

FEBRUARY 2019

# CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

## 2019 ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES



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## 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*

[dakotaelectric.com](http://dakotaelectric.com)

[customerservice@dakotaelectric.com](mailto:customerservice@dakotaelectric.com)

*Dakota Electric Association® and Dakota Electric®  
are registered service marks of the cooperative.*

## Dakota Electric Association

# BOARD of Directors

### DISTRICT 1

John (Jack) DeYoe  
David Jones | *Chair*  
Gerald F. Pittman

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Jim Sheldon | *Treasurer*  
Clay Van De Bogart | *GRE Director*

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William F. Holton  
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### DISTRICT 4

Paul Bakken | *Vice Chair*  
Judy H. Kimmes  
Paul A. Trapp | *Secretary*



# Hello!

## From Your President and CEO

**The board of directors recently approved our 2019 budget and construction work plan, which continues to provide for construction of new growth and maintenance of our 4,000 miles of electrical lines and related equipment.**

### New smart meters

As we wrap up our conversion to a new billing and customer information system, we embark on our Advanced Grid Infrastructure (AGI), or smart grid project, that will replace our aging meters and load management equipment with new technology that will serve you even better. By the end of this year, we will install approximately 5,000 meters in the field to test the equipment and communications systems. Once this pilot project is complete, we will install the remaining 120,000 meters by the end of 2021.

### Solar projects

Dakota Electric added an additional 2MW of solar at the end of last year. Our third solar project, located in Randolph, was energized in December and consists of 7,700 panels that move and track the sun for maximum energy output. We are in the planning stages to add an additional 3MW of solar later this year or early next year. This is in addition to our power supplier Great River Energy's commitment to achieve 50 percent renewable energy in our fuel sources portfolio by 2030.

### Rate increase

In the coming months, Dakota Electric may need to file a rate case with the Public Utilities Commission. Although we are projecting about 1,000 new members this year, we are still seeing flat sales due to energy efficiency and conservation efforts. This year's budget also has some new upward cost pressures as we strive to meet a growing number of regulatory requirements. Therefore, we may seek a moderate rate increase in 2019. We will provide more information when the rate case is filed.

We are a not-for-profit cooperative, and we strive every day to hold down costs while still providing the reliable, quality service you expect. As your cooperative, we are committed to minimizing the impact of increasing power costs on your household. Our Energy Experts® are here to answer your questions about home energy savings and provide more information about our energy-efficiency programs and rebates.

Dakota Electric is fortunate to have an amazing group of employees, most of whom are members just like you. Together we will work hard to continue to provide exceptional customer service along with safe, reliable electricity at reasonable rates.

— **GREG MILLER**

*Dakota Electric Association, President & CEO*



# 2019 ENERGY WISE® REBATES

## For your home

More info and  
rebate forms at  
[dakotaelectric.com](http://dakotaelectric.com)

### Heating & Cooling

Heat Pump Systems	Tuneup	\$25
	Ductless air-source heat pump	\$300-\$500
	Air-source heat pump SEER 14.5-16+	\$480 to \$630
	Ground-source heat pump	\$400 / ton
Central Air Conditioner	Tuneup	\$25
	Central air conditioner SEER 15-16+	\$280 to \$330
Cycled Air Conditioning®	Monthly bill credit for participating central air conditioners	\$13 ea. June, July and August
Electric Thermal Storage Heating System	Installed on Energy Wise® storage program	\$50 / kw
ECM Furnace Motor	Purchase new furnace with ECM motor or add it to existing furnace	\$50

### Appliances

Dehumidifier	Must be ENERGY STAR® rated	\$25
Refrigerator	Must be ENERGY STAR rated. Requires recycling of the replaced unit	\$75
Freezer	Must be ENERGY STAR rated. Requires recycling of the replaced unit	\$75
Working Refrigerator/Freezer Harvest (recycling only)	Does not require purchase of a new ENERGY STAR appliance; must be in working order.	\$75
ENERGY STAR Electric Dryer	Must be ENERGY STAR rated	\$25

