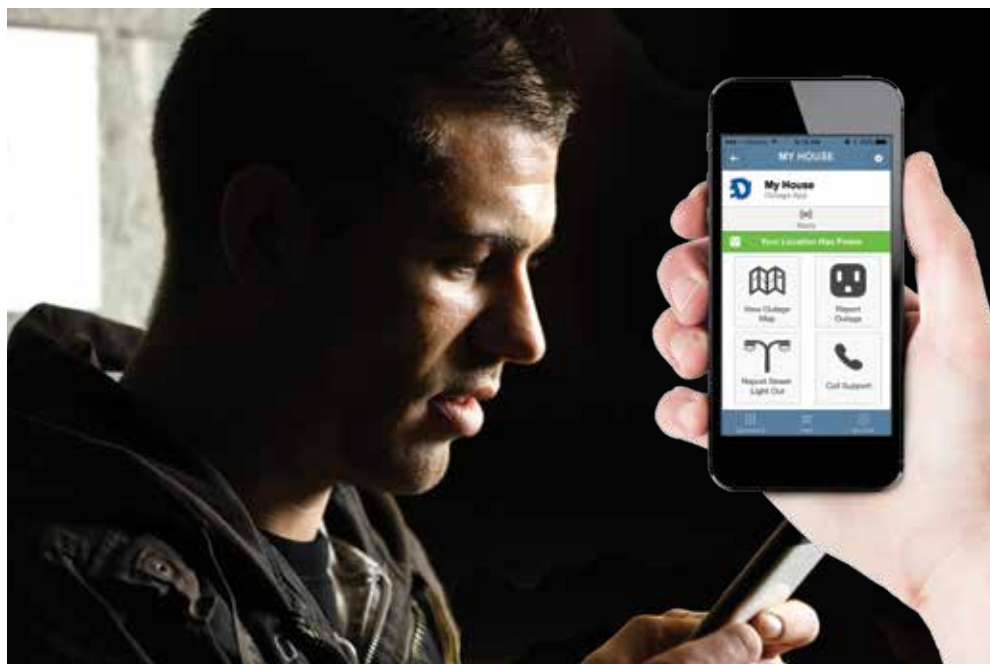


CIRCUITS

NEWS FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS



Power outages happen Be ready with Dakota Electric's outage app

Power outages can be inconvenient, but reporting them doesn't have to be. With Dakota Electric's outage app, you can quickly and easily report your outage right from your mobile device. In doing so, you will receive alerts and updates on the status of your outage.

In addition, you can view an outage map displaying your location as well as other outages that may be affecting other locations. Tapping on a color-coded cone provides more information about that outage, including number of members impacted and the estimated time to restore service.

How to download

The app is free and available in the Apple Store and Google Play. Once you have downloaded the app, you must request a code by calling 651-463-6212 or visiting dakotaelectric.com/poweroutages. The code is specific to your account and is required to personalize the app to your residence. Once you enter the code and "subscribe," you can begin to set up your profile and alert notifications.

Reporting street lights out just got easier!

In addition to reporting a power outage, you can also use the outage app to report a damaged or faulty street light in your neighborhood.

Using the app, simply stand near a street light and tap "Report a street light out" to use the GPS on your phone to quickly send a report about a street light not working.

If a street light is broken or down on the ground, that requires immediate attention and you must call 651-463-6201 to report it.

Dakota Electric appreciates your help in keeping us informed on streetlights not working.



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Upcoming events

Thanksgiving - Office Closed	Nov. 23-24
Board Meeting	November 30, 8:30 a.m.

November 2017



Dakota Electric named 'Employer of Excellence'

The Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board wanted to recognize some of the best employers in our area. With the help of local sponsors, they commissioned a study and asked area employers to participate.

Each participant completed a 40-question survey that allowed their employment practices to be analyzed by the consulting firm Personnel Dynamics Consulting of Florida. Every organization participating in the survey then received a 20-page report detailing the information on their company and the results of the survey.

Employers were evaluated on a host of metrics, including: turnover, rate of growth, promotion rates, employee evaluations and feedback, percentage of employees injured, diversity of management, benefits offered, training expenditures, paid days off and increase in pay.

Those who met the threshold were named "Employers of Excellence" and were honored at a special awards banquet on Oct. 4, 2017.



Dakota Electric board members and staff accepting the award (L-R): John (Jack) DeYoe, board member; Jim Sheldon, board chair; Chris Dodge-Ratzlaff, senior human resources administrator; Mark Lofthus, economic development director; and Malinda Mehrhoff, human resources manager.

Small Employer (less than 50 employees)

Bankers Equipment Services, Burnsville
Carlson Capital Management, Hastings
Custom Drapery and Blinds by Esch, Burnsville
Reese Enterprises, Inc., Rosemount

Mid-Size Employer (50-200 employees)

Dakota Electric Association, Farmington
Firefly Credit Union, Burnsville
Smead Manufacturing, Hastings

Large Employer (200+ employees)

Lifeworks Services, Inc., Eagan
Uponor, Apple Valley
UTC Aerospace Systems, Burnsville

Lakeville students react to new electric bus!

