

# 2025 Legislative Priorities



The landmark 2040 carbon-free bill set Minnesota on an aggressive path toward eliminating carbon emissions from our energy production. Minnesota's rural electric cooperatives are working toward meeting this mandate. It is imperative that we view energy policy decisions going forward through a lens of minimizing risks to reliably and affordably delivering electricity to the state's population as we implement this mandate.

## MREA and its members are advocating for responsible energy policy.

### ▶ Nuclear

Minnesota's electric cooperatives advocate for an "all-tech-on-deck" approach to achieving our carbon reduction goals. Relying only on wind, solar, and battery storage creates a technology problem; these resources alone cannot deliver electricity under all conditions. To be successful, we must unlock the potential of all means of generating electricity without carbon, including nuclear power. Minnesota's current nuclear moratorium restricts our ability to put new carbon-free nuclear energy to work to meet our state's energy needs.

### ▶ Net metering

Minnesota's net metering law is outdated, expensive and inequitable. This outdated law was enacted in the 1980s when solar was a new industry. Now with Minnesota's carbon free by 2040 legislation, all electricity generated has to come from carbon free sources. The law is also inequitable because it benefits those who can afford solar systems at the expense of lower income consumers who subsidize these projects in the form of higher electric bills. Generating electricity from solar installed at a home costs about twice as much as larger utility scale solar. We are advocating for reforming net metering as many states have already done.

### ▶ Mandates to undermine local control

Legislative mandates can undermine cooperatives' local governance, driving up costs and reducing reliability. Locally elected cooperative boards know their communities best and are equipped to serve member needs. Reject one-size-fits-all mandates to preserve affordability and service quality in rural Minnesota.

### ▶ Property taxes

MREA is working collaboratively with the Department of Revenue (DOR) to clarify property tax exemptions for essential cooperative infrastructure, including streetlights, meters and load control receivers. This bipartisan initiative, which faces no opposition, will help improve affordability for cooperative members. Ensuring this bill's passage is a priority for 2025.



Minnesota Rural Electric Association

**Who is MREA?** The Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) is the statewide organization representing electric cooperatives serving the state of Minnesota. We foster unity among and provide service to all of Minnesota's 50 electric cooperatives. Our mission is serving our members through collaborative leadership and expertise.