



WORKING TOGETHER TO USE ENERGY WISELY

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

At the very core of the cooperative purpose is the belief that if members work together, they can make an impact. Our Operation Round Up program is a classic example. Members round up their bill to the nearest dollar and that change is pooled together to donate over \$40,000 per year to local causes that help our members and the communities we serve.

Our members can also work together to reduce our demand for electricity during peak times, which in turn will help the cooperative in our efforts to control costs. The generation and transmission of electricity is by far the largest expense at the cooperative each year, accounting for close to 70% of our expenses. Reducing our purchased power expenses by just 1% would save our cooperative over \$175,000. Since we operate as a cooperative, those savings help improve our financial performance, which in turn will benefit you, our member-owners.

For most members, you pay the same price per kilowatt hour you use each month regardless of the day or time you use it. Someday that may change, but a kilowatt used at 10 a.m. on a Tuesday costs you the same as a kilowatt used at 4 p.m. on a Thursday. However, the cost

to produce those kilowatts is different. During the summer (June–August), energy used weekdays from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., when energy demand is the highest, can cost up to 60% more than energy produced earlier in the day or later in the evening. If we, as cooperative members, can work together to shift our energy use to a lower demand time period it will help all members of the cooperative. (10717002)

Weekdays

- Best time to use energy – overnight from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m.
- Good time to use energy – 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Worst time to use energy – weekdays from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Weekends

- Best time to use energy – overnight from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m.
- Good time to use energy – 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

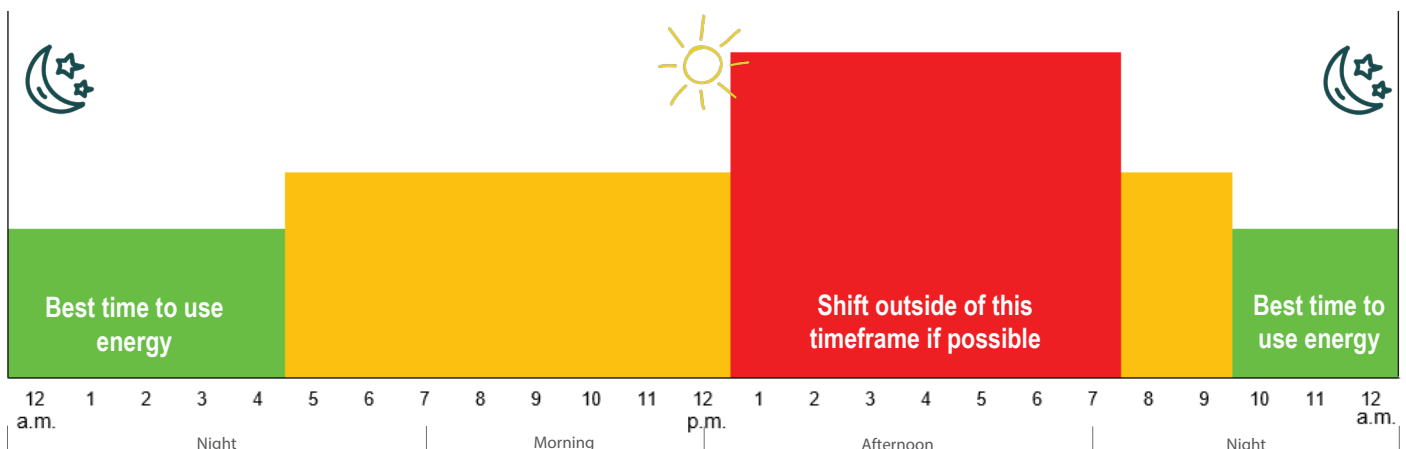
Peak Energy Alerts

From time to time, you may see a message from the cooperative or hear a commercial on the radio describing a peak demand event for electricity. These events occur when there is an extremely

high demand for electricity. We have many members who are already working together to lower the demand for energy during these peak events by taking part in the cooperative’s load management program. We have programs in place for controlling electric water heaters, cycling air conditioners, and reducing demand from large farms, businesses, and irrigation accounts. Even if you are not participating in these programs, you can do your part to lower your demand for energy during these peak events.

When you hear a commercial, or get an email/text message from the cooperative, or see a reminder on our social media channels, please consider raising the temperature on your air conditioner a few degrees, limiting the use of electric appliances such as clothes dryers and ovens, and shifting non-essential energy use to a better time period or weekend.

Working together, in true cooperative fashion, to use energy wisely and lower energy demand during those critical peak times will certainly assist the cooperative in our efforts to keep energy rates reasonable in the future. For more information on our energy programs and rebates please visit our website at www.dunnenergy.com



In order to help the cooperative avoid paying high prices for energy during the summer, you can shift flexible energy usage outside of the red hours (1-7 p.m.) into the better orange hours or the best green hours.



Breaking Down the HVAC Alphabet

Let's start with the easy one first. You may see vans or trucks driving around saying they're your trusted HVAC installer. HVAC is **H**eating **V**entilating and **A**ir **C**onditioning and refers to systems that heat or cool a designated area.

What is an AHRI Certificate and why do I need it for an HVAC rebate?

If you have applied for a heating or cooling rebate from Dunn Energy Cooperative in recent months, you've been asked to provide an AHRI certificate to qualify for the rebate. The AHRI certificate comes from the **A**ir-conditioning, **H**eating, & **R**efrigeration **I**nstitute. They provide accurate and neutral testing of heating, air conditioning, water heating, and refrigeration equipment.

Having this certificate assures homeowners that their equipment performance claims have been independently measured, verified, and rated uniformly. We ask that you provide the AHRI certificate for purposes of verifying the efficiency of the heating and cooling items you are installing in your home.

What is a SEER rating and why is it important? What about the EER rating?

The rebates and incentives that Dunn Energy has on heating and cooling systems are based on the SEER rating, or the **S**easonal **E**nergy **E**fficiency **R**atio. This simply tells us how efficient the air conditioner or heat pump is. The higher the SEER rating, the more efficient the system is. A system with a SEER rating of 13 does not qualify for a

rebate because it is the minimum rating available.

The only difference between

SEER and EER is the S! EER is calculated using a steady outside temperature of 95 degrees while SEER is calculated using a range of outside temperatures from 65–104 degrees. EER is the efficiency you can expect at peak cooling time and SEER is an average of the season. When deciding on a new air conditioning unit, just make sure you are comparing apples to apples. Either look at SEER or EER ratings on all of the units you are considering.

When choosing a new HVAC system, you should consider installing an Energy Star Verified HVAC system. When choosing an Energy Star verified system, you'll have the benefit of knowing your system isn't over or under sized. As a result, your equipment won't cycle on and off when it isn't needed, lengthening the life of the system. For more information on this program, visit EnergyStar.gov.

What is an ECM blower motor and why should I look for it in a furnace?

Technically, ECM stands for **E**lectronically **C**ommutated **M**otor, but more commonly it will be referred to as a variable speed motor. The benefits to variable speed motors are in their efficiency. Think about driving along the highway. We all know flooring the gas pedal and stopping hard are bad for our gas mileage, but cruising along and easing up on the gas and lightly applying the brake are much more fuel efficient. The same goes for your furnace fan. If you need to maintain a set temperature, you don't need the furnace fan to run at full speed for short spurts. A nice lower fan setting will do the job just fine and use less electricity. However, if you come home from vacation and your house is at a blistering 80 degrees and you want to drop the temperature quickly, full speed ahead is how you want your furnace to run. This is why variable speed is the way to go!

What's the difference between a GSHP and an ASHP?

Well, an **A**ir **S**ource **H**eat **P**ump uses the outside ambient air temperature, and a **G**round **S**ource **H**eat **P**ump uses the constant temperature of the earth to preheat/cool the fluid in the heat pump system.

Heat pumps are an effective and energy efficient way to heat and cool your home. They work by absorbing heat from the environment and transferring it to a fluid, which is compressed to increase its temperature. This heat is then transferred from the compressed fluid into the central heating system, to use for both heating and hot water. They also work to cool your home as well.

There are many other abbreviations when it comes to the HVAC industry, but this should get you started. If there are other electricity or rebates related topics you'd like us to cover in the magazine, please feel free to send a note in with your energy bill or drop us a line at info@dunnenergy.com.

Working for You



LET'S DO THE SUMMER SHIFT

As temperatures rise, so does the demand for electricity. Dunn Energy Cooperative has a summer-heavy energy load. Members use more energy during the hot days of summer than the rest of the year—the heating season included. The Summer Shift program was started many years ago by Dairyland Power Cooperative, our energy wholesaler, to help move energy usage outside of peak demand times to help lower the cost of purchasing power. This is a voluntary program designed to shift nonessential electricity use to before 1 p.m. or after 7 p.m. June through August. These are times when electricity use is not at its peak and not as expensive.

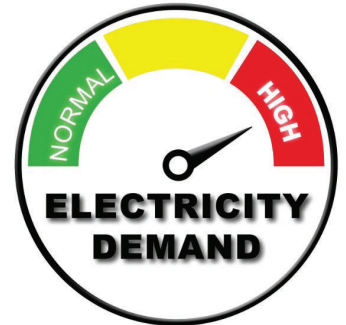
If a member shifts their electricity use, they may not necessarily save energy. They could use the same amount of electricity, just at a different time of the day. That is still beneficial because it means the cooperative's wholesale power provider did not have to purchase that power when electricity costs are more expensive. When the cooperative saves, so do members. This shift will help to keep rates reasonable over time. (140020574)

The price of electricity purchased on the grid changes continuously during the day. This change is based on the need for electricity balanced with available generation resources. As energy needs rise during the day, the price of electricity increases. This is because more generation resources, like power plants, solar arrays, and wind turbines, are needed to power the homes, farms, and businesses on our lines. When temperatures cool in the evening, electricity demand drops and the price of electricity reflects that, becoming cheaper.

When a member chooses to shift their electricity use, it helps spread the electricity use throughout the day. The less electricity cooperative members use when prices are at their

highest, the more stable Dunn Energy Cooperative can keep our rates. The more members who choose to participate, the more impactful these savings become.

If you want to help, you can watch our social media channels for alerts like the one at right. There will also be radio ads and email notifications to alert you to the need for load shifting.



A Peak Alert has been issued TODAY from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Due to high demand for electricity on the regional grid, please shift flexible electricity use until after 7 p.m.

Tips to do the Summer Shift

- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees (or a level that is comfortable for the home, but a couple of degrees higher than normal).
- Closing curtains and shades will help the home feel cooler, longer.
- A ceiling fan or table fan throughout the afternoon will help circulate air—but remember that fans cool people, not air, so only use them if you're in the room.
- Set up a schedule for your smart thermostat and smart lighting options, ensuring a minimal amount of energy is used between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Charge electric vehicles overnight.
- Set your water heater to 120 degrees.
- If possible, dry clothes outside.



PREPARING TO SERVE YOU BETTER

Providing reliable power to you is and will always be a top priority for Dunn Energy Cooperative. These days, power reliability seems to be making the news more than ever.

As the energy industry continues to transition and more segments of the economy are becoming electrified, such as vehicles, machinery, and even lawn equipment, additional pressures are being placed on our nation's electric grid. With summer storm season upon us, we thought it would be a good time to tell you about a few measures we're taking to ensure you continue receiving the reliable power you depend on and deserve.

While trees provide shade and add beauty to our area, you may be surprised to learn that on average throughout the country, overgrown vegetation accounts for about half of all power outages. That's why we strive to keep the co-op's power lines clear in right-of-way (ROW) areas. A ROW area is the land a co-op uses to construct, maintain, replace, or repair underground and overhead power lines. This ROW enables Dunn Energy Cooperative to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder distribution power lines. The overall goal of our vegetation management strategy is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our area. Over the last 10 years outage hours have been on a continual decline, due in part to our strong vegetation management program.

Modernizing Vegetation Management

Generally speaking, healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keep lines clear to improve power reliability. However, traditional vegetation management is costly and time consuming. It entails on-the-ground, labor-intensive efforts involving dozens of workers assessing vegetation and overseeing the quality and completion of contractor work. Although this approach has worked for decades, advances and improvements in technology have allowed us to reduce our costs and improve efficiency.

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 Roger Schindler and Thomas Luneman.

Planned Outages Improve Reliability

Although it may seem counterintuitive, we also maintain power reliability through planned, controlled outages. By carefully cutting power to one part of our local area for a few hours, Dunn Energy can perform system repairs and upgrades, which ultimately improve electric service. Planned outages can also be used to balance energy demand, but only in rare circumstances. Rest assured, we will always do our best to notify you in advance of a planned outage, so make sure we have your correct contact information on file.

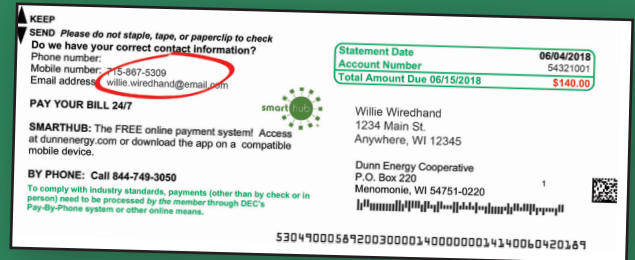
Vegetation management is an essential tool in ensuring power reliability and minimizing the risk of outages. As advancements become more accessible and costs drop, we anticipate using additional technologies to ensure a consistent energy supply while managing the environment.

Lastly, I encourage you to follow Dunn Energy on social media so you can learn up-to-date information from the co-op.

How Do We Contact You?

Every now and again we have to take some electrical services out of power to do maintenance or repairs on our system. When we do this, we send out an automated call informing members of the planned outage so they can plan accordingly. We don't want you to just get started on a birthday cake or loaf of bread and have the power go out!

Every time we do these calls, we have a handful of phone numbers that bounce back as disconnected, changed, or it's for the wrong person altogether.



We list your phone number(s) that we have on file on the bottom third of your electric bill. Please take a moment to verify that the number we have on file is the best number for you to get important notifications at. If it is not the correct number, you can make the correction on the stub and just mail it with your monthly payment. You can also call the office at 715-232-6240 to notify us of the change. If you use SmartHub, you can also change your contact information through the app or desktop site.

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