

JULY 2021

CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

Wishing
you and
yours
a joyful
and safe
Fourth of
July!

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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

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David Jones

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Judy H. Kimmes

Stacy Miller | *MREA Director*

ECO Act Passes

Members to benefit from upgrades to Minnesota's energy efficiency standards

After nearly four years of work, the Energy Conservation & Optimization (ECO) Act, a bill led by electric cooperatives, passed the legislature at the close of the regular session with strong bipartisan support and was signed by Governor Walz.

Thank you to our Dakota County legislators for supporting significant and beneficial reform to the state's energy efficiency standards, a cornerstone of the state's energy policy.

Dakota Electric is excited about the improved benefits we can directly pass along to our members because of the proactive provisions in the ECO Act.

The ECO Act gives Dakota Electric more flexibility to recognize and respond to emerging technologies, consumer behaviors and demands. Utility programs that encouraged the adoption of technologies like LED lighting and Energy Star® rated appliances have provided more than \$6 billion in net benefits to the state and supported local jobs in every corner of Minnesota. However, as new technologies have emerged, the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) became outdated and needed reforms to continue providing tangible savings and environmental benefits for energy consumers.

The CIP energy-reduction goal will remain at 1.5% annually, but

a portion can now be achieved through beneficial electrification programs, like Dakota Electric's electric vehicle charging programs.

In addition to allowing utilities to create programs that incentivize adoption and installation of new technologies to help reduce total energy use and save members money, a groundbreaking reform around efficient fuel-switching — substituting electricity for a member's current fuel source — is provided in the ECO Act.

The ECO Act will allow cooperatives to offer programs that substitute electricity for a member's current fuel when those programs reduce: (1) the overall amount of energy; (2) greenhouse gas emissions; and (3) member costs.

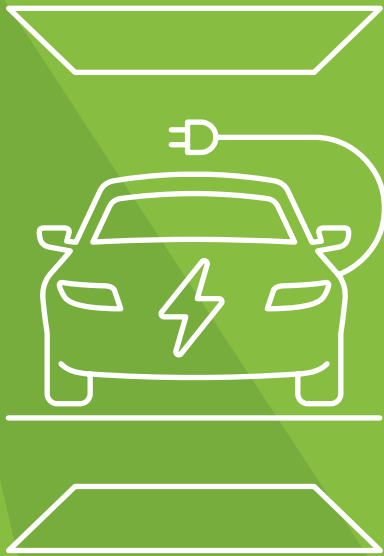
For more than eight decades, Dakota Electric has provided local homes, businesses, schools, hospitals and other essential services with safe, affordable and reliable electricity. The ECO Act will help us further our efforts to help members save money and energy, and continue a decades-long campaign to decarbonize our energy production.

To learn more about our energy efficiency programs, please visit www.DakotaElectric.com or call 651-463-6243 to speak to one of our Energy Experts®.



ChargeWise

BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMS



Beneficial electrification supports the use of more all-electric appliances and equipment, such as electric heat pumps and electric vehicles, and provides users with clean and efficient products. Widespread beneficial electrification reduces greenhouse gas emissions and fosters a more robust and resilient electrical grid.

Dakota Electric's electric vehicle charging programs are the type of innovative, beneficial electrification solution the ECO Act aims to unlock across the state.

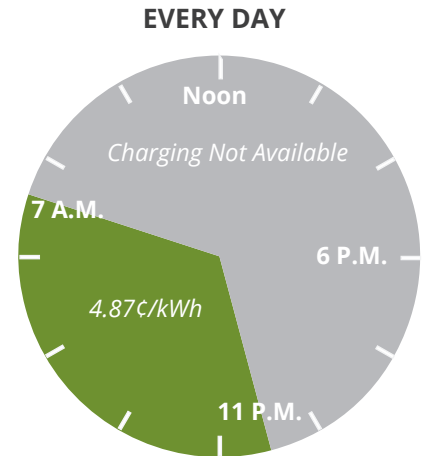
We offer two voluntary options for charging your EV at home. The storage program offers the lowest price, while the time-of-use program provides the most flexibility. Dakota Electric also offers a rebate of up to \$500 to cover the cost of installing a charging circuit on either program. To learn more, contact the Energy Experts at 651-463-6243.



TO LEARN MORE, VISIT: WWW.DAKOTA-ELECTRIC.COM > MEMBER SERVICES > PROGRAMS & REBATES > FOR YOUR HOME > ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

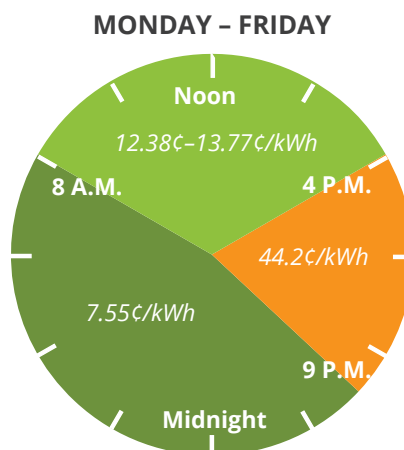
Off-peak storage rate*

Dakota Electric's storage rate offers members the lowest-cost off-peak electricity for charging an EV, but the hours available are the most restrictive. 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 circuit must be dedicated to EV charging.

