

NOVEMBER 2019

CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

**WALL STREET
JOURNAL
FEATURES
SOLAR PROJECT**



3

SAVE ENERGY

Winter prep: follow these simple steps

4

COMMUNITY

Energy assistance for those in need

6

CO-OP CORNER

Awards and donations

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

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

Bright news



Wall Street Journal features Dakota Electric members

South of Farmington sits 15 acres of farmland producing enough energy to power around 600 homes. The land, owned by Dakota Electric members Dick and Jane Nielsen, will deliver more than 5 million kilowatt-hours of energy each year to members of Dakota Electric.

About 10 years ago, Dakota Electric started looking at ways to provide more renewable energy for its membership. At the same time, interest in solar power grew and net farm income dropped, leaving farmers searching for alternative revenue streams.

Farmers leasing their land to generate energy revenue is what brought a reporter from the Wall Street Journal to feature the Niens in the Sept. 23 article, "Struggling Farmers See Bright Spot in Solar." The journalist, Kirk Maltais, contacted St. Paul nonprofit Fresh Energy to learn more about rural solar projects.

The article features an in-depth look at why the couple leased their land for the solar panels, as well as a few photos of the Niens at the solar site.

Dakota Electric CEO Greg Miller is proud to see the Niens featured and believes that Dakota Solar 4 is mutually beneficial.

"We work hard to ensure that each project we build is in the best interest of our members and the cooperative," Miller stated. "The new solar site is a win-win for all involved."

Dakota Solar 4 is the largest solar project Dakota Electric has commissioned, with over 10,300 panels that will produce more than 5 million kWhs of power annually. This is in addition to our wholesale power supplier Great River Energy's commitment to achieve 50% renewable energy in our fuel sources portfolio by 2030.

Dakota Electric worked with Great River Energy and ENGIE (formerly SoCore Energy) to construct the three-megawatt solar project on the Nielsen's land.

ENGIE owns the solar facility on behalf of Great River Energy. Through a power purchase contract with Great River Energy, Dakota Electric purchases all the solar output for delivery to its member-owners. The project is planned to be commercially operating in early 2020.

Like the first two solar projects near Hastings and Randolph, Dakota Solar 4 will be planted with pollinator-friendly native flowers and grasses. In a couple years, the habitat will generate an abundance of healthy food for bees and other insects, providing critical services to our food and agriculture system.

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

ON THE COVER: TIM GRUBER, CONTRACTED BY THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, PHOTOGRAPHS DAKOTA ELECTRIC CEO GREG MILLER AND MEMBERS DICK AND JANE NIELSEN.



SAVING ENERGY *Saves money*

COZY UP TO COLDER WEATHER.

'Tis the season to save money on your energy bills.

Check out these eight ways to prepare your home for fall and winter weather.

Source: Energy.gov



Clean out the gutters.

Fall leaves and debris left in gutters over winter can clog drains, which can potentially cause ice dams and lead to your drainage systems not working properly. This can lead to water seeping into your home and all sorts of issues and extra energy costs.



Show some TLC to your furnace.

Have your furnace annually inspected each autumn. Sediment buildup can cause your system to work less efficiently or potentially become a fire hazard. During the winter, change your filter regularly; a dirty filter will decrease air flow and energy efficiency.



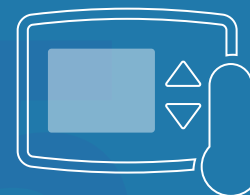
Rule your attic.

Sealing air leaks around your home and adding insulation are two of the most cost-effective ways to improve energy efficiency and comfort in your home. By tackling both projects, you can maximize your comfort and save up to 10% on your annual energy bills.



Turn down your tank's temperature.

Water heating is the second largest energy expense in your home. It typically accounts for about 18% of your utility bill after heating and cooling. Lower the temperature on your water heater to 120°F; for every 10°F reduction in temperature, you can save from 3%-5% on your water heating costs.



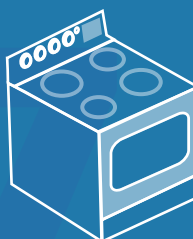
Winterize your habits.

Turning back your thermostat 7-to-10 degrees for 8 hours a day can save up to 10% on heating costs. If you set your temperature to 68 degrees while at home and lower the temperature before going to bed, your HVAC system will have less work to do, resulting in lower energy consumption.



Light the way.

Whether decorating for the holidays or creating a warm atmosphere in your home, choose ENERGY STAR® certified decorative light strings. These holiday lights use 75% less energy than conventional incandescent light strings.



