



# THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE POWER

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

As the calendar turns to September, we pause to celebrate Labor Day. Labor Day signifies many different things: the end of summer, the beginning of school, the return of football season, and of course, a salute to the hard-working people across the country. According to the Department of Labor, the first Labor Day was celebrated in New York in 1882 as a way “to recognize the many contributions workers have made to America’s strength, prosperity and well-being.” Companies might get the headlines, but the people doing the work day in and day out are the ones that make companies successful.

Many people only think of electricity when the power goes out or the bill comes each month. As we celebrate Labor Day let’s think about everything that goes into having that electricity there, ready to be used at the flip of a switch. Our local staff of 28 people work to maintain the electric wires and equipment needed to deliver you reliable energy. Some of that work is preventative maintenance where we replace poles, cut trees, repair wire, and update equipment on over 2,000 miles of lines. We also respond to outages. As I write this in early August, we had a severe storm come through the system resulting in over 500 accounts out of power. At 2 a.m. our crews responded to the outages and by noon that day almost everyone was back on.

Our team in the office works with members on adding new services, energy programs, and community service. They also handle all the billing, accounting, and administrative functions of a cooperative with nearly 11,000 meters and over \$25 million in annual revenues. So how are we able to do that with just 28 employees? First, technology has played a huge role in helping us become more efficient. Secondly, we leverage our network of cooperative partners to deliver our members incredible value. (7381002)

Dunn Energy handles the distribution of electricity, but there are many people involved in the generation and transmission of electricity as well. Laborers at generation plants, lineman building and maintaining large transmission lines, manufacturers developing wind turbines and solar panels, train engineers delivering goods and services to the power plants, miners sourcing coal, workers installing/

maintaining pipelines to bring in natural gas, engineers running nuclear plants, people manufacturing transformers, power poles, wire, etc. The list of all the people who play a role in powering your daily life goes on and on.

Obviously, I’m biased, but as I read the purpose of Labor Day, I can’t help but appreciate the staff at Dunn Energy and across the electric industry that greatly contribute to powering our economy and our daily lives. Electricity is one of those industries that impacts so many aspects of our lives. Just thinking locally at Dunn Energy, at this very minute we are powering an ethanol plant that is producing vital fuel and livestock feed, many large dairy farms that provide

We don’t just power homes, farms, and businesses. We power people to create economic activity locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

milk to be used in the food industry, radio towers that transmit music and information, a processing plant that is shipping edible beans across the globe, a software company that develops logistics solutions for the trucking industry,

several local bars/restaurants that are serving food to guests, a print shop that is developing materials for businesses, a home office for an engineer working remotely, irrigation systems to help grow crops, and of course we are powering many homes. We don’t just power homes, farms, and businesses. We power people to create economic activity locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

Each and every industry is so important to our economy and our country. We sometimes forget how tied together we all are. So, as we celebrate Labor Day, let us pause to remember the people working hard day in and day out to make our lives better. A special shout out to my staff for all the work they do on behalf of the members of Dunn Energy Cooperative. My sincere appreciation goes out to the workers of yesterday, today, and tomorrow for all you have done and will do to make America strong and prosperous.

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### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2022

Chippewa Valley Technical College

Transportation Education Center

3810 Campus Road, Eau Claire, WI 54703

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



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# THE POWER OF PREPARATION

**W**ith severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water, and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, Dunn Energy wants to remind members of our community about the power of preparation. While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday prepper" level of preparedness, there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress, anxiety, and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio, and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in a safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your emergency plans.
- Fill your car with gas.
- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

## Care for Vulnerable Family Members

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to

check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible, otherwise call them daily. If you have an infant or young children, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medication, and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

## Keeping Four-Legged Family Members Safe

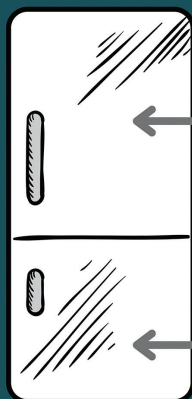
For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress especially if you need to make a decision during an emergency. (926002)

- Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.
- Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up to date.
- Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location.
- Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications, and other supplies).

At Dunn Energy, we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.

