

CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

Women in Power

(Pages 2 and 3)



4
NATIONAL 811 DAY
Five steps for safe digging.

5
ELECTRICITY USE TABLE
How much does it cost?
Energy management tips.

6
METER & LCR UPDATE
Meter and LCR installations have started.

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 Temporarily Closed

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

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David Jones
Gerald F. Pittman | *Chair*

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Women in Power

The role women play in the power industry

In times of industry change, having a more diverse and gender-balanced workforce is an advantage. With the growing number of technical and economic changes affecting the power generation, transmission and distribution industries, the value of women in the workforce has never been greater.

According to a report conducted by M.J. Bradley & Associates, the electric power industry provides nearly 2.7 million jobs in communities across the United States, including jobs held by employees of electric cooperatives like Dakota Electric. Your cooperative comprises 31% women, slightly higher than the national average of women in the electric power industry.

Over the last decade, more training and opportunities for women have developed across the industry, creating long-term solutions and driving employment for a skilled and diverse future workforce. Today, there are also more efforts to encourage girls and young women to consider science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education from a young age. Why is this important? “Women in STEM jobs earn 33% more than those in non-STEM occupations and experience a smaller wage gap relative to men,” according to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy website.

The electric power industry generates many excellent jobs in the United States and provides employment to a significant demographic and educational range — from high schools to trade schools and colleges — and for most skill sets. Dakota Electric offers a variety of careers, like system operators, engineers, computer programmers, technician electricians, accountants, communication specialists, energy and member services representatives, human resources and many more.

As electric cooperatives watch increasing numbers of older workers retire, they are left with a shrinking pool of skilled workers. To meet this growing challenge, a number of educational programs are offered to help younger workers take advantage of career opportunities in the electric power industry. Since a majority of our workforce is skilled labor, we work with Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College to provide apprenticeship programs, on-the-job training and continuing education. Our focus on STEM education is an important part of our future.

Your cooperative is committed to supporting its employees today and to building tomorrow’s diverse energy workforce. Having a skilled and diverse workforce is essential to providing safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for Dakota Electric members.



POWERFUL WOMEN

Meet some of Dakota Electric's influential female staff



Vicki Aubrecht
Network
Manager



Betty Jo Kiesow
VP of Engineering and
Administration



Jane Siebenaler
Business Account
Executive



Janet Zimmer
Technician Electrician
Crew Chief

Degree/Certificates:
Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology with a specialization in Web Application Security and Development.

- Previous Titles:**
- Mail Room Attendee
 - Member Service Representative
 - Meter Reader
 - Billing Administrator
 - Network Administrator

"Dakota Electric is a great company and has provided me with personal growth and an opportunity to build my career. I'm given the chance to learn something new every day."

Degree: Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering and a Masters of Business Administration graduate degree.

- Previous Titles:**
- Energy Services Representative
 - Operations Engineer
 - System Design Manager
 - Vice President of Engineering

"No matter what point you are in your life, if you want to do something, go for it! Don't let anyone hold you back."

Degree/Certificates:
Associate's Degree in Accounting, Powerline Specialist and Certified Energy Manager certificates.

- Previous Titles:**
- Powerline Specialist
 - Energy Services Representative

"Dakota Electric has a strong company culture and a positive work environment. The cooperative has supported me in my endeavors as I continue to refine my industry skills and knowledge."

Degree: Associate's Degree in Electrical Construction and Maintenance.

- Previous Titles:**
- Apprentice Technician Electrician
 - Journeyman Technician Electrician

"The career opportunities for women in the electrical industry are growing and are seemingly endless. I jumped in blindly and have loved this rewarding career!"



HIGHER REBATES!

During these uncertain times, Dakota Electric is providing enhanced rebates and special promotions to help its members. Offers are only available for equipment purchased June 1, 2020, through September 30, 2020. Learn more by contacting the Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243 or email energyexperts@dakotaelectric.com. Please shop locally and support our communities!

Special Promotions	Description	Rebate Amount
Heat Pump System	Tuneup	\$50
	ENERGY STAR® Ductless air-source heat pump	\$450 to \$750
	*Air-source heat pump (> 8.2 or > 9.0 HSPF) (Registered Contractor Required)	\$1,000 or \$2,000
Central Air Conditioner	Tuneup	\$50
	Central air conditioner SEER 15-16+ (Registered Contractor Required)	\$380 to \$430
Electric Water Heaters	*First-time enrollment on an Energy Wise® Interruptible Program	\$250
	*First-time enrollment on an Energy Wise Storage Program	\$500
ENERGY STAR Refrigerator	Requires recycling of the replaced unit	\$150
ENERGY STAR Freezer	Requires recycling of the replaced unit	\$150
Working Refrigerator/Freezer Harvest (recycling only)	Does not require purchase of a new ENERGY STAR appliance; must be in working order.	\$150
Dehumidifier	Must be ENERGY STAR rated	\$50
Electric Dryer	Must be ENERGY STAR rated	\$50

*TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Rebate amounts are based on energy-efficiency ratings. Some rebate applications are only available through registered contractors. Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice. *Equipment must be installed on an Energy Wise interruptible or storage program to qualify.*



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > [MEMBER SERVICES](#) > [PROGRAMS & REBATES](#) > [FOR YOUR HOME](#) > [PROMOTIONS](#)

In honor of National 811 Day on Aug. 11, we remind you to always call before you dig!

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

2. WAIT

Wait "two-to-three" days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.





HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

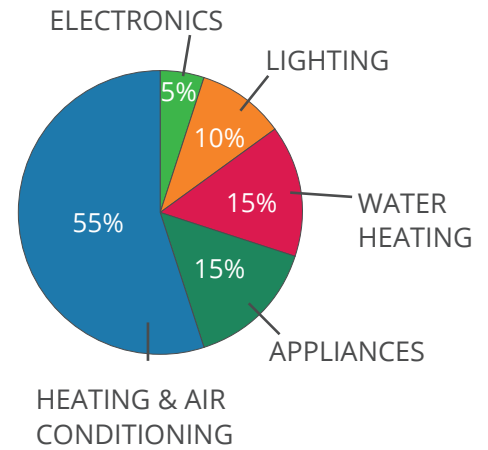
Estimating electricity use and cost

Step 1: Your electric bill is determined by the number of kilowatt-hours (kWh) used during a billing period. Your average kWh cost equals the dollar amount of the energy portions of your electric bill, divided by kWh used. **$\$150 \div 1,200 \text{ kWh} = 12.5\text{¢ per kWh}$** .

Step 2: Wattage determines electrical use per hour and can be found on the serial plate of the appliance. Electric load may also be expressed in volts and amps, rather than watts. If so, multiply volts times amperes to determine the wattage. **$120 \text{ volts} \times 12.1 \text{ amps} = 1,452 \text{ watts}$** .

Step 3: Use the formula shown in the following example to estimate use and cost. A light uses 100 watts and is left on for 15 hours. How many kWh are used and what does it cost you? **$\text{kWh used} = (100 \text{ watts} \times 15 \text{ hours}) \div 1,000 \text{ watts} = 1.5 \text{ kWh}$** . **Your cost = $1.5 \text{ kWh} \times 12.5\text{¢} = 18.75\text{¢}$** .

AVERAGE HOME ENERGY USE



Source: Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources

ELECTRIC APPLIANCE	TYPICAL ENERGY USAGE	AVG. MONTHLY COST AT 12.5¢/KWH
Refrigerator - ENERGY STAR	34 kWh/mo	\$4.25
Dishwasher	30 kWh/mo	\$3.75
Oven	45 kWh/mo	\$5.63
Clothes Washer	8 kWh/mo	\$1
Clothes Dryer	83 kWh/mo	\$10.38
Furnace Fan Automatic	100-200 kWh/mo	\$12.50 - \$25
*Central A/C (3000 watts)	500 kWh/mo	\$62.50
1,500 Watt Portable Heater	280-1080 kWh/mo	\$35 - \$135
Water Heater	400 kWh/mo	\$50
Dehumidifier	81-690 kWh/mo	\$10.13 - \$86.25
Video Game System	3.4 kWh/mo	\$0.43
Cell Phone	1-3 kWh/mo	\$0.125 - \$0.38
Computer	20 kWh/mo	\$2.50

The first step to better energy management is understanding how your home and habits affect your bill. Use this guide to help you make informed energy decisions.

Figures are based on the average use of an appliance in good working condition. Actual use will vary based on the number of hours used and the age and condition of equipment.

*Calculations based on average cooling hours (500) per cooling season.



CONTACT THE **ENERGY EXPERTS®** AT 651-463-6243 FOR INFORMATION ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS AND REBATES OR VISIT: WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > **MEMBER SERVICES > PROGRAMS & REBATES**

Q&A

Meter and load control receiver upgrade

Dakota Electric is in the process of updating our older meters to advanced digital meters to better serve our members. We sat down with Dakota Electric's project owner, Craig Turner, to discuss the most frequently asked questions surrounding the project.

What is the timeline for the upgrade?

New meters and load control receivers (LCRs) are currently being installed. We expect the completion date for new meters to be the end of 2021 and new LCRs to be the end of 2022. Our members will be notified by postcard prior to the upgrade, but we encourage them to also visit www.dakotaelectric.com or follow us on social media for timely information.

Are there benefits to the upgrade?

