

DECEMBER 2021

CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS



DAKOTA
ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION
Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

3

**\$6.1M
BACK TO
MEMBERS**

4

**12 DAYS
OF ENERGY
EFFICIENCY**

6

**SPIRIT OF
EXCELLENCE
AWARD**

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.*

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*

METER UPDATE

Over 100,000 meters installed

By January 2022, we will have an estimated 120,000 advanced meters installed. The project remains under budget and on time, even with supply chain issues. This is due to the extra efforts Dakota Electric employees are making to ensure the updates run smoothly.

Fixing meter issues

Updating to advanced meters allows us to identify and fix any metering issues across our service area. There were a few locations where the meters weren't recording usage and, in some cases, there were safety issues with the meter wiring. For off-peak meters, we discovered a few locations where electricity use wasn't being recorded, resulting in the member not receiving the off-peak credit. Now that the new meters are installed, we are notified immediately when a meter isn't working properly and can quickly resolve the issue. Overall, we are pleased to report that there were very few metering issues.

Up next

Roughly 1,000 homes and small businesses are scheduled in the summer of 2022 to receive a high-capacity meter. These meters are a new design that will allow the same functionality as our residential meters but can handle larger loads.

In addition, there were a few cases where we could not exchange the meter due to building materials obstructing our access. Dakota Electric is working with members to identify ways to make these upgrades safely.

Thank you

Our members have been a tremendous support throughout this process. Thank you so much for all of your help and understanding.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE BENEFITS OF OUR ADVANCED METERS, VISIT
WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/METERS.

OVER
100,000
INSTALLED



\$6.1M BACK TO MEMBERS

\$6.1 million return estimated in 2021

This year, the board of directors approved the retirement of \$6.1 million in capital credits to be paid back to members. Dakota Electric is returning the remaining 1995, 100% of the 1996-97 and 80% of the 1998 allocation.

Members who purchased electricity in 1995-98 will be mailed a check this month. Watch for your check arriving soon!

What are capital credits?

Capital credits reflect each member's ownership in Dakota Electric. As owners, all members of Dakota Electric share in the cooperative's margins. Margins represent the difference between total revenue received and operating expenses for each year.

How are year-end margins allocated?

At the end of the year, using audited financial statements, Dakota Electric determines whether there are any margins. We allocate the margins to our members as capital credits based on their billed electricity during the year.

When do I get my capital credits?

Even though the cooperative allocates capital credits to members each year, the money is not paid out right away. Capital credits are reinvested to reduce borrowing and interest payments keeping rates as low as possible.

Dakota Electric's board of directors approves the payment of capital credits annually. Currently, our capital credit program is on a 23-year rotation — with a goal to achieve a 15-year rotation by 2025 — retiring the oldest credits first.

To learn more about capital credits, email capitalcredits@dakotaelectric.com, call 651-463-6212 or visit www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/capital-credits.



CAPITAL CREDITS *at-a-glance*



Dakota Electric tracks how much electricity you have been billed for throughout the year.



At the end of the year, Dakota Electric determines whether there are any margins.



Dakota Electric allocates the margins to members as capital credits based on their billed electricity during the year.



If financial conditions allow, the board of directors will retire, or pay, the capital credits to members.



Dakota Electric notifies you of how and when you will receive your capital credits.

12 DAYS OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY

If you're making a list and checking it twice, finding ways to save on energy would be nice. With baking, entertaining and festive decor, your energy bill might be higher than usual. We've asked our energy experts for some tips on how to save energy this holiday season.



1

SOLAR-POWERED DECOR

Charge solar-powered lights and decor during the day to keep your home festive at night.



2

LIGHT TIMERS

Set timers for lights to automatically turn on and off. Aim for no more than six hours a day of use.



5

LED LIGHTS

LEDs are efficient, use 90% less energy than incandescents and last much longer. They're bright and pretty too!



6

ELECTRONICS

Many electronics use energy even when they aren't turned on. Unplug them when gone or use a smart power strip.



9

WATER HEATING

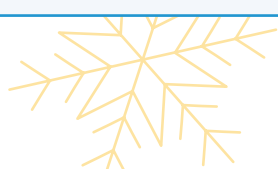
Set your water heater temperature to 120 degrees and use shower heads with flow rates under two gallons per minute.



10

OFF-PEAK PROGRAMS

Consider off-peak programs for your hardwired electric garage heater, hot tub or boiler.



Meet The Energy Experts®



DAVE REINKE
Energy & Member Services
Manager



STEPHANIE PEDERSON
Energy Services
Representative



PATRICK MATHWIG
Energy Services
Representative



MICHAEL PLUTOWSKI
Energy Services
Representative

3

OVEN LIGHT

Use your oven light to check on your holiday baking instead of opening the door every time.

4

FOOD STORAGE

Let food cool to room temperature before you put it in the fridge. Put frozen food in the fridge to thaw.

7

DISHWASHER

Only run your dishwasher when full and, if possible, let your dishes air dry instead of running the heated dry cycle.

