

SEPTEMBER 2023

# CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

**IT WAS GREAT  
TO SEE YOU!**

Thanks for visiting  
our booth at the  
Dakota County Fair!



# 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

651-460-7500

*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.*

www.dakotaelectric.com

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### DISTRICT 1

John (Jack) DeYoe | *MREA Director*  
David Jones  
Gerald F. Pittman | *Treasurer*

### DISTRICT 2

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

### DISTRICT 3

Kenneth H. Danner  
Margaret D. Schreiner | *GRE Director*

### DISTRICT 4

Paul Bakken | *Chair*  
Stacy Miller  
Jenny Hoeft

# FARM SAFETY & HEALTH

## WEEK SEPT. 17-23

*As we observe National Farm Safety and Health Week, we emphasize the importance of farm electrical safety to protect lives and ensure a sustainable future for our farming communities. Here are some essential measures that farmers and agricultural workers should follow:*

### Regular electrical system inspections

Conducting routine inspections of electrical systems, wiring and equipment is crucial. Identifying potential hazards early can prevent accidents and ensure the smooth operation of electrical infrastructure.

### Proper grounding

Ensure that all electrical equipment is properly grounded to prevent electrical shocks and fires. Proper grounding provides a path for electrical currents to dissipate safely, minimizing the risk of accidents.

### Training and education

Farmers and workers should receive comprehensive training on farm electrical safety. Understanding how to handle electrical equipment safely, recognizing warning signs and knowing what to do in case of emergencies can save lives.

### Electrical safety equipment

Always use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when working with electrical systems. Insulated gloves, safety glasses and

flame-resistant clothing can provide vital protection.

### Prevent overloading

Avoid overloading electrical circuits and outlets. Overloaded circuits can lead to overheating and potential electrical fires.

### Weatherproofing

Ensure all outdoor electrical outlets and equipment are properly weatherproofed to prevent water damage and potential electric shocks.

### Proper equipment storage

When equipment is not in use, store it properly in a dry and secure location. Protecting electrical equipment from the elements can extend its lifespan and prevent malfunctions.

### Stay put

If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact Dakota Electric immediately and do not exit the equipment until the power line is de-energized.

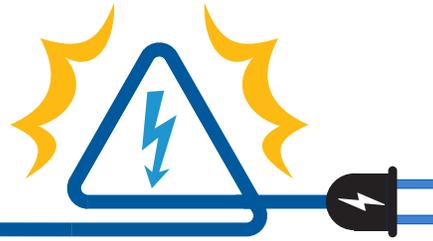
### Call your co-op

Never attempt to move a power line to clear a path. If they have sagged over time, call Dakota Electric to repair it.



# 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. Many 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.



# CHARGING PROGRAMS

## ChargeWise Electric Vehicle (EV) 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 and meter on either program.

### Off-peak storage rate

This option offers members the lowest cost of off-peak electricity for charging an EV. Electricity for charging an EV is only available during off-peak hours (11 p.m. - 7 a.m.), and members receive a discounted rate for their EV charging.

### Time-of-use rate

This option allows members to charge their EV at any time of day. Members receive a discounted rate for charging their EV during off-peak hours.

### COMING SOON!

We're in the process of implementing an innovative EV charging program. Get ready to enjoy convenient and cost-effective electric vehicle charging with off-peak energy charge credits. While we're currently in the testing phase, stay tuned for more updates inside the upcoming issues of *Circuits*.



## 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.

# COMMUNITY



**Tuesday, Sept. 26, 5-7 p.m.**  
**Eagan Community Center**

1501 Central Parkway, Eagan, MN 55121

- **FREE (registration is NOT required)**
- Vendor trade show
- Electric vehicle car show
- Informational session



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

## 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](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/billing-payment/financial-assistance).

## Cold Weather Rule

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](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/billing-payment/electric-rates-rights).

## New Director Joins Dakota Electric Association's Board



Dakota Electric's board of directors announces the appointment of Cyndee Fields as a new member of the Board of Directors. The appointment comes following a vacancy in District 3 after long-time board director Bill Holton passed away in 2022.

Effective Immediately, Cyndee Fields assumes director responsibilities and will fulfill the District 3, Seat 2 term until the April 2025 election.

As per Article III, Section 5 of Dakota Electric Association's bylaws, in the event of a director's vacancy, the remaining directors have the authority to appoint a successor.

"Dakota Electric's board of directors is dedicated to providing reliable electricity and excellent service to its members," said Paul Bakken, board chair for Dakota Electric. "The appointment of Cyndee Fields to the board of directors further strengthens the cooperative's ability to meet its mission and serve the community effectively."

For more information, please visit [www.dakotaelectric.com](http://www.dakotaelectric.com).

## Promotional Rebates Extended!

We have extended our promotional rebates until **Sept. 30, 2023**. 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](http://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**  
Monday, Sept. 4  
Office Closed
- **Fall Food Drive**  
Saturday, Sept. 23  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **Energy Trends Expo**  
Tuesday, Sept. 26  
5 - 7 p.m.
- **Board Meeting**  
Sept. 28, 8:30 a.m.

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DAKOTA ELECTRIC  
ASSOCIATION

### CONNECT WITH US!



# FOOD DRIVE



**Sept. 23, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Hy-Vee located on Pilot Knob in Lakeville**

*Donate cash or food items for a chance to win a grand prize! Donations will be matched by Dakota Electric and go to The Open Door pantry.*

*We hope to see you there!*



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative