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Delivering reliable, affordable, and **ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE** energy

SERVING YOUR

ENERGY NEEDS



ver the last few months, we've taken a look at how your local electric cooperative works to deliver you reliable and affordable energy. This month we will take a deeper look at what we have done and plan to do to deliver you

environmentally responsible energy.

The three topics we are exploring do not exist within individual silos. They are all related to each other. We could make your energy highly reliable, but that might come at a very high price financially and environmentally. We could make your energy more affordable, but we might have to sacrifice reliability and environmental responsibility. We could procure your energy from all renewable sources, but that could dramatically decrease reliability and affordability. So often you hear the messaging that there is

only one correct choice around the topics of reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy. Personally, I don't believe that is true. I believe in balanced and practical solutions to solve our energy issues of today, while we plan for the future. (10715002)

Starting on a broad level and working our way down locally, how does Dunn Energy deliver more environmentally responsible energy? Our power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC), has dramatically changed their generation mix over the last several years. Today over 20% of the electricity we purchase comes from wind, solar, biomass, or hydro power. As we

saw in earlier articles, that can change day-to-day but over the course of the year the energy you use today is more renewable than it was the year before. DPC has plans to add even more renewable energy in the future. Yes, they will continue to use some coal and will look to add more natural gas generation, but those sources are needed to help keep your energy reliable. DPC has also made major investments in technology that reduced emissions at existing generating plants. Those investments in cleaner emissions are not cheap, but doing them is truly an investment in our future. Some will advocate for even more renewable energy and no generation from coal, nuclear, or natural gas. Someday that may be possible, but until battery storage and other technologies are fully developed, we will still need to have generation sources that are capable of running 24 hours a day to meet our energy needs.

Locally, Dunn Energy has developed SunDEC, a 100-kW community solar array, as part of a larger solar farm near our Downsville substation. This community solar project allows members to buy shares in the array and receive the output as a credit on their electric bill. We still have a few shares remaining that members can purchase. Members participating are investing in making their own energy more renewable. Working together with our members on community solar projects is a great way to develop more local renewable energy. Look for more local solar generation projects from your cooperative in the year ahead.

Finally, in your own home you can make the energy you use more environmentally responsible by participating in some of our energy efficiency programs. Our Energy

> Sense rebate program offers incentives for making smart energy choices. Also, our load management program allows us to reduce our peaks when energy prices are high or when renewable energy generation is lower when the sun isn't shining or

when the wind isn't blowing. Being able to control and balance our load during those peak times or low generation times is an important part of adding more renewable energy generation in the future. Visit our website or call the office to learn more about these important programs.

Hopefully over the last few months I've been able to give our members a glimpse into how we work each day to

provide you with reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy. Delivering on all three of those attributes is complicated and requires a balanced approach. Think of it like a three-legged stool. If one leg gets too far out of alignment, it will fail what it is supporting. Technology, regulation, and consumer needs will all impact the future of the electricity business. The great thing about our cooperative business model is that we work for our members, not profits or investors. Cooperatives were formed by the members to serve the needs of the members, and as long as we continue that focus, I'm confident we will continue to deliver you reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy for years to come.



CHARGE CHARGE



The CVTC transportation training track was the perfect place for attendees of the second annual EV Experience to drive several different models of electric vehicles. Next year the event will take place at the brand new CVTC Transportation Education Center.

On Monday, September 27, Dunn Energy Cooperative officially opened the level 3 fast EV charger at the Eau Claire Travel Center/29 Pines location on Highway 29 and County Highway T in Chippewa County with a ribbon cutting. The special occasion was celebrated with the Menomonie Area, Chippewa Falls Area, and Eau Claire Chambers of Commerce, as well as River Country Cooperative and members of the public and media. As one of the founding members of CHARGE[™], it was important for Dunn **Energy Cooperative to put into practice** filling in the charging deserts in rural Wisconsin, lessening range anxiety for EV owners, and promoting electric vehicles.

Dunn Energy Cooperative





We helped our neighbors up at Barron Electric Cooperative as they dedicated a new fast charger in October as well. Theirs is just off Highway 53 in Trego at The Prime. This is just one more way that cooperatives are leading the CHARGE[™] in addressing range anxiety. This fast charger is the only public, universal fast charger between Menomonie and the Northwoods.



