

OCTOBER 2019

# CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

**DAKOTA  
ELECTRIC**  
ASSOCIATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

FARMINGTON, MN

USDOT 107815

Meet  
Logan, our  
superfan!  
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ELECTRIC**  
ASSOCIATION  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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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 651-454-002 or  
1-800-252-1166

Tree Trimming & Street Lights

651-463-6287

*Dakota Electric is an equal opportunity/  
affirmative action employer*

**dakotaelectric.com**  
**customerservice@dakotaelectric.com**

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

*All programs and rebates are subject to change  
without notice. Funds are limited and available on  
a first-come , first-served basis.*

Dakota Electric Association  
**BOARD**  
of Directors

DISTRICT 1

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

DISTRICT 2

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

DISTRICT 3

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

DISTRICT 4

Paul Bakken | *Vice Chair*  
Judy H. Kimmes  
Stacy Miller

About our rates

Dakota Electric plans to file a rate case

**Dakota Electric plans to file a rate case with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) seeking permission to increase overall electric utility revenue by about 4.3%.**

Review process

The Minnesota Department of Commerce – Division of Energy Resources and the MPUC will review Dakota Electric’s rate filing and examine our records.

Interim rates

State law allows us to collect higher rates on an interim basis while our rate filing is reviewed. If the MPUC approves our request for a 3.0% interim increase, the additional charge will apply to electricity use beginning in November, for which members will begin receiving bills in December.

The interim increase will remain in effect until the MPUC determines final rates. If the approved overall total increase is lower than interim rates, we will refund members the difference with interest. If the overall total increase is higher, we will not charge members the difference.

The monthly bill for a typical residential member using 700 kilowatt-hours of electricity will increase about \$2.85 as a result of the proposed interim increase, which will appear on bills as “Interim Rate Adjustment.”

For residential and small general service members, the interim adjustment applies to the monthly fixed charge, energy charge and resource and tax adjustment. The interim adjustment also applies to the demand charge for commercial members.

Member involvement

Members may comment on the proposed final increases at public hearings that will be scheduled by an administrative law judge from the MPUC. Dakota Electric will provide details about the hearings in local newspapers, a bill insert and on our website. Members may also provide written comments about the rate increase to the MPUC. Instructions for written submissions will appear in a future bill insert and on our website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
[WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM](http://WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM) >  
RATE CASE

INCREASING COSTS

Since Dakota Electric’s last request for a rate increase in 2014, cost for equipment, labor and materials have continued to increase. These factors, combined with minimal growth in electric sales in the last five years, contributed to the need for this filing.

PROPOSED CHANGE IN MONTHLY ELECTRIC COSTS				
Member Classification	Average Monthly kWh Use	Current Monthly Bill	Interim Monthly Bill	Proposed Final Monthly Bill
Residential	700	\$94.96	\$97.81	\$99.18
Small General Service	1,000	\$132.90	\$136.89	\$142.00
General Service	16,000	\$1,637	\$1,686	\$1,654



# DONATIONS

## 360 Communities and DARTS

Dakota Electric Association, along with CoBank, one of its lenders, recently donated \$15,000 to two local community organizations. Dakota Electric's \$5,000 donation to 360 Communities and its \$2,500 donation to DARTS were matched by CoBank through the company's "Sharing Success" grant program, providing \$10,000 to 360 Communities and \$5,000 to DARTS.

Checks were presented to 360 Communities' CEO Jeff Mortensen and Laurie Bolin, development director, and DARTS CEO Ann Bailey and Steve Haschig, director of advancement, during a recent Dakota Electric board meeting.

Mortensen thanked CoBank and Dakota Electric's board for the donation. "We can't do all we do without the help of the community and supporters like you. Thank you," Mortensen said.



Dakota Electric Association and CoBank presented Jeff Mortensen (center) and Laurie Bolin (2nd from left) of 360 Communities with a \$10,000 donation. CoBank's Cliff Bolstad (2nd from right) and representatives of Dakota Electric's Board of Directors are pictured (L-R): Margaret Schreiner, Paul Bakken, John (Jack) DeYoe and Janet Lekson.

360 Communities provides assistance to more than 16,000 individuals each year with holistic programming that includes violence prevention and intervention, school success support and community resources.

Bailey thanked CoBank and Dakota Electric for the support of DARTS. "We are incredibly grateful for the relationship we have had with Dakota Electric over the years," Bailey said. DARTS provides transportation for the elderly in Dakota County as well as affordable living opportunities and home services.

