

Spotlight

FROM THE MANAGER—JIM HATHAWAY

Early Summer Update

It's June and summer is finally here. With summer comes graduation parties, barbeque season, and hot summer days. As in past years, Dunn Energy Cooperative took part in graduation season by giving out scholarships to children of our members. This year the cooperative gave out 15 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to graduating high school seniors. The money for the scholarships comes from capital credits owed to former members who we can no longer locate. In the past, these funds were given to the State of Wisconsin in accordance with state escheat laws. More recently, however, the funds have been paid out in the form of scholarships. Congratulations to all of this year's scholarship recipients!

Summer also brings construction season. Much of the power lines that we build these days are put in underground. Once the ground thaws and things dry up, we can start building and replacing power lines again. No major projects were planned for this year. We have invested a lot of money in recent years to upgrade many of our older lines. The result has been better power quality and fewer outage hours.

This year however, we elected to work on preparing a new four year work plan to evaluate which parts of our service territory will need upgrades due to growth. Also to evaluate which lines should be replaced due to age. The break will also allow the cooperative to spend more time inspecting and maintaining existing lines.



Along with line construction, new home construction typically ramps up this time of year. We also get a number of requests to upgrade service lines as members do home remodeling projects. If our linemen are not busy with construction they are out fixing and replacing lines and

equipment. Our line inspection program is designed to detect problems before they result in outages. Other programs such as our pole testing program are also designed to identify problem poles and have them replaced before they fail. The key goal of all these programs is to improve power quality and reduce outages.

In the office we continue to take steps to utilize technology to improve service and hold costs down. We continue to expand our use of data gathered from our new meter reading system to reduce outage times and detect system problems. We began upgrading our old meters in 2016 and we expect to finish replacing the old metering system this summer. The new software system that we converted to last summer gives us, and our members, more information on electric use and usage patterns.

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Calendar of Events

June 2019

- 8 Dunn County Dairy Breakfast** – Alfalawn Farm, N2859 290th St. – Menomonie – 7-11 a.m. - Come for a waffle breakfast, Farm Tour, Petting Zoo, Ice Cream, Cheese Curds, and more!
- 13 & 20 Music Over Menomin** – Menomonie Public Library – Music on the lawn from 7-8:30 p.m. – for more information contact the library
- 22-23 Lake Menomin WaterX** – Wakanda Park, Menomonie - A two day festival with live music, food, and watercross racers
- 22-23 Menomonie Blue Caps Vintage Base Ball Festival** – Phelan Park – 9 a.m.-Noon – Enjoy old-fashioned baseball in 1860s dress
- 29 18th Annual Stepping Stones Garden Tour** – Locations provided in ticket booklet – 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

CALENDAR DEADLINE CHANGE

The deadline for getting events on the community calendar has changed. If you want to have your event included in the Spotlight newsletter you must have the information, submitted in writing, no later than the first of the month, the month before the event.

For example, if you have an event scheduled for June 12, you would have to have it submitted by May 1 to have it included in the newsletter calendar.

Events can be submitted by email to jolene@dunnenergy.com

FROM THE MANAGER... Early Summer Update...

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We understand that our members are busier than ever and looking to save time and money. That's why we offer automated payments systems such as Smarthub, our online payment program, or our ACH program where members can have their electric bill payments deducted automatically from their bank accounts. Log onto our website at www.dunnenergy.com select the Account Management dropdown and you can then select The SmartHub Advantage or Payment Options to sign up for either of these programs. Or just give us a call at the office and we will help you sign up.

Summer also brings hot weather. Added air conditioning load means higher electric bills, not only for members, but for the co-op as well. There is more demand for electricity in the summer months. So it costs us more to buy electric power in the summer. Dunn Energy charges an extra penny and a half per kilowatt hour during the summer months of June, July, and August to cover the extra cost of electricity. That, along with more use by members means higher electric bills. We offer opportunities for members to reduce energy usage through our load management programs. This can help control the size of the electric bill.

Members who are signed up for our load management programs allow Dunn Energy Cooperative to shut off or control certain appliances, like water heaters and air conditioners, during peak demand periods. Air conditioners are actually cycled on and off every 15 minutes. This reduces the demand for energy and helps reduce the cost of purchasing additional energy. In return for allowing us to control these appliances, the co-op offers bill credits to participating members. Dunn Energy Cooperative's load management program is an easy way to hold down your electric costs. Call us today to see what you need to do to sign up for our load management program.

Is an Energy Audit for You?

Did you know that Dunn Energy offers reduced-rate home energy audits to members? Well, we do! If you have any plans to remodel your home this year, we highly suggest having an energy audit done. The cost of an audit is \$300, but because we think they are so beneficial to homeowners, we will pay half of that cost.

So, for \$150 (+tax) a certified energy auditor through an independent firm will come to your home and spend a couple of hours testing your air infiltration and insulation levels and more. The auditor will crawl in all of the creepy, dark spaces you won't even go in your home!

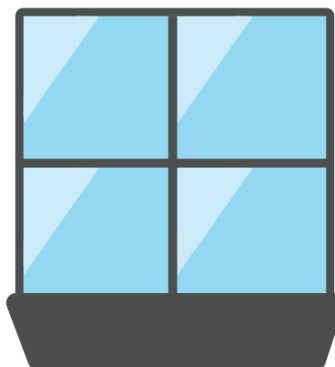


After the appointment the auditor will tell you where your home lacks, and where you should start if you want to make it more energy efficient. The fun doesn't stop there though! If you choose to do any work after the audit, Dunn

Energy has up to \$500 in incentives for you. But wait, there's more! Once you finish with your projects, you can have the home retested and if you've dropped your air infiltration by 20% we'll give you an extra \$100! The post-test is at no extra cost.

Don't you think this is a pretty good deal? For \$150 you can get up to \$600 in incentives towards a project you were already going to do. If you are interested in taking part in this program, call Jolene at the office at 715-232-6240.

About **30%** of
a home's energy is
lost through windows



Information collected from Energy.gov

**Safe
Electricity.org**

Spotlight



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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