March 2024

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
651-460-7500

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
Cyndee Fields
Margaret D. Schreiner | *GRE Director*

DISTRICT 4
Paul Bakken | *Chair*
Stacy Miller
Jenny Hoeft

Where we get our **power**

Dakota Electric sources its wholesale power from a generation and transmission cooperative called Great River Energy. Great River Energy manages a diverse, regionally connected, power portfolio to deliver reliable, affordable electricity to 1.7 million people across two-thirds of Minnesota through 27 member-owner cooperatives.

A Responsible & Balanced Approach

Great River Energy maintains a balanced resource portfolio that provides its members, including Dakota Electric, with reliable, cost-effective power supplies. This balanced portfolio includes wind generation, natural gas peaking generation and market contracts. Great River Energy has built this portfolio to provide the reliability we need today with an eye toward the future and compliance with current and future requirements. Through a proactive strategy, Great River Energy transitioned to a less carbon intensive resource portfolio while maintaining reliability and keeping power cost affordable.

Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) & Carbon-Free Future

Great River Energy recently filed its IRP with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. An IRP is a planning document that lays out a utility's expected needs and how it will serve its consumers over the next 20 years. This IRP is particularly important because it is GRE's first IRP since the Legislature passed Carbon Free by 2040 in 2023. GRE's IRP lays out a path to serve members with energy that is reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible.

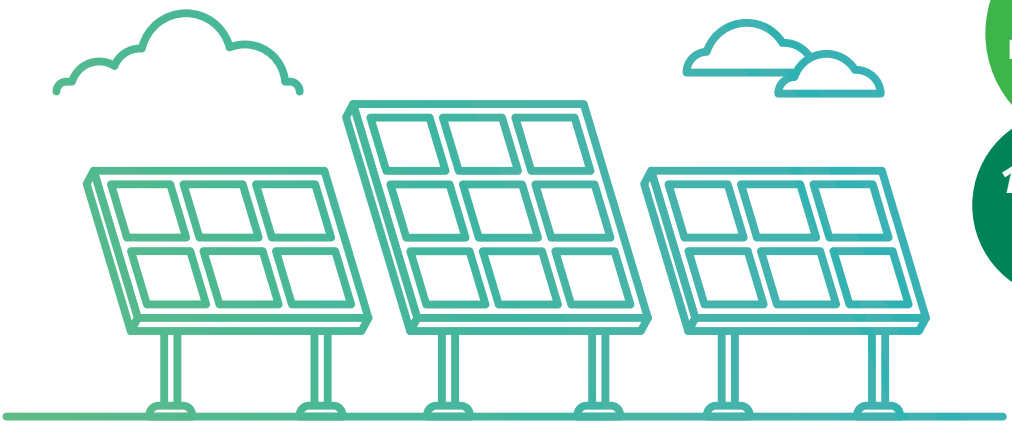
Dakota Electric's power supply portfolio is well positioned for Carbon Free by 2040. By reducing coal-based energy and more than doubling renewable energy, Great River Energy anticipates that by 2035 its retail electric sales will be provided by a 90% carbon-free power supply in alignment with the Minnesota carbon-free standard. Dakota Electric has aided this transition by installing 6MW of utility scale solar and assisting our members in their pursuit of distributed energy resources such as rooftop solar.

Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)

MISO oversees, and independently controls, the power grid over much of the middle of the United States spanning 15 U.S. states and Manitoba, Canada. MISO ensures reliable, affordable energy through grid management, energy market oversight and transmission planning for its participating utilities. MISO maintains grid reliability, optimizes energy markets for cost-effective supply and plans transmission infrastructure for future needs. Dakota Electric, through Great River Energy, has participated in MISO for nearly 20 years. This participation becomes more important as the grid modernizes and transitions away from legacy generation resources. MISO participation lowers costs and improves efficiency by preventing or delaying the construction of generating facilities. GRE's participation in MISO guarantees reliable and affordable electricity for Dakota Electric members.

