

CIRCUITS

NEWS FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS



Great River Energy announces 50-percent renewable energy goal for 2030

Voluntary goal will more than double current renewable energy supply

Great River Energy recently announced a company goal to supply its member-owner cooperatives with 50-percent energy from renewable resources by 2030.

“Great River Energy has already met Minnesota’s 25-percent renewable energy standard eight years ahead of requirements. We continue to evolve our power supply portfolio, delivering even more renewable energy to our member-owner cooperatives to help them remain competitive in a changing market,” said Great River Energy President and Chief

Executive Officer David Saggau. “We look forward to meeting this goal for the benefit of our members while maintaining strong system reliability.”

The announcement of the 50-percent renewable goal comes at a time when home- and business-owners are increasingly interested in having more renewables in their energy supplies.

Increasing renewables can present advantages to cooperatives for attracting

and retaining business as well as meeting the expectations of members who value renewable energy.

“I applaud the leadership and strategic vision that this announcement by Great River Energy represents. Consumers of all kinds — companies, cities, governments and households — are asking for more renewable energy, and competing for their loyalty and selling them more electricity for more uses will increasingly hinge on it being as clean and close to zero-carbon as it can be,” said Rolf Nordstrom, president and chief execu-

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Upcoming events

Board Meeting	July 26, 8:30 a.m.
Member Appreciation Event.	July 26

July 2018



Dakota Electric Association® is a registered service mark of the cooperative.

Join us for a FREE night at the zoo — Thursday, July 26!

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 Blue Ox Jazz Babies.

Tickets and admission

Bills received between June 13 and July 5 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!

Great River Energy (cont.)

tive officer of the Great Plains Institute. “Less carbon, more electricity — that’s the future for smart utilities.”

Mounting research suggests that electrifying certain parts of the economy — using electric technologies to replace the use of fossil fuels — is necessary to achieve ambitious carbon emissions reduction goals worldwide. This is often referred to as beneficial or efficient

electrification within the utility industry.

Great River Energy has spent more than a decade positioning its portfolio, lowering costs and reducing dependence on coal as a fuel source, while improving the overall flexibility of its generation portfolio. These measures have resulted in a 35-percent reduction in Great River Energy’s carbon dioxide emissions since 2005.

Current Renewable Generation Portfolio



468 MW of wind



200 MW of hydro



30 MW of biomass

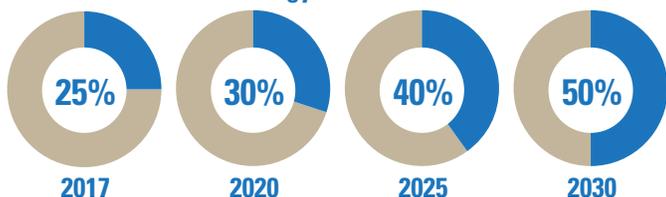


4 MW of solar

“Renewable energy, particularly wind, is currently our lowest-cost option for new generation resources.”

- David Saggau, CEO
Great River Energy

Interim Renewable Energy Goals



Great River Energy established the interim goals to challenge itself to make continuous additions of renewable energy to reach the 50-percent goal by 2030.

What Dakota Electric is doing

In addition to Great River Energy’s recent renewable energy goal, Dakota Electric has also incorporated more renewable energy into its power supply with utility-scale solar. Unlike community solar gardens where members can purchase and own their own solar panels, Dakota Electric has constructed two solar projects and is currently constructing its third. Through a power purchase contract with Great River Energy, Dakota Electric purchases all the solar output for delivery to its members.

Dakota Solar I - Farmington array
20kW, completed July 2014

Dakota Solar II - Hastings array
1MW, completed Nov. 2017

Dakota Solar III - Randolph array
2MW, under construction

Learn more at dakotaelectric.com/renewable-energy.

Beware of scams

Utility phone scams typically involve callers claiming to represent a utility company attempting to trick people into paying them money by threatening to turn off their service.

