

DECEMBER 2020

CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

MIESVILLE
FIRE DEPT.



COMMUNITY
AWARDS &
DONATIONS
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DAKOTA
ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION
Your Touchstone Energy
Cooperative

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MONEY BACK

\$4.4 million returned
to members in 2020

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METER UPDATE

Our new meters are helping
us serve you better

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

DISTRICT 1

John (Jack) DeYoe

David Jones

Gerald F. Pittman | *Chair*

DISTRICT 2

Bill Middlecamp

Jim Sheldon | *Treasurer*

Clay Van De Bogart | *GRE Director*

DISTRICT 3

Kenneth H. Danner | *Secretary*

William F. Holton

Margaret D. Schreiner | *GRE Director*

DISTRICT 4

Paul Bakken | *Vice Chair*

Judy H. Kimmes

Stacy Miller | *MREA Director*



Letter to our members

2020 in review

As 2020 comes to an end, I want to express how proud I am of our employees' accomplishments this year. We tested and refined our business continuity plan, remote work capabilities and operations without sacrificing service to our members. Their knowledge, skills, patience and adaptability made this challenging year very successful.

Our services

Our call center employees worked diligently to assist members struggling to pay their bills, by proactively reaching out to make payment plans and provide energy assistance resources.

Additionally, our utility and engineering departments designed, staked and built electric services to over 1,000 new homes. Approximately 103 miles of electric line were installed to feed new services or replace aging lines. We completed substation upgrades to meet increases in electric load and improve reliability. Lastly, we embarked on a five-year vegetation management plan focused on safety and reliability. We have trimmed trees along approximately 110 miles of line and are scheduled to trim another 30 miles by year end.

Smart meter update

In June, we started installing smart meters as part of our advanced meter upgrade project. By the end of the month, the project will be 40% complete with over 40,000 meters installed. Read more about the benefits we're seeing with these installed meters on page five.

Capital credits

Recently, your co-op's board of directors approved retiring \$4.4 million in capital credits to be returned to members. Learn about their strategic initiative to accelerate the capital credits pay-back program on page three.

Your power

We are also proud of where our power supply is headed. Our wholesale power supplier, Great River Energy, is making the bold move to close its last coal power plant in 2022, replacing it with a significant amount of wind energy and market purchases. Great River Energy's generation portfolio is expected to be 95% carbon free by 2025 — well ahead of state and national mandates.

It has been a pleasure to serve you in 2020. We look forward to what's to come in 2021.

— **Greg Miller**
President and CEO

FOCUS ON:

