

# Delivering **RELIABLE**, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy



By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

**A**s we begin a deeper dive into how we deliver you reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible energy we will start with reliability. For our members, reliability means that when you flip a switch or turn on an appliance, electricity is there to power it up. Behind the scenes, making that happen takes a great deal of effort.

For your cooperative, there are many things that go into delivering you reliable power. It starts with producing the electricity that our members need. On any given day, the electricity you consume is produced by a variety of sources. Coal, wind, natural gas, solar, nuclear, and hydro power are the predominant sources of electricity production in the upper-Midwest.

This summer we experienced many days of hot weather. Below is a snapshot from MISO, the Midwest Independent System Operator, which is kind of like the air traffic controller of the electric grid. The MISO footprint stretches from Manitoba, Canada, down to Louisiana. On July 1 at 2:55 p.m. the total load in that area was 92,489 megawatts. As you can see from the graph about 80% of the energy people were consuming was coming from the traditional sources of coal and natural gas while about 4% was coming from solar or wind. It was one

of those very hot and humid days with little wind and hazy sunshine. During other periods of time throughout the year those percentages could change. On a comfortable September day with bright sunshine and a good wind, the percentage from solar and wind resources would be dramatically higher.

So, using this day/time as an example, about 74,000 MW of electricity were coming from coal and natural gas. We call those sources of electricity baseload power. They are resources that are very reliable and capable of running 24 hours a day when needed. Solar and wind are examples of intermittent resources. That means some days, they are there producing electricity and some days they are not. This is why we advocate for an “all of the above” policy when it comes to energy generation. Each of the generation sources I listed earlier in this article has its strengths and weaknesses. We also know that technological advancements on carbon capture, battery storage, and nuclear energy will dramatically change the energy landscape in the future.

For us, reliability is also a safety issue. On those extreme hot/cold days and during extreme weather events we want to make sure there is electricity there to power your home to keep you safe. Planning our generation, transmission, and distribution systems for those peak days is a vital step in keeping your energy reliable. Obviously,

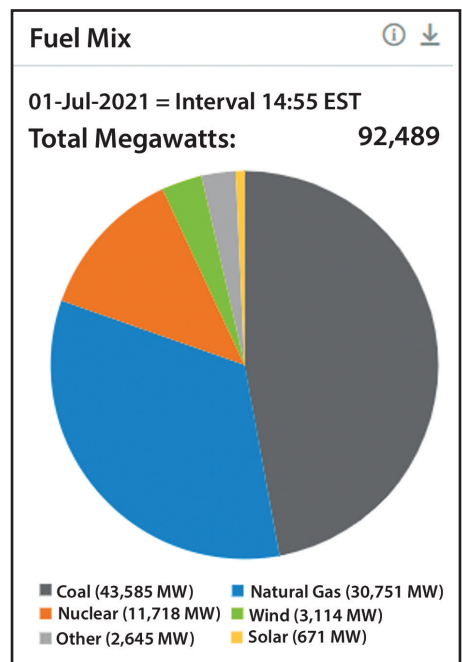
affordability and environmentally responsible energy are important as well and we will talk about those in future articles.

We can't control everything that happens with power plants, transmission lines, or energy policy, but locally we keep your energy reliable by doing preventative line maintenance, brushing, pole testing, and line upgrades. These activities cost money, but doing maintenance on our system will help keep your power reliable. Our employees also help in this regard by restoring power outages as safely and quickly as possible. They attend training on industry best procedures and care deeply about getting power restored to our members.

We want our members to be knowledgeable about energy issues the cooperative faces without having to worry about all the things that go into keeping your energy service reliable on a day-to-day basis. Our goal is to have the electricity there for you whenever you flip the switch. Next month we will take a closer look at what we do to keep your energy affordable.

## 01-Jul-2021 - Interval 14:55 EST

INTERVAL EST	CATEGORY	ACTUAL	TOTAL MW LOAD	SOURCE %
7/1/2021 14:55	Coal	43,585	92,489	47.12%
7/1/2021 14:55	Natural Gas	30,751	92,489	33.25%
7/1/2021 14:55	Nuclear	11,718	92,489	12.67%
7/1/2021 14:55	Wind	3,114	92,489	3.37%
7/1/2021 14:55	Solar	671	92,489	0.73%
7/1/2021 14:55	Other	2,645	92,489	2.86%



MY CO-OP



# SOMETHING TO BUZZ ABOUT

Please excuse the weeds...we're feeding the bees! At least, we're attempting to feed the bees. If you happen to drive by the co-op, you might notice that the front yard looks a little scraggly, maybe even dead or neglected, depending on the day you wander by. That's because we are in the process of planting a pollinator garden. This is very much an instance of "it gets worse before it gets better." If you haven't done this on your own, here's a quick rundown of the process:

1. Kill the grass.
2. Kill the grass again.
3. Sew a mix of wildflower seeds.
4. Let it grow to 18-inches and then mow it down to 7 inches as necessary.
5. Cross your fingers and hope the next spring everything that grows has a beautiful bloom on it. (But don't get your hopes up, because it will probably just look really weedy.)