### Water Heaters

Heat Pump Water Heater	Must be ENERGY STAR rated	\$500
Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Water Heating	New construction installation: high-efficient, large capacity electric water heater controlled on Energy Wise off-peak program.	\$400
	Replacement of non-controlled electric water heater with high-efficient, large capacity electric water heater controlled on Energy Wise off-peak program.	\$400
Interruptible Electric Water Heating	Installed on Energy Wise interruptible program	\$100

### Lighting

LED Bulbs	ENERGY STAR rated (encouraged)	Up to \$2 / bulb
LED Yard Light (member-owned)	LED light fixture	\$30

### Misc.

Pool Pump Variable Speed Motor	Must be ENERGY STAR rated	\$200
Heat Pump Pool Heater	Coefficient of Performance (COP) of 5.0	\$400
Electric Vehicle Charger Installation	Level 1 and 2 chargers. Must meet installation requirements.	Up to \$500
Solar Installation	Monthly payment based on kilowatt-hour (kWh) production as recorded by Dakota Electric's production meter.	\$0.50/watt of installed solar, not to exceed \$4K.

To qualify for any of these programs, you must live in Dakota Electric's® service territory and meet the specific requirements set for each rebate offering. Funds are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis and are subject to change without notice.



Cut it out and hang it up somewhere!



# ENERGY WISE®

## Load Management Programs

**SAVE EVEN MORE!** Receive electricity at nearly half the regular rate by participating in one or more of the following load management programs. Learn more at [dakotaelectric.com](http://dakotaelectric.com). To enroll, contact the Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243.

### Storage Programs

*Available for electric water heaters, electric thermal storage heaters and slab storage floor heating systems.*

- Water is heated at night when energy costs are lower, storing all you need for the next day's use.
- Storage heaters store enough heat energy for your entire day in the late evening and early morning when fewer homes and businesses are using electricity and wholesale energy costs are lower. The heater then releases the heat throughout the day.



### Interruptible Programs

*Available for electric water heaters, electric heaters, heat pumps, swimming pools and hot tubs.*

- Dakota Electric interrupts power to your equipment only during periods of high electricity demand, when wholesale energy costs are exceptionally high, usually on the hottest and coldest days of the year.



### Cycled Air Conditioning®

*Available only for central air conditioners.*

- Receive a \$13 credit on your bill each June, July, and August, or a reduced price on the electricity your central air conditioner uses.
- On days when energy use is high and purchasing wholesale electricity is more expensive, Dakota Electric will cycle your air conditioner condenser on and off in 15-minute increments by sending a signal to your load control receiver.
- Your furnace fan will continue to run.
- Interruptions usually occur only on the hottest days of the year when air conditioners and heat pumps must work harder to keep people comfortable.



### ChargeWise Electric Vehicle Charging

- **STORAGE:** Dakota Electric's storage rate offers members the lowest-cost off-peak electricity for charging an electric vehicle (EV), but the hours available are the most restrictive (11 p.m. – 7 a.m.).
- **TIME-OF-USE:** A charger installed on Dakota Electric's time-of-use rate will always receive electricity, so you can charge your vehicle whenever needed; a special meter is installed that allows the rate to fluctuate based on the time of day you charge your EV.