"We thank CoBank for their Sharing Success program, now in its seventh year, which doubles our donation to these great community organizations," said Dakota Electric's Board Chair Jerry Pittman.



Dakota Electric Association and CoBank presented Ann Bailey (center) and Steve Haschig (2nd from left) of DARTS with a \$5,000 donation. CoBank's Cliff Bolstad (2nd from right) and representatives of Dakota Electric's Board of Directors are pictured (L-R): Margaret Schreiner, Paul Bakken, John (Jack) DeYoe and Janet Lekson.



## Youth Tour Alumni wins Jay York Scholarship

Nils Peterson of Eagan recently won the Jay York Scholarship for \$400, given by Nobles Cooperative Electric, Worthington. He was one of five students Dakota Electric Association sponsored to attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Youth Tour in Washington D.C., this summer. He was one of four students selected from Minnesota for the York Scholarship.





Dakota Electric's Dave Reinke and next generation co-op member, Logan Tryba, charging into the future of the energy industry.

# INTO THE FUTURE

It can be easy to forget just how different Dakota Electric really is from other energy companies. I suppose that's true in any industry — over time, the exceptional starts to seem ordinary. But after talking with my 13-year-old neighbor, Logan Tryba, I was struck once again by how remarkable our electric cooperative really is.

Before this starts to sound immodest, let me make something clear: What makes us remarkable is members like you. Members like Logan. And even though Logan may not be a paying member yet, he knows more about Dakota Electric than your average eighth grader.

You see, Logan has read every edition of Circuits for the past two years. He understands we are locally governed by our members and we listen to our community. He knows we don't answer to outside investors whose only interest is to make a profit. After all, the investors of Dakota Electric are its consumer-members.

As an electric cooperative, we were created from the ground up by people who lived here 82 years ago. But Logan doesn't care how we came to be; he prefers to focus on where we're going, and how we respond to the expectations of the future generation. And we're listening.

The world is different today than it was in 1937. And while our mission to provide safe and reliable electricity remains constant, our approach has adapted. You play an important role in shaping our industry's future. Your choices help us in our goal to invest in more efficient technology and cleaner sources of energy. You ensure that tomorrow is even brighter for future members like Logan.

We know our members are searching for high-efficiency and low-carbon solutions for their homes or businesses. That's why we provide programs and rebates that save you money, are convenient and reduce environmental impacts. We call it beneficial electrification. Logan calls it progress.

So sure, you may be used to getting your energy from us, but it's the energy we get from members like Logan, like you, that remind me how exceptional electric cooperatives are. After all, that's the cooperative difference.

— DAVE REINKE

Energy & Member Services Manager



# Q&A

Featuring Logan Tryba

To make it on time for our interview, Logan Tryba had to skip cross country practice at Hastings Middle School. He told us about the hour of homework that was assigned to him earlier in the day. And that was “only for accelerated math,” he said. It was his second day of school after summer vacation.



*Distribution system operator, Matt Matthees, shows Logan around the dispatch center.*

## What do you find to be the most interesting thing about Dakota Electric?

“You guys are not just investing members’ money in new ideas. You’re researching how to make it useful for them first. Like the electric bus, or different programs and rates for things like our central air conditioner. Dakota Electric has great rebates and you care about saving your members’ money.”

## Wow! You sure know a lot about the cooperatives. Very impressive! What do you see coming out of the energy industry in the future?

“A lot of renewable energy. I think everyone will have solar panels on their homes, even if they don’t use it to power their home. The energy grid will be more like a network. Electric cars will also take off. It would be awesome to see sections of the road that charge your electric car as you drive on it.”

## How innovative! What do you want to see from Dakota Electric in the future?

“I think you guys are moving towards a greener future. I like that. But also, all electric everything — more electric cars and buses. It would be really cool to see you guys do an electric semi-truck.”



*Logan got the chance to check out our meter room while on a tour of the Dakota Electric facility.*

## You have some really neat ideas! Are these things you’d like to do when you grow up?

“I’m not 100% sure what I want to do yet, but I do like the energy industry. If I were to work at Dakota Electric, I’d be torn between working inside and outside. It would be awesome to manage the outside crews so I can have the best of both worlds.”

## Is there anything else you’d like to tell us?

“Just that you guys are really open with your members and I think that’s very cool to see. I’m really glad Dakota Electric powers my home.”

