



CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

In almost every article I write for our magazine, I focus on some aspect of how Dunn Energy Cooperative works safely to provide our members with energy that is reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible. That is the main reason we exist. But our concern for the community is also a driving force in our daily business. Usually when we talk about concern for the community, I would tell you about our most recent scholarship winners, Operation Round Up grants, or a new opportunity we have for our membership. But today in this article, I'm taking the time to write about our genuine heartfelt concern for our community in the face of tragedy.

Not long ago the greater Menomonie community was struck by an unimaginable event as four of our local community members passed away in a tragic plane crash. This tragedy impacted the lives of six children, countless relatives, friends, and the community at large. It is hard to put into words the grief the people impacted must be feeling. My heart goes out to anyone who is hurting.

It's amazing how much smaller our world gets when a tragedy like this strikes a close-knit community, as we stop and think about the lives impacted and the loss our community is feeling.

A cooperative is about serving our members and making our community stronger today and tomorrow.

It certainly makes everyone see how precious our time on earth is. Tragedies like this also bring out the best in our community as people rally around the families and do what they can to offer sympathy, encouragement, and hope. When I see the community do that, it makes me proud to call Menomonie,

Dunn County, and Western Wisconsin home. It makes me appreciate the local people who step up to make this community what it is.

So, in the days, weeks, months, and years ahead, let us always remember what community truly means. Not just when tragedy strikes, but in what we do each and every day to make this community better and lift each other up. That is one of the things that is truly special about working for a local electric cooperative. Yes, we are in the business of selling power, but a cooperative has a bigger purpose. A cooperative is about serving our members and making our community stronger today and tomorrow. I'm thankful to be part of this community and our Cooperative. This article is not about the power you use, it's about the power you provide to each other and this community.



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 Don McKillip Jr and Pete & Renae Hestekin.

SMART WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY THIS SUMMER:

DON'T SWEAT THE HEAT

Summer heat can strain both your comfort and your budget. As temperatures soar and energy demand peaks in the late afternoon and evening, it's time to take steps to lower your energy consumption and stay cool without breaking the bank.

Boost your home's energy efficiency

Start with an energy audit. We can't fix what we don't know about. Request a home energy audit from your local utility provider or a home energy auditor to identify where energy is being lost. Then, take action to reduce usage this summer.

Keep cool air in and hot air out with these tips:

- Seal air leaks around pipes, doors, windows, cracks, and openings with caulk or weather stripping.
- Schedule an HVAC system inspection with a professional to maintain performance. Check with your utility for rebates on energy-efficient replacements. (4910001)
- Change your air filter regularly. A clogged air filter makes your HVAC system work harder.
- Switch to LED bulbs for increased efficiency.
- Install a smart or programmable thermostat for automatic temperature control. Check with your local utility for incentives and deals.

Reduce energy costs with smart appliance use:

- Run dryers, washers, and dishwashers early in the morning or late in the evening.
- Wash full loads of laundry in cold water. It's the detergent, not hot water, that cleans the clothes.
- Clean the dryer's lint trap after every laundry load, and air-dry clothes when possible.



STAY COOL. STAY EFFICIENT.

We're here to help you beat the summer heat. Take advantage of our efficiency programs and energy-saving recommendations designed to help you stay comfortable and cut costs all summer long.

- Reduce heat-generating activities at home, like cooking during the hottest parts of the day or using heat-producing appliances.
- Use a microwave oven or countertop appliance instead of a conventional range or oven. Better yet, grill outside!

Take easy actions for big energy savings:

- Change ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise to cool rooms and turn them off when you leave the room. Ceiling fans don't actually cool the air; they create a windchill effect on your skin by circulating air around you.
- Stay on the lowest floor of your home for naturally cooler air.
- Close blinds and shades on sunny days to block excess heat.
- Increase your thermostat by two degrees or more and set it to higher temperatures when you're away.
- Turn off and disconnect electronics that are not in use.
- Prepare no-heat meals like salads, wraps, and dips.

Making small changes to reduce energy use can make a big impact. You'll keep cool, save money on your utility bill, and help reduce energy demand.

THINK SUMMER STORMS ARE HARMLESS?

THINK AGAIN

You might joke that you have a better chance of getting hit by lightning than winning the lottery, and you would be right.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), there are an estimated 25 million lightning flashes in the United States each year, killing 28 people and injuring 252 annually (averages based on data from 2008-2017).

Your odds of being struck by lightning are 1 in 1,171,000 in any given year. Before you deny that might ever happen to you, consider a person's average lifespan (estimated at 80 years) and the odds drop to around 1 in 14,600. Lest you think these numbers are bogus and fabricated to make a point, the NWS tracks all kinds of storm data and actually publishes the odds of becoming struck by lightning.

(Oh, and just so you know, the odds of winning the Mega Millions jackpot is 1 in 302.6 million and the Powerball, 1 in 292.2 million. And that's according to Lottery USA.)

