

September 2024

Circuits

For Dakota Electric members



**Thanks for visiting us 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

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Demystifying your **electric bill** — a closer look at the costs

At Dakota Electric, we're committed to helping you understand the key factors that influence your electric bill. By breaking down these elements, we aim to give you a clearer picture of how your energy costs are calculated and how you can manage them effectively.

Your electric bill consists of the service charge, energy consumption charge (kWh), the Resource and Tax Adjustment (RTA) and various taxes and fees. Here's a quick overview of each component.

Service charge

This fixed monthly fee covers the basic costs of delivering electricity to your home, including the maintenance of essential infrastructure like power lines and transformers, as well as metering and billing. Despite rising equipment costs, this charge ensures that everyone shares these necessary expenses equally.

Energy consumption charge (kWh)

This charge varies with the amount of electricity you use each month. It covers the costs of generating and delivering electricity. The Resource and Tax Adjustment (RTA) is also included, adjusting annually to reflect changes in wholesale power costs and property taxes since

our last rate case. You can lower this charge by adopting energy-saving habits, such as setting your thermostat to 78 degrees in the summer and using energy-efficient appliances.

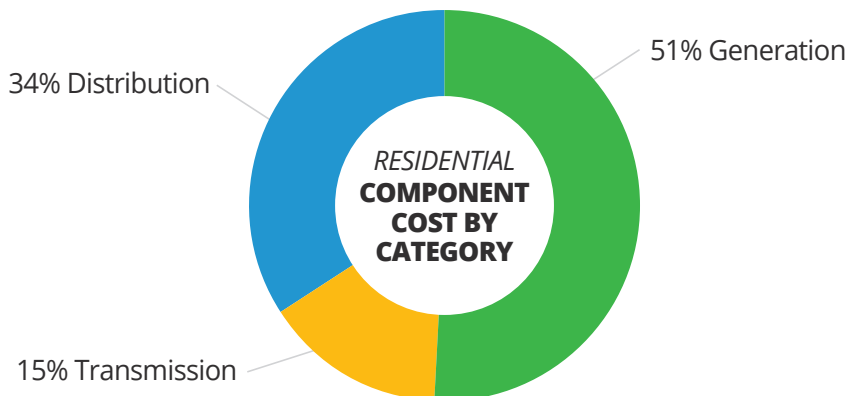
Taxes and fees

Your bill may include franchise fees based on city ordinances, which vary depending on your location. Additionally, the Dakota County Transit Tax applies to members in Dakota County, and state taxes are based on rates effective as of January 1, 2019. Any further applicable taxes on electricity transmission, distribution or sales will be added to the rate.

Energy generation & delivery costs

We also provide a breakdown of how your bill is allocated to the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity. This is updated annually and varies by rate class, offering transparency into where your money goes.

Understanding these components helps you manage your energy use and anticipate your monthly costs. If you have questions about your bill or need advice on saving energy, Dakota Electric is here to help. Call our Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243.



Key factors that impact **electric bills**

You pay for the electricity you consume each month, but there are additional factors that impact your energy bills.



Generation costs

Electricity must be generated at a power plant or from a renewable source before reaching your home. The power charge on your bill covers cost fluctuations without changing electricity rates.



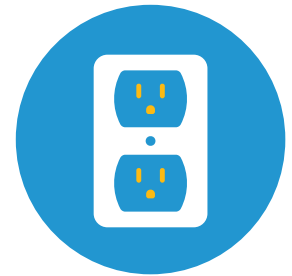
Service costs

Your bill includes a monthly service charge for the co-op's investments in infrastructure and maintenance.



Weather

Extreme temperatures make your heating or cooling run longer, boosting energy use and raising electricity prices.



Energy Consumption

This is your monthly electricity usage in kilowatt-hours (kWh) for cooling/heating, appliances, lighting, and electronics. You can control your energy use to manage costs.

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 getting on the school bus for the first time.

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. If you see shoes already hanging on power lines, do not try to remove them.

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.

ChargeWise **electric vehicle** (EV) programs

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.

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.

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.

Participate today! Contact our **Energy Experts®** at 651-463-6212.



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, an 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.

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.

Assistance for military personnel

If a member is ordered into active duty, for deployment or for a change of active military 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.

Promotional rebates extended!

We have extended our promotional rebates until **Sept. 30, 2024**. 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 for more information.

National Farm Safety & Health Week

During National Farm Safety and Health Week, observed from September 15-21, it's vital to highlight the importance of farm electrical safety. Protecting lives and ensuring a sustainable future for our farming communities starts with basic safety measures. Regular inspections of electrical systems, proper grounding, and comprehensive training are fundamental in preventing accidents and ensuring the reliable operation of farm equipment. Farmers and workers should also use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and avoid overloading circuits, which can lead to electrical fires and shocks.

Weatherproofing outdoor electrical outlets and equipment is another critical safety measure. Exposure to the elements can cause significant damage, increasing the risk of malfunctions or electric shocks. Properly storing electrical tools and equipment when not in use is equally important, as it helps prevent moisture-related issues and prolongs the lifespan of the equipment. These simple practices can make a significant difference in maintaining a safe working environment on the farm.

In the event of an emergency, such as contact with a downed power line, it's essential to stay in the equipment and immediately contact Dakota Electric. Exiting the equipment before the power line is de-energized can be extremely dangerous. Additionally, never attempt to move a power line that may have sagged over time — instead, call Dakota Electric for professional assistance. Taking these precautions can prevent life-threatening accidents.

By following these essential safety measures, farmers and agricultural workers can create a safer environment on the farm. These practices not only protect individuals but also contribute to the overall well-being of farming communities, ensuring that agricultural operations can continue safely and effectively for generations to come.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Labor Day: Office Closed**
Monday, Sept. 2
- **Energy Fest**
Tuesday, Sept. 24
3:00-6:30 p.m.
- **Board Meeting**
Thursday, Sept. 26
8:30 a.m.

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAKOTA ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION

CONNECT WITH US!



DAKOTA ELECTRIC'S ENERGY FEST



**Tuesday,
Sept. 24**



**3:00 to
6:30 p.m.**



**610 Opperman
Dr., Eagan, MN**

Experience Dakota Electric's 2024 Energy Fest — a **FREE** evening of excitement and learning! Test drive the latest electric vehicles and explore the newest energy trends.

Connect with experts and discover how innovation is powering a sustainable future!

Donate cash or food items for a chance to win a grand prize!

Scan the QR code or visit
www.dakotaelectric.com
to register!

