

December 2025

Circuits

For Dakota Electric members



Careers

BE A PART OF OUR ENERGY

www.dakotaelectric.com/careers
HResources@dakotaelectric.com
651-463-6301

Contact Us

Member Service & Drive-Up Window

7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday – Friday
651-463-6212 or 1-800-874-3409
Minnesota Relay Service 711
customerservice@dakotaelectric.com

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

New & Existing Services

651-463-6247

*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

DISTRICT 1

John (Jack) DeYoe
David Jones | MREA Director
Gerald F. Pittman | Vice Chair

DISTRICT 2

Bill Middlecamp | GRE Director
Clay Van De Bogart
Terry Donnelly | Secretary

DISTRICT 3

Kenneth H. Danner
Cyndee Fields | Treasurer
Margaret D. Schreiner | GRE Director

DISTRICT 4

Paul Bakken | Chair
Stacy Miller
Jenny Hoeft



Reflecting on 2025

A message from the CEO

As we wrap up 2025, Dakota Electric's commitment to safety, reliability, and stewardship remains at the center of how we serve you.

Safety

The safety of our employees and members remains our highest priority. Our team trains year-round to ensure we are prepared to respond quickly and effectively in any situation. This year, four of our linemen demonstrated remarkable courage when they saved a man from a truck that had come into contact with energized lines. Their quick thinking and bravery embody the best of Dakota Electric's commitment to safety and service.

Resilience

Reliability is something we take great pride in delivering. In 2025, our team completed a construction plan valued at more than \$20 million, upgrading substations and replacing key components such as poles, wires, and transformers. These ongoing investments strengthen our system and help prevent outages before they occur. When outages do happen, our skilled employees respond safely and efficiently, maintaining outage duration metrics that continue to rank among the best in the region.

Financial stewardship

This year, Dakota Electric filed its first rate case since 2019 with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. While we work hard to manage costs, the increase was necessary to sustain the cooperative's long-term health and continue making essential infrastructure investments. Even after the adjustment, our rates remain below those of most neighboring utilities.

A significant milestone in 2025 was achieving a 15-year capital credit rotation, fulfilling a goal established by our Board of Directors to return member equity as quickly as possible. In an industry where assets often last more than 30 years, this achievement represents a strong commitment to returning value to our members.

Member service

When you call Dakota Electric, you'll continue to reach a real person, which is an important part of who we are. In 2025, our member service representatives answered more than 130,000 calls, helping ensure every member's question or concern received personal attention.

At the same time, we recognize the growing desire for convenient digital options. Our team has spent the past two years preparing to launch a new customer information system that will enhance our members' online experience. The new MyDEA portal, set to debut in 2026, will offer members greater access and insight into their energy use, payment options, and account details, all in one place.

Looking ahead

As we look toward 2026, we're excited about the opportunities ahead to strengthen our cooperative and deliver even greater value to our members. On behalf of the entire Dakota Electric team, thank you for your continued trust and partnership. It is truly a privilege to serve you.

With Gratitude,

Ryan Hentges, CEO



Giving back

At Dakota Electric, giving back is part of our mission — both to members and to our community.

CAPITAL CREDIT\$



What are capital credits?

- Your share of Dakota Electric's profits and allocations from our power provider
- Returned to members, not to outside investors
- A special perk of being a cooperative member



Who will receive checks this year?

- Members with electric service during:
- **2007 & 2010:** Remaining 2007 and 75% of 2010 Dakota Electric allocations (\$3.2M)
Dakota Electric had no margins to allocate in 2008 or 2009.
 - **2003:** Remaining 54% of our power provider allocations (\$1M)



Ensure your check arrives!

- Call 651-463-6212 to update your address
- Email capitalcredits@dakotaelectric.com with questions (include your check number)



Learn more about this perk!

www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/capital-credits

Search the unclaimed list

www.dakotaelectric.com/unclaimed-capital-credits

SCHOOL DONATION\$

Even though Dakota Electric works diligently to return capital credits, some checks go unclaimed. After a set period, those funds are reinvested into local education through our four-year rotating school grant program, another way Dakota Electric gives back.

This year, \$50,000 was awarded to Districts 199 (Inver Grove Heights), 197 (W. St. Paul–Mendota Heights), 196 (Rosemount–Eagan–Apple Valley), and Inver Hills Community College to enhance student learning and advance district goals through innovative programs.

Districts 199 and 197 will use the funds to support Career and College Readiness programming through the TriDistrict Centers for Advanced Professional Studies (TriDistrict CAPS), which connects students with real-world career exploration and internships. The funding will help provide transportation for

students without reliable transit and support start-up costs for a new CAPS center.

District 196 will expand waste reduction efforts by adding compost bins, educational signage, and waste audits across its high schools, empowering students to lead sustainability initiatives and reduce the district's environmental footprint.

Inver Hills Community College will use its grant to remove barriers to student success by addressing basic needs and providing financial assistance, allowing students to better focus on their education.

By turning unclaimed capital credits into opportunities, Dakota Electric continues to invest in local schools, inspire innovation, and power the next generation of community leaders.

HELPING NEIGHBORS

Dakota Electric also gives back through our Helping Neighbors® program. Helping Neighbors provides critical assistance for local families experiencing financial hardship. Donations help cover utility costs and stay in our community through trusted partners like the Community Action Partnership (CAP) Agency, Salvation Army, and 360 Communities.

If you're able, please consider supporting Helping Neighbors. You can add a monthly donation directly to your electric bill or make a one-time contribution.

Learn more or sign up at www.dakotaelectric.com/community/helping-neighbors-sign-up or call 651-463-6212.

We also strongly encourage members who are struggling with energy costs to contact the CAP Agency to apply for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Even if you've never applied before, you may qualify for help with heating bills, energy-related repairs or weatherization services. To apply visit www.capagency.org or call 651-322-3500.