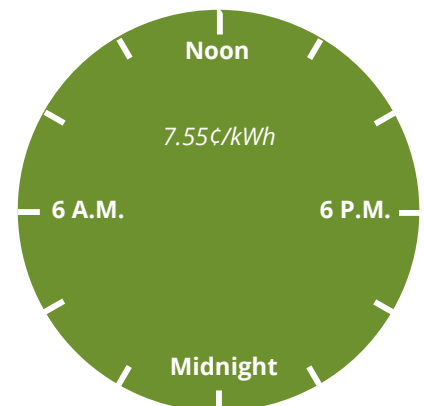


Time-of-use rate*

A 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.



WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS



Holidays include New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

*Additional cost for taxes and the Resource and Tax Adjustment (RTA) applies. Other outlets for your EV that are not off-peak outlets are prohibited when participating in this program.



FOCUS ON:

Heat pumps

With heating and cooling accounting for some of the largest energy expenses for homeowners, it makes sense to install one high-efficiency appliance to keep costs as low as possible.

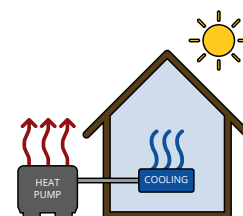
In addition to your furnace, an air-source heat pump (ASHP) uses electricity to heat and cool. It works like an air conditioner (A/C) to cool, and works in reverse to move warmth from outside air into your home to heat.

Cold climate air-source heat pumps (ccASHPs) are a newer technology than a traditional air source heat pump, and are designed to operate down to 0 degrees Fahrenheit.



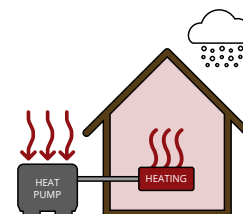
Cooling with ASHPs

ASHPs and ccASHPs offer the same cooling benefit as an A/C. An ASHP's cooling performance is noted with its SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio), same as you would see for A/C units. Look for SEER 15 or higher for improved energy efficiency.



Heating with ASHPs

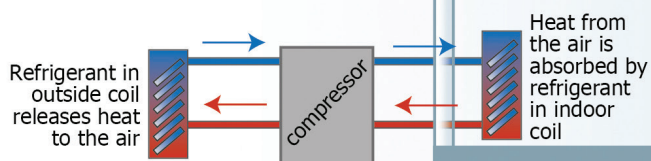
If you want an ASHP to be your primary heating system, you'll need a ccASHP and a back-up heating system. While ccASHPs are more expensive upfront than ASHPs, there is a potential for heating-fuel cost savings if you already heat with electricity or propane. An ASHP's heating performance is noted within its HSPF (heating season performance factor). Look for HSPF 9 for central ccASHPs or HSPF 10 for ductless ccASHPs.



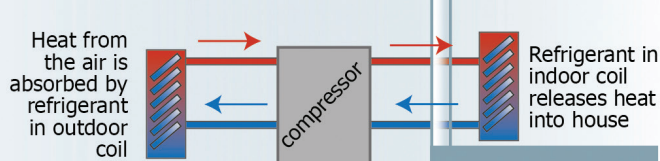
HOW AN AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP WORKS



SUMMER



WINTER



© Collaborative Efficiency

**Some call this offer cool.
Others call it hot.
We say, it's both.**

But remember, it's gone on July 31.

Consider this: not only can you double or triple your rebate on an air-source heat pump during this promotion, you can double up on savings by combining it with a low-cost Energy Wise® off-peak electric rate. Contact us today.



Air-Source Heat Pumps

Air-Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate
≥ 8.2 HSPF	\$1,000
≥ 9.0 HSPF	\$2,000
The technology of today's air-source heat pumps cool and heat your home, even in sub-zero temps, providing efficient, dependable and reliable comfort year-round. Equipment must be enrolled in an Energy Wise® off-peak rate and installed by a qualified contractor to receive the rebate.	

Ductless Air-Source Heat Pumps

Heating Source	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate
Propane/Fuel Oil	\$300	\$450
Electric Heat	\$500	\$750
A ductless air-source heat pump is a good solution for homes with non-ducted heating systems, or for room additions where installing ductwork is not feasible. Ductless air-source heat pumps must have a HSPF ≥ 9.0 to qualify for the rebate.		



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: [DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM](https://dakotaelectric.com) > [MEMBER SERVICES](#) > [PROGRAMS & REBATES](#) > [FOR YOUR HOME](#) > [PROMOTIONS](#)

Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice.

Member Appreciation Event Canceled

Every summer, we host our Member Appreciation Event at the Minnesota Zoo. The event includes free admission and parking and draws more than 6,000 Dakota Electric members and families.