The electric bus made its inaugural route on Tuesday morning, Sept. 26. Thanks to a joint partnership between Dakota Electric, Great River Energy and Schmitty & Sons Bus Company, the all-electric school bus is the first of its kind in Minnesota!

Jane Siebenaler, Dakota Electric key account executive who worked on the project, was on site when the students arrived. She talked with both the bus driver and the students. Here are their initial reactions:

Driver:

- The bus is very well-balanced and should perform better in the winter.
- Since the bus is quiet, the children are actually quieter.
- Parents were cheering when the bus approached the bus stop.

Students:

- They like the wider aisle.
- It sounds like an ice cream truck!
With no noisy engine, musical tones alert students the bus is nearby.
- When asked why the bus is special, they enthusiastically shouted, "it's electric!"



WHAT TO DO: IF YOUR CAR CRASHES INTO A UTILITY POLE

Accidents happen. Would you know what to do if your car crashed into an electric utility pole? Knowing what to do could be the difference between life and death.

Always consider power lines and other electrical equipment to be live and dangerous!

IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE IS **NO** FIRE:

Your safest option is to stay inside your vehicle until help arrives. The vehicle acts as a path for the electrical current to travel to reach the ground. You are safe inside the vehicle, but if you get out, you could be electrocuted.

Call 911 or your local electric utility for help.

IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE IS **A** FIRE:

Only attempt to leave your vehicle if it is on fire.

To exit safely:

- Jump out of the vehicle, making sure NO part of your body or clothing touches the ground and vehicle at the same time.
- Land with both feet together and in small, shuffling steps, move at least 40 ft. away from the vehicle.
- The ground could be energized. Shuffling away with both feet together decreases the risk of electrical shock.

Call 911 or your local electric utility for help.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

Affordable energy-efficient upgrades for income-eligible members

To help members with limited financial resources, Dakota Electric spends approximately \$200,000 each year partnering with local organizations such as the Community Action Partnership of Scott, Carver and Dakota counties (CAP) and the Community Development Agency (CDA).

Michelle Franke, housing program manager at the CAP Agency in Rosemount, explains the organization and the services available for the energy assistance program.

Explain the CAP Agency and what you do:

The CAP Agency is a local nonprofit organization offering services to those in need or in crisis in our community. We take an expansive approach to advocating and empowering self-sufficiency for our neighbors. As for what I do at the agency, I oversee our Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) and Affordable Housing units, which are primarily located in Dakota County and some in Scott County.

Describe your partnership with Dakota Electric:

As a longtime partner of the CAP Agency, Dakota Electric provides funding and support for our CIP program. This support allows us to help families and individuals in need in our community to reduce their electric costs and regain control of their finances.

How do you use the funds you receive from Dakota Electric?

With support from Dakota Electric, we perform energy audits and provide households with new ENERGY STAR® appliances, such as washing machines, refrigerators, window air conditioners and more. These households are then able to save money on energy costs and direct those savings to other urgent costs such as food and housing.

What are the eligibility requirements?

To qualify for the CIP program, a household must be under 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines and a homeowner. This means that a family of four must have an annual income of less than \$49,200 in order to qualify.

Household	Annual Income	3-Month Income
1	\$24,120	\$6,030
2	\$32,480	\$8,120
3	\$40,840	\$10,210
4	\$49,200	\$12,300
5	\$57,560	\$14,390
6	\$65,920	\$16,480

How do people apply?

To apply for the CIP program you must first apply for the Energy Assistance Program (EAP). Visit capagency.org or call 651-322-3500 for an application. Once you have been approved for the EAP, an application will be sent to you in the spring for the CIP program.

Baby it's cold outside

If you are considering electric heat for those hard-to-heat areas, purchase an Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) heating system between now and Dec. 31, 2017, and you'll get a \$100/kW rebate. Plus, ETS heating systems can save you between 40-70 percent on your home heating costs without sacrificing the comfort and convenience of a traditional electric heating system. ETS systems take advantage of off-peak electricity, charged at a lower rate since it is consumed when demand is low. In addition, ETS systems require minimal maintenance.

+ **SAVE 40 - 70%**
\$100/kW REBATE

ENERGY WISE  MN



Learn more at EnergyWiseMN.com
or call Dakota Electric at 651-463-6243.

Dakota Electric donates \$40,000 to local schools

Dakota Electric Association recently awarded unclaimed capital credits money to fund specific needs at three different school districts in its service area — Districts 191, 196 and 197.

Representatives acknowledged their appreciation for Dakota Electric's support of their educational efforts.

"I would like to thank you on behalf of the school district for your gracious contributions to education," said Dr. Kathy Funston, director of strategic partnerships and pathways for District 191.

To read more about how the districts plan to use the money, visit dakotaelectric.com/news-events.



Pollinator habitat planted at Dakota Electric substations

Prairie Restorations recently planted pollinator habitat at our Ravenna substation, just north of Red Wing. They also planted the pollinator habitat at a substation in Inver Grove Heights as well as our new solar array south of Hastings.

Usually these areas are surrounded by lawn grass, but a naturally restored environment has tangible benefits such as reduced fertilizer, chemical weed control and mowing, in addition to assisting the pollinator population.

Beth Markhart from Prairie Restorations says the final habitat will be a perfect environment for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. She said it may take up to three years to get the landscape habitat fully functioning, but natural benefits will already be seen in the first year.



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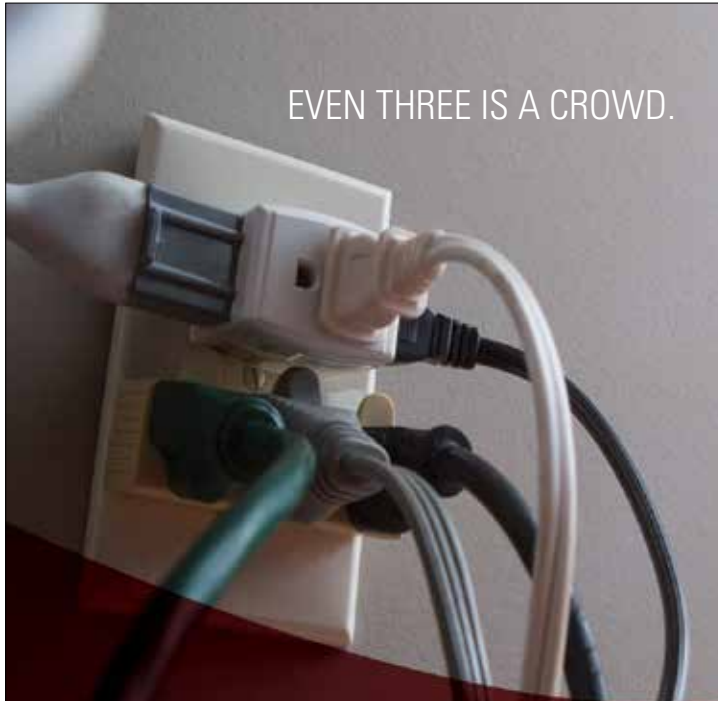


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*In-Home Estimate Needed, Offer Expires November 30, 2017

EVEN THREE IS A CROWD.



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Circuits Quick Clips

Do you want to serve on Dakota Electric's Nominating Committee?

Dakota Electric Association is requesting member volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee. Members who desire to serve should email Cherry Jordan at cjordan@dakotaelectric.com or call 651-463-6252. Requests must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 8, 2017. Volunteer members are drawn by lot for each district (two members from each district and one alternate from each district). Members will be notified of their selection on or about Jan. 5, 2018. The Nominating Committee will meet late afternoon/evening on Jan. 22, 2018, at Dakota Electric's Farmington office to interview candidates for the Board of Directors' election.

Deadline for board candidates is Dec. 8

The following incumbent directors will be seeking re-election to the Board of Directors at Dakota Electric Association's annual meeting on April 26, 2018: Jerry Pittman in District 1, Clay Van De Bogart in District 2, Kenneth Danner in District 3, and Judy Kimmes in District 4. Any member in good standing may seek election for the Board of Directors in the district in which he/she resides. Members interested in seeking election for a director seat should request an application from Cherry Jordan at cjordan@dakotaelectric.com or call 651-463-6252. Completed applications must be received at Dakota Electric's office by 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 8, 2017. Candidate interviews will be conducted the evening of Jan. 22, 2018.

Sales tax exemption for electric heat and GSHPs

If you are a Minnesota resident, you are eligible for a sales tax exemption on your electric bill from November through April each year if electricity is the primary source of heat in your home or you have a ground-source heat pump. To determine eligibility, see the Minnesota Department of Revenue Sales Tax Fact Sheet 157 at www.taxes.state.mn.us. To apply for a sales tax exemption, download the form at dakotaelectric.com. The exemption will remain in effect until revoked.

Questions?

Call 651-463-6212 or email customerservice@dakotaelectric.com.

McGruff safety kits prepare families for the worst

It's our worst nightmare: a missing child. But families can be prepared, thanks to McGruff Safe Kids Identification kits.

Dakota Electric Association provides local law enforcement agencies throughout Dakota County, Northfield and Cannon Falls with McGruff identification kits each year. Police officers distribute the kits to classrooms if a teacher makes a request. A visit by a police officer presents a good opportunity for children to learn about public safety from a respected source.

"The police departments are always glad to get these kits," said Brenda Kadlec, who manages the McGruff safety kits program for Dakota Electric. "They tell me this is an important service Dakota Electric provides to our communities and families."

The National Crime Prevention Council endorses the McGruff kits, which provide a fun way for children to learn about safety. Each kit contains a personal identification section, complete with fingerprinting kit, to help parents keep an up-to-date file on their child.



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



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Greg Miller, President & CEO
Tanya Wolfs, Editor



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

24-hour outage & emergency service
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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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