## Thank you for coming in, Logan!

“Thanks for having me.”

Kids are busier today than ever before. In fact, we could argue almost all aspects of our lives are busier now than in years past. That’s why we know you depend on Dakota Electric to help power your life.



*Powerline specialist crew chief, Nick Vought, showed Logan the way around a bucket truck.*





# PLAY IT SAFE

## Community Programs

"Safety" is a serious issue that is regularly discussed at Dakota Electric. In fact, it is our number one priority.

This is not empty talk. Over time, Dakota Electric has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety, and that of the community, above all else. Because we live and work in the community we serve, we care about our neighbors.

Manager of safety services, Brandon Lunde, promotes safety education in our schools and local communities through electrical safety programs and safety camps. Play It Safe Around Electricity teaches children eight and older about the dangers of electricity in a fun and interactive way.

Additionally, Dakota Electric's power line safety demonstration dives deeper into the risks associated with electrical safety and how it plays out in our daily lives. We provide this program for public safety personnel, contractors, farmers, and other community organizations and clubs. On average, we perform 20-30 safety demonstrations each year and reach an average of 1,500 to 2,500 people.

Our duty and responsibility is to raise awareness about the importance of electrical safety in the community. If you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school, organization, or community event, please contact Brandon Lunde at [651-463-6290](tel:651-463-6290) or email [blunde@dakotaelectric.com](mailto:blunde@dakotaelectric.com). Programs run from 45 minutes to 90 minutes.

## Other resources

### McGruff Safe Kids ID Kit

Dakota Electric provides local law enforcement agencies throughout Dakota County, Northfield and Cannon Falls with McGruff ID kits each year. Each kit contains a personal identification section, complete with a fingerprint kit to help parents keep an up-to-date file on their child. Police officers distribute the kits to classrooms if a teacher makes a request. If you are interested in obtaining a kit, contact your local police department.

### Speakers Bureau

Dakota Electric's speakers bureau presents to schools, Rotary clubs, chambers of commerce and other community organizations on a variety of energy-related issues, including renewable energy, electric vehicles and energy efficiency. Our mascot, LED Lucy, is also available to rent for community events. If interested, contact our coordinator of community affairs, Brenda Kadlec, at [651-463-6234](tel:651-463-6234) for more information.

# NEW METER UPGRADE

**Dakota Electric is in the process of updating old meters to advanced digital meters.**



## Benefits

- Replacement of aging infrastructure
- Increased system efficiencies
- Improved outage notification & restoration
- More energy information for members

## Update

Installation of the first 5,000 meters, in and around Farmington, Lakeville and rural Hampton, began the last week of September and will continue throughout the month of October. Members receiving an upgraded meter were mailed a postcard mid-September stating that Dakota Electric contractors will be knocking on their door to install meters within the following weeks. After the installation, members will receive a door hanger informing them that their meter was changed.

These first 5,000 meters will help us test how the communication system and integration works before we install the remaining meters in 2020 and 2021. Not all members in and around Farmington, Lakeville and rural Hampton will receive an upgraded meter at this time.



The Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board has named Dakota Electric Association as one of the Employers of Excellence Award recipients for the third year in a row. Dakota Electric was chosen for several reasons including employee retention, compensation and rate of growth, among other things.



## SAFE AT HOME

### Address Confidentiality Program

Safe at Home helps survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and other crimes, and anyone who fears for their safety, by establishing a confidential mailing address and providing a mail forwarding service.

While Dakota Electric needs members' actual addresses to establish and maintain electric service, we use Safe at Home addresses for communicating with members and take special steps to protect Safe at Home participants' addresses.

If you participate in Safe at Home, alert Dakota Electric and provide your Safe at Home mailing address.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SAFE AT HOME, CONTACT THE OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE BY CALLING 1-866-723-3035 OR GO TO [WWW.SOS.STATE.MN.US](http://WWW.SOS.STATE.MN.US).





4300 220th Street West  
Farmington, MN 55024

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Board Meeting**  
Oct. 31 8:30 a.m.

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DAKOTA ELECTRIC  
ASSOCIATION

FOLLOW  
US ON  
FACEBOOK



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

## CONNECT WITH US!



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# HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact Dakota Electric immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away, feet together, to safety.
- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

*Source: Safe Electricity*

inside  
CIRCUITS

October 2019

For Dakota Electric Members

Meet  
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