



**Dunn Energy
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



By James Hathaway,
General Manager

CO-OP MEMBERSHIP: WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

You set up your electric service account with Dunn Energy Cooperative and you think to yourself, “That’s done. Now I just have to pay my monthly bill.” But the truth is the cooperative is more than just an electric provider that you pay each month for electricity. We have more to offer—and we want you, our members, to know about these benefits.

There are almost 900 electric cooperatives in the United States that serve 42 million members. Dunn Energy, your local electric cooperative, serves almost 10,000 meters with lines stretching across almost 2,000 miles. So what makes being a member of an electric cooperative unique?

We’re all in this together. As a member you are an owner of Dunn Energy Cooperative—not a customer. And that means you have a voice when it comes to the way we do business. Each March, you have the opportunity to vote for your board of directors. Board members are also members of the cooperative. These directors play a key role in making important decisions for our co-op. They listen to other members of the cooperative and make decisions based on what they have heard from other members.

We’re local. It’s likely that you know an employee of Dunn Energy Cooperative. Our employees—your friends and neighbors—share the same concerns for our community that you do. Each year, Dunn Energy participates in activities such as school safety demonstrations, and the Youth Leadership Congress. Providing education, training, and information is one of the cooperative principles. Plus it just makes good business sense. We sponsor local 4-H clubs and we provide scholarships too. Your cooperative is very involved in the communities that we serve. Strong communities benefit everyone.

We get services from local small businesses too, like computer support, vehicle maintenance, and telecommunications service. We could get our phone service from a big company like AT&T. But we like the service we get locally. They know us, they are quick to respond when we have a problem, and we know we will get quality service from them. (6973001)

Many of the small local businesses we do business with are members of the cooperative. A lot of our members work at other local businesses that Dunn Energy does business with. Keeping our dollars local helps those businesses on our lines and helps our members who work at these businesses too. Concern for Community is one of the seven cooperative principles. Keeping our dollars working locally helps us to meet that cooperative principle.

We’re not-for-profit. One thing that makes cooperatives unique is that Dunn Energy doesn’t offer profits to investors. The cooperative is a not-for-profit business. That means we return any revenue generated over and above operating costs to you, our members. Your share is based on your patronage or the amount you pay in a year for electric

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service. Annually, electric co-ops nationwide return millions of dollars to members through this capital credits process. Last year, Dunn Energy members received almost half a million dollars back in the form of capital credits. We also returned an additional \$1.5 million to our

members in 2017. It was the co-op’s share of a settlement our power supplier reached with the federal government. As a co-op, we returned the money to the folks who originally paid it—you, our members.

We’re here for you. At Dunn Energy Cooperative our mission is to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. We care about our members’ quality of life. Your cooperative offers a variety of specialized programs to help you save money on your electric bill. We offer rebates on energy efficient lighting and appliances. We work with members to cut trees that threaten power lines on their property. And we respond quickly when a tree or other hazard does interrupt electric service.

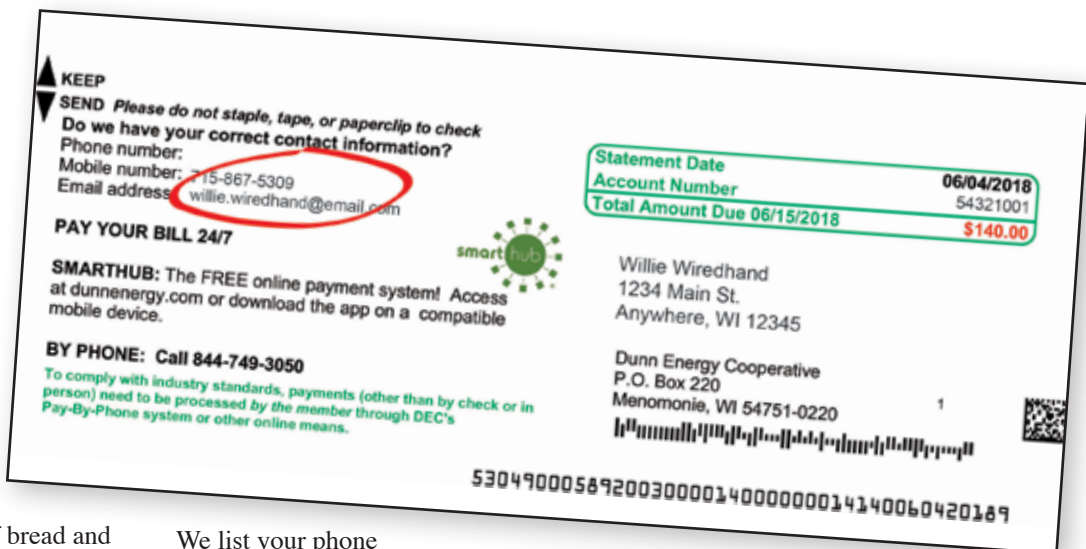
These are just a few facts about electric cooperatives that make us unique. For more information about Dunn Energy Cooperative and the services we offer, visit www.dunnenergy.com.



