

CIRCUITS

NEWS FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS



We all have busy schedules, so why not schedule efficiency?

According to ENERGY STAR®, the average household spends more than \$2,000 a year on energy bills — nearly half of which goes to heating and cooling. Homeowners can save up to 10 percent a year by simply turning your thermostat back 7-10 degrees for eight hours a day from its normal setting.

Programmable thermostats allow you to schedule the times you turn on the heating or air conditioning. As a result, the equipment doesn't operate as much when you are asleep or not at home.

Basic models offer four programming

periods: wake, day, evening and sleep. They also offer different scheduling options. The 5-2 day option, lets you schedule for the work week and week-end. The 5-1-1 day option allows for different schedules on Saturday and Sunday. And finally, the 7-day option allows you to program each day of the week individually. You can always manually override the daily settings without affecting the rest of the daily or weekly program.

Deluxe models also come with additional features, such as:

- Digital, backlit displays

- Voice and/or phone programming
- Hold/Vacation features
- Indicators which tell you when it's time to change air filters
- Indicators that signal malfunctioning of heating/cooling systems
- Adaptive Recovery/Smart Recovery features — control features that sense the amount of time it will take to reach the next set-point temperature, and reach desired temperatures by the set time

To decide which thermostat is best for you, think about your schedule and how often you are away from home for regular periods of time.

During the warm summer months, members who participate in Dakota Electric's Cycled Air Conditioning® program should schedule their thermostat to pre-cool their home on days when Dakota Electric is controlling load. To determine if load control will impact you, be sure to check Great River Energy's load management guide by visiting www.dakotaelectric.com and clicking on Today's Load Control.

Thank you to the 45,000 members who participate in the Cycled Air Conditioning program. Together we save.

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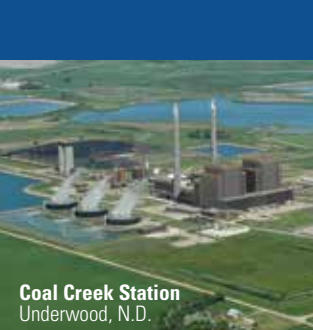
Upcoming events

Lakeville Landscape & Home Expo . .	Mar. 14
Dakota County Crops Day	Mar. 18
Board Meeting	Mar. 26, 8:30 a.m.

March 2015



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Coal Creek Station
Underwood, N.D.

EPA ruling affirms beneficial use of fly ash

Coal-based power plants produce enough electricity to power thousands of homes and business. They also produce a fine particle, known as “fly ash,” that has a variety of industrial applications.

A 2014 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review of fly ash affirmed that the proper use of the byproduct is beneficial and safe. In December, the EPA issued its final rule to regulate coal combustion residuals as a non-hazardous waste under Subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

“We have spent decades finding environmentally responsible uses for the ash we produce at our coal-based power plants,” said Great River Energy Business Development and North Dakota

Government Affairs Director Al Christianson. “This decision underscores the value we all gain from finding productive uses for these byproducts.”

Fly ash is used throughout the Upper Midwest to replace a portion of Portland cement in concrete production. Using one ton of fly ash instead of Portland cement prevents the emission of approximately one ton of greenhouse gases. The use of fly ash also means less land is disturbed for quarrying raw materials. Also, because ash is put to a secondary use, it does not end up in a landfill.

Each year, Great River Energy sells or donates approximately 400,000 tons of fly ash from its Coal Creek Station and Stanton Station power

“Using one ton of fly ash instead of Portland cement [in concrete production] prevents the emission of approximately one ton of greenhouse gases.”

Dakota Electric's website goes mobile!

Dakota Electric now has a mobile website featuring online bill pay, power outage information, conservation gauge updates and contact information. Members who visit www.dakotaelectric.com on a mobile device will automatically be directed to the new mobile site.

