

CIRCUITS

NEWS FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS



LEFT: Members of the Minnesota Plug-In Vehicle Owners' Circle display their vehicles at Dakota Electric's Energy Trends Expo in May, which generated a lot of interest from attendees.

BELOW: Dakota Electric's EV is getting a charge from a Level 2 charger installed in a home built by Country Joe Homes in Lakeville.



Second generation electric vehicles are rolling into Minnesota Are you planning to drive electric?

At the end of 2016, U.S. electric vehicle (EV) sales were up 38 percent from 2015, and 2017 is expected to see an even larger increase.

A big factor pushing sales this year is the number of new types of vehicles coming to the market — many with ranges around 200 miles per charge and all with a price tag of \$40,000 or less.

To mention a few of the newcomers, the second generation Nissan Leaf, Chevy Bolt, Prius Prime and presumably some of the Tesla Model 3s will be released or

become more available throughout the nation this year.

Perhaps a market overlooked by the auto industry, Minnesota is not among the top 10 states for EV sales, which puts us lower on the priority list for new EV releases from manufacturers. In fact, Minnesotans currently only have access via local dealerships to 17 of the 35 plug-in vehicle models available nationwide.

Despite this market availability, Dakota Electric members are becoming increas-

ingly interested in electric vehicles. Over the past five months, Dakota Electric's energy services team has received an average of one call each work day regarding EVs. And the volunteers who brought their cars to the 2017 Energy Trends Expo in May were a tremendous hit with Dakota Electric attendees. Area builders have even started to offer EV-ready garages for home buyers, which include a 240-volt outlet to connect a Level 2 charger.

In 2014, our residential member survey found that three percent of our member-

- continued on page 4

In This Issue

Member Appreciation Event.....	2
Local restaurant upgrades lighting	3
Area students receive scholarships from Dakota Electric	3
Great River Energy's 2017 resource plan...	5
Pole inspections happening this summer ..	7

Upcoming events

Independence Day - Office Closed ...	July 4
Board Meeting	July 27, 8:30 a.m.
Member Appreciation	July 27, 4-8 p.m.

July 2017



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Join us for a **FREE** night at the zoo — Thursday, July 27!

Member Appreciation Event | 4-8 p.m. | Minnesota Zoo

- >> FREE Minnesota Zoo admission and parking
- >> Special deals on IMAX® Theater tickets

Featured attractions

In addition to your favorite exhibits, check out the zoo's newest attraction — Kangaroo Crossing presented by Think Mutual Bank. Additional free entertainment includes the Wings Financial World of Birds show (weather permitting), a strolling magician and music by the Rosemount High School Marching Band.

Tickets and admission

Bills received between June 13 and July 6 include member tickets. One ticket admits your entire family. We also accept a recent electric bill. The event is held rain or shine. Sorry, no rain checks. The tickets have no resale value and cannot be sold.

Food shelf donation

Please consider making a donation to our local food shelves by bringing non-perishable food items.

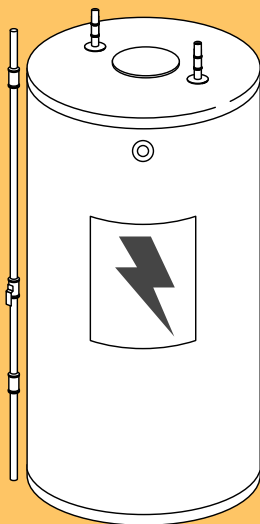
Other details

To drop off disabled or senior guests, follow the school bus signs to the bus station near the south entrance. Motorized carts are available for rent at \$10 per hour — maximum \$40. Wheelchairs are also available at no charge. Both are on a first-come, first-served basis. Stroller rental is available for \$5 and \$8.

For more information, contact Dakota Electric member services at 651-463-6212. For questions regarding rentals or zoo amenities, please call the Minnesota Zoo at 952-431-9500. We hope to see you at the zoo!

The Hidden Battery

Using Your Electric Water Heater for Heating Storage



1

Electric water heater:

Controllable, high-efficiency electric water heaters are in homes.

2

During times of high demand:

Co-op cuts power to water heaters.

3

When demand drops:

Water heaters are turned back on to run during the night and provide hot water for the next day.

Benefits

Co-ops avoid peak pricing.

Members use power when it's cheaper.

Helps avert need for new power plants.

