



THE COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE DEEP DIVE

Principle #6: Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

Wisconsin has a long history of developing cooperatives to serve member needs. Besides your electric cooperative, locally we have cooperatives specializing in a wide variety of services including farm supplies, milk processing, banking, food, communications, fuel, and housing, to name just a few. Having so many diverse cooperatives right here in Dunn County allows us to work together to not only practice Cooperative Principle #6, but more importantly serve the needs of our community.

Locally, we work with many different cooperatives in a variety of ways. One of our signature events for over 20 years has been our Cooperative Month Breakfast held each October in our shop. We partner with West Wisconsin Telcom, WESTconsin Credit Union, Royal Credit Union, Countryside Cooperative/Landmark, Synergy Cooperative, and the Menomonie Market Food Co-op each year on the breakfast to celebrate Cooperative Month. Combining our resources and staff lets us put on this large community event. We use this event to thank our members and also seek food donations for Stepping Stones Food Pantry. While we were not able to hold our event in 2020 due to the pandemic, we are hopeful that it can return in 2021. Working together we can better serve the needs of our members and the community.

Nationally, we partner with several cooperatives to improve the services we offer our members. Our billing software comes from National Information Solutions Cooperative. We purchase insurance from Federated Rural Insurance, our after-hours phone services are handled by the Cooperative Response Center, and we work with CoBank and the Cooperative Finance Corporation, which are both cooperatively run lenders. The benefits of working with these national cooperatives are similar to working with local cooperatives. But we also get the benefit of leveraging resources and best practices from around the country to make our local cooperative even stronger. These cooperatives exist to serve their members. Dividends and investments from these cooperatives are returned back to Dunn Energy and, in turn, to our members.

Regionally, our strongest cooperative partner is

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC). They are the generating and transmission cooperative that produces and transmits the power we sell. They are owned by 24 different cooperatives in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois. DPC works with us on a variety of projects to deliver you reliable, safe, affordable, and environmentally responsible power. Recently we partnered with DPC and other member cooperatives to create the Charge EV regional electric vehicle charging network. This network will allow us to work with other cooperatives to develop more electric vehicle charging in our service territories. As our members begin to purchase more electric vehicles it is critical that a charging network exists for them to charge their vehicles.

...we get the benefit of leveraging resources and best practices from around the country to make our local cooperative even stronger.

Working together with our regional partners allows us to help develop that infrastructure.

Our cooperative partnerships even extend internationally through our work with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)

International program. Since the 1960s this program has brought electricity to over 160 million people worldwide. Dunn Energy has contributed to this effort financially and through the donation of supplies and materials. By working as a team of cooperatives our local members can make a difference for other people around the world. Cooperative employees from around the United States travel to villages without power to help build lines to bring electricity to the local residents. They also help establish the cooperative business model in countries around the world.

Our mission and focus have been, and will always be, our local members. But the impact of Dunn Energy Cooperative extends much further than that! By cooperation among cooperatives we are able to leverage our resources to make a difference locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. (10839002)

Thank you for being a member of Dunn Energy Cooperative!



GEOHERMAL INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT EXTENDED THROUGH 2023

The pandemic relief bill Congress passed in December 2020 also included some economic stimulus components. One item didn't get as much fanfare as others but is relevant to cooperative members.

The Federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC) for residential geothermal heat pump systems—which was due to expire at the end of 2021—was extended. New installations can qualify for a 26 percent credit through 2022, and 22 percent in 2023 with the tax credit expiring as of Jan. 1, 2024. Eligible expenses include labor, onsite preparation, assembly, equipment, piping or wiring to connect a system to the home and some electrical upgrades.

The efficiency of a geothermal heat pump is the best on the market. Although the up-front installation can be more expensive than a furnace or air conditioner, the extended tax credit can help members, in addition to lower monthly energy costs. Dunn Energy also offers a per-ton incentive for installing a geothermal heat pump.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers geothermal heat pumps the most energy-efficient, environmentally clean, and cost-effective systems for heating and cooling buildings. All types of buildings, including homes, office buildings, schools and hospitals can use geothermal heat pumps.

Many members currently use two different systems to heat and cool their homes: a furnace and an air conditioner. When it's time to replace both, a member should consider whether to repurchase two separate systems or to put that cost toward a geothermal heat pump, which can heat and cool a home. For every unit of electricity used to power a geothermal heat

Investment tax credits (ITC) for geothermal systems

	12/31/21	12/31/22	12/31/23	01/01/24 & beyond
Geothermal Heat Pump (residential)	26%	26%	22%	expires
Geothermal Heat Pump (commercial)	10%	10%	10%	expires

pump, the system delivers more than four units of heating or cooling. That's over a 400-percent efficient system. The energy savings from a geothermal heat pump result in a five-to-10-year payback for most homeowners.

