

CONTRACTOR INSIGHTS

 STEARNS ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION | FEBRUARY 2026

2026 ENERGYWISE® REBATES

QUALITY INSTALL AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP

≥ 14.3 SEER2 & ≥ 7.5 HSPF2 \$500
CEE Tier 1 Listed \$800

GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMP

\$150 / ton (10-ton max.)

DUAL FUEL REBATE (NEW OR REPLACEMENT)

\$200 (9 kW min.)

THERMAL STORAGE SPACE HEATING

\$50 per kW (5 kW min.)

ECM MOTOR (for replacements only)

\$50

POOL PUMP VSD

\$200

NEW MARATHON WATER HEATER

(purchased from Stearns Electric)

\$300 85+ gallon on Stored Water or

Peak Shave programs

\$100 50+ gallon on Peak Shave Program

ELECTRIC WATER HEATER

(contractor/member supplied)

\$100 50+ gallon on Stored Water or

Peak Shave programs

HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER

\$100

CHARGEWISE ENROLLMENT

\$500 (level 2 charger required)

WIFI THERMOSTAT

\$25

AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP TUNE-UP

\$100 (summer months only)

AIR CONDITIONER TUNE-UP

\$25 (summer months only)

2026 ENERGY STAR® REBATES

DUCTLESS ASHP

≥ 14.3 SEER2 & ≥ 7.5 HSPF2 \$300
CEE Tier 1 Listed \$300

REFRIGERATOR OR FREEZER

\$50 (with recycling of old unit)

CLOTHES DRYER

\$25

DEHUMIDIFIER

\$25

WASHING MACHINE

\$25

DISHWASHER

\$25

LED LIGHTING

Yard Light Fixture \$10
A19 Light Bulb (limit 10) \$2

In order to receive the EnergyWise® rebates, members must enroll in the associated program, if applicable.



SAVE THE DATE: CONTRACTOR DINNER

March 26, 2026 • American Legion, Melrose

Save the date for our 2026 Contractor Dinner on Thursday, March 26 from 5-7:30 p.m. at the American Legion in Melrose. Everyone who attends will be eligible to win electric tools in our door prize drawings! Join us for a free dinner and to learn more about our contractor program. *This will be the only Stearns Electric-hosted Contractor Meeting in 2026.*

WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA?

- 2026 values for commercial, industrial and agricultural rebates
- Information on Co-op's special promotions for 2026
- Update on wiring guides and requirements

ELECTRIC WIRING SAFETY ASSESSMENT/IDLE SERVICE

When a service has been disconnected from Stearns Electric's distribution system for 12 months or more, Stearns Electric requires an assessment of the service's wiring prior to reconnection.

Stearns Electric will perform this electrical wiring assessment as long as new electrical work has not been performed that requires a Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry Inspection, such as new construction, remodeling, replacement or repair. More information is available on the Cooperative's website.

GRAIN DRYING PROGRAM UPDATE

Our wholesale energy provider, Great River Energy, discontinued the grain drying program beginning January 2026. Stearns Electric's Energy Services department informed impacted members, removed subtractive meters and deactivated load controllers linked to the program in January. Energy rates for this equipment automatically changed to the general service rate.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

When installing heating and cooling systems, be sure thermostats are programmed for load control before scheduling checkouts to help ensure prompt member rebate payments.

PREFERRED VENDORS 2026

ELECTRICIANS:

- Absolute Electric of Central MN
- Beam Electric
- Brooten Electric
- Central MN Electric
- CN Electric
- Delta Electric
- Electrical Installers
- Essler Electric
- Faber Electric
- Gilk Services
- H & S Heating, AC, Residential & Service
- KB Electric
- Liberty Electric Co.
- Mechanical Energy Systems
- Millwood Electric
- Red Barn Electric
- Reuter Country Electric
- Sauk Rapids Electric
- Sunset Electric
- Torborg Electric

HVAC/PLUMBING CONTRACTORS:

- Advanced Heating & Cooling
- Air Max LLC
- Ballou Plumbing & Heating
- Bitz Plumbing & Heating
- Blair's Heating & AC
- Central Home Comfort Plumbing & Heating
- Central Mechanical
- Gilk Services
- H&S Heating, AC, Residential & Service
- Hommerding Plumbing, Heating & AC
- HVAC Shop
- Kohnen's Heating & AC
- Kraemer Heating & AC
- Mechanical Brothers LLC
- Mechanical Energy Systems
- Mondloch Inc.
- Mr. Heating & AC
- Norgren Plumbing, LLC
- Precise Refrigeration, Heating & AC
- Schneider Plumbing LLC
- Voss Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

TRUSTED PARTNERS 2026

- Air Max
- Beam Electric
- Engle Electric
- Millwood Electric
- Oak Electric
- Precise
- Reuter Country Electric

2026 MARATHON WATER HEATER PRICING

Prices for Marathon water heater tanks and parts have increased in 2026. There is now a single price for both contractors and members.

PRODUCT	PRICE
Marathon 50 gal.	\$1,250
Marathon 85 gal.	\$1,800
Marathon 100 gal.	\$1,950

Prices do not include sales tax.

Please see the Product Pricing information sheet for complete details.

2026 PROMOTIONAL CALENDAR

Stearns Electric is offering enhanced rebates during certain promotional periods in 2026! Learn more at our Contractor Dinner.

Stored Water Promotion: January 1 - April 30, 2026

Members who purchase a 100-gallon electric water heater and enroll in the Stored Water Heating Program will receive the normal rebate and have the option for free water delivery to their home. Plus, members will be entered to win one of three \$100 bill credits during the promotional period.

UPDATED IN 2026: ASHP Promotion: May 1 - August 31, 2026

Stearns Electric members can choose enhanced rebate dollars OR receive a FREE 100 gal. Marathon water heater* when they install a qualifying ASHP and enroll in the Dual Fuel Heating Program for the first time.

**promotional water heater must also be enrolled in a qualifying load management program.*

EV Charger Promotion: September 1 - December 31, 2026

Members who purchase an electric vehicle charger and enroll in the ChargeWise Program will be entered to win one of three \$100 bill credits during the promotional period in addition to receiving a \$500 rebate.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THESE CONTRACTOR PROGRAMS

ADVERTISING PROGRAM

Each contractor within our service territory can receive advertising reimbursements of 50% of advertising costs (up to \$500) per year for qualifying advertisements.

PREFERRED VENDOR PROGRAM

Earn a spot on our Preferred Vendor list by attending the Contractor Dinner or earning 500 referral points throughout 2026. Over 330 people viewed the Preferred Contractor webpage in 2025.

TRUSTED PARTNER PROGRAM

Contractors who provide commercial, industrial and agricultural project referrals to the Energy Services department at Stearns Electric can earn points and ultimately, a spot on our new Trusted Partner List.

ONLINE REBATE APPLICATIONS ARE BACK

Online rebate applications came back this year for specific residential rebates. Online applications are available through a website provided by Great River Energy. Information is available to members at stearnsselectric.org/rebates.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Stearns Electric has an online hub for contractors located at stearnsselectric.org/contractors.

- Submit a project tip
- Submit an ad reimbursement request
- Download a wiring guide
- View rebate information
- And more!

CONTACT US:

Stearns Electric Association
29643 Frontage Road, PO Box 816
St. Joseph, MN 56374

(800) 962-0655
energywise@stearnsselectric.org
stearnsselectric.org