While there is little you can do to increase your chances of becoming a multi-millionaire by winning a huge lottery windfall, there are proactive steps you can take before and during a storm to stay safe. Safe Electricity offers the following weather-related reminders from FEMA, the Red Cross and other safety organizations:

- Never seek shelter under an isolated tree, tower, or utility pole since lightning tends to strike tall objects.
- Immediately vacate elevated areas, such as hills, mountain ridges, and peaks.
- Get away from ponds, lakes, and other bodies of water.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity, including wires and fences (and golf clubs!). (Approximately 5 percent of annual lightning deaths and injuries in the U.S. happen on golf courses, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association.)

- Never lie flat on the ground.
- Learn about your community's emergency warning for severe thunderstorms.
- Pick a safe place in your home for family members to gather during a thunderstorm. The location should be away from windows, skylights and glass doors that could be broken by strong winds or hail.
- Protect your animals by ensuring that any outside buildings that house them are structurally sound.
- Your mom was right: never talk on a landline telephone during a thunderstorm. Lightning could strike whatever building you are in, and the electricity will look for the quickest route to the ground via wiring. Although many homes don't have landlines anymore, many businesses still do.
- Know the difference between a watch and a warning. A severe thunderstorm watch means that they are possible in and near the area. A severe thunderstorm warning means that severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. A warning is serious and means that there is imminent danger to life and property.

The best way to protect yourself against lightning or other storm-related injury or death is to monitor the weather and cancel or delay outdoor activities when thunderstorms are forecast. Lightning can strike from 10 miles away, so if you can hear thunder, you are at risk for being struck by lightning.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Just a side note: Many Americans (some estimate one-third) consider potential lottery winnings their only retirement plan. Odds are that except for that 1 in about 300 million, the rest of us had better start saving for retirement.

LET'S DO THE SUMMER SHIFT

As temperatures rise, so does the demand for electricity. Dunn Energy Cooperative has a summer heavy energy load. Members use more energy during the hot days of summer than the rest of the year – the heating season included. The Summer Shift program was started many years ago by Dairyland Power Cooperative, our energy wholesaler, to help move energy usage outside of peak demand times to help lower the cost of purchasing power. This is a voluntary program designed to shift nonessential electricity use to before 1 p.m. or after 7 p.m. June through August. These are times when electricity use is not at its peak and not as expensive.

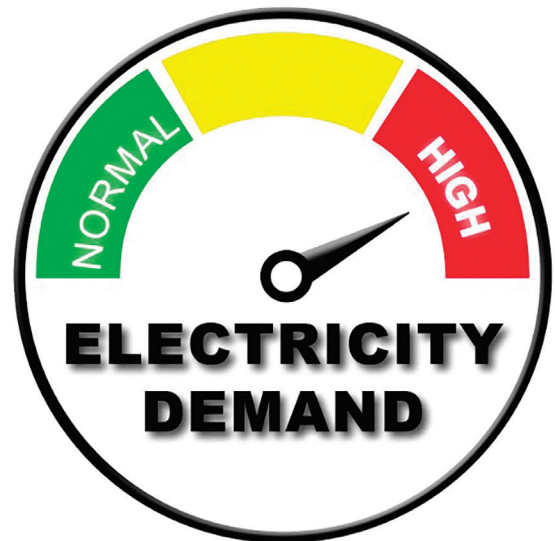
If a member shifts their electricity use, they may not necessarily save energy. They could use the same amount of electricity, just at a different time of the day. That is still beneficial because it means the cooperative's wholesale power provider did not have to purchase that power when electricity costs are more expensive. When the cooperative saves, so do members. This shift will help to keep rates reasonable over time.

The price of electricity purchased on the grid changes continuously during the day. This change is based on the need for electricity balanced with available generation resources. As energy needs rise during the day, the price of electricity increases. This is because more generation resources, like power plants, solar arrays, and wind turbines, are needed to power the homes, farms, and businesses on our lines. When temperatures cool in the evening, electricity demand drops and the price of electricity reflects that, becoming cheaper. When a member chooses to shift their electricity use, it helps spread the 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 rates. The more members who choose to participate, the more impactful these savings become. (1908004)

If you want to help, you can watch our social media channels for alerts of the graphic below. There will also be radio ads and email notifications to alert you to the need for load shifting.

Tips to do the Summer Shift

- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees (or a level that is comfortable for the home, but a couple of degrees higher than normal).
- Closing curtains and shades will help the home feel cooler, longer.
- Using a ceiling fan or table fan throughout the afternoon will help circulate air – but remember that fans cool people, not air, so only use them if you're in the room.
- Set up a schedule for your smart thermostat and smart lighting options, ensuring a minimal amount of energy is used between 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Charge electric vehicles overnight.
- Set your water heater to 120 degrees.
- If possible, dry clothes outside.



A Peak Alert has been issued TODAY from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Due to high demand for electricity on the regional grid, please shift flexible electricity use until after 7 p.m.

You will see this graphic on our social media channels when there is a Peak Alert issued.

Jesse Singerhouse, Manager

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

Jolene Fisher, Editor



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