A member should work closely with their local electric cooperative to ensure they find a certified installer and meet all the criteria to qualify for incentives and the tax credit. Some additional information to consider:

- Geothermal heat pump equipment must be ENERGY STAR certified
- The credit can't be claimed for installations on rental properties
- Contact your tax preparer to ensure you receive any tax credit you may be eligible for

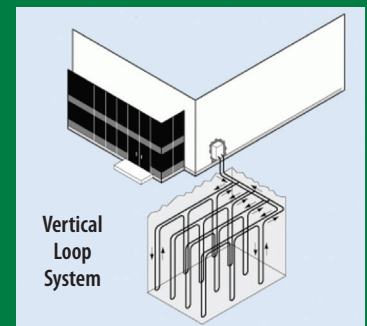
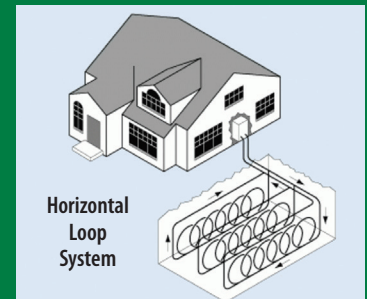
Contact Dunn Energy Cooperative for more information on the rebate available for installation of a new Geothermal Heat Pump.

How do geothermal heat pumps work?

Geothermal loops are installed below the soil's frost line, which has a year-round temperature around 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Compared to the weather above the ground, the temp feels cool in the summer and—relatively—warm in the winter. A non-toxic fluid flows through the geothermal system's underground coils. In the winter, the liquid pulls heat from the ground into the home where it helps warm the air inside. In the summer, the process reverses, pulling heat from the home. This warms the fluid in the geothermal loop, which is cooled as it flows through the underground coils before returning to the home.

The most common geothermal systems utilize either a vertical or horizontal-loop system. When installing the system, the loops need plenty of distance to carry liquid to either absorb heat from the ground to warm the home or distribute the heat from the home to the soil, thus naturally cooling the liquid. A vertical-loop field will have multiple holes drilled 50 to 400 feet below the ground surface to install the pipes (which create the "loop"). A horizontal-loop field will bury the pipes a few feet below the frost line, but the field will extend across a large yard. Depending on the size of a lot, most geothermal fields are vertical loops.

Your trusted energy advisor at Dunn Energy Cooperative can assist you in finding a local, certified geothermal technician to evaluate your property.



Source: energy.gov

EARTH DAY, SOLAR ENERGY, AND MAKING THE MOST OF THE ONLY EARTH WE GET



This year marks the 51st Anniversary of Earth Day. April 22 is the day set aside to celebrate Mother Nature and all she's given us. As a resident of Wisconsin, we may not always feel a real warm feeling towards the environment, especially when the temperature is -20 degrees. However, when spring rolls around and you can open the windows and hang that first load of clothes on the line, some of those bitter feelings start to melt away, like the grit-covered snow piles along your driveway.

In celebration, maybe you and your family could order some saplings from the National Arbor Day Foundation to plant or set aside an hour on Earth Day to walk your neighborhood to pick up trash, that can hopefully be recycled. Did you know that today's average American generates about 4.5 pounds of trash per day, compared to 2.68 pounds in 1960, according to the EPA.

If you wanted a little more adventure in your Earth Day celebration, you could head to Woodwind Park on Saturday, April 24, up near Wheeler to hike, participate in an Earth Day scavenger hunt, and visit booths and possibly win prizes! The new owners up there are making the most of their beautiful land to bring people closer to nature.

Maybe all of this talk of celebrating Mother Nature and the environment has

gotten you to think more about adding solar energy to your home. Depending on your little plot of land, that might be a great idea! Your energy professionals here at Dunn Energy are happy, to not only help you find a reputable, local installer but to make sure that you won't be taken to the cleaners. Over the past year we've inadvertently uncovered some sellers whose motives might have been a little self-serving, in that they've tried to sell members photovoltaic systems whose footprint would never even fit on the roof it was sold for. Also, as your electric utility, there are some rules and regulations that need to be

followed if you want to be tied in with the electric grid, including just how much energy your system can generate.

