah Beyers each spoke on their experience on the tour and thanked FEM for allowing them to attend. They encouraged other youth to consider attending.

The scholarship winners for 2024 were announced. The \$1,000 Member Basin Scholarship was Addison Melius of Faulkton, SD; Parker Bode and Olivia Hadrick, both of Faulkton, SD, were the \$500 FEM Scholarship recipients.

Two Touchstone Energy Scholars of the Week were mentioned, Shaylee Gill of Leola, SD and Chet Petersen of Ipswich, SD.

President Gary Bachman adjourned the meeting. Members were reminded to deposit their identification ticket in the boxes as they exit the meeting to earn their \$40 bill credit for attending.

The Grand Prize Drawings were held: \$250 – Will B

Goeschel, Long Lake, SD; \$100 – Larry Stern, Roscoe, SD - \$100 – Jackie Mehlhaff, Eureka, SD; \$50 – David Harrell, Cresbard, SD.

A \$500 Young Adults Light the Way Scholarship drawing was held for any Junior or Senior that attended the annual meeting with their parents, who are members of FEM Electric. There were nine Juniors/Seniors in attendance. Addison Melius, daughter of Ryan and Nikki Melius of Faulkton, was drawn for the \$500 scholarship.



Left: Board members Tom Thorpe and Kelly Melius draw for door prize winners.



Above: Kelly Melius presents Addison Melius with the "Young Adults Light the Way" \$500 scholarship.

Right: Snow Queens Miss Ipswich Karlie Gohl and Junior Miss Ipswich Anna Nierman assisted in handing out meal tickets for members, guests and helped with the children's program during the meeting.



Above: The Ipswich Tiger Basketball group begins setting up their meal of baked steak and various sides for FEM members.

Right: FEM members begin filtering into the theatre for the meeting portion of the night.



TREASURER'S REPORT



Paula Petersen
Treasurer

It is my pleasure to provide you with the financial statements for 2024. All records were audited by the firm Eide Bailly, LLP of Sioux Falls in March 2025 which resulted in a clean audit.

FEM's total utility plant at the end of 2024 was \$44,211,718 and we have depreciated \$12,590,145 which leaves \$31,621,573 in un-depreciated plant. We had investments and cash on hand in the amount of \$15,175,738 which includes capital credits due from power

suppliers and other organizations with which we do business. Other assets, which included inventory, accounts receivable, and prepaid accounts were \$2,584,399. **Total assets for 2024 were \$49,381,710.**

On the other side of the ledger, "What We Owe" includes notes due to the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and other lenders in the amount of \$24,353,291. Accrued tax expense, customer deposits, notes payable and deferred credits were \$2,852,631. Patronage capital and other equities, which include the margins generated by your cooperative since 2013, were \$22,175,788. **The total liabilities and equities were \$49,381,710.**

On page 8, you will find the Income and Expense Statement for 2024. **Total operating income for 2024 was \$16,996,416** which increased \$324,597 from 2023. Revenue from residential customers was \$4,667,922 and revenue from commercial customers was \$11,850,058.

Total expenses were \$16,099,651 which included power costs of \$11,011,668 at an increase of \$278,336. Operations and maintenance expenses were \$1,190,684, an increase of \$210,532. Customer services, sales, and office expenses were \$1,550,611, an increase of \$55,539. Depreciation expense was \$1,241,993, which was an increase of \$95,711. Tax expense was \$267,789, which was a decrease of \$8,578. Interest expense was \$836,906 which was a decrease of \$7,027.

FEM's patronage capital and operating margin was \$896,765. Non-operating margin and income is \$177,622. East River/Basin Electric and other margins, which are capital credit allocations from other cooperative organizations which we do business with were \$983,150. The total margins were \$2,057,537.

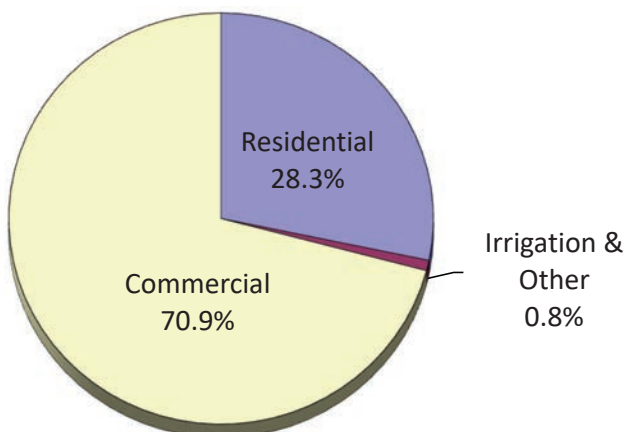
In 2024, the Commercial revenue increased and is 70.92% and residential decreased and is 28.26% of the total revenue. On page 6 and 7, you will find a comparison of various operating statistics for the calendar years 2023 and 2024. **Sales decreased by 5,317,275 kWhs and the number of connected meters increased by 6 for a total of 2,152.** The average monthly residential usage decreased 136 kWh and the average monthly residential bill decreased by \$11.90. Also included are a number of graphs that show the breakdown of revenue and expenses for 2024 and also charts of our history for the last five years.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact the FEM business office.

