

OCTOBER 2023

CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS



NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

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

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CIRCUITS | OCTOBER 2023

NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

The Member Advantage

Cooperatives (co-ops) are a vital contributor to the American economy and way of life. Nationally observed every October since 1964, Co-op Month is a chance to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions made by those who work in or benefit from co-ops.

What is an electric co-op?

Electric co-ops have a history and business model that sets them apart from other utility providers. In the United States, they began operating over 85 years ago when residents of rural areas struggled to get access to electric power. There wasn't enough financial incentive for the existing investor-owned power companies to run lines across long distances to areas with comparatively few customers.

So, with the help of federal loans, those rural residents joined together to form their own not-for-profit electric cooperatives to generate, transmit and deliver electricity to the areas in which they lived and worked.

What it means to be a member of an electric co-op

Being part of an electric cooperative means you are a member-owner instead of a customer. This means your co-op board of directors is democratically elected by you and they actively participate in setting policies and making decisions on your behalf. Where investor-owned companies operate to generate earnings and answer to shareholders, the cooperative model focuses on the best interests of its members.

The value of being a Dakota Electric member

The co-op business model is unique and rooted in our local communities. Co-ops help us build a more participatory, sustainable and resilient economy.

Dakota Electric operates for the benefit of its members by providing a variety of member services along with safe and reliable electricity at a reasonable cost. Dakota Electric also returns savings to its members through capital credits.

PROGRAMS & REBATES

We offer programs and rebates designed to help our members use less energy and reduce monthly bills. To learn more visit www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/programs-rebates or call 651-463-6243 to speak to one of our Energy Experts®.

MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

All Dakota Electric members are invited to attend and ask questions at the cooperative's annual meeting, typically held in the month of April. Annual meetings provide members with information about the cooperative's growth, financial health, board election and programs available to members.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Dakota Electric aims to do more than simply deliver electricity. As a local member-owned business, we care about the communities we serve. Whether it is through volunteering or sponsorships, we are passionate about helping our communities thrive.

LUNDS & BYERLYS

NOW OPEN IN APPLE VALLEY!

The new Lunds and Byerlys in Apple Valley — located on the corner of Pilot Knob Road and 155th Street — is not just a grocery store; it's a destination that offers a remarkable culinary experience, a rooftop escape and a commitment to sustainability that sets a high standard for environmentally responsible retail.



Generator used during times of load control.



Brian Miller, General Manager
Lunds & Byerlys Apple Valley

The Apple Valley location offers diverse culinary options, from a deli to an enticing salad bar and fresh, hand-rolled creations at the Hissho Sushi counter. If you're looking to quench your thirst, check out some local craft brews from the eight self-serve taps at The Mezz.

The store also carries a wide range of products, from fresh produce — including on-site indoor cultivated mushrooms — to pantry staples, ensuring that you can find everything on your shopping list. But what truly sets this store apart is its commitment to sustainability.

The store uses cutting-edge technologies and practices to achieve its sustainability goal.

One notable initiative is the use of CO2 refrigeration systems, a more environmentally-friendly alternative to traditional refrigerants. These systems are energy-efficient and have a significantly lower carbon footprint.

Additionally, the store is lit entirely by LED lighting. Solatube lighting, which captures natural sunlight, has also been installed to reduce the need for artificial lighting during the day.

To further enhance energy efficiency, the store features automatic roll-sealed doors on coolers and freezers. These doors prevent cold air from escaping, reducing energy consumption and keeping food fresh.

Occupancy sensors are another smart addition to the store's design. They ensure that lights are only active in rooms when they are in use, minimizing energy waste.

As a community-focused store, Lunds and Byerlys is also part of Dakota Electric's Load Control Program. By participating in this program, the store demonstrates its commitment to supporting the community by helping to balance the electrical grid during times of high demand.

This exciting addition to the community is now open! Visit today to experience the future of sustainable shopping.

