

MARCH 2019

# CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

**Dakota Solar  
Update:**  
Randolph  
Solar Project



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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

### DISTRICT 2

Janet L. Lekson | *MREA Director*  
Jim Sheldon | *Treasurer*  
Clay Van De Bogart | *GRE Director*

### DISTRICT 3

Kenneth H. Danner  
William F. Holton  
Margaret D. Schreiner | *GRE Director*

### DISTRICT 4

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



## What's new?

### Update on Dakota Electric's solar projects

**As a member-owner of Great River Energy, we purchase 100 percent of our wholesale power from the cooperative. However, there is a provision in the wholesale power contract that allows distribution cooperatives, like Dakota Electric, to develop and install a small percentage of renewable energy for their own use.**

About 10 years ago, Dakota Electric started looking at ways to take advantage of this option. And since 2014, we have developed three solar energy projects in our service area with a fourth planned to be commercially operating in early 2020.

The latest project, located near Randolph, was completed in December. This project is the largest to date and is unique because the solar panels move and track the sun each day. Watch for a time-lapse video on our website later this year showing how the panels track the sun.

The four solar projects combined will deliver more than 9,000,000 kWhs of solar energy annually to Dakota Electric members — enough energy to power approximately 1,100 homes.

Dakota Electric does not own or operate these solar generation

systems. The project developer owns, operates and maintains these projects. Dakota Electric purchases the energy output from Great River Energy through their 25-year power purchase agreement with the developer. If the systems do not perform, Dakota Electric does not pay.

We look at several criteria when making decisions to move forward with each project. And one condition we strive to meet is to make sure the project is in the best interest of our members and the cooperative.

Building solar projects of this scale provides very competitive pricing that should benefit members over the life of the projects. And our research shows more than 70 percent of members feel it is important for utilities to provide more renewable energy.

While there is a lot of activity in the renewable energy market, there are still many opportunities to invest in energy efficiency, which is often the lowest-cost way to save energy and money.

Whether you are looking to install solar or looking for ways to save energy, Dakota Electric is here to help. Call the Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243.

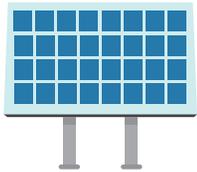
— **Mike Fosse**

*Vice President of Energy & Member Services*



# BY THE NUMBERS

## Dakota Solar 3 - Randolph Solar Array



**7,776 PANELS**

located on 15 acres near Randolph, Minn.

**25 YRS**

life expectancy

**3M+**

**KWH**



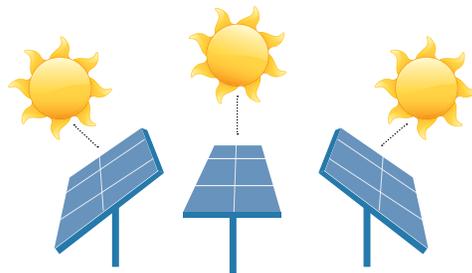
annual electricity production

**2 MW**

total capacity

**+/-60 DEGREES**

panels track the sun for max. energy output



**300**

The number of homes that could be powered annually with the electricity produced



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DAKOTA ELECTRIC'S SOLAR PROJECTS, VISIT [DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/RENEWABLE-ENERGY/DAKOTA-ELECTRIC-SOLAR](http://DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/RENEWABLE-ENERGY/DAKOTA-ELECTRIC-SOLAR)

## Great River Energy moving toward 50 percent renewables

*A foundation of round-the-clock energy sources and strategic additions of wind energy and hydropower have Great River Energy, Dakota Electric's wholesale power supplier, on track for 50 percent renewables by 2030.*

Over the years, Great River Energy has evolved its portfolio by reducing its energy supply from fossil fuels and increasing its push into energy efficiency and renewables.

"Today we see significant opportunities in renewable energy that will enable us to grow our business in a cost-effective way," said Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke. "Our member cooperatives increasingly want more renewable energy in their supply, and we aim to provide that."

Great River Energy has exited contracts to receive power from two coal-based power plants and has retired Stanton Station, a coal power plant that

served the cooperative's membership for 50 years. For the first time in the organization's history, there is more generating capacity from natural gas than coal.

Great River Energy has now set a new goal of 50 percent renewables by 2030, and their next big renewable energy undertaking will be the Emmons-Logan wind farm, which will bring 300 megawatts of wind to southern North Dakota by 2020.