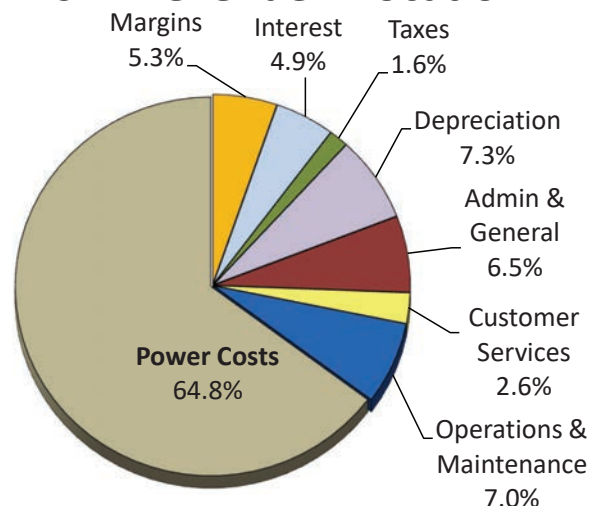
Respectfully submitted,

Paula Petersen, Treasurer

2024 Revenue



2024 Revenue Allocation

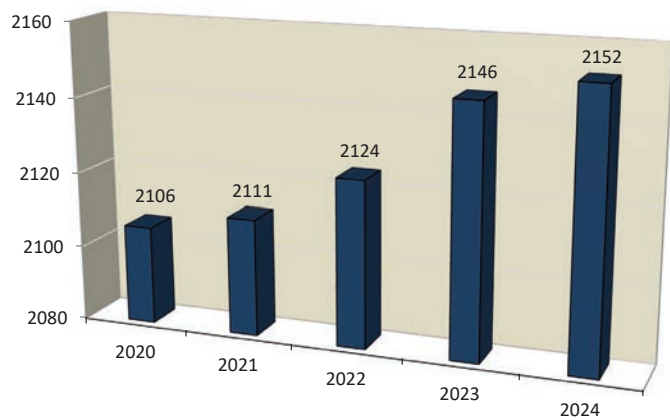


COMPARATIVE OPERATING STATISTICS

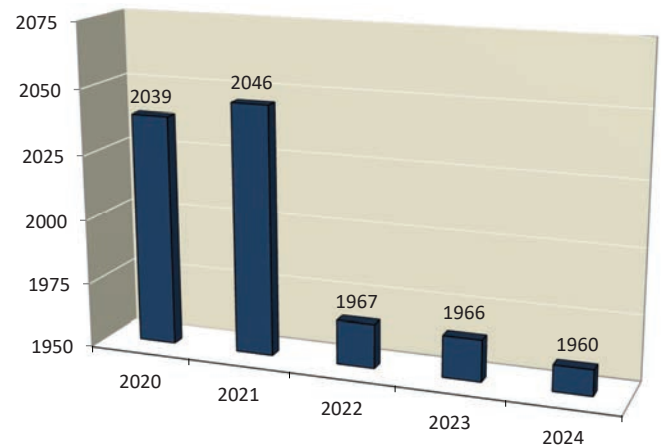
STATISTICS

	2024	2023	2022
kWhs Purchased	172,035,654	177,537,357	171,475,074
kWhs Sold	166,441,500	171,758,775	166,186,405
Estimated kWhs Used in December Sold in January	867,725	1,616,441	1,113,190
kWhs Unaccounted for (Line Loss, etc.)	4,726,429	4,162,141	4,175,479
Percent of kWhs Unaccounted for	2.75%	2.34%	2.44%
Number of Connected Consumers	2,152	2,146	2,124
Average Monthly kWh (All)	6,445	6,670	6,520
Average Monthly kWh (Residential)	1,553	1,689	1,688
Average Monthly Bill (All)	\$639.64	\$643.44	\$619.08
Average Monthly Bill (Residential)	\$212.56	\$224.46	\$215.54
Average Cost of Power Purchased at Substations	\$0.064	\$0.060	\$0.057
Average Selling Price Per kWh	\$0.099	\$0.096	\$0.095
Miles of Line Energized	1,960	1,966	1,967
Consumer Density Per Mile (Energized)	1.10	1.09	1.08

