



YOUR COOPERATIVE: *Working Today While Preparing for Tomorrow*



By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

As we reach the midpoint of 2026, it feels like a good time to provide an update on what we've accomplished so far this year and to talk about what we are doing to prepare for the future. Our work is centered around being a member-owned cooperative with a clear mission to safely deliver reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy today. However, it is just as important to prepare for the future energy needs of the communities we serve.

Our team has completed several power line upgrades in our service territory and is actively working on several others designed to help improve the reliability you expect. We are also nearing completion of our right-of-way improvements in the Downsville and Eau Galle areas. Through ongoing maintenance, targeted investments, and system improvements we aim to minimize outages, improve response times, and strengthen our electric distribution system today and ready our system to respond to your energy needs tomorrow.

Part of preparing for the future includes changing how we bill for the energy services you receive. In early May you received your first bill that included a residential demand charge. As we wrote previously, we have been billing our commercial accounts a demand component for many years, and to better reflect the costs associated with generating, transmitting, and delivering energy services to your account we implemented the demand charge for residential members.


A residential demand charge helps the cooperative prepare for the future by aligning how members are billed with what actually drives system costs—peak demand. By encouraging members to spread out or reduce their highest usage periods, the co-op can better manage system capacity, delay expensive infrastructure upgrades, and maintain reliable service as energy use grows and changes.

We know this is a change from the way we have billed residential members in the past and we are committed to supporting this transition with our members and answering any questions you might have. You can visit our website (www.dunnenergy.com/about-my-bill) for more detailed information about demand billing. We have also increased our communication and education efforts over the past several months with the addition of our Plugged-In podcast. Each month we post a recap of our board meeting, so you have a clearer picture of what is happening at your cooperative. We also take a deep dive into a pressing topic, like demand billing, once a month. Visit our social media channels or our website (dunnenergy.com/plugged-video-podcast-your-cooperative) to catch our episodes.

Finally, I would be remiss not to mention the work your Cooperative has done in the community so far this year. From our Operation Round Up program grants to awarding scholarships to high school seniors, we are truly doing wonderful things. As I said at a recent scholarship presentation, I am proud of Dunn Energy Cooperative not only for the work we do to keep the lights on but also for the work we do to truly make a difference in our community.

STAY COOL THIS SUMMER


without breaking the bank



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 action.

7 cost effective tips to help lower energy consumption:

1. Request a home energy audit from your local utility to reduce energy loss.
2. Change your air filter regularly to help your HVAC system work efficiently.
3. Increase your thermostat by two degrees and set it to a higher temperature when you're away.
4. Install a smart or programmable thermostat for automatic temperature control.
5. Run dryers, washers and dishwashers during off-peak hours in the early morning or late evening.
6. Wash full loads of laundry in cold water. Detergent, not hot water, cleans the clothes.
7. Reduce indoor heat by limiting cooking and the use of heat-producing appliances during the hottest parts of the day.

 Safe Electricity.org®



STORM SEASON IS HERE

Prepare Your Family, Stay Safe

Storm season is in full swing. Many summer storms have the potential to produce tornadoes—they can happen anytime, anywhere, and can bring damaging winds, hail, and lightning.

As adults, we understand the importance of storm safety, but younger children and teens may not realize the dangers storms pose. That's why it's so important to talk to your family and have a storm plan in place. Here are several tips you can share with your loved ones.

Get Prepared

- Sign up for Code Red to get local notifications. Bonus: This can help while you're vacationing this summer too, as it's based on your phone's location.
- Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or tornado. Point out the safest location to shelter, like a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home. Discuss the dangers of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of a storm. Remember: when you hear thunder roar, head indoors.
- Make a storm kit. It doesn't have to be elaborate—having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Try to include items like water, non-perishable foods, a manual can opener, a First-Aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies, and pet supplies. Keep all the items in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

Stay Safe

- Pay attention to local weather alerts—either on a TV, smartphone, or weather radio—and understand the types of alerts. A watch means the ingredients are available to make a storm and a warning means the storm is coming! (140020320) Think about it like tacos. Watch me get ready to make tacos. I'm warning you, tacos are what's for dinner!
- If you find yourself in the path of a tornado, head to your safe place to shelter, and protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials like blankets and pillows.
- If you're driving during a severe storm or tornado, do not try to outrun it. Pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

Recovering Afterwards

- If the power goes out, conserve your phone battery as much as possible. Try limiting calls and texts to letting others know you are safe or for emergencies only.
- Stay off the roads if trees, power lines, or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.
- Wear appropriate gear if you're cleaning up storm debris on your property. Thick-soled shoes, long pants, and work gloves will help protect you from sharp or dangerous debris left behind.

Working for You

Summer is a time for many fun-filled activities, but the season can also bring severe, dangerous weather. Talk to your loved ones about storm safety so that everyone is prepared and knows exactly what to do when a storm strikes.



HELPING YOUR COOPERATIVE KEEP RATE PRESSURE DOWN BY DOING 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 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 8 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 non-essential electricity use, they may see a decrease in their energy bill due to shifting personal peak usage. During the summer months, the average residential account on the Dunn Energy system peaks in the afternoon. This is the time of day air conditioning is heavily relied upon. If members choose to shift other non-essential energy usage outside of those hours, their demand at that time of day can be reduced, which may reduce the demand charge on the electric bill.

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. Simple supply and demand. 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 non-essential 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.

If you want to help, you can watch our social media channels for alerts. There will also be radio ads and email notifications to alert you to the need for load shifting. This helps your cooperative provide affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible energy.

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 8 p.m.
- Charge electric vehicles overnight. (140018543)
- Set your water heater to 120 degrees.
- If possible, dry clothes outside.

WILDNER ACHIEVES CREDENTIALING IN UTILITY COMPETENCIES



Jeff Wildner, Dunn Energy Cooperative Director, recently earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

This certification helps sharpen knowledge, helping direct your cooperative in an ever-changing business

environment. The pace of change in the utility industry has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increasing knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills, and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model. These skills are gained through 20 hours of in-depth training with topic experts.

Help us congratulate Jeff on finishing this leadership tract!

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: Jay Braun and Lois Minnich.

Summer Office Hours

June 1 - Sept. 4, 2026

M-Th | 7:30AM- 5PM

F | 7:30-11:30AM

Even with our summer office hours, we're still here when you need us.

- Make payments anytime by phone, drop box, or SmartHub
- Report outages by phone or SmartHub
- Line crews remain available 24/7 for outages and emergencies

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

UW-STOUT JULY 14-16, 2026

Join us for a dynamic 3-day leadership event powered and ran by teens!

Develop your leadership skills while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses.

Must be a high school student

Registrations due by June 23, 2026

Visit DunnEnergy.com for more information



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