



UNDERSTANDING HOW YOUR USAGE IMPACTS ENERGY RATES

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

Over the last two months I've written about a need for a rate increase at the cooperative due to the increased cost of power generation and the dramatic inflationary increase in the cost of goods and services we use on a daily basis. Our initial estimate was a 4-8% increase in the average energy bill. As I write this in early December the final numbers are still being calculated. Our proposal for a change in energy rates will be taken to the board of directors in late December along with our 2023 budget. In general, as of December 10, it looks like the rate increase will be less than 6%. Individual accounts will vary depending on their rate and energy use. While no rate increase is ever good, I am proud of our staff and our power supplier, Dairyland Power, for looking for ways to be more efficient and lessen the rate increase needed.

As I've mentioned before there are two main costs to running the cooperative. One is the energy we purchase and distribute to our members. The second is the fixed cost of running the cooperative despite how much energy is used. Regardless of energy sales, we need the wires and poles to distribute the electricity, we need linemen and trucks to respond to outages, and we need to perform maintenance on our lines each year. With this in mind, we try to balance our cost recovery between the energy rate and the base monthly charge. In the future that may change to a model that charges our members based on *when* they use energy, the peak demand for each electric service, and the base charge. A model with those three components more evenly matches the actual cost of providing each member their electric service.

Even without a change to *how* we bill for energy, you can still have an impact on the overall energy costs the

cooperative incurs from our power supplier. We, as a cooperative, get billed a time-of-use rate, meaning different parts of the day are cheaper than others when it comes to our members using energy. Typically, those lower-cost times are the overnight hours. If our members move their energy use to those lower cost times, it helps reduce the total expenses of the cooperative. Reducing our energy expenses will help us manage future rate increases.

This is where you, our member-owner, comes in. If you can shift some of your energy use to the overnight hours (between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.) or to weekends, that helps the cooperative save money, and in the end helps to keep our rates manageable. You can do things like program your dishwasher or other appliances to run overnight. Or simply wait until evening to do laundry. Any energy we can move into those lower cost windows is beneficial. (140020057)

The hours to avoid, that make the most difference in the winter, are from 4-7 p.m. In the summer the hours to avoid heavy usage are from 1-5 p.m. Any usage shifted out of those hours is beneficial to the cooperative, and ultimately you, our member-owner.

Members can also sign up for our load management program for electric water heaters, central air conditioners, and hard-wired electric heat. This allows us to control those items during those peak times. Information on load management and more can be found on our website, www.dunnenergy.com, or by calling the office, 715-232-6240.

We will take a deeper look at the best and worst times to use energy, as well as what the future of energy rates look like, in an article later this year. By working together cooperatively, you, our member-owners, can help shape future of energy rates.



Shifting some of your energy-intensive household chores to the later evening hours helps the cooperative save on its wholesale energy bill, which in turn saves on your bills.

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 Desiree Anderson and Michael & Jacquelyn Kraft.

ENERGY SENSE PROGRAM SEES MINIMAL CHANGES FOR 2023

Save energy, save money with energy efficient purchases

It's a new year and a new opportunity for members to save on energy efficient purchases. Dunn Energy Cooperative's program will remain similar to 2022, offering rebates on many items, including clothes washers, electric water heaters, HVAC units (air source heat pumps and geothermal units), lighting, and more. You can find the full list of rebates below. The new 2023 Energy Sense rebate forms are available online at www.dunnenergy.com or by contacting the Dunn Energy office at 715-232-6240.

Below you will find a detailed list of the Energy Sense rebates and incentives offered by Dunn Energy Cooperative. Please make sure to read Overall Incentive Rules at the end of this list for other terms and conditions. If you have any questions, please call the office.



