

# Spotlight

February 2021



## Cooperative Principles and Educational Scholarships: A Perfect Match

Over the last few months in the Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News, you've heard us explain why and how Dunn Energy is different—because we're a Cooperative. Our business model sets us apart from other utilities because we adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater good of the community.

Electric cooperatives, including Dunn Energy have a unique place in our country's history. We democratized the American dream by bringing electricity to rural areas when for-profit electric companies determined the effort too costly. Back then, cities were electrified, and rural areas were not. Newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in rural areas. Today, that spirit of equity and inclusion is a vital part of our co-op DNA.

While our top priority is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we also want to be a catalyst for good in our community. Because we are your *local* electric cooperative, co-op revenues stay right here in our community. In turn, we invest in our diverse community base through scholarship programs, charitable giving, educational programs and more. We strive to make long-term decisions that improve and enrich the communities we serve.

While today's world is radically different than it was when Dunn Energy was founded, our cooperative

values have stood the test of time and remain just as relevant today. Each year Dunn Energy provides educational scholarships to 15 high school students who are embarking on higher education, as well as one non-traditional scholarship for someone going back to school to further their education after being in the workforce a while or raising their family. We also provide a scholarship at CVTC in Memoriam of Todd Bauer, a lineman we lost too early to cancer. His scholarship benefits a person going into the Line Workers Program.



## 7 CO-OP PRINCIPLES

Community  
Independence  
Democratic  
Membership  
Education  
Cooperation  
Economics

We believe in supporting the future generation of leaders in our communities. Scholarship applications for the youth and non-traditional scholarships are available on our website at [dunnenergy.com](http://dunnenergy.com) or in the Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News this month. Applications are due the first week of March.

# FROM THE BOARD ROOM

## December 2020 Board Meeting Highlights



### Monthly Reports:

Operations reported year-end work is in progress including retirements of old lines, inventory, and planning for 2021. 134 new services have been installed this year including 71 homes. Our brushing crews will be working in the Downsville area in 2021.

Technology and Administration focused on the security enhancements being added to the building, education about how to spot malicious emails, and an update about our remote work capabilities.

November financials showed sales below budget for the month due to the warmer temperatures. This resulted in lower purchased power costs and our other local costs were about on budget. Year to date, sales are below budget and local costs are significantly under budget. This has resulted in margins higher than budget through November.

The CEO/General Manager reported on member communication for the month, including a card of thanks from a member for all the help our energy services staff provided. COVID precautions were discussed and the office will remain closed to the public until conditions improve. A legislative update was provided on State and National issues. The Cooperative has partnered with other Cooperatives and ZEF Energy to work on installation of electric vehicle chargers and work has begun for our 2021 annual meeting which will be held on June 19th, 2021 at the Dunn Energy Cooperative headquarters.

### The following items were approved:

- Minutes of the November 2020 Board meeting.
- Capital credit estate payout for deceased members totaling \$6,347.83
- Audit committee report of all checks, ACH payments, wire transfers, credit card statements, and investments accounts.
- Policy updates as recommended by the policy committee.
- A refund totaling approximately \$250,000 to be credited to member accounts based on their December 2020 energy use as a power cost adjustment credit. This is a result of better-than-expected margins so far in 2020.
- The 2021 Cooperative budget. This budget anticipates no needed rate increase for 2021. It maintains the Cooperative's sound financial strength, power quality programs, and investment in technology, and line service upgrades.

### Other Business:

Director Zwiefelhofer reported on Dairyland Power activities for the month.

Reviewed the monthly report of new Cooperative members.



## STAYING SAFE DURING AN OUTAGE

We work hard to provide the most reliable service possible. Rest assured, if the power is out, we are on it!

The length of time it takes to restore your power depends on several factors, including the:



Extent of the storm's destruction



Severity of utility equipment damage



Number and extent of outages



Accessibility to damaged equipment

### STAY SAFE UNTIL POWER IS RESTORED

- Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines, which could be live and deadly.
- If you come across a downed line, immediately call 9-1-1 to report it.
- Never enter a flooded room; the water could be energized.
- If you are standing in water, do not turn on/off power or flip a switch.



### Prepare for a storm by gathering these items:



Bottles of water



Non-perishable food



Portable phone charger



Prescriptions



Battery-operated radio



Flashlights



Extra batteries



Pet supplies



Blankets



Warm clothing



First-aid kit



Hand sanitizer

THANK YOU for your patience during outages. When the lights go off, we are working safely and efficiently to restore power. The safety of our employees, as well as those we serve, is our TOP priority.

**Safe Electricity.org®**



This newsletter is published for the members of Dunn Energy Cooperative. If you have questions or comments please give us a call. Visit the Energy Professionals at your local energy cooperative.



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