According to our USDA plan, it may take until the third summer for everything to be bright and beautiful. However, we think the wait will be worth it. According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, many pollinators like bees, butterflies, and moths are in decline and their losses threaten Wisconsin wildflowers, ecosystems, agricultural crops, and natural areas, which depend on them. As native vegetation is replaced by roadways, manicured lawns, crops and non-native gardens, pollinators lose food and nesting sites necessary for their survival. (9749005)

On the other hand, it is estimated that pollinators are needed for the reproductions of 90% of flowering plants and one third of human food crops. Did you know, according to The Pollinator Partnership, that domestic honey bees pollinate approximately \$10 billion worth of crops in the United States each year?

We have quite a bit of green space here at the co-op and decided that it would be a great use of that space to plant beneficial, flowering plants. We just ask that when you drive by for the next little while, you excuse the mess.

# GETTING AROUND WITH CHARGE EV

Earlier this year we announced our proud partnership in the CHARGE EV network. This is a network of electric vehicle (EV) chargers on cooperative lines throughout the Midwest. More locally, we are excited to announce the unveiling of the first publicly available EV fast charger in this area. This three-phase, Level 2 charger is located at the River Country Travel Plaza on Highway 29 between Menomonie and Chippewa Falls. (3153002)



According to both the PlugShare and CHARGE EV apps for finding chargers, there are no public fast chargers between Baldwin and Eau Claire. The addition of this charger will help curb range anxiety for EV drivers traveling through our area. As electric vehicles become more prevalent, this will be an important step in attracting people to our area for both work and play.

This charger has the ability to “fill the tank” of an electric vehicle in fewer than 30 minutes. While visitors are at the travel plaza, they can grab a meal at the 29 Pines restaurant or snacks in the convenience store.

Not only is CHARGE EV a network of car chargers in cooperative service territories, it is also a conduit for



education. If you are interested in learning more about electric vehicles, visit us, as well as other local cooperatives, at the CVTC Energy Education Center in Eau Claire on Saturday, September 25. There will be knowledgeable industry speakers, EV test drives, and more. Look for more information on the event on our website and social media channels. We hope to see you there!

MY CO-OP

## EV EXPERIENCE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

# CHARGE™

POWERED BY CO-OPS

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**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021**

Chippewa Valley Technical College  
Energy Education Center  
4000 Campus Road, Eau Claire, WI 54703

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Learn about electric vehicles and other smart electric choices. Visit educational and informational booths. See, touch, ride and drive a variety of electric vehicle makes and models.

8:00 AM .....Registration and refreshments	
9:00 AM .....Electric Vehicle Presentation	
9:30 AM – Noon ..... Ride and Drive EVs	

Sponsored by:


We Are

# BACK

10.30.21

## COOPERATIVE MONTH MEMBER-APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

At Dunn Energy Cooperative on Saturday,  
October 30, 2021

Look for more information in the October issue!



# ARE YOU PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY?

## September is National Preparedness Month

**W**ould you know what to do if you have a fire in your home? Does your family have an evacuation plan? How about if there's a tornado? Do you and your housemates know where to seek shelter? Being prepared for an emergency is the first step in surviving.

September is National Preparedness Month, and now is a great time to sit down and talk about your preparedness gameplan with your family. Here are some helpful steps to get you started:

### 1. Have a talk with your family and share information.

Who knows where the fire extinguishers are or the

location of the emergency kits? How about emergency contact information?

**2. Determine what plans you need.** Everyone needs a fire escape plan, and in Wisconsin a tornado plan is also a must. Do you all know what to do if there's a blizzard or thunderstorm that knocks the power out for an extended period?

**3. Pick out your safe places.** Do you all know where to meet after escaping a fire? Do you know the best place to go if there's a tornado? Where is the best place in your home to hunker down if there's a storm that creates an extended outage?

**4. Pack your storm preparedness kit.** Include trail mix or other non-perishable food items as well as water, candles, and a lighter or flashlights and batteries into a backpack for easy transportation. Visit [ready.gov/kit](http://ready.gov/kit) for a more comprehensive list of supplies.

These are just a few items to think about when getting prepared for an emergency. You can find more information on storm preparedness at the Safe Electricity website, [www.safeelectricity.com](http://www.safeelectricity.com) and at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov). Taking a moment to make a plan now could save you all later.

# 12 WAYS TO PREPARE

[ready.gov/prepare](http://ready.gov/prepare)

<input type="checkbox"/>  <b>Sign up for Alerts and Warnings</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <b>Make a Plan</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <b>Save for a Rainy Day</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <b>Practice Emergency Drills</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <b>Test Family Communication Plan</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <b>Safeguard Documents</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>  <b>Plan with Neighbors</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <b>Make Your Home Safer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <b>Know Evacuation Routes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <b>Assemble or Update Supplies</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <b>Get Involved in Your Community</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <b>Document and Insure Property</b>

### 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 Donald and Jean Knutson and Thomas Morse.

### Jesse Singerhouse, Manager

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