

Spotlight

December 2023



Getting Winter Ready: Are You Prepared?

We work hard here at Dunn Energy Cooperative to make sure your power stays on, but some winter weather conditions, such as snow, ice, and wind, can cause unavoidable power outages. While outages are less common in the winter their effects can be much more dangerous because of the need for heat.

If your power does go out, check your fuses or circuit breakers first. Then contact Dunn Energy at 800-924-0630 to report the outage. You will be asked for your address or account number. Have that handy. Never assume your neighbor has reported the outage. They could be making the same assumption. We would rather get several calls about an outage than none at all. To be safe, prepare now while the weather is still nice.

Here are some tips we've compiled to help you prepare in case of emergency:

- Prepare an emergency kit. Include items like a battery powered radio, flashlight, and candles. Remember to also pack extra batteries, matches, a first-aid kit, bottled water, and non-perishable food.
- Keep in mind that during a power outage your cordless phone, if you still have a landline, will not work. Make sure you have a cell phone (and charger for your vehicle) or an old-fashioned phone with a cord!
- Report downed wires or other hazards to Dunn Energy immediately. Always treat downed lines

like they are energized and stay away.

- If you have critical power needs, such as a respirator, contact our office and ask to be put on our list of critical accounts.
- We strongly suggest that if you have a critical power need, or animals that need electricity for water, you have a qualified electrician install a back-up generator.

Here at the co-op we have maintenance programs in place to clear rights-of-way and inspect lines for possible obstructions to help keep outages to a minimum. However, there are times that Mother Nature gets the best of us. Make sure that you have taken the proper steps to keep your family safe during a winter outage.



FROM THE BOARD ROOM

October 2023 Board Meeting Highlights



Monthly Reports:

Operations reported that the 2024-2027 Work Plan is just about finished, and bids are out for work

plan projects in 2024. Pole testing has wrapped up for the year and the number of poles that need to be replaced was lower than budgeted for. It was also noted that the two 1.5 megawatt solar sites are nearing completion and should

be energized in December.

The Energy Management report contained information on the public EV charger at 29 Pines in Chippewa County. The use of the charger has picked up significantly since this time last year. An update was also given on meters, facility maintenance, and a possible internal lighting project.

The CFO presented the 10-year financial forecast and Form 990 for board approval. It was also reported that September saw sales 8.5% over budget

due to the warm weather. Year-to-date this brings the cooperative on track for budget and revenue projections in 2023.

The CEO/General Manager provided an update on grants, noting that the cooperative did not receive the GRIP grant that was applied for through the NRECA consortium. Plans for the WECA Annual Meeting were finalized and possible future solar projects were discussed, as well as other topics for closed session.

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The following items were approved:

- Minutes of the September 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.
- Arbitration Committee appointment.
- 10-year financial forecast.
- PCA credit to members on October energy usage with the November bill.
- Return of the DPC Business Development Fund balance in October 2024 to members from 2020-2021.

Other Business:

Director Zwiefelhofer reported on Dairyland Power activities for the month.

Reviewed the monthly report of new Cooperative members.

Reviewed the NRECA podcast, "Along Those Lines" regarding a Cybersecurity Attack on a cooperative.

Rebate Reminder!

For the last several years, through our Energy Sense program, we have offered rebates on Energy Star rated appliances, LED lighting, and many other energy efficient items. With the end of the year nearing, we wanted to remind members that all rebates for 2023 are due in our office **NO LATER THAN Sunday, December 31, 2023.**

Did you build a house this year? Maybe had to unexpectedly replace a failing appliance? If, in the past several months, you have purchased a new clothes washer or dryer, dishwasher, refrigerator, freezer or dehumidifier you may qualify for a \$25 rebate. You can visit our website at www.dunnenergy.com (Energy Incentive tab) for information on all of our rebates as well as to find the appropriate rebate form for your purchase.

To qualify for a rebate, you must have made the purchase in 2023. You must have a copy of the receipt or invoice. You must also have a copy of the Energy Star usage tag for the appliance to verify it was Energy Star rated. If you have any questions, you can give us a call at the office at 715-232-6240.

Check out our website at www.dunnenergy.com to find out more about our rebates! And remember, you need to have everything turned in **NO LATER THAN Sunday, December 31, 2023**, to be assured that you will receive your credit.



Depending on the extent of storm damage, restoration can be a complex process. **There are many steps in the assessment and restoration process:**



1. Clearing downed power lines



2. Restoring power to public health and safety facilities



3. Repairing transmission lines



4. Checking power stations and transformers



5. Repairing distribution lines



6. Getting power restored to homes and businesses



Remember, a neighbor may have power while you do not. Your home might be on a different feeder or transformer or the service line to your home may be damaged.

Never plug a portable generator into a wall outlet, which could cause power to backfeed into the overhead lines that utility crews are working on.



Regardless of the extent of an outage, **safety always comes first.**

Safe Electricity.org