Unfortunately, Dakota Electric is not hosting the Member Appreciation Event at the Minnesota Zoo this year, due to the uncertainty COVID-19 presented at the time planning needed to take place.

"We are disappointed to have to cancel the Member Appreciation Event for yet another year," said Dakota Electric's President and Chief Executive Officer Greg Miller. "However, the health, safety and well-being of our community continues to be the top priority as we return to normal. We appreciate our members' patience and can't wait to see them in 2022!"





SLAM THE SCAM!

HOW TO SPOT A SCAM

1. Utility phone scams typically involve callers who claim to represent a utility company and attempt to trick people into paying them money by threatening to turn off their service. If you are contacted by phone, hang up immediately and call Dakota Electric at 651-463-6212 to verify your account status. **DO NOT use the phone number given to you.**



BE IN THE KNOW

If you're ever unsure of who contacted you, **hang up and call Dakota Electric directly** at 651-463-6212 or toll-free at 800-874-3409. Our drive-thru is open 7 a.m to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Our lobby remains closed.



2. Never give out Social Security numbers, credit card or banking information to anyone who calls, no matter who they claim to represent. Dakota Electric does not ask current members for this type of information. Dakota Electric will never instruct members to purchase a prepaid credit card to pay a past due amount.

3. If your account is past due, Dakota Electric will send a Disconnection Notice by U.S. Mail before taking further action. If you believe you were targeted for a scam, report it to your local police immediately.



WE WILL

Always try to make payment arrangements for past due accounts. If no contact is made, or if contact is made but no payment agreement reached, service may be disconnected.

Drive a Dakota Electric vehicle, wear company clothing and carry Dakota Electric identification.

Allow you to verify our identity. Ask to see a Dakota Electric photo ID and have the person wait outside while you call us at 651-463-6212 to verify your account status.



WE WON'T

Demand immediate payment by prepaid credit or debit cards.

Call claiming you have overpaid your utility bill, and ask you to provide personal bank account information or a credit card number to facilitate a refund.

Call asking for social security numbers, credit card or banking information to avoid disconnection.

Disconnect your service outside of our office hours: 7 a.m to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

BILL PAY UPDATES

Dakota Electric is resuming collection activity, including disconnections and late fees, based on account status. Members with past-due accounts were mailed disconnection notices on June 1, and are subject to disconnection as soon as August 2.

We want to help our members find energy assistance resources that can help bring their account current. **Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program (EAP) recently expanded its eligibility requirements and significantly increased the amount of funding**

available to help members pay costs associated with heat and electricity. Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis, so it is crucial to contact an energy assistance agency as soon as possible.

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.

Pay Your Way

QuikPay Online Bill Pay

View and pay your bill online using a checking or savings account.

EZ-PAY Online One-Time Payment

Pay by credit card, debit card or electronic check 24 hours a day or by telephone at 1-888-935-4850. Convenience fees may apply.

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

Contact Dakota Electric to set up an automatic EFT from any bank, savings and loan, or credit union checking or savings account you designate.

In Person

Cash, check, money order or cashier's check are accepted at our drive-up window between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday at 4300 220th St. West, Farmington.

By Mail

Members can mail payments to Dakota Electric, P.O. Box 64427, St. Paul, MN 55164-0427. A return envelope is provided with your monthly statement.

Drop Box

For your convenience, Dakota Electric maintains a drop box at the Farmington headquarters. Payments received in the drop box are applied the next working day.

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 Emergency 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

Energy-assistance funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis.



Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Board Meeting**
July 29, 8:30 a.m.
- **Independence Day**
July 5, Office closed

dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar

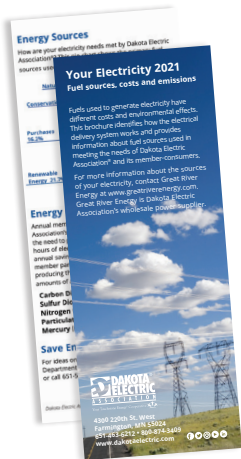
PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAKOTA ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION

CONNECT WITH US!



Please recycle me!

DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM



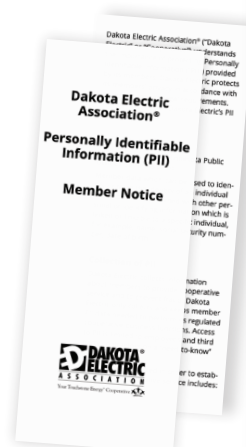
YOUR ELECTRICITY 2021 BROCHURE AVAILABLE

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 DakotaElectric.com/member-services/member-resources.

You may also request a copy of the brochure be mailed to you by calling **651-463-6212**.

PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION (PII) MEMBER NOTICE AVAILABLE

We understand the importance of protecting the Personally Identifiable Information (PII) provided by our members. Dakota Electric protects its members' privacy in accordance with all regulatory and legal requirements. To learn more, view our PII member notice brochure by visiting: DakotaElectric.com/member-services/billing-payment/electric-rates-rights.



inside CIRCUITS

July 2021

For Dakota Electric Members

Wishing
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