Distributed **solar**

Dakota Electric Association promotes distributed solar by supporting members who install small-scale solar systems on their properties, such as rooftops. This approach decentralizes energy production, making members more independent while contributing to a resilient grid. Members can generate their electricity while reducing reliance on the grid. Members interested in connecting their own solar, wind and energy storage systems should email derinterconnections@dakotaelectric.com. Dakota Electric facilitates grid interaction, allowing surplus solar energy to benefit the community. Through support programs, Dakota Electric empowers members to embrace clean, renewable energy, advancing sustainability goals while serving community needs.



342
Member Installs In 2023

12.36 MW
Total Solar Capacity

1,430
Total Member Installs

Battery **storage**

Battery storage in the context of the electric grid refers to the use of large-scale batteries to store electrical energy for later use. These batteries are typically connected to the grid and can be charged when there is excess electricity available, such as during periods of low demand or when renewable energy sources like solar or wind power are generating more electricity than is immediately needed.

Long-Duration Energy Storage

Great River Energy will be deploying a multi-day battery storage pilot project in Cambridge, Minnesota. The Cambridge Energy Storage Project will be a 1.5-megawatt, grid-connected storage system capable of delivering its rated power continuously for 100 hours, far longer than the four-hour usage period available from utility-scale lithium-ion batteries today. As more renewables are added to the grid, long-duration storage will help maintain reliability during extreme conditions, such as a heat wave or polar vortex. Low-cost, long-duration energy storage solutions can also fill gaps in wind and solar energy production that would otherwise require starting a power plant. Great River Energy is working with Form Energy of Somerville, Massachusetts, on the project. This is the first commercial deployment of Form Energy's proprietary multi-day energy storage system. Form Energy's aqueous air battery system uses safe, inexpensive and abundant materials.

Dakota Electric Battery Storage Pilot Program

Dakota Electric has a rich history of pioneering rate strategies, a steadfast commitment to energy efficiency and maintaining affordable rates. Recently, Dakota Electric sought approval from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a new battery storage program and rate. If approved, this program will offer members with eligible batteries a reduced energy rate in exchange for Dakota Electric's access to the battery to help lower overall wholesale power costs. When available, additional information will be placed in *Circuits*.

Electric vehicles

Why Own An EV?

Affordable to run

- The average driver will save between $4,000 - $5,000 in fuel costs over the course of five years.
- EVs have lower maintenance costs since you can avoid oil changes, cooling system flushes, transmission servicing, air filter changes, spark plugs, drive belts, and more!
- Tax incentives can reduce the purchase price.

Range & Accessibility

- Depending on the model, many EVs can go over 200 or even 300 miles on a single charge.
- There are over 21,000 public charging stations in the U.S.

Other

- EVs are structurally sound and often at the top of their class in terms of crash and safety ratings.
- Provide a smoother, quieter ride.

Already Own An EV?

Dakota Electric offers three voluntary options for charging your EV at home as well as a rebate of $500 to assist with the cost of installing a charging circuit on the storage or time-of-use programs.

Storage
Offers members the lowest cost available to charge their EV. Charging occurs during the off-peak hours of 11 p.m. - 7 a.m.

Time-of-Use
Available for members to charge their EV at any time of day. Members are charged lower rates during the off-peak hours of 9 p.m. - 8 a.m.

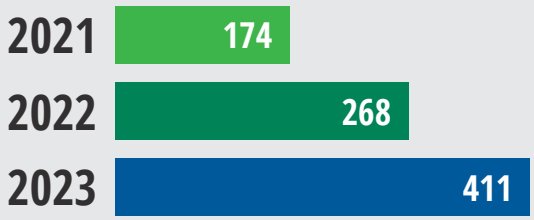
NEW PROGRAM!

Virtual Metered EV Charging Program
Charging your EV at home just got easier! Dakota Electric now offers a virtual metered EV charging program for members who want to participate without needing to install another meter.

