



PLANNING FOR 2026 AND BEYOND

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager



As we celebrate the New Year and turn the calendar to 2026, many people take the opportunity to set goals and make plans for the year ahead. The same thing happens at your Cooperative as we continue our mission of safely delivering reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy to our members. We do all of this while remembering our commitment as a Cooperative to improve the quality of life for our members and the community. Those aren't just words that we say, that is truly the reason we exist.

Operationally, your Cooperative will continue to invest in the reliability and performance of our distribution system. While we will never be able to eliminate all outages we try to take a practical and systematic approach to updating and maintaining our local grid. We plan to work on three larger projects in 2026 that will upgrade nearly 5 miles of our existing 3-phase distribution lines near our Downsview, Knapp, and Dunn Ethanol (Boyceville area) substations throughout 2026.

Even though we have an aggressive right-of-way clearing program, trees remain our #1 cause of outages as larger trees outside of our right-of-way fall and contact our lines. We have also seen many dead or dying trees in our area over the last few years. As part of our 5-year system rotation we will be clearing trees and brushing near our lines in both our Comfort and Downsview substation areas. We will also be testing all our electrical poles on the Elk Mound and Tilden substations.



This is in addition to our overhead and underground line inspection and maintenance programs.

Our member services staff will be busy this year as we strive to continuously improve the services we provide. We will be looking at adding additional billing and payment options for our members in 2026 to better help members manage energy costs. Our Energy Sense rebate program will again offer members an opportunity to make their home, farm, or business more energy efficient. We will also be promoting our Operation Round

Up and Scholarship programs to invest in our communities and our future generations. (8338005)

In the fall, your board of directors and management team will engage in a strategic planning session to set the direction of the cooperative for the next few years. As part of that session, we will conduct a member survey this summer so you can provide your input on issues that are important to you. We appreciate your feedback and engagement in your Cooperative.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the employees of your cooperative, we look forward to serving you in the year ahead.

Working for You

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 Austin Turner & Jenna Wildner and Ashley Urness.

INCENTIVE PROGRAM SEES LITTLE CHANGE FOR 2026



The new 2026 Energy Sense rebate forms are available online at www.dunnenergy.com or by contacting the Dunn Energy Cooperative office at 715-232-6240.

HVAC

Heat Pump – Air Source & Mini Split (SEER2 14.3+, HSPF2 7.5+ OR SEER 15+, HSPF 8.8+)	\$200/ton
Heat Pump – Commercial Air Source & PTHPs < 20 tons: EER 11+, 20 to < 60 tons: EER 10.5+, ≥ 60 ton: EER 10+	\$200/ton
Heat Pump – Geothermal	\$400/ton
New Furnace with Efficient ECM Blower Motor – Variable speed motor (not multi-speed) OR Eae ≤ 670 kWh/year	\$35/each
Smart Thermostat – Honeywell or Emerson brand unit. Must be enrolled in Load Management Program.	\$25/each

CONSERVATION

Electric Vehicle Charging Station – Must be “controlled” as defined by cooperative.	\$500/unit
EV Charging Station – Installation Costs – For secondary “controlled” meter as defined by cooperative.	varies
Electric Vehicle Smart Charger with Integrated Metering – Must be “controlled” as defined by cooperative.	\$1,000 /ea
Electric Sense® New Home – Must meet one of 5 program/code requirements.	\$500/ea

AUDITS/ASSESSMENTS

Audit Recommended Improvements – \$500 cap	varies
Energy Audit- Cost of Audit – 50% of audit cost, \$200/cap	varies
Compressed Air Audit – \$500 cap	varies

WATER HEATERS

Commercial Water Heater –75-99 gallons	\$250/each
Commercial Water Heater –100+ gallons	\$400/each
Residential Water Heater – 77-99 gallons, Uniform Energy Factor 0.88+	\$250/each
Residential Water Heater – 1+ gallons, Uniform Energy Factor 0.88+	\$400/each
Heat pump water heater –Integrated (all in one) units, Energy Factor 2.20 or greater)	\$500/each

ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES

All-in-One Washer/Dryer Combo – must use ventless heat pump drying	\$50/each
Clothes Dryer – electric only	\$25/each
Clothes Washer	\$25/each
Dehumidifier	\$25/each
Dishwasher	\$25/each
Freezer – Must be ≥ 10 cubic feet	\$25/each
Inductive Range – All inductive ranges qualify	\$25/each
Refrigerator – Must be ≥ 10 cubic feet	\$25/each
Appliance Recycling – Freezer/Refrigerator/Room Air Conditioner (Signed certification required)	\$25/each

AGRICULTURAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT

Circulation Fan – Fans < 36” must be ≥ 18 pounds force/kW, Fans ≥ 36” must be ≥ 21 pounds force/kW	\$1/inch
Exhaust Fan – Fans < 36” must be ≥ 18 cfm/watt @ 0.05” SP, Fans ≥ 36” must be ≥ 21 cfm/watt @ 0.05” SP	\$1/inch
Electric Forklift Battery Charger – Must be “controlled” as defined by the cooperative.	\$200/each
Dairy Plate Cooler/Well Water Pre-Cooler	\$500/unit
Dairy Refrigeration Heat Recovery w/Electric Back up – used with controlled electric water heater as defined by co-op	\$300/unit
Low/Zero Energy Livestock Waterer – ≤ 500 watts, insulated tank	\$50/unit
Scroll Refrigerator Compressor – \$1,000 cap per compressor	\$30/HP
Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) – \$1,000 cap per drive - must provide motor size)	\$30/HP

LIGHTING

LED Bulb – 50% capped at cost	\$.50/bulb - 5 bulb min.
LED Fixture –50% capped at cost	\$.50 /fixture per 800 lumens
LED Exit Sign – 50% capped at cost	\$5/sign
Occupancy Sensor –doesn’t include motion detector bulbs or fixtures –50% capped at cost	\$5/sensor



OUCH! THAT HURTS

Troubleshooting a High Electric Bill

Do you think your energy bill seems higher than normal? The winter months can bring on higher energy bills due to all the little extras we use, without really thinking about it.

If your bill seems a little higher than normal, here are some things to consider:

- **Do you have a space heater running?** Did you know that the average 1500-watt space heater running only 5 hours per day costs approximately \$25 to run over the course of a month?
- **Do you have heating tape on pipes?** (Average cost of \$4.17/month when on 24 hours per day)
- **Are you plugging a vehicle in?** (2500-watt heater for a diesel engine at 2.5 hours per use averages \$70/month)
- **Do you have a humidifier running?**
- **Do you have a tank heater for animals?**
- **Do you have a heat lamp for chickens?**

All of these things add up. All of these things are outside of your normal usage. So, if your bill is higher than normal, start with a little home audit to see what you've turned on since the weather got colder.

Then it's time to do some math.



Pro tip: if you're having a hard time remembering, pop on to your SmartHub account. You should be able to see when your usage started to go up. Maybe the date will help you remember what was plugged in at that time.



Here's how you figure out what any electrical appliance costs to run:

1. **Find out how many watts per day the item uses** (take the wattage listed on the item and multiply it by how many hours a day you have it running)
2. **Convert that number to kilowatts** (take the number of watts from #1 and divide it by 1,000)
3. **Find the monthly usage** (take your kilowatts and multiply it by how many days are in the month)
4. **Figure out the cost** (take your usage from #3 and multiply it by your electric rate)

EXAMPLE:

So that space heater we were talking about would be figured out like this:

$$1,500 \text{ watts} \times 5 \text{ hours per day} = 7,500 \text{ watts}$$

$$7,500 \div 1000 = 7.5 \text{ kilowatts}$$

$$7.5 \text{ kilowatts} \times 31 \text{ days in December} = 232.5 \text{ kilowatt hours}$$

$$232.5 \text{ kWh} \times 11.592 \text{ cents } (.11592)/\text{kWh} = \$28.11$$

You can use that formula for any electrical appliance as long as you know the wattage. (5873001) For more energy-saving tips, visit us online at dunnenergy.com and navigate to the Energy Incentives page and click on Use Energy Wisely. If you'd rather have a paper copy of the booklet, just give the office a call. We'd be happy to send you one.



HEATING SAFETY TIPS FOR WINTER

Simple precautions can help you avoid **fire hazards** and **electrical dangers**

There is nothing like curling up by the fire on a cold winter day. But heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths. With a few simple steps, you can prevent most heating fires from happening.



STAY **COZY** AND SAFE THIS WINTER:

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment like furnaces, radiators, fireplaces, electric or wood stoves and space heaters.
- Maintain a 3-foot kid- and pet-free zone around heating equipment.
- Plug heaters and electric fireplaces directly into wall outlets. Never use extension cords or power strips.
- Plug only one heat-producing appliance into an electrical outlet at a time.
- Turn off portable heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Unplug heaters when not in use.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Test smoke alarms every month.
- Hire a qualified professional to install or service stationary heating equipment and water heaters according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Have your heating system, vents and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.



SMART TIPS:

- Install and test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to alert you before it's too late.
- Have a home fire escape plan and practice it with your family.

 **Safe
Electricity.org®**

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