

MARCH 2021

CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS



Walking through
our meter
installation
process.
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**DAKOTA
ELECTRIC**
ASSOCIATION
Your Touchstone Energy
Cooperative

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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 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*



Exploring Electricity

Redefining how we teach safety

COVID-19 brought many changes to our communities, affecting the way we live, work and interact. Yet one thing remains constant — our commitment to safety.

Over the years, Dakota Electric created a culture of safety by putting our employees' wellbeing, and that of the community, above all else. While the pandemic changed how we approach our everyday health and safety, it also redefined the way we teach electrical safety.

Prior to COVID-19, manager of safety services, Brandon Lunde, promoted safety education in our schools and local communities through electrical safety programs. The Play It Safe Around Electricity program taught children eight and older about electrical safety in an interactive way. Additionally, a more detailed power line safety program was created for public safety personnel, contractors, farmers, and other community organizations and clubs. Annually, Dakota Electric presented 20-30 safety demonstrations, reaching an average of 1,500 to 2,500 people.

To keep electrical safety education in our schools during the pandemic, we created the Exploring Electricity series in the spring of 2020. The three videos, each less than 10 minutes long, focus on teaching electrical safety to elementary students in a fun and engaging way. The videos are available to view on Dakota Electric's YouTube page at www.youtube.com/user/DakotaElectric.

Teachers are encouraged to use the Exploring Electricity series with a lesson plan, or on its own, until we can resume in-person safety demonstrations. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Brandon Lunde at **651-463-6290** or email blunde@dakotaelectric.com.

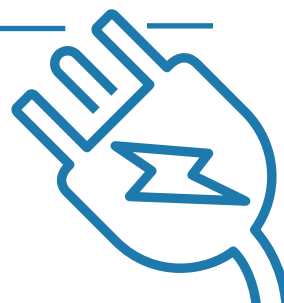
Exploring Electricity

Part 1: Conductors, Insulators and Phases

Part 2: Path to Ground

Part 3: Safety Superhero

www.youtube.com/user/DakotaElectric





FOCUS ON:

2020 Touchstone Energy Community Award

Dakota Electric's Touchstone Energy Community Award recognizes local non-profit organizations that make a difference in the communities we serve. One winner and two runners-up are chosen from applications received. Each receives \$500, and the winner is entered into a statewide competition for a \$1,000 prize. Application information for the 2021 Touchstone Energy Community Award will be in the October issue of *Circuits*.



The Open Door was winner of the 2020 Touchstone Energy Community Award. Executive Director Jason Viana (center right) and Annie Gentilini, communications & events coordinator (center left), are pictured with Dakota Electric directors Jerry Pittman (L) and Clay Van De Bogart (R).



Gobble Gate was a runner up of the 2020 Touchstone Energy Community Award. Dakota Electric board member, Judy Kimmes (center left) presented the award to Gobble Gait organizers and the Hastings Family Services staff and board. From left to right: Mike Swanson, board president; Amy Sutton, associate director; Mayor Mary Fasbender, organizer; Jay Kochendorfer, organizer; and Chris Koop, executive director.



BrainPower in a Backpack was a runner up of the 2020 Touchstone Energy Community Award. Pictured here is coordinator Pam Voigt with Dakota Electric directors Jerry Pittman (L) and Clay Van De Bogart (R).



READ THE FULL STORY BY VISITING:
WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > [NEWS & EVENTS](#) >
[NEWSROOM](#)



STEP-BY-STEP

Walking through our meter installation process

Dakota Electric is working to upgrade more than 116,000 electric meters throughout our service area. Technicians from our contractor, Anixter, are replacing aging meters with advanced meters to improve service and reliability.



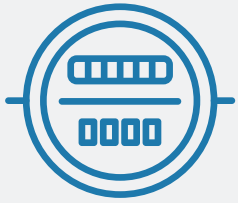
1. To ensure public safety, each meter technician will take their temperature prior to their shift. They will carry identification and drive vehicles with Anixter's logo and Dakota Electric's logo. Additionally, each technician will wear a work vest with Dakota Electric's logo displayed on the back.
2. Postcards will be mailed to members approximately one to three weeks before their scheduled installation. Once a meter technician arrives at the member's home, they will knock and present themselves. All technicians will follow social distancing guidelines and wear a mask while making contact with the member.



3. 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. Some members may experience a brief interruption of power.
4. After the equipment is updated, the meter technician will leave a door hanger indicating a successful installation. Please call **651-460-7499** or email **meters@dakotaelectric.com** if you have any questions. Thank you for your patience as we work to improve our service!



METER BENEFITS



Advanced meters measure and record electricity usage without the need of a meter reader accessing your property every month.

Advanced meters enhance the communication and operation of the distribution system that delivers electricity to our members. This new technology will help Dakota Electric monitor our system for better efficiency and operation, allowing us to have two-way communication to field equipment.



Data is sent to Dakota Electric securely.

New metering technology can communicate meter readings and outage information directly to Dakota Electric's office. The information is collected by the meter, saved in packets and sent via radio frequency back to our office a few times per day. The radio frequency is similar to the technologies used in baby monitors or garage door openers.



Dakota Electric is able to improve internal business processes.

