

CIRCUITS

NEWS FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

Special pricing for a limited time

Limit 12 bulbs per customer.

Oct. 1 - Nov. 30, 2010
or while supplies last.

savings with a twist



Because CFLs use less power to create the same amount of light, use the chart below to determine the correct wattage for your needs.

ENERGY STAR® qualified light bulbs:

- Use up to 75 percent less energy
- Last up to 10 times longer
- Save an average of \$30 in energy costs over their lifetime
- Produce 75 percent less heat
- Help the environment by saving energy

Incandescent bulb	CFL equivalent	Lifetime savings
40 watt	9–11 watt	\$15–\$20
60 watt	13–17 watt	\$25–\$30
75 watt	18–20 watt	\$30–\$35
100 watt	23–26 watt	\$40–\$45
150 watt	32–42 watt	\$60–\$70

To receive this limited time offer:

1. Call 1-888-476-9548 to find a participating retailer near you.
2. Ask a store representative which bulbs qualify for the ENERGY STAR® instant rebate.
3. Select up to 12 qualifying compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).
3. Bring your qualified CFLs to the check out counter.
4. Complete the ENERGY STAR instant rebate coupon.

Quantities are limited. Selection and price will vary by store. Offer expires Nov. 30.



Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) contain a small amount of mercury and must be recycled. Mercury is harmful to the environment, and placing CFLs in the garbage is illegal in Minnesota. To learn how to lawfully dispose of CFLs, visit www.earth911.org or call the MN Pollution Control Agency at 651-296-6300.

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Upcoming events

Board meeting.....Oct. 28, 8:30 a.m.

October 2010



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Your Values, Your Business.

Your Co-op

Co-ops make a difference because we are different.

- Co-ops are member-owned and locally operated, so your money stays in the community.
- Our rates cover the costs of doing business and are not marked up to generate a profit.
- Co-ops give money back to members when revenues exceed costs.
- Member ownership means we are accountable to you, not to stockholders.
- We are here to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electric power.

We are committed to do our part.

- To help you, our member-owners, to use energy wisely through efficiency and conservation programs.
- To build on our proud record of member service and environmental responsibility.
- To share responsibility for finding the right energy solutions.

Learn more
about
cooperatives
at Go.Coop.



What is a co-op?

A co-op is formed when people come together—or cooperate—to achieve a common result. A co-op is owned by its members—the people who receive services from it—and provides services at cost.

Money left over after expenses are paid, called margins, belongs to the members. Each member's share of the margin is determined by the amount of his or her use of the co-op's services.

Who is served?

Co-ops have been formed to provide child care, insurance, housing and many other products and services. More than 900 electric co-ops serve 42 million Americans and nearly 30,000 cooperatives operate at 73,000 locations nationally.

More than 800 million people around the world belong to co-ops and at least 100 million people are employed by co-ops.

Source: www.cooperative.com

Stay safe around electricity



1. Use safety plugs on outlets if you have children around.
2. Check electrical cords for signs of wear and replace cords that are damaged.
3. Do not tie or knot cords, let furniture sit on cords or place cords under rugs.
4. Do not use electrical appliances around water.
5. Do not overload outlets with too many plugs.
6. Never pull on a cord. Hold on to the plug to unplug an appliance.

Contact Us

Member service & drive-up window
7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday - Friday
651-463-6212 or 1-800-874-3409
Hearing Impaired TDD 651-463-6144

Lobby 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday
4300 220th Street West, Farmington, MN 55024

24-hour outage & emergency service
651-463-6201 or 1-800-430-9722

Underground cable locations Gopher State
One Call 811 or 651-454-0002 or 1-800-252-1166

Tree trimming & street lights 651-463-6287

Careers 651-463-6129
Dakota Electric is an equal opportunity/
affirmative action employer

www.dakotaelectric.com
info@dakotaelectric.com

Last call for applications

EnergyGrant® rebate application deadline is Nov. 15

Energy-efficiency improvements can be expensive to implement. Some businesses want to increase the efficiency of their operations but do not have enough up-front capital to make the investment, or the pay-back may be too far out to make the project feasible.

Dakota Electric offers rebates and incentives to help members invest in the future of their business. Money is available on a first-come, first-served basis for energy-efficiency improvement projects. Dakota Electric can help evaluate your existing equipment to determine energy- and cost-saving opportunities.