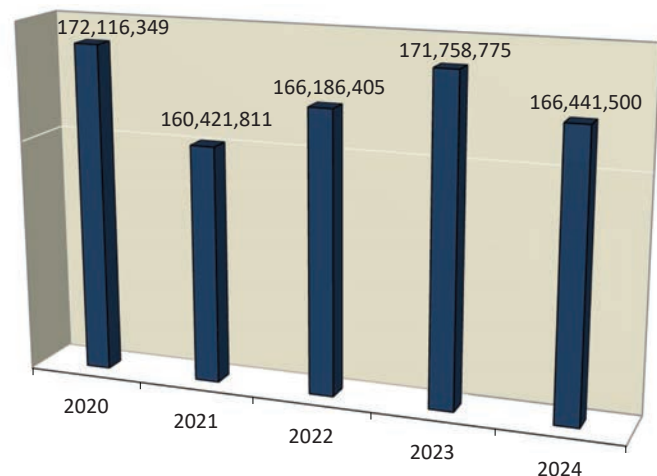
Connected Consumers



Miles of Line



Total KWH Sales



2024 KWH GENERATION TAX BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

School District	Total
Hoven 53-2	1,768
Northwestern Area 56-7	7,310
Faulkton Area 24-3	55,610
Edmunds Central 22-5	33,218
Ipswich Area 22-6	336,124
Bowdle 22-1	16,509
Warner 6-5	57
Eureka 44-1	16,982
Leola 44-2	53,232
TOTAL	\$520,810

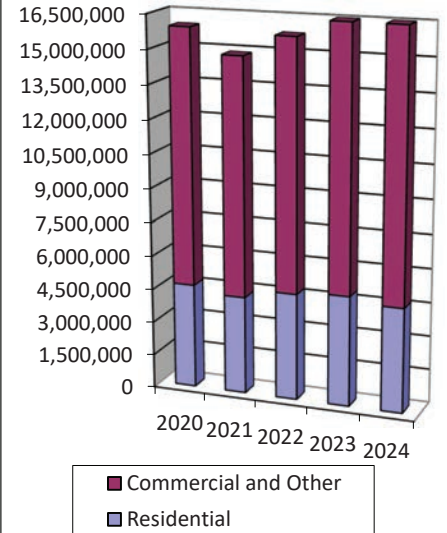
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ASSETS

What We Own

CURRENT ASSETS	2023	2024
Cash	127,611	470,348
Short Term Investments	2,709,163	1,584,622
Special Funds - One-Time Economic Revenue Deferral	396,000	0
Patronage Capital - Associated Cooperatives	11,605,541	12,230,543
Investments in Associated Organizations	869,620	869,422
Non-Utility Property - Golf View Acres	0	0
Investments in Partnerships	0	0
Investments in Economic Development Projects	265,500	3,000
Investments in Member Programs	2,569	17,803
Receivables	1,292,438	1,213,107
Material and Supplies	697,615	602,103
Prepayments	348,083	315,686
Deferred Debits	198,397	453,503
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	18,512,537	17,760,137
FIXED ASSETS		
General Plant	6,634,253	6,861,760
Electric Distribution Plant	34,861,099	37,349,958
Less: Depreciation Reserve	-11,728,603	-12,590,145
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	29,766,749	31,621,573
TOTAL ASSETS	\$48,279,286	\$49,381,710

Revenue Comparison

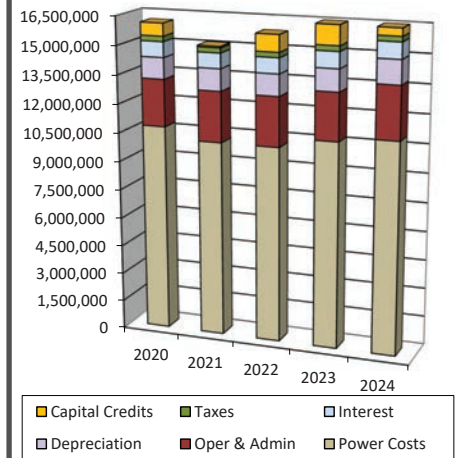


LIABILITIES

What We Owe

CURRENT LIABILITIES	2023	2024
Notes and Accounts Payable	1,025,357	1,053,192
Consumer Deposits	10,000	8,200
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	2,152,128	1,791,239
TOTAL CURRENT & ACCRUED LIABILITIES	3,187,485	2,852,631
LONG-TERM DEBT		
Long Term Debt - RUS/FFB	20,249,331	20,718,764
Long Term Debt - Other/CFC	3,800,773	3,634,527
Long-Term Debt – USDA Rural Development Loan	198,276	0
TOTAL LONG-TERM DEBT	24,248,380	24,353,291
EQUITIES		
Patronage Capital Assigned	13,867,483	15,320,838
Unassigned Capital	2,239,203	2,057,537
Other Margins and Equities	4,386,332	4,492,118
Non-Operating Margins	350,403	305,295
TOTAL EQUITIES	\$20,843,421	\$22,175,788
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$48,279,286	\$49,381,710

