



# NEW YEAR - SAME MISSION

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

As we turn the page on the current year and begin 2024 your cooperative once again continues its focus of safely delivering you reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy.

That statement sounds great, and we use it in just about every publication because it condenses into one sentence the core focus of our cooperative. But we also know that catchy phrases and popular sound bites don't keep the lights on. Real people do that day in and day out with hard work, strategic planning, and a strong commitment to serve our members. (802007)

Unfortunately, as we have written about in the past, delivering on that promise of reliability is becoming more challenging. Later on, in our local pages, you'll read an article that shares some reliability concerns from the North American Reliability Council (NERC) and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). We share this information, not to alarm you about possible power reliability issues, but with the hopes of educating our members about the issues our region and nation are facing with baseload power generation supplies and inadequate transmission infrastructure. Dunn Energy Cooperative and our power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, are working on these issues in our region. But a nationwide, comprehensive approach to energy issues is needed because of how interconnected the electrical grid is.

While many of these issues are outside of our direct control, we do not sit back and wait for something to happen. Our staff works daily to keep your power dependable. In 2024 we will perform right-of-way clearing



in the Colfax and Wheeler areas, replace about 100 older poles, and test all the poles out of our Connorsville and Wheeler substations. Our crews will perform many other system upgrades and complete larger projects in the Elk Mound, Connorsville, Tilden, and Colfax areas. These are all designed to improve system reliability.

We will continue our efforts with technology planning to make sure our local distribution system is future ready. Our team will also continue our work on developing our communities and designing programs to better serve our members.

You may have noticed some power cost adjustment credits (PCAs) on your bills in the last few months. Being a true cooperative, when our costs went down, we returned those savings to you, the member-owner. We hope to keep rates steady in 2024, but as we have seen in the past the power markets are sometimes unpredictable and some temporary adjustments may occur.

The board and employees of Dunn Energy Cooperative are looking forward to safely providing you reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy in the year ahead.

*Working for You*

## Hidden Account Numbers

If you find your account number hidden in the pages of this magazine and you call and tell us before the next issue is mailed, we'll put a **\$50 credit** on your electric bill. Happy hunting!

Last month's winners were June Engel and Alan Filipa

# ENERGY SENSE PROGRAM SEES MINIMAL CHANGES FOR 2024

## Save energy, save money with energy efficient purchases

It's a new year and a new opportunity for members to save on energy efficient purchases. Dunn Energy Cooperative's program will remain similar to 2023, offering rebates on many items, including clothes washers, electric water heaters, HVAC units (air source heat pumps and geothermal units), lighting and more. You can find the full list of rebates below. The new 2024 Energy Sense rebate forms are available online at [www.dunnenergy.com](http://www.dunnenergy.com) or by contacting the Dunn Energy office at 715-232-6240.



At right you will find a detailed list of the Energy Sense rebates and incentives offered by Dunn Energy Cooperative. Please make sure to read Overall Incentive Rules at the end of this list for other terms and conditions. If you have any questions, please call the office.

### HEATING AND COOLING

**AHRI Certified Reference Number required for all HVAC incentives**

**Geothermal Heat Pump Incentive**

- Paid to member at \$500/ton of the system
- Need a copy of the receipt and serial number of the unit
- AHRI Certificate must be provided

**Air Source Heat Pump/Mini Split**

- Paid to member at \$300/ ton of the system
- Must be 15 SEER or higher or EER 11 or higher or HSPF of 8.8 or higher
- Need a copy of the receipt and serial number of the unit
- AHRI Certificate must be provided

**Heat Pump – Commercial Air Source & PTHPs**

- \$300 per ton
- <20 tons to: EER 11+
- 20 to <60 ton: EER 10.5+
- ≥60 ton: EER 10+

**ECM Blower Motor Incentive – new furnace installation**

- Incentive is \$35 per unit
- Need a copy of receipt indicating ECM/variable speed blower motor
- Must be fully variable speed or AFUE ≥ 95% & EAE ≤ 670 kWh/year
- AHRI Certificate must be provided for furnace

**\*NEW\* Smart Thermostat**

- Honeywell or Emerson brand
- Enrolled in load management

### LIGHTING

- LED Exit Signs – \$5/fixture
- Occupancy Sensor – \$5 each (doesn't include motion detector fixtures)
- LED bulb – \$.50/bulb (5 bulb min.)
- LED hardwired fixture (indoor and outdoor) – \$.50 per 800 lumens

### APPLIANCES

**Energy Star Clothes Washer – Clothes Dryer – Refrigerator – Dishwasher – Dehumidifier – Freezer – Inductive Range**

- Incentive is \$25 per unit
- Unit must have Energy Star rating to qualify (except inductive ranges – they auto qualify)
- Member must provide a copy of purchase receipt
- Must provide proof of Energy Star rating
- Refrigerators and freezers must be ≥ 10 cu. Ft.