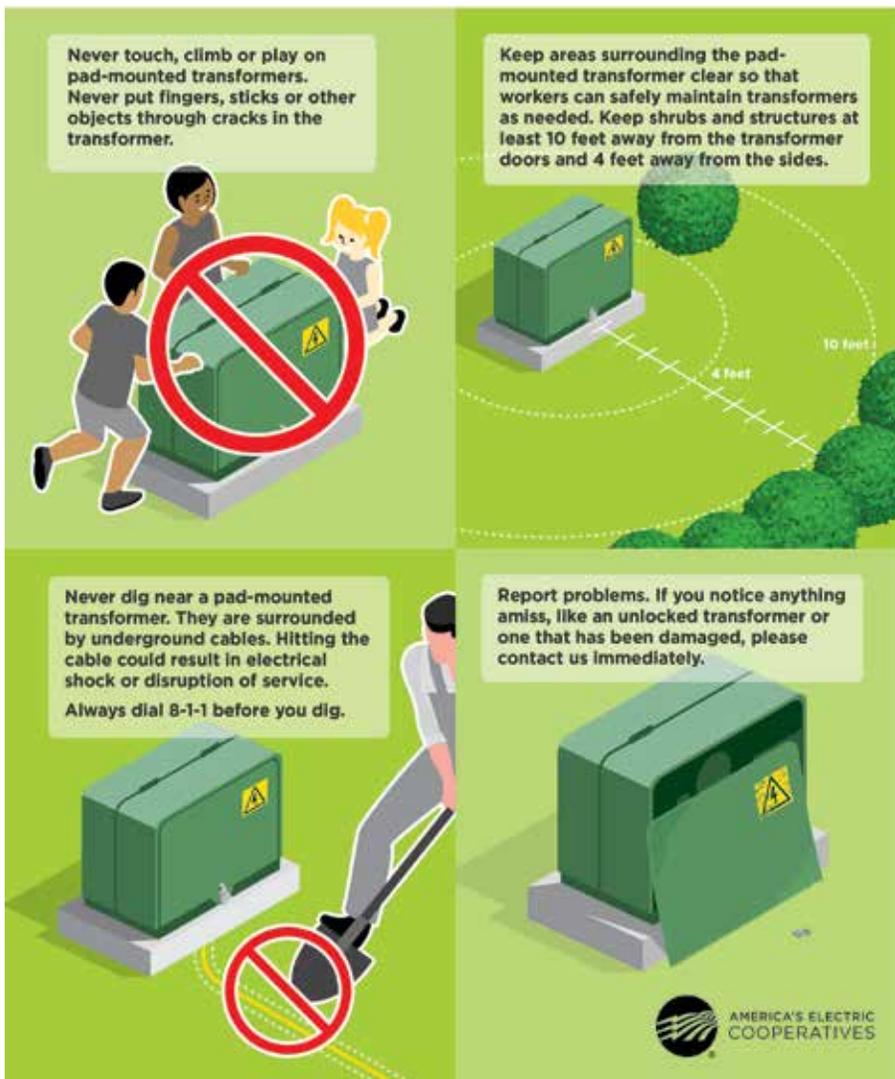
Dakota Electric reminds members to beware of any suspicious phone calls demanding credit card or personal financial information. Dakota Electric does not ask for this type of information. If you receive a call like this, hang up immediately and call Dakota Electric at 651-463-6212 to verify your account status. Do not use a phone number given to you by the caller.

Never give out social security numbers, credit card or banking information to anyone who calls, regardless of who they claim to represent.



Avoid the big green box!

Please stay away from pad-mounted transformers (the big green box). While safe, they are not meant for touching, climbing or playing. Pad-mounted transformers, switch boxes and pedestals carry high voltages of electricity that serve many homes in our communities.



What to do if your vehicle hits a pad-mounted transformer

While overhead power lines are mounted on utility poles, pad-mounted transformers, switch boxes and pedestals house power lines carrying electricity underground to homes and businesses in our communities.