Call the Energy Experts® today at 651-463-6243. The application deadline is Nov. 15.



What qualifies for an EnergyGrant®?

So far this year, business members have saved over six million kilowatt-hours (kWhs) of electricity toward a goal of 14.1 million kWhs. As business owners look for more ways to save money, Dakota Electric can help members become more efficient with an EnergyGrant.®

Popular projects include but are not limited to:

- Changing recessed incandescent lights to LED/CFL
- Changing neon store signs to LED
- Installing automatic HVAC control systems
- Installing premium grade motors on equipment
- Reballasting light fixtures
- Upgrading refrigerated display cases



Contact the EnergyExperts® at 651-463-6243 to see if your project idea qualifies for an EnergyGrant.®



Scott Stokke (right) and Mark Kortkamp (left) in the comfortable atrium of the headquarters for Northern Tool + Equipment, Burnsville, Minn.

Northern Tool sees the light (behind the windows)

It all started with a warm conference room at the headquarters of Northern Tool + Equipment. "The room has lots of windows," said Scott Stokke, director of real estate and facilities. "And we just couldn't get it cool enough."

Stokke considered adding more cooling capacity but decided to try tinted window film first. "It was impressive," said Stokke. "As the film was going up, we could feel the effects." This got Stokke thinking.

"The atrium in our building was a huge heat gain for us." Stokke wondered if window film could solve other cooling challenges.

Dakota Electric helps Enter Mark Kortkamp, business account executive for Dakota Electric. "Northern Tool was

dealing with three aspects of building management – energy, comfort and aesthetics," said Kortkamp. "Window film in the atrium would prevent a substantial investment in new cooling equipment, save energy and increase comfort."

EnergyGrant® makes project feasible Kortkamp crunched the numbers. An EnergyGrant® rebate from Dakota Electric would pay for almost half of this project.

"The numbers have to make sense," said Stokke. "Mark could help with that."

Contact Dakota Electric at 651-463-6243 to see if an EnergyGrant could help your business. The application deadline is Nov. 15.

BUSINESS REBATES & INCENTIVES

Visit www.dakotaelectric.com or call an Energy Expert® at 651-463-6243 to find out if Dakota Electric has rebates or incentives available for your organization or business.



Finally
appliances you can
feel good about

\$125 OFF
ENERGY STAR® REFRIGERATORS*
*with the recycling of your old refrigerator

\$75 OFF
ENERGY STAR® CLOTHES WASHERS

HURRY!
Offer expires Oct. 31

Increased rebates on ENERGY STAR® appliances expire Oct. 31.

Sears®



Dakota Electric members can save big by purchasing a qualifying ENERGY STAR® refrigerator* or clothes washer through Oct. 31. Coupons good for an instant markdown at Sears® and Warners' Stellan were included in the Sept. issue of *Circuits* newsletter. This offer is also available at other appliance stores via a mail-in rebate. Rebate form is available at most local stores, by visiting www.dakotaelectric.com or calling 651-463-6212.

Enter for your chance to win the
Fill Your Fridge Sweepstakes

mnbrighterideas.com



ANOTHER BRIGHT IDEA FROM DAKOTA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Follow our energy-savings goal online

Dakota Electric strives to help members lower their energy bills by using electricity more wisely. Dakota Electric's goal for this year is to help members save 18.3 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity. That means we need you, our member-owners, to take advantage of our conservation programs and rebates and lower your electricity use.

