

SEPTEMBER 2021

CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

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Office use new e-bikes
on patrol



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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 | *Treasurer*

Jim Sheldon

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*



To Our Members:

Learning, Listening and Improving

At Dakota Electric's July board meeting, our board of directors voted to accept Great River Energy's proposal to sell Coal Creek Station in North Dakota.

The board is responsible for placing the interests of all members first in making its decisions, including safety, reliability, environmental impact and rates. As your representatives, the board is entrusted with the authority to deliberate with full and timely access to information that cannot be shared with the public during certain periods of negotiations. We can understand how some of our members were frustrated by how and when we communicated this information. Decisions of this magnitude are rare. Going forward, we can and will do a better job communicating significant decisions with our members where we can.

Taking the feedback we received, we've made some improvements in order to be more informative and transparent. A new "Power Supply" webpage, which is accessible from our website's homepage, features where your power comes from and its energy sources, more information about Great River Energy's power supply and future energy initiatives. Additionally, Dakota Electric's Environmental Disclosure Brochure is featured on this webpage.

Our homepage banner features a slide on news related to Great River Energy's power supply transformation. Visitors to our site can click "Learn More" to view the most recent information about Great River Energy's power supply changes as they progress.

We simplified our board of director's contact page and created a separate page devoted to monthly board meetings. Upcoming meeting agendas will be posted further in advance and board summaries will be more detailed. General information on board meetings is also available.

We are committed to improving the timeliness of our social media posts, the way power supply information is communicated in Circuits and how members can find this information on our website.

We are always learning, listening and improving. We will strive to do a better job of providing timely information about Dakota Electric and our power supplier, Great River Energy. We appreciate the feedback.

— Jerry Pittman
Chair, Board of Directors

— Greg Miller
President and CEO



DONATIONS

360 Communities, Dakota Woodlands and Hastings Family Services

Dakota Electric Association, along with CoBank, one of its lenders, recently donated \$20,000 to three community organizations. Dakota Electric's \$5,000 donation to 360 Communities, \$2,500 donation to Dakota Woodlands and \$2,500 donation to Hastings Family Services were matched by CoBank through the company's Sharing Success grant program.

The donation to 360 Communities will help provide assistance to more than 16,000 individuals each year through holistic programming, which includes violence prevention and intervention, school success support and community resources.

The donation to Dakota Woodlands will help provide a pathway to sustainable and independent housing for homeless women and families. Located in Eagan, Dakota Woodlands can assist 22 homeless families at one time by providing a continuum of supportive services. After leaving the shelter, over 92% of the program participants succeed in staying stably housed.

The donation to Hastings Family Services will aid in emergency and supportive services for persons living in and around Hastings. The non-profit

provides a wide range of client services including operating a food pantry and thrift store, providing meals on wheels, shelter, transportation and more.

"We are happy to have partnered with Dakota Electric over the last ten years through our Sharing Success program, and to provide such necessary help to quality community organizations in the area," said John Donner of CoBank.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to double our donation through CoBank's grant," said Dakota Electric's President and CEO Greg Miller.



Dakota Woodlands received \$5,000 from Dakota Electric and CoBank.



360 Communities received \$10,000 from Dakota Electric and CoBank.



Hastings Family Services received \$5,000 from Dakota Electric and CoBank.



FOCUS ON:

Electric Bikes

Dakota County Sheriff's Office use new e-bikes on patrol

Earlier this year, the Beneficial Electrification League (BEL) announced a grant opportunity for projects promoting beneficial electrification. Beneficial electrification means powering something with electricity that was not previously powered or was powered by an alternative source. Doing so can reduce emissions, lower energy costs, improve quality of life, and promote a robust and resilient electric grid.

Dakota Electric applied for a grant to support electrifying bicycles used by the Dakota County Sheriff's Office bike patrol deputies and park rangers. Traditional bicycles provide deputies and rangers with a quick and nimble mode of transportation and, when compared with a vehicle, they offer increased visibility and a higher degree of connection with the community. With 42 miles of greenway trails in the Dakota County Regional park system, e-bikes can be used to further enhance safety and security in neighborhoods, parks and trailways.

We worked closely with the sheriff's office to understand their specific use cases and how an

electric bike would fit their needs. Eventually, we selected an e-bike model that could aid them in their day-to-day patrolling.

While the grant funding was ultimately not rewarded, we felt strongly that e-bikes would improve patrol performance and increase safety throughout the community. With assistance from Great River Energy, Dakota Electric purchased two TREK Allant+ 7S e-bikes from Freewheel Bike in Eagan, a Dakota Electric member, and donated them to the Dakota County Sheriff's Office.

E-bikes look and feel a lot like regular bicycles. However, they include an electric motor and battery that can propel the bikes to speeds of up to 28 mph. Deputies and rangers can now ride farther, faster and with less fatigue. E-bikes improve the deputies' and rangers' ability to serve the community quickly and safely.

Since the donation, the e-bikes have traveled more than 250 miles on trails throughout the county, have been used to respond to over 280 calls and utilized at multiple community events, including the Dakota County Fair.



– KYLE CHESTER

*Dakota Electric Association,
Business Account Executive*

"I am thrilled that we were able to support the Sheriff's Office with the e-bikes. I know the deputies and park rangers will take full advantage of the e-bikes to ensure our community is a safe place to live, work and play."

– Kyle Chester



Dakota County deputies and rangers carry up to 30 pounds of gear and travel hundreds of miles each year throughout the Dakota County park system.

"By having these bikes, we will be able to cover more area in a timely and efficient manner especially if there is an emergency we are trying to respond to."

– Deputy Jen Lenarz
(Pictured on front cover.)



ENERGY TRENDS EXPO

Thursday, Sept. 30, 5-7 p.m.
Eagan Community Center

1501 Central Parkway | Eagan, MN 55121

- **FREE!**
- **Vendor trade show**
- **Electric vehicle car show**
- **Breakout sessions**
- **Registration requested at:**
<https://2021energytrendsexpo.eventbrite.com>



www.dakotaelectric.com
 651-463-6243
energyservices@dakotaelectric.com



A community event
 sponsored by Dakota
 Electric Association® in
 cooperation with Lakeville
 Friends of the Environment.



DID YOU KNOW...

Dakota Electric offers electrical safety demonstrations?

Manager of safety services, Brandon Lunde, promotes safety education in our schools and local communities through electrical safety programs and safety camps.

Kids

Play It Safe Around Electricity teaches children eight and older about the dangers of electricity in a fun and interactive way.

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.

Adults

The power line safety demonstration dives deeper into the risks associated with electrical safety and how it plays out in our daily lives. We provide this program for public safety personnel, contractors, farmers, and other community organizations and clubs.

If you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school, organization, or community event, schedule now! Please contact **Brandon Lunde** at **651-463-6290** or email blunde@dakotaelectric.com.



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.

Speakers Bureau

Dakota Electric's speakers bureau presents to schools, Rotary clubs, chambers of commerce and other community organizations on a variety of energy-related issues, including renewable energy, electric vehicles and energy efficiency. Our mascot, LED Lucy, is also available for community events. If interested, contact our coordinator of community affairs, **Brenda Kadlec**, at **651-463-6234** for more information.

Energy Assistance Available

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**.

To apply for energy assistance, request an application or find your local service provider by:

- Call **800-657-3710** and press one.
- Visit mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/eap-provider.jsp.
- Contact one of the local services providers listed to the right.

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

Cold Weather Rule Notification

Members can avoid disconnection or be eligible for reconnection between Oct. 1 and April 30 by following steps outlined by Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule. Your August bill statement included 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**



Your Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative

4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Office Closed**
Sept. 6, Labor Day
- **Board Meeting**
Sept. 30, 8:30 a.m.
- **Save The Date:**
Energy Trends Expo
Sept. 30, 5-7 p.m.
Eagan Community Center

dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar

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CONNECT WITH US!



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inside CIRCUITS

September 2021

For Dakota Electric Members

Pages 4-5

FOCUS ON: Electric Bikes

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