**RECYCLE** – Get an additional \$25 per working freezer, refrigerator, or window a/c unit that you recycle – need proof of recycling to qualify for the rebate.

**Water Heaters**

- Incentive is \$150 for units 75-99 gallons and \$300 for units 100 gallons and over
- 75+ gallons must have UEF of .88
- Unit must be put on the DEC load control program
- Member will receive an additional \$4/mo. credit on bill for load control\*
- Member must provide a copy of purchase receipt
- Must provide proof of Energy Factor (EF)

\*must use at least 400 kW/mo.



### Heat Pump Water Heaters

- Incentive is \$300
- Must be new install or replacing an existing electric water heater
- Must have a Uniform Energy Factor of 2.2+; be integrated.
- Does not have to be on Load Management program

### Solar Storage Water Heaters w/Electric Auxiliary Tank

- Incentive is \$150 for units 75-99 gallons and \$300 for units 100 gallons and over
- Must be new install or replacing an existing electric water heater

## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

### Controlled Electric Vehicle Charging Station

- Incentive is \$400 paid to member
- Must be controlled as defined by Dunn Energy Cooperative

### Controlled Electric Vehicle Charging Station w/Integrated Metering

- Incentive is \$800 paid to member
- Must be controlled as defined by Dunn Energy Cooperative

## HOME PERFORMANCE

### Home Energy Audit

- Incentive is \$150 credit towards the cost of a home energy audit
- Work must be performed by a state-certified energy audit specialist
- Typical total cost is \$325 less credit
- Bill for audit will be sent to Dunn Energy Cooperative and the member will see the charge on their energy bill, less the \$150 credit
- Cost of the audit generally includes one follow-up visit for retesting after recommended correction measures have been made.
- Eligible for only one audit every five years – limit 50 members per year
- If audit requests exceed 50, members will be placed on a waiting list and awarded incentives if money becomes available
- Credit cannot exceed 50% of the actual cost of the audit or \$150

### Home Audit Follow-up Incentive

- Incentive is a max of \$500 per member and **must be claimed within 24 months of audit**
- Must have done a home energy audit through the Dunn Energy program first
- Consultant will give the homeowner a series of recommendations of ways to improve energy efficiency.
- Dunn will credit member up to \$500 for completion of efficiency updates/improvements
- Member can do any combination of one or more of the projects listed by the consultant
- Projects should be related to electrical reduction and/or electrical efficiency

### Touchstone Energy Home Program

- Incentive is \$500 per home
- If requests exceed five, members will be placed on a waiting list and awarded incentives if money becomes available
- Need a copy of State Energy Star certification
- Program is arranged by the homeowner, builder, and state Energy Star Home staff. DEC just does the final rebate if the home passes and is certified as a Wisconsin Energy Star Home

## COMMERCIAL & FARM PROGRAMS

### Incentives for Farms Include:

- Plate Coolers – \$500
- Dairy Refrigeration Heat Recovery system with electric back up – \$300
- Low/Zero Energy Livestock Waterer – \$50 per unit (must be less than 500 watts; insulated tank)
- Scroll Refrigeration Compressor – \$30 per HP – max rebate \$1,000/compressor
- Variable Speed/Frequency Drives – \$30 per HP – max rebate \$1,000/drive; min. ½ HP
- Ag Fan – Exhaust – \$1 per inch diameter (36" fans must be rated 18 CFM/watt+; fans over 36" must be at or above 21 cfm/watt) <http://bess.illinois.edu>

- Ag Fan-Circulation – \$1 per inch diameter (Fans under 36" must be rated 18 ft-lb/kW – 36"+ fans must be rated at or over 21 ft-lb/kW) <http://bess.illinois.edu>
- Commercial Vending Machine controls – \$25
- Electric Forklift Battery Charger – must be on load control – \$200 each

Custom Farm and Commercial incentives are available. Contact the office for more information.