Water heater storage

Electric water heaters are essentially pre-installed thermal batteries that can be used to manage the storage of heat energy, allowing the co-op to take heavy energy loads offline during peak periods. This saves energy and money for members.

Contact the Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243 to learn more about Dakota Electric's load management programs.



NEW!
Kangaroo Crossing
presented by Think Mutual Bank

Local restaurant upgrades lighting, calls program "a dream scenario"

In early 2016, Dakota Electric introduced its Bright Ideas for Small Business program to help small commercial accounts more easily access energy-saving rebates. Since its inception, the program has helped more than 50 small businesses save a combined 720,000 kWh. Dakota Electric determined the program was necessary because even though small business accounts make up the majority of the commercial accounts in the co-op's service territory, they make up a very small share of the rebate projects that get completed. Reasons why include lack of time, knowledge and access to quality contractors.

No project illustrates the power of the Bright Ideas program better than Dominick's Pizza in Inver Grove Heights. Owner Bob Kadrlick was having problems with a flickering fluorescent light fixture and had heard Dakota Electric offered rebates for upgrading to energy-efficient LED lighting. On a Friday afternoon, as he was pulling into Sam's Club for a quick trip to the pharmacy, he spoke on the phone with Dakota Electric Energy Services Representative Tyler Kashdan. Kashdan told him about the program and said he would pass his information on to one of the program's contractors. Before he returned to his car, Kadrlick received a call from the contractor, and 10 minutes after returning to his store, the contractor arrived to give him a bid. The job was completed the following Monday, and the contractor came to Dakota Electric to take care of the rebate paperwork for the member.

Kadrlick described the process as "effortless," and called the entire endeavor — from the initial phone call to Dakota Electric to the completion of the lighting retrofit — "a dream scenario."

Dakota Electric awards \$160,000 in scholarships

More than 100 area high school students received scholarships this spring for their post-secondary education from Dakota Electric Association. Others receiving part of the \$160,000 in unclaimed capital credits this year are students at Inver Hills Community College and Dakota County Technical College, who will receive their scholarships in the fall.

Dakota Electric has donated more than \$1.3 million since 1990 to help local students reach their goals through post-secondary education. "We are pleased to be able to help our local students this way," Dakota Electric's President and CEO Greg Miller said. "As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Dakota Electric is proud to provide these scholarships from unclaimed capital credits as an investment in the future of our local youth."

Students from the following high schools received scholarships: Apple Valley, Burnsville, Cannon Falls, Eagan, Eastview, Farmington, Hastings, Henry Sibley, Lakeville North, Lakeville South, Northfield, Randolph, Red Wing, Rosemount and Simley.



To view a full list of scholarship recipients, visit dakotaelectric.com/news-events/newsroom.



EVs (cont.)

ship is interested in purchasing an EV in the coming five years. We currently know of approximately 120 EVs participating in our programs. Studies have found that about 90 percent of EV charging is done at home, which is why Dakota Electric developed two charging programs to lower the cost of plugging in for members in exchange for charging outside of our peak demand hours. A \$500 rebate is available for the installation of an EV charger on one of those off-peak programs.

In addition, those that want to do even more for the environment can enroll their EV in Dakota Electric's Revolt program and know that the electricity used to charge their EV is coming from 100-percent renewable wind energy.

Dakota Electric wants to be your source for charging/EV information. To learn more, contact our Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243.

Source: fleetcarma.com

We want to know!

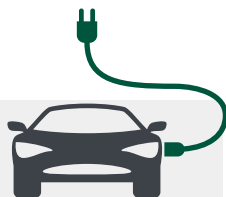
With around 500,000 reservations for the Tesla Model 3 alone, we can't help but wonder — are you thinking of purchasing an EV?

In an effort to better serve our membership, help us plan for future needs by taking our short online and anonymous survey. We want to know things like:

- if you have bought — or are interested in buying an EV
- if so, what kind?
- EV concerns
- public charging needs, etc.

You can access the survey at dakotaelectric.com/EVsurvey.

We appreciate your input!