COLLINS AEROSPACE ENROLLS IN THE WELLSPRING PROGRAM

Dakota Electric Association and Collins Aerospace, an RTX business and a leading provider of technologically advanced solutions for the aerospace industry, announced their collaboration in the cooperative's Wellspring Renewable Energy program. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to sustainable energy practices and environmental stewardship.

As part of the collaboration, Collins Aerospace's Burnsville facility committed to enrolling in the Wellspring program for the next five years. The agreement, executed in June, involves the purchase of renewable energy certificates (RECs) to offset their energy consumption. These RECs represent the environmental attributes of renewable energy generation and serve as tangible proof of their commitment to sustainable practices. Since enrolling, Collins Aerospace has purchased over 3.7 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) for the year 2023.

"By committing to enrollment for the next five years, we emphasize our steadfast commitment to sustainability and our role in advancing the adoption of renewable energy sources." Said Mark Skarohlid, General Manager for Collins Aerospace Sensors business.

Wellspring, available to all Dakota Electric members, offers residential and business members an opportunity to support sustainable energy while making a meaningful impact. By participating in Wellspring, companies like Collins Aerospace

contribute to the growth of renewable energy generation, leading the way towards a more sustainable future.

"Dakota Electric Association is proud to partner with Collins Aerospace as we work together to promote sustainable energy practices," said Dan Ross, Business Account Executive for Dakota Electric Association. "By collaborating with industry leaders like Collins Aerospace, we can make a significant positive impact on our environment and inspire others to embrace renewable energy initiatives."

The partnership between Dakota Electric Association and Collins Aerospace exemplifies the growing interest and commitment to renewable energy adoption among businesses.

For more information about the Wellspring Renewable Energy program, please contact Dakota Electric's Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243 or email energyservices@dakotaelectric.com.



COMMUNITY

Powering Homes and Hearts: A Win-Win Partnership for a Sustainable Future

Dakota Electric teamed up with Habitat for Humanity Twin Cities to transform two homes in Lakeville, Minnesota.

This initiative was born out of a unique collaboration, as the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) reached out to Dakota Electric to explore opportunities to support Habitat for Humanity Twin Cities. CEE recognized Dakota Electric's commitment to energy efficiency and believed that partnering with them would help create environmentally friendly homes while also reducing energy bills for the homeowners.

Dakota Electric funded the installation of high-efficiency air-source heat pumps and water heaters in both homes. This encompassed not only the cost of the equipment but also the expert installation, which was done by local company Angell Aire.

Dakota Electric's involvement highlights our commitment to promoting electrification technologies that benefit the environment and our local communities.



Apply for the 2023 Touchstone Energy Community Award

Dakota Electric is now accepting applications for the Touchstone Energy Community Award, which recognizes nonprofit groups and community organizations that have shown a strong commitment to the community.

Applicants are evaluated on project scope, use of resources and the impact or value to the community. Three winners will receive \$500 with one having a chance for another \$2,000 in the statewide competition. To receive judging criteria, and an application for the award, go to www.dakotaelectric.com/community/touchstone-energy-community-award.

The deadline for applications is November 1.



Safe at Home

Address confidentiality program

Safe at Home helps survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and other crimes, and anyone who fears for their safety, by establishing a confidential mailing address and providing a mail forwarding service.

While Dakota Electric needs members' actual addresses to establish and maintain electric service, we use Safe at Home addresses for communicating with members and take special steps to protect Safe at Home participants' addresses.

If you participate in Safe at Home, alert Dakota Electric and provide your Safe at Home mailing address.

To learn more, contact the office of the Minnesota Secretary of State by calling 1-866-723-3035 or visit www.sos.state.mn.us/safe-at-home.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Board Meeting**
Oct. 26, 8:30 a.m.
- **Farmington Halloween Walk**
Oct. 27, 5:30-7 p.m.
Dodge Middle School
- **Rosmount Haunted Trail**
Oct. 28, 6-8 p.m.
Central Park

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SAVE ENERGY, SAVE MONEY

Upgrade to an electric thermal storage (ETS) water heater to receive a rebate of up to \$500 and a lifetime of energy savings.