Near real-time data will help us prevent outages by identifying failing equipment or overloaded situations before they turn into extended power outages. Additionally, the new technology provides us with the tools and data needed to troubleshoot problems with the meters. However, we always encourage members to call in if they see or hear anything unusual.



Members receive better service from Dakota Electric.

- Improved restoration and member communications;
- Enhanced reliability and power quality improvements;
- Better integration for renewable energy systems;
- Improved energy usage information and options for our members.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL **651-460-7499**, EMAIL **METERS@DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM** OR VISIT:
WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > ADVANCED METER UPGRADE



LOAD MANAGEMENT

Members can receive electricity at about half the regular rate for loads controlled by one of Dakota Electric's Energy Wise® off-peak programs. Here's what you should know:

In the energy industry, electricity consumption is often referred to as **load**, and the amount of electricity drawn from a utility system at any given time is referred to as **demand**.

WHAT IS LOAD MANAGEMENT?

Load management is the active control of electricity consumption. During a day when **demand** for electricity is high, Dakota Electric shifts the **load** to periods of lower demand.

In other words, when there is too much electricity being consumed at once, we shift the amount taken from the electric grid to a different time of the day when less electricity is consumed. Doing so saves on wholesale power costs and ensures reliability.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Dakota Electric offers members the opportunity to participate in "off-peak" programs. Participating members agree to let Dakota Electric interrupt power to certain electric loads when demand for electricity is high.

For example, participating members allow Dakota Electric to "control" or "cycle" their air conditioner, water heater or some other load for a period of time on high demand days — when the cost of wholesale power is high.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Program participants receive electricity at nearly half the regular rate — meaning you pay less for electricity when you take part in one or more programs.

Additionally, participating in a load management program helps delay the need for further electricity generation and saves Dakota Electric and its members money — a win-win for everyone.



PARTICIPATING MEMBERS HELPED SAVE OVER \$17 MILLION IN WHOLESALE POWER COSTS IN 2020. THANK YOU!

SIGN UP TODAY!

1. Determine which off-peak programs are right for you. Contact Dakota Electric at 651-463-6243 for help.
2. Order your submetering equipment from Dakota Electric. Select an electrical contractor to install the equipment.
3. Electrical permit and inspection is required for all new off-peak installations.
4. Call Dakota Electric at 651-463-6243 to schedule your off-peak activation.

**A back-up heat source is required for whole-house electric heat.*

QUALIFYING OFF-PEAK LOADS:



Water Heating

- Heat-pump water heaters
- Tank-style electric water heaters



Miscellaneous

- Swimming pool pumps
- Heat-pump pool heaters
- Hot tub heaters
- Electric vehicle chargers



Cooling

- Central air conditioners
- Air-source heat pumps
- Ground-source heat pumps



Electric Heating*

- Baseboard heaters
- Garage unit heaters
- In-floor heat coils
- Electric boilers
- Heat pumps
- Hard-wired space heaters
- Electric thermal storage space heaters



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE ENERGY EXPERTS® AT **651-463-6243** OR VISIT: **WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM**
 > MEMBER SERVICES > PROGRAMS REBATES > FOR YOUR HOME > ENERGY WISE LOAD MANAGEMENT



DON'T SWEAT THE THERMOSTAT

An electric thermal storage (ETS) heating system efficiently stores and distributes low-cost heat for individual rooms or an entire home, without sacrificing a single degree of comfort. And with a rebate and low off-peak rate, Dakota Electric® takes the chill off the cost of keeping you toasty.

SAVE UP TO 50%
on electricity for home heating

\$50 REBATE
per kilowatt

0% FINANCING
may be available

FREE IN-HOME AUDIT
for members who heat with LP gas

For more information, call the Energy Experts® at **651-463-6243** or visit **www.dakotaelectric.com**.

Nominating committee selects 2021 director candidates

In accordance with Section 3, Article III, of the bylaws of this Association, we the undersigned nominating committee, in a meeting assembled online January 26, 2021, have selected the following nominees for directorship of said Association to be on the ballot for the 2021 election.

District 1

Gerald (Jerry) Pittman (incumbent) | Kevin Grass

District 2

Clay Van De Bogart (incumbent) | Michael Hanninen

District 3

Kenneth Danner (incumbent) | Jarod Griswold

District 4

Judy Kimmes (incumbent) | Dr. Vijendra Agarwal, Michael Cahn, Philip Hernick, Paula Overby

The 2021 nominating committee is made up of the following people: Bruce Adams, Buzz Anderson, Derik Dautel, Dr. Steven Lucas, Terry Merritt, Mark Pflaum, Don Vasatka and Raymond Yarwood.

Due to COVID-19, the board of directors will not hold an in-person annual meeting in 2021. Learn more about the 2021 election, bylaw changes and annual meeting presentations in the April issue of *Circuits*.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2021 DIRECTOR ELECTION, PLEASE VISIT:
WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > ABOUT US > BOARD OF DIRECTORS > ELECTION INFORMATION



Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Board Meeting**
Mar. 25, 8:30 a.m.
Board meetings are being held virtually.

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ASSOCIATION

CONNECT WITH US!



dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar

DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM

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

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

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