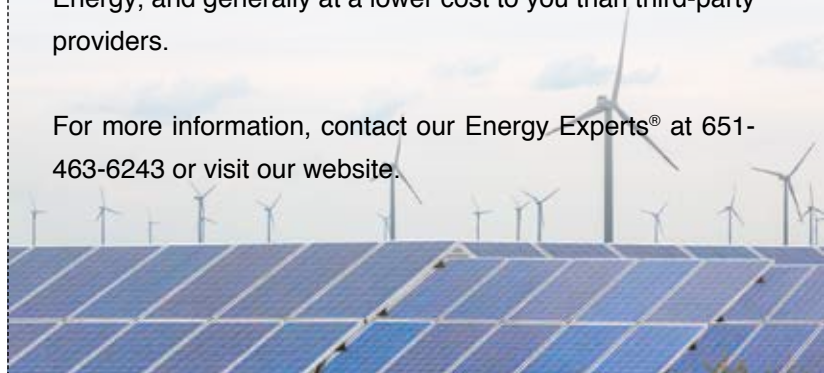
You already use electricity to power your home, why not make it the cleanest electricity possible?

By participating in our Wellspring Renewable Energy® program, you not only help support wind and solar development in Minnesota, you also help reduce our dependency on non-renewable energy sources, like fossil fuels.

Those who participate in the Wellspring program are purchasing renewable energy credits (RECs). A REC embodies all of the environmental attributes of the generation and can be tracked separately from the underlying electricity. This means you can support renewable energy and its future without having to build or buy any equipment.

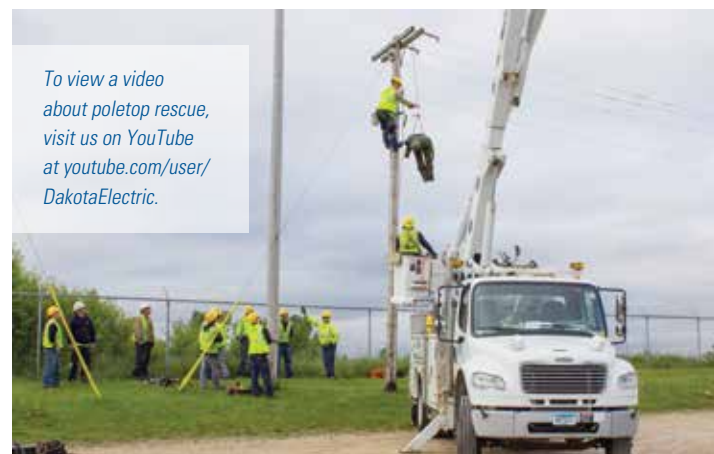
Dakota Electric is not affiliated with any third party selling RECs to consumers who wish to support wind or solar energy. We provide Wellspring energy to you through Great River Energy, our wholesale power supplier. The renewable energy is purchased in 100-kilowatt-hour blocks. For each 100-kilowatt-hour block you purchase, there is an additional 40 cents on your electric bill for wind energy and \$2 for solar energy. When you purchase these blocks, you will be guaranteed RECs are designated on your behalf by Great River Energy, and generally at a lower cost to you than third-party providers.

For more information, contact our Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243 or visit our website.



Annual training keeps lineworkers prepared for emergencies

Every year Dakota Electric linemen practice an essential life-saving skill called poletop rescue, practicing the skills necessary to climb a pole and make a rope rescue of a 150- to 180-pound practice mannequin from the top. The mannequin simulates an unconscious coworker who needs to be rescued from the pole and given medical attention. Every lineworker is required to practice the skill in case a tragic event would demand the need for it one day. A rescue on a typical wood distribution pole, including a mayday call to Dakota Electric's dispatch center, can typically be performed by a qualified lineworker in two to three minutes. That kind of rescue time can only be accomplished with regular practice. Poletop rescue is a skill everyone is required to master, and a skill no one ever wants to use.

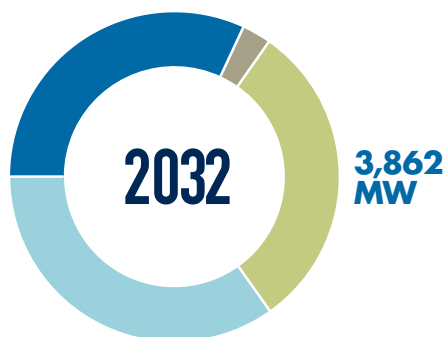
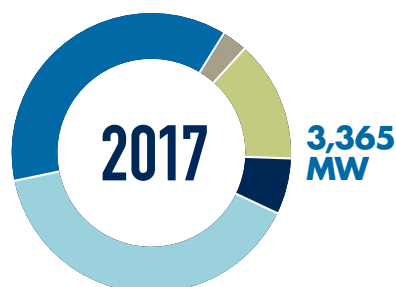
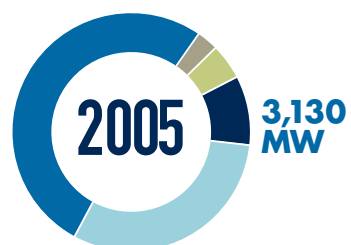


To view a video about poletop rescue, visit us on YouTube at youtube.com/user/DakotaElectric.

