

SEPTEMBER 2020

CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

**New EV
Technology
Installed!**

(Pages 2 and 3)

4-5

SAVE ENERGY & MONEY

EV and renewable energy programs. Last chance for higher rebates!

6

CO-OP CORNER

Letter from member shows value of service.

7

CO-OP NEWS

Cold Weather Rule, and Energy Assistance Resources available.

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

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Plugging In

Understanding Electric Vehicle Charging

Trading a gas pump for a plug is a wonderful thing. Yet, recharging an electric vehicle is different from refueling a gas vehicle.

Rather than going to a gas station when the tank is empty, EV drivers charge where they park, adding range at home, at work, in town and even out of town.

Types of Charging

Charging an EV requires plugging into a charger connected to the electric grid, also called electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE). There are three major categories of chargers, based on the amount of power the charger can provide:

AC Level One

Provides charging through a 120-volt AC plug and does not require installation of additional charging equipment. Every EV comes with a level-one charger, which takes approximately 24 hours to fully charge.

AC Level Two

Provides charging through a 240-volt plug and requires the installation of additional charging equipment by a qualified electrician/installer. Level-two chargers take approximately four-to-six hours to fully charge an EV.

DC Fast-Charge

Provides charging through a 480-volt AC input and requires specialized, high-powered charging equipment and special equipment in the vehicle itself. This format is used in public charging stations,

especially along heavy-traffic corridors and can charge 80% of the EV battery in 20-to-30 minutes.

Charging On The Go

People primarily charge their electric vehicles at home using a level-one or level-two charger, but there are also tens of thousands of charging stations throughout the U.S.

While public charging infrastructure and battery technology is continually improving, planning is still required for long trips. Drivers can check PlugShare.com and ElectrifyAmerica.com to find charging stations that will fit their needs.

EV Charging Costs

On a national average, it costs less than half as much to travel the same distance in an EV than it does in a conventional vehicle. Additionally, drivers can choose how they want to power their electric vehicle at home by checking with their utility company. Dakota Electric members interested in powering their EV with renewable energy, or charging at a lower rate, should call Dakota Electric's Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243 for options. These programs cut fuel cost and offer a convenience not available to drivers of traditional gasoline-powered vehicles.

To learn more about EVs and charging options from Dakota Electric, visit DakotaElectric.com or contact our Energy Experts at 651-463-6243.



NEW TECHNOLOGY

Four electric vehicle chargers installed at Dakota Electric headquarters promote the advancement of EV infrastructure.

As the general public's awareness of electric vehicle technology increases, more of our members are comfortable with purchasing and owning a plug-in EV. On average, we receive a call a day from members interested in learning more about electric vehicles and charging. Throughout the years, this conversation has shifted from inquiring about the types of electric vehicles available, to already owning one or considering purchasing a second.

Dakota Electric has enrolled 461 electric vehicles in one of our two special EV programs to ensure home charging comes at a discounted rate. The success of this program, coupled with the advancement of EV technology becoming more mainstream, allows us to expand services for our members.

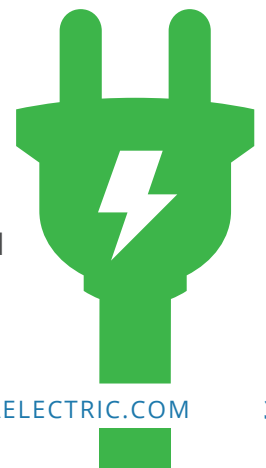
In August, we installed four level-two, pay-per-use chargers at our Farmington headquarters. These chargers are available for use by visiting members, employees and the general public through the ChargeHub app. We also added three EVs to our

fleet — two Chevy Bolts and a Hyundai Kona — that use dedicated chargers in our vehicle maintenance area.

While studies show that between 80% to 90% of EV charging happens at home, EV charging infrastructure is equally important for the advancement of EVs in the marketplace. On extended drives or road trips, EV owners look for available public charging options to make it to their destinations and back — often spending time and money at local businesses as their vehicles charge.

As an advocate for electric vehicles, having a public EV charging station helps promote electric vehicle usage and further educate our members about the benefits of electric vehicles.

Chargers will be available for community use soon. Those interested in learning more should contact the Energy Experts at 651-463-6243.





PROGRAMS

ChargeWise For Your EV



Time of Use Program

An electric vehicle charger installed on Dakota Electric's time-of-use rate will always receive electricity, so you can charge your vehicle whenever needed. A special meter is installed that allows the rate to fluctuate based on the time of day you charge your EV.

Storage Program

Dakota Electric's storage rate offers members the lowest-cost off-peak electricity for charging an electric vehicle, but the hours available are restricted to 11 p.m. – 7 a.m. Electricity for charging your EV is available only during off-peak hours. Power will not be supplied outside of the off-peak hours and the charger must be hard wired into your circuit panel.

Revolt For Your EV



Power your EV with 100% wind energy, for the life of the vehicle, at no extra cost by signing up for Revolt. Submit a copy of your dealership invoice or vehicle title with your Revolt application to Dakota Electric, and we will send you a confirmation packet. Plug-In Electric Vehicles (PEV) and Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV) are eligible. Download the application from our website at DakotaElectric.com.

Wellspring For Your Home



While the electricity delivered to your home includes increasing amounts of renewable energy, our Wellspring Renewable Energy® program gives members the option to do more for the environment.

Wellspring Renewable Energy® Program

Renewable energy is purchased in 100 kWh blocks. For each 100 kWh block purchased, there is an additional charge on your electric bill of \$0.20 for wind energy or \$2 for solar energy. Members have the option to purchase the same amount of 100 kWh blocks each month, or purchase blocks based on the amount of energy they use.



TO ENROLL IN WELLSPRING, REVOLT OR CHARGEWISE, CONTACT THE [ENERGY EXPERTS AT 651-463-6243](tel:651-463-6243)
OR VISIT: WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM



HIGHER REBATES END SEPT. 30

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

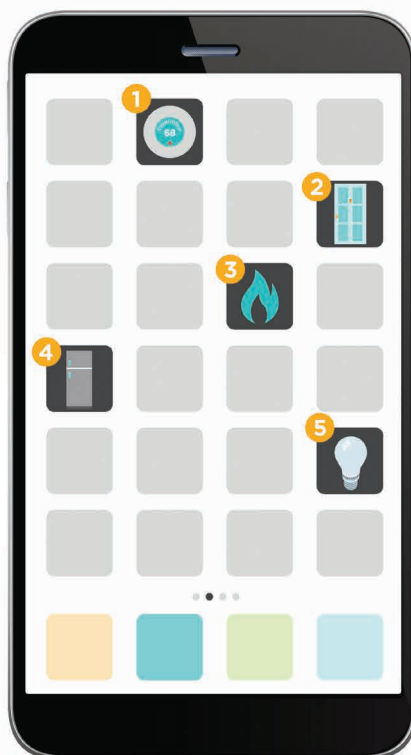
TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Rebate amounts are based on energy-efficiency ratings. Some rebate applications are only available through registered contractors. Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice. *Equipment 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](#)

SMART HOME TECH APPS

Smart home technologies are continuously improving, and companion mobile apps take the convenience to a new level. Here are some of the latest app functionalities:



- 1 Smart Thermostat Apps:** Geofencing is a great enhancement for smart thermostat apps. Set a boundary with your smartphone and when you leave the boundary, the thermostat switches to away or return mode.
- 2 Smart Security Apps:** Video doorbells allow you to keep a watchful eye from anywhere and smart security apps send alerts to signal activity outside your home.
- 3 Smart Smoke and CO Sensor Apps:** These apps have the ability to send alerts, conduct status checks and silence alarms – even when you're away.
- 4 Smart Appliance Apps:** App functionality depends on the appliance. Refrigerator cameras allow you to see what needs to be stocked (while grocery shopping!), and smart dryers can sense when electric use is high and turn off.
- 5 Smart Lighting Apps:** Control lighting options for individual rooms. You can adjust brightness and color all from the convenience of your smartphone!

Source: NRECA

THE COOPERATIVE WAY

As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our community. So, when we receive a letter from a member thanking us for our service, we are happily reminded of the foundation on which our cooperative is built; commitment to community.

We are a member-owned, not-for-profit electric distribution cooperative founded by local farmers in 1937 with the help of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). While the larger environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains the same. By working together, we

can continue to do good things for our community. We would like to share the kind words written by one of our members and express our gratitude. We are honored to serve you all.