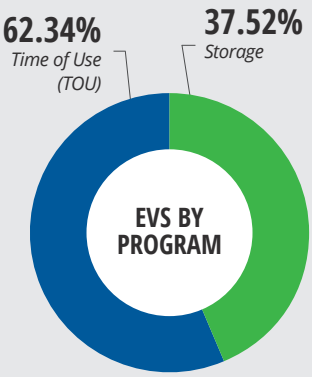
Contact an **Energy Expert**® today at 651-463-6243.

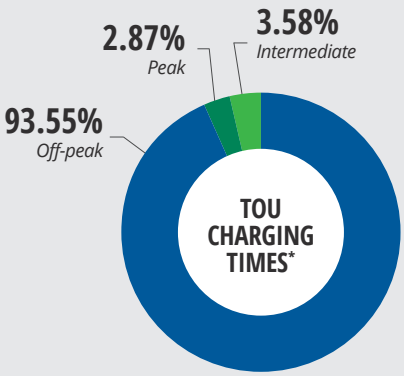
Dakota Electric **EV Stats**

EVs Rebated Per Year by Dakota Electric



EVs Program Use





*As reported in 2023 annual EV filing.

Nominating **committee**

In accordance with Section 3, Article III, of the Bylaws of this Association, we the undersigned Nominating Committee, in a meeting held on January 31, 2024, have selected the following nominees shown below for directorship of said Association to be on the ballot for the 2024 board elections. Candidates nominated by petition have an asterisk next to their name.

Additionally, Dakota Electric's Board of Directors held a special meeting on Saturday, February 10, 2024, where a motion was made and carried to reopen the application period for the 2024 Annual Election specific to District 3, Seat 2. Completed applications were accepted until Monday, February 26 and interviewed by the Nominating Committee on Tuesday, February 27. Members were notified by a **Special Notice to Members** mailed the week of February 12. Further information as to why the application period was reopened for District 3, Seat 2 can be found by visiting **www.dakotaelectric.com/2024/02/10/special-notice-to-members**. At the time of the *Circuits* printing deadline, nominations for District 3, Seat 2 had yet to be selected. Nominees chosen were made available on the Association's website on February 28 at **www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/annual-meeting-election**.

DISTRICT 1 *(3-YEAR TERM)*	DISTRICT 2 *(3-YEAR TERM)*	DISTRICT 3 *(SEAT 1, 3-YEAR TERM)*	DISTRICT 3 *(SEAT 2, 1-YEAR TERM)*	DISTRICT 4 *(3-YEAR TERM)*
Jerry Pittman *(Incumbent)*	Clay Van De Bogart *(Incumbent)*	Ken Danner *(Incumbent)*	Upcoming	Ian Benson
Jeff Nelson		Richard Billion		Jenny Hoeft*
		Donald Vasatka		Elizabeth Lucente
				Ian Ziese

The Nominating Committee is made up of the following people: Bob Erickson, Nate Reitz, Greg Clausen, Ginny Jacobs, Jerry Rich, Jenny Zakoski, Jerry Brown and Mouli Vaidyanathan.

Crops Day

The sixteenth annual Crops Day, hosted by University of Minnesota and Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District experts, will take place on Wed., March 13, 2024, at the Dakota Electric Association office in Farmington. The event offers local research results and crop management strategies to producers and agricultural professionals, with free admission and lunch provided. Pre-registration is encouraged for catering purposes; **RSVP at https://z.umn.edu/DakotaCountyCropsDay or via the QR code**.

We want your **feedback!**

Let Us Know How We Are Doing!

Scan the QR code to take a short survey, or visit, www.surveymonkey.com/r/DakotaElectric.

DAKOTA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Crops Day**
  March 13, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Lakeville Landscape & Home Expo**
  March 16, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
  Lakeville North High School
- **Board Meeting**
  March 28, 8:30 a.m.
- **Apple Valley Home & Garden Expo**
  April 6, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
  Eastview High School

CONNECT WITH US!

PLEASE RECYCLE ME!

Dakota Electric

Annual Meeting

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, April 25

6 PM - 8:30 PM

Rosemount Community Center