Great River Energy's 2017 integrated resource plan

Great River Energy is transitioning its resource portfolio toward an innovative and lower-carbon future.

GENERATING CAPACITY



LEGEND



INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES



DECARBONIZATION



GRID MODERNIZATION



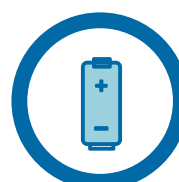
ENVIRONMENTALLY BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION



ELECTRIC VEHICLES



BATTERY ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES



ELECTRIC THERMAL STORAGE

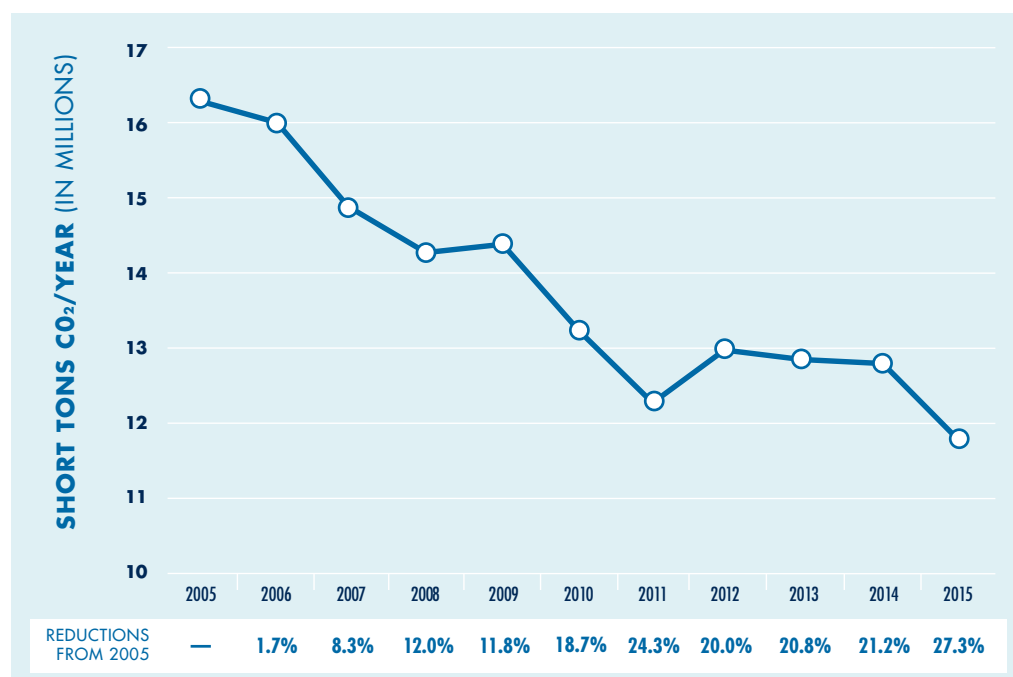


HEAT PUMP WATER HEATING



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CO₂ EMISSIONS



Great River Energy's conservation programs save an average of **114 million kilowatt-hours** every year. That equals the electricity consumption of **12,500 homes**.



Celebrating
40 YEARS
in Business!

Trane Super Summer A/C Special

Enjoy **\$40 OFF** our
 Summer A/C Tune-Up* **now just**
\$59⁰⁰

You may also qualify for an additional
 \$25.00 rebate from Dakota Electric**

*Offer expires July 31st, 2017. **Air conditioners over 3 years of age and not had a tune-up in the last two years. Rebate for tune-ups only, not for other repairs. Contact Controlled Air for details.

Trane Super Summer Special

High Efficiency A/C
 as low as **\$2,999⁺** or just **\$53/mo⁺⁺**

†1.5 ton A/C unit after discounts and rebates. Price may vary based on square footage of home. See Controlled Air for details. Limited time offer. †† On approved credit. See Controlled Air for details.

 **CONTROLLED AIR**
 PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING

651-460-6022 • ControlledAir.net

Lic # PM065948

FOR ALL YOUR HEATING, COOLING AND PLUMBING NEEDS

 **IT TAKES**
 being ahead of the heat wave.

GET YOUR AC READY FOR SUMMER!
\$49.95 Air Conditioner
 Clean & Check

Time to upgrade your system?
 Rebates up to \$1,650
 during Bryant Bonus

*Limited time only for qualified products.