\$4.4 million returned to members

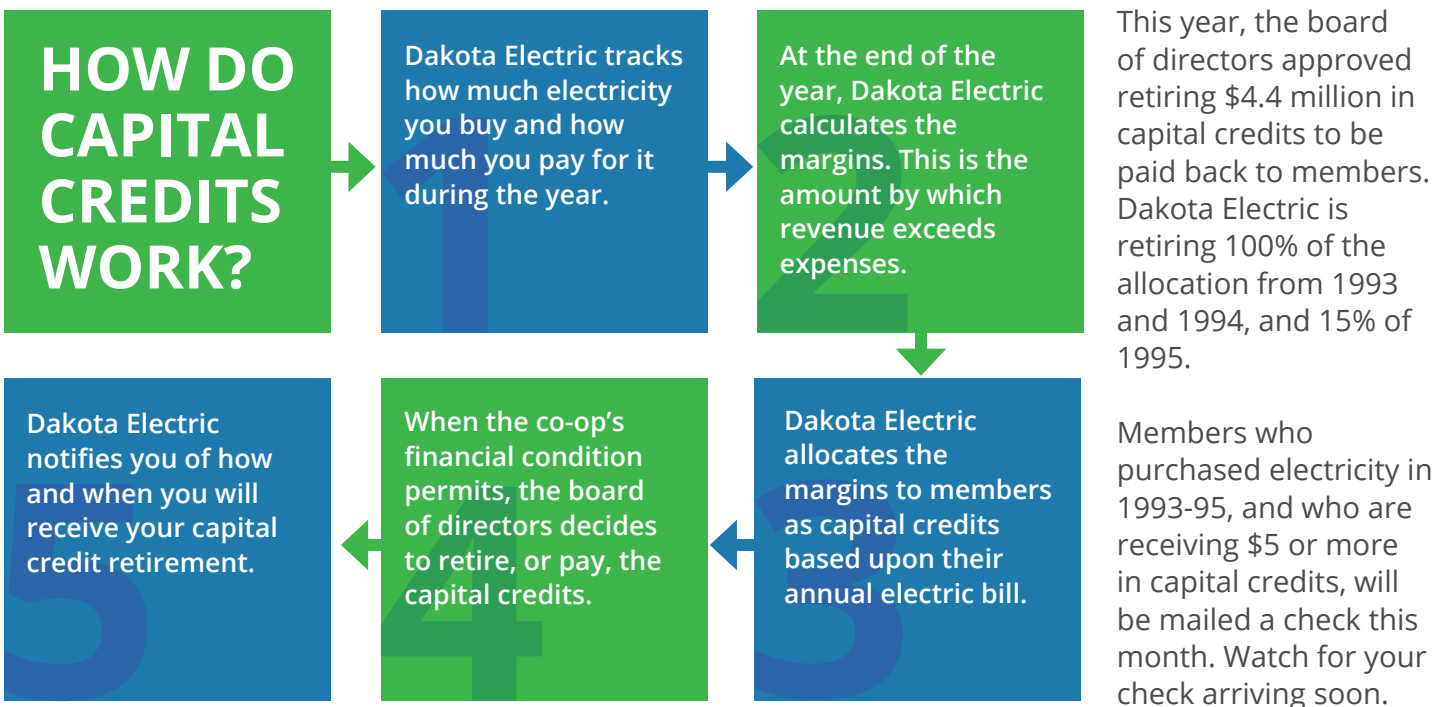


One of the benefits of being a member of Dakota Electric means you get a portion of the cooperative's margins. When Dakota Electric's annual revenue exceeds expenses, it returns the margins — or capital credits — to members based on their annual electric bill.

While we allocate capital credits to members each year, the money is not paid out right away. Capital credits are reinvested to reduce borrowing and interest payments, keeping rates as low as possible.

Dakota Electric's board of directors approves the payment of capital credits annually. Currently, our capital credit program is on a 25-year rotation, retiring the oldest credits first.

During the cooperative's 2019 strategic planning review, the board of directors decided to accelerate the capital credits pay-back program. They set a goal to achieve a 15-year rotation by 2025. To reach this goal, we will return approximately \$22 million of capital credits over the next five years, or an estimated \$4.4 million per year.



To learn more about capital credits, email capitalcredits@dakotaelectric.com or call **651-463-6212**.



LEARN MORE ABOUT CAPITAL CREDITS: [DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > ABOUT US > CAPITAL CREDITS](https://dakotaelectric.com/about-us/capital-credits)



Schools

Since 2013, Dakota Electric has donated more than \$340,000 of unclaimed capital credits to school districts in its service area. This year, Burnsville and Hastings school districts received \$25,000 each, which will be used to fund specific educational projects and reach district goals.



Burnsville Superintendent Dr. Theresa Battle (center left) and Lisa Rider (center right), director of business services, are pictured with Dakota Electric Association's board directors Jerry Pittman (L) and Clay Van De Bogart (R).



Hastings Superintendent Dr. Robert McDowell is pictured with Dakota Electric Association's board directors Judy Kimmes (L) and Ken Danner (R).

FOCUS ON:

Community



Miesville Fire Chief Tom Latuff recently won the 2020 Dakota Spirit of Excellence Award. The award recognizes first responders who demonstrate leadership, dedication to serving others and teamwork. Surrounded by family, Latuff was presented the award by Dakota Electric board directors Judy Kimmes and Jerry Pittman.



Greenvale Township Supervisor Tony Rowan was awarded the Outstanding Township Leader of the Year Award. Dakota Electric board directors Margaret Schreiner and Bill Middlecamp presented the award to Rowan during a virtual Dakota County Township Officers Association meeting.



READ THE FULL STORIES BY VISITING: [DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > NEWS & EVENTS > NEWSROOM](https://dakotaelectric.com/news-events/newsroom)



New smart meters are alerting us to potential problems ahead of time, so we can provide better reliability for our members.