Revenue Allocation



STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

REVENUE	2023	2024
Residential Sales	4,918,183	4,665,042
Irrigation Sales	123,606	135,230
Commercial Sales	11,525,268	11,714,828
Street Lights	2,938	2,880
Other Electric Revenues – Wind Energy/Solar	120	0
Sale of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)	73,707	56,255
Rent from Electric Property	2,200	2,200
Other Operating Revenue	25,797	419,981
TOTAL REVENUE	16,671,819	16,996,416
EXPENSES		
Cost of Power	10,733,332	11,011,668
Line Operations	614,348	623,032
Line Maintenance	365,804	567,652
Consumer Accounting and Collecting	217,184	260,832
Customer Service and Sales Expense	176,119	181,769
Administrative and General Expenses	1,101,769	1,108,010
Depreciation	1,146,282	1,241,993
Property and KWH Taxes	276,367	267,789
Interest Expense - Long Term Debt	843,933	836,447
Interest Expense – Storm Line of Credit	0	0
Interest Expense - Member Service Programs	0	0
Interest Expense - East River Heat Loans	0	459
TOTAL EXPENSES	15,475,138	16,099,651
MARGINS/PATRONAGE CAPITAL CREDITS		
FEM Operating Margins	1,196,680	896,765
Non-Operating Margins	271,165	177,622
Income/Loss from Investments	0	0
East River/Basin Margins	1,042,522	855,477
Other Margins	79,238	127,673
TOTAL MARGINS	2,589,605	2,057,537
WHERE THE DOLLARS CAME FROM:	2023	2024
Residential	29.52%	28.26%
Commercial	69.13%	70.92%
Other	1.35%	0.82%
WHERE THE DOLLARS WENT:		
Cost of Power	64.38%	64.79%
Operations and Administration	14.85%	16.12%
Depreciation	6.88%	7.31%
Taxes	1.66%	1.58%
Interest	5.06%	4.92%
MARGIN	7.18%	5.28%

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Gary Bachman
President

I am not one to enter myself into the prediction game, but I am going to jump out on a limb and do just that. I hereby predict that our rates will rise.

Despite everything that we do at FEM, most of the causes of future rate increases are out of our control.

Demand for electricity is at an all-time high and projections are for the demand for electricity to increase exponentially. Data centers, expanding ethanol plant production, the call for increased oil production, hydrogen production plants, the development of renewable jet fuel, artificial intelligence (whether you like it or not), growing agribusiness needs and the increase of farm size all require more energy to maintain and increase growth.

Every month East River Electric Power Co-op in Madison, South Dakota has a monthly queue of over 3000 MW in study for large loads (this does not include normal growth). Basin Electric based in Bismarck, North Dakota has an even greater amount for its larger footprint. There are 64 generation and transmission cooperatives in the

United States. That computes to phenomenal growth potential.

To handle that much potential growth a huge amount of generation will need to be built. Basin Electric's Antelope Valley Power Station that has been in operation since the mid 1980's has a faceplate production of 900 MW. There would be a need for three to four plants of that size to handle just East River Electric's needs if all its potential loads came to fruition.

The new generation that needs to be built will be very expensive in comparison to that which was built in the 1970's to the 1990's. Increased costs, regulations, and supply chain delays will drive the cost of every kilowatt up.

The three levels of cooperatives that work together, (FEM, East River and Basin) will do everything in our power to keep costs as low as possible.

No one can predict how many of the loads under study will really develop into operating businesses and perhaps it may be even higher demand than we see now. All we really know is that the demand for high quality electric energy will increase.

Respectfully submitted
Gary Bachman
FEM Electric Association, Inc. President

WHERE DOES YOUR DOLLAR GO?

