



CELEBRATING COOPERATIVE MONTH

Powering Communities, Bringing People Together

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

October marks National Cooperative Month, and here at Dunn Energy Cooperative, it's a time to reflect on what makes our organization, and our members, so special. As a not-for-profit, member-owned, member-driven electric cooperative, we're proud to be part of a movement that puts our members at the center of everything we do.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, Dunn Energy Cooperative doesn't answer to shareholders, we answer to our members. That means every decision we make is guided by what's best for our members, the communities we serve, and your Cooperative, for both today and in the future. It's a business model built on trust, transparency, commitment to service, and shared values. You'll also see our cooperative values in action as many members will receive their capital credit check or bill credit this month, reflecting your portion of the nearly \$1 million dollars we are returning to our current and former members.

Being a cooperative member means more than just receiving electricity and paying a monthly bill. It means having a voice. Our members elect a board of directors from among themselves, ensuring that leadership reflects the needs and priorities of the cooperative members. It's local control in action, and it's one of the most empowering aspects of cooperative membership.

We also believe in giving back. Through programs like Operation Round Up, our members round up their electric

bills to the nearest dollar, with the extra change going to support local nonprofits, schools, and other valuable community projects. It's a small gesture that creates a big impact on our communities, and it's just one example of how we work together to strengthen our community.

We're neighbors helping neighbors, working together to safely deliver reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy to our member-owners.

Education and innovation are also central to our mission. We offer scholarships to local students, host energy safety workshops, and invest in technologies that improve the reliability and sustainability of our electric grid. Whether

it's upgrading infrastructure or exploring renewable energy options, we're committed to building a brighter future for our cooperative members.

Dunn Energy Cooperative is more than wires, poles, and a monthly bill. We're neighbors helping neighbors, working together to safely deliver reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy to our member-owners. Your membership matters. Your voice helps shape the future of the cooperative. So, here's to another year of cooperation, innovation, and community spirit.

Happy Cooperative Month, and thank you for being a member-owner of Dunn Energy Cooperative! I hope you'll join us for our Cooperative Month cookout event on Saturday, October 25, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. here at DEC.

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 Randy & Tammy Eckert and Doug Marcou & Sheila Williams.

ARE YOU READY FOR A WINTER EMERGENCY?

This fall is a good time to make sure your home, and those of your elderly loved ones and neighbors, are ready for a winter emergency. Take some time, while we still have nice fall weather, to walk around your property with the list below and start making mental notes of what needs to be tended to before the snow flies.

Here are some things to look at:

If your driveway is lined with trees, is it wide enough for one of our utility trucks to get down if we need to repair our facilities after a storm? Even more importantly, is your driveway cleared wide enough for emergency vehicles? If you had a fire, could a fire engine and ambulance get down your driveway? Ideally, driveways are cleared 10-15-ft wide, with a height clearance of 12-14 feet.

Are the electrical facilities encumbered by landscaping? Shrubs and other hindrances, like deck railings and “decorative” boxes hiding electrical equipment, can cost time during an outage and present a danger to our linemen.

Is your Fire Number visible from the road? Did you know that you can order a new one from the county if yours is too faded to read? Just visit www.co.dunn.wi.us/ruraladdressing and follow the instructions. Placement is with a suggested height of 4.5-ft, as to be visible above snow drifts, and outside of road right-of-way (approximately 33-ft from the centerline of the road).

If you live in an apartment or duplex, is your unit number clearly marked? Is it somewhere other than your garage door so it's always visible? (140021086)

Are the entrances to your home clear of debris so first responders (and their gear) can enter without having to learn interpretive dance? Making sure planters, benches, and other decorations are clear of the doors is important for quick access.

Last, but not least, have you signed up for CodeRED, the emergency notification app?



Ensure your Fire Number is visible from the road.



Practical Preparedness Tips from Dunn County Emergency Management

Websites Emergency Management recommends for general readiness:

- www.ready.gov – general information
- www.ready.gov/winter-weather – specific to winter weather

For weather information, the best source of reliable information is directly from the National Weather Service:

- www.weather.gov/mpx – overall weather information for our area
- www.weather.gov/forecastpoints – weather forecasts for specific areas

For local resources and information:

- dunncountywi.gov/emergencymanagement

According to Jason Spetz, Dunn County Emergency Management Coordinator, “The main message is that people need to be prepared and to plan ahead for disasters. The most common, of course, are weather-related, including winter storms.” The following are their most common recommendations:

- Have a plan for long-term power outages. Where can you go?
- Have a plan if you have no heat or A/C (friends, family, public place, etc.).
- Test generators and have plenty of fuel. Make sure you know how to hook them up properly.
- Build an emergency kit for home and vehicle, and keep it up to date (fresh batteries, etc.).
- Have more than one way to receive reliable information from a trusted source (be careful of information from social media).
- Have a weather radio that also runs on batteries. (11269002)
- In a large-scale or prolonged incident, Emergency Management will provide information on resources available, including shelters.
- **Sign up for the CodeRED emergency notification system!** This will provide information directly from **Emergency Management in any county**, based on your location.

Dunn County Emergency Management Coordinator, Jason Spetz, tells us, “With CodeRED, you will receive timely and accurate emergency information directly from Emergency Management. You can also opt in to receive weather warnings direct from the National Weather Service. Registration instructions, and other helpful links, can be found on the Dunn

If you take anything away from this article, let it be to make sure your loved ones are accessible to emergency crews.

County Emergency Management Website. This is one of the most important steps to take in your preparedness plan.”

This may seem like a laundry list of things to take care of but getting them done will save precious time during an emergency. Time when every second counts.

As a personal note, when my grandparents were getting older, my grandpa needed an ambulance during a winter storm. The ambulance couldn’t make it up the driveway because the trees were not cut back far enough and the driveway wasn’t plowed. The First Responders had to haul the cot up the ¼-mile driveway during blizzard-like conditions and then haul my grandpa back down. It took much longer than it should have, taxing a very sick man, his very nervous wife, and the first responders. If you take anything away from this article, let it be to make sure your loved ones are accessible to emergency crews. — *By Jolene Fisher*



CO-OPS
BUILD
ECONOMIC
POWER

DUNN COUNTY Cooperative COOKOUT

Lunch includes: Hot Dogs, Beans, Chips, Deep Fried Cheese Curds, Cookies, and Beverages



**Saturday, October 25
11 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Dunn Energy Cooperative

N5725 600th Street, Menomonie

Enter off County Road B onto 578th Avenue to pass on the north side of Dunn Energy building, exiting onto 600th Street to Highway 12.

- Cooperative Displays
- Kids Trick-or-Treating
- Raffle Prize Drawing
- Come in Costume!



**Food Drive
& Diaper Drive**

Please consider supporting Stepping Stones of Dunn County Food Pantry with a **non-perishable food donation** or The United Way's Menomonie Diaper Bank by making a **diaper donation**.

Together, we can make a difference!



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**Dunn Energy
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative