

MARCH 2020

CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

ELECTRIFY YOUR FUTURE



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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

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



Going green

It's electrifying!

With increasing popularity in renewable energy, we want to inform our members about the evolving power supply and ways to save money.

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.

Changes in technology and the market have contributed to making renewable energy more cost effective. Dakota Electric, by way of Great River Energy, is actively preparing for the future of energy production by purchasing and generating more renewable resources such as wind, solar and hydro power. We have more than 30% renewable resources in our energy mix and are not stopping there. We are committed to having more than 50% by 2030, or sooner. This means the power you receive from Dakota Electric is building a more sustainable future and becoming "greener."

Interested in going carbon-free, faster?

When members participate in our renewable energy and load management programs and rebate options, they help to reduce carbon emissions on the electric power grid. While each member's reduction might be

small, together they can lead to significant savings of money and emissions.

The Wellspring Renewable Energy® program is an increasingly popular option for members interested in purchasing renewable energy. This means you can support renewable energy and its future without having to build or buy anything. See page three for more information.

Dakota Electric is committed to helping members find affordable, reliable and safe energy options. We make solar simple, helping you evaluate the risks and benefits of rooftop solar and finding a solution that is right for you.

Interest in alternative energy sources is fueled by decreasing costs for rooftop solar, the availability of financial incentives and the number of companies offering solar panel installation. Additionally, those exploring solar energy have new options. Members can buy or lease solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on their own rooftop or property.

Dakota Electric is seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment and evolving technology. To learn more about renewable energy and our diverse energy mix, visit: dakotaelectric.com/renewable-energy/dakota-electric-solar/



Purchase renewable energy — no equipment, no hassle

Maybe your home or location is not ideal for installing rooftop

solar panels. Or maybe you just do not 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

Even your electric vehicle can be green!

We are offering you an opportunity to power your electric vehicle with 100% 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 is 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. You will still have to pay for the energy you use, but you'll be able to do so knowing that when you go electric, you will always be going green.

Eligible vehicles:

- Plug-in electric vehicles
- Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles

POWER YOUR EV WITH 100% WIND ENERGY.

CALL US:
651-463-6243



TO ENROLL, VISIT
DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/PROGRAMS-REBATES



ROOFTOP SOLAR

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, consider these seven tips:

1

Investigate your home

Before starting the process of powering your home with solar energy, homeowners should investigate their energy use and consider potential efficiency upgrades. Homeowners should be aware of their total electricity use, and consider low-cost and easy-to-implement efficiency measures before choosing solar.

Dakota Electric has a variety of programs and rebates available to help members reduce their electricity use. For more information, call the Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243.



Solar potential

Before deciding on the best way to use solar electricity at home, assess the potential solar energy that can be produced at your address.

Consider the following:

- Nearby shade trees.
- The age of your roof and how long until it needs to be replaced.
- Neighborhood or homeowner association (HOA) restrictions or approval requirements.



2

Solar options

Purchasing and installing a system that you own and maintain is no longer the only option if you want to go solar. Even if you rent your home or do not want to purchase a rooftop system, there are many programs that will enable you to still benefit from solar electricity.

Dakota Electric members can participate in our Wellspring program by purchasing renewable energy credits (RECs). View page five for more information.

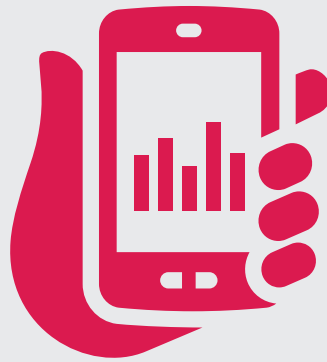


3

Solar needs

To help your contractor provide recommendations for your system's type and size, gather information about your home and electricity use.

Review electricity bills to determine annual electricity needs. Consider any planned changes. If you will be purchasing an electric vehicle or are planning a home addition, your electricity needs may increase.



4

Solar bids

When researching installers, find qualified and insured professionals with the proper certification. Receive at least three bids for your system based on the same characteristics and metrics. Ask installers these questions:

- Is your company familiar with local permitting and interconnection processes?
- Can your company provide references from other customers in the area?
- Is your company properly licensed or certified?



5

Solar incentives

Members may be eligible for a 26% federal tax credit through 2020. In addition, Dakota Electric offers a rebate of \$0.50 per watt of installed solar, not to exceed \$4,000.

Members are encouraged to contact Dakota Electric early on to learn how billing and net metering will work, as well as any additional utility requirements needed prior to installation.



6

Solar installer

Your installer will help you determine the appropriate size for your system. The size will be based on your electricity needs (determined in step 4) as well as the following:

- The site's available sunlight
- The system's orientation and tilt
- The system's efficiency at converting sunlight to electricity



7

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ROOFTOP SOLAR, VISIT: [DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/RENEWABLE-ENERGY/CONNECT-YOUR-OWN-SYSTEM/](https://dakotaelectric.com/renewable-energy/connect-your-own-system/)

Source: Department of Energy



DIY

Three DIY efficiency projects to tackle this spring



1. TRIM DRYER VENT. If your dryer vent hose is too long, your dryer is working harder than it has to, using more energy than necessary. The vent hose should be long enough for you to pull the dryer out a couple feet from the wall, but the shape of the hose should form a line — it should not have a lot of slack, with twists and curves. A shorter, unobstructed vent hose increases the efficiency of your dryer, dries clothing faster and reduces lint buildup, which can create potential fire hazards.