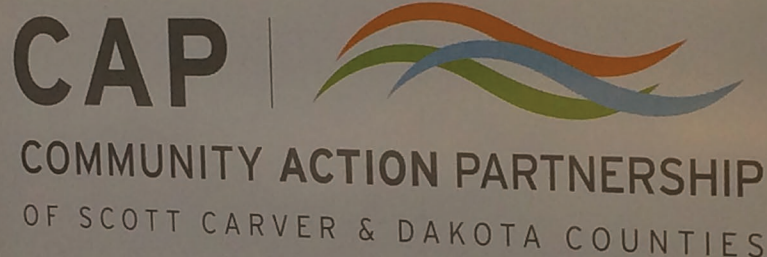
Be smart in the kitchen.

The average American home uses 15% of its energy in the kitchen. Ceramic or glass dishes conduct heat more efficiently, allowing you to turn your oven temperature down by about 25 degrees.



Consult the Energy Experts® at Dakota Electric for advice on saving energy.

They can answer your questions, offer tips and suggestions and, in some instances, provide a free home energy audit. Call 651-463-6243 or email energyexperts@dakotaelectric.com.



COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

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

Explain the CAP Agency and what you do:

The CAP Agency is a local nonprofit organization that works to stabilize individuals and families experiencing crisis. We assist and empower people to achieve social and economic well being by providing them with the necessary resources needed for self reliance.

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. Working with Dakota Electric has made a big impact in our community and neighborhoods. The partnership allows us to have a program that helps with saving energy on a larger scale.

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,

electric water heaters and more. Appliances must be over 10 years old to qualify. 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% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. Eligibility is determined by using the past three months of the homeowner's household income prior to signing the application, or last year's federal tax forms for self employment. This means that a family of four must have an annual income of less than \$51,500 in order to qualify.

Household Size	Annual Income	Three Month Income
1	\$ 24,980	\$ 6,245
2	\$ 33,820	\$ 8,455
3	\$ 42,660	\$ 10,665
4	\$ 51,500	\$ 12,875
5	\$ 60,340	\$ 15,085
6	\$ 69,180	\$ 17,295
7	\$ 78,020	\$ 19,505
8	\$ 86,860	\$ 21,715

How do people apply?

I would invite you to apply for this program if you are income eligible for energy assistance. 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. We are here to help our community!



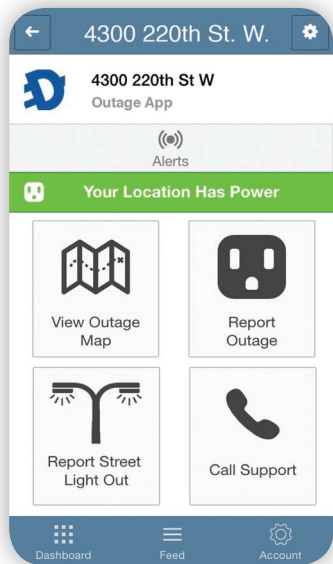
APPLY FOR THE ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BY VISITING:
WWW.CAPAGENCY.ORG > HOUSING SERVICES > ENERGY ASSISTANCE



SAFETY

GO MOBILE

Download our outage app



1. Download and install the free outage app by visiting the App Store or Google Play on your mobile device and search for "Dakota Electric" (made by MTS Systems).

2. Once installed, you must request a code by calling 651-463-6212 or submitting a form online. The code is specific to your account and is required to personalize the app to your residence.

3. Once you receive the code, tap the symbol in the upper left corner of the dashboard screen in the app, type in the code and hit "Subscribe." You can now set up your profile and alert notifications.

1. See a live status of your location and report outages with the tap of your finger!

2. Report a streetlight outage from any location using the built-in GPS feature.

3. Report an outage at your location and get updates about the incident in the app!

4. Contact our service representatives with a single tap!

REQUEST YOUR CODE: WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > REPORT AN OUTAGE > DAKOTA ELECTRIC OUTAGE APP

Add our website to your mobile home screen

1.

2.

3.



1. Go to Dakotaelectric.com and press the "Send As" button. (Android users can press the Menu button).



2. Find and press the "Add to Home Screen" button.

3. Rename the app and you are done.



Pete Lundell named Dakota Spirit of Excellence Award winner



Rosemount fire fighter Pete Lundell accepted the Dakota Spirit of Excellence Award Thursday, Oct. 10 at a ceremony at the fire station during the department's open house.

Lundell is the winner of the 2019 Spirit of Excellence Award presented by Dakota Electric Association to recognize first responders and the brave work they do. The award highlights a first responder who demonstrates leadership, dedication to serving others, teamwork, integrity and other attributes.