8

HEATING

Turn down your heat when hosting. Your house will heat up from extra people, warm food and cooking.

11

WASHING MACHINE

Use cold water for cycles when you can. Not only does this save energy but it can also keep colors from fading.

12

CALL YOUR ENERGY EXPERTS

For more ways to save energy and money, contact us at 651-463-6243 or at energyservices@dakotaelectric.com.



SCHOOL DONATIONS

Dakota Electric provided independent school districts 196, 197 and 199 and Inver Hills Community College with this year's donations from the unclaimed capital credits fund. A total of \$50,000 was awarded to the schools (distributed based on enrollment size), which will be used to fund specific educational projects and reach district goals.

\$28
THOUSAND

DISTRICT 196

*Rosemount, Apple Valley,
Eagan*

Funds will be used to gather and analyze data to address students' mental and emotional needs from changes they faced throughout the pandemic.

\$6
THOUSAND

DISTRICT 197

West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Eagan

Funds will be used for innovative teaching practices and to bring the school community together for a school celebration.

\$6
THOUSAND

DISTRICT 199

Inver Grove Heights

Funds will be used to help outfit the elementary STEAMM (science, technology, engineering, art, math and media) labs with interactive equipment.

\$10
THOUSAND

INVER HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Funds will be used for scholarships for students in developmental education and civic engagement.

SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE

Greg Stommes of the Lakeville Fire Department recently won the 2021 Dakota Spirit of Excellence Award. The award recognizes first responders who demonstrate leadership, dedication to serving others and teamwork. Stommes was presented the award by Dakota Electric board members David Jones, Jerry Pittman and Bill Holton.



READ THE FULL STORIES BY VISITING: [DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > NEWS & EVENTS > NEWSROOM](https://dakotaelectric.com/news-events/newsroom)



ENERGY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Apply for energy assistance by calling 1-800-657-3710 and pressing one or visiting <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance>.

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.

Other energy assistance resources available

Scott-Carver-Dakota CAP Agency | 651-322-3500

360 Communities | 952-985-5300

Rent Help MN | 211

Dakota County Economic Assistance | 651-554-5611

Goodhue County Health & Human Services | 651-385-3200

Three Rivers Community Action, Inc. | 507-316-0610

Rice County Social Services | 507-332-6115

Scott County Human Services | 952-445-7751

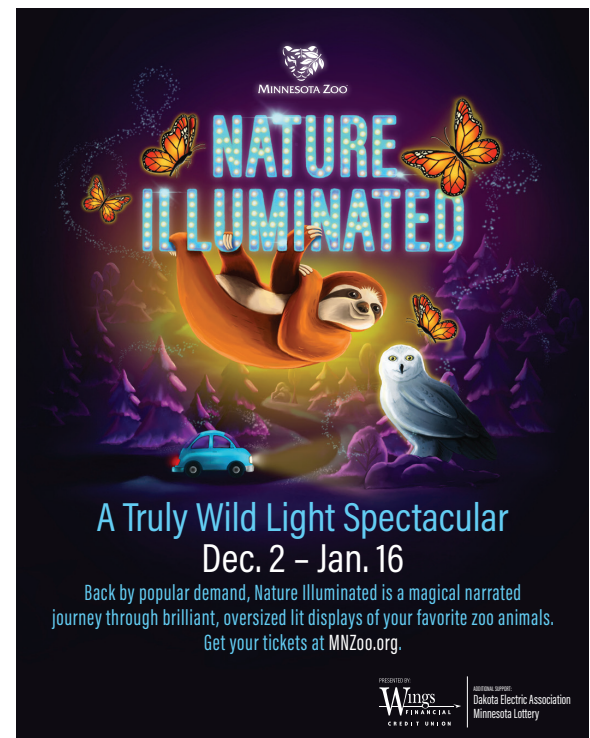
HELPING NEIGHBORS

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 the Helping Neighbors trust 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, each of 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.

To learn more about Helping Neighbors, call our member services department at 651-463-6212 or sign up online by visiting www.dakotaelectric.com/community/helping-neighbors-sign-up.



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Due to the timing of printing Circuits, please visit www.dakotaelectric.com for the most up-to-date information on our wholesale power supplier, rebates and programs and energy assistance.





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Board Meeting**
Dec. 18, 8:30 a.m.
- **Nominating Committee Deadline**
Dec. 7, 4:30 p.m.
- **Board Candidate Deadline**
Dec. 7, 4:30 p.m.
- **Office Closed**
Dec. 24-25, Jan. 1

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

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ASSOCIATION

CONNECT WITH US!



WISHING YOU AND YOURS
HAPPY HOLIDAYS
AND A JOYOUS NEW YEAR!

RAIN OR SHINE, DAY OR NIGHT,
WE'RE HERE FOR YOU — 24/7, YEAR-ROUND.

24-HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE | LOCAL: 651-463-6201 | TOLL-FREE: 1-800-430-9722

inside **DECEMBER 2021**
CIRCUITS