"At the end of the day, we remain focused on our mission to provide our members affordable, reliable energy in harmony with a sustainable environment," Brekke said.



Dakota Electric offers a rebate of \$0.50/watt of installed solar. Visit [dakotaelectric.com](http://dakotaelectric.com) for details!

# CONSIDERING SOLAR?

## Here are some things to keep in mind

Today's consumers want and expect options, including the type of energy powering their homes. Many homeowners are looking for a less expensive form of energy with ongoing savings. Some are looking for a green energy source. These two motives are why many homeowners are exploring rooftop solar panels.

However, as attractive and popular as rooftop solar may appear, it is important for consumers to fully understand the costs, the operational performance of this form of energy and actual energy savings. To determine whether rooftop solar is right for you, here are some factors you should consider:

- overall energy efficiency of the home/building
- age and pitch of the roof
- orientation of the sun in relation to the home/building and shading from trees, etc.

The following financial considerations should also be taken into account:

- Is there a large, up-front payment required or are fees spread out over time?
- Will you own the panels or will they be leased?
- Are there any hidden costs; i.e., does the roof need to be replaced before installing the panels?
- Are there ongoing maintenance fees?
- Are there rebates or other financial incentives available?
- Is the estimated energy savings worth the investment?
- Is it more cost effective to invest in other energy-saving measures?

For more information on interconnection with Dakota Electric, see **Notice to Cogenerators** on page 7.

## Purchase renewable energy — no equipment, no hassle

Maybe your home or location isn't ideal for installing rooftop solar panels. Or maybe you just don't want solar panels or a wind turbine installed on your home or property. You can still purchase renewable energy to power your home!

By participating in Dakota Electric's Wellspring Renewable Energy® program, you can support renewable energy and its future without having to build or buy anything.

While the electricity delivered to your home includes increasing amounts of renewable energy, our Wellspring Renewable Energy program gives you the option to help us do even more for the environment. You not only help support wind and solar development in the region, you also help reduce our dependency on non-renewable energy sources, like fossil fuels.

### How it works:

- Renewable energy is purchased in 100-kilowatt-hour blocks.
- For each 100-kilowatt-hour block you purchase, there is an additional charge of \$0.20 on your electric bill for wind energy or \$2 for solar energy.

**OPTION 1** Purchase the same amount of 100-kWh blocks each month

**OPTION 2** The number of blocks you purchase each month will fluctuate based on the amount of energy you use.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/WELLSPRING-RENEWABLE-ENERGY](http://DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/WELLSPRING-RENEWABLE-ENERGY)

## Even your electric vehicle can be green!

Along with its wholesale power supplier, Great River Energy, Dakota Electric offers you an opportunity to power your electric vehicle with 100-percent wind energy, for the life of the vehicle, at no extra cost!

Energy comes from all kinds of sources: wind, natural gas, coal and so on. Once it hits the power grid, there's no way of telling where it came from. However, when renewable energy is added to the mix, a renewable energy credit (REC) is created that embodies all of the environmental benefits of that energy. When you participate in the Revolt program, we will dedicate wind energy RECs on your behalf, completely offsetting the energy used to power your electric vehicle.

### Eligible vehicles:

- plug-in electric vehicles
- plug-in hybrid electric vehicles



TO ENROLL, VISIT  
[DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/PROGRAMS-REBATES](http://DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/PROGRAMS-REBATES)

## Visit the Electric Room at the Twin Cities Auto Show

March 9-17 | Mpls Convention Center

*Sponsored by Great River Energy*

- Several electric and hybrid vehicles on display
- Speak with EV owners and experts to learn about the incredible efficiency and instant torque generation of EVs.
- Public charging, workplace charging and in-home charging station information will be available.



# DIY:

## Three easy projects to save energy

If you heat your home with LP gas, contact us for a FREE in-home energy audit!



**1. INSULATE YOUR WATER HEATER.** Insulating a water heater that's warm to the touch can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating bills. Check with the manufacturer for their recommendations on tank insulation.

You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$20. Before you start, turn the water heater off. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and tape it to temporarily keep it in place. If necessary, use a marker to note the areas where the controls are so you can cut them out. Once positioned correctly, tape it permanently in place, then turn the water heater back on. If you have an electric water heater, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees, which can cause overheating.



**2. SEAL AIR LEAKS WITH CAULK.** Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and

plumbing can save energy and money.

Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush or solvent. The area should be dry before you apply the new caulk.

Apply the caulk in one continuous stream, and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterwards, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.



**3. WEATHER STRIP EXTERIOR DOORS.** When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general "wear and tear" for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

Before applying new weather stripping, clean the moulding with soap and water, then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, then cut the weather stripping to fit each section. Make sure the weather stripping fits snugly against both surfaces so it compresses when the door is closed.



FOR MORE ENERGY-SAVING TIPS AND RESOURCES, VISIT [DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/SAVE-ENERGY-SAVE-MONEY](http://DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/SAVE-ENERGY-SAVE-MONEY)

## Notice to cogenerators

In compliance with Minnesota Rules Relating to Cogeneration and Small Power Production, Chapter 7835, Dakota Electric Association is required to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers that satisfy the conditions of a qualifying facility.

Dakota Electric will provide free information to all interested members regarding rates and interconnection requirements. An interconnection application is required and subject to approval from the cooperative before a qualifying facility

interconnects and operates in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system.

Any disputes over interconnections, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

### For more details

Visit [www.dakotaelectric.com/renewable-energy](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/renewable-energy) > Connect Your Own System or call Mike Plutowski at 651-463-6180.

## Nominating committee selects 2019 director candidates

In accordance with Article III, Section 3, of the Bylaws of this Association, the Nominating Committee, in a meeting assembled on January 28, 2019, in the office of Dakota Electric Association, have selected the following nominees for directorship of said Association to be on the ballot for the annual meeting to be held on April 25, 2019.

The 2019 Nominating Committee is made up of the following people: Bruce Adams, Renson Anjere, Buzz Anderson, Jerry Brown, Derik Dautel, Jerry Rich, Loren Solfest and Ray Yarwood.

Watch for more information about the 2019 annual meeting and director election in the April issue of *Circuits*.

### District 1

David Jones (incumbent)

### District 2

Jim Sheldon (incumbent) | Bill Middlecamp

### District 3

Bill Holton (incumbent)

### District 4

Paul Trapp (incumbent) | Stacy Miller | Greg Oxley

## Annual Meeting is April 25

7 p.m. | St. Michael's Social Hall, Farmington

### PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

On this year's election ballot, the board is proposing the following bylaw change added under:

#### Article I, Section 5. Member Newsletter

*The cost to produce Circuits, the member newsletter, is included in the Cooperative's operating costs and is paid monthly by each member through their electric rates.*

We have identified an opportunity to reduce our

postage costs for the monthly member newsletter. In order to meet the U.S. Postal Service requirements, we need to amend our bylaws before we begin the application process. If the membership votes to approve the bylaw change, we will apply for the new postage rate, which will save the cooperative a significant amount in annual postage costs.

Look for your election ballot to arrive in April.



4300 220th Street West  
Farmington, MN 55024

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Spring Parade of Homes**  
March 2-31, 12-6 p.m.
- **Crops Day**  
March 6, 9-1 p.m.
- **Lakeville Landscape & Home Show**  
March 9, 9-3 p.m.
- **Board Meeting**  
March 28, 8:30 a.m.

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

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DAKOTA ELECTRIC  
ASSOCIATION

**ADDRESS BLOCK**  
**1234 Maple St.**  
**Apple Valley, MN 55124**

### CONNECT WITH US!

-  [DakotaElectric](#)
 [@DakotaElec](#)
 [DakotaElectric](#)
 [Dakota Electric Association](#)

[DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM](http://DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM)

# ENERGY TRENDS EXPO

**Thursday, May 9, 2019 • 6 - 8 p.m.**  
**Eagan Community Center**  
1501 Central Parkway • Eagan, MN 55121

- Vendor trade show**
- Demonstration of battery-powered yard tools**
- Electric vehicle car show**
- Breakout sessions**

**6:30:** Home audits: Opportunities, tools and DIY tips  
**6:50:** Resiliency in a changing climate  
**7:00:** Electricity: The key to sustainability



**FREE EVENT!**  
**DOOR PRIZES**



A community event sponsored by Dakota Electric Association® in cooperation with Lakeville Friends of the Environment.