Energy Sense

Together we can...together we will

HEATING AND COOLING

AHRI Certified Reference Number required for all HVAC incentives

Geothermal Heat Pump Incentive

- Paid to member at \$500/ton of the system
- Need a copy of the receipt and serial number of the unit
- AHRI Certificate must be provided

Air Source Heat Pump/Mini Split

- Paid to member at \$300/ ton of the system
- Must be 14 SEER or higher or EER 11 or higher or HSPF of 8.2 or higher
- Need a copy of the receipt and serial number of the unit
- AHRI Certificate must be provided

Heat Pump – Commercial Air Source & PTHPs

- \$300 per ton
- <20 ton: EER 11+
- 20 to <60 ton: EER 10.5+
- ≥60 ton: EER 10+

ECM Blower Motor Incentive – new furnace installation

- Incentive is \$35 per unit
- Need a copy of receipt indicating ECM/variable speed blower motor
- Must be fully variable speed or AFUE ≥ 95% & EAE ≤ 670 kWh/year
- AHRI Certificate must be provided for furnace

LIGHTING

- LED Exit Signs – \$5/fixture
- Occupancy Sensor – \$5 each
- LED bulb – \$.50/bulb (5 bulb min.)
- LED hardwired fixture (indoor and outdoor) – \$.50 per 800 lumens

APPLIANCES

Energy Star Clothes Washer – Clothes Dryer – Refrigerator – Dishwasher – Dehumidifier – Freezer – Inductive Range

- Incentive is \$25 per unit
- Unit must have Energy Star rating to qualify (except inductive ranges – they auto qualify)

- Member must provide a copy of purchase receipt
- Must provide proof of Energy Star rating
- Refrigerators and freezers must be ≥ 10 cu. Ft.

RECYCLE – Get an additional \$25 per working freezer, refrigerator, or window a/c unit that you recycle – need proof of recycling to qualify for the rebate.

Water Heaters

- Incentive is \$150 for units 75-99 gallons and \$300 for units 100 gallons and over
- 75+ gallons must have UEF of .88
- Unit must be put on the DEC load control program
- Member will receive an additional \$4/mo. credit on bill for load control*
- Member must provide a copy of purchase receipt
- Must provide proof of Energy Factor (EF)

*must use at least 400 kW/mo.



Heat Pump Water Heaters

- Incentive is \$300
- Must be new install or replacing an existing electric water heater
- Must have a Uniform Energy Factor of 2.0; be integrated.
- Does not have to be on Load Management program

Solar Storage Water Heaters w/Electric Auxiliary Tank

- Incentive is \$150 for units 75-99 gallons and \$300 for units 100 gallons and over
- Must be new install or replacing an existing electric water heater

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Controlled Electric Vehicle Charging Station

- Incentive is \$400 paid to member
- Must be controlled as defined by Dunn Energy Cooperative

Controlled Electric Vehicle Charging Station w/Integrated Metering

- Incentive is \$800 paid to member
- Must be controlled as defined by Dunn Energy Cooperative

HOME PERFORMANCE

Home Energy Audit

- Incentive is \$150 credit towards the cost of a home energy audit
- Work must be performed by a state-certified energy audit specialist
- Typical total cost is \$325 less credit
- Bill for audit will be sent to Dunn Energy Cooperative and the member will see the charge on their energy bill, less the \$150 credit
- Cost of the audit generally includes one follow-up visit for retesting after recommended correction measures have been made.
- Eligible for only one audit every five years – limit 50 members per year
- If audit requests exceed 50, members will be placed on a waiting list and awarded incentives if money becomes available
- Credit cannot exceed 50% of the actual cost of the audit or \$150

Home Audit Follow-up Incentive

- Incentive is a max of \$500 per member and must be claimed within 24 months of audit
- Must have done a home energy audit through the Dunn Energy program first
- Consultant will give the homeowner a series of recommendations of ways to improve energy efficiency.
- Dunn will credit member up to \$500 for completion of efficiency updates/improvements
- Member can do any combination of one or more of the projects listed by the consultant
- Projects should be related to electrical reduction and/or electrical efficiency

Touchstone Energy Home Program

- Incentive is \$500 per home
- If requests exceed five, members will be placed on a waiting list and awarded incentives if money becomes available
- Need a copy of State Energy Star certification
- Program is arranged by the homeowner, builder, and state Energy Star Home staff. DEC just does the final rebate if the home passes and is certified as a Wisconsin Energy Star Home

COMMERCIAL & FARM PROGRAMS

Incentives for Farms Include:

- Plate Coolers – \$500
- Dairy Refrigeration Heat Recovery system with electric back up – \$300
- Low/Zero Energy Livestock Waterer – \$50 per unit (must be less than 500 watts; insulated tank)
- Scroll Refrigeration Compressor – \$30 per HP – max rebate \$1,000/compressor
- Variable Speed/Frequency Drives – \$30 per HP – max rebate \$1,000/drive; min. ½ HP

- Ag Fan – Exhaust – \$1 per inch diameter (36" fans must be rated 18 CFM/watt+; fans over 36" must be at or above 21 cfm/watt) <http://bess.illinois.edu>
- Ag Fan-Circulation – \$1 per inch diameter (Fans under 36" must be rated 18 ft-lb/kW – 36"+ fans must be rated at or over 21 ft-lb/kW) <http://bess.illinois.edu>
- Commercial Vending Machine controls – \$25
- Electric Forklift Battery Charger – must be on load control – \$200 each

Custom Farm and Commercial incentives are available. Contact the office for more information.

OVERALL INCENTIVE RULES

- All incentives are available on products purchased and worked performed from 1/1/23 until 12/31/23
- Dunn Energy reserves the right to terminate all or part of this program at any time
- Each incentive has a budget, when that budget has been met the incentive may end
- Dunn Energy reserves the right to transfer allotted program budget funds between programs as needed
- Only active electric members of Dunn Energy Cooperative are eligible for these incentives
- Incentives listed are as of 1/1/23 – call Dunn Energy Cooperative for updates
- All energy efficiency measures and appliances must be installed on the DEC system to qualify for an incentive
- Rebates in the amount of \$499 or less will be issued in the form of an energy bill credit. Checks will be issued for amounts \$500 or larger
- Rebates CANNOT exceed 100% of the purchase price of item being rebated
- All forms and receipts must be turned in within 3 months of purchase date or by December 31 to qualify for rebates.



Dunn Energy wishes Tricia Bauer and Mike Andraschko a happy, healthy, and long retirement.

A FOND FAREWELL

It is with excitement for their future that Dunn Energy Cooperative wishes two long-time employees, Tricia Bauer and Mike Andraschko, a fond farewell and good wishes for a long and enjoyable retirement. Tricia and Mike have both served cooperative members for nearly all of their adult life, Tricia starting in 1981 and Mike in 1986.

Their care for our members and commitment to the cooperative have not gone unnoticed. You've regularly seen them at our annual meetings and October Co-op Month events. You've most likely dealt with them in the office or out in the field. Both Tricia and Mike have been fixtures with Dunn Energy Cooperative for what feels like a lifetime, and for that we're grateful. (140021143)

"Tricia and Mike have shown a steadfast commitment to serving the members of Dunn Energy Cooperative. From working on outage restoration to talking with you about work being done, their focus has always been on how best to serve our members," said Jesse Singerhouse, Dunn Energy Cooperative CEO. "I'd like to thank them for their service and the positive impact they've had on the cooperative."

Tricia and Mike, on behalf of everyone at the cooperative, Happy Retirement!

Working for You

Jesse Singerhouse, Manager

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Jolene Fisher, Editor

FIVE WAYS TO FIGHT THE WINTER CHILL *and* SAVE ENERGY

Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

1 Mind the thermostat. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees.

2 Button up your home. The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is a simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy.

3 Use window coverings wisely. Open blinds, drapes, or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, hang curtains or drapes in a thicker material.

4 Consider your approach to appliance use. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads.

5 Think outside the box. If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up—beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks, and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, use an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

If you're taking steps to save energy but continue to see major increases in your bills, give us a call at 715-232-6240. Dunn Energy's energy experts can help identify areas and other factors impacting your home energy use and recommend next steps for savings.

Visit our website at dunnenergy.com for additional energy-saving tips.



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