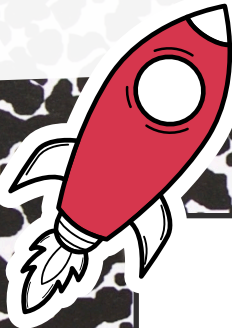


SEPTEMBER 2022

CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS



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Back-To-School Electrical
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Investing in Our
Communities



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 - 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

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
www.gopherstateonecall.org

Tree Trimming & Street Lights

651-463-6287

Dakotaelectric.com

customerservice@dakotaelectric.com

*Dakota Electric is an equal opportunity/
affirmative action employer.*

*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

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OUR COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

At Dakota Electric, we are committed to a culture of safety that is integral to our daily operations. We strive to provide our communities with safe, reliable and affordable electricity and to serve as your trusted energy advisor, now and well into the future.

Power Line Safety

Dakota Electric's concern for safety extends beyond our employees. We care deeply about the safety of our members and encourage the public to follow these power line safety tips.

Keep a safe distance

Whether you are playing outdoors or working on landscaping, keep a safe distance from power lines and other electrical equipment.

- Stay away from power lines, meters, transformers and electrical boxes.
- Don't climb trees near power lines.
- Never fly kites, remote control airplanes or drones near power lines.
- Keep a safe distance from overhead power lines when working with ladders or installing objects such as antennas.

Downed power lines

A downed power line may still be an energized power line.

- Never touch or go near a downed power line.
- Don't touch anything that may be touching a downed wire, such as a car.
- Keep children and pets away.
- Always call 911 to report a downed power line.

Vehicle accidents and utility poles

If you encounter a vehicle accident involving a utility pole or power line:

- Call 911 immediately.
- Don't touch any passenger who may be in contact with a power line.

- Don't touch anything that is in contact with the vehicle.
- Don't attempt to move the power lines or utility poles.
- If passengers must exit the vehicle, jump clear of it without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Land with feet together and shuffle away.
- Don't rely on rubber boots, raincoats or rubber gloves for protection.

Safety Education Presentations

As part of Dakota Electric's commitment to educate the public about staying safe around electricity, we offer the following presentations:

Power line safety demonstration

- Available for adults and children ages 10 and older.
- Demonstrations can be held on site or at Dakota Electric.
- Presented by a former powerline specialist.
- See how powerline specialists stay safe when working with power lines.
- Hear true stories about electrical contact accidents and learn how to prevent them from happening to you.

Play it safe around electricity

- Created for children in preschool to third grade.
- Emphasizes electrical safety rules and facts about saving and producing energy.
- Includes fun and engaging videos.

To schedule a safety demonstration at your school, organization or community event, please contact Brandon Lunde at 651-463-6290 or email blunde@dakotaelectric.com.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

As kids head back to school, here are some electrical safety tips that are useful whether they're starting college, or their first day of school.

K-8TH GRADE

- Keep fingers, writing utensils, paperclips and other objects away from electrical outlets.
- When unplugging electronics, always hold the base of the plug to pull it out — never yank from the cord.
- Stay clear of pad-mounted transformers (big green box) and other electrical equipment.
- Never throw shoes onto power lines and if you see them already hanging, do not try to take them off.

HIGH SCHOOL

- If you drive to school, obey all traffic laws and practice safety when driving in areas where utility crews are working.
- If you see a downed power line, assume the line is energized and stay away from it. Call 911 to report it.
- Always be cautious in science classes, specifically those with labs, as it's likely your hands, or the area near you, will get wet. Keep everything dry and use caution when plugging in equipment.

COLLEGE

- Get in the habit of unplugging devices that are not in use.
- Don't overload electrical outlets. Most dorms and campus housing are not equipped to handle today's use of electronics.
- Keep extension cords out from under rugs or furniture as this could damage the cord and it is a fire hazard.
- Keep all electrical appliances and cords away from bedding, curtains and other flammable materials.



ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

As automakers roll out waves of new electric vehicle (EV) models, and improved battery technologies begin to vanquish “range anxiety” among prospective EV drivers, adequate public charging infrastructure will be a necessity.

In 2021, 6.6 million EVs were sold in the U.S., more than double the number from 2020 and more than triple the amount from 2019, according to the International Energy Agency. This rate is projected to grow 25% annually over the next five years.

Minnesota had 23,897 EVs at the end of 2021, according to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. This is a 241% increase from 2018 when there were 7,000 EVs in the state. Additionally, the number of EVs is expected to grow to 91,000 by 2030, according to Metropolitan Council.

This growth in EV sales has led to an increased need for electric vehicle charging stations, which can now be found in many locations, including mixed-use developments, workplaces and multifamily dwellings. Minnesota currently has 2,013 public charging points.

Dakota Electric is noticing an upward trend in EV charger installations from businesses in our service area looking to add value to their property and gain an edge over their competition.

Types of EV charging stations

There are four types of EV charging stations — AC Level 1, which takes 16-40 hours for a full charge, AC Level 2, 3-10 hours and DC Fast Charger, 30 minutes for an 80% charge.

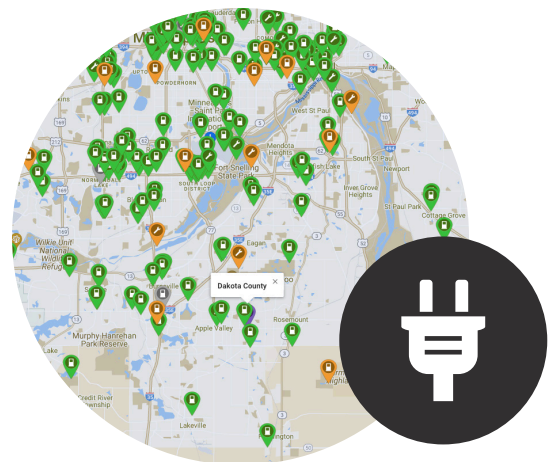
DC charging stations are most likely to be found along transportation corridors, such as at rest stations or truck stops. Currently, the most common charging

station for commercial properties are AC Level 2 chargers. In multifamily communities, AC Level 2 chargers allow residents to get a full charge overnight, similar to at-home charging.

