

OCTOBER 2021

CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

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Careers in Energy Week

Step into energy with
Careers in Energy Week
on Oct. 18-22.

**DAKOTA[®]
ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION**
Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

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SAFETY

Harvest safety tips
for farmworkers

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SAVE ENERGY, SAVE MONEY

Limited time only promotion on
electric thermal storage water heaters

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COMMUNITY

2021 Touchstone Energy
Community Award application

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
<http://www.gopherstateonecall.org/>

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*
Clay Van De Bogart | *GRE Director*
Vacant Seat

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*

Step Into Energy

Careers in energy

The electric power industry is responsible for more than 7 million American jobs in communities large and small.¹ And as the world focuses on improving and diversifying energy production, job opportunities are expanding.

Dakota Electric exists to serve our members not only with safe, affordable and reliable electric power, but also with community support and energy-efficient programs that help you conserve energy and save money. Because we make a difference in people's lives, those of us who work at Dakota Electric tend to have a sense of purpose in our work.

While our lineworkers remain our public face, it takes many more departments to run an electric distribution cooperative like Dakota Electric.

On our staff we have communicators; accountants; business account representatives, who work with our commercial and industrial members; billing clerks; public and community relations professionals, who cultivate relationships with local, state and national opinion leaders and keep them updated on issues important to us and the communities we serve; information technology

professionals; mechanics; warehouse staff; and powerline design technicians and engineers, who plot where new power lines will be built.

We grow our local labor force through workforce development strategies, which benefit Dakota Electric as well as our member-owned businesses. From supporting STEM education to offering specialized training, Dakota Electric is creating long-term solutions and driving employment for a skilled and diverse future workforce. We recognize that the more viewpoints and life experiences people bring to the job and work teams, the stronger we will be.

The electric power industry has jobs for students ready to work right after school, those interested in apprenticeships and those pursuing a college degree or technical certificate.

Explore careers in energy and learn about job openings at www.DakotaElectric.com/Careers, or find national opportunities at www.TouchstoneEnergyJobs.

ON THE COVER (L-R): MECHANIC BEN PETERSON AND TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR DARNELL ROBINSON.

¹ *Powering America: The Economic and Workforce Contributions of the U.S. Electric Power Industry*, M.J. Bradley & Associates, August 2017.

THE PEOPLE BEHIND YOUR POWER



"Dakota Electric is a wonderful place to work, learn and grow within your career. I've lived and worked within our service territory for over 20 years and am honored to have taken part in its expansion. I've really enjoyed collaborating on projects with my talented coworkers as we all strive to make the cooperative the best it can be for our members."

Craig Knudsen

Land Use Manager, 22 years



"I've been working at Dakota Electric for almost 13 years and take pride in being able to say I love my job as a customer information systems (CIS) and billing administrator. I feel like Dakota Electric employees are one big family, which makes for an enjoyable work atmosphere."

Catie Tornio

CIS/Billing Administrator, 13 years



"I think of Dakota Electric as a large extended family with a well-defined purpose. We're all working toward the same goal of serving our members, but support and celebrate each other in the process. I also love that I get to work on a variety of projects that challenge me to think outside the box. I go home at the end of the day feeling fulfilled."

Kennon Petersen

Project Designer/GIS Mapping, 3 years



"I really enjoy the work-life balance Dakota Electric affords its employees. The leadership team is amazing; they are very approachable and fair, and the small company feel is so welcoming. As a new employee, it's refreshing to walk the halls and have coworkers introduce themselves and strike up a friendly conversation with me. I'm looking forward to my career at Dakota Electric."

Darnell Robinson

Transportation Supervisor, 4 months



HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

Source: Safe Electricity



SAVE ENERGY, SAVE MONEY

HURRY!
Offer is only
valid Oct. 1 to
Dec. 31, 2021.

Thinking of replacing or installing an electric water heater?

Upgrade to an electric thermal storage (ETS) water heater to receive a rebate of up to \$500, 0% financing and a lifetime of energy savings.

ETS water heaters draw electricity at night when it's in low demand and less expensive, saving you money on your water heating costs. Even better, they're lightweight, easy to install and backed by a lifetime warranty. For a limited time only, you can receive a \$500 rebate on the installation of an ETS water heater for first-time enrollment on Dakota Electric's storage program.

Members receive the lowest price available for electricity used by the water heater. For detailed information, contact the Energy Experts® at **651-463-6243** or email energyservices@dakotaelectric.com.

Dakota Electric members may be eligible for a zero- or low-interest loan to finance certain energy-efficiency improvements for their home.

CEE, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit organization, serves as the lender for the program and will assist you through the process. Dakota Electric members can contact CEE directly at 612-335-5884 for complete details and a loan application.



Quick Tip!

Set your water heater temperature no higher than 120 degrees for maximum efficiency. Setting it any higher can decrease efficiency and increase the chance of scalding.



VISIT WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/PROMOS TO LEARN MORE.

Offer valid Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 2021. Purchase and installation of metering and control equipment is required at the member's expense. Equipment must be installed on the Energy Wise storage program to qualify. Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to terms, conditions and change without notice.

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Apply for the 2021 Touchstone Energy Community Award

The Touchstone Energy Community Award allows Dakota Electric to recognize and support local businesses, non-profit organizations and community needs.

In 2021, Dakota Electric will provide up to three awards to local organizations, earning each winner a \$500 cash prize. One local award winner will compete for a statewide award of \$1,000.

The application deadline is Nov. 1, 2021. Call Brenda Kadlec at **651-463-6234** or visit **www.dakotaelectric.com/community** for the application and judging criteria.



ENERGY ASSISTANCE

We want to help our members find energy assistance resources that can help bring their account current. Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program (EAP) 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:

- Call 800-657-3710 and press one.
- Visit <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/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 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



AT HOME

Address confidentiality program

Safe at Home helps survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and other crimes, and anyone who fears for their safety, by establishing a confidential mailing address and providing a mail forwarding service.

While Dakota Electric needs members' actual addresses to establish and maintain electric service, we use Safe at Home addresses for communicating with members and take special steps to protect Safe at Home participants' addresses.

If you participate in Safe at Home, alert Dakota Electric and provide your Safe at Home mailing address.



TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT THE OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE BY CALLING **1-866-723-3035** OR VISIT: WWW.SOS.STATE.MN.US/SAFE-AT-HOME.



Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Board Meeting**
Oct. 28, 8:30 a.m.

Find board meeting agendas and
approved meeting minutes at www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/monthly-meetings/.

dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAKOTA ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION

CONNECT WITH US!



Please recycle me!

DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM

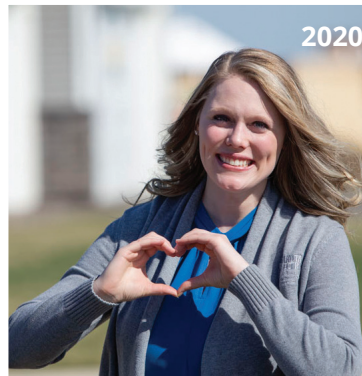
OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH!



1946



1995



2020



2019



1939



inside CIRCUITS

October 2021

For Dakota Electric Members

SAFE, RELIABLE,
AFFORDABLE
ENERGY.

THEN. NOW. ALWAYS.