AUGUST 2023

CIRCUITS
FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

2023 MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT!
MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT RECAP

Dakota Electric’s annual Member Appreciation Event returned to the Minnesota Zoo on July 13 after a hiatus since 2019. The annual event is a gesture to thank our valued members for their ongoing support.

Over 5,000 members enjoyed free admission to the Minnesota Zoo, creating an evening filled with excitement and exploration. Members had the opportunity to discover their favorite exhibits, including the Wings Financial World of Birds Show, embark on an exciting adventure at the Dino Hideout or take a leisurely stroll along the Llama Trek. There was something for everyone to enjoy.

In the spirit of giving back to the community, we encouraged members to bring non-perishable food items for donation to local food shelves or provide a cash donation. The response from our members was overwhelming, with 2,134 lbs of food and $1,370 collected. These contributions will have a significant impact on supporting individuals and families in our local area.

Ryan Hentges, President and CEO of Dakota Electric, extended his heartfelt appreciation, emphasizing the impact of the generous donations. “All of the cash and donations will directly benefit The Open Door and 360 Communities, supporting individuals and families in Dakota County. We are immensely grateful to everyone who contributed.”

Since the inception of this event in 1998, our members have continually demonstrated their commitment to giving back. Over the years, members have donated over 40,000 pounds of food and contributed more than $15,000 to local food shelves, making a significant difference in the lives of those in need.

We would like thank all of our members who attended our Member Appreciation Event. Your presence and generosity made the event a remarkable success.
# UNDERSTANDING YOUR BILL

Understanding your electric bill is more than just deciphering a set of numbers and charges — it is a key to managing your energy consumption, saving money and promoting a sustainable future. Understanding your electric bill empowers you to take advantage of Dakota Electric's energy-saving programs and rebates which allow you to optimize your energy usage. For more information on our programs and rebates, visit [www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/programs-rebates](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/programs-rebates).

## 1. BILLING SUMMARY

Has your unique account number, the date your bill was prepared and the date your bill is due. It also shows the address of the location where electric service is billed, which can differ from the mailing address.

## 2. ELECTRIC SERVICE

Includes meter serial number, current and previous meter reading. Usage period shows the meter reading dates and the number of days in the billing cycle. For our residential members, the electricity you use is measured and billed in kilowatt-hours (kWh).

## 3. CHARGE DESCRIPTION

### Fixed Charge

For expenses incurred regardless of how much electricity you use, such as monthly costs for metering and billing.

### Energy Charge

For generating electricity and delivering it to your home.

### Resource and Tax Adjustment

Adjusts electricity prices annually according to changes in wholesale power, property and real estate tax that occurred since we last set our energy rate in a rate case.

## 4. TAXES & FEES

Franchise fees, if applicable, are based on city ordinances and can vary depending on the city you live in. The fee is required by our franchise agreement with some cities. Dakota County Transit Tax is collected on bills of members from Dakota County and applies to anything subject to general sales tax. State tax rate is determined using the taxes as of January 1, 2019. Any additional taxes on electricity transmission, distribution, or sales that apply to this agreement will be added to the above rate. Property taxes already covered by the RTA are excluded.

## 5. ENERGY GEN. & DELIVERY COSTS

This table shows how much of your monthly bill is used for generation, transmission and distribution of your electricity. The chart will vary for different rate classes, and is updated annually.

## 6. COMPARISON CHART

This chart compares your electricity use for the current month, previous month and same month from the previous year.
HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

ESTIMATING ELECTRICITY USE & COST

**Step 1:** Your electric bill is determined by the number of kilowatt-hours (kWh) used during a billing period. For 2022, the average kWh cost was 12.92¢.

**Step 2:** Wattage determines electrical use per hour and can be found on the serial plate of the appliance. Electric load may also be expressed in volts and amps, rather than watts. If so, multiply volts times amperes to determine the wattage.

\[ 120 \text{ volts} \times 12.1 \text{ amps} = 1,452 \text{ watts}. \]

**Step 3:** Use the formula shown in the following example to estimate use and cost. A light uses 100 watts and is left on for 15 hours. How many kWh are used and what does it cost you?

\[ \text{kWh used} = \left( 100 \text{ watts} \times 15 \text{ hours} \right) / 1,000 \text{ watts} = 1.5 \text{ kWh}. \]

\[ \text{Your cost} = 1.5 \text{ kWh} \times 12.8\text{¢} = 19.38\text{¢}. \]

SUMMER ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!

- Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep the heat out.
- Replace disposable air filters once a month to maximize efficiency. Or follow manufacturer’s guidelines.
- Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room. Fans cool people, not rooms.
- Install a programmable thermostat to easily adjust the temperature when you are sleeping or away from home.
- Schedule regular maintenance for your cooling equipment to maximize efficiency.
- Seal cracks and openings to prevent warm air from leaking into your home.
- Use solar lights to brighten up your outdoor space.
- On hot days, avoid using the oven. Cook on the stove, microwave or grill outside.
CHECK OUT OUR BOOTH!

Visit us at the Dakota County Fair! We will be in the Red Commercial Building!

Talk to one of our Energy Experts® for information on:
- Energy-saving tips & programs
- Rebates
- Special promotions

For more fair details, visit www.dakotacountyfair.org.

FREE SAFE KID ID KITS

Dakota Electric donated The McGruff Safe Kids ID Kits to our local police departments to hand out at schools and other community events. These kits aim to teach children about safety in a fun and friendly way.

The kits include:
- Tear-out fingerprint card with child-safe fingerprint ink
- McGruff the Crime Dog tear-out emergency numbers card
- 911 instructions
- DNA collection tips
- Fun, family-friendly quizzes and games reinforcing the safety message

Be watching for your local police departments handing these kits out in your community or at schools!

SAVE THE DATE!

Fall Food Drive

On Saturday, Sept. 23, Dakota Electric will be collecting food for The Open Door pantry at the Hy-Vee located on Pilot Knob in Lakeville from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Donate cash or non-perishable food items for a chance to win a prize!

YOUTH TOUR RECAP

Every June, Dakota Electric sponsors five high school students on an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to learn about the cooperative business model, meet elected officials, visit monuments and museums, tour federal agencies and discuss issues that are most important to them.

Dakota Electric has sent approximately 155 students since 1967. This commitment to our community is a fundamental part of what makes us more than your average electric utility. Below are a few photos from this year's trip!
UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dakota County Fair
  August 7-13
- Board Meeting
  August 24, 8:30 a.m.

CONNECT WITH US!

SAVE THE DATE!

ENERGY TRENDS EXPO

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023