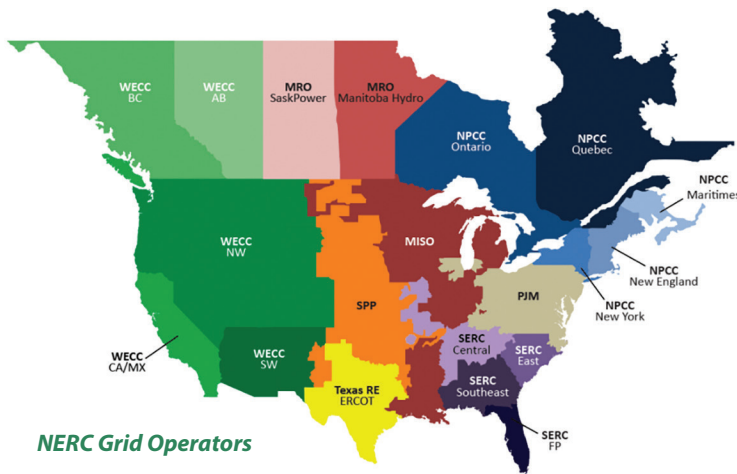
## OVERALL INCENTIVE RULES

- All incentives are available on products purchased and work performed from 1/1/24 until 12/31/24
- Dunn Energy reserves the right to terminate all or part of this program at any time
- Each incentive has a budget, when that budget has been met the incentive may end
- Dunn Energy reserves the right to transfer allotted program budget funds between programs as needed
- Only active electric members of Dunn Energy Cooperative are eligible for these incentives
- Incentives listed are as of 1/1/24 – call Dunn Energy Cooperative for updates
- All energy efficiency measures and appliances must be installed on the DEC system to qualify for an incentive
- Rebates in the amount of \$499 or less will be issued in the form of an energy bill credit. Checks will be issued for amounts \$500 or larger
- Rebates CANNOT exceed 100% of the purchase price of item being rebated
- All forms and receipts must be turned in within 3 months of purchase date or by December 31 to qualify for rebates.

# STEPS TAKEN TO ENSURE RELIABLE POWER SUPPLY

Here at Dunn Energy, we often talk about how we are focused on providing affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible electricity. Our wholesale power provider—Dairyland Power Cooperative—is guided by the same mission. While we agree on the mission, outside factors like weather can impact our efforts.

In November, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) issued their annual Winter Reliability Assessment. In it they warned that prolonged, widespread cold snaps across the United States could threaten the reliable performance of the nation’s power grid. The winter assessment identified the eastern two-thirds of the United States at an elevated risk of having insufficient energy supplies to meet demand in extreme operating conditions (the risk scale is three-tiered: low, elevated, high).



NERC Grid Operators

While NERC’s report offers a high-level view of North America’s grid operators, the regional grid operator—Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)—offered a less dramatic prediction for winter reliability in their own assessment. MISO meteorologists predict above-normal temperatures in its North and Central regions (where we live). It’s with this assessment that they forecast having enough electricity supply to meet expected demand under typical winter conditions (more than nine gigawatts above 2022). While that statement brings some peace of mind, MISO still noted that there is always the potential for “high risk, low probability events” occurring, such as extreme weather across most of the U.S. (i.e., the December 2022 holiday storm and cold snap), intense winter storms, and/or fuel-supply issues.

“Safely providing our members with reliable energy is one of our core objectives at Dunn Energy Cooperative. The issues raised in the NERC report highlight many of the challenges we face in delivering on that objective,” said Jesse Singerhouse, Dunn Energy Cooperative CEO. “MISO has worked on improving available generation and Dairyland is continually working on improving power plant reliability and increasing transmission capacity. Locally, we work each year to upgrade our distribution lines and perform right-of-way maintenance to serve you better. Power outages do happen, and we do our best to minimize outages when they occur. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during those times.”

This past year Dunn Energy Cooperative has brushed many miles of line and continued our rigorous line maintenance and pole testing programs to help mitigate the efforts of nature on our power supply. And, last spring, Dairyland’s John P. Madgett (JPM) power plant in Alma conducted a scheduled outage to overhaul the turbine and generator.

“Dairyland has always taken our duty to providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity seriously, so when seasonal weather assessments suggest there is a risk to grid reliability, we pay attention,” said Ben Porath, Dairyland’s executive vice president and chief operating officer. “Annual maintenance plans help keep our generation resources available for peak performance in all weather conditions and our 3,200 miles of transmission lines in top condition.”

Going into the winter season, Dairyland has built up its coal reserves at JPM. The Elk Mound Combustion Turbines and RockGen Energy Center in Cambridge are also ready to be called upon during extreme weather. These units are not designed to run all the time, but to fill gaps in demand when needed. They can also run on fuel oil if natural gas supplies are low or diverted to home heating during a winter storm.

## What Can Members Do to Help?

Members are encouraged to follow Dunn Energy Cooperative on social media for news on whether or not there are calls to conserve energy throughout the winter. Aside from reducing electricity use for grid reliability, Dunn Energy and Dairyland Power may also declare a load management event, which asks cooperative members to help reduce electricity at times when grid reliability is still okay, but prices are high. By shifting electricity use away from these times of high demand, we are all working together to support a reliable grid and contain costs. (140020988)

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