



DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF SAFETY

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

Back in February and March I wrote about topics from our current strategic plan. First, we covered our goal of developing a strong workforce for both the short- and long-term needs of the cooperative. Our second topic was using system data and technology to add value and efficiency to the service you receive. This month brings us to our strategic focus area number three: to continually promote a culture of safety at Dunn Energy Cooperative (DEC) for our employees, members, and the community.

As I've told our staff, safety is the most critical thing we do. It is job #1, priority #1 for our team. We want our employees to work safely everyday so they are able to go home to their friends and families each night. We also want to deliver a safe and reliable product to our members. To accomplish this, we do our best to provide safety training and education to our employees and our members, because electricity can be dangerous if not respected.

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Developing and enhancing a culture of safety requires a team effort and a continual focus on both internal and external safety issues. As part of our strategic plan, we want to further develop both of those areas. Internally, our line crew meets each morning to talk about the day's work so all team members know what is happening on our system. They discuss safety at each job site before and after the work is completed so nothing is overlooked. They spend 10 days a year training on safety procedures in-house and attend several other educational seminars on safety throughout the year. We may also look at some different technologies to add more safety features for our employees in the future.

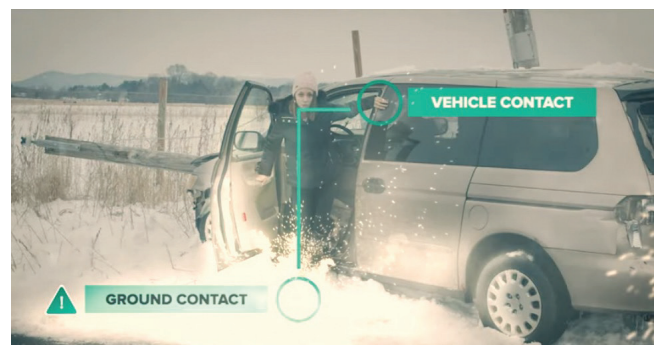
Externally we currently offer safety demonstrations to local community groups, first responders, and elementary school classes. We also partnered with other cooperatives to create a safety video (License to Live) for drivers education students on what to do during an accident if there is a downed power line. Going forward we would like to do even more outreach and electrical safety education for our members and the community.

Internal safety also involves our office building. It is a great building, but as you can imagine, what is needed today

is different from when the building was constructed over 30 years ago. As part of our strategic plan, we remodeled our front lobby to add additional safety features and created a private member meeting room where you can talk with a DEC team member privately. We also updated the public restrooms to make them easier for our members to use. Over the last few years, we have also added better lighting and security cameras to the building to enhance our overall security. In the years ahead we hope to keep updating the building. We appreciate our members' patience while we were closed. Our lobby opened up to the public in early May and our staff is ready to assist members who come in the office.

Another area of both internal and external focus in our strategic plan is to strengthen our cybersecurity efforts. As you may have seen in the news, the electric industry is a frequent target of cyberattacks. Those who wish to do our country harm know that interfering with electricity generation, transmission, or distribution can cause major disruption to many people. Our staff, along with industry partners around the country, work diligently to protect our electrical infrastructure. The cybersecurity of the grid will continue to be a critical issue for DEC, and all energy providers, in the years ahead. (140021604)

As you can see there are many different aspects of safety your cooperative has to think about. But as I said in the beginning, safety has been and will continue to be Job #1 and Priority #1 each day for our employees and our members.



Dunn Energy partnered with other cooperatives to create License to Live, a video that teaches what do in an accident involving a downed power line. You can view the video at <https://safeelectricity.org/license-to-live/>.

SUMMER SHIFT: SMALL STEPS FOR SAVINGS

When members save energy, they tend to save money. However, there is always something in our homes using electricity—whether to cool the home, turn on the lights or run appliances. While using electricity is inevitable, HOW members choose to use it can be impactful.

The goal of the Summer Shift program is to shift non-essential electricity use to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m., June through August. These are times when electricity use is not at its peak and, therefore, is not as expensive for the cooperative to purchase on the open market. So, how does Summer Shift work?

If members shift their electricity use, they may not necessarily save energy. They could use the same amount of electricity, but at a different time of the day. That is still beneficial because it means the cooperative's wholesale power provider—Dairyland Power Cooperative—did not have to purchase as much power when electricity costs were more expensive. When the cooperative saves, members do as well, in the long run.

The price of electricity purchased on the market is always changing, based on the need for electricity balanced with available generation resources. As need—or demand—rises during the day, the price of electricity increases as more generation resources (power plants, solar arrays, etc.) are needed to power homes, businesses, and other buildings or devices. When temperatures cool and things quiet down for the night, electricity demand drops as do prices for electricity. (1037002)