METER UPDATE

We are excited to announce that our new meter project is on track to be 40% complete by the end of 2020.

Since June of 2020, Dakota Electric installed approximately 40,000 meters and 9,000 load control receivers (LCRs) as part of our advanced meter upgrade project. We expect the remaining new meters will be installed by end of 2021 and new LCRs by the end of 2023.

We want to extend a special thank you to our members. Crews installing the new meters have mentioned multiple times how kind our members have been throughout this process.

We never expected to be upgrading our service in the middle of a pandemic. We really appreciate how you have treated our workers with kindness and patience during this time. Thank you all!



New meters are helping us serve you better

Newly installed smart meters began reporting voltage dips at a few members' homes. Our dispatch center called the members and asked if they were experiencing any dips in voltage. One member confirmed they were, but the others had not noticed any issues with their power. We dispatched a crew to investigate what was causing the smart meters to report the dips. While inspecting the transformer, our crew found a bad connection. They resolved the problem by replacing the transformer during a brief planned outage, potentially avoiding a longer unplanned outage in the future.



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

Are you struggling to pay your bill?

Dakota Electric Resources

If you need more time to pay the amount owed, we will work with you to establish a payment plan for your account. You can contact us 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.

Community Resources

Energy Assistance Programs are available if you, your family or someone you know needs energy assistance.

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ENERGY ASSISTANCE WEBSITE: [HTTPS://MN.GOV/COMMERCE/CONSUMERS/CONSUMER-ASSISTANCE/ENERGY-ASSISTANCE/](https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/)



Beneficial Electrification Corner



Did you know...

Source: NRECA

Electricity is getting cleaner and more renewable, so anything that uses electricity will have a **diminishing environmental impact over time.**

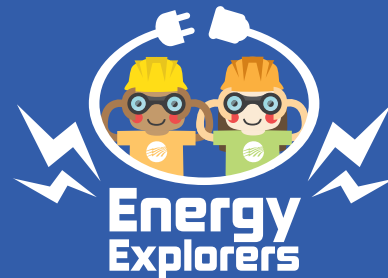


WINTER WONDERLAND WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the words associated with winter in the puzzle below?

Use the word bank to check your work.

Source: NRECA



WORD BANK:

- snowflake
- mittens
- scarf
- snowball
- chilly
- icicles
- cocoa
- earmuffs
- fireplace
- blanket

E	M	C	C	G	H	S	L	B	N	F	L	L	B	L
P	K	E	A	R	M	U	F	F	S	L	R	L	K	L
P	B	A	V	I	S	I	I	E	A	X	A	A	K	L
X	W	E	L	H	S	E	T	B	W	N	D	I	C	U
P	B	C	N	F	G	O	W	T	K	I	I	C	B	S
N	L	A	F	Y	W	O	Q	E	E	Z	G	I	C	R
R	C	L	C	E	N	O	T	Y	G	N	E	C	V	U
L	O	P	C	S	X	M	N	I	D	Y	S	L	I	H
W	A	E	H	D	N	S	M	S	A	Z	C	E	B	R
Z	I	R	Y	L	L	I	H	C	O	U	J	S	K	W
C	X	I	R	Q	H	C	Z	L	C	A	X	W	W	L
P	H	F	O	Y	V	S	I	W	O	H	O	C	S	M
B	P	I	P	C	O	O	Y	J	C	D	A	J	Y	L
I	Z	W	Q	F	H	E	V	F	M	D	S	P	S	P
Y	F	E	U	H	Z	V	D	N	L	W	R	B	Q	F



Please shovel a path to your meter

Reading meters can be dangerous work. An icy and snowy surface can cause life-changing slips, trips and falls.

As the snow flies this winter, please remember to shovel a clear path to your electric meter and make sure your meter is not blocked by snow or ice.

A blocked meter can result in injury to Dakota Electric staff, or an estimated bill if the meter reader cannot access your meter to read it.



Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Board Meeting**
Dec. 17 8:30 a.m.
Board meetings are being held virtually.
- **Office Closed**
Dec. 24-25, Jan. 1
- **Nominating Committee Application Deadline**
Dec. 7 4:30 p.m.
- **Board Candidate Filing Deadline**
Dec. 7 4:30 p.m.

dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar

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