Simply measure, mark and trim the hose to the desired length, then reattach the hose to your dryer and exterior vent. If you're unsure about the hose length, check out [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) for a quick video tutorial.



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. HEAT PUMP MAINTENANCE. Heat pump technology is one of the most advanced and energy-efficient heating and cooling technologies available. An air-source heat pump moves heat to and from the outdoor air. In summer, it operates like a conventional central air conditioner. In winter, it provides supplemental heat.

Proper heat pump maintenance is key to energy-efficient operation and long equipment life. Clean or change filters once a month, or as needed, and maintain the system according to manufacturer's instructions. Dirty filters, coils and fans reduce airflow through the system. Clean outdoor coils whenever they appear dirty. Turn off power to your heat pump and clean the outdoor unit by removing vegetation and clutter and spraying it off with a hose. You should also have a professional technician service your heat pump at least once a year. These maintenance tips can also be applied to your central air conditioner.



FOR MORE ENERGY-SAVING TIPS AND RESOURCES, VISIT
DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/SAVE-ENERGY-SAVE-MONEY

Source: Department of Energy

Rate case update

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

In early February, an administrative law judge accepted the formal written testimony of Dakota Electric and the state agencies into the record. After the end of the public comment period, the judge will prepare a report and recommendations for consideration by the Public Utilities Commission.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RATE CASE, EMAIL RATES@DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM OR VISIT: DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/MEMBER-SERVICES/BILLING-PAYMENT/RATE-CASE/

Nominating committee selects 2020 director candidates

In accordance with Article III, Section 3, of the Bylaws of this Association, the Nominating Committee, in a meeting assembled on January 27, 2020, in the office of Dakota Electric Association, selected the following nominees for directorship of said Association to be on the ballot for the annual meeting, to be held on April 30, 2020.

District 1

John (Jack) DeYoe (incumbent)

District 2

Janet Lekson (incumbent) | Bill Middlecamp

District 3

Margaret Schreiner (incumbent) | James (Jim) Wroblewski

District 4

Paul Bakken (incumbent) | Paul Trapp

The 2020 Nominating Committee is made up of the following people: Buzz Anderson, Tim Burke, Derik Dautel, Wally Lyslo, Terry Merritt, Greg Oxley, Ray Yarwood and Jenny Zakoski.

Watch for more information about the 2020 annual meeting and director election in the April issue of *Circuits*.

Annual Meeting is April 30

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 changes.

These bylaw changes allow Dakota Electric to provide a replacement ballot for those who may have lost, or never received, the original ballot that was mailed. Currently, the bylaws do not allow for a replacement ballot.

Adding new section:

Article II, Section 4, Subsection (e). Voting

Any member who cannot locate their original ballot may request a replacement ballot. The replacement ballot must be requested in writing at least two (2) business days before the annual meeting so the Association has sufficient time to provide the replacement ballot to the member. The member may then vote with the replacement ballot at the annual meeting, and the ballot shall be accepted and counted as the ballot. If a replacement ballot is requested, and a member votes both the original and the replacement ballot in the election, the first cast ballot will be counted.

Amending existing section:

Article III, Section 4, (second paragraph).

Voting by Mail for Directors

*A member who claims that a ballot was not received by such member, or that the ballot received by such member was thereafter lost, damaged or destroyed, shall **not** be entitled to **one** a replacement ballot. At least fifty (50) days before the election date, each nominee shall be entitled to inspect and copy at the offices of Dakota Electric Association the names and addresses of as many of the members of the Dakota Electric Association as the nominee requests. All elections for the Board of Directors shall be under the supervision and review of a qualified firm selected by the Board of Directors. No employee or individual director of Dakota Electric Association shall participate in any aspect of the administration of the election process except as a candidate or to cast a vote as a member, or as set forth in Article III, Section 3 of these Bylaws.*

Look for your election ballot to arrive in April.



DOWNLOAD A COPY OF OUR CURRENT BYLAWS:
DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/ABOUT-US/BOARD-OF-DIRECTORS/

4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Crops Day**
March 4, 9-1 p.m.
- **Spring Parade of Homes**
Mar. 7 - Apr. 5, 12-6 p.m.
- **Lakeville Landscape & Home Show**
Mar. 14, 9-3 p.m.
- **Board Meeting**
Mar. 26, 8:30 a.m.
- **Apple Valley Home & Garden Expo**
Apr. 4, 9-3 p.m.

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ASSOCIATION

CONNECT WITH US!



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

dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar

WE APPRECIATE YOUR FEEDBACK!



Dakota Electric has hired the Morris Leatherman Company to conduct a residential member satisfaction survey on our behalf. Should you receive a call asking for your opinions about Dakota Electric's service, we would sincerely appreciate your feedback. Calling is scheduled to begin late March.

We know your time is valuable, so rest assured, we will use the results to make decisions on matters important to the future of Dakota Electric. Thank you in advance for your time!



inside
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