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 statement. Otherwise, you can always call the office at 715-232-6240 to notify us of the change.



OPERATION ROUNDUP® HELPS SUPPORT TILDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

We had the pleasure of meeting with some of the volunteers of the Tilden Fire Department recently. They were awarded an Operation Round Up grant for a piercing nozzle. A piercing nozzle allows firefighters to introduce water into a confined space from an adjacent room when the fire room is difficult to access or the act of forcing the door would be

too time consuming. They can also be used for car fires.

Operation Round Up® uses the power of cooperation to provide much-needed grant dollars for community projects, 501©3 organizations, and non-profit groups within the Dunn Energy Cooperative service territory.

If you, or a group you are a part of,

are interested in applying for an Operation Round Up grant, you can find the application and our Giving Guidelines on our website at www.dunnenergy.com or by emailing Jolene for an application at jolene@dunnenergy.com. Grant applications are due March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 and reviewed shortly thereafter.



IT'S NOT JUST A GREEN METAL BOX

Perhaps you've seen the green metal boxes—or have one yourself—in neighborhood yards. But do you know what these boxes people mow around are for?

These “boxes” contain pad-mount transformers, and they step down high-voltage electricity to a lower voltage needed for the underground wires supplying power to the lights and appliances in homes. They perform just like the gray, round “can” transformers you see on power poles connected to overhead power lines.

In most cases these boxes pose no danger, but they must be recognized and respected for the electrical equipment they contain. A box knocked askew by equipment, or tampered with and missing a lock, can become a serious danger to anyone, especially children who don't know better than to play around them.

Parents should explain to children

that these boxes are potentially dangerous, and not to be played on or around. Parents also need to make sure that their utility has properly locked the box. A pad-mount transformer that isn't properly secured can be a serious hazard. This is a lesson that Aaron Studer learned the hard way.

Aaron and his brother Brett were playing, using sticks as swords when he came upon an unlocked pad-mount transformer box. He opened the box, stuck his stick inside, and created a bright flash. Aaron suffered second- and third-degree burns to his face. Fortunately he had no permanent scars.

“He was lucky, and we don't want anyone to learn about electrical dangers through an incident like that,” says Molly Hall, Energy Education Council executive director.

If you see any damage to a pad-mount transformer, a broken lock, or anything that looks out of place contact your electric utility immediately.

Safe Electricity also has these tips for landscaping around pad-mount transformers: (3388001)

- Keep shrubs and structures 10 feet away from doors and 4 feet away from the other sides of the transformer.
- Consider the mature height of shrubs and trees so as not to obstruct the transformer when fully grown.
- Make sure plant roots will not grow to interfere with wires and buried cables.

Remember, these boxes provide electricity to your home. Keeping the area around the transformer in your yard or your neighbor's yard unobstructed can speed up restoration during outages and routine maintenance checks.

For more information on staying safe around pad-mount transformers, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Energy Audits Make a Difference

Together we can make a difference for the next generation, like Janessa here. We started our Energy Sense rebate and incentive program 10 years ago to empower our members to make common sense choices about energy.

Did you know that we offer Energy Audits? You can have a certified Home Energy Auditor come to your house and spend several hours checking the efficiency of your home? He then provides a report telling you where your home could use a boost. We think this is so important to have done that we'll even split the cost of the audit with you.

If you choose to do work after the audit we have up to \$600 in incentives!

Visit our website at www.dunnenergy.com or call us at 715-232-6240 to learn more about our rebates and incentives.

Energy Sense™ 
Together we can...

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Look for LED products and fixtures for outdoor use, such as pathway, step and porch lights. Many include features like automatic daylight shut-off and motion sensors. You can also find solar-powered lighting for outdoor spaces.

Source: energy.gov



\$\$ FOR HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBERS

If your account number is one of the two hidden account numbers in this issue, it will mean \$10 credit on your account if you call the office before the end of the month. Two customer account numbers have been randomly selected and are hidden in the Dunn Energy Cooperative section of this *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*. Last month's winners were Charlotte Wieland and Elaine Beyrer.

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Jolene Neisius, Editor



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