

JANUARY 2021

CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

THANK YOU!

To our local business owners and their employees, we appreciate you!

Lakeville's Hampton Inn employee, Leighandra T., deep cleans a guest room during the COVID-19 pandemic in early December. The hotel follows Hilton's CleanStay program partnered with Lysol® to ensure their facilities are properly sanitized before guests check in.

(Pages 2-4)



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

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David Jones

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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*

The Power of Local Businesses

Supporting our neighbors

Commitment to Community. Local business owners are hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, and while many are struggling financially, there is a silver lining — an increased sense of community. In times of crisis, small businesses depend on their community to rally behind them. Similarly, those same businesses remind us how important they are to the economic and social fabric of our society.

In an effort to support small businesses during this time, local chambers of commerce, convention and visitors bureaus and other community organizations are working tirelessly to provide resources to neighborhood establishments. They are sharing information and providing education on COVID-19 safety guidelines and mandates, and connecting small businesses with supply chains to access hand sanitizer and PPE. Our community is using social media to network for neighboring mom-and-pop shops and providing innovative solutions for marketing online. Dakota Electric is proud to be a longtime member of these organizations and is dedicated to partnering with those who support our small business members.

Difficult situations inspire

inventive solutions. Many local businesses have made clever pivots to service customers without human contact. While restaurants and bars offer online ordering and curbside service, some neighborhood businesses engage the public directly. Eagan Arms Public House owners, Lee Tomlin and Tracie Munce, opened their Eagan restaurant in February

2020. To ensure their success during the pandemic, they began hosting virtual food tasting events on Zoom and created Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner packages for curbside service. However, even with creative solutions, the pandemic still poses problems for them and other entrepreneurs (Page 4).

When you shop local, your dollars stay in the community.

Local businesses return a total of 52% of their revenue to the local economy, compared to 14% of national chain retailers according to the Institute of Local Self-Reliance. Additionally, the Minnesota Department of Education and Economic Development notes that small businesses account for 47% of jobs in Minnesota. Supporting our neighbors by buying local builds a cooperative relationship and helps the whole business community prosper.

As we move past the holiday season, consider shopping local if you have the financial means. Thank you for serving our community. We're all in this together!



If you're a local business member of Dakota Electric, or are looking for other ways to support local businesses, please see Page 3 for available resources.

Bring joy to your favorite local business by following these tips:

Buy local; go directly to the source. Shopping through third-party sites and apps typically reduces the net profit for the merchant. Consider going to the vendor's website or social media accounts to buy directly.

Be social. Increase engagement for your favorite local businesses by liking and sharing their social media posts. Write positive reviews and post photos tagging the business. Word-of-mouth marketing on social media can help struggling businesses engage with their community.

Participate in community events. Check your local chamber of commerce or convention and visitors bureau for online events and contests they may be sponsoring in support of local businesses. Tip: Stay in the loop by following them on social media!

Show the love. With monthly non-negotiable fixed costs, innovation is not always an option for struggling businesses. Make sure the owners and employees of your favorite places know you're rooting for them.



Business resources and free webinars

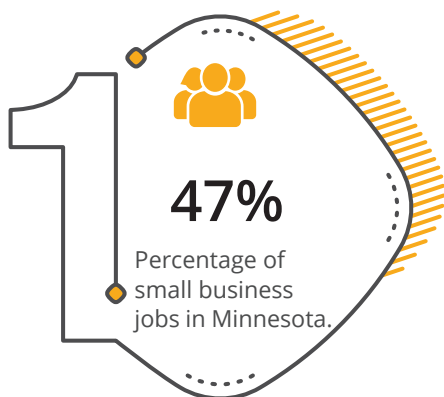


TO FIND YOUR LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OR CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU, VISIT: WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/COVID-19/BUSINESS-RESOURCES

Rebates and programs



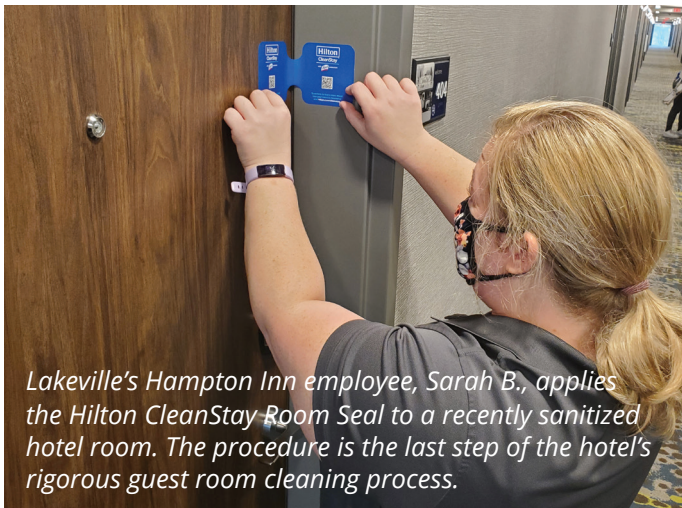
TO FIND DAKOTA ELECTRIC REBATES AND PROGRAMS, VISIT: WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/MEMBER-SERVICES/PROGRAMS-REBATES/FOR-YOUR-BUSINESS/



FOCUS ON:

Local businesses

Hampton Inn by Hilton®



Lakeville's Hampton Inn employee, Sarah B., applies the Hilton CleanStay Room Seal to a recently sanitized hotel room. The procedure is the last step of the hotel's rigorous guest room cleaning process.

