



A FRANK DISCUSSION ABOUT ENERGY

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

Over the last two months I have been focusing my article on an area of our 2022–2024 strategic plan. There are still three more areas to cover which I will pick back up in June. This month I'd like to focus my thoughts broadly on our country's energy policy. With \$4 gas, high inflation, and upward pressure on electricity prices it seems like a good time to have a frank discussion on energy issues.

As I wrote last year, our goal is to have a balanced approach to energy policy. One that balances reliability, affordability, and environmental responsibility. We try to focus on all three areas, because getting out of alignment in any one area has an impact on the others. We have seen what happens when energy companies and energy policies in other states or countries get out of balance. In 2021 Texas experienced a multi-day outage caused in part by poor energy policies and a lack of focus on reliability. We are currently seeing this in Europe with energy supply issues and we are also seeing it in gasoline prices in the United States. All energy policy is interconnected, and changes to it can have a major impact on your everyday life. Energy is used in transportation, manufacturing, food production, heating/cooling, communications, sanitation, and education. So, without electricity and a balanced energy policy, all those things become significantly more challenging for each of us.

So, what does a balanced approach to electric energy policy look like? There are many factors that go into it and we certainly don't have all the answers, but here are some things about our approach to achieving a balanced energy policy that might get you thinking.

Reliability means having the power available to you when you need it. Locally, that requires us to build and maintain power lines to deliver you electricity. We upgrade lines, clear trees, and perform system maintenance to keep things in good working condition. Reliability also means having the ability to produce energy 24 hours a day every day of the year. With current technology that means continuing to rely on baseload generation from coal, nuclear, and natural gas to ensure we have the power available when members need it. We also need to add more renewable energy to the mix, but becoming too dependent

on renewable energy could lead to reliability issues until technology like battery storage becomes practical. We should also explore new nuclear technology that is safe and reliable because it is capable of being an energy source that runs every hour and does reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, which benefits the environment.

Affordability does not necessarily mean cheap. Affordability can be achieved if we take a balanced approach to ensuring reliability and creating environmentally responsible energy that will allow our economy to keep growing. Locally we have to work hard to control costs and still deliver you quality service. To us that's value.

Our goal is to have a balanced approach to energy policy—one that balances reliability, affordability, and environmental responsibility.

Environmentally responsible energy is always important, but even more so in April because we celebrate Earth Day. This day reminds us to act purposefully in doing things to protect our environment. After all, we only have one Earth. I don't know all the data and science involved in climate change, but I do know that if we all do some practical

things it helps the environment. Planting a tree, recycling, cleaning a ditch, participating in a community solar project, turning off lights when we leave a room, or carpooling to work all help the environment in some way. The little things you do each day to be environmentally responsible can add up to a big impact. (10582003)

The world we live in currently is complex and energy policy is no different. Energy touches almost every aspect of our daily lives. With such a strong focus on energy issues in our country and around the globe I think it is a great time to have a practical discussion on the future of energy. Dunn Energy employees and board members have and will continue to work hard to deliver a balanced approach to reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy to serve our members today and in the future.



Youth Leadership Congress

UW-Stout | July 12–14, 2022

The annual **Youth Leadership Congress** is a dynamic three-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their **leadership skills** while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of **cooperative businesses**.



Take the opportunity to...

- See what makes the **cooperative business model** different and **successful**, then apply this knowledge to fun and challenging cooperative activities.
- Identify and learn how to develop your own **leadership skills**.
- Discuss **cooperative careers** with industry professionals.
- Be **entertained and challenged** by highly acclaimed motivational speakers who understand teens and talk about topics that are relevant in your life.

This is a **by-teens, for-teens cooperative leadership conference** that is planned and developed by a youth board elected at the previous year's event.

Who should apply?

- High school students with family members who belong to a participating electric cooperative.
- Students active in their school and community.

What does it cost?

- All registration costs* are covered by the generous support of your local cooperative.
- Students should contact their cooperative to apply for a full sponsorship.



Sign up today!

Deadline is June 1, 2022

Contact Dunn Energy Cooperative, 715-232-6240, to request sponsorship and registration forms to attend the Youth Leadership Congress.



THANK A LINEWORKER ON APRIL 11

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Dunn Energy Cooperative, I bet you would picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb upwards of 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes

years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. (140018896)

How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That’s why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

On April 11, or any time you see a lineworker, I hope you’ll join us in thanking them for their exceptional service. I also hope you’ll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep.



Working for You

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

It's Easy! It's Free!

Planning a digging project in your yard or on your property? If you dig without knowing what is located below, you could damage an underground line.

Not only could you become seriously injured, but you will be responsible for the cost of repairs. To avoid hassles and fines, call 811, the Call Before You Dig number, at least three

business days prior to breaking ground. (811 locators do not mark privately owned underground lines or pipes, such as service to outbuildings, sprinkler systems or invisible fences.)

An uneventful digging project is the best kind to have.

Safe
Electricity.org®

HOW ARE YOU CELEBRATING EARTH DAY?



This year marks the 52nd Anniversary of Earth Day. April 22 is the day set aside to celebrate Mother Nature and all she's given us. As a resident of Wisconsin, we may not always feel a real warm feeling towards the environment, especially when the temperature is -20 degrees. However, when spring rolls around and you can open the windows and hang that first load of clothes on the line, some of those bitter (cold) feelings start to melt away, like the grit-covered snow piles along your driveway.

In celebration, maybe you and your family could order some saplings from the National Arbor Day Foundation to plant, or set aside an hour on Earth Day to walk your neighborhood to pick up trash, that can hopefully be recycled. Did you know that today's average American generates about 4.5 pounds of trash per day, compared to 2.68 pounds in 1960, according to the EPA?

If you want a little more adventure in your Earth Day celebration, you can check out the Beaver Creek Reserve Earth Week Challenge. Registration

opens April 11 and the event begins April 16. Teams will compete in up to 15 different challenges, submit proof by submitting photos, and be entered to win different prize packages. You can find all of the details at beavercreekreserve.org.

Maybe all of this talk of celebrating Mother Nature and the environment has gotten you to think more about adding solar energy to your home. Depending on your plot of land, that might be a great idea! Your energy professionals at Dunn Energy are here, and happy, to not only help you find a reputable, local installer but to make sure that you won't be taken to the cleaners. Also, as your electric utility, if you want to use us as your "battery back-up" or have the assurance of knowing you'll always have power by being tied in with the electric grid, there are some rules and regulations that need to be followed including just how much energy your system can generate.

All we ask is that if you are in the market for adding solar to your energy mix, you have a conversation with us before you sign on the dotted line. We want to make sure you can get the most out of your system. So, give us a call at 715-232-6240 and we can go over it together.

This year, celebrate Earth Day by getting outside, enjoying the weather, and maybe doing something a little nice for the only earth we're given. Let's make it last for future generations!

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 Lee Koonce and Randy Smith.

Jesse Singerhouse, Manager

N5725 600th St., P.O. Box 220, Menomonie, WI 54751
715-232-6240
www.dunnenergy.com

Jolene Fisher, Editor



**Dunn Energy
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 