COST OF POWER - 65¢

Depreciation - 7¢, Operations & Maintenance - 7¢, Admin & General Expenses - 6¢, Interest - 5¢, Capital Credits - 5¢, Consumer Accounts - 2¢, Taxes - 2¢, Customer Service - 1¢



BOARD & LEGAL



Eric Odenbach
District 1
Secretary



Gary Bachman
District 3
President



Vaughn Beck
Attorney

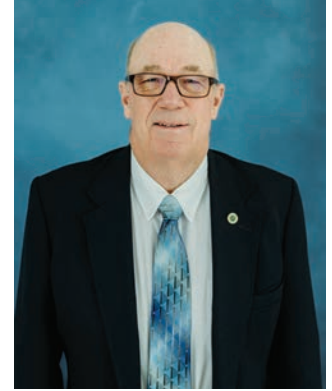
**McPherson
County**

**Edmunds
County**

**Faulk
County**

FEM Electric Director Districts

Spring Creek	Detmold	Petersburg	Bergdorf	Harrison	Wacker	Weber	Wachter
Glucksthal	Rosenthal	Odessa	Long Lake	Highland	Hoffman	Koto	Carl
Bauer	Stickel	Kassel	Moscow	Arena	Spring	Leola	Willow
Jackson	Hillsview	Cleveland	Blaine	Dewey	Howard	Washington	Lincoln
Modena	Hosmer	Sangmon	North Bryant	Adrian	Rosette	Belle	Pembroke
Bowdle	Cottonwood	Glen	Bryant	Huntley	Ipswich	Fountain	Cortlandt
Odessa	Cloyd Valley	Glover	Montpelier	Cleveland	Harmony	Union	Richland
Hudson	Madison	Hillside	Vermont	Liberty	Powell	Kent	Clear Lake
Sherman	Clark	Enterprise	Freedom	Emerson	Fairview	Union	
Elroy	O'Neil	Saratoga	Pulaski	Myron	Devoe	Wesley	
Seneca	Latham	Bryant	Tamworth	Lafoon	Centerville		
Ellisville	Thirteen	Irving	Orient	Arcade	Hillsdale		



Tom Thorpe
District 2
Vice President



Paula Petersen
District 4
Treasurer




Kelly Melius
District 5
Assistant Secretary/
Treasurer

FEM ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC. IPSWICH, SOUTH DAKOTA May 1, 2025

We, the Nominating Committee, in session on May 1, 2025, at the Beck Law Office in Ipswich, South Dakota, hereby nominate the following:




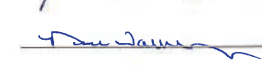

District 1 – Eric Odenbach

District 4 - Paula Petersen


Chairman


Secretary

We, the undersigned, certify that the foregoing minutes are true and correct.

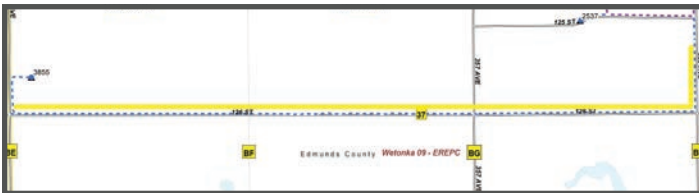
We, the Nominating Committee, wish to place the above names in nomination.

2024 WORK PLAN PROJECTS

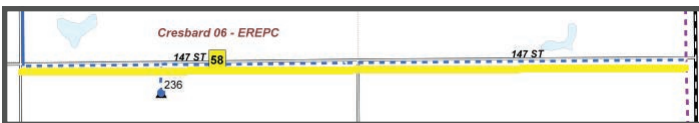
The 2024 work plan consists of burying 17.35 miles of underground line. In an effort to continuously upgrade and maintain reliability, FEM selects sections of line each year to replace with new line. Typically these sections are the most in need of replacement, but sometimes line is buried at the request of members.



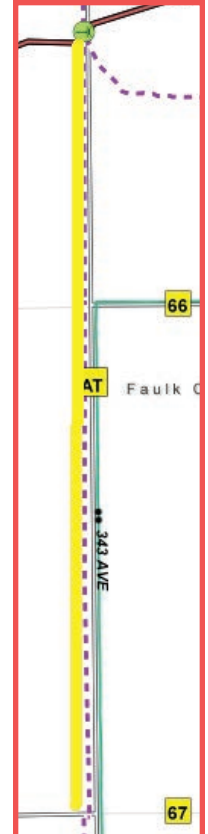
Left: In McPherson County, one mile of failing single phase underground line was replaced with new single phase underground line along county road 5.



Above and below: In Edmunds County, a total of 5.25 miles of single phase overhead line was replaced with underground along 126th street and 147th street.



Above and Left: In Faulk County, a total of 5.5 miles of single phase overhead line was replaced with single phase underground line along 369th avenue and 151st street, and along 347th avenue.



Right and Below: In Faulk County, an additional 5.6 miles of three phase old unjacketed underground line was replaced with three phase underground line along highway 212, and 343rd avenue.

