



DUNN ENERGY COOPERATIVE IS CELEBRATING EARTH DAY WITH NEW RENEWABLE ENERGY

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

In many of my articles you have probably seen me write the phrase “Dunn Energy Cooperative’s (DEC) goal is to safely deliver our members reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy.” That phrase isn’t just a catchy tagline, it is what we aim to do day in and day out. As we celebrate Earth Day this month on April 22, it is only fitting that construction of our two local utility-scale solar projects is set to begin, which helps us deliver on our goal.

The first project will be located near the ethanol plant east of Boyceville and the second project will be located west of our Tainter substation along County Road BB northeast of Menomonie. Each project will be 1.5 megawatts (1,500 kW) in size and occupy about 12 acres of land. In choosing a site for projects like this we look for close proximity to a substation, a three-phase distribution line, and

a substation that has a consistent energy draw at or higher than the solar system output. (9104001)

Working for You

These two projects, developed and maintained by OneEnergy Renewables, will produce around 5 to 6 million kWh yearly or roughly 2-3% of the 225 million kWh used by all DEC members. When we combine our local renewable energy projects with the renewable energy we already receive from our power supplier, Dairyland Power, that means over 25% of the energy you receive is coming from renewable resources such as solar, wind, or hydro.

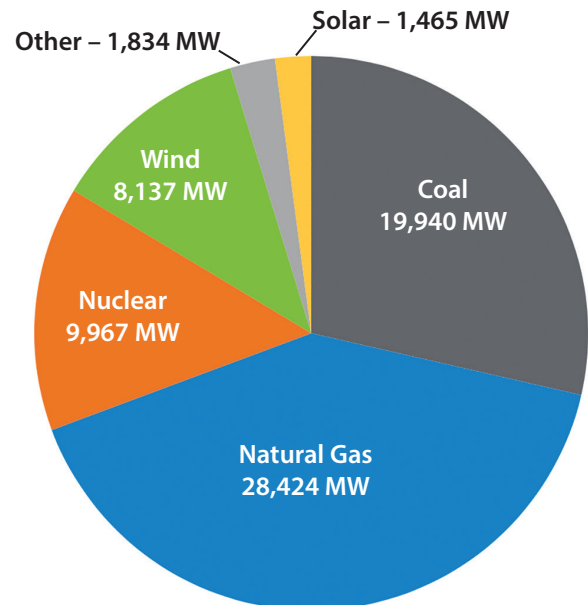
These projects are in addition to the SunDEC community solar project near our Downsville substation. With a community solar project, individual members can purchase shares of the solar field and they receive a credit on their monthly electric bill for their portion of the energy produced each month. These two new projects will bring all the energy produced onto the DEC distribution system for all members to utilize. The community solar project works great for members interested in adding even more renewable energy to their personal energy portfolio. We still have a few shares remaining if you are interested. Call our office or visit the website for more information. Once we sell out the current community solar, we will look at building another.

While the addition of more renewable energy is a good thing, we also need to continue to develop energy resources that fill in the gaps when the sun isn’t shining, and the wind isn’t blowing. This is vital to keeping your energy reliable.

Renewable energy is considered an intermittent resource, meaning it isn’t there all the time. So that means we still need baseload resources that are capable of running most of the time, like natural gas, coal, or nuclear power, to keep our energy highly reliable. As I write this article on a hazy day in early March after an overnight snowfall, about 83% of the energy being consumed in our area is coming from baseload sources and 17% is coming from renewable sources. Our approach is to develop both types of generation resources in the future in order to deliver reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy to our members.

Cooperatives are uniquely positioned to deliver common-sense solutions to the energy and environmental challenges out there because we are here to serve our members. We are excited to add even more renewable energy to our local generation mix with the addition of these two projects. Remember every day can be Earth Day. Each of us can make a difference in our local communities by doing things to take care of the air, water, soil, and all of our natural resources.

Fuel Mix March 10, 2023 – Interval 12:35 EST Total Megawatts: 69,765



ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT GOING SOLAR?



Here are some things you should consider.

These nicer spring days have many people thinking about summer projects. Does one of your summer projects include researching whether or not solar energy is right for you? Let's start with one quick fact before we get started. Solar energy is not energy efficiency. Solar energy is generating electricity, while energy efficiency is finding ways to use less energy. In our experience, members who install solar are motivated by saving money or concern for the environment, and sometimes both. Think about solar installation like prebuying your LP for the year. You're just laying out most the money up front for energy down the road. Focusing first on energy efficiency addresses both motivations and may be less expensive in the long run.

Energy Consumption

If you plan to install a solar array that is interconnected to Dunn Energy Cooperative infrastructure, the system must be sized to load, meaning that the energy output of your solar array cannot be larger than the amount of energy your home consumes in a year. A good tip is making sure your home is as energy efficient as can be before you order your array. The larger the system, the more it costs. Being efficient with your energy use will save you money in both consumption and in the size of the system you need to buy.

A fully insulated and air-sealed home uses less energy and is a good way to start to address lowering both your energy consumption and your electric bill. If you aren't quite sure where to start in making changes to your home to make it more efficient, Dunn Energy Cooperative partners with a certified energy auditing company. Through the co-op, members are offered a discounted price to have their home tested. It's a good way to start the process of becoming more efficient. (8972002)

Electric Bills and Storage

By going solar, most likely you are not going "off-grid". Unless you plan to disconnect from the cooperative, you will still get a monthly bill. Think of this as your insurance

or energy storage plan in the event your system fails, or the weather is dreary enough that you aren't generating enough energy to fully supply your needs. Solar panels only produce energy when the sun is shining, and battery storage isn't quite financially possible for most people yet. So, typically, if you want power after dark, during storms, or when your solar panels are covered with snow, you'll need to be connected to your co-op and the electrical grid. It's also good to remember that you shouldn't assume that solar panels will supply you with power during power outages. Typical solar interconnection to the grid requires the array to shut down during a power outage to protect lineworkers from injury while making repairs.

Contact Your Co-op

Dunn Energy works with several local, reliable solar contractors. Most understand the rate structure, banking plan, and interconnection agreements, but it's good to check in with the co-op to make sure you're using a reputable company who is giving you the correct information. It's also important to make contact with the cooperative to get your size-to-load requirement and learn of the fees and paperwork necessary to connect your system to Dunn Energy's electrical grid.

If all of this seems rather overwhelming, there may be another option to consider. Dunn Energy owns a community solar field where members can purchase the output of the solar panels. This program allows you to enjoy the benefits of renewable energy without the responsibilities of ownership and maintenance.

Understanding the considerations above before installing your own solar array will ensure you meet both your money-saving and environmental goals. If you have questions on installing renewable energy at your site, please contact our Energy Specialist, Chris Marlett, via email at cmarlett@dunnenergy.com or by calling the office at 715-232-6240.

NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS

The committee on nominations met at the office of the cooperative at N5725 600th Street, Menomonie, Wisconsin, on the 13th of March 2023 at 11 a.m. and having proceeded to make nominations for directors to be voted on at the Annual Meeting May 18, 2023, do hereby report that we do make the following nominations:

**Nominees for director to succeed
Larry Amble:**

1. David Bartlett
N12395 430th St.
Boyceville, WI 54725
2. Karl Varnes
N12303 530th St.
Ridgeland, WI 54763

**Nominees for director to succeed
Dean Stokke:**

1. Jerry Porter
E6397 836th Ave.
Colfax, WI 54730
2. Dean Stokke
E7135 860th Ave.
Colfax, WI 54730

**Nominees for director to succeed
Rachel Kummer:**

1. Rachel Kummer
N1411 830th St.
Mondovi, WI 54755
2. Greg Weiss
E5518 50th Ave.
Durand, WI 54736

The by-laws provide that 25 or more members may make their nominations in writing over their signatures on or before 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 18, 2023, and if such other nominations are made, they will also be posted with the above list of nominations made by the committee and such additional nominees listed on the ballot.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

UW-Stout | July 11-13, 2023



Take the opportunity to...

- See what makes the cooperative business model successful
- Identify and learn how to develop your own leadership skills.
- Discuss cooperative careers with industry professionals.
- Be entertained and challenged by motivational speakers

Who should apply?

- High school juniors whose parents/guardians are members of Dunn Energy Cooperative
- Students wanting to explore different career opportunities
- Students who are interested in expanding their leadership skills

What does it cost?

All registration costs are covered by your local cooperative.

Deadline for registration is June 7, 2023

**This is a conference by teens, for teens.
For more information and how to apply, visit dunnenergy.com.**



CELEBRATE

the Power Behind Your Power.
 Lineworker Appreciation Day | April 18, 2023

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 Gerry & Melissa Murphy and Samantha Sporrer.

FUN FACTS* ABOUT THE POWER LINEWORKER

- The power lineman trade began in 1879 with the invention of the Edison lightbulb.
- There are approximately 115,000 lineworkers in the United States.
- The first lineman was Ezra Cornell. Cornell built the Morse Telegraph line and later founded Cornell University.
- The approximate weight of the tools and equipment a lineman wears is 30 pounds.
- Hot sticking began in 1905, bare-handing began in 1915, rubber gloving started in the 1920s.
- There are over 9 million miles of electrical lines in the United States and 170 million wooden poles.
- There are 2.7 million transmission towers in the United States.



**Facts provided by Northwest Lineman College*

National Lineworker Appreciation Day is a day to express our utmost appreciation to the men and women who work so hard for us every day. It's our honor to celebrate the hard work and dedication of electrical lineworkers everywhere.

Jesse Singerhouse, Manager

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Jolene Fisher, Editor



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