 AngellAire.com
 952-746-5200



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

 **952.431.5811**
 5708 Upper 147th Suite 106
 Apple Valley, MN 55124
www.lofgrenheating-ac.com

Providing Home Comfort in EVERY Season

Financing Available - Buy a Furnace and A/C for as little as \$99 month

SPECIAL OFFER on a NEW HIGH EFFICIENCY CARRIER® SYSTEM

\$4497
 70K 80% Furnace &
 2 TON AIR CONDITIONER



\$5397
 60K 95% FURNACE &
 2 TON AIR CONDITIONER

*In-Home Estimate Needed, Offer Expires July 31, 2017

**Download
 Dakota Electric's
 FREE Outage App!**

**Quick. Easy.
 Informed.**

Once you have installed the app, you must request a code by visiting dakotaelectric.com > Power Outages > Outage App. The code is specific to your account and is required to personalize the app to your residence.



 GET IT ON
 Google Play

 Download on the
 App Store



Circuits Quick Clips

Beware of utility scams

Any call from someone claiming to be from Dakota Electric and requesting bank account or credit card information to avoid disconnection of service is a scam. These people are not associated with Dakota Electric.

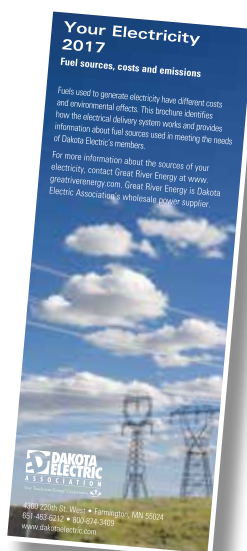
Members should never provide personal or financial information unless they initiate the call. If there's any doubt about the authenticity of a caller, hang up and call Dakota Electric directly to verify your billing and payment status.



Your Electricity 2017 brochure available

The most recent information on how the electric generation, transmission and distribution systems work, plus the sources, costs and emissions of fuels used in meeting the needs of Dakota Electric's members, is available by visiting dakotaelectric.com/member-services/member-resources/.

Members may also request to have a copy of the brochure mailed to them by calling 651-463-6212.



Visit us at the Dakota County Fair August 7-13, 2017 | Red Commercial Building

Members can stop by Dakota Electric's booth to learn more about energy-saving tips, programs, rebates and special promotions. More fair details at www.dakotacountyfair.org.



Pole inspections to take place this summer

Utili-Tech, a pole inspection contractor hired by Dakota Electric Association, is conducting annual pole inspections in our service territory throughout July and August.

Areas included are the cities of Lakeville, Farmington and Empire Township. The pole inspector will be identified as a Utili-Tech employee, contracted by Dakota Electric to gather pole data as it relates to the above-ground distribution system.

The inspector will attempt to contact each member before performing inspections. The inspector will walk through backyards and private properties as well as use an ATV to access certain pole locations.

Please contact Dakota Electric at 651-463-6272 if you have questions or concerns about the pole inspection process in these areas.



Board of Directors

District 1

John (Jack) DeYoe
David Jones, Treasurer
Gerald F. Pittman, Vice Chair

District 2

Janet L. Lekson, MREA Director
Jim Sheldon, Chair
Clay Van De Bogart, Great River
Energy Director

District 3

Kenneth H. Danner
William F. Holton
Margaret D. Schreiner, Great River
Energy Director

District 4

Paul Bakken
Judy H. Kimmes
Paul A. Trapp, Secretary



Circuits is printed on recycled paper with soy ink.
Please read and recycle.

Greg Miller, President & CEO
Tanya Wolfs, Editor



4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024
651-463-6212
www.dakotaelectric.com

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAKOTA ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION

WE KEEP THEM UP HERE FOR A REASON

STAY CLEAR OF DOWNED POWER LINES

A downed power line may still be an energized line.
Stay away and call 911 immediately.

Helping members use electricity safely, that's the power of your co-op membership.

Contact Us

Member service & drive-up window
7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday - Friday
651-463-6212 or 1-800-874-3409
Minnesota Relay Service 711

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

Dakota Electric is an equal opportunity/
affirmative action employer

www.dakotaelectric.com
customerservice@dakotaelectric.com



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