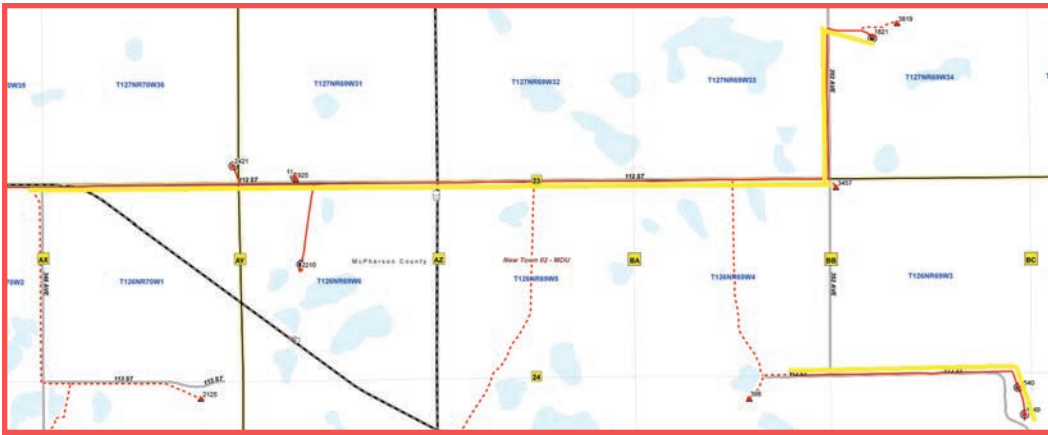


2025 WORK PLAN PROJECTS

In 2025, FEM will be upgrading 26.25 miles of line with new underground line. Two of these projects will be part of a FEMA mitigation grant, where 75% of the project is funded by FEMA, 10% by the State of South Dakota, and the remaining 15% by FEM.



Left: In McPherson County, 11 miles of single phase overhead will be replaced with single phase underground along 102nd street, and 112th street. This is a FEMA project.



Above: In McPherson County, 1/2 mile of single phase overhead line will be rebuilt, and 3 miles will be retired.



Above: In Edmunds County, the plan is to replace 2 miles of three phase overhead line with three phase underground line along highway 12. This is a FEMA project.



Right: In Faulk County, FEM also plans to replace 5 miles of three phase unjacketed underground with three phase underground along 343rd avenue.



Left: In Faulk County, a total of 7.75 miles of single phase overhead will be replaced with single phase underground. This project is split into 3 areas. A portion along 359th avenue, a section along 170th street and finally several stretches along 364th avenue down to 149th street will be replaced.



INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH



Maxwell Kulesa of Ipswich Public School was selected to receive the \$1,000 Basin/FEM Electric Scholarship. Max plans to attend South Dakota State University to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Finance. He intends to continue his education into law, and hopes to return to small communities to provide a service desperately needed. In school, he participates in football, basketball, track, NHS, FBLA, and many other groups and clubs. His parents are Scott and Angie Kulesa of Ipswich, SD.



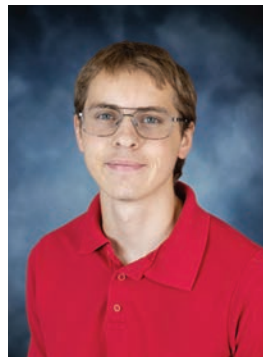
Reese Hadrick of Faulkton Area School District was selected to receive a \$500 FEM Scholarship. Reese plans to attend SDSU for a degree in Human Development and Family Studies. Her parents are Troy and Stacy Hadrick.



Katherine Kretchman of Morning Glory Homeschool Academy was chosen to receive a \$500 FEM Scholarship. Katherine plans to attend Trinity Bible College to study psychology. Her parents are Faune & Jeff Kretchman.

