

Spotlight

October 2023



Electric Co-ops Grow for the Communities They Serve

October is National Co-op Month

October is National Co-op Month, and Dunn Energy Cooperative is joining cooperatives across the U.S. to celebrate. Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but they each have a common goal: to provide goods or services for the members of the co-op.

Electric co-ops, including Dunn Energy Cooperative, exist to serve their members. Our priority is to provide affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible energy to our local communities. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs.

This October, as we celebrate Co-op Month, we're focusing on the ways "Co-ops Grow" for their members.

Co-ops Grow Communities: Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement, and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. "Concern for Community"

is one of our core principles—and being committed to the communities we serve is essential to everything we do.

Co-ops Grow Together: Co-ops are all about cooperation, not competition. That's why electric co-ops work together to share lessons learned, successful strategies, and better ways to serve our members. We're better when we grow together!

Co-ops Grow Tomorrow's Leaders: Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for growing tomorrow's leaders through a variety of youth engagement programs. Whether through scholarships, community events, or the Youth Leadership Conference, we're committed to providing opportunities for local youth to learn and thrive in our community and beyond.

Co-ops Grow for You: At Dunn Energy Cooperative, your satisfaction is our number one goal. It's why we were formed many years ago to

The DUNN COUNTY Cooperative COOKOUT

Saturday, October 28
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Lunch includes: hot dogs, beans, chips, deep fried cheese curds, cookies, & beverages

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

Brought to you by Dunn County's Cooperatives

fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We've come a long way since then, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll never stop growing for you!

Information to Saves Lives During National Teen Driver Safety Week Oct. 15-21

Eight people die in distracted-related crashes on American roads each day, according to the National Safety Council (NSC). National Teen Driver Safety Week is observed the third week of each October, which is a good time to talk to the teens in your life about safety on the open road, including the hazards of distracted driving and downed power lines.

Distracted driving

There were 3,522 people killed by distracted driving in 2021*, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Lead by example and, as the NSC touts, "Just Drive."

Texting while driving is the most alarming distraction behind the wheel, since sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for approximately 5 seconds. Other distractions include sifting through music, checking social media, using navigation, eating, talking on the phone, taking selfies, drinking a beverage or using an app.

Distracted driving is preventable. Teens and adults alike can follow these five easy tips to help them concentrate on just driving:

1. That text can wait. Do not text while driving.

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2. Make responding less tempting by blocking texts while behind the wheel.
3. Do not eat while you drive.
4. Rely on playlists instead of searching for music.
5. Set up navigation before you leave or have a passenger navigate.

Downed power lines

Although no one wants to think about teens being in car accidents, it does happen. Severe storms can damage utility equipment, such as power lines/poles and padmount transformers (green boxes). Have discussions with teens about what to do if there is a downed power line or damaged equipment.

Here is how the ground or objects can become energized without any visual indication:

- The energy spreads like ripples on a pond.
- If you walk or run from one voltage "ripple" to another, your feet experience a difference in voltage (this is called step potential).
- If you touch something at one voltage and step on or touch something at a different voltage, your hands (or your hand and foot) experience a difference in voltage (called touch potential).
- Your body becomes electricity's path to ground, when electrical current enters your body at one

point and exits at another.

What to do

If you are in a car accident, stay inside your vehicle, call 9-1-1 and report that there is damaged electric utility equipment. If you are a bystander, do not approach the scene to help. Stay at least 50 feet away and do not lean on or touch anything.

Downed lines or other damaged utility equipment can look lifeless and harmless and still be live. Downed lines and other damaged electrical apparatuses do not have to be sparking, moving, sizzling or giving off flames to be energized.

Learn other electrical safety tips at SafeElectricity.org.

FROM THE BOARD ROOM

August 2023 Board Meeting Highlights



Monthly Reports:

Operations reported that proactive vegetation spraying in the

Rock Falls and Caryville areas is complete and we have moved on to the Connorsville area. Members were notified of the spraying in advance by postcard. It was also mentioned that new service installations are up compared to last year. In August of 2022 we had installed 57 new services and in 2023 year-to-date we have installed 67. Pole testing will begin this fall.

The Energy Management report included information on supply chain issues impacting the availability of electric meters. The cooperative is being proactive in scheduling meter deliveries for 2024. It was noted that the cooperative saw its largest use to-date of the EV charger at 29 Pines in Chippewa County. There are currently two solar applications for member-owned solar pending.

The CFO provided data on some of the cooperative benefit plans for employees. He also provided information on a possible new funding source for financing vehicle purchases. Financially, July was low on kilowatt hour sales due to the cool start to the month as well as adequate moisture levels lowering irrigation sales.

The CEO/General Manager let the board know that the cooperative is

still waiting for word on whether or not it will receive funds through the GRIP grant that will focus on increasing grid resiliency through the deployment of additional system communication hardware. It was also noted that progress is being made at the two 1.5 megawatt solar installations. The project in Tainter township has the poles set and is awaiting panel installation. The project near the ethanol plant by Boyceville is nearing completion, with the panels already installed. Discussion also took place regarding the open seat on the arbitration committee. This seat became vacant with the passing of a member. The board also discussed the meetings they've attended in the last month, including a Strategic Crisis Management workshop and an Energy Issues Summit. Information was brought forth on the WECA Annual Meeting to be held in November in Eau Claire.

The following items were approved:

- Minutes of the July 2023 Board meeting
- Capital credit estate payout for deceased members.
- Audit committee report of all checks, ACH payments, wire transfers, credit card statements, and investments accounts.

Other Business:

Director Zwiefelhofer reported on Dairyland Power activities for the month.

Reviewed the monthly report of new Cooperative members.

Reviewed the monthly governance video that discussed Risk Management.

Let's Talk Auto-Pay

Updating Your Card in SmartHub

1. Login to your SmartHub account
2. Head to the Autopay Program section:
App: See Bill & Pay
Web: See Billing & Payments
3. Choose: Change your payment method
4. Enter updated Information
5. Check that task off your list!

Working for You
DUNN ENERGY COOP