



Kelli S. has worked in the energy industry since 2008.

"I love working in energy," Kelli said. "It's always changing and it touches every facet of your life."

Kelli joined NorthWestern Energy in June 2019 as a Senior Analyst in Energy Supply, which means she manages contracts and business relationships with about 30 parties from whom NorthWestern buys energy. Kelli has a law degree, which comes in handy when reviewing power purchase agreements.

Prior to joining NorthWestern Energy, Kelli lived in Denver, Colorado.

"I had wanted to relocate from Denver to either Montana or Idaho," Kelli said.

She traveled to Butte to interview and was impressed by her colleagues, the company and Montana. She accepted the job, moved to Montana and is very happy she did.

"I love it so much," Kelli said of life in Butte. "There are such incredible opportunities to get outside."

The larb recipe is a favorite Thai food of Kelli's.

"I love Montana, but I miss certain foods from my old home in Denver," she said. "There's tons of amazing ethnic food in Denver."

This take on larb is not "authentic" but it is adaptable. Larb can be made with pork, beef, chicken or tofu. (Kelli's favorites are ground pork or tofu). And it can be served over rice or in lettuce wraps, depending on how hungry you are.

"You can make it with anything in your fridge," she said.

The key to the recipe is fresh herbs. Dried herbs just don't work here. While the recipe might sound exotic, it's simple and easy to make. The fish sauce might be an unfamiliar ingredient, but it adds an "umami tsunami" to this dish, Kelli said.



Kelli's Larb

Larb is a Thai dish that can be served over rice or in lettuce wraps. This recipe is not authentic, but it is versatile and fresh-tasting for spring. Feel free to sub out any of the fresh herbs, besides the basil, based on preference or availability.

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

- 2 Tbsp vegetable oil or other high smoke point oil
- 4 large garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 2 Tbsp sugar, divided
- 1 pound protein (ground pork, beef, chicken or tofu)
- 3 Tbsp Asian fish sauce, divided (Thai Kitchen is a readily available brand)
- Salt
- Freshly ground pepper
- 4 Tbsp fresh lime juice
- 2 jalapenos sliced with seeds (Scale this down if you are heat-averse)
- 1/4 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup torn fresh Thai basil leaves (note – use any fresh basil you can find)
- 1/4 cup torn fresh mint leaves
- 1/4 cup torn fresh cilantro leaves

DIRECTIONS

- Heat oil in a large skillet. Add garlic and cook over medium-low heat, stirring a few times, until golden brown, about 1 minute. Add 1 Tbsp sugar and cook for about 20 seconds.
- Add the protein and cook over moderately high heat, breaking up any clumps, until no pink remains, about 5 minutes. Add 1 Tbsp fish sauce and season with salt and pepper. Set aside.
- In a small bowl, combine the lime juice with remaining 2 Tbsp fish sauce, remaining 1 Tbsp sugar, two-thirds of the sliced jalapenos and 1 Tbsp water. Stir to dissolve sugar.
- Add the lime juice mixture to the cooked protein and let cool slightly.
- Once the protein has cooled, add the onion, basil, mint, cilantro and remaining jalapeno. You can serve on lettuce cups or over jasmine rice.

CONTACT US

MONTANA
 Customer Contact Center 888-467-2669
 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. M-F
 Emergency 24/7 Service
 Call Before You Dig 811
 Energy Efficiency 800-823-5995

NEBRASKA
 Customer Contact Center 800-245-6977
 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. M-F
 Emergency 24/7 Service
 Call Before You Dig 811

SOUTH DAKOTA
 Customer Contact Center 800-245-6977
 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. M-F
 Emergency 24/7 Service
 Call Before You Dig 811

PAYMENT
 Paymentus Automated
 Phone Payment Option:
 (via checking, savings, credit or debit card)
 English: 833-970-2262
 Spanish: 833-970-2263

CONSTRUCTION CENTER
 1-83-FOR-BUILD (1-833-672-8453)