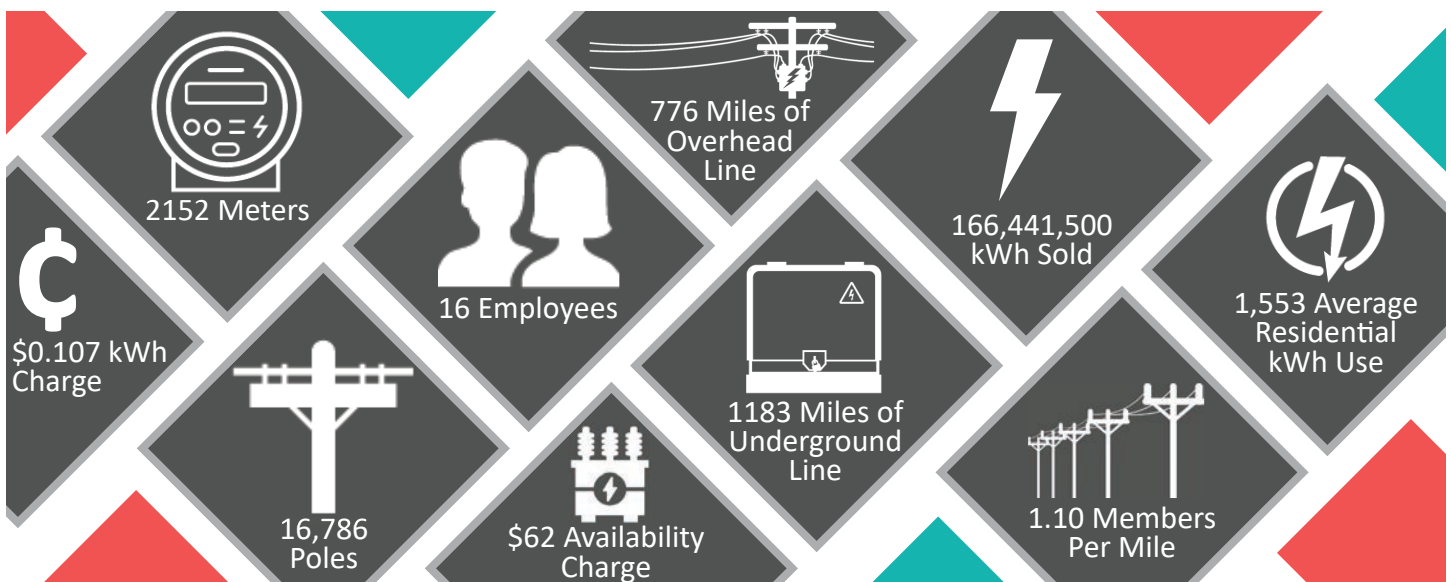


Maxwell Kulesa of Ipswich Public School won Touchstone Energy's Scholar of the Week the week of February 23rd through March 1st, 2025. and was featured on Dakota News Now. He received a \$250 scholarship and plans to attend SDSU. His parents are Scott and Angie Kulesa.



Jonathan Butler of Leola High School won Touchstone Energy's Scholar of the Week the week of November 10th through the 16th, 2024, and was also featured on Dakota News Now. He received a \$250 scholarship, and plans on pursuing a career in the Marine Corps.

FEM AT A GLANCE



YOUTH TOUR 2025

FEM Electric joined other South Dakota cooperatives to send high school juniors and seniors on a youth tour of Washington DC.

To be selected, students were tasked to describe why they would make the best candidate to represent FEM Electric, as well as describe their interests, future plans and what they hoped to learn from the trip. Four high school students were chosen.

The trip was postponed for a number of years, but FEM is delighted to sponsor this trip for youth in our area. Any junior or senior that attends high school in FEM's service territory, or who's parents are FEM members is eligible to apply.

The three students on the right were chosen to represent FEM on the tour in 2025, which was June 15th through the 21st. This trip consists of meeting their state representative and senator at the nation's capital, seeing historical sites such as Arlington Cemetery, the monuments, the Smithsonian and numerous other locations in the Washington DC area.



Charli Rawden of Ipswich is a Junior at Ipswich Public School, and was one of three selected to attend the 2025 Youth Tour. She is involved in volleyball, track and field, golf, as well as the Ipswich Snow Queens and Edmunds County 4-H. When she graduates, she is interested in psychology.



Ella Batie of Eureka is a senior at Eureka Public School, and was also selected to attend the Youth Tour. She participates in yearbook, student council, National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and FCCLA. She's also participated in a number of sports, and plans to attend USD for athletic training.



Jana Dignan of Mina is a senior at Aberdeen Central, and was selected to attend the youth tour in June. She is currently taking numerous dual credit classes through USD, and enjoys music. When she graduates, she's interested in studying child psychology.

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT



FEM ELECTRIC'S COOP IN THE CLASSROOM



Defying Gravity with Static Electricity

FEM values the time we get to spend in the classroom in our area schools. We feel it is important to teach electrical safety; to help students understand electricity as well as the cooperative way. Coop in the classroom targets fifth graders because learning these concepts at an early age helps them become better prepared to make wise energy decisions now and educated consumers of energy in the future.

The students are able to put the principles they learn into



Man-made Electricity

practice by generating their own electricity on a bicycle that powers different types of light bulbs, and experimenting with a Van de Graaff generator. They also take turns answering questions about ways cooperatives generate and distribute electricity.

We visit six public schools as well as eleven colony schools throughout the school year.