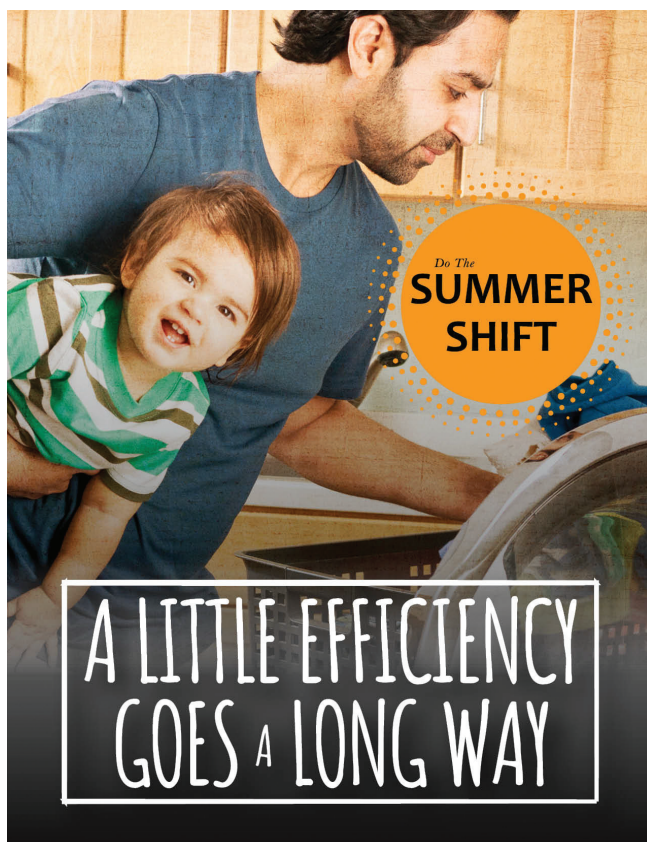
Dairyland must ensure it has enough generation resources to cover all the electricity needs of its 24 member cooperatives, including Dunn Energy Cooperative, plus an additional reserve in case demand spikes above expectations. This means investments in additional resources to cover the needs of all members. If Dunn Energy Cooperative members—along with members of Dairyland's 23 other cooperatives—shift their electricity use to different times of the day, the overall “peak” is reduced.

When a member chooses to shift their electricity use, it helps spread out electricity use throughout the day. The less electricity cooperative members use when prices are at their highest, the more stable Dunn Energy Cooperative can keep our retail rates. The more members who choose to participate, the more impactful these savings become.

Tips:

- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees (or a level that is comfortable for the home, but a few degrees higher than normal). Closing curtains and shades will help the home feel cooler, longer. A ceiling fan or table fan throughout the afternoon will help circulate air.
- Set up a schedule for your smart thermostat and smart lighting options, ensuring a minimal amount of energy is used between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Charge electric vehicles overnight.
- Set the water heater to 120 degrees.
- Washing dishes in an ENERGY STAR dishwasher instead of by hand can save a home \$111 per year.
- Open the dishwasher after the wash cycle to let dishes air dry.

Contact your trusted energy advisor to learn more!





LET US HELP YOU GROW



Dunn Energy Cooperative has resources available for your farm, business, or community needs



Did you know that Dunn Energy Cooperative has resources available to help our current member farms and businesses grow, as well as help new farms and businesses move on to our lines? As a member-owner of Dairyland Power Cooperative, you have access to an economic development team that can help with identifying and selecting the right site that meets your business needs. They can also assist in identifying energy efficiency measures your farm or business can take to lower your costs and reduce your environmental impact.

Our member farmers can also take advantage of the “Safety First” dairy farm rewiring program. Through this program, members can take advantage of a grant/loan combo to help update the wiring on their dairy farm. The first step in this process is to schedule an onsite visit with a Dunn Energy Cooperative representative and your electrician to go over your project to make sure it qualifies. It must be an existing dairy farm (including cows, goats, and sheep that are kept for milk production). The loan/grant combo is available for up to \$30,000. Grants can be up to 20% (or \$6,000) of the total. Loans are to be repaid in up to five years. A 3% interest rate applies.

For many years now, your local cooperative has participated in the USDA’s Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program. This means that local rural businesses can apply for a zero-interest loan or grant through Dunn Energy Cooperative for up to 80% of a

project cost. The projects are not guaranteed to be funded.

This program is used to promote rural economic development and job creation. The funds can be used for many different projects. Examples include:

Businesses and organizations

- For-profit and non-profit
- Commercial, industrial, retail, and more
- Land, buildings, machinery, and equipment

Community Facilities

- Infrastructure (sewer, water, streets, rail)
- Business & industrial parks
- Fire/EMS buildings & equipment, libraries, community centers

Health Care & Education

- Hospitals, clinics
- Assisted living
- Child care

The USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program was authorized by the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, the same act that brought electricity to rural America. Cooperatives like yours have been supporting the rural landscape for over 85 years. This is just one more way we’re supporting the communities we serve.

For more information on program qualifications, please visit our website at www.dunnenergy.com and navigate to the Community Development page under About Us.

Working for You



Sofas for Service, which helps veterans furnish their homes, is a recipient of Operation Roundup funds. Operation Roundup is a voluntary program for which participating Dunn Energy members agree to have their bills rounded up to the nearest dollar, with the difference placed in a fund that is distributed to community organizations.



OPERATION ROUNDUP GRANTS AWARDED

Operation Round Up grants were awarded for the first quarter of 2022 in April. It was a record quarter for the cooperative in regards to the number of requests we received (19) and the dollars requested (over \$120,000). Unfortunately, we were not able to fund them all. For as successful as the program is, there is only a limited amount of funds available each quarter.



We're proud to announce the recipients of the first quarter grants:

- Dunn County Humane Society for a new washing machine
- Friends of Potter's Field for additional fencing
- Durand Fire Department for a thermal imaging camera & AED
- Colfax Rescue Squad for new/updated EMS Bags
- Menomonie Police Department for a Less Lethal Launcher
- Sofas for Service for beds for veterans in need
- Town of Colfax for a pier for the new 146-acre Red Cedar Preserve & Recreational Area
- Wildlife Rehab. & Release Inc for an avian flight cage

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 Austin & Lauren Shira and Kent Baxter.

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