Fire Chief Richard Schroeder speaks highly of Lundell and said he is very committed to his volunteer work with the fire department. Lundell has served 50 years with the department.

"The award was designed to recognize an individual who displays leadership, integrity, dedication to serving others, teamwork and more," Dakota Electric's Board Chair Jerry Pittman said during the ceremony.

Lundell was appreciative of the recognition and thanked the rest of the department, his family and Dakota Electric for the award. Along with the award for Lundell, Dakota Electric provided a \$5,000 check to the fire department.

"I'd like to thank Dakota Electric for this award," said Chief Schroeder, who added that they will use the \$5,000 donation for apparel and equipment.

"Dakota Electric is happy to be able to provide a contribution to the department," Pittman said, "and it is clear that Pete Lundell was an excellent choice for this year's Spirit of Excellence Award."

Dakota Electric donates \$40,000 to local schools

Dakota Electric Association recently awarded unclaimed capital credits money to fund specific needs at four different school districts. Districts 6, 194, 195, and 256 were recipients of the donations.

Superintendent Dave Webb attended a recent Dakota Electric board meeting to receive the donation on behalf of District 6.

"We are happy to be able to provide financial support from unclaimed capital credits to worthwhile educational programs," Board Chair Jerry Pittman said.



Pictured: Dave Webb (center), District 6 South St. Paul with Dakota Electric Board Directors (L-R), Paul Bakken, Janet Lekson, John (Jack) DeYoe, Margaret Schreiner and Clay Van De Bogart.

Rate case update

Dakota Electric submitted a general rate case petition to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on Sept. 19, 2019, requesting an overall annual revenue increase of about 4.3% or \$8.7 million.

The filing includes an interim increase while our general rate case is being reviewed. A 3.0% increase will apply to electricity use beginning in November 2019, for which members will begin receiving bills in December 2019. This interim increase appears on your bill as "Interim Rate Adjustment."

State agency regulatory staff is now reviewing the filing for procedural compliance. Like all general rate case filings, this filing is expected to be referred to the Office of Administrative Hearings for further review.

To learn more about the rate case email rates@dakotaelectric.com or call 651-463-6212.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM >
BILLING & PAYMENT > RATE INFORMATION

Sales tax exemption for residential electric heat

A tax exemption is available for the months of November through April if you heat your home primarily with electricity. To determine eligibility, see the Minnesota Department of Revenue Sales Tax Fact Sheet 157 at www.revenue.state.mn.us.

If you have questions regarding your eligibility for sales tax exemptions, please contact the Minnesota Department of Revenue at 651-296-6181 or toll free at 1-800-657-3777, or by email at salesuse.tax@state.mn.us.



TO APPLY FOR A SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC HEAT DOWNLOAD THE FORM HERE: WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > PROGRAMS & REBATES

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

Dakota Electric Association is requesting member volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee for the Board of Directors election. 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. 6, 2019. 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. 6, 2020.

The Nominating Committee will meet late afternoon/evening on Jan. 27, 2020 (or alternate date of Feb. 10), at Dakota Electric's Farmington office to interview candidates.

Deadline for board candidates is Dec. 6

The following incumbent directors are seeking reelection to the Board of Directors at Dakota Electric Association's annual meeting on April 30, 2020: John (Jack) DeYoe in District 1, Janet Lekson in District 2, Margaret Schreiner in District 3, and Paul Bakken 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 the Dakota Electric office by 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 6, 2019. Candidate interviews will be conducted the evening of Jan. 27, 2020 (or alternate date of Feb. 10).

Seasonal charging time update

The charging time for electric-thermal storage (ETS) heating appliances and ETS water heaters has changed from 11 p.m. through 7 a.m. to a new time of 10 p.m. through 6 a.m. Electric vehicles on the storage program are not affected by this change. For questions, email energyexperts@dakotaelectric.com or call 651-463-6243.



4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Board Meeting**
Nov. 21 8:30 a.m.
- **Office Closed**
Nov. 28-29

FOLLOW
US ON
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Dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar

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(Right) Dakota Electric's Land Use Manager Craig Knudsen, and Tom Lewanski, Dakota County's natural resources manager, worked together to have an osprey nest installed in Whitetail Woods Regional Park. The nest sits on top of a hill overlooking Empire Lake. (Top) Thank you to Dakota Electric crew Kurt Bechel, Travis Freese, Alex McCutcheon and Cole McWaters.



inside November 2019
CIRCUITS
For Dakota Electric Members



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