



# Commitment to Community



Basin Electric, its subsidiaries, and the membership are committed to the communities where employees and members work and live. Those communities have supported the cooperative throughout the years by providing a strong workforce, essential services, and a sense of pride. Basin Electric gives back to its communities through various activities in the following categories:

## Education and Youth Development

### Mitchell Technical Institute

Basin Electric worked with Mitchell (South Dakota) Technical Institute to purchase a turbine from the Crow Lake Wind Project for students in its wind turbine technical program. And, several of the employees at the Crow Lake Wind Project, located near White Lake, South Dakota, are MTI graduates.

The 108-turbine project contains one wind turbine which is owned by MTI. The school uses the turbine in training its students, and Basin Electric buys the generation.

Several Basin Electric employees who work at the Crow Lake Wind Project were hired in 2011 during its construction. MTI graduates at Crow Lake Wind come from several different disciplines: one lineworker, one telecommunications employee, four electricians, two wind technicians, and one SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) technician.

### Teen room at the Campbell County Boys and Girls Club

A group of employees from Dry Fork Station near Gillette, Wyoming, helped remodel the teen room of the Boys and Girls Club of Campbell County, an organization that provides a safe, sober environment for area youth. In one

day of volunteering through a sponsorship from Basin Electric, these volunteers transformed the room from a former elementary school classroom to an uplifting room filled positive energy, where teens love to spend their time. The club and this room in particular is a great asset in a community where the depression and suicide rate among teens is alarmingly high.

### Camp Grassick

Basin Electric donated various kitchen appliances and office equipment no longer being used to Camp Grassick, a residential summer camp for adults and children with various disabilities in Dawson, North Dakota. Some of equipment donated included refrigerators, freezers, an ice machine, salad bar, carpeting, and an assortment of office equipment. The camp is utilizing the donation to the fullest in its kitchen and dining hall.

## Health and Human Services

### Blood drives

Basin Electric hosts blood drives at its Headquarters and many of its facilities multiple times each year. Basin Electric allows employees to take time from their work to donate blood, which is critical to supplying the communities they serve with life-saving blood and blood products. Each donation can save three lives, and considering some 100 people donate at each event, Basin Electric's blood drives save more than 800 lives each year.

### Heaven's Helpers

Once each month, Basin Electric employees use their lunch hours to volunteer at Heaven's Helpers Soup Café in Bismarck, North Dakota. The Soup Café is not a typical soup kitchen, it's more like a restaurant, where volunteers take patrons' orders and bring them their food. Volunteers also perform other tasks, including chopping vegetables, serving food, and washing dishes. The Soup Café serves the homeless, working poor, elderly, those on disability, and others in need.

### Food for young and old

Every year, Basin Electric employee volunteers pack thousands of pounds of food into more than 1,000 backpacks as part of a United Way program that delivers food to schools across Bismarck and Mandan, North Dakota, for kids that rely on school meals throughout the week, but don't have enough to eat when the weekend comes.

In Campbell County, Wyoming, Dry Fork Station helps provide meals to area senior citizens. Once a month, Basin Electric and another area businesses sponsor a free lunch and employees serve it to the senior citizens present at the Campbell County Senior Center. Basin Electric also donates funds to help provide meals to the Silver Sage Senior Center in Campbell County. The meals provided are vital, because for some, the noon meal is the only well-balanced, hot meal they receive.

## Community Development and Enrichment

### Basin's Backyard Garden

Basin's Backyard Garden is tended by a group of employee volunteers. Since its first year in 2014, volunteers have grown and donated nearly 3,000 pounds of produce to local food pantries.

The goals for the garden are to foster and strengthen community among employees, provide a source for charitable giving to local food pantries through the Hunger Free North Dakota program, and aid in teaching employees and the public about cooperatives.

### Charitable Giving Program

Donations are dispersed each year to charities in Basin Electric's nine-state service territory. Basin Electric also donates surplus equipment such as fire and rescue equipment, fleet vehicles, and office equipment to organizations in need. For more information, visit [basinelectric.com](http://basinelectric.com).

### Employees in Action

Employees donate their time and talent to their communities and are encouraged to participate in civic, charitable, and community organizations; however, Basin Electric is doing its part in keeping its employees safe during the COVID-19 pandemic by allowing non-essential employees to work from home and encouraging minimal community contact. At this time, employees are being encouraged to donate in the comfort of their own home rather than giving their time volunteering in the community.

## Culture and Arts

### Medora Musical

Since 2006, Basin Electric, along with several regional Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, have sponsored the Medora Musical's Burning Hills Singers in Medora, North

Dakota. The musical attracts thousands of visitors to the historic town each summer.

### StoryCorps

Basin Electric was a lead sponsor in bringing StoryCorps, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving America's oral history, to Bismarck, North Dakota, for one month. StoryCorps teams travel across the country to collect and record the personal stories of people from different backgrounds and walks of life. Since the StoryCorps mobile tour started in 2005, it has partnered with more than 3,000 community organizations and its archive comprises one of the first and largest digital collections of human voices, featuring tens of thousands of recorded interviews from all 50 states and Puerto Rico. This archive is housed at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

## Basin Electric Programs

### Scholarships

Since 1991, Basin Electric, in partnership with other member cooperatives, awards 180 scholarships annually. To date, more than \$5 million in scholarships has been given to over 5,100 college students.

### Tours

Basin Electric offers free tours to the public at any of its facilities. Guides give nearly 300 tours each year to visitors from around the world.

### Annual first responder donations

Since 2010, Basin Electric has given annual donations to fire departments that serve its facilities. This is done as a small token of appreciation for being ready to respond to a potential emergency, whether at the facilities or the homes of the employees who work there. This donation program has brought nearly \$15,000 to local fire departments across the cooperative's service area since it began.

### Casual for a Cause

Through its annual Casual for a Cause campaign, Basin Electric employees pay to wear jeans during designated months of the year, with the money going to various charities. Since the inception of the program, \$124,000 has been raised, benefiting the United Way, Great Plains Food Bank, Aid, Inc., Community Action, Bismarck Emergency Homeless Shelter, and Bismarck Cancer Center. In addition, employees are allowed to pay one dollar on Fridays to dress casually through the Jeans Day program. Funds raised go to a different charity each week.