

2011 facts & stats

DAKOTA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION



A member-owned cooperative

Dakota Electric Association, Farmington, MN, was founded in 1937 as a not-for-profit, customer-owned distribution electric utility. It serves more than 100,000 members in an area covering much of Dakota County, just south of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Dakota Electric also serves portions of three nearby counties. Approximately 90 percent of the cooperative's member-owners are found in the growing suburbs of the south metro area.

Commercial members account for approximately 40 percent of all revenue; residential and farming make up about 58 percent, street lighting and irrigation the last 2 percent. Dakota Electric purchases wholesale electricity from Great River Energy, Maple Grove, MN.

A twelve-person board of directors consisting of and elected by members governs the cooperative. Dakota Electric is also regulated by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and is the only regulated electric cooperative in Minnesota.

STATISTICS (based on year-end 2010 data)

Employees: 204 (full and part time)

Members: 101,518

Miles of line: 3,463 (2,152 underground and 1,311 overhead)

Member growth: 37 percent increase in 15 years

Load control: 343 megawatts connected; 151 summer/96 winter controllable; (Controllable is the amount of load that can be "shut off" when demand reaches peak levels. It varies daily due to conditions.) Summer controllable load is equal to the energy used by approximately 30,000 homes. More than 44,000 air conditioners on Dakota Electric's system are on load control.

Residential electric rates: 10.144 cents/kWh Sept. through May; 11.544 cents/kWh June, July and Aug. (tariffed rates) plus 0.48 cents/kWh (RTA)

Annual sales: 1.9 billion kWh; \$183 million

Conservation programs: Dakota Electric delivers more than \$4 million in conservation programs every year that include: Energy Star® rebates, C&I Energy Grants, energy audits, Brighter Idea promotions and more.

Renewable energy: Great River Energy, on behalf of Dakota Electric and other distribution cooperatives, is on track to meet the state's renewable energy goal by generating 25 percent of its electric energy from renewable resources by the year 2025. Great River Energy purchases output from a variety of wind projects in Minnesota, North Dakota and Iowa for a total of 469 megawatts of renewable energy. Dakota Electric members voluntarily purchase more than 9 million kWh of renewable wind energy annually through the Wellspring Renewable Wind Energy® program.

Taxes: Property taxes paid: \$3.5 million

Payroll taxes: \$1.2 million

Sales tax: \$11.3 million

Subsidiaries: Energy Alternatives - providing project management on generator installations.
Consulting Engineers Group - providing utility-scale engineering services.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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What is an electric cooperative?

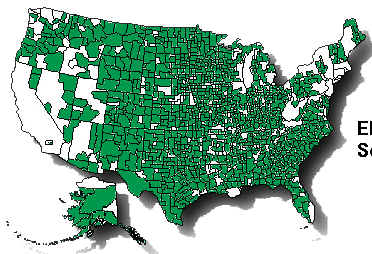
Local, member-owned, responsive

Locally owned and operated — Electric cooperatives are owned by their members and focus on their members and local priorities. Dakota Electric, like other electric cooperatives, is highly committed and involved in the communities it serves.

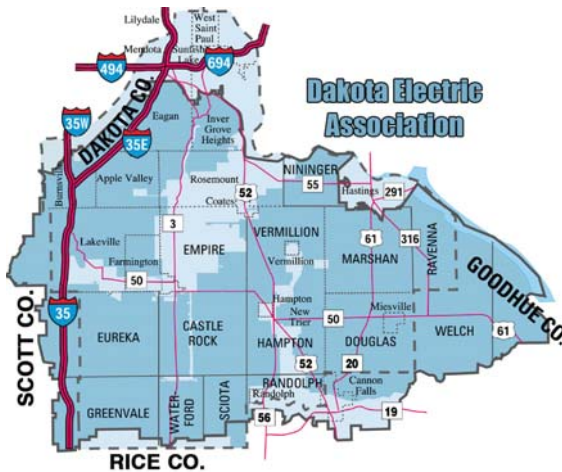
Members first — The cooperative business model guarantees every member a voice in business decisions. Members know they can trust their cooperative because it was created, not to make profits, but simply to deliver electricity at the lowest cost possible.

Responsive to local needs — Unlike larger, multistate utilities, electric cooperatives are located in the communities they serve, making them easily accessible and responsive to members' needs.

The United States has more than 900 electric cooperatives, all of which are owned 100-percent by their consumers. Collectively, they are the nation's largest utility network, serving more than 42 million members, including 1,435,000 commercial accounts and 50,000 industrial accounts.



Electric Co-op Service Areas



WHAT IS TOUCHSTONE ENERGY?

Touchstone Energy is a nationwide alliance of more than 700 cooperatives in 47 states, serving more than 30 million members every day. Together, these cooperatives have resources, ideas and networking opportunities to better serve their members. Four values are the foundation of every Touchstone Energy cooperative's service to its members:

Innovation

New solutions and state-of-the-art technology to meet members' needs.

Accountability

Together, cooperative members and employees chart the course for the business.

Integrity

Electric cooperatives deliver energy to their members at cost.

Commitment to Community

Across the nation, cooperatives improve their members' quality of life.



Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperatives

Contact Information

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Dakota Electric Contributions

Helping Neighbors

More than \$30,000 from member donations helps pay heating bills for others in 2009.

Unclaimed Capital Credits

Approximately \$25,000 annually provides scholarships to area youth.

Community Donations

More than \$63,000 annually donated to charitable organizations in 2010.

Dakota Cares/United Way/Community Health Charities

Dakota Electric and its employees donated more than \$22,000 in 2010.