Low off-peak rates

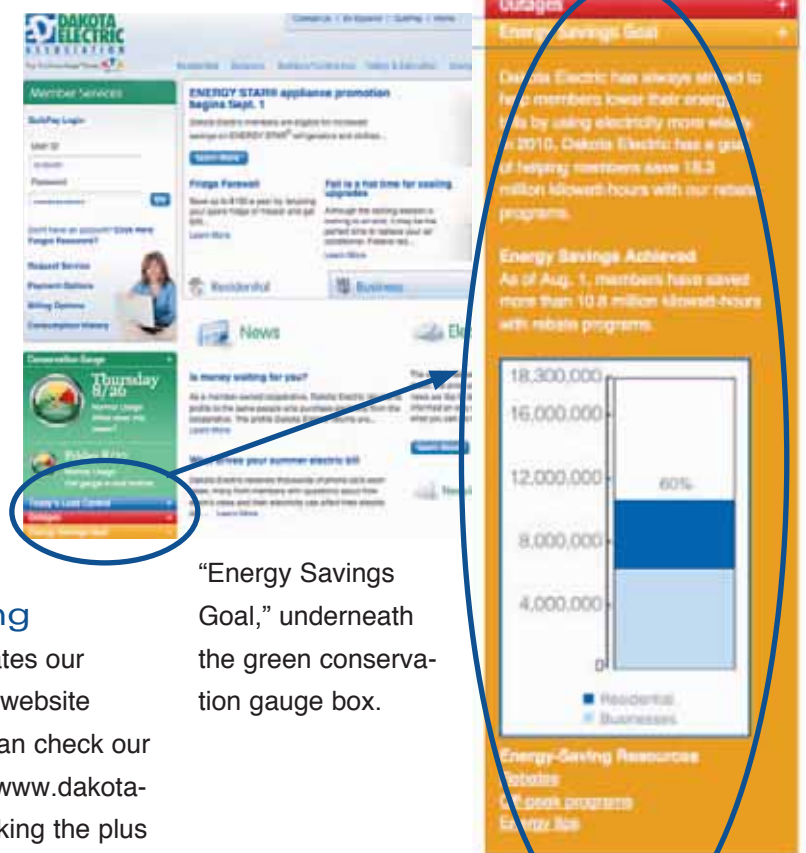
Dakota Electric's EnergyWise® off-peak programs help members save on monthly bills. Electric water heaters, heat pumps, air conditioners, permanent space heaters and hot tub or swimming pool pumps may qualify for this low electric rate.

Rebates and grants

When you purchase a qualifying energy-efficient product for your home or business, you will benefit from both the energy savings on your monthly bill and from a rebate from Dakota Electric.

Online tracking

Dakota Electric updates our kWh-savings on our website monthly. Members can check our progress by visiting www.dakotaelectric.com and clicking the plus sign on the gold bar that says



"Energy Savings Goal," underneath the green conservation gauge box.

Energy saving tips for fall and winter

Want to pay less for energy this fall and winter? Follow these tips.

- If you have a programmable thermostat, make sure you program it.
- Now that you will be using your lights more, take advantage of the CFL promotion on page 1.
- Decorate for the holidays with energy-saving LED holiday lights. Watch for special deals in the Nov. issue of Circuits.

- If you depend on electric heat to stay warm, call an Energy Expert® at 651-463-6243 to make sure you are on a money-saving EnergyWise® off-peak program.
- If you need to replace your heating system, consider installing an air-source heat pump to lower heating and cooling costs. Learn about heat pump rebates on our website.
- Visit www.dakotaelectric.com for more weatherization and heating tips.

Electric heating options

If you are considering adding electric heat to your home or business, talk to the Energy Experts® first. They can help you choose the most energy-efficient option to meet your needs.

EnergyWise® off-peak heating

If you depend on electricity for any of your home's heating needs, call an Energy Expert® at 651-463-6243. You may qualify for an off-peak program that allows you to take advantage of lower priced electricity for electric heating devices.

Heat pumps

Air-source and ground-source heat pumps can provide heating and cooling. Both systems completely replace your air conditioner. In addition, air-source heat pumps provide a portion of your heating needs while geothermal heat pumps can serve all of your heating needs.

Rebates

Contact an Energy Expert before installing any electric heating device.

Rebates are available for heat pumps and other qualifying systems placed on an off-peak program.

Learn more

To learn more about off-peak programs, heat pumps and rebates, call 651-463-6243 or visit our website at www.dakotaelectric.com.



FAST FACT

More than 4,000 members save money on their heating bill by participating in an EnergyWise® off-peak program.

Touchstone Energy Community Award

The Touchstone Energy Community Award allows Dakota Electric to recognize and support local businesses, nonprofit organizations and community groups that show their community commitment by meeting community needs.

In 2010, Dakota Electric will provide up to three awards to local organizations, earning each winner a \$500 cash prize. One local award winner will compete for a state-wide award of \$1,000.

How to apply

The application deadline is Nov. 1, 2010. Call Suzie at 651-463-6234 or visit www.dakotaelectric.com for an application and judging criteria.



Kids 'n Kinship, 2009 Touchstone Energy Community Award winner.