Find EV charging stations with PlugShare

PlugShare is a free EV driver’s app for iOS, Android and web, allowing users to find charging stations, leave reviews and connect with other plug-in vehicle owners. It has the most accurate and complete public charging map worldwide, with stations from every major network in North America, Europe and throughout much of the globe.

PlugShare is also home to the largest community of EV drivers in the world. Every day, drivers add more station locations, constantly making the app more comprehensive, powerful and accurate. From within the app, users check-in when they charge and share tips, comments and photos of their charging experiences.



Sources: Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal, PlugShare.com



National Drive Electric Week, Sept. 23-Oct. 2, 2022, is a nationwide celebration to raise awareness of the many benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid cars, trucks, motorcycles and more. Find an in-person or online event here: <https://driveelectricweek.org>.

CHARGING PROGRAMS

ChargeWise Electric Vehicle Programs

Dakota Electric offers two voluntary options for charging your EV at home as well as a rebate of up to \$500 to cover the cost of installing a charging circuit on either program.

Off-peak storage rate

This option offers members the lowest cost of off-peak electricity for charging an EV, but the hours for charging are more restrictive. Electricity for charging an EV is only available during off-peak hours (11 p.m. - 7 a.m.), and the circuit must be dedicated to EV charging.

Time-of-use rate

This option allows members to charge their EV at any time of day. A special meter is installed that allows the rate to fluctuate based on the time of day the EV is charging.

Learn more

If you're interested in learning more about EV charging stations or rates for your home or business, call The Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243.



Participate in Wellspring Renewable Energy®

By participating in Wellspring Renewable Energy, members not only help support wind and solar development in Minnesota, but they also help reduce our dependency on non-renewable energy sources.

Participating in Wellspring

Wellspring Renewable Energy is a voluntary program that gives Dakota Electric members a way to provide additional support for renewable energy technologies.

How it works

Those who participate in the Wellspring program purchase renewable energy credits (RECs). For every 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWhs) of clean, renewable electricity generation, a REC is created. RECs embody all of the environmental attributes of electric generation and can be tracked separately from the underlying electricity. Dakota Electric provides Wellspring energy to members through Great River Energy, our wholesale power supplier, making it easy for members to support renewable energy and its future.

Options

Wellspring is sold in 100 kWh blocks, and members can purchase a fixed number of blocks each month or enough to power their monthly electricity use.

There are two options to choose from:

OPTION	BLOCKS	ENERGY TYPE
Option One	Fixed number per month	Wind, solar or a combination of both
Option Two	Number per month fluctuates	Either wind or solar

Participate today

For questions regarding Wellspring Renewable Energy options, or to participate, please contact our Energy Experts® at 651-463-6212.



Jeffrey Rainey
Economic
Development
Director

INVESTING in our COMMUNITIES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Dakota Electric creates and fosters economic development opportunities for the benefit of new and/or existing businesses and local communities. By offering meaningful resources and services, we put energy into the communities we serve. Dakota Electric offers businesses site selection services, financial packaging, technical assistance with local, state and federal funding programs, analysis of power needs and coordination of electrical engineering infrastructure and energy efficiency and power quality services.

Commercial accounts make up approximately 8% of our members and provide around 40% of our total revenue. Some of those accounts include: Thomson Reuters, a global company that provides information and data in the areas of law, taxes, accounting, compliance, government and media; the Minnesota Zoo; UTC Aerospace, a world leader in aerospace technology; Treasure Island Casino and DataBank.

DAKOTA ELECTRIC SERVICE AREA STATS



2022 **ENERGY TRENDS EXPO** *Reliability & Optimization*

**SAVE THE
DATE!**

Thursday, Sept. 29, 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://2022EnergyTrendsExpo.eventbrite.com>



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

Change in Call Center & Drive-Up Window Hours

Starting October 3, 2022, our member services call center and drive-up window hours will be changing to 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. Lobby hours will remain the same.

We appreciate your flexibility and want to remind you of the other payment options available, such as our online options QuikPay and EZ-Pay, and our drop boxes located outside our building.

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/member-services/billing-payment/financial-assistance.

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/member-services/billing-payment/electric-rates-rights.

Air-Source Heat Pump Promotional Rebates Extended!

We have extended our promotional rebates until **Sept. 30, 2022**. Install a qualifying, energy-saving air-source heat pump or ductless air-source heat pump and save!

Visit www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/programs-rebates/promos for more information.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Labor Day–Office Closed**
Sept. 5
- **Energy Tours**
Sept. 8 & 9, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Food Drive–Hy-Vee Pilot Knob**
Sept. 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Board Meeting**
Sept. 29, 8:30 a.m.
- **Energy Trends Expo**
Sept. 29, 5-7 p.m.

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



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DAKOTA ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION

CONNECT WITH US!



FOOD DRIVE

Sept. 17, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Hy-Vee located on Pilot Knob in Lakeville.

Donate cash or food items for a chance to win an electric bike and helmet from Valley Bike and Ski and other door prizes!

Donations will be matched by Dakota Electric and go to The Open Door Pantry. We hope to see you there!

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