COMMUNITY DRIVES

Another way Dakota Electric gives back is by organizing community drives that support local families and strengthen the communities we serve.

This season, Dakota Electric employees will be at the **Hy-Vee in Lakeville on Saturday, December 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, collecting food and monetary donations for neighbors experiencing hardship.

As winter sets in, many families face difficult choices between paying bills and putting food on the table. By coming together, we can help ease that burden and make the season a little brighter for those in need.

Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference. Stop by to drop off a food item, make a donation, or simply show your support. Together, we can share the power of community and bring warmth and hope to our neighbors this holiday season.



MONEY SAVING TIPS

Dakota Electric not only gives back through capital credits and community grants, we also help members save energy and money year-round.

Winter energy-saving tips

- Open curtains during the day, close them at night to retain heat
- Lower your thermostat a few degrees when you're away or sleeping
- Seal leaks around doors and windows
- Schedule a furnace tune-up for peak efficiency
- Switch to long-lasting LED lighting

Member rebates available

Dakota Electric offers rebates to help make energy-efficient upgrades more affordable — from heating and cooling systems to water heaters, appliances, and lighting.

Find a full list of available rebates and applications at www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/programs-rebates.

Because at Dakota Electric, every power perk helps you save energy, save money, and strengthen our community.

Interested **Director** candidates

A 12-person Board of Directors, consisting of and elected by members, governs the cooperative. Dakota Electric's Board of Directors acts on behalf of the membership to guide operations and future planning for the cooperative.

The Board of Directors is comprised of three members from each of its four districts. Directors serve three-year terms and are elected by you, our member-owners. Each year, one seat in each of the four districts is up for election. Any eligible member may seek election in the district in which they reside.

Members interested in seeking election for a Director seat should visit www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/annual-meeting-election for more information. All interested candidates must apply via the application link on the webpage.

The application link will be available on **December 29, 2025**. Completed applications **must** be received by 5:00 p.m. on **January 15, 2026**. To be eligible for the ballot, all candidates are **required** to be available and participate in the following:

- **January 28, 2026 (afternoon/evening)**
Nominating Committee interviews (in-person at Dakota Electric Headquarters*)
- **January 29, 2026 (afternoon/evening)**
Nominating Committee interview backup date (in-person at Dakota Electric Headquarters*)
- **February 12, 2026 (morning)**
Director candidate orientation/election rules meeting (held in-person with the option to join virtually)

**Interviews will take place in person, but accommodations for other suitable means may be granted to Director candidates due to extenuating circumstances.*

Seats up for election

DISTRICT	TERM	INCUMBENT
1	3-year	John (Jack) DeYoe
2	3-year	Bill Middlecamp
3	3-year	Margaret D. Schreiner
4	3-year	Paul Bakken

For election related questions, please contact boardelection@dakotaelectric.com or 651-463-6337.

Rate case update

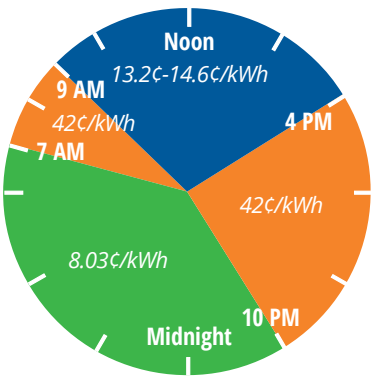
On October 16, 2025 the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) overseeing our rate case issued their report. In this report, the ALJ recommended that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission accept the rate case settlement that parties reached in June 2025.

This rate case settlement includes a final overall rate increase of 9.62%. Dakota Electric expects a formal Commission decision in early 2026 and the start of new rates in Spring 2026.

EV time-of-use program updates

Dakota Electric's EV time-of-use periods will change as part of upcoming rate updates, expected in early 2026. Off-peak hours will be 10 p.m.–7 a.m., Monday–Friday, with a new morning peak from 7–9 a.m. Weekends and holidays remain fully off-peak.

Questions? Contact our Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243.



**The rates shown reflect current estimates for time-of-use pricing and are subject to change.*

Recycle your holiday lights!

If your holiday lights have lost their sparkle, don't toss them in the trash! Nearly all cities offer drop-off locations for holiday light recycling from **November 15 through January 31**.

You can also bring them to The Recycling Zone in Egan, which accepts holiday lights year-round. Recycling your old strings of lights helps recover valuable materials and keeps waste out of landfills, an easy way to make the season a little greener!



4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAKOTA ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION

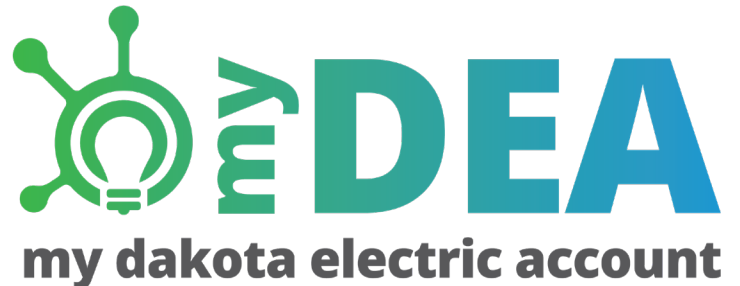
Upcoming Events

- **Board Meeting**
Dec. 11, 8:30 a.m.
- **Office Closed**
Dec. 24-26
- **Board Application Opens**
Dec. 29
- **Youth Tour Application Opens**
Dec. 29

Connect with us!



**GET READY
FOR**



Dakota Electric is launching MyDEA,
our new member portal, for a more
convenient experience.

Stay tuned for instructions coming soon.

Visit www.dakotaelectric.com/mydea to learn more.