Hampton Inn opened with 117 guest rooms in October 2019. Manager Karen Peters runs the hotel and works closely with staff to provide guests a safe and comfortable experience.

How has COVID-19 impacted your business?

COVID-19 has been very tough for the hospitality industry. Occupancy was immediately reduced and we closed the breakfast, pool, fitness and meeting rooms. Public and team-member areas are cleaned at scheduled intervals, and high-touch areas, like elevators and bathrooms, are sanitized hourly. In addition to our rigorous cleaning standards, we follow the Hilton CleanStay program in partnership with Lysol, which adds disinfecting steps for several surfaces in the room to ensure CDC compliance.

How are you getting creative? Through new networking opportunities! We're forming new relationships with companies that continue to travel and work through these difficult times.

How can the public support businesses like Hampton Inn? We ask the public to please use safety precautions, wear masks and follow CDC guidelines when they travel. It helps us do our jobs better and ensures the safety of our guests and employees.

Eagan Arms Public House



Eagan Arms Public House owners, Tracie Munce (L) and Lee Tomlin (R), opened their restaurant in February 2020, one month before Minnesota's COVID-19 restrictions took effect.

Lee Tomlin and Tracie Munce opened Eagan Arms in February 2020 as a family-friendly establishment featuring Scottish, Irish and English food. Residing in Eagan, Lee and Tracie wanted to create a place where the surrounding community could gather and enjoy their time together.

How has COVID-19 impacted your business? The first few months were hard. We opened with 35 employees one month before the COVID-19 lockdown. Initially, we scaled back to the two of us, but slowly built up to 12 employees once we had safety protocols in place. We've maintained virtual contact with all our employees and kept them involved with our operating plans.

How are you getting creative? By learning to engage with our community in different ways. We've created virtual events, amended our takeout menu to focus on family-style meals and worked with a business coach to find innovative solutions. Additionally, through a metro-based business banker, we applied and received funds from the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program.

How can the public support businesses like Eagan Arms Public House? Supporting locally-owned restaurants like Eagan Arms Public House means you support your neighbors. Until indoor dining resumes, we're open for takeout!

Helping Neighbors® helps those in need



Layoffs, medical emergencies, unexpected repairs — these things could happen to anyone and can leave families struggling to make ends meet. Dakota Electric members who contribute to Helping Neighbors help local families pay utility bills when facing unexpected financial struggles.

Dakota Electric distributes Helping Neighbors funds to the local CAP Agency, Salvation Army and 360 Communities, which provide utility assistance to families experiencing hardship.

Please consider making a donation. Monthly donations can be added to your electric bill or you can make a one-time contribution.



CONTRIBUTE TO HELPING NEIGHBORS:
WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM >
 COMMUNITY > HELPING NEIGHBORS



Programs and rebates

We offer a variety of energy-efficiency and renewable-energy programs and rebates to give you more choices, flexibility and control over your energy. For questions, contact the Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243 or email, energyexperts@dakotaelectric.com.



TO FIND REBATES ONLINE, PLEASE VISIT:
WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > PROGRAMS &
 REBATES > FOR YOUR HOME

Are you struggling to pay your bill?

Dakota Electric Resources

If you need more time to pay the amount owed on your electric bill, we will work with you to establish a payment plan. 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

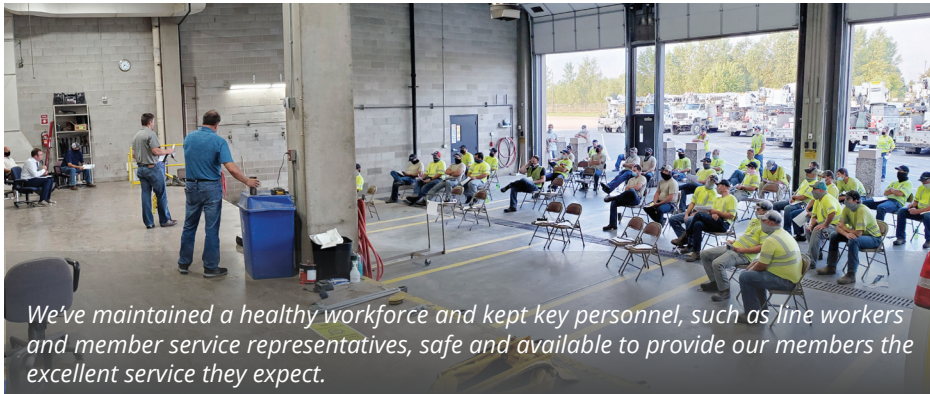
Three Rivers Community Action, Inc. | 507-316-0610 | 1414 North Star Dr., Zumbrota, MN 55992

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/)

2020 IN REVIEW



We've maintained a healthy workforce and kept key personnel, such as line workers and member service representatives, safe and available to provide our members the excellent service they expect.