Whether your vehicle hits a utility pole carrying overhead power lines, or ground-level enclosures housing underground power lines, it is important to know what to do to stay safe.

While downed power lines can sometimes reveal they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs that they are energized, but they are just as lethal.

After an accident, stay in the car, and tell others to do the same. If you come upon an accident involving power lines, do not approach the accident scene. If you see someone approaching, warn them to stay away.

Call 911 to notify emergency personnel and utility services. Do not leave your vehicle until a utility professional has told you it is safe to do so.

If you must exit the vehicle, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Continue to "bunny hop" with your feet together to safety.



Electric vehicles are not just for city driving

About 700,000 electric vehicles (EVs) are on U.S. roads today and that number could jump to 3 million in the next five years.

The U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration projects EV sales growing from about 1 percent of the market today, to 12 percent by 2050.

Car makers are pushing those trends. In October, General Motors said it would launch 20 new EVs by 2023. In January, Ford announced plans to invest \$11 billion in a lineup of 40 hybrid and electric

vehicles by 2022. In March, Volkswagen said it had secured \$25 billion in electric car batteries and technology, and plans to scale that up to \$60 billion.

In March, Goodyear announced a new tire that would hold up better under the instant torque from electric motors.

The range on the electric cars you can buy today is sufficient to cover almost everyone's daily commute. For most people, even in rural areas, that number is under 40 miles a day. Most electric cars on the market today have a range of 120-200 miles.

Without a combustion engine, an electric vehicle doesn't require oil or transmission fluid changes. And regenerative braking in electric cars uses the electric motor to slow the car rather than relying only on brake pad friction, reducing physical wear and tear on the brake pads.

As electric car research, development and production increases, costs are expected to come down. Tax incentives for electric cars at the federal level and in some states can reduce costs by several thousand dollars.

Are you interested in test driving an electric vehicle?

Dakota Electric is hosting a free ride-and-drive event. Watch for more details coming soon!



Good Morning .

Save more than just energy. The dawn of a new era begins in your garage. With ChargeWise, you'll save money every time you charge your plug-in electric vehicle (EV).

Receive a \$500 incentive for installing your EV charger on one of our ChargeWise off-peak programs. So you wake up fully charged and get off to a great start—now and for many mornings to come.



To learn more, visit dakotaelectric.com/programs-rebates or call Dakota Electric at 651-463-6243.



Dakota Electric rolls out new farm energy management program

Agricultural producers are the focus of a new energy audit program that is now available to members of Dakota Electric.

Qualified participants will receive one-on-one assistance in identifying and prioritizing energy-efficiency opportunities to ultimately come away from the experience with an energy management plan to implement.

Audit outcomes will provide information ranging from simple, no-cost operational changes that can save you money to an analysis of your energy use, which equipment is using the most energy and what can be done to decrease your energy costs.

Dakota Electric is able to offer this opportunity with assistance from its wholesale power provider Great River

Energy, which was recently awarded a \$100,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Energy for America Program (USDA-REAP) to conduct these audits.

Program participants will only need to pay 25 percent of the cost of their agricultural audit, with the other 75 percent covered through grant funding. Average audit costs are approximately \$2,500 but can vary based on operation size.

How does it work?

Call 800-441-8525 to verify eligibility and cost. Experts conduct a site visit and complete an energy audit that includes an in-depth analysis and recommendations via a comprehensive energy management plan. If you choose to implement energy-efficiency upgrades as a result of the audit, contact Dakota Electric, as rebates may be available.

Did you know?

Dakota Electric offers a **\$25 rebate** on an ENERGY STAR® rated dehumidifier.

Download the rebate application at dakotaelectric.com/programs-rebates > For Your Home > Appliances.

And check out other energy-efficiency rebates we offer for lighting, heating and cooling, solar, electric vehicle chargers and swimming pools.



DakotaElectric.com/programs-rebates

Why lighting controls make sense for businesses

Lighting accounts for 40 percent of electricity used in commercial buildings. Despite the attention paid to efficiency upgrades, great opportunities exist for reducing energy use by simply turning lights off or dimming them as needed. However, it's often difficult to get staff or building occupants to cooperate. An automated lighting control system using occupancy or vacancy sensors is more effective in many cases.

