

# Spotlight

July 2022

## Beat the PEAK This Summer!

As temperatures begin to spike, there are steps you can take to save money on energy bills this summer, as well as help the overall electric grid.

According to the Department of Energy, a typical home uses a whopping 48 percent of energy expenditures just on the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC). Although a majority of that 48 percent is spent on heating expenses, Americans still spend \$29 billion every year to power their air conditioners.

Aside from replacing your central air conditioner with a newer, higher-efficiency model, there are some things you can do to increase efficiency, which can help reduce your energy bills.

Besides weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors in your home (always a good idea regardless of the time of year), Safe Electricity offers the following:

- Close curtains, blinds and shades during the hottest part of the day. Not only is about one-third of a home's energy lost around windows, but about 76 percent of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters the home to become heat, according to [energy.gov](http://energy.gov).
- If you don't already have one, install a programmable or smart thermostat. You can save up to 10 percent a year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for 8 hours a day, according to [Energy.gov](http://Energy.gov).
- Clean the filter and get your unit inspected by a HVAC professional.
- Consider changes to your landscaping. Greenery that includes shade trees and those that insulate the foundation can reduce energy costs.
- Ventilate the attic and check insulation. Adequately sized vents and an attic fan can help hot air from building. If your attic has less than 6 to 8 inches of insulation, consider adding more. By addressing air leaks around your home and adding insulation, homeowners can save around 10 percent annually on energy bills, according to [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov).

- Get a pre-season checkup by a professional HVAC technician, which could help your air conditioner run more efficiently.
- Make sure your outdoor condenser unit is clean and free from debris. Ideally, the unit should be in the shade.
- Hang clothes on the line to dry and grill meals instead of using high energy use appliances.
- Consider a professional energy audit to reveal where your home is inefficient, including air leaks and exposed duct work.

Not only will reducing your own energy load help your electric bill, but it will help reduce load on the entire electrical grid during a summer where load-shedding is extremely important. (See July WECN magazine for more information). Shifting non-essential electrical use (i.e., dryers, dishwashers, pool pumps, etc.) to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m., June through August, helps lessen the electrical load on the entire grid during the peak load time. This will help keep the cost of power down and the supply of power reliable. Together we can do more.



## May 2022 Board Meeting Highlights



### Monthly Reports:

Operations reported that Zielie's is brushing in the Tilden area and Osmose is inspecting poles north of Highway 170. As of May 13, 1189 poles were tested with only 19 rejects. Staking techs are working on pole replacements,

low clearances, new services, upgrades, work plan projects, and much more. Crews are busy with regular summer work.

The Energy Management report included updates on the maintenance and monitoring of the metering system. A new meter shipment should be received soon. Accounts on our standby generation program were billed or mailed refunds depending on whether or not they ran through control events. In the renewable energy area, there are currently six new member-owned solar installations pending.

Financially, April was a good month. Due to cooler weather, April kilowatt sales were about 6.5% over budget. Revenue increased similarly at 5% over budget for the month. Year-to-date sales are tracking about 5.5% over budget and revenues 6% over budget. The capital credit discount was changed. It is now tied to the Cooperative's yearly Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC) instead of a stagnant 5%. This year the WACC is 4.82%, meaning estate payouts will be a little higher. Due to volatile energy prices, Dairyland Power Cooperative has passed on a power cost adjustment \$0.005544 per kWh.

The CEO/General Manager gave an overview on day-to-day operations, including the completion of the remodel. Both of the Cooperative's 1.5 megawatt solar projects were approved by the County and can proceed. The Cooperative is now in the technical phase of the project; finalizing contracts and purchased power agreements, and ordering materials. Construction is slated to start in 2023.

### The following items were approved:

- Minutes of the April 2022 Board meeting
- Capital credit estate payout for deceased members.
- Audit committee report of all checks, ACH payments, wire transfers, credit card statements, and investments accounts.

- Modifying Policy 220 Part E - Capital Credit Discount rate to be tied to WACC
- Power Cost Adjustment pass-thru of \$0.005544 on the May bills

### Other Business:

Director Zwiefelhofer reported on Dairyland Power activities for the month.

Reviewed the monthly report of new Cooperative members.

Reviewed the monthly governance video that discussed dealing with conflicts of interest in the board room

Upcoming meetings for the board to attend

## Why It's Good to See Co-op Workers on Your Property

Dunn Energy Cooperative employees and contractors work throughout our service territory, in the rights-of-way and easements, and across your private property and driveways. We're working to ensure reliable power for you and your neighbors, and that means we must cross your property from time to time. You may see us:

- ✓ Making routine repairs
- ✓ Replacing meters
- ✓ Trimming trees and brush
- ✓ Restoring outages
- ✓ Locating buried utilities for construction and digging projects
- ✓ Working to upgrade poles, wires, transformers and equipment
- ✓ Inspecting lines, power poles, transformer boxes and equipment

All field work, except emergency power restoration, is typically conducted during normal working hours, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Every effort is made to avoid damage and unnecessary intrusion. If you have concerns about our work, contact us at 800-924-0630. We appreciate your cooperation.



This newsletter is published for the members of Dunn Energy Cooperative. If you have questions or comments please give us a call. Visit the Energy Professionals at your local energy cooperative.



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