All we ask is that if you are in the market for adding solar to your energy mix, you have a conversation with us before you sign on the dotted line. We want to make sure you can get the most out of your system. So, give us a call at 715-232-6240 and we can go over it together. (3739001)

This year, celebrate Earth Day by getting outside, enjoying the weather, and maybe doing something a little nice for the only earth we're given. Let's make it last for future generations!

MY CO-OP

PROTECTING OUR PLANET STARTS WITH YOU

<p>BIKE MORE DRIVE LESS</p>	<p>reduce REUSE recycle</p> <p><small>Cut down on what you throw away. Follow the three "R's" to conserve natural resources and landfill space.</small></p>	<p>choose sustainable</p> <p>seafood</p> <p><small>Learn how to make smart seafood choices at www.FishWatch.gov.</small></p>	<p><small>Trees provide food and oxygen. They help save energy, clean the air, and help combat climate change.</small></p> <p>PLANT A TREE</p>
<p>EDUCATE</p> <p><small>When you further your own education, you can help others understand the importance and value of our natural resources.</small></p>	<p>CONSERVE WATER</p> <p><small>The less water you use, the less runoff and wastewater that eventually end up in the ocean.</small></p>	<p>-SHOP- WISELY</p> <p><small>Buy less plastic and bring a reusable shopping bag.</small></p>	<p>Don't send chemicals into our waterways.</p> <p><small>Choose nontoxic chemicals in the home and office.</small></p>
<p>Volunteer!</p> <p><small>Volunteer for cleanups in your community. You can get involved in protecting your watershed too!</small></p>	<p>Long-lasting light bulbs - ARE A - BRIGHT IDEA</p> <p><small>Energy efficient light bulbs reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also flip the light switch off when you leave the room!</small></p>	<p><small>oceanservice.noaa.gov</small></p>	

Source: National Weather Service



WE TAKE RELIABILITY SERIOUSLY

February’s cold snap was a harsh reminder that, first—December and January were mild, and second—reliable electricity is essential.

Wisconsin experiences extreme weather year-round. We need reliable electricity in the summer as the heat can get oppressive and, in the winter, temperatures dipping below zero for multiple days in a row is life threatening.

As your local electric cooperative, we work with Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, as they explore innovative ways to decrease our carbon intensity while delivering safe, reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity.

Dairyland has a goal of 50 percent reduction in carbon dioxide intensity rate by 2030 (over 2005 levels). This year, Dairyland’s Genoa Station #3 (G-3) coal-fired power plant will close. It is expected that, by 2025, only three coal-fired power plants will be in operation in Wisconsin. The G-3 closure, while bringing us closer to achieving our carbon intensity reduction goals, must be balanced with prudent long-term planning to ensure we maintain a stable and affordable energy supply for members.

In the words of Brent Ridge, Dairyland Power Cooperative’s



president and CEO, “Reliability is a life issue.” Whether it’s improving the quality of life for the members and communities we serve or, quite literally, keeping the lights on, powering the devices needed for work and school, storing food at safe temperatures and maintaining comfortable temperatures inside your homes and businesses, we must ensure members have access to electricity 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

But the sun doesn’t always shine nor does the wind blow 24 hours a day. We look to the future while facing our current reality: During February’s cold snap, the regional grid operator, MISO, consistently showed coal-fired power plants and natural gas plants were providing more than 70 percent of electricity, especially as evening temps dropped and solar production ended. MISO’s real-time displays are available

on their website at www.misoenergy.org under Markets and Operations → Real-Time and Market Data → Real-Time Displays.

A bridge resource toward a low-carbon future is natural gas. Natural gas is a fossil fuel, but it creates fewer emissions than a coal-fired power plant. A natural gas plant can run 24 hours a day to ramp up and down, on demand, in response to the amount of renewable energy available.

On the horizon is the concept of a distributed energy resource management system (DERMS). DERMS can help manage energy from renewable resources by charging batteries with excess electricity so the batteries can supply power during times when the price of electricity is high. Currently, there are multiple DERMS installations being tested by electric cooperatives in the United States, but only on a small scale as the price of battery storage is still high.

We’ll see more heat waves and frigid cold snaps before we find a viable large-scale storage option. Dunn Energy Cooperative will continue to work with Dairyland to meet our lower carbon intensity goals while keeping safe, reliable, and affordable electricity for members as our top priority.

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 Daniel Phillips and Greg and Heidi Wold.

Jesse Singerhouse, Manager

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“Energy Through Excellence”

Dunn Energy Cooperative

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