Pay Bills Online

Members who already have a QuikPay online billing account will automatically be able to pay their bill from a mobile device. Those that do not have a QuikPay account must sign up online from a desktop computer before accessing the mobile bill pay option. You can sign up for a QuikPay account at www.dakotaelectric.com and click on Residential > Payment Options > Pay Online.

Power Outages

The mobile website includes information on power outage safety and restoration. Click-to-call phone numbers allow members to easily report an outage from their mobile phone. Outage information and updates on larger outages will be posted via our live Twitter feed. You do not need to have a Twitter account to view the feed from your mobile device.

Conservation Gauge

Quickly check the conservation gauge for alerts regarding extra energy-saving measures due to hot temperatures and other conditions that drive up electricity use and costs.

Contact Information

Whether you need tree trimming, streetlight repair, member services or to report an outage, you can easily contact us with click-to-call phone numbers and email addresses.



plants in North Dakota. Coal Creek Station fly ash was used in the Interstate 35W bridge constructed in Minneapolis in 2008.

Great River Energy facilities are in compliance with existing North Dakota rules that regulate coal ash from its power plants. As a result, Great River Energy already meets most of the new requirements of Subtitle D of the RCRA. However, the new rule may require some minor changes to facility design, including groundwater monitoring, data collection and reporting.

“Great River Energy and our marketing partner, Headwaters, have been leaders in the search for beneficial uses of fly ash, so this rule will change very little in the way that we are required to handle fly ash,” added Christianson.



Coal Creek Station fly ash was used in the construction of the Interstate 35W bridge in Minneapolis in 2008.

Visit us at the Home & Garden Show

Stop by Dakota Electric's booth at one of the upcoming Home and Garden shows. The Energy Experts® will be available to answer questions about energy efficiency, rebates, programs and more.

Lakeville Landscape & Home Expo

Saturday, March 14

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Lakeville North High School | 19600 Ipava Ave.

Apple Valley Home & Garden Show

Saturday, April 11

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Dakota County Western Service Center | 14955 Galaxie Ave.



Rate Case Update

The state agency review process for Dakota Electric's general rate case continues. The Administrative Law Judge issued her report and recommendations in early March. Dakota Electric and the state agencies are now reviewing and preparing comments on this report.

MORE INFORMATION

Learn more about the rate case at www.dakotaelectric.com. Members can also email rates@dakotaelectric.com or call 651-463-6212.

Have you seen us in your neighborhood?

Dakota Electric vehicles and employees are often seen throughout our service territory reading meters, responding to service calls or making repairs to underground and overhead power lines. Our employees wear apparel and drive vehicles clearly marked with the Dakota Electric logo, and they all carry an employee identification card. The cooperative also hires contractors to perform services such as meter reading, meter testing, tree trimming, utility pole testing and construction. Their vehicles are clearly marked with either the contractor's logo or Dakota Electric's logo, and they also carry an employee identification card.

If you see anything suspicious or are concerned about why Dakota Electric or a contractor may be in your neighborhood, please don't hesitate to contact us at 651-463-6212.



This bucket truck is driven by our powerline specialists who are out in the field working on substations or overhead/underground power lines.



Our meter readers and some energy services representatives drive SUVs like the one pictured here.



This van is driven by our energy services representatives who are often in residential neighborhoods meeting with members.



Our meter technicians drive pick-up trucks like the one pictured here. They are often in residential neighborhoods installing new meters, changing out old meters or making repairs.

We appreciate your feedback!

Dakota Electric hired NRECA Market Research Services to conduct a commercial and industrial member satisfaction survey on our behalf. Should you receive a call asking for your opinions about Dakota Electric's service, we would sincerely appreciate your feedback.

We know your time is valuable, so rest assured, we will use the results to make decisions on matters important to the future of your co-op. Thank you in advance for your time.



Job openings in energy industry on the rise

Have you, or someone you know, considered a career in the electric utility industry? Energy companies are projecting 30-50 percent of their workforce will be eligible to retire in the next 10 years, which means those companies will be looking for qualified candidates to fill those positions.