# HEAT PUMPS 101

## A guide to three main types of heat pumps

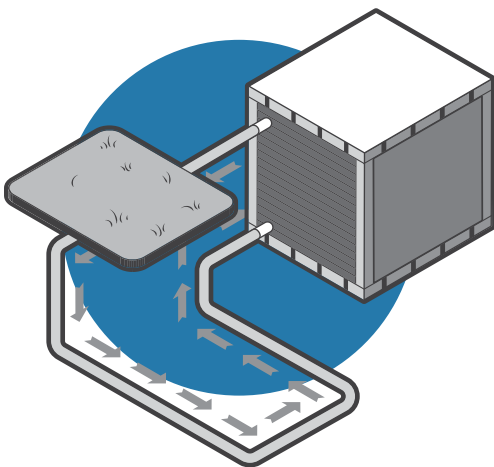
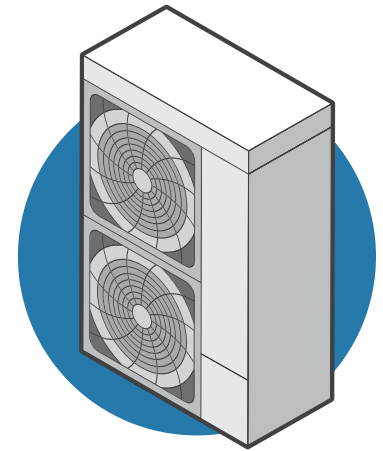
Heat pump technology is one of the most advanced and energy-efficient heating and cooling technologies available. Heat pumps do not create heat, like combustion furnaces do. They simply transfer or “pump” heat using heat exchangers, compressors and refrigerant.

Since more heat energy is transferred than consumed in the process, the efficiencies of heat pumps range from 200-400 percent as compared to 80-95 percent for combustion furnaces.

### Air-Source Heat Pumps

- Most commonly used heat pumps.
- Moves heat rather than converting it from a fuel like combustion heating systems.
- Can reduce heating costs by about 50 percent when compared to baseboard heaters or electric furnaces.
- Newer, more efficient systems represent a legitimate space heating alternative in colder regions like the Northeast and Midwest.

***Note:** When temperatures drop below 10-25 degrees Fahrenheit, you will need an auxiliary heating system.*

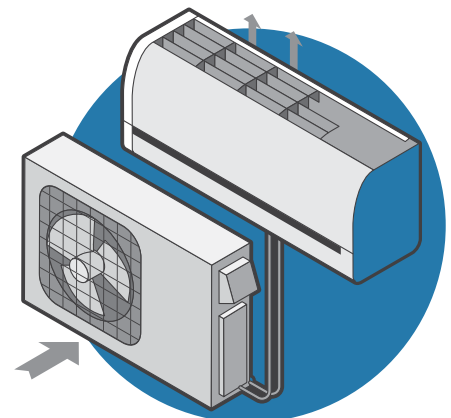


### Geothermal Heat Pumps

- More expensive to install but provide more energy savings for heating and cooling; federal tax incentives may be available.
- Moves heat through pipes buried underground.
- When compared to a conventional heating system, can reduce energy use by 25-50 percent.
- Effective in extreme climates.
- Not ideal for smaller lots and certain soil conditions.

### Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pumps

- Easier to install, quiet, small in size.
- Flexible for heating and cooling individual rooms and smaller spaces.
- No energy loss through ductwork, which accounts for more than 30 percent of a home's energy use for space heating/cooling.
- Installation can be pricey, but federal tax incentives may be available.







# FAQS

## 2019 Energy Wise® Rebates

### Will my rebate be issued as a credit on my electric bill or as a check?

All rebates under \$400 will be issued as a credit on your electric bill. Rebates \$400 and over are typically issued as a check in the mail.

### How long will it take for me to get my rebate?

Generally, it can take approximately 8-12 weeks to get the rebate, due to the very large volume of rebates we issue each year. During busy times of the year, it can take a little longer.

### What paperwork do I need to submit to get my rebate?

You must complete the rebate form and include a copy of the dated receipt with the model numbers, SKUs and/or work performed. Check the specific rebate form for any additional requirements.

### I'm converting the bulbs in my home to LEDs. What is the quickest and easiest way to receive my rebate? Is there a limit to how many bulbs I can rebate?

There is no limit on bulbs. Visit the Apple Valley or Eagan Batteries+Bulbs locations and get an instant \$2/bulb rebate at checkout (funds permitting). There's no need to submit any paperwork to us, and you will not have to wait several months to receive the rebate credit on your electric bill. The instant rebate cannot be combined with the mail-in rebate.

### Why didn't I get the full \$2/bulb LED rebate?

If you spend less than \$2/bulb, you will not get the full rebate. Instead, you will get your purchase price (excluding tax or discounts) rounded up to the nearest 50 cents.