Yes, many! New metering technology can communicate meter readings and outage information directly to our office. This will help us prevent outages by identifying failing equipment or overloaded situations before they turn into extended power outages. When an outage does occur, the new system will collect information from individual meters and automatically report the outage so power can be restored.

New equipment will also support the increased integration of renewable energy on our distribution system.

Will the member experience a power interruption during the upgrade?

Members' power may be briefly interrupted and electronic devices may need to be reset. That said, the outage should only last a few minutes.

Does the member need to be home during the upgrade?

No, all work will be completed outside. However, we will knock on members' doors before we attempt to

install the equipment. We respectfully ask our members make sure their meter is accessible to our technicians.

How will members know when their equipment will be upgraded?

Our members will receive a postcard in the mail notifying them of the upgrade. The postcard will list commonly asked questions and provide the member with contact information should they have any questions.

How will the installation process work? What steps will Dakota Electric take to ensure the public's health and safety?

To ensure public safety, each meter technician must take their temperature prior to their shift. They will carry identification and drive vehicles with Anixter's logo — our contractor for the project — and Dakota Electric's logo. Additionally, each technician will wear a work vest with Dakota Electric's logo displayed on the back. Once they arrive at a member's home, they will knock and present themselves. Technicians will follow social distancing guidelines and wear a mask while making contact with the member.

The meter technician will replace the equipment on the exterior of the home. Before-and-after photos will be taken to ensure accuracy of the installation. The entire process will take around 10-to-15 minutes for every meter and 15-to-30 minutes for every load control receiver.

After they're finished upgrading the equipment, they will leave a door hanger indicating a successful installation.



Craig Turner
Sr. Principal &
Regulatory Engineer



EMAIL METERS@DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION OR VISIT: DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM >
ADVANCED METER UPGRADE

We'll Work With You

The past few months have been difficult for many of our commercial and residential members. We recognize that Dakota Electric Association is a critical service and that we play an important role as we keep the lights on for you, our members. We also recognize that many of our members may be experiencing financial difficulties during these unusual times.

It is important that you reach out to us if you are unable to pay your bill. We will work with you to establish a payment plan for your account. Our Member Services staff is available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 651-463-6212 or 1-800-874-3409, or email customerservice@dakotaelectric.com.

Energy Assistance Resources Available:

Scott-Carver-Dakota CAP Agency
651-322-3500 | 2496 145th St. W., Rosemount, MN 55068

360 Communities | 952-985-5300
501 East Highway 13, Suite 112, Burnsville, MN 55337

Dakota County Economic Assistance
651-554-5611 | 1 Mendota Road W., Suite 100, West St. Paul, MN 55118

Goodhue County Health & Human Services
651-385-3200 | 426 West Ave., Red Wing, MN 55066

Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.
507-316-0610 | 1414 North Star Dr., Zumbrota, MN 55992

Rice County Social Services
507-332-6115 | 320 3rd St. NW., Faribault, MN 55021

Scott County Human Services
952-445-7751 | 200 4th Ave. W., Shakopee, MN 55379

Rate Case Update

On September 19, 2019, Dakota Electric submitted a request to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) for approval to increase annual revenue by about \$8.7 million or 4.3%. A 3% interim rate increase went into effect on members' electricity use in November 2019 and has shown up as the "Interim Rate Increase" on members' bills since December 2019.

On June 18, 2020, the Commission heard a summation of the positions taken by parties to the cooperative's general rate case including Dakota Electric, the Minnesota Department of Commerce and the Office of the Attorney General.

After considering information submitted by all parties, and recommendations from the Administrative Law Judge who presided over the case, the MPUC approved an annual increase in revenue of about \$8.5 million or 4.25%. The Commission decision approves about 98% of the revenue increase Dakota Electric requested.

At the time of publication, a formal written order is expected in July, after which there will be required compliance filings. The remaining annual revenue increase will likely be applied to members' electricity use around October.



EMAIL RATES@DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM OR VISIT:
DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > [MEMBER SERVICES](#) > [BILLING & PAYMENT](#) > [RATE CASE](#)

Wind Tour Canceled

Annual wind farm tours are canceled this year due to the coronavirus. We plan to resume the tours again next year. Watch for more information next August. Thank you.



Editor's Note

Information, promotional offers and events are accurate at the time of publication. For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website www.dakotaelectric.com. Thank you.



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Board Meeting**
August, 27 8:30 a.m.
Board meetings are being held virtually.
- All other upcoming events are canceled until further notice.

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DAKOTA ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION

CONNECT WITH US!



dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar

DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM

THE WORLD'S GONE SMART, BUT SO HAVE WE.

Follow us on social media for valuable energy-saving tips, outage communication and important cooperative/industry information that may impact your electric bill.



inside CIRCUITS

August 2020

For Dakota Electric Members



Women in Power
(Pages 2 and 3)



@dakotaelectric