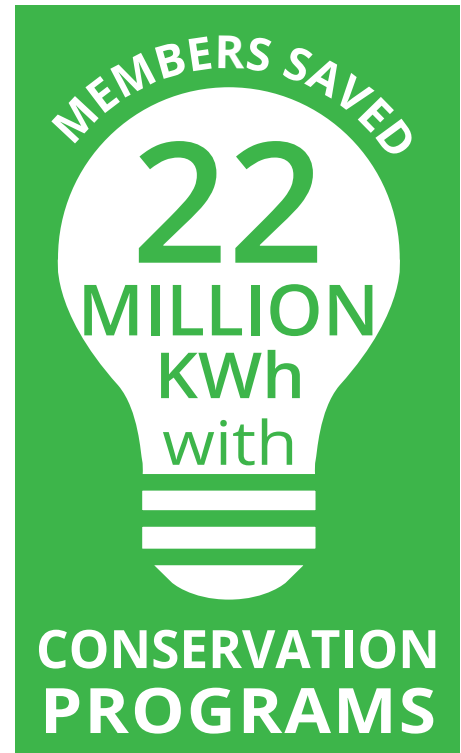
**THANK
YOU FOR
BEING A
MEMBER**



Many of our valued office employees have worked from home since March of 2020.



Dakota Electric Association Board Director Janet Lekson passed away on February 29, 2020. Lekson served on the board of directors for 24 years. We appreciate Janet's many years of service to Dakota Electric!



Our adopted crew chief, Remi, brought our crews big smiles when he climbed on one of our bucket trucks at his home near New Trier.

**MORE THAN
\$130K** | **DONATED
TO THE
COMMUNITY
IN 2020**



The 2020 capital credit checks were mailed on Tuesday, Dec. 15. A total of 43,094 checks were printed and \$3.1 million was returned to our members!

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

(Dakota Electric's power provider)

ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO PORTFOLIO OF POWER SUPPLY RESOURCES.



Keeping
power reliable
and affordable



Adding cleaner
electricity
sources



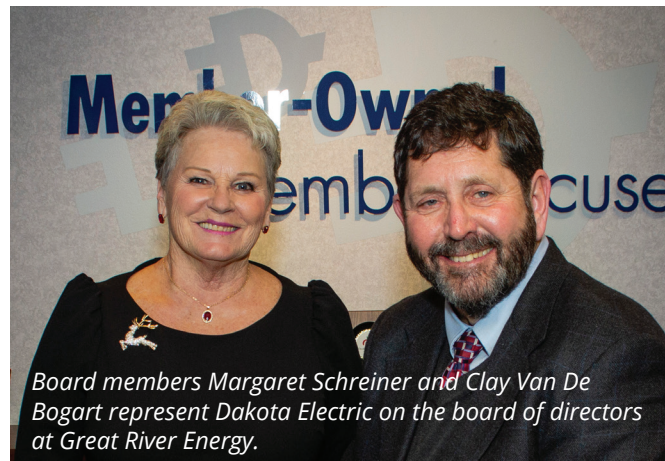
Continuing
to reduce
carbon dioxide
emissions



Great River Energy plans to add 1,100 MW of new wind energy purchases, primarily located in southern Minnesota,



Great River Energy will close Coal Creek Station in the second half of 2022. Located in Underwood, ND, the power plant is the largest coal-fired generation station in North Dakota.



Board members Margaret Schreiner and Clay Van De Bogart represent Dakota Electric on the board of directors at Great River Energy.

By 2025, Great River Energy's power supply resources will be more than 95% carbon dioxide free.

Your electricity brochure

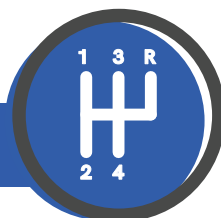
The most recent information on how the electric generation, transmission and distribution systems work, plus the sources, costs and emissions of fuels used in meeting the needs of Dakota Electric's members, is available by visiting our website. You may also request a copy of the brochure be mailed to you by calling 651-463-6212.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > **MEMBER SERVICES** > **MEMBER RESOURCES** > **GENERATING YOUR ELECTRICITY**

Beneficial
Electrification Corner



Did you know...

Electric vehicles are highly efficient, converting around **77% of their power into movement**.

Gas-powered vehicles only convert 12% to 30%.



Source: NRECA

<https://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/evtech.shtml>



Your Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative

4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Board Meeting**
Jan. 28, 8:30 a.m.
Board meetings are being held virtually.
- **Office Closed**
Jan. 1

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAKOTA ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION

CONNECT WITH US!



dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar

DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM

Check out what's inside!

To receive *Circuits*
electronically, subscribe
online at dakotaelectric.com.

2021

Thank you for your business in 2020.
We look forward to serving you in 2021!

24-Hour Emergency Service | Local: 651-463-6201 | Toll-Free: 1-800-430-9722

inside
CIRCUITS

For Dakota Electric Members

THANK YOU
LOCAL
BUSINESSES!
(Pages 2 - 4)