ANGELL AIRE

bryant
2009
Dealer
of the Year



HYBRID HEAT

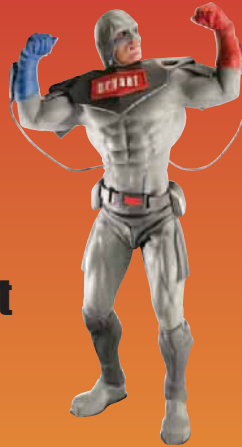
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Furnace

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Angell Aire
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Must be presented at the time of quote. Cannot be combined with any other coupon or offers. Call for details. Expires 10/28/10.

Buy a whole house system, A/C and Furnace and receive **\$150 OFF** the purchase

New furnace may qualify for a \$1,500 Federal Tax Credit.

Angell Aire
952-746-5200

Must be presented at the time of quote. Cannot be combined with any other coupon or offers. Call for details. Expires 10/28/10.

Paid Advertisements: For more information about advertising in *Circuits* call 651-463-6270.

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\$50 OFF!

Service Call

Valid on service calls more than one hour. See dealer for details. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 10/31/10

Time is running out!

Your \$1,500* federal tax credit ends December 31st!

Combine with Trane and utility company rebates** and **enjoy the largest savings in history!**

October BONUS! Receive a whole home filtration system with a Trane home comfort system purchase. **A \$500 value!**

Call for your FREE in-home estimate today!

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Remember, 2010 is the final year of the 30% Federal Tax Credit!

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*30% up to \$1,500. Consult your tax advisor for details. **With qualifying Trane purchase. Utility company rebates may vary.

Make life easier with **billing options**



We know you have better things to do with your time than spend it paying your electric bill. That is why we provide several options that make paying your bill as easy and convenient as possible. Participation is free and signing up is easy. Call 651-463-6212 or visit www.dakotaelectric.com.

- QuikPay online billing allows you to make payments 24 hours a day from anywhere with a computer and Internet access.
- Budget Billing lets you pay the same amount every month, eliminating large fluctuations caused by changes in weather and usage patterns.
- With electronic funds transfer, your payment is automatically withdrawn directly from your checking or savings account each month, eliminating the cost of postage.

Safe at Home Address confidentiality program

Safe at Home helps survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and other crimes, and anyone who fears for their safety, by establishing a confidential mailing address and providing a mail forwarding service.

While Dakota Electric needs members' actual addresses to establish and

maintain electric service, we use Safe at Home addresses for communicating with members and take special steps to protect Safe at Home participants' addresses.

If you participate in Safe at Home, alert Dakota Electric and provide your Safe at Home mailing address.

To learn more about Safe at Home, contact the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State at www.sos.state.mn.us or 1-866-723-3035.



Fall harvest safety

Crisp fall weather means harvest time on the farm. Farm workers are killed each year when farm machinery makes contact with overhead power lines. Follow these tips to stay safe.

- Check work areas carefully for utility poles and overhead power lines.
- Make sure power line clearances are sufficient when moving large machinery.
- Consider existing power lines when planning new construction.
- Be extra careful working around trees and brush that can obstruct power lines.
- Train farm workers on how to properly operate machinery near overhead power lines.



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4300 220th Street West
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DAKOTA ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION

Delivering **service** in multiple languages

Attention. Dakota Electric uses translators to help us speak with you in your native language. Please call 651-463-6212 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Atención. Dakota Electric utiliza el servicio de traductores para que nos ayuden a comunicarnos con usted en su idioma nativo. Llame al 651-463-6212 de lunes a viernes entre las 7 a.m. y las 7 p.m.

Degtoon. Dokota waaxdeeda korontadu waxay isticmaashaa turjumaa ka caawiya iney kugula hadlaan luqadaada aad u dhalatey. Fadlan soo wac 651-463-6212 inta u dhaxaysa 7 a.m iyo 7 p.m. Sabtida ilaa Jimcaha.

Внимание! Компания Dakota Electric пользуется услугами переводчиков, чтобы облегчить общение с вами на вашем родном языке. Обращайтесь, пожалуйста, по телефону 651-463-6212 между 7.00 и 19.00 с понедельника по пятницу.

Lus tshaj tawm. Dakota Electric siv neeg txhais lus los pab peb hais lus rau koj uas yog hais koj yam lus. Thov hu rau 651-463-6212 nruab nrab ntawm 7 moo sawv ntxov thiab 7 moo tsausntuj. Hnub Monday txog rau Friday.