### If I buy a multi-pack of LED bulbs, will each bulb qualify for the rebate?

Yes; however, you will only get the maximum \$2/bulb rebate if you spent \$2/bulb for each of those



bulbs in the multi-pack. Example: If you buy a 4-pack of bulbs for \$6, you will be rebated \$6. If you buy a 4-pack of bulbs for \$10, you will be rebated \$8.

### Can I use any HVAC contractor to install my new air conditioner, heat pump or furnace?

In order to qualify for the rebate, you must use a contractor listed on the Qualified Contractor List, which is posted on our website, or you can call our office to confirm they are on the list.

### My air conditioner or heat pump was installed during the cold weather months. Why didn't I get my rebate right away?

The contractor has to perform the start-up quality install tests first and document the results on the rebate form. The test can only be done once the outdoor temperature reaches a minimum of 55 degrees. Any air conditioner or heat pump installed during October-April will typically not see the rebate until the following summer.

### I want to give my old refrigerator to a friend or relative, or donate it to a charity. Will I still qualify for the recycling rebate?

No. In order to qualify for the rebate, the old unit must be recycled and a proof of recycling receipt must be submitted with the rebate application.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ENERGY WISE PROGRAMS & REBATES AND DOWNLOAD REBATE FORMS, VISIT  
[DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/PROGRAMS-REBATES](http://DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/PROGRAMS-REBATES)

# APARTMENT LIVING

## Energy Efficiency Style

Although your landlord or management company is ultimately responsible for your building's energy efficiency, you can reduce energy use in your apartment with the energy tips below:

- Set back your thermostat 7-10 degrees at night or when you're away from home.
- During the winter, open drapes during the day to utilize the sun's heat and close them at night to keep the cold out.
- During the summer, close drapes during the day to keep the sun's heat out.
- Insulate your room air conditioner from the outside with a tight-fitting cover.
- Replace your most-used light bulbs with LEDs.  
*Take advantage of the \$2/bulb rebate from Dakota Electric!*
- Turn lights off when not in use.
- Apply plastic window kits to your windows to combat air leaks.
- Purchase energy-efficient products and use any efficiency-related settings.
- Install low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators.

**Dakota Electric Association is partnering with Minnesota Energy Resources to bring joint electric and gas savings to multifamily buildings in our shared service territory.**

The Multifamily Direct Install program, operated by the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), will go unit-by-unit in participating apartment/condo buildings to install energy-saving measures such as LED bulbs, efficient shower heads and faucet aerators.

*Watch for more information coming soon!*



## 2019 RTA Change

The Resource and Tax Adjustment (RTA) charge will increase on most members' bills in 2019.

### How much is the increase?

For residential members, the 2019 RTA charge will be \$0.0025 per kilowatt-hour, which is \$0.0013 higher than December 2018. This will increase the average residential member's bill by less than \$1 per month. Commercial accounts should contact an account representative to discuss the RTA charge for their rate class.

### What is the RTA?

Dakota Electric uses the RTA to adjust prices according to changes in wholesale power cost, property and real estate taxes and conservation spending. The charge is a direct pass-through of costs and is reviewed by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

For more information, visit [dakotaelectric.com/billing-payment](http://dakotaelectric.com/billing-payment) and click on Electric Rates and Consumer Rights.

## Application deadline for NRECA Youth Tour is Feb. 21

Dakota Electric is sending five high school juniors or seniors on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. June 15-20 as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Youth Tour.

To apply, visit [dakotaelectric.com/community/education-programs](http://dakotaelectric.com/community/education-programs) or request an application from your guidance counselor.

Students must be available for an in-person interview on March 14 or 19.



4300 220th Street West  
Farmington, MN 55024

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2019 Youth Tour  
application deadline  
Feb. 21
- Board Meeting  
Feb. 28, 8:30 a.m.

[dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar](http://dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar)

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# 13th Annual CROPS DAY

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6**  
**9 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**  
Dakota Electric Association

Full agenda and registration details at  
[dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar](http://dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar).