



Dunn Energy Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



REFLECTING ON 25 YEARS AT DUNN ENERGY COOPERATIVE

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

It certainly doesn't seem possible that I've had the privilege of serving the members of Dunn Energy Cooperative for 25 years now, with five of those as your General Manager/CEO. Time sure flies when you are having fun. It has truly been a great career so far and I am certainly thankful for the opportunity.

It seems like just yesterday I walked through the doors as an employee for the first time. They didn't have an office for me, so I made my home in the mailroom until we put up a new wall and a door to make an office. My job wasn't truly defined. It was a general move by the cooperative to dedicate more resources to member services, key accounts, load management, and communications. When I look back and reflect on the past 25 years, the first thing that comes to mind is the members I've had the opportunity to

work with. From helping farms expand and manage their energy costs, working with members on off-peak heating, developing new business opportunities

To all members, employees, and board members I've worked with over the last 25 years, thank you for making my career enjoyable.

for the cooperative, or representing the cooperative at many community events, it has truly been the members who have made the time special.

All the employees and board members I've had the pleasure of working with have also made a tremendous impact on my career. They all have been committed to serving the members and our community. Being a Cooperative that focuses on the members is

something I am passionate about, and I am excited to lead the next generation of cooperative employees who will undoubtedly serve our members well into the future.

We've accomplished a lot in the last 25 years at the cooperative. Our system reliability has dramatically improved, energy sales and the number of members have increased, the cooperative remains on strong financial footing, and our commitment to safety is steadfast. But there is still a lot more work to do. The energy business has gotten exponentially more complex over the years, but we remain focused on our cooperative principles and serving our members.


To all the members, employees, and board members I've worked with over the last 25 years, thank you for making my career enjoyable. I'm just as excited to go to work at Dunn Energy Cooperative today as I was 25 years ago. It is an honor to continue to work for our members to safely deliver reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy.

Working for You

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 Scott & Sarah McHenry and Rex King.



YOU ASK. WE ANSWER:

BURYING OVERHEAD POWER LINES

Last August we emailed a member survey out to over 5,400 people and received hundreds of comments. We've had some time to comb through the comments and will be answering some of the more common questions and concerns here in the magazine. This month we'll talk about overhead versus underground lines.

Question: Why don't you just bury all the overhead lines, so we don't have outages?

Answer: Because of financial, environmental, and scientific factors.

Dunn Energy Cooperative owns and maintains over 2,050 miles of lines in Dunn County and portions of Barron, Pierce, Pepin, St. Croix, and Chippewa Counties. Of those 2,000+ miles of line, over 1,100 miles are overhead.

Every four years we have an engineering firm study our system and develop a plan to build or replace several miles of lines each year. This is called our Work Plan. The engineers look at the loading levels of each line to determine which ones need attention and what we should replace them with, or what new lines need to be built to create better redundancy (the ability to physically serve our members in more than one way on our system). Over the past 25 years we have increased our miles of underground wire by 160 miles and decreased our overhead lines by 61 miles.

This helps us maintain a healthy power system. Let's look at why we can't just bury everything. There are three specific factors that impact the decision-making: financial, environmental, and scientific. Let's dive in.



The Financial Factor

The cost to bury a single mile of line is over \$150,000. It costs, roughly, an additional \$12,000 to remove the overhead line that's being replaced. It takes just under three weeks to build the new mile of line. In comparison to burying existing lines, the cost to brush out a mile of line is \$2,900. With that math, we could brush a line 50 times and still spend less money than we would by burying the line. (6796001)

This is why we have a robust vegetation management program. It takes us roughly five years to brush the entire system. We widen the overhead rights-of-way to 60-feet (30-feet on either side of the poles) to help minimize any trees falling on the lines. This has brought our yearly outage hours (the average time a member is without power in a year) from 349 minutes (5.8 hours per year) per member in 2001-03, to 147 minutes (2.45 hours per year) per member in 2021-2023.

The Environmental Factor

Dunn Energy is strategic in the number of miles of lines we replace annually. We take into consideration the number of hours we've spent on outages on the line, the age of the line, load growth in the area, and the location of the line.

In reality, there are some areas where it's just not feasible to bury lines. If the land is too rocky or swampy, we can't bury lines. If the land has endangered species (like the blue Karner butterfly or certain types of turtles) we can't bury lines. If the land is a DNR conserved land, like a registered wetland, we can't bury lines.

There will always be factors out of our control that will dictate that we install or maintain an overhead power line.

The Scientific Factor

For good power quality, you need a balance of overhead and underground lines. If you had a completely underground system, you could develop capacitive reactants. This is part of the science of electrical power distribution, that this writer (who does not have a degree in electrical power distribution) would have a hard time explaining in layman's terms.

However, we know that too much capacitive reactant may cause power quality issues, such as voltage fluctuations. Power quality issues are what the energy industry tries to avoid at all costs. Members expect not just reliable power, but quality power so sensitive electronics and motors operate without issue.

It may seem that burying all of our lines would fix the issue of outages, but in reality, it would just create other issues in its place. Your cooperative takes all of these factors into account when building or replacing powerlines. Your cooperative will continue to maintain our system and, when feasible, install underground power lines.

Our mission is to safely provide reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy to our members. This proves true not only with the energy we buy, but also the system we use to deliver it.

Are there other questions you'd like to see answered here? Please send suggestions to info@dunnenergy.com

LOAD CONTROL RECEIVERS TO BE CHANGED OUT

Since the early 1980's Dunn Energy Cooperative has participated in the load control program in partnership with our power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative. Many members, over 3500 to be exact, participate with us, by allowing the control of an appliance in their home. These items range from water heaters and clothes dryers to their hard-wired heating system.

This year, Dunn Energy Cooperative will begin a mass change out of the receivers used to implement the controls. The current load control receivers are old enough now that parts and replacements are hard to find. This is the reason for the change. We will contact only the members who participate in the load control program to set up an appointment to make that change out. Watch for an email or letter notifying you of when we plan to be in your area. (12283001)

If you have any questions on the change, please feel free to contact our Energy Specialist, Chris Marlett, by calling the office at 715-232-6240.



2025 ENERGY SENSE REBATES

All incentive eligibility criteria for each measure is listed under the 'Eligibility Criteria' section of this guide

Agricultural/Commercial/Industrial			
Circulation Fan	Fans < 36" must be ≥ 18 pounds force/kW Fans ≥ 36" must be ≥ 21 pounds force/kW	\$1	inch
Exhaust Fan	Fans < 36" must be ≥ 18 cfm/watt @ 0.05" SP Fans ≥ 36" must be ≥ 21 cfm/watt @ 0.05" SP	\$1	inch
Electric Forklift Battery Charger	Must be "controlled" as defined by cooperative	\$200	each
Dairy Plate Cooler / Well Water Pre-Cooler		\$500	each
Dairy Refrigeration Heat Recovery with Electric Backup	Used with controlled electric water heater as defined by coop	\$300	each
Low/Zero Energy Livestock Waterer	≤ 500 watts, insulated tank	\$50	each
Scroll Refrigerant Compressor	\$1,000 cap per compressor	\$30	HP
Variable Frequency Drive (VFD)	\$1,000 cap per drive, must provide motor size	\$30	HP
Appliances			
All-in-One Washer/Dryer Comb	Must be ENERGY STAR, must use ventless heat pump drying	\$50	each
Clothes Dryer	Must be ENERGY STAR, must be electric	\$25	each
Clothes Washer	Must be ENERGY STAR	\$25	each
Dehumidifier	Must be ENERGY STAR	\$25	each
Dishwasher	Must be ENERGY STAR	\$25	each
Freezer	Must be ENERGY STAR and ≥ 10 cubic ft.	\$25	each
Inductive Range	All inductive ranges qualify	\$25	each
Refrigerator	Must be ENERGY STAR and ≥ 10 cubic ft.	\$25	each
Recycling - Freezer	Must be working appliance	\$25	each
Recycling - Refrigerator	Must be working appliance	\$25	each
Recycling - Room Air Conditioner	Must be working appliance	\$25	each
Audits/Assessments			
Audit Recommended Improvement	\$500 cap	varies	each
Compressed Air Audit	\$500 cap	varies	each
Conservation			
Electric Vehicle Charging Station	Must be "controlled" as defined by cooperative	\$400	each
Electric Vehicle Smart Charger with integrated metering	Must be "controlled" as defined by cooperative	\$800	each
New Home	Must meet 1 of 5 program/code requirements	\$500	each
HVAC			
Heat Pump - Air Source & Mini-Split	SEER2 14.3+, or HSPF2 7.5+ <u>OR</u> SEER 15+, or HSPF 8.8+	\$200	ton
Heat Pump - Commercial Air Source & PTHPs	< 20 tons: EER 11+ 20 to < 60 tons: EER 10.5+ ≥ 60 ton: EER 10+	\$200	ton
Heat Pump- Geothermal		\$400	ton
New Furnace with ECM Blower Motor	Variable speed motor (not multi-speed) <u>OR</u> EER ≤ 670 kWh/year	\$35	each
Smart Thermostat	Honeywell or Emerson brand unit Enrolled in Load Management program	\$25	each
Lighting			
LED Exit Sign	50% of cost cap	\$5	sign
LED Fixture	50% of cost cap	\$0.50	per 800 lumens
LED Lamp	5 lamp minimum, 50% of cost cap	\$0.50	lamp
Occupancy/Motion Sensor	Doesn't include exterior motion detector fixtures, 50% of cost cap	\$5	each
Water Heating			
Commercial Water Heater 75 -99 gallons		\$150	each
Commercial Water Heater 100+ gallons		\$300	each
Residential Water Heater 75 -99 gallons	Uniform Energy Factor 0.88+	\$150	each
Residential Water Heater 100+ gallons	Uniform Energy Factor 0.88+	\$300	each
Heat Pump Water Heater	Integrated (all-in-one) units, Uniform Energy Factor 2.20+	\$300	each

Jesse Singerhouse, Manager

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Jolene Fisher, Editor



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