A Hair-raising Experiment

MEMBER OWNED - MEMBER FOCUSED

7 Cooperative Principles



**VOLUNTARY AND
OPEN MEMBERSHIP**



**DEMOCRATIC
MEMBER CONTROL**



**MEMBERS' ECONOMIC
PARTICIPATION**



**AUTONOMY AND
INDEPENDENCE**



**EDUCATION, TRAINING
AND INFORMATION**



**COOPERATION AMONG
COOPERATIVES**



**CONCERN FOR
COMMUNITY**

PROMOTIONS AND SERVICES

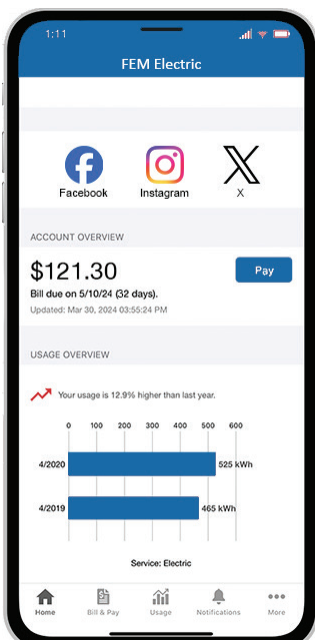
WATER HEATER REBATES

Member owners installing electric water heaters will receive the following rebates: \$3.00 per gallon on standard 50 gallon or more water heaters; \$6.00 per gallon on 10 year warranty 75 gallon or larger units. To be eligible for a rebate, electric water heaters must have a load control receiver installed. There is no cost for installation, and by having load control you will receive \$5.00 off your monthly electric bill.

SAFETY PRESENTATIONS

Another service provided by FEM Electric to member owners and the general public is electrical safety presentations. Whether it be farm safety information, our high voltage demonstration trailer, educating area first responders on contact accidents, or covering electrical safety issues using videos, newsletters or demonstrations. If your group or class would like FEM to present a safety demo, please give us a call.

ONLINE BILL PAY & ACCOUNT ACCESS



FEM Electric offers online bill pay and account access. Member owners can access their accounts through our website at www.femelectric.coop, or download the SmartHub app for your Apple or Android smart devices. Once logged in, you can pay your bill, look at usage graphs, and view or print statements.

Member owners can also pay by check, through ACH or by credit card.

ELECTRIC HEATING SYSTEM REBATES & LOANS

Marketing rebates for heating systems are available. Member owners receive a \$600 rebate and can apply for a 5% interest loan up to \$10,000 for the equipment and installation. This applies to residential electric heat pump systems, which also provide the benefit of air conditioning all in one unit. Auxiliary and resistance heat rebates of \$10/kW up to 50 kW. Commercial heating \$10/kW up to 600 kW for resistance heat or \$50/ton for heat pumps. Don't put off installing a new heating system.

DONATIONS



Since 2009, a safety committee made up of FEM Electric employees decided to have labels with safety messages printed on water bottles. All schools in FEM territory are given

cases of water to sell and use as fundraisers for various school clubs and activities. They may also choose to give it away. The water project has been positive and beneficial to the students, schools and FEM Electric. We also have some on hand for community groups that are raising money. We continue to donate napkins to organizations as needed.

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT

FEM Electric has offered electrician services to respond to electrical needs of our member owners in Faulk, Edmunds, and McPherson counties, as well as the general public, since May, 2016. If you have a project requiring an electrician, contact FEM.

Call FEM Electric at 605-426-6891 or 1-800-587-5880 for more information on any of the services FEM offers.

FEM ELECTRIC EMPLOYEES



Scott Moore
General Manager/CEO
32 Years of Service



Sean Christiansen
Operations Manager
15 Years of Service



Rhonda Tuscherer
Director of Finance & Benefits
33 Years of Service



Ryan Holien
Electrical Manager
17 Years of Service



Justin Larson
Line Foreman
28 Years of Service



Josh Weigel
Journeyman Lineworker
25 Years of Service



Dan Feldhaus
Journeyman Lineworker
18 Years of Service



Perry Ptacek
Journeyman Lineworker
18 Years of Service



Gregg Zwart
Journeyman Lineworker/
Electrician
15 Years of Service

FEM ELECTRIC EMPLOYEES



Chad Dutenhoffer
Journeyman Lineworker/Electrical Foreman
15 Years of Service



Logan Gruenstein
Apprentice Lineworker/Electrician
2 Years of Service



Cody Scarrott
Journeyman Lineworker/Electrician
1st Year of Service

NOT PICTURED

Newly hired as of
May 12th, 2025



Angie Sieh
Accounting Clerk
12 Years of Service



Crystal Thorson
Billing Clerk
12 Years of Service

Wyatt Huber
1000-Hour Apprentice Lineworker
1st Year of Service



Sonje Oban
Customer/Member Services
3 Years of Service



Barb Schaefer
Maintenance/Custodian
10 Years of Service

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@FEMElectric on 

@fem_electric on 

@FEMelectric on 

We'll post outage updates, safety tips, news and more to keep our members informed on all the latest from FEM Electric.

FEM ELECTRIC EMPLOYEES



Your Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative