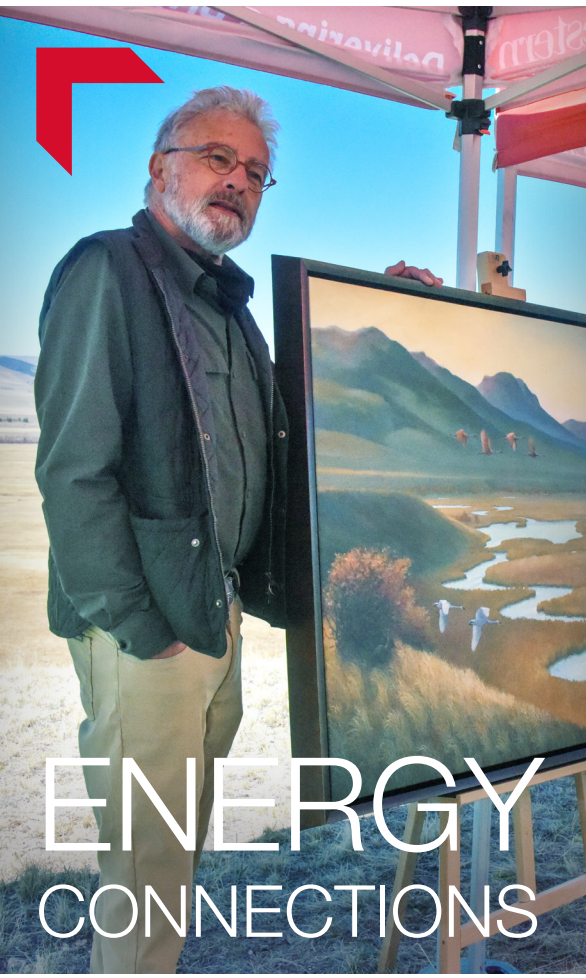
NorthWesternEnergy.com

We are proud of the diversity in the communities we serve. To better serve the needs of some of our customers, we translate important customer information into two languages: Spanish and Karenic.

Estamos orgullosos de la diversidad en las comunidades que servimos. Para satisfacer mejor las necesidades de algunos de nuestros clientes, traducimos información importante del cliente a dos idiomas: español y karenic.

ပညာရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်းများသည် ကျွန်ုပ်တို့၏ ကုမ္ပဏီကို အားပေးဆောင်ရွက်ပေးကြောင်းကို ကျွန်ုပ်တို့သည် အလေးတန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါသည်။ အချို့သော ကုမ္ပဏီများသည် ကျွန်ုပ်တို့၏ ကုမ္ပဏီကို အားပေးဆောင်ရွက်ပေးကြောင်းကို ကျွန်ုပ်တို့သည် အလေးတန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါသည်။

Energy Connections Editor
 11 E Park St, Butte, MT 59701
 news2@northwestern.com



ENERGY CONNECTIONS

"Restoring Our Waters," a new original painting by Montana artist Monte Dolack, captures the work NorthWestern Energy has done to restore O'Dell Creek. Learn more at NorthWesternEnergy.com/ODell

LOOK INSIDE FOR INFORMATION ON:

- New energy resources
- Natural gas safety
- Larb recipe



New energy resources help meet demand

During certain weather events, like the extended cold that occurred in February 2021, NorthWestern Energy does not have enough electric generating resources to meet our customers' energy needs. We can't produce enough electricity during these critical times, so instead, we buy additional energy on the open market.

This situation is far from ideal, and the deficit is becoming more critical as some regional coal plants and other capacity resources are being shut down, compromising reliability during extreme weather conditions when energy demand is high.

In order to close the gap between our electricity generation and our customers' demands, NorthWestern Energy announced three new dispatchable capacity resource projects that will generate a total of 325 megawatts.

1. NorthWestern Energy's new Laurel Generating Station:

This will be a 175-megawatt natural gas plant, to be constructed in Laurel, Montana. The plant will use reciprocating internal combustion engine, or RICE, units, which are highly reliable and efficient with low emissions. The engines are capable of rapid ramping and multiple daily starts and stops. They have the flexibility to provide power on-demand, baseload power, flexible capacity and regulation services. The Laurel Generating Station is expected to be available to serve customers by early 2024.

2. Market purchases from primarily hydroelectric resources:

Powerex Corp., a subsidiary of BC Hydro, has entered into a five-year agreement with NorthWestern Energy for 100 megawatts of capacity and energy products originating predominately from

hydroelectric resources. We'll begin purchasing capacity from Powerex in early 2023, and it will be delivered on our existing transmission lines.

3. Contract to purchase from battery storage:

We have entered a 20-year contract with a third party to purchase power from a 50-megawatt battery storage system utilizing lithium-ion technology. The energy storage project will provide the opportunity to store some excess energy from the grid to use when customer demand is high. NorthWestern Energy most frequently has excess energy on the grid from wind resources. The battery storage project will be ready to serve customers by the end of 2023.

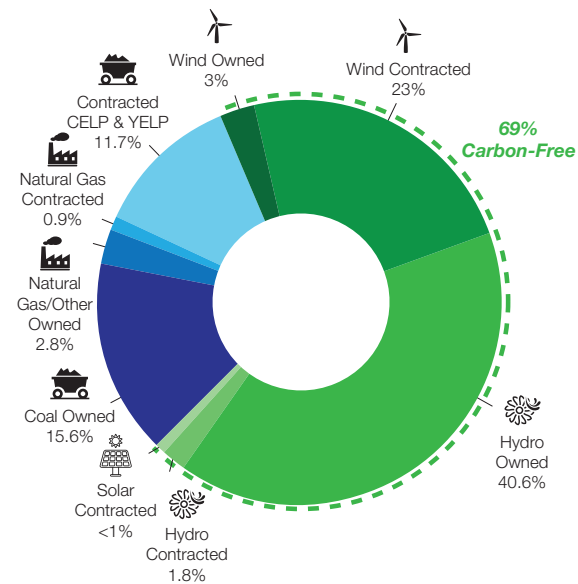
These contracts were entered into after NorthWestern Energy completed a competitive solicitation process for long-term capacity resources issued in January 2020. The RFP administrator, Aion Energy, received 180 proposals representing a wide variety of technologies from 21 bidders.

"The 2020 RFP process provided an opportunity to see what projects and technology are available," said NorthWestern Energy President and Chief Operating Officer Brian Bird.

These new resources will reduce NorthWestern Energy's capacity deficit, decrease risk associated with market volatility and potential lack of availability, and provide increased reliability for our Montana customers. The additional capacity to produce energy will address more than half of NorthWestern Energy's deficit in its supply portfolio serving Montana.

"This resource portfolio addresses a key portion of our immediate need for generation capacity while also

MONTANA
2020 ELECTRIC GENERATION PORTFOLIO
BASED ON MWH OF OWNED AND LONG-TERM CONTRACTED RESOURCES



Nearly 70% of the energy produced by NorthWestern Energy for Montana comes from renewable and carbon-free sources, including hydro, wind and solar. We have made a commitment to reduce the carbon intensity of our electric energy portfolio for Montana by 90% by 2045. Over the last decade, we have already reduced the carbon intensity of our energy generation in Montana by more than 50%.

We do not receive all the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) from our contracted electric supply resources. The owner of the RECs claims the renewable attributes of the energy, and our resource mix does not represent the actual energy delivered to our customers.

allowing us to make progress toward our goal of an energy supply portfolio in Montana that reduces the carbon intensity of our electric generation by 90% by 2045," said NorthWestern Energy Chief Executive Officer Bob Rowe. "Developing a diverse portfolio of resources capable of producing the energy our Montana customers need any time they need it is the responsible path forward as we all work together toward an affordable, reliable and cleaner energy future."

For the latest news regarding the Montana RFP, visit NorthWesternEnergy.com and click on "Media Center."



Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to watch a video about how we delivered safe, reliable electric and natural gas on the coldest day of 2021.



How to recognize and report natural gas safety concerns

Know how to detect a natural gas leak.

- Smell: Natural gas is odorless, so we add an odorant called mercaptan. It smells like rotten eggs or sulfur.
- Listen: A natural gas leak may make a hissing sound or even a roar.
- Look: A leak can send dust or debris flying. It will also produce bubbles under water and can lead to discolored vegetation.

If you detect a natural gas leak, leave the area immediately. Don't do anything that may cause a spark.

Once you are in a safe area, call 911.