Dunn Energy Cooperative was happy to partner with other regional electric co-ops, as well as CVTC, to bring the second annual EV Experience to the Chippewa Valley. Nearly 200 people were in attendance to listen to keynote speaker, Jukka Kukkonen, chief EV educator and strategist at Sift2Electric. Members were also able to drive seven different electric vehicles and get a firsthand look at 24 models total. On hand were several Tesla models, the Mustang MachE, a Polestar, Chevy Bolt, Volkswagen ID, Harley Zero, electric bicycles, and more.

WINTER TEST FOR DUAL FUEL MEMBERS NOVEMBER 17

Please be advised the Winter Test for Interruptible Heat (Dual Fuel) Members is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17. This date is the Wednesday of the week before Thanksgiving, the same test day as prior years. This load control test is performed in advance of the winter Full Load Control season to ensure member familiarity with the control sequence



advance of the winter Full Load Control season to ensure member familiarity with the control sequence and to ensure that backup heating systems have been validated for proper function. (811004) Residential Interruptible Heat load classes will be controlled as follows:

Control Start: All Interruptible Heat load classes will begin control at 5 p.m. without pre-alert.

Restoral: Miscellaneous Heat loads (class 4B) will be restored at 8:30 p.m. All other Interruptible Heat loads (classes 2A, 2B, 2C, and 2W) will vary in restoral, beginning at 9 p.m., with all loads restored by 10 p.m.

BILLING DUE DATE TO CHANGE THIS MONTH

In August, the United States Postal Service (USPS) announced their finalized plan to slow mail delivery service starting October 1, 2021. With this information in mind, Dunn Energy Cooperative has made the decision to change the billing due date from the 15th of the month, to the 20th of the month. This will go into effect with the bill you receive in November.

However, just because we are changing the due date doesn't mean we want you to change when you mail your payment. These five extra days are to help lessen the occurrence of accidental late fees charged to accounts. According to the USPS, the agency is changing its standard timeframe for delivering first-class letters, flat envelopes, and periodicals. The benchmark will go from a one-tothree-day delivery window to a one-to-five-day delivery window. So, if there are an additional one to two days for us to get the bill to you, and then another additional one to two days for you to get your payment mailed to us, that eats up the extra five days we are adding on before the bill is due.

The people who will see the greatest impact of this change are those members who are on auto-pay. Bills will be drafted on the 20th of each month instead of the 15th of the month starting with the bill you receive at the beginning of November.

If you would like to get your bill sooner, and be able to pay it without worrying about stamps, you can always use SmartHub, our online account management program. It's convenient and free to use. All you need to know to sign up is your last name, account number, and billing zip code. You can find SmartHub on our website at dunnenergy.com or through your app store on your phone or tablet.



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As a member of Dunn Energy Cooperative, you have the opportunity to participate in a program that helps local, not-for-profit projects in our community. This program helped the Village of Elk Mound purchase the building for their public library. It has helped nearly every volunteer fire department we serve purchase muchneeded equipment. It has purchased new beds for veterans who have fallen on hard times. It has helped stock local food pantry shelves and put meals in

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 Timothy and Constance Easker and Dale Horky. backpacks on Fridays for children who desperately need it. Operation Round Up, on average, costs a member \$6 per year. But that \$6 goes a long way when you combine it with everyone else's \$6 too.

This spring the Operation Round Up board awarded a grant to the Sand Creek parks

committee to help create a large pirate ship playground at Riverside Park and boat landing on County Road V in Sand Creek. The ship measures in at 30 feet long and was built and assembled by local residents. The affectionately dubbed "Ark in the Park" was christened by water balloons on Sunday, June 27.

It is through the participation of our members that projects like this come to fruition. It is on behalf of our members that we support our local communities.

Operation Round Up, which is completely voluntary, rounds a member's bill up to the nearest dollar and that spare change funds grants for



local, not-for-profit organizations and projects that help the communities we serve. This year so far, the 7,216 accounts that participate in the program have funded over \$25,000 in grants to deserving organizations.

If you are a part of an organization that strives to help our local communities and has a project in the works, you can find an application for funding on our website at dunnenergy.com. Just look for Operation Round Up under Programs & Services. The board meets quarterly to review applications and award grants. The next grant application deadline is December 31.

Jesse Singerhouse, Manager

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Jolene Fisher, Editor



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