"Dear Sir,

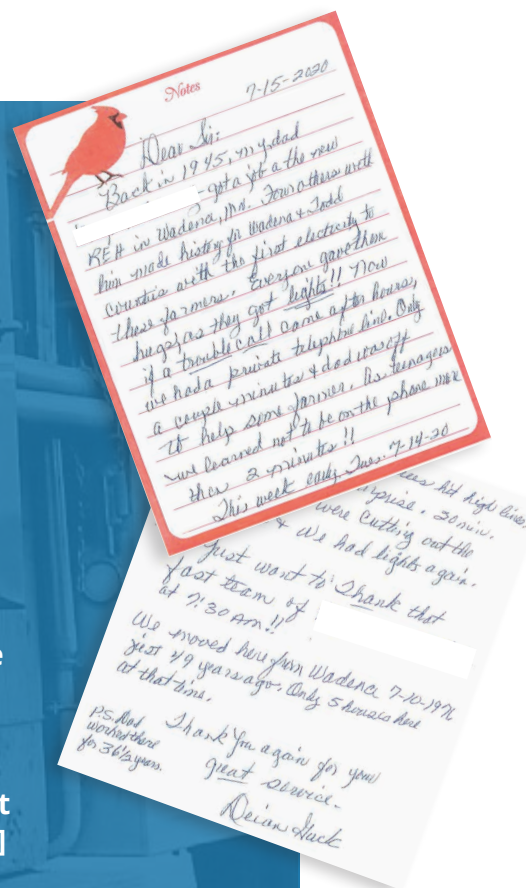
Back in 1945, my dad got a job at the new REA in Wadena, MN. Four others with him made history for Wadena and Todd Counties with the first electricity to these farmers. Everyone gave them hugs, as they got lights!!

Now if a trouble call came after hours, we had a private telephone line. Only a couple minutes and dad was off to help some farmer. As teenagers, we learned not to be on the phone more than two minutes!!

This week early Tuesday, July 14, 2020, our lights went out! Trees hit high lines. Now to my surprise, 20 minutes later and a team was cutting down the branches. We had lights again!

Just want to thank that fast team of [Address Redacted] at 7:30 a.m.!! We moved here from Wadena on July 10, 1971, just 49 years ago. Only five houses here at that time. Thank you again for your great service.

P.S. Dad worked there for 36 ½ years."



July 2020

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

Cold Weather Rule

Are you struggling to pay your utility bills? Members can avoid disconnection or be eligible for reconnection between Oct. 15 and April 15 by following steps outlined by Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule.

Watch for your September bill statement between Sept. 16 and Oct. 7. The bill will include a Cold Weather Rule brochure with more information on program details and contact information for agencies that provide utility payment assistance.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > **BILLING & PAYMENT > ELECTRIC RATES & CONSUMER RIGHTS**

Assistance for Military Service Personnel

If a member is ordered into active duty, for deployment or for a change of duty station, Minnesota law may protect these military personnel and their families from shutoff if they cannot pay their utility bills in full.

Call 651-463-6212 to get an application and set up a payment plan. You must keep your payment plan to qualify for protection.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > **BILLING & PAYMENT > FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**



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**
Sept. 24, 8:30 a.m.
Board meetings are being held virtually.
- **Labor Day**
Sept. 7
Office Closed.
- **All other upcoming events are canceled until further notice.**

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAKOTA ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION

CONNECT WITH US!



dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar

DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM



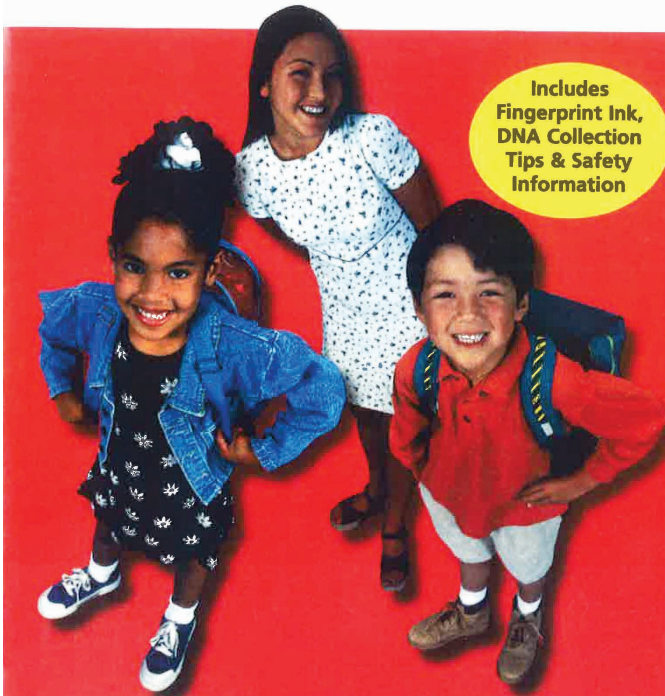
TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME[®]

McGruff[®] SAFE KIDS ID KIT

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.

Includes
Fingerprint Ink,
DNA Collection
Tips & Safety
Information



Inside CIRCUITS

September 2020

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