## Keep Food Safe During and After a Power Outage

Refrigerated or frozen foods may not be safe to eat after a power outage. Use these tips to minimize food loss and reduce risk of illness.



Refrigerated food will last four hours. After four hours, place refrigerated foods in a cooler with ice.

Food in a **half-full** freezer will last 24 hours. Food in a **full** freezer will last 48 hours.

### Food Safety Tips

1. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
2. Throw out any food with an unusual odor, color or texture.
3. Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator after four hours without power or a cold source (like a cooler with ice).

**When in doubt, throw it out!**





# HOME HEATING SEASON IS APPROACHING

West CAP provides Energy Assistance for  
Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Pepin, Pierce, and St. Croix Counties

As the heating season quickly approaches, we'd like to remind everyone of the services available for help with your energy bill, should the need arise.

Established in 1965, West CAP is one of over 16 Community Action agencies in Wisconsin, and one of over 1,000 across the country, working to end poverty. The West CAP team of nearly 70 staff strives to provide resources that promote the self-sufficiency of low-income families in the rural communities of west central Wisconsin and by working to create a more just and sustainable society.

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) provides assistance for heating costs, electric costs, and energy crisis situations. Operating with federal and state funding, the program provides assistance to households across our service area to help lower the burden of monthly energy costs.

WHEAP assistance is a one-time payment during the heating season (October 1-May 15). The funding pays a portion of energy costs, and the payment is not intended to cover the entire annual energy costs of a residence. The amount of the energy assistance payment varies depending on a variety of factors, including the household's size, income, and energy costs.

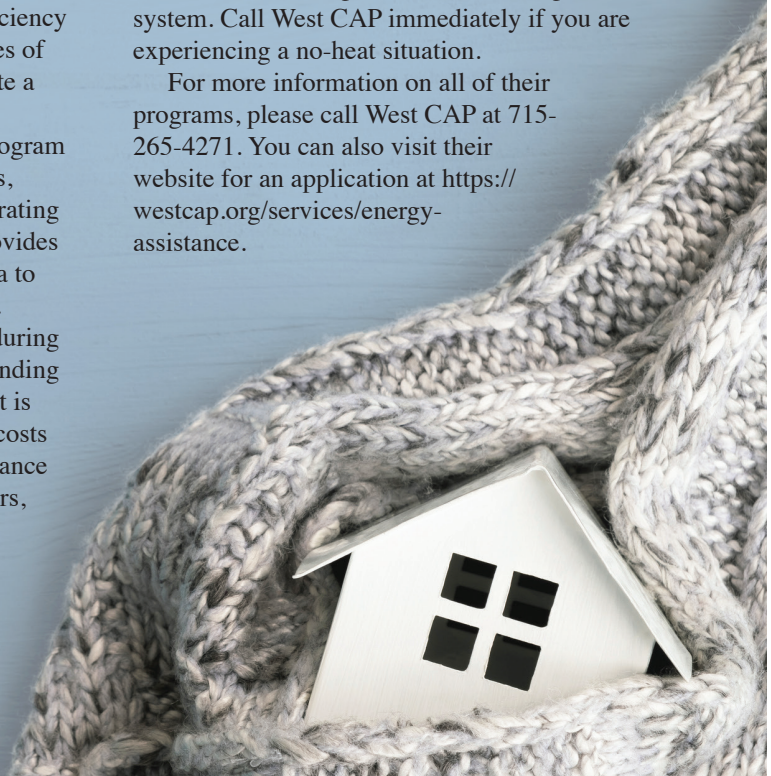
## Crisis Assistance

Crisis assistance may be available if you have no heat, are nearly out of fuel, or your electricity has been or will soon be shut off.

## Furnace Assistance

The Home Energy Plus (HE+) Furnace Program provides services to eligible homeowners and some renters when their heating system stops operating or is operating in an unsafe manner. HE+ Furnace Program assistance can include repairs, or in some situations, a total replacement of an inoperable system. Call West CAP immediately if you are experiencing a no-heat situation.

For more information on all of their programs, please call West CAP at 715-265-4271. You can also visit their website for an application at <https://westcap.org/services/energy-assistance>.



## 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 Robert & Cindy Wyss and Kris & Stacy Biesterveld.

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## Jolene Fisher, Editor



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