While lineworkers remain the public face, it takes many more departments to run an electric utility like Dakota Electric. Our staff consists of electrical engineers; member service representatives; energy service representatives; accountants; marketing/communications; billing clerks; human resources; warehouse staff; staking technicians; information technology professionals; and meter readers/technicians.

Young people looking to find a career should consider working in the energy industry, where they can receive competitive salaries and benefits. According to a recent report on NPR, millennials are encouraged to consider jobs in the energy industry and

other trades where a four-year college degree isn't always necessary in order to advance and have a fulfilling career.

The Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD) launched the Get Into Energy website in an effort to build awareness among students, parents, teachers, guidance counselors and others about career opportunities in the energy industry. The site offers job opportunities as well as valuable resources for youth, women, military veterans, those looking to make a career change to the energy industry, and engineering careers. To learn more, visit www.getintoenergy.com.

To learn more about job opportunities at Dakota Electric, visit www.dakotaelectric.com/about_us/careers.

With the right education and training, you can begin a rewarding, well-paying energy career that benefits millions of people every day.



OFF ISN'T OFF



Many electrical devices in your home never turn off completely. In fact, 75% of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are "off." This is called phantom load, which is responsible for an average of \$100 of energy waste each year. Here is a smart and easy way to save electricity and costs.

\$20 PHANTOM LOAD CONSERVATION KIT
(a \$50 value)



Energy-Saving Surge Protector



PwrSmart® Software



Dusk to Dawn Light Control Sensor

Order your kit today. EnergyWiseMN.com/PhantomLoad

ENERGY WISE  MN

Dakota Electric delivers 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.

Degtooni. 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.



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

Winter Furnace SALE on NOW!



Dakota Electric customers can own a quality TRANE furnace for as low as

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Circuits Quick Clips

Dakota County Crops Day at Dakota Electric

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

9 a.m. — 2 p.m. | 4300 220th St. W, Farmington, MN 55024

For the ninth year, Crops Day will bring University and agency specialists to Dakota County to share local research results and crop management strategies with producers and other agricultural professionals. Topics this year will include:

- An update from the DNR on irrigation well permitting
- A research update from Joshua Stamper (extension irrigation specialist) on irrigation management tools and technology
- A research update from Fabian Fernandez (extension nutrient management specialist) on local on-farm nitrogen management research and in-season nitrogen management strategies
- A research update from extension specialists on cover crops for grain and canning crop systems
- An update from Dakota County's "Targeted Townships" nitrate sampling project
- An update from the local USDA-NRCS
- An update from the local SWCD
- An update from David Nicolai (extension crops educator) on weed control trends
- An update from Mike Plutowski (Dakota Electric Association) on energy conservation programs
- A local trade show

Lunch will be provided. This event is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is requested by Thursday, March 12.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Neith Little: 651-480-7723.

The Southeast Irrigators Association Annual Meeting will be held in the same space immediately after the Crops Day meeting.



Get inspired with the Parade of Homes Spring Preview

Home parades are an excellent opportunity to learn more about the latest in energy-efficiency for the home. During the event below, local builders will showcase energy-efficient homes.

Parade of Homes Spring Preview

- Feb. 28 — March 29
- Details at www.paradeofhomes.org

To view a list of builders featuring Dakota Electric's Energy Wise® off-peak water heating and Cycled Air Conditioning®, visit www.dakotaelectric.com and click on the Event Calendar.

Thinking about building a home?

Contact Dakota Electric's Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243 about building an ENERGY STAR® home. An ENERGY STAR home meets specific thermal and performance standards, providing the homeowner with lower energy costs, healthier indoor air quality, improved building durability and increased market value. The Energy Experts will work with you from planning to final home inspection to make sure your home meets ENERGY STAR standards and that you receive all applicable rebates.

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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

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affirmative action employer

www.dakotaelectric.com

customerservice@dakotaelectric.com



Program information and offers in this newsletter are
subject to change without notice.