

Customer Connection



Energy news for our customers

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Helping you save energy and money



From investments in new technologies and infrastructure upgrades to programs that help you conserve energy at home, we're focused on delivering safe, reliable energy while keeping your electric bills as low as possible.

As the days get longer and the weather warms up, now's the perfect time to think about ways to save energy and reduce your electric bills. You can proactively save energy and money by:

- Unplugging any electronics that aren't in use, such as gaming consoles, TVs, and home office equipment.
- Making low-cost and no-cost changes to reduce energy use. Try switching to LED lightbulbs and connecting your electronics to smart power strips.

- Participating in programs that make use of lower off-peak rates, such as thermal storage and water heating programs.
- Scheduling an annual tune up of your heating and air-conditioning systems to make sure they're operating efficiently.

For more ideas to help you save, visit otpc.com/tips.

If you're concerned about paying your bill, please call us at **800-257-4044**. We can work together to make a plan. We have programs that can help, and you may qualify for energy assistance too.

Navigating spring flooding

As spring arrives, so does the risk of flooding. It's important to be prepared and take the necessary steps to keep you and your property safe.



Keep these tips in mind as we navigate the challenges that can come with spring floods:

- 1. Stock emergency supplies.** Keep items such as food, water, medicine, baby and pet supplies, radios, flashlights, and batteries fully stocked in waterproof containers.
- 2. Charge your phone.** Make sure your phone is fully charged, and keep a charger with you, to stay connected and informed during an emergency.
- 3. Check your sump pump.** Verify that your sump pump is operational and that the discharge hose isn't frozen or plugged. This helps prevent water from accumulating in your basement.

- 4. Avoid flooded areas in your home.** Don't go near flooding in areas like basements. If the water level has reached any part of the electrical system, it can be dangerous. Electricity and water don't mix!
- 5. Disconnect electrical service.** In the event of a flood, it may be necessary to disconnect your electrical service to prevent hazards. Should this occur, please call us at 800-257-4044 so we can safely disconnect your service.

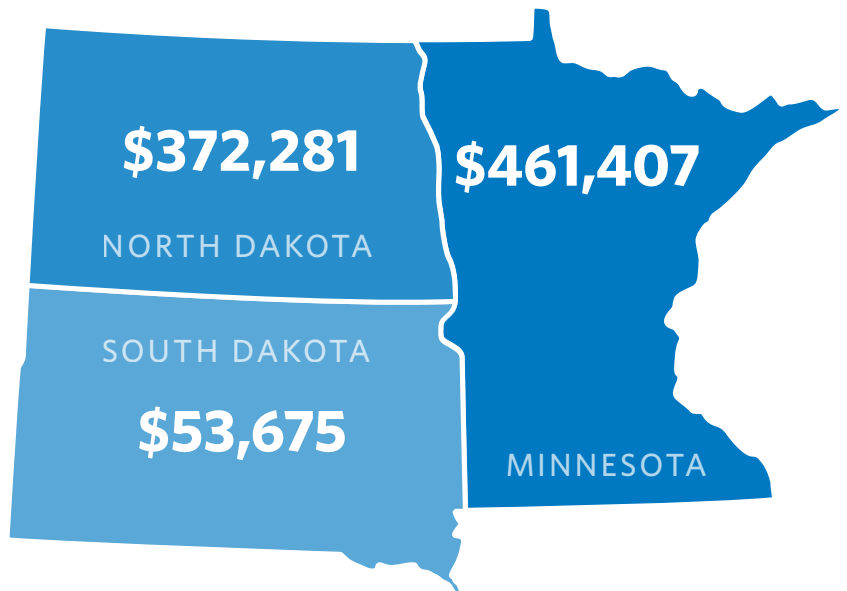
Stay safe and dry this spring!
For more weather safety tips, visit otpc.com/SevereWeatherSafety.

Building stronger communities together

The Otter Tail Power Company Foundation provides donations that support community efforts to teach our young people, invest in our current and future workforce, create vibrant culture and vital communities, improve health and human services, and protect our natural resources.

Last year our Foundation awarded \$887,363 to strengthen communities through projects and organizations focused on one or more of our priority giving areas.

“Our Foundation lives out one of our company’s core values—improving the quality of life in the areas we do business,” said Stephanie Hoff, Director, Communications, and Foundation President. “We’re grateful for the wonderful partnerships that have helped us address significant needs and make a meaningful impact in our communities.”



**Community, civic,
and cultural development**
\$435,294



Education
\$175,725



Environment
\$57,000



Health and human services
\$219,344



Find more information at otpco.com/BeforeYouDig.

April is National Safe Digging Month

Before starting a project that involves digging, always call 811. We'll mark underground lines to help you stay safe and avoid an accidental outage



**Know what's below.
Call 811 before you dig.**

Customers' cookery



John's rhubarb bars

Filling ingredients:

- 3 cups rhubarb
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- ¼ cup water
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1-2 drops red food coloring
- 1 three-ounce package of apricot or strawberry JELL-O™

Crumb ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups flour
- 1 ½ cups oatmeal
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup shortening



Directions: Combine all filling ingredients, except JELL-O™, in a pan on the stove. Bring to a boil and let boil until thick. Remove from heat and cool. Combine crumb ingredients and press 2/3 of mixture to the bottom of a 9 x 13-inch pan. Pour in cooled filling and sprinkle with JELL-O™. Top with the rest of the crumb mixture. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes at 350 degrees.

Submitted by John Thomas, New Rockford, ND.

Customer Connection
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Send your favorite recipe to communications@otpco.com or to the above address.

If we use your recipe, we'll send you a gift to thank you.

Please recycle