"Lighting controls are a fairly inexpensive way to reduce energy costs for both large and small businesses."

- Jane Siebenaler
Business Account Executive
Dakota Electric

vacancy sensors automatically turn lights on when someone enters a space and turns them off when the space is empty after a set time period.

A vacancy sensor requires someone to turn on the lights when they enter a room. The lights still automatically turn off after the set time period, but the lights will stay off unless someone enters the room and manually turns on the switch. This can save even more energy by eliminating those extra minutes of unnecessary lighting.

Occupancy or vacancy sensors may not be a good fit for every part of your facility. Start by identifying spaces that are

unoccupied on a regular basis, such as copy rooms, restrooms and conference rooms. Selection of appropriate spaces requires an accurate understanding of how they're used.

When properly installed and located, occupancy and vacancy sensors can significantly reduce your lighting costs, while maintaining comfort, safety and security in your facility.



Lighting Controls Rebates

Photocell	\$7
Fixture Mount Sensor	\$5
Wall Mount Occupancy Sensor	\$10
Ceiling Mount Occupancy Sensor	\$20

To learn more, contact the Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243.

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*In-Home Estimate Needed, Offer Expires July 31, 2018

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Have you checked out EnergyWiseMNstore.com? It's an online store with the latest in energy-efficient technology, including:

- Wi-Fi thermostats
- LED light bulbs
- power strips
- and more!

Dakota Electric members receive an instant rebate on all products!



EnergyWiseMNstore.com

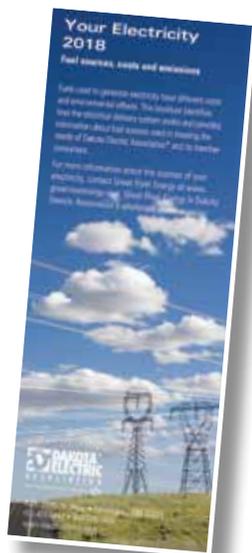


Circuits Quick Clips

Your Electricity 2018 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.



Move Over bill receives Governor's signature

In 2015, Minnesota electric cooperatives promoted, and the legislature passed, legislation that expanded Minnesota's Move Over law to include parked utility vehicles with their emergency or warning lights activated. This legislation applied to a highway having two lanes in the same direction.

This year, the legislation added to the statute streets or highways having only one lane in the same direction. This legislation requires that drivers slow down, maintain a safe speed for traffic conditions, and operate the vehicle at a reduced speed until safely past the parked utility or emergency vehicle.

Safety is a priority for electric cooperatives who have employees working alongside roadways every day. Traffic is always an issue, and this additional piece of legislation will further increase the safety of our lineworkers.



Next time you see a Dakota Electric truck parked along the side of a road, please slow down and move over. Thank you!

Stay cool in the kitchen

Refreshingly easy recipe to save energy on hot days

Crab Rolls

Total Time: 15 mins. Servings: 4

- 1/2 lb. lump crab meat or chopped cooked shrimp
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 4 radishes, chopped
- 1 stalk celery, chopped, plus 2 tablespoons celery leaves
- 1/2 Granny Smith apple, cored and chopped
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 4 hot dog buns or brioche rolls, split

In a medium bowl, combine the crab, mayonnaise, radishes, celery, celery leaves, apple, lemon juice, 1/2 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp. pepper. Dividing evenly, fill the buns with the crab mixture. Serve with pickles and chips.

If you have a great summer recipe you'd like to share, send it to twolfs@dakotaelectric.com and we may publish it in a future issue.



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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

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affirmative action employer

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

ASHP	Regular Rebate	PROMO REBATE
14.5 SEER	-\$480	\$1,000
15 SEER	-\$500	\$1,250
16+ SEER	-\$630	